

NEWS AND NOTES OF THE BOY SCOUTS

SCOUTING NOTES

By the Scout Executive

The boys will all be mighty glad to learn that the question of a nearby campsite is being considered by the committee of the scoutmasters, and that if possible definite plans for such a camp will be made in the early spring. The scheme, as outlined at the last meeting of the scoutmasters, is to obtain a site near enough to Harrisburg so that any troop can reach same on an overnight hike or of a Saturday afternoon. The idea is to establish a central camping ground where the best facilities for camping may be permanently laid out and arranged, and as rapidly as possible each troop would build their own lodge or hut where they could keep all cooking apparatus, and camp dunnage. Then when taking a hike or trip it would only be necessary to carry along the grub and a happy time would result at a minimum of effort. The huts or lodges, would contain bunks, storeroom, central lounge, and cookhouse, and combined and each troop would have its own complete headquarters. Centralized sanitaries, and garbage disposal plant would effect a saving in labor and expense. Permanent athletic fields, tennis courts and playgrounds, and a natorium or "swimmin' hole" could also be a part of the community plan for a scout camp. The committee in charge of working this camp out is composed of the following scoutmasters: W. F. Wiman, chairman; Garfield McAllister, G. A. Zimmerman, Harvey Klier and Jerome B. Miller.

There is some talk about obtaining a "Pathe" for the use of scout troops throughout the city. The machine made by the Pathe company under the above name is a marvel of modern science and mechanical perfection and can be used in any parlor or room with excellent results. Each troop is privileged to use the machine at stated intervals and could run an interesting exhibition of motion pictures on various subjects relevant to scouting. It would be a fine way of entertaining fathers and mothers and friends of the troop and on certain occasions might be used for means of raising funds to help build the scout hut at the permanent camp. If the plans for this camp go through, several scoutmasters have been assigned to look into the question of purchasing a picture machine and to submit plans at the next regular meeting of the scoutmasters' association.

There are twenty scouts in Harrisburg, not to count the several in outlying suburbs, who have a splendid opportunity each to help get the most of them are regularly missing it. We refer to the "scout scribes" of the various troops who are supposed to prepare news items and stories for this Scout page. Printer's ink is the best known medium of modern advertising and is used in great quantities by all successful concerns, whether business enterprises or institutions. The Scouts of Harrisburg have an unusual opportunity to place their news before the public through the medium of this page. It would be absolutely impossible for any troop to buy the space that they can get each week simply by writing up the news items of their activities. And each of the scribes has a great chance to develop his writing abilities, as there is no better way to learn to write than to see your stuff in print. Hqs believes that each and every scout troop has at least one boy who can do this job; if he can't get him on it now, you'd better get him to work and have your troop represented here each week, for the live troops are not going to let their happenings and doings recorded here. Come out of the cellar and show your colors.

The Court of Honor has met and established a working routine. It will now be possible for any scout who wants to take merit badge exams to try for the awards. Those wishing to qualify for First Class Badges must also appear before the Court of Honor. This means that you MUST BE PREPARED to go through in clean cut manner, and ready to answer any questions on scouting that the members of the Court may ask. A first class Scout should know all of the scout requirements including the things he has learned while in the second, and tenderfoot classes.

We've a brand new stunt down at Hqs and are wondering what to name it. Every scout is invited to come in and try his skill at it. It requires not a hair's breadth of a mighty interesting. Several boys who were in last evening worked for an hour and had a lot of fun. The fellow who suggests the best name for the new stunt will win the contest. So far we call it "Shoot the Moon," but that isn't the best name. Come in and have a try.

Another new troop is on the way for the Harrisburg Roster. Papers have been taken out and signed by the boys of the Ridge Avenue M. E. Church for a scout organization. When enrolled this will bring the number of troops in the city up to twenty-one. Several others are ready for organization as soon as the important matter of securing a scoutmaster can be settled.

The war begins to come home to Harrisburg scouting. Several of our

leaders have already enlisted and gone and more are planning to leave. I. T. Rochman, and Wm. A. Frantz have entered active military service, and Garfield McAllister Harrisburg's oldest scoutmaster in point of service, is under orders to leave immediately for Camp Gordon, where he will enter Army Y. M. C. A. work. It is a time when the real spirit of scouting must be manifested by each and every boy and the patrols and troops held together by a bond of common interest and show that every group is determined to work for the success of Uncle Sam's big team.

Father and Son Night Observed by Troop Six

Tuesday night was Father and Son night at Troop Six. Owing to weather conditions and to the fact

that a number of Scouts or their fathers were working, the crowd was not as large as was expected. Senior Patrol Leader Carson had charge of the first part of the program which included knot tying, astronomy and fire making. Assistant Scoutmaster Sparrow made fire with a bow and drill. His first attempt was unsuccessful but in another trial he produced a flame in fifty-five seconds, Scout Snavely also secured fire with a bow and drill.

The second part of the program under Assistant Scoutmaster Craver included semaphore and Morse code signaling. Scouts Peters, Nye, Mattson and Leeds gave a demonstration of Morse signaling from a flashlight station while Scouts Boward, Lewis and Snavely used the semaphore code with hand flags. In this part of the program Assistant Scoutmaster Sparrow gave an interesting talk on Indian picture writing. Scout Himes who gave a demonstration of Scout cooking was one of the headliners of the evening. He made a number of delicious looking flapjacks and amused the audience with some rare stunts in flipping. He flipped them high and low, from his knees to the ceiling, over his shoulder and around his waist. It is rumored that in the next demonstration, he will flap them standing on his head.

The third part of the program under Assistant Scoutmaster King consisted mainly of first aid work and included bandaging with roller and triangular bandages, treatment of broken bones, stretcher making, fireman's lift, fireman's drag and treatment of drowning persons.

As a fitting climax to the evening the Susquehanna Council of Camp Fire girls, under the direction of Mrs. Roscoe Bowman prepared a tasty luncheon. A table decorated with ferns and potted plants and laden with good things to eat was attacked in true Scout style.

On New Year's Day the Troop will take a hike on snowshoes. Scouts are to meet at the Scout room at eight o'clock on New Year's morning, having with them full Scout equipment such as axes, signal flags, staves and cooking utensils. The Scoutmaster wishes to thank all Scouts who took part in Tuesday night's demonstration, either by actual work or by their presence. It is the little bits of extra time and extra work devoted to Scouting that make a troop a success and prove that a Scout is trustworthy and loyal.

BOY SCOUTS ARE RECOGNIZED

State Accepts Memberships in Organization as Military Training

Although the Boy Scouts of America has never permitted the use of military titles by its citizen leaders and the building up of false notions on the part of the boys as to the dignity of such assumed titles, and has taken a definite stand against "tin soldiering," a careful analysis of its scouting program by state officials has justified the New York State Military Training Commission in accepting membership in the Boy Scouts of America as equivalent to the requirements of the training to be given under the new law.

All parents will be interested to know that the Military Training Commission of the State of New York has given this official recognition to the value of the Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America.

A Scouting Unit, made up of boys above the age of sixteen years and not over the age of nineteen years, who are registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and who reg-

ularly participate in carrying out the program of the Boy Scouts of America is accepted in the place of the regular military training provided for all boys of the above ages in the state of New York.

It is planned to have four separate divisions in this corps as follows: Farm unit, industrial unit, scouting unit and military training unit.

Scouts in Many Other States

Other states having a similar military law for boys will very likely accord the same recognition to the training given to the Boy Scouts of America. There are 294,542 boys regularly registered in 13,289 troops scattered all over the United States.

The training as accepted by the New York Military Training Commission is that set forth in the official Handbooks of the Boy Scouts of America and such leadership and conditions as make it possible for the Scout organization to certify that the instruction in training meets the requirements of the New York State Law and the rules and regulations of the Military Training Commission.

Troop Eight Has Almost Reached 100 Per Cent. Goal

The weekly meeting of Troop 8 was held Monday evening. The troop almost reached the 100 per cent mark, they are striving for. During the meeting it was decided to organize a troop orchestra, as there is an abundance of the material available. Edgar Spatz is arranging to bring this talent together for practice.

Eight of the boys are helping out in the Christmas entertainment to be held by the Sunday school of the Christ Lutheran Church; namely: Lewis Homler, Scout Strickler, Harry Brehfield, Ralph Wallis, Russell Walters, Wilbur Bowman, S. McClean and John Christ.

The program for the entertainment to be held some time during January is rounding into shape; and it looks as though it will be one grand treat to the people who see it.

A hike has been planned for Wednesday, December 28th. One of the purposes of the hike is to settle the Christmas dinners of the boys. After the meeting several boys passed their examinations successfully.

The troop expects to make some of the other troops in Harrisburg sit up and take notice when it comes to selling cook books. The troop had several visitors during the evening, the minister of the church and several members of the council speaking to the boys. The troop has attracted the interest of Wm. J. Shader, an ex-member of the United States Army whose enlistment expired after the border trouble last Fall. Mr. Shader spoke to the boys about profiting by the things to be learned in the Scout Movement. He was an active member of the United Boys' Brigade of America for six years and a member of the Y. M. C. A. for three years, and has been interested in the athletics of Harrisburg for a long time.

R. FOSTER SHADER, Scout Scribe.



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