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DECEMBER 1950.

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S K I P P E R ' S S C R A W L

On Thursday 7th December, a party of 50, consisting of Leander Parents and Old Boys, with their wives and children, visited the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves at Ralph Reader's "Scout Gang Show." The cast included Jack Beet, Paddy Russell, Harold Levermore, and a number of other Scouters well-known to many of us. The evening provided an additional surprise for me in the fact that, by an extraordinary coincidence, the Coach Driver was an Old Leander in the person of Cecil Lewis who joined the Troop in June 1917. All those who were present on this occasion, voted it one of the jolliest evenings they had spent, and were insistent that further opportunities should be found for getting together in a social atmosphere. No doubt this will be an item on the Agenda of the meeting of Old Boys which is being held on 8th January. I am very pleased that a real attempt is being made to build up a Branch of the B.P. Guild of Old Scouts worthy of the long traditions of the "Leander" Group. Several much younger Groups have already got Branches well established, and we should all like to see "Leanders" well to the fore in this respect in 1951 as a tribute to the successes of the other sections of the Group in 1950.

The membership of a Scout Group is constantly changing and we are sorry to say Goodbye to Rover Terry Ashborne, who has returned to his home in Jersey; and to Patrol Leader Michael Roberts of the Junior Troop, whose family are moving to Brixham. I am very glad that Michael has gained his 1st Class Badge, together with six Proficiency Badges, including the Oarsman and Coxswain. I am sure that such a keen Sea Scout will worthily uphold our reputation. Michael's regrets at parting from his pals of "Leander" will be tempered by the anticipation of some thrilling sailing at his new home. I am sure we shall all want to visit him there.

Mrs. Ebbage joins me in wishing all readers of the "Water Rat" a
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Skipper.

C R U I S I N G D O W N T H E R I V E R .

One Saturday in July, about fifty Scouts and Scouters assembled on the bank of the Thames at Inglesham just above Lechlade Bridge, together with about thirty-five canoes.

Next day a special "Scouts Own" Service was conducted by a scouting Vicar who had travelled twenty-five miles in the early hours to do so. Then we set out upstream towards Cricklade, but failed to reach this destination owing to shallows and weeds. The River here is just like a ditch, no more than twenty-foot wide and three feet deep. Camping that night, again at Lechlade it rained "cats and dogs", but the morning brought sunshine and a good following breeze, as we set out on our cruise.

Although the cruise was pleasant, nothing out of the ordinary happened until Friday morning as we were getting ready to leave Clifton Hampden. Here a little man stepped out of the blue, complete with a T.V. newsreel camera, who took a few reels as we entered the lock, for a programme the following week. Throughout the day the man and his camera popped up in all sorts of places, and finally came to our Regatta that night at Goring. After this we held a camp fire, which was attended by a Sea Scout Troop from Stepney who had been to Lechlade in their own launch, and a few local inhabitants.

On Saturday morning the camp broke up. Together with two other Scouts I continued on down to Chertsey, and the Stepney Scouts very kindly gave us a lift as far as Reading. There we purchased some provisions to tide us over the holiday weekend, and continuing downstream, reached Henley that evening. The following day Maidenhead was our stopping point, and we finally reached Chertsey at 5 o'clock on the Monday afternoon.

So ended a very pleasant summer holiday leaving only dreams and plans for 1954.

NOBXY.

4.

ADMIRALTY INSPECTION - 5th JULY, 1950.

(Held over from October issue).

In spite of the holiday time, there was a fine muster of over 70 Sea Scouts on parade. This party was backed up by no less than 11 Scouters. A great effort for what was a great day. The turnout was again of that high standard which I expect from Kingston on these occasions.

After inspecting the Patrols of both Troops, I was given a series of cards with many and various types of work and instruction written on them. From these I selected a suitable subject for each Patrol and handed it to the Patrol Leader. While they were settling down to work I had my usual walk round inside Headquarters and also inspected the boatsheds and the many pulling and sailing boats which were alongside the river bank ready for the evening's work. All the boats were very clean and in excellent order and I was particularly pleased to see some expert repairs being carried out on one of the boats by the boys themselves. The Unit have got together a grand fleet of boats of all types and, as the Unit has shown me every year, Winter or Summer, daylight or dark, these boats are not just kept for "Look See" and I know of few Troops in which such a high percentage of the boys are such capable oarsmen and sailors.

Having seen the Patrols at work I was taken to see the real practical work of the evening. A raft was first constructed on the river bank, oil drums, spars and lashings being used. When completed, a heavy trek-cart was placed aboard and, with the assistance of some strong swimmers, was successfully ferried across the river. On arrival at the far bank, sheerlegs were rigged and the cart was lifted ashore. The cart was then replaced on the raft and made a safe return journey back to headquarters. This evolution showed many forms of seamanship and sea scouting and was of much greater value to the Inspecting Officer than many hours spent on questions and answers and listening to indoor class work and theory. I congratulate all concerned on its successful conclusion.

The boats were kept busy the whole evening both under oars and sail and gave an excellent display. There was one race which was of particular

interest. This was an inter Patrol Relay for which four 12 ft. skiffs of the same class were used. Each boy in the Patrol had to man the boat by himself and, by means of sculling over the stern, take the boat round two mark buoys and back to the landing stage. It was a great race and I was amazed at the speed of the boats and the agility with which they were handled. I think sculling is much to be recommended for use in small boats and am always glad to see it made full use of and so efficiently performed.

The evening which had been so well filled, finished with Evening Quarters and Prayers and, after a short talk, I took a rather reluctant departure.

Kingston's activities are not entirely confined to the water. Shortly before the Inspection the Unit entered a team for the Kingston-on-Thames Camping Competition. This is open to all Scouts. They won and were then selected to represent Kingston in the County Competition. They repeated their success and are now the Champion Camping Troop of Surrey against all comers. I have seen the marking for both the competitions and must congratulate them on this fine achievement.

Kingston District (Leander) and 1st Cuddington are again recommended for continued Admiralty Recognition.

C.E.P.HARRISON, Commander, R.N.
Inspecting Officer for Admiral Commanding Reserves.

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B. P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS.

There will be a meeting of Old Boys at H.Q. 8 o'clock Monday, January 8th. We want as many to come as possible. I say Old Boys, that is any former member of the Group, to re-organise the Old Boys section into a Branch of the B.P.Guild of Old Scouts. All enquiries to:-
B.A.Cole, 13, Cranleigh Gardens, Kingston-on-Thames.



On the morning of 18th November the sun shone, a most unusual phenomenon for the day of our Bazaar, as for the past two years this event has been blanketed by fog. Although the weather was not all that could be desired, the rain in the afternoon did not prevent a large attendance, and it was most heartening to the Group Committee to see the people streaming in when the doors opened at 3 o'clock and to have the hall full all the afternoon. At 4 o'clock the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston (Councillor and Mrs. C.L.Sinclair) arrived on the platform and introduced Chief Superintendent Scurr

of the Metropolitan Police who had come along to present the Royal Humane Society's Certificate to Rover Bob Dodge of "Leanders", and Mr.Orr of Richmond, for their joint effort in rescuing a boy from drowning (details of which appear on another page of this issue). The Mayor afterwards called upon District Commissioner R.G.Busbridge to present Warrants to the following Scouters - Ken Martin (Rover Leader); Peter Burton (Scoutmaster); Morris Buer and George Goodall (Assistant Scoutmasters).

Thanks to the kindness of the St.Peter's Church Bazaar Committee, we were able to borrow their hall decorations and these made a very attractive setting for the stalls. These were manned by a number of our old friends; Mrs. Mrs.Buer was in charge of the Tombola. The well-laden Grocery Stall was there, with Mrs.Harling presiding. Books and comics of all sorts were being sold by the Balcomb family, and Mrs.Ebbage, Mrs.Bailey and "Akela" (Miss Pam Hollis) had the Handicraft Stall, while last but by no means least the "Spivs", Senior Scouts dressed as typical barrow boys had a stall that reminded one of a Harvest Festival. A new departure was a Fish Stall, at which Mr.Garnish - dressed as a chef, sold Kippers, and plates of Cockles. In the centre of the hall was a billiard table with a half-crown prize for whoever managed to knock the half-crown off a ball; a table with pudding basins into which "customers" were invited to throw tennis balls; and those two stalwarts Messrs.Buer and Pidduck were busy as usual, Mr.Buer with "Housey-Housey" and Mr.Pidduck with Darts. Next to them the Scouts were in charge of the Sunken Treasure, and Mr. and Mrs.Phillips had the Bagatelle

Boards, while a young lady had a busy time with various Raffles. The Refreshment Department was in the capable hands of Mr. and Mrs. Fentiman with their usual helpers, Mrs. Bass and Mrs. Osborne, together with some newcomers - relations of the Fentimans who we were very pleased to welcome.

The Trophy Table had a display of the numerous certificates which the Group have won this year at the Association Sports; the Sea Scout Regatta; Bob-a-Job, etc. reports of which have already appeared in previous numbers of the "Water Rat". This table provided a record of which Skipper, and the other Scouters and members of the Group may justly be proud, for it has certainly been a record year. (Sorry, pun not intended, Ed.). Mrs. Shell, as "Madame Sylvo" the palmist, had a busy afternoon, with Mrs. Fennell making very business-like "bookings" for her. Mr. Garnish, in his spare time, was running his annual "Pleasure Cruises".

About 7 p.m. the Bazaar closed down, and the Social Evening commenced. Starting off with a Dog Race at the "Norbiton Stadium", the dogs were represented by Mike Roberts, Dick Garnish, Happy Milne, George Hopkins, Bob Johnson, and Harry Sharp, with Nigel Fentiman acting as Starter. George Goodall and Morris Buer, partners in the bookmaking firm of "W.E. Twistem", were in attendance, suitably dressed, and collected many bets. This was followed by a sketch on the Stage by the Wolf Cubs, entitled "The Snowball", a humorous story, illustrating how gossip can distort an innocent remark. This was well-acted. Other stage items were humorous tableaux by the Junior Troop, representing lantern slides of camp scenes, with George Hopkins acting as lecturer. This was followed by another sketch entitled "Child Psychology". The Senior Troop presented a rollicking sketch called "The Medical Room", and this was followed by the Rovers in their sketch "The 'D' Drama" in which only words beginning with the letter "D" were spoken. The stage shows were intermingled with games in the centre of the hall, with Mr. Norris acting as M.C. and finally the evening finished with a short dance. I think all will agree that it was a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. The result of this effort for the Group funds was £65. In addition over £5 was collected towards Tent Fund.

ROVER NOTES.

Latest news for the Barker Cup Competition is that we came 4th in the Signalling and 2nd in the Entertainment.

The Morse Competition was held at Molesey Cricket Ground. Our team consisted of Ray Quartermain (recently up from the Seniors), John Scott, Peter Burton and Morris Buer. We were the first Crew finished with the message, but our mistakes were made with the procedure for writing it down on the message form. But now we know, all ready for next year. The Entertainment section was carried out during the District Rover Social at the Dittons Scout Hut. We presented the "D" Drama, which we also did at the Bazaar. We were beaten by the 4th Tolworth Crew who put on a "Lantern Slide" melodrama (on the same lines as "A Day in Camp" which the Juniors did at the Bazaar). Our position now is half a mark behind the leaders. We have now to send in a report on the camping done, number of members in the Crew, Badges gained, etc. We are very keen on winning it this year, even if it is only our first year. With the credit of the District, and the County Camping Competitions, District Sports and the Sea Scout Regatta, being taken by the younger sections of the Group, it is up to the Crew to win the Barker Cup.

On December 1st it was Charlie Bishop's 21st Birthday. To mark the occasion the Crew had a "night off" from the general run of Crew meetings. As with most Scout "do's" everybody brought plenty of food. Nigel Pentiman brought his records. Then everybody got their feet up and started eating. The Crew then presented Charlie with a pipe which has a grinning skull carved on it, much to Charlie's amusement.

Since the last issue "Screwy" Whitworth and Dick Riches have been called up to do their National Service. We are also very sorry to lose Terry Ashbourne who has returned to Jersey, but we shall still have an occasional visit from him during holiday periods.

During the past month considerable work has been done on making the Rover Den more comfortable, and with the new chairs and the draught-excluding curtain, all is now very cosy.

5.

PRESENTATION TO ROVER R. DODGE.

On Saturday November 18th, in the presence of the whole "Leander" Group together with a large number of relatives and friends, Chief Superintendent J.S.Scurr of the Metropolitan Police presented the Royal Humane Society's Certificate for Saving Life, to Rover R. Dodge and to Mr.W.Orr of Richmond. The Royal Humane Society was founded in 1774 and among the objects for which it exists is the bestowal of rewards for the preservation of life from Drowning where the rescue involves personal risk to the rescuers. The circumstances leading to the above award were as follows.

At about 5 p.m. on Wednesday 7th June 1950, Michael Joseph Wilkinson, age 7 years, was playing with other boys on the river bank at West Molesey. Some were fishing, whilst Michael was throwing pieces of paper on to the water and watching them float away. In so doing he overbalanced and fell into the river and was immediately in difficulties. The depth of water at this place is 10 feet and the bank drops sheer for 6 feet and is built up with timber which affords no hand or foot hold.

An unknown lady held Wolf Cub Dennis Cole, age 9 years, head downmost over the bank of the river by his feet but this plucky effort was of no avail as he could not reach the drowning boy. Mr.Orr who was sunbathing on the bank about 120 yards further upstream heard cries from people on the opposite bank and ran to the scene and although he is a non-swimmer he jumped without hesitation into the water. He sank to the bed of the river and on regaining the surface managed to get hold of the boy and with a struggle kept both the boy's and his own head above water.

Bob Dodge, who was working at the Hampton Launch Works on the opposite bank of the river, saw all this happening and taking off his outer clothing plunged into the river and swam across a distance of 75 yards and arrived in time to assist both Mr.Orr and the boy from the river with the aid of persons on the bank. Michael was taken home, fortunately none the worse for his adventure.

H E A R D I N T H E F O ' C ' S L E .

Congratulations to Gerry Newman on obtaining his Master Mariner's Certificate in October. Gerry commenced his career in the Merchant Navy in October 1939. He is now Chief Officer of the "Durham Trader" and has arrived home just in time for Christmas, with a cargo of grain from Montreal. We hope he will soon obtain a command of his own.

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Another Leander "Old Salt" in the person of Michael Campbell visited us recently. Having completed the necessary time at sea, Mike is now brushing up his knowledge in order to sit for the examination for his 2nd Mate's Certificate.

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Congratulations to Donald Dolamore on his engagement to Joyce Dickman.

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"Leanders" of the 1911-14 era will be interested to hear that Ronald Tremear who, for many years resided at Twickenham, is now living in New Zealand.

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SCOUT TESTS PASSED DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

TENDERFOOT TESTS COMPLETED. Sanderson, Stevenson, Braye.
 SECOND CLASS TESTS. D.Huckson (3) Reed (2) Fennell (4) Clark (1, thus gaining Second Class badge) Spencer (5) Notley (1) Milne (1) Mayhew (1).
 FIRST CLASS TESTS. M.Roberts (7, thus gaining 1st Class Badge) F.Moody (1) C.Huckson (1) G.Hopkins (3)
 CAMPER BADGE. M.Roberts, G.Hopkins.
 COOK BADGE. M.Roberts, G.Hopkins, C.Huckson, H.Sharp.
 OARSMAN BADGE. J.Evans, G.Hopkins, F.Moody.

P A R E N T S P A G E .



Do you know that an organisation known as the "Group Committee" exists? It does, and its function is to assist Skipper and his Scouters, if asked to do so, in those problems which lay outside the actual controlling of the boys. The Committee can suggest, but they cannot direct or dictate.

At the suggestion of the boys, the Committee is composed of two Cub parents, two Junior Troop parents, two Senior Troop parents, two Rovers and two Old Scouts so that the opinion of all sections of the Group can be brought to bear on the questions with which Skipper confronts the Committee.

So that all parents could meet one another and also gain some idea of what the boys do at their meetings, "Open Day" in June was organised. The "Hard boiled financiers" of the Committee saw the opportunity of augmenting Troop funds, and successfully wheedled a substantial sum from pockets which alas are not as well-lined as perhaps has been their wont. The "h b f's" grateful thanks to you all. It is hoped to make "Open Day" an annual event.


The highlight of the financial year from the income point of view is the Bazaar. It was grand to see so many present on November 18th. Parents you did a grand job of spending, but the hard fact cannot be hidden - the Group is still in debt.

The Committee is meeting again soon to try and find a solution to this major problem. Have parents any suggestions which would help the Committee in their deliberations?


And so to Christmas and the New Year - may they bring you all peace, happiness and prosperity.

"ARBITER".







WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.



I want to begin my letter this month by saying how much we all enjoyed our Christmas Party. I expect the Parents have been told about the many and various games we played, several of the Cubs won prizes and Alan McLeish was fortunate enough to win two!



The games were followed by a "SPREAD", and I expect that the Parents have also been told, - down to the last cake - how much we crammed into our not too elastic tummies!



The Christmas Party formed our last meeting until our next Cub night, which is on Friday December 29th, at the usual time.

I will conclude, with wishing you all, Cubs and Parents alike, a really

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

A K E L A .

