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SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

Since the last issue, "Leanders" have had a succession of red-letter days. The Seal Patrol, having won the Kingston Association Camping Competition, represented Kingston in the Surrey County Competition, and gained 1st place out of 32 entries. "Happy" Milne really earned his nickname when the photographers came round. Having gained 1st place in 1950, and 2nd in 1951, this further success by "Leanders" creates a record for any one Group. At the Kingston Scout Sports on July 26th, we won the Axe for the highest aggregate of points in the Senior Scout Events, and missed a similar trophy for the Junior Events by one point.

As will be seen from the report on another page, we again scored an outstanding success in the Middlesex & Surrey Sea Scout Regatta, and as we go to press comes the news that Senior Scout Jack Keen won the Warrington Baden-Powell Cup in the annual race in single-seater Kayaks, open to all Senior Sea Scouts. This was a remarkable win as Jack broke his ankle a few weeks ago, and still has his leg in plaster.

Between these successes in competitive events, came the Summer Camps of the various sections of the Group, and this year for the first time, all four participated. All the camps were highly successful, and everyone had lots of fun. The weather took a hand in the training, and much very valuable experience was gained, although at some cost in damage to both tents and boats. This record of achievement has been made possible only by the enthusiasm of the boys and the unceasing care and energy of the Scouters in all Sections. The Scouters have been enabled to pursue an adventurous programme by the knowledge that the Group's boats and camping equipment were in first class order, and this was due in no small measure to the help of the Rovers in seeing that repairs have been promptly carried out. To maintain this satisfactory standard in the future, the support of all parents is needed. This can be given most effectively through the "6d. a week Scheme", and by a special effort in connection with our ANNUAL BAZAAR. The date of this is Saturday 8th NOVEMBER, and the place St. Peter's Church Hall, London Road, Kingston. Offers of help in staffing Stalls and Sideshows are wanted. We also need goods to stock the stalls, and above all, a big crowd of "customers". We appeal to all parents to see that this "money raiser" is an unqualified success so that we can have the equipment to make 1953 an even more outstanding year. Please bear in mind that the boys' weekly subs. amount to only 1/5th of what is necessary to meet the running expenses of the Group.

NEWS FROM BRIGHTON.

The Skipper has received the following letter from TED CLIPSHAM, and his many friends among the Old Boys of "Leander" will be sorry to hear he is now in Ward 4, Bevendean Hospital, Bear Road, Brighton.

* * * *

Dear Skipper,

I have just been reading the "WATER RAT", which has been sent on to me here. Having plenty of time on hand, and feeling a bit seedy, I can assure you reading through same was as good as a tonic, and I should like to congratulate you, and the Scouters, very much for the results shown from your combined efforts. It not only reminds me of past events - but also what I am missing.

In case you are wondering about the above address, which is a Sanitorium, you cannot be more surprised than I was when I found out I had a spot of T.B. My health has not been very good these last few years, but I had no idea. I found out through the Mass X-Ray. I should like to advise any Leanders to make use of the chance when the Mass X-Ray comes to Kingston again, to pay it a visit.

I hope you and Mrs. Ebbage are keeping well.

I will close, wishing the younger "Leanders" good camping and sailing, and the Old Scouts, best of luck and good weather for your holidays.....

Perhaps you would like some idea what it is like here? Well, think of Ranmore Common when the wind really is blowing - and being in bed, and only a roof overhead. Well, that is it! There are walls of course, but there are also many windows and doors always open, whatever the weather.....

Cheerio, and best of luck to you and Leanders,

Yours sincerely,

TED.

Since replying to the above, the Skipper has heard again from Ted, who has now had one lung collapsed.

I am sure you will all join in wishing him a speedy return to good health.

MY FIRST SUMMER CAMP

On Friday 1st August, 1952, I was rushing madly about the house collecting my kit together, because the next day I was off on my first fortnight's Summer Camp. By 7, 30 on Saturday morning, I got the last of my kit packed, and was ready to leave for the meeting place - Surbiton Clock Tower. When I arrived at five to eight, nearly everybody was there, and soon afterwards the lorry arrived, with the boats and kit. By 8 o'clock the whole party was there (except John Hackney, who was unavoidably delayed) and by 8.45, after John had come, we were on our way. It was not such a tight squeeze as we had thought it would be, as some of the Troop had to go by train. After an uneventful journey, we arrived at Cobnor Farm at 11.15, and an hour later had the kit and boats unloaded.

My first impression of the camp site was that it was very well situated. On the east side of the field there was a sea wall which was meant to keep the sea out, but when the high tides came, it used to seep through. On the south west there was a high hedge which sheltered a few of the tents. In the middle there was a very muddy pool which was full of old bits of tin, and was frequently being raided for its contents to make gadgets. One of its other uses was providing mud for the ovens (and also for throwing at P/Ls and Rovers, etc.). At first I did not have much time to look around, as I was soon hard at work helping pitch our tent. After a very hard-working afternoon and evening, we went for a swim. The water was a lot colder than we had anticipated; nevertheless the stalwarts went in. The swim made us very tired, and we were all glad to see our sleeping bags.

Sunday afternoon was spent collecting wood, and with the aid of "Podge" and his motor-bike, we managed to bring back to camp a large wood supply. That night there was quite a strong wind blowing, and when we woke up the following morning the flag staff had been blown down. Monday was spent making gadgets, etc., and on Tuesday we were honoured by a visit from the G/S/M. Nearly everybody was out collecting wood on Wednesday - all but P/L Spencer who was digging a 3 foot grease pit. On Thursday P/L Spencer's grease pit filled up with water when the high tides came in. On Friday "Happy" Milne decided to take his Patrol to Chichester by water, leaving the boat at Dell Quay. They went to the pictures, having been told that they must leave at 4.30 with the tide. But Elizabeth Taylor's charms proved so strong that they saw the film round a second time. When they arrived back at Dell Quay, there was the boat,

high and dry on the mud! It was useless to push it into the water as there was a strong flood tide flowing, so there they stopped until 2.30 Saturday morning, when they were able to get off on the ebb tide. When they eventually arrived back at camp at 4.30 a.m. they just fell into their sleeping bags, and according to "Happy", it was much better than the hard boards of Dell Quay which they had been sleeping on up to 2.30 a.m. On Saturday we were all helping to tidy the camp site, as the next day was Parents' Day. On Saturday afternoon, P/L Butcher turned a "twelve" over, while he was out sailing. After some difficulty, he managed to get himself and the boat shore.

During Sunday many parents arrived, and were very interested in the camp, and watching some of the Troop sailing in the dinghies. In the afternoon there was a water-fight, and in the evening the whole Troop went to Church. Monday was a quiet day, when most of us did more or less as we liked. Tuesday had been greatly looked forward to, by the whole Troop as we were going to visit Portsmouth Docks. We arrived there after dinner, and were shown round H.M.S. "Triumph". We had a very good time making the guns rotate, and pushing buttons, pulling levers, turning handles, and shouting down voice tubes. No one was more surprised than "Happy" Milne when he found one marked "Admiral's Sea Cabin" and shouted in it "Oi, Big'ead", and got a very crisp reply "Stop mucking about up there!" After that we were shown round H.M.S. "Victory" by a R.M. Sergeant in record time. It was getting late, and we decided to go back to Camp. It was a long walk from the station to the camp, and halfway, everybody was very thirsty, especially the Scouters, so at the next "pub", a crate of 'pop' was purchased and rapidly consumed, although I did not see the Scouters drinking any! Eventually we got back to camp at 7.15. Wednesday passed peacefully, and on Thursday a friend and I went to a caravan on Hayling Island. After our return on Friday we went out in the boats, and then got down to the job of preparing for our return on Saturday. Next morning we were all working very hard, taking down tents and generally clearing the camp site up. At mid-day the lorry arrived, and was quickly loaded. When nearly all the gear had been stowed, we had sandwiches, prepared earlier in the morning. Then the last of our kit was put aboard, and regretfully we left the site where we had had such a splendid camping holiday.

Arriving back at H.Q. at 5.30, "Buster" Cole had provided a large spread, which was rapidly devoured by the Troop. While we were eating it, a very unusual thing happened - the Rovers actually unloaded the lorry! What IS the Group coming to?

SINBAD.

SETTLING DOWN IN CANADA.

We have received the following very interesting account from RON and EVELYN BASS, of their trip and arrival in Canada, where they have made their home.

MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 1952: We left Chessington North Station at 3.40, and arrived at Waterloo. There were about 12 relatives and friends waiting to see us off, who presented us with 3 boxes of chocolates to help us on our way. The Boat Train left on time, at 4.49, and we got to Scythampton Docks at 6.20 p.m. On leaving the train we went into a very large Waiting Hall, very modern and impressive, and had coffee, then proceeded to the Emigration Officials, next to the Passport Official who relieved us of our Ration Books and Identity Cards. On to the Custom Shed, where we sorted out our luggage for inspection, passing through very quickly and without any trouble. Our luggage was then taken aboard, and we boarded the liner and found our Cabin, then on to the Dining Hall for Dinner. Afterwards, we had a walk round to see where everything was. On returning to our Cabin, we unpacked our clothing for the journey, and later went to the Library & Writing Room, and wrote home to our parents.

TUESDAY 12th: We were awakened by the Stewardess bringing in our early tea. Breakfast was at 8.50, and we had as much as we liked - starting off with Grapefruit Juice, Eggs and bacon (always TWO eggs!) roll & butter, toast, and tea. Porridge or Cereal were also served, but we didn't bother! Afterwards we went up to the Sports Deck for fresh air, then wandered around the Tourist part of the ship, and back on deck about half-an-hour before sailing, which was 11.15 a.m. Lunch was at 1.30. During the afternoon we went into the Winter Garden to listen to the Organ, and I read, while Evelyn knitted. Tea was served there at 4 p.m. As we were nearing Cherbourg we went up on Deck to watch the passengers arriving in smaller boats, as big boats such as ours, cannot get into the Harbour. Dinner was at 7.45 - another big meal! Afterwards we danced till 9, when there was an interval of an hour. We continued dancing till midnight. Each night the clocks are stopped at midnight for one hour, so as to adjust the time with New York, which is of course 5 hours behind English time.

WEDNESDAY 13th: At breakfast some people at our table didn't turn up, as we were now well out at sea, and although the ship was not making too much movement, several of them couldn't "take it" and were ill. I am glad to say we were both good sailors during the whole journey. Later we went on Deck for fresh air, then down to the Winter Garden, where I read, while Evelyn knitted. Lunch was at 1.30 - full up again! then off to the Pictures to see "His Excellency". Tea was served either in the Smoke

Room or the Winter Garden. Another trip on Deck for fresh air, and after dinner we played a Horse Racing game till 10 p.m., following which we danced.

THURSDAY 14th and FRIDAY 15th: Similar routine, except that on Thursday the film was "Elopement", and on Friday after lunch we toured the First Class and Cabin Class quarters, and after dinner won 3/- in the Horse Racing game.

SATURDAY 16th: Same routine both morning and afternoon, but packing up again, as all large baggage was to be collected from the Cabins during the evening.

After Dinner, we had a Concert, followed by dancing.

SUNDAY 17th: We were up at 6 a.m., so as to be on Deck when we passed the Statue of Liberty. We stayed on Deck from 6.30 until we actually passed the Statue at 7.30, in rain and mist! We docked at the Pier at 9 o'clock, and then had to wait to pass the Emigration Officials who came on Deck. We got through this, and were off about 11.30, and we soon found a Customs Officer to check the luggage, and I am glad to say we got through this quite O.K. The luggage was then sent straight on to New York Central Station, while we went by taxi, and found that the next train to Toronto wasn't until 8 p.m. It was still raining, but we decided to have a quick look around. We had a meal, then walked down Broadway, which was a wonderful sight, the sky scrapers were terrific, and we couldn't see the top of the Empire State Building for the rain - it just vanished into a cloud. By this time we were getting quite wet, so decided the best thing was to go back to the Station where we found a News Theatre, so passed away an hour or so. Our train for Toronto left on time, and the carriages were very comfortable, the seats having adjustable backs for comfortable sleeping.

MONDAY 18th: We arrived at Toronto at 9 a.m., and went first of all to the Emigration Office. I got a job on the Wednesday, and started working on the following Monday.

* * * * *

RON and EVELYN have now settled in an unfurnished apartment in Mimico, about 4 miles from Toronto City limits, in a new building which has only just been finished, very modern, with their own frig. and with a washing machine and a dryer for use of the tenants, which is situated in the basement. There is also an indoor swimming pool in the grounds. They were due for a week's holiday in August, when they were hoping to get as far as Niagara Falls, some 80 miles from their home.

SENIOR TROOP SUMMER CAMP.

Early in the Summer the Group acquired "HERMES", a 20ft. pulling and sailing gig which made it possible to plan a much more ambitious scheme for the Senior Troop's Summer Camp. Several very active weeks were spent in preparing the vessel and her gear, and in gaining the necessary knowledge of handling her. At midnight on Friday 1st August, "Hermes" in company with "Hero" and two 12ft dinghies set sail from H.Q. for an expedition to the Thames Estuary. The party consisting of 14 Seniors and Rovers arrived at "Discovery" in the small hours of the following morning where they met a Dutch Sea Scout JAN BROEWER who had arranged to join in the expedition. Proceeding from there on the tide to Greenhithe, and after a few hours there, on to the Isle of Sheppey, reaching Hartly Ferry, a well-remembered "Leander" Camp Site, at midnight on Sunday. The downriver trip was not without incident, there being plenty of wind, a bit too much at times, as "Hero" found having the misfortune to be dismantled in Sea Reach! (Not DISMANTLED as reported in the press!) We will not easily forget our meeting with the "Ancient Mariner" at Sheerness Pier. With his craft that resembled an oversize canoe, he took the two dinghies in tow, but met with some difficulty at the start. This was owing to the fact that he had omitted to get up his mud-hook, with the result that they spun round in circles whilst the "A.M." made all sorts of remarks about the strength of the tide!

Despite these early setbacks, we had a very good time, and a wonderful opportunity of exploring many of the rivers and creeks around the Isle of Sheppey. Our activities were somewhat restricted by the weather, which at times was blowing a full gale, and sailing was out of the question, even for "Leanders". The Swale at times being impassable, we were stonmbound for a few days and were forced to live on what we had in the grub tent. This resulted in some unusual menus! Fred Goodger visited the camp during the middle week-end and had an exciting "crossing" of the Swale. Instead of being ferried over as he expected, he found himself compelled to row the boat having as passenger our portly S/M who had exhausted himself on the outward trip.

The duck shooting season opened whilst we were in Camp, and our share of the bag was a brace of ducks, a hare and a rabbit, which made good eating, and helped out the rations considerably. We managed to get in a great deal of sailing along the Kent coast, after the storm had abated, and some parties went away for the night from time to time, both to the Medway and other places, but all good things

come to an end, and at last we set off on our return journey. For some inexplicable reason the wind, which had been a little too much most of the time, now let us down, and there was a flat calm, which resulted in us getting only as far as Sheerness on the first stage, and we had to wait there for the tide until the unpleasant hour of 2 a.m., when we set off under tow by "Hero" with the outboard, to Greenhithe. After a few hours rest, we proceeded under sail to "Discovery", a really wonderful sail it was too, one of the best that we have ever had, a record run in every way. The remaining 20 miles to Headquarters was uneventful and so ended a memorable fortnight.

We are very pleased to welcome Ron Spencer and Des. Hackson up from the Troop, and Peter Butcher will be joining us when he returns from a Course at the "Outward Bound" School at Aberdovey. This gives us a sizeable number in the Senior Troop, and we are looking forward to a lot of interesting activities in the coming autumn and winter.

B A D G E S G A I N E D - July to September.

SENIOR TROOP: Seaman Badge - R.Garnish, G.Hopkins, F.Moodey
 Helmsman Badge - M.Fletcher, R.Garnish, G.Hopkins, F.Moodey
 1st Class Badge completed - M.Fletcher.

JUNIOR TROOP: Oarsman Badge - D.Potts, B.Garnish, K.Notley, I.Hunt
 1st Class Tests - R.Bennett (2*) J.Stevenson (1)
 2nd Class Tests - B.Wilson (5*) B.Peters (4*) E.Smithers (7) D.Butcher (4)
 B.Carr (3) K.Sutherland (2) I.Sims (2) P.Duffin (3)
 J.Spratley (1) A.Rumbold (1) A.Butcher (1) S.Farrer (1)
 Tenderfoot Badge - A.Rumbold, P.Adams.

(* All tests for Badge now completed).

B.P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS - "LEANDER" BRANCH.

The Annual Supper will be held at H.Q. Lower Ham Road, on Thursday 6th November, at 8 for 8.30 p.m. Tickets 5/- each from Hon. Sec. (J.Douthwaite, 18 Mount Pleasant Rd. New Malden). To assist catering arrangements, please apply for your tickets BEFORE 23rd October.

MIDDLESEX & SURREY SEA SCOUT REGATTA

September 13th saw "Leanders" competing in the Middlesex & Surrey Sea Scout Regatta. This was held at Hampton, so a party started from Headquarters at 10 a.m. to pull the boats upstream ready for the afternoon.

The first event was the Sailing Race for 12ft. dinghies over 2 laps of the course. There were twelve starters including three from Leanders, our crews comprised Wally Shennan & Dave Potts; "Cyril" Fletcher & Ivor Hunt; John Evans & "Tacky" Garnish. At the end of the first lap our boats were 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1st place being held by 1st Surbiton. The second lap developed into a struggle between our three boats for 2nd place. Wally Shennan couldn't overtake the 1st Surbiton boat, and our final placings were 2nd, 3rd and 4th. This race was followed by the heats for dinghy pulling, Dicky Read winning his Junior Heat by inches, and Colin Ford his Heat in the Senior Race. Afterwards came the Heats for Gigs which we won in both Senior and Junior Classes. Charlie Huckson won the Overboard Dinghy Race by skilful boat-handling when sandwiched between half-a-dozen others. Jack Keen put up a very good show in the Kayak Race but couldn't quite maintain the pace to the end. In the final for the Junior Gigs our Crew consisted of Roy Bennett, Ted Smithers, Keith Notley, Graham Fennell, and "Happy" Milne (Cox). They managed to establish a lead of half a length right at the start which they held for the first half of the course, and then, to everybody's amazement they pulled away to win by over two lengths.

Our Senior Gig crew Wally Shennan, Colin Ford, Charlie Huckson and "Sticky" Garnish (Cox) had an easy win over their nearest rivals, after a slow start. In the Senior Dinghy final, Colin Ford was smartly away at the start but his efforts in the Gig Race just beforehand began to tell and he dropped back to 3rd place.

As is customary the last event was an "All Comers" Race intended for all those who hadn't competed in any previous event; Scratch crews of Seniors and Juniors respectively manned our two gigs, and we gained 1st and 4th places out of 20 starters.

After brief speeches by the A/C/Cs for Middlesex and Surrey, Mrs. Ebbage presented the Certificates, and handed the Championship Pennant to Leanders. This was won with a total of 16 points. Three Groups tied for 2nd place with 5 points each.

Upon their return to H.Q. "Leanders" celebrated their outstanding victory with a "fish and chips" supper.

WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

The thing that comes first to our minds at the moment is still, of course, Camp. We had a very good camp really, in spite of the weather, for even bad weather does not worry Cubs. We were camping at Polyapes, so did not have far to go, and thanks to all the kind fathers, uncles, friends and Scouters - we managed to get both the kit and ourselves transported to and from camp in motor cars. The weather on the Sunday we started was glorious, and so no one minded very much when it poured in torrents all the next day. On Tuesday it drizzled on and off, but in spite of this we played another Pack, who were camping nearby, at cricket - and beat them! On Wednesday, being "Visiting Day", we had all the mothers and fathers over, and the Cubs put on a short Concert for them. We all had tea together, and the parents just got away before it started to rain again. On Thursday, Kim took the Pack off into the village to do some shopping, and on Friday, out came the sun. To celebrate, we packed up our tea and went off to the woods, and the sandpit, for a picnic, finishing off with a camp-fire in the evening. Saturday saw us making our sad trek homewards, very tired, and not so clean as when we started, most things including faces, managing to get stained with black-berries, while they were being collected to take home. Still, it was a good camp, and we are looking forward to an even better one next year.

To start off our new season, we sent up three Cubs to the Scouts, - Keith Plummer, Raymond Huckson, and Richard Pearse. We wish them all the very best of luck in the Troop. We welcomed another Huckson into the Pack on Thursday last, just to make up for the one we had lost! Good luck to David, and we are very pleased to have him. Now we are looking forward to our winter's work, and thinking again about the Bazaar - how the months fly - nearly time for the next Christmas Party.

Oh, well, we always seem to have something to look forward to.

Good Hunting,

ARELA.

I M P O R T A N T .

THE EDITOR thanks the contributors for their prompt response to his request for copy.

ROVER NOTES.

The most notable event since the June issue, was George Goodall's marriage to Miss Vera Catchpole on 5th July. The previous night being a Crew Meeting, a "Batchelor Night" was held at H.Q., when a Clock was presented to George, from the members of the Group.

The Crew entered 3 teams for the Rover Hike Competition. As usual, it poured all night, but all our teams finished the course, after many adventures such as falling in to ditches and brambles. From the starting point near Bentley, a compass course was followed for 10 miles to the hamlet of Hawkley. Our teams were:- Morrie Buer & George Goodall; Ken Marshall & "Nobby" Hanley; "Snowy" Vaizey & John Sharp. They arrived at the destination all together, having met on the road about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour earlier. Our final placings were 4th, 7th and 11th, out of 18 teams. Having gained 2nd Place in the Swimming Contest, we are now running neck and neck with 3rd Kingston for 1st place in the Barker Cup Competition.

During August the Crew was very scattered. "Nobby" went to Norway, Jeff Yeend did a cruise with the R.N.V.R.; "Snowy" and Jeff Dove went on their "Z" training, Dave Blundell acted as Q/M at the Troop's Camp, which "Buster" Cole, Fred Goodger, Gordon Biden and Ron Pidduck all attended for various periods. Nigel Fentiman and John Scott sailed down river with the Seniors to the Isle of Sheppey, and then on round the Essex Coast to Brightlingsea. After hearing of the disaster at Lynmouth, Gordon Biden and Charlie Bishop made an all-night dash by car to the Ditton Scouts Camp nearby, to see if they were O.K. for food, etc.

A recent visitor to the Crew was "Screwy" Whitworth, just demobbed from the Army; he attained the rank of Sergeant. Dick Riches is due out early in October, Ernie Southey, Jeff Dove and Keith Quinnen (all demobbed) are settling down with the Crew again, into which "Nobby" Hanley and Gordon Biden have recently been enrolled. George has given up the job of Rover Mate, to make way for a younger member. "Snowy" has been elected to serve for one year. The various Group jobs have been rearranged, and two new posts have been created - "Gardener" taken on by "Buster", and "Sports & Games Gear" by Ken Marshall.

The Crew will be putting in a working week-end at Polyapes very shortly.

Mr. & Mrs. George Goodall wish to thank all members of the Group for their very acceptable Wedding Gift.