

THE NEW ENGLAND
STEAM KETTLE

FORMALY
THE NEW ENGLAND ROVER SCOUT (AND SCOUTLAND) NEWSLETTER



Published by
THE ROVER SCOUTS OF TOC II
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THE NEW ENGLAND STEAM KETTLE succeeds the NEW ENGLAND ROVER SCOUT (and Scoutland) NEWS LETTERS of which 24 were issued from October 1931 to February 1934.

The STEAM KETTLE aims to have hot water up to its neck while it sings merrily all the time. The fuel for its fire is provided by Robert S. Hale as chief offender, aided by Rover Scouts of TOC H and Scoutland and others who aim to enjoy themselves by trying to do their duty and help others and live the Scout Law.

Its contents boil over irregularly and may be procured at the Scoutland Trading Post, at TOC H, and at the Roston Council Scout Office, at three cents per copy. By mail five cents per copy, 50 cents a year. Reduced prices for several copies at one mailing.

THE NEW ENGLAND STEAM KETTLE, like the NEW ENGLAND ROVER SCOUT (Scoutland) NEWS LETTERS, is glad to sell its numbers and its equally (or almost so) glad to send them free to those interested. Our reward for what we do, comes chiefly from the appreciation of our readers.

Hence we shall appreciate greatly hearing from those who receive the letters, whether it be only a postal card confirming the address or something more and especially if it is something that will help make the STEAM KETTLE more useful or more interesting.

THE EDITORS.

THE NEW ENGLAND STEAM KETTLE

SUCCEEDING NEW ENGLAND ROVER SCOUT (and Scoutland) NEWS LETTERS
of which twenty-four were issued from October 1931 to February 1934.

Issue No. 25 (No. 1 of the STEAM KETTLE) April 19, 1934

Dear Brother Scouts:

This first issue of the STEAM KETTLE is dated Patriots Day April 19th to remind its readers of the Minute Men of 1775 who kept themselves Prepared to do their Duty at a minute's notice. It has been timed to be available for the New England Regional Meeting at Hartford on April 12th for the Rover Scout Leaders Training course of the Boston Council on April 21 and 22 and for the New England Moot at Plymouth camp site of the Brockton Council on the 26th and 27th of May.

At these meetings there will also be available the January issue of the News Letter giving the official bulletin of the Boston Council in regards to registering Rover Scouts and Crews.

We also hope to have available a number of the first issue of the "Rover World" to be published monthly and succeeding the "London Rover."

We hope there will be in America no Rover Organization as such, but only organization of crews, moots, and other gatherings within the Boy Scouts of America and while we do not believe in recruiting or even urging anyone to join the Rovers and be invested, until he shall have taken time enough to understand thoroughly what we do, and expect that he will want to do, every Rover Scout and Rover Scout Leader and every Rover Squire will consider it a privilege to help those who want to know more about Rover Scouting.

The main purpose of the Steam Kettle will not to advocate any particular policy, but to get its readers, and especially Rover Scouts and those who might be interested in Rover Scouting, to think for themselves, trusting that when they think for themselves they will know better how to do their Best to do their duty, and help



LOOKING AHEAD!

- April 12. N.E. Regional Conference and a Group Discussion on Rover Scouting, at Hartford.
- April 21 & 23. Boston Council Rover Scout Leader Training Course.
- May 5 & 6. Montreal Rover Moot.
- May 31 to June 2. National Council Meeting at Buffalo, N.Y.
- May 26 & 27. Third New England Rover Moot at Plymouth, Mass.
- August 4 to 6. Ontario Rover Moot.

others, and live the Scout Law.

The editors enjoy thinking and plan to keep on thinking, tho we have heard that there are people who sometimes sit and think, and sometimes just sit, and have heard philosophies and religions to the effect that absolute negation of thought is the highest bliss attainable and have heard of people who look forward to the time when they won't have anything to think about, and nothing to do but tote a harp.

However, New Englanders in general are not built that way, so we hope that Scouts and Scouters and Authorities who may read this will begin to think whether they themselves should not be having the older boys continue in the Scout Movement and its Organisations when they become men.

Now first, as to the older men now in the Organizations, the Council members and Com-missioners and the employed staff as well as the Scout Masters and Troop Committees.

I have heard that there are some who think that boys ought to drop out of Scouting before they become men, to come back only as officials or contributors to funds.

But I think most of the officials and leaders would like to have the boys continue when they become men, and have just had too many other important things to do, to devote time to the problem of the older boy when he becomes a man.

Further when Executives and Finance Committees think that as much time and money will be needed for Rovering, as for Cubbing and Boy Scouting, and Sea Scouting, they naturally hesitate at taking up such additional burdens.

But I feel sure that when the older men, the officials and leaders, have found time to think about it, they will think it a good idea and in accordance with the Constitution of the Boy Scouts of America to get the older boys and young men thinking for themselves and I suggest that whenever an Executive or Commissioner or anyone else can spare a few minutes of his valuable time

and has the opportunity to talk to some older boys or young men he might talk somewhat as follows.

"Fellows, there is no need for giving up Scouting when you get beyond the age of going to troop meeting and passing tests. There are lots of ways by which you can keep on having Scout fun, without the details that bore you when you get grown up."

"I have not had time to investigate all these ways, and even if I had, you are men, or just getting to be men and you don't want to be tied to my apron strings and be obliged to do just what I tell you , any more than you want you be tied to your mothers` apron strings."

"But I shall be glad to give you a start, by telling you how to get in touch with some of the gangs or crews or chapters or clubs of men who are regular guys and do man-sized scouting, some of it like what you have been doing and some of it rather more strenuous than would be wise for boys."

"I shall be glad to give you a start by telling you form whom you can get started don't forget to keep in getting advice from those who probably know more than you do, even if you won't always follow the advice. Of course, I shall be glad to help you to the extent of my ability and time available, but remember that it is up to the young men that have gumption and guts to find their own Leaders and Advisors as well as decide for themselves."

And in addition to making such announcements when the right opportunities occur, it would coast very little to put in the council bulletin "Scouting for men available within the Boy Scouts of America as well as Cubbing and Scouting for boys. Apply to Mr. Blank for further information."

Of course a council official or a council that has made up its mind that it doesn't want to have anything to do with the Senior Division is entitled to his or its opinion, whether it had made up its mind without thinking about it,

Or has investigated the subject, and I don't want to give the names of those who have made up their minds against keeping the older boys when they become men.

Instead of giving their names it seems to me more polite to call them "Higher Ups who think they know it all", and then let those whom the cap fits, put it on.

In the same way I don't want to give the names of the boys who appear actually to like behaving as silly sheep do and as though they had no gumption or guts.

But I believe there are more live wires among the older boys and young men than appear on the surface, live wires who are looking forward to the time when they shall begin thinking for themselves instead of listening to lectures and reading text books and I suggest they be encouraged to go to some of those above them in Authority, and talk somewhat as follows:-

"I have had a good time in the Troop (or I have heard about the good fun in the Troop), and I should like to keep up Scouting and the Scout Ideals.

"But I confess I am getting a little fed up with troop meeting and drill and passing tests.

"Do you mind if I keep on registering with the Troop, and I would like to see if there are not some other young fellows like myself who will form their Patrol and run their own program, though we should like your permission to tell you how we get on and to get your advice, and perhaps you would come to some of our meeting.

"We hear there are some other gangs of older scouts that have crews or clubs of their own and if you could help us find who and where they are, we should like to get in touch with them and find out how they get on, and make friends with them."

To make speeches in these exact words may not be the best way to get something done, whether it is a case of live wires among the older men who want to get the older boys and younger men interested to keep on within the organization instead of

doing their duty outside of the organization.

Or on the other hand is a case of the live wires among the older boys and young men who want to get something done by the Higher Ups in the Organization instead of outside.

I don't know the best and don't even think I know the best way, but I think experience shows that when a school is well run, (is run like the famous schools whose graduates are known all over the world) the pupils and graduated like to keep their connection with the old school.

**ARE...
YOU...
GOING...
TO...
THE..
THIRD...
NEW ENGLAND...
ROVER...
MOOT...
AT...
PLYMOUTH...
MASS...
MAY...
26th & 27th
1934... ...
???**

SCOUTS AT COLLEGE

ONE of the important things Rover Scouts want to have known about themselves is that they do not consider themselves the only pebbles on the beach but want all the Organizations with similar ideals to feel welcome, entirely irrespective of any forms or manes or charters.

I had heard that there was a college Greek letter fraternity interested in Scouting but knew very little about it as "Scouting" and "The Scouting Executive" and "Boys Life" and the bulletins I have received from the National Headquarters and Regional Headquarters and Boston Council Headquarters have never mentioned it as a chartered unit of the Boy Scouts of America in a way that called this fact to my attention. Otherwise I should have attempted to learn more about it.

But now I have heard that the Alpha Phi Omega society is formally chartered by the Boy Scouts of America, tho I do not know for how long, and I have received from its Scribe the information which follows:

The Alpha Phi Omega Honorary Scouting Society is a national organization with chapters at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Active membership in this fraternity is granted only to students who have been previously affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouts and former Scouts of all rank are eligible for membership. The fraternity is approved and chartered by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America; and a representative of the National Council, Dr. Ray O. Wyland, National Director of Education, serves on the Supreme Council of Alpha Phi Omega.

Charters of Alpha Phi Omega may be established in recognized colleges and universities in the United States.

The purpose of the society is to assemble college men in the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law, to develop friendship and promote service to the youth of America. In carrying out this purpose Chapters of Alpha Phi Omega deliver a program of service activities in for major fields:

1. Service to the members of the fraternity group
2. Service to the student body on the campus
3. Service to the youth of America
4. Service to the Nation as participating citizens.

These service projects necessitate that every chapter in Alpha Phi Omega extend its membership to include a complete cross-section of the student body on the campus. The chapter membership includes Greek and non-Greeks alike. Through the cooperation of other organizations the program of Alpha Phi Omega is made more effective.

The supreme motive behind all activities of Alpha Phi Omega is to carry the spirit of Scouting to the college campus and to make it possible for Scouts in the institutions of higher education to put into practice the idea of the "Good Turn" which was instilled into them during the time when they were active in Scouting.

Mr. H. Roe Bartle, Scout Executive of the Kansas City Council, serves as the Supreme Grand Master of Alpha Phi Omega and is giving dynamic leadership to the extension of the fraternity.

Since its organization in 1925, Alpha Phi Omega has grown rapidly but on a firm foundation. The benefits of the fraternity are constantly being extended to an increased number of colleges and universities.

Further information about Alpha Phi Omega may be obtained by addressing Mr. Sidney B. North, Supreme Scribe, 410-411 Land Bank Building, Kansas City, Missouri.

With the exception that the Service is limited to the United States, rather than to the International Scout ideals and that there is no program of training the aims of the Alpha Phi Omegas seem to be the same as of Rovers and we hope that Rovers going to colleges where chapters exist will be able to join and cooperate just as we hope that the Alpha Phi Omegas will feel welcome and invited to all our meetings and Moots.

Unfortunately they have no New England Chapters but I am arranging to get some accounts of how some of the chapters carry on including, I hope, Cornell where I should have liked to have been a member if Scouting had been going when I was a student there.

I hear also that there is an honorary camp society (I hope honorary does not mean that they are thru work) called Arrowe which has been approved by headquarters and I hope soon to have an account of their programs and how the groups or chapters carry on their training and Service after they are grown up.

I hear also that besides the Rover Scout crews at Oxford and Cambridge there are some forty or more Rover Crews and Scout clubs at other English colleges and universities, and I understand that in most European countries Scouting is carried on in the universities and colleges as well as by Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts.



HOLDING THE OLDER BOY

In our Scouting language, part of the meaning of Rover is that he is an adult, a man, and that if he is not a man, he is not a Rover, even if registered as such, just as a Scout is Trustworthy, and if a boy is not trustworthy he is not a Scout, tho he may be registered as having promised to Do his Best to become a Scout.

But tho Rovers are men, and not older boys (until they become Old Boys) we are properly concerned with the older boy from 15 to 16 on who has become fed up with recitations and drill and passing tests and yet too young to be a Rover.

The American Sea Scout idea gives an opportunity to those who like the water, and so does the Pine Tree Patrol and the Yucca Patrol and the Service Patrol and also the junior troop of from 12 to 15, and then the senior troop with all over 15.

I understand some of the Research people at National are considering the idea of a Rover Circle or Rover band for boys planning to become Rovers and in the French Rover Rules I find what seems very good and along the same lines.

There the crew is distinct from the troop, as it should be even if both are part of the same group and all wear the group insignia and neckerchief.

Admission to the crew is at 16 for which he makes the promise and then proceeds to check up on his tenderfoot work, and on the laws of health and make a "camp" of 24 hours all alone doing all his own cooking, and so forth.

He then becomes a "candidate" and enters on the second stage during which he checks up on the second class, on the health merit badge, or map reading and using, shows that

administrative, military and economic organization of his country and makes a 48 hour "camp" by himself. These are in the general rules which note that each crew may have additional requirements, and I gather that the idea is that the checking up on the tenderfoot and second class tests is as tho he was going in for a very stiff Honor exam instead of just passing as he did when a boy.

He then becomes an "aspirant Routier" or as we call it Rover Squire and enters on a third stage during which he passes certain athletic tests in running, jumping, weight putting, swimming, etc., does the safely merit badge, makes another 48 hour "camp" alone and completes some "chef d'oeuvre" or project, either personal, manual or intellectual, to the satisfaction of the crew, besides any special crew requirements, and may then be invested when he has passed his eighteenth birthday.

I apologise to the French if I have not translated exactly, but I have tried to take their records and give an account which an American group can take as a starting point form which it will go up or down or sideways according to what it thinks would be a good standard for itself, and my idea is that these older boys, if allowed to feel part of the Rover gang even when they do not take part in such activities of the crew as are too strenuous for them, would feel a pride in thinking they were getting ready to become Rover Scouts and regular guys along with the men who actively and strenuously keep up their scouting form a man's point of view.

These French standards may seem pretty simple for a boy who has gotten his eagle or even his first class at 13 or 14, but if any group thinks then too easy it will be simple for the group or crew to change them. And to my mind it is more important that both the older boys and young men should have a plan and program they have thought out for themselves, and not just accepted on faith or copied form a Handbook, rather than that I

attach much importance on what the program is.

If the boys and men can be encouraged to think for themselves and to get the best advice they can and then to think about the advice, and then decide for themselves I think the results will be better than when they depend ob the Authorities not to have made any mistakes.

ANOTHER WAY OF HOLDING THE OLDER BOY

I quote from V. Barcleys book just out, with stories from 18 years of Scouting.

"I think that if I again found myself in charge of a troop of 15 and 16 year olds, I should get the Court of Honor (American Patrol Leaders Council) to create a troop rule that a boy ceases to be an ordinary member of the troop on his 17th birthday. He would become an old Scout and there would be some particular way by which such should be linked to the troop.

"There could be special exceptions to the rule.... Anyway whether the boy left on his 17th birthday or on a later fixed date, the leaving day would be made a big affair. He might get a present, there would be speeches reminding everybody of his past history as a Scout and of the good work he has done. He would be reminded that he would always be a "brother" and always welcome as a visitor and counted on to help in the winter entertainment and other shows...

"I believe an ending like that would make a difference to a man's thought of Scouting for the rest of his life. And that if at 16½ he began to be fed up with boy scouting he would want to keep it going, knowing that it was to be definitely his last six months."

I have not quoted Barclay fully or exactly since if you want the full value you should read the whole, and of course this idea of a leave taking of the troop does not apply when the older boy plans to become a Rover, for which the "Going Up" ceremony is just what is suggested. And tho this account suggests an obligatory (except in special cases) Graduation form the troop into the alumni at 17 I do not see why the boy who has completed his second class or first class should or should not, if he is going to leave courteously and with the respect of his mates, rather than drift out.

What is the advantage of our giving out ranks and merit badges like a correspondence school or diploma mile? The college student waits for his degrees and his honors until Commencement day or Graduation day, and tho the Scout Master may give the boy of second or first class ability the second or first class privileges (other than showing off his badges) would not an annual or semi-annual function of awarding promotions or badges help the morale of the troop?



Kind TOC H Rover:

"Do you summer in the country?"

Mr. M.U.G.

"No, I dimmer in the city!"

TWO KINDS OF OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY

After writing for this first issue of the STEAM KETTLE I found I had written a whole of a lot about the subject I discussed in the last News Letter, the importance of encouraging and inciting a boy or man to think for himself and decide for himself rather than telling him that there are Authorities whom he should obey without thinking and Authorities who he should consider can not make mistakes.

Since then I have had several letter, all from men I think very highly of, and most courteous and cordial and kindly letters telling me that while my ideas are good, I am doing harm to the cause of Rovering by undermining the Respect of young men for Authority. I have asked permission to publish these letters in the STEAM KETLE (or better if the writers would furnish one of the controversial articles Tom Duncan and o have been asking for) but before I do so I wish again to say that I should like the discussion of this problem kept impersonal and intellectual.

Thus one of the letters told me that I was so much admired by the young men, that they would not notice the provisos I put in that they should think for themselves, and would reject all Authority except ME. But if any one thinks that I an anything but a man who has made a lot of mistakes, and expects (tho he does not plan) to make a lot more, I will point out that besides having spent some money on Scout Land my chief claim to being a hero is that I still hold the Harvard record for the mile walk.

In future issues of the Steam Kettle I hope to have some letters or articles that will point out to its readers the dangers of having young men think for themselves rather than depending on Authority not to have made any mistakes, while as I drove in

in town this morning what seems to me a very convincing argument on the other side occurred to me.

Some of us have heard that expert psychiatrists connected with the State Education Board or YMCA etc., discuss the sex problem and tell us that in this country at least a great deal of the perversion of younger boys in by older men.

Now if a boy had been brought up to believe that it is his Duty to Respect and Obey his elders and Authorities and Higher Ups, without using his own mind and questioning what they tell him, what is that boy to do when he goes to camp or goes to school, or goes anywhere, and one of the Authorities or one of the Higher Ups starts to pervert him?

Of course we ought not to have such men in any position of Authority and of course we watch for them and weed them out, often being so careful that we run the risk of making false accusations. But unfortunately not all Authorities and not all Higher Ups are perfect.

Now which boy has the best chance in after life? The boy who has been brought up to trust even his own father and mother absolutely, and never question what they tell him? Or the boy who has been told and educated by his father and mother that he should always keep his mind open and in doubt, even though his experience has been that in his short life he has found his father 100% right?

Of course we cannot get along without Authorities and higher Ups anymore than a football team or a ship can get along without a Captain, and it is important to train ourselves as well as the boys that there are cases when orders should be obeyed though we think then foolish.

But we can train Scouts to think which will be the orders that they will train themselves to obey without further thinking, and which orders are the orders they will think about and question after they get them as well as before they get them.

ELLIS MEMORIAL CREW
66 Berkeley Street
Boston, Mass.,

Wishes to invite members
Of other crews
In Boston and vicinity
to an investiture
And discussion of how
Rovers can help in Boy's Work.

APRIL 15, 1934
Eight O'clock

Rod Spiers
CEN. New. 0784R

FROM SCOTLAND

“Ranger, the stove in my cabin is no good, I can’t cook anything on it, it smokes and the fire won’t burn.” This is the complaint of most scouts using open cabins at Scotland.

No one can make a good cooking fire with green wood so try dry wood. I think if we all get together and build fireplaces somewhere near the cabin we are occupying we won’t have any trouble getting a god meal together for the troop.

If there are any scouts that do not understand the building of fireplaces the Ranger will be glad to lend a hand, and also give any advice he can to help.

There are very few foods that cannot be cooked over open fires if the cook has the patience and time to cook the meal right. Some foods that are very easy to prepare and cook over an outdoor fire, are biscuits or flapjacks, bacon and eggs, braised steak, baked beans, lumberman’s toast, any kind of chowder, braised ham slice, and dried beef chow on toast. These are just a few foods that any scout can cook and have a very tasty meal in short order.

To build your fire, have your fireplace built so the wind will blow the smoke away from your face also have something over the fire to stop the sparks from flying. To build a fire in deep snow, cut four or five green logs about three feet long, place them close together and build your fire on them.

It doesn’t have to be a great big fire; just a small fire about eight inches long and four inches wide. You will find that you can cook enough food for the whole patrol on this fire, but make sure the fire is out when you are ready to break camp.

Unless you are an expert, why don’t you get the Ranger or a green-and-red neckerchief scout or someone who knows, to inspect your fireplace before you start cooking to make sure it is safe from starting forest fires.

Charles Humphrey,
Ranger of Scotland.

SL SL SL SL SL SL SL



The Scouts of Adelaide, south Australia have their own city seal or “Coat of arms”, with the Scout Emblem, a Kangaroo and Ostrich and a boomerang....

ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING
Region one

HOTEL BOND

HARTFORD, CONN.
APRIL 12, 1934.

Attend the ROVER SCOUTING GROUP
Room 11 3:00 P.M.

Leader
Philip Emerson, Lynn Council, Mass.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

We don't know who discovered that a STEAM KETTLE enjoys being in hot water up to its neck, but we got the idea from the Irish Commissioner who said he would rather have his Rovers boast of their good turns than not have done anything worth boasting about.

Boston is said to be an Irish city, with more Irishmen than Dublin, but any real New Englander, whether Irish or English or genuine 100% red Indian American, would rather get into hot water than let himself be trodden on by King George III or anyone else.

When we New Englanders submit to Washington or our State Governments or our Town Meetings it is because we think it best, and not because anyone makes us. That we sometimes submit when we don't like to, is merely because too much controversy is not always worth while. And by the way, I recommend the reading of Prof. Huntington's volume on Climate and Civilization in which he explained that it is the climate that enables New England to raise men of such superior ability.

This should warn us while we may well boast of the good things New Englanders have done, we must remember that they deserve no credit, and still less do we ourselves deserve any credit, for the mere good luck of having been brought up here. That we have been brought up in a climate that raises better men than the average does not give us any right to boss other people, and consider them as flocks of silly sheep such as Hitler in his book calls the German people and as some of the brain trust seem to consider the Common People.

There is an old French proverb that reads "Noblesse Oblige" and I think that this applies not only to natural nobility (the natures Noblemen,) but applies also to the

Constituted Nobility that Acquire their titles and their Authority by birth or by election or by selection.

"Noblesse Oblige" means that noble men, which Rovers try to be, have the Obligation, and Responsibility, of doing their duty better, and of helping other people more, than the men who prefers to remain in the non noble classes such as the middle class and the bourgeois and the working class and the proletariat.

"Noblesse Oblige" also means that it is the duty of a really noble man to work even harder than others tho he is under no obligation to sweat if he is intelligent enough to accomplish his work without sweating and more than he likes to, to keep his pores open.

Another that "Noblesse Oblige" means is that a really noble man must not take advantage of his superiority to form any exclusive organization. Instead the really noble man welcome to their class, and to their organizations, those who were previously not noble, but members of an inferior class.

"Noblesse Oblige" means that to be noble a man must set an example to the inferior classes that if they will get rid of their class consciousness of inferiority, and join the class that does its best to do its Duty to Help others and Live the Scout Law, then whether or not they bother to register as Scouts, they will have lots more fun, and will also get better in life, and will make more profits that they can use to help others more if they want.

It is only the inferior classes that need help and demand a dole, it is the noble class that works the accomplish the most it can, whether it is working for pay or working to help others or working to train itself to do its work more efficiently and it is the noble

class that refuses alms, as a boy scout refuses a tip for doing his Good Turns.

We may not be members of the titular or Constituted nobility by either birth or election, but those who have the gumption to make the effort can join the class of true nobility and abandon the consciousness that their class is inferior.

A FABLE FROM OLD TIMES

I believe it is in one of Aesop's fables that a well fed dog meets a hungry wolf and tells the wolf how well he is fed and taken care of until the wolf decides to go back with the dog.

But on the way back the wolf notices that the dog wears a collar and the dog explains that while he is well fed, he is tied up and sometimes punished if he does not obey his master. Whereupon the wolf turns back.

Kipling in his Mowgli stories has given us what is presumably a hypothetical and imaginary and ideal account of wolves and of wolf cubs, we are all free people, and of Mowgli and his foster brothers, who as I remember it, paid an immense amount of Respect to Baloo and Bagheera and Akela who serve as cub masters and scout masters.

Now the dog is a fine animal, one of man's best friends, and when his master is kind to him, the dog is loyal and obedient, but no matter how kind, and wise, and how intelligent, is the master, do we want that the attitude and feeling of a scout, and especially of a Rover Scout, to his Leader, and of the Leaders and Headquarters to the Scouts and Scouters, should be that of a good dog to a good master and vice versa or should the Scout Movement be a Movement of free People, like Kipling's ideal wolves?

I hope that none who believe in the kind of loyalty and obedience and respect that either a puppy, or a wise dog, feels and shows to his master, will be in any way personally offended by my suggesting that

there is more than one kind of loyalty, more than one kind of obedience and more than one kind of Respect for Authority, and that while all of us in the Scout Movement have a high personal regard and Respect for the individuals who honestly believe that a scout should be to his leader and his Headquarters what a dog should be to his master and the keeper of his kennels, yet we don't agree with their theories.

ROVER UNIFORMS

We have been asking for controversial articles and here is one that is offered as such, but as you will see from the comments at the end, we have no controversy with it, but thoroughly agree with it, not because it is from one of our best R.S.L.'s. in a position of authority in the organization, but because we think it good common sense.

In America, at least, Rover programs and activities are in the making. The Trailmakers Rover Crew are alive and, just now having found joy in conducting an alumni gathering of former Scouts of the Troop, they are planning anew for an active program of hiking, discussion groups and service. Two are to serve as Scoutmaster and Assistant of a newly formed church troop. Rover work should ever be in making, as is our adult society and industry these years. Rovers should and do have counsel of their leaders they use it they will thereby develop the leadership for good citizenship that is the prime purpose of all Scouting.

Uncle Robert frequently asks for controversial contributions; now uniforms are that. A Regional Executive one expressed wish Scout uniform were reduced to one distinctive article of apparel, as a hat. Thereby both rich and poor might be in uniform. Headquarters today gives full praise to any troop with 75% in uniform, and good measure of approval if half

Equipped ---- although Scouting is a "uniformed organization." But the hat is a chief problem. Soldiers in South Africa, cowboys out West, found a broad brimmed felt to fit their needs. Hence it is assumed that it is best for Boy Scouts in New England and elsewhere. But is it? At a New England Regional Conference some hundreds of Scouts of the host Council lined up for an excellent demonstration of winder scouting ---- and just one Patrol wore regulation Scout hats. That showed the boys opinion of fitness. Some national and local officials dislike to wear their uniforms ---- largely because they then must wear the Scout Hat. And now we are asked to advise as to a SECOND hat, a fatigue hat, to be worn for comfort, while the Hat is carried along for use on parade. C'est a rire. Let's sometime have one scout hat that if not first choice of all (manifest impossibility), shall be inexpensive, shield eyes from sun and be comfortable. The Cub cap meets these standards; and that's the head gear adults in the East wear for outdoor life from choice.

Rover uniforms, however. In summer our Scouts and Scouters find shorts, short in the leg and sleeve, comfortable. In winter, hardy Scotchmen and English scouts go with bare knees: effect of Gulf Stream? My Troop has been in camp by patrols during Christmas and February, but we didn't wear shorts. Just imagine two Sea Scouts who wade through drifts two miles during height of blizzard snow and cold, for supplies, when townsfolk could hardly believe their adventure, and coming through safely if in shorts. Uncle Robert and the hardy scouts form overseas who foregather about fires at Toc H in Boston may wear their shorts, but we tenderfeet prefer to cover our bodies during New England winters, as did our pioneer forefathers, who neither adopted Indian undress costumes nor continued the bare knees of Scotch Irish ancestors: their knee breeches buttoned below the knee.

It is easy to make oneself ridiculous to others, but hardly desirable for our own wel-

fare or that of the movement.

Rovers are to give service to others, firstly to other scouts. Their uniforms, then may well be those they can wear as Scout masters and Assistants, - a woollen khaki shirt, woollen knee breeches, woollen stocking, in winter, - and whatever else is necessary. Maximum usefulness at lowest cost is the standard, the less fol-de-rols the better. Shoulder traps ---- why? Is not the shoulder knot of yellow, green, navy blue and red enough, since it shows readiness to serve Cubs, Scouts, Sea Scouts and Rovers?

Now we have no controversy with this, but thoroughly agree that no one should be required to wear the shorts or wear shoulder straps or wear any particular kind of hat nor should any body be forbidden from wearing any article of dress that he himself considers serviceable, creditable and Scout like.. Thus personally I don't wear the Scout hat or any hat at all unless it is raining or snowing hard, and perhaps once or twice a year at the scout function when everyone else will wear the scout hat.

I remember the demonstration of camping referred to in the article and remember thinking how sensible and Scoutlike were the scouts whose headgear fitted the weather.

I wear the shorts because I find them more comfortable and more economical than the breeches and I wear them in winter when I am indoors, most of the time I cover up my knees when they get too cold just as I would cover my hands or face.. And I like to look a little dressed up with my shoulder straps and commissioners plume on my hat as well as the R.S., and I thoroughly agree with the writer of this article who objects to REQUIRING particular items whether a particular hat (or no hat) a particular shoulder strap (or no shoulder strap) etc., and I like very much the adding of a blue strip to the shoulder knot, especially by Rovers in groups that include sea scouts as well as cubs and boy scouts.

I agree that "Maximum usefulness at lowest cost" is a good standard but I don't object to a little fol-de-rol so long as the wearer thinks it in good taste. Is it not one of the requisites of a good Scout that he should be willing to make a silly ass of himself on the right occasions?"

ACCOUNTS OF A GROUP WITH ROVERS

The STEAM KETTLE does not think its readers are interested in the kind of news about Rovers that is like the personal columns in a country newspaper. But we do like to give accounts that give a picture of how a crew (or as in the following a group that consists of Cubs, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts and Rover Scouts) carries on.

When officers were being trained at Plattsburg I heard of a commanding officer who said that he wanted each of the fourteen companies being trained, to have each soldier doing exactly the same thing at the same time as the corresponding soldier in each of the other thirteen companies.

Which reminds me of the story I have just heard where two men disputed, the first saying "I TELL YOU, the scouts are a military body" to which the reply was "I TELL YOU, they are NOT. I saw some of them trying to drill."

Some people seem to want all scouts to have the same uniform and insignia and program, but I prefer to think that the only scout sign or item of program common to all Scouts is the smile on the face, and that we can learn best from accounts of how other groups carry on, when we do not meet them personally. And I think the following gives a good idea of one of the few, if not only complete Group of Active Cubs, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Rover Scouts, in the United States.

To ALL MEN and BOYS
who ever took the Scout Pledge as
Members of Troop 12, B.S.A.,
Trailmakers:
Greetings!!

This is your old Troop's tenth year. And February, 1934, is the 24th Anniversary of Scouting in America. We who have stood by the old gang, and still find joys in Scouting, want every one of you, Scouts and Scouters, to join us in a Scout Alumni Rally of Trailmakers at the upper hall of the Boy's Club the evening of Monday, February 26th. Come as early as you will, our Rover Scouts are planning to cook for you themselves a "bang-up" good meal. Something substantial, something tasty ---- and the cost for a ticket is only a quarter, 25 cents. This is only possible because our loyal Scout Mothers are contributing pies.

Of course some of us are scattered to the ends of the earth, and a few of our best have passed on to the Other World; but there are dozens who return for this night we earnestly solicit. Cheers, stunts and an illustrated story of Football Thrills by N. V. Nelson, a star on the famous Harvard team that won from California in the Rose Bowl stadium some years ago. Although now a Boston broker he serves each your as back field coach for Harvard. He will bring movies with him of exciting incidents in Harvard games.

In hundreds of cities of America this month, Scouts and ex-Scouts who have reached twenty-one are retaking their Scout Pledge as Voters: and we are asking Mayor Manning (once and still a Cobbet School Boy) to lead in this simple but impressive ceremony. Troop Committee members, past and present, will give then silent backing, in a semi-circle with uplifted Scout sign; while their juniors, facing them all, at the Mayor's rear, will receive inspiration to prepare for citizenship as loyal American Scouts.

You may all be glad and proud to maintain connection, at least as Alumni,

better still as Rovers, -- to the Trailmakers, for as years have passed it has become one of the A troops of the Lynn Council, and chosen by National leaders as one of six troops of all America whose record and methods are being studied to discover how best Scout troops may keep their members loyal, year after year. We started with eight Scouts in 1894, now on 1934 there are over eighty Scouts, Sea Scouts and Rover Scouts in Troops 12, 12SS and 12RS. There were fifty in camp last April for vacation week, near the Cape Cod Canal. There will be as many or more at Camp Lone Tree this May, near Saddleback and Pawtuckway Mountains in Deerfield, N. H.

Pray come, one and all, -- if possible in time to sit at the table with your old comrades at 7:00, this last Monday evening of February, -- but come anyway and be with us even if you must join the reunion later in the evening.

Your old Pal, and Scoutmaster,
PHILIP EMERSON

**COBBET JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL
TRAILMAKERS**

A wild month, February; but neither blizzards, deep snow, rain or temperatures way below zero dismayed our scouts.

Moose, Wolf and Eagle patrols and Sea Scouts camped at Boxford three days each. We burned more wood than storms and drifts allowed us to fell, yet by heartbreaking work we pulled to the roadside a cord of dead pine, which the Bird Club will truck to Camp. Mr. Woodman and Mr. Gleekman each spent a night in camp, in charge of a patrol, that our Scoutmaster might continue work at Harvard Saturday afternoons, and Committee of fathers gave transportation to camp and back whatever the weather or road conditions. We have a loyal Troop committee and Dads.

Despite a continuing second storm that closed schools and piled snow on snow, nearly forty older scouts came Feb. 26th to the Trailmakers` Reunion supper at Boys` Club. Rovers served a two-bits supper, -- roast lamb, peas, potato and fixings, ice cream and cake, all one could eat. Present and past Trailmakers who will vote this fall were led in the Scout Oath, as voting citizens by Mr. Nihan. Our first annual Alumni gathering of Trailmakers-who-have-grown-up.

Now, look ahead! April 17th, the District Rally, other troops of Central District our guests. Each patrol enters as a unit, eight scouts. A patrol may gain 850 points, and winning 400 gives rank as a Standard Patrol. Earn this for your patrol. First; all, or all but one, must be present and taking part; one only may be excused, if for good reason. Less than number required may share the tests, but cannot earn rank as Standard. Second; fifty points are given for full patrol, ready at time for inspection, -- personally clean, shoes shining, hair brushed, clothes pressed. 70 points may be won in civies, 30 more if in full scout uniform.

Let's all try to get a uniform: heavy cotton shirt, \$1.95; breeches, \$1.95; neckerchief, 50 cents; stockings, 45 cents; belt, 45 cents; total \$5.30; adding \$1.95 for scout hat gives full cost of \$7.25.

The cost of a troop number, patrol emblem and service stars may be paid by the troop as per their vote in the past. Council pays for the metal badges. Patrol Leaders will please check up on each scout and report which items of equipment each has and which they need, by meeting of March 16th.

A second hundred points may be earned in knot work. Each scout must be able to tie each of the nine knots, -- a square, weaver's or sheet bend, fisherman's, slip knot, bowline, sheepshank, timber, clove, and two half hitches. Thirty seconds allowed per knot: in practice learn to tie one correctly in fifteen seconds. Judge will tell a scout

which to tie as he steps to place with his six foot length of clothes line, its ends whipped. What record for speed can your patrol make? And is each knot correct when you finish?

A third hundred may be earned by laying compass cards correctly. Five minutes is given, no long runs so stress is laid in placing cards in perfect circle, evenly spaced.

Each may make his own set of cards, shuffle them, practice laying rapidly in correct and perfect circle. A fourth hundred points is for signalling. Since three minutes is allowed for sixty letters, success is most likely if semaphore is used. Have every scout able to read. A letter may be help in position until recognized, while in Morse

code this is not possible. Make an alphabet chart, 5 rows of 5 letters each, all scattered about instead of alphabetical order; then send in rows top to bottom, left to right, etc., for drill. Play signalling games for fun.

There are four other stunts, 100 points each, but perfect work on these five will enable a patrol to qualify. First essential is for every scout in each patrol to come regularly. Don't turn your pals down; be loyal; "do your part". And pay your dues. Some are paid through March, as all should be; you are the Troop.....

Yours in Scouting,
Robert S. Hale.

Mimeographing by

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