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Edited by:-

96, Richmond Hill Court,

F.C.Goodger.

Richmond Hill

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

We would like, through these pages, to express our sympathy with Mr. Fred Goodger on the loss of both his mother and father since the last issue of the "Water Rat". This has meant that he has had to spend a good deal of time travelling backwards and forwards to Portsmouth during the past months, so that we have not been able to have his company at as many events as previously, although he has been busy in his job as A/D/C (Seniors), and just recently in editing this magazine, and producing our report for this year's Bayer Winthrop Competition.

The Rover Crew have just recently lost their Rover Mate in the person of Rowland Spencer, who has changed his job, is now working in Southampton, and is hoping in the New Year to have a bungalow built at Sarisbury. We wish Rowland every success in his new work, and also good luck in the future. I am sure it will not be long before he is linking-up with Scouting in the Southampton area.

In October, Evelyn Bass (widow of Ron) took their two children back to Canada to live. We have heard from Evelyn recently, and she is at present staying with friends, but seems happier now that she is back where she and Ron had made their home together for about 8 years. She has met up with Mick Pratley, his wife and their young son, since her return. We send her all good wishes in Canada.

Congratulations to P/L. Keith Maund who represented the Patrol Leaders of Kingston at Leatherhead on Sunday 20th November in connection with the SURREYPRIDE CONFERENCE to be held at Gilwell Park on 29th/30th April, 1961. Keith has now been appointed a member of the Court of Honour to make the arrangements for the Conference.

As will be seen from reading through the pages, since our last issue in July, several important things have happened in the life of the Group. The Troop's Summer Camp this year was held at Chidham, near Chichester, and was obviously enjoyed by the writer of the report, and we hope by all others. The Seniors Cruise will also long be remembered. This was the first time we had forsaken the East Coast for the more populous waters of the Solent area.

The Show at Gilwell Park to mark the 50th Anniversary of Sea Scouting, followed less than a week after Summer Camp. The way everyone worked together as a team was an object

lesson to all, and the results were far beyond anyone's expectations. We have received congratulations from many, and the Guild members even obtained another "booking" of their part of the display. I would like to express my personal thanks to all those who helped in making this such a success.

At Ralph Reader's "Gang Show" at Golders Green Hippodrome, a number of the Seniors and older members of the Troop, have been helping by selling programmes. They formed part of the Guard of Honour when Earl Mountbatten and the Chief Scout visited the Show.

Do not imagine from the absence of boats from our frontispiece that we hibernate during the winter months, although flooding has somewhat curtailed boating during the past few weeks. It is very much "business as usual" and, although reports of outstanding events claim most of the space in our pages, it is the steady programme of training which goes on from week to week which not only renders these activities possible, but also provides the most valuable and lasting part of our Cub and Scout training. This is not just a dull grind, but an enjoyable experience which we share with others who in many instances have become life-long friends. Frequent instances are reported to me of former Scouts meeting after many years, and reminiscing over the happy times which they spent in the Pack, Troop and Crew.

The life blood of every organisation is MONEY, and in raising this we must rely mainly on the parents of our members. It is indeed right that we should do so, as it is their sons who benefit by everything we do. Once more the Bazaar was held at St. Peter's Church Hall on 19th November, when we were blessed with good weather - no fogs! - and best of all, our profit this year amounted to over £76 which is considerably better than last year. We do appreciate the great support we received from the B.P. Guild, as well as many parents and friends of the Group.

The Group will be holding a JUMBLE SALE in March next year, so please put aside all "discarded clothing, and unwanted household items, and ask your friends to do likewise, and we will collect them.

MRS. EBBAGE JOINS ME IN WISHING ALL READERS OF THE "WATER RAT" A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

STOP PRESS!!! "LEANDERS" have won the Bayer Winthrop Trophy again this year - on their own!

CUB NOTES

After a very busy and enjoyable summer, full of Pack activities, we are hard at work on our winter programme. Our Cub Camp was highly successful, due no doubt to the fact that we chose one of the few week-ends when the sun decided to favour Polyapes. Soon after Camp, the Pack visited the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, accompanied by our guest, Mrs. Batson A/D/C Cubs. We were delighted to find that the Queen Mother, with Princess Margaret and her husband, were attending the same performance.

The Pack enjoyed its participation in the District Cub Sports. "Leander" came first in the Relay Race, and several Cubs also received Certificates.

It was decided that "Leander" Group Garden Fete was an excellent excuse for the Pack holding a Fancy Dress Parade, which I am told caused great amusement and succeeded in attracting extra visitors to the Fete and teas. Mr. E. Boddy kindly judged and presented the prizes - 1st prize to the very handsome "Elephant and Trainer" (P. and L. Rainsley and R. Young), and 2nd to the neat and much-labelled "Registered Parcel" (J. Evans).

At the District Swimming Gala, "Leander" Pack came 1st in the Cub Section and was presented with the Rose Bowl. We also won the Cub Relay Cup. Three of the four Cubs who represented the Kingston District at the County Swimming Gala at Epsom were also "Leanders". Swimming coaching still goes on each Saturday, between 10.30 and 11.30 a.m., at Kingston Baths. We thank Messrs. Grigg, Creasey and Leyshon for giving up so much of their time in helping us with coaching. Every Cub must be able to swim at least two lengths before entering the Scout Troop, and it is therefore essential that as soon as a Cub enters the Pack he should learn to swim. I should be very glad to hear of any parents or friends willing to give us occasional help on Saturday mornings during the winter months.

On 8th October, the Pack and Troop met for the "Going-Up" Ceremony, when Stephen Frith and Alan Martin were welcomed into the Troop. The Pack were then entertained to a Film Show, and an excellent tea provided and prepared by the Scouts. Early in October we welcomed into the Pack five new Chums, Robert Coates, Andrew Hunter, Geoffrey Newmarch, Michael Stanford and Michael Wilson. The number of Proficiency Badges gained during the Summer was good, and now we are settling down to an enforced indoor programme, 1st and 2nd Star work is being tackled with renewed keenness and enthusiasm by the Pack.

AKELA.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP, 1960.

If you look on an OS map you may find Cobnor Farm, but if you start with only a vague idea of where it is, you will find the searching difficult. This gives you some idea of the secluded nature of the camp site. It is situated on a peninsula in Chichester Harbour, about midway between Chichester and Hayling Island, and not far from the R.A.F. Base at Thorney Island.

To avoid clashing with another Troop, which was leaving the site on the Saturday, we did not start from Kingston until Sunday 14th August. All arrangements had been made, or so we thought, but when the lorry finally turned up we found it was too small, so the obliging driver (he is a "mate" of ours by now) went back to Maudes and fetched the bigger lorry we had asked for. Well, we asked for it and we got it! a monster lorry about 30 ft long. Into it we packed two 12 ft. dinghies, the "Cadet" our kit and ourselves. On arrival we found the camp site was a large irregularly shaped four-sided field, with a large wind pump in it, but it remained a mystery whether it was used for an electric generator or for pumping water. After we had eaten our lunch, we unloaded the lorry and took the gear to the far side of the field where the tents were pitched.

About twenty of us attended camp at various times, and we were formed into three Patrols, under Chris. Keith and Malcolm, but as the last named only stayed a week, "Noggin" took over his Patrol in the second week. All the Scouters came, but A/S/M Garnish had to leave after the first week, and A/S/M Ian Dow came for the second week after completing a "tour de France".

The first few days were spent getting our Patrol camp sites in order. As there were no sweet shops nearby, Keith and Noggin decided to start one of their own. It was a tremendous success, and I don't know how we should have existed without it. One evening that week, some of us decided to form pyramids. Eccles was usually chosen to go on top, and poor "Sticky" had to go bottom. On the Thursday our Patrol went to Southsea and visited the Funfair, where we spent all our money. Apart from outings such as this, time in camp was mainly spent cooking, eating and resting. Each Patrol cooked its own breakfasts and dinners, but the Duty Patrol for the day, apart from other sundry duties, had to prepare tea and supper. Each day one of the Scouters ate with each Patrol. On Sunday we were visited by parents, and the morning inspection was even more scrupulous than usual, the Scouters making doubly sure we were clean. The parents started arriving before dinner (the Washbourne family being first, I

6.

think). After our dinner of pot-roast - very delicious - they came thick and fast, and by 3 o'clock the field looked like a municipal car park! I seem to remember Archy fell for a certain young lady present (but no names!) The afternoon passed fairly enjoyably as there was no village nearby to show the parents, we were relieved of that responsibility. Two young ladies who showed a desire to use the felling axe (as I am told) had to be watched carefully by Keith and Chris. By the time for the Church parade, the tumult had died down and we were glad of a rest. The Church was a typical country one, and we all found it very interesting. After Church we went to the "local" from which the "tuck" provisions had come, and the landlord gave us each a free drink (non-alcoholic).

During the second week, each Patrol went rowing at least once. On one of our trips we went to Bosham (pronounced Bozom) where we found some local equestrian "jeunes filles". We discovered the name of one of them was Sheila, and they almost came to visit us later in the week. Bruno, however, met them at the bottom of the road and found them to be very shy.

On Saturday afternoon the lorry came again, and after a sandwich lunch we started packing up. The boats having been cleaned and loaded, we set off about 14.30. Singing our usual songs en route, we found on arriving at H.Q. "Sticky" had tea all ready for us.

"MITTEN" (N. Duffin).

TESTS PASSED.

Camper Badge. G. Hockham

Oarsman Badge. N. Duffin.

First Class: S. Day (1) N. Duffin (2) M. Evans (3) B. Martin (1) M. Lorenzini (1).

Second Class: B. Donnan (1) G. Dunn (3) C. Edwards (3) R. Elles (1) N. Freshwater (1)

D. Grigg (1) D. Owen (3) R. Rainsley (3) K. Rhodes (1) R. Smith (6) C. Tanner (1)

M. Webb (1)

SENIOR TROOP SUMMER CRUISE, 1960.

For this year's Summer Cruise we used "Sandling" and the fibre-glass gig to cruise in the Solent and Chichester Harbour. As "Sandling" is kept at the Hardway Sailing Club moorings at Gosport, we had to arrange to take the gig and ourselves down there on Saturday 23rd July. We got the help of Doug Fenner of "Ajax" Sea Scouts, using "Ajax's" trailer and Doug's dormobile, into which Bob, Nye, Shrimp, Whiskey, Pidgeon and Chris loaded themselves, with all the gear on Saturday at 8.30. Miraculously, we arrived at Gosport undamaged, and unloaded the gig into the water. After emptying the dormobile of anything of ours, we said "goodbye" to Doug, found "Sandling's" tender, and rowed it and the gig out to "Sandling". We were surprised to see what appeared to be a large pink balloon made fast to her forestay, but soon discovered that it was only the mooring buoy. At first sight "Sandling" appeared smaller than we had expected, and once we were installed, Pidgeon started to arrange everything differently and to tidy everything up. The rest of us just laughed at him and after a few days he gave up completely and joined the majority.

The first day we went for a short sail around the harbour to get used to "Sandling" and the next morning the gig and "Sandling" left the moorings together for the T.S. "Mercury" in the River Hamble. Bob and Pidgeon were in "Sandling" and the rest were in the gig. The gig crew were rather surprised to see that they were drawing away from "Sandling", having thought that as "Sandling" was bigger, she was faster. The gig arrived at "Mercury" during the afternoon and we walked into Hamble to buy some food, having had no dinner. We were seriously considering sleeping under hedges or in some partly built bungalows, when Bob arrived with "Sandling". That night Nye and Whiskey slept on board "Mercury", so that everyone could have a bunk. The next morning we left the Hamble bound for Itchenor, in Chichester Harbour. This time Chris stayed with Bob in "Sandling". The wind was light at first, and Bob used the engine until well clear of the River Hamble, but then the wind freshened and the gig began to draw away. In the gig we had just begun to drink some coffee when the tiller broke. This put an end to our coffee drinking, annoying us rather, while we grovelled about the bottom of the boat looking for our spare tiller. We soon got it into the rudder-head and continued on our way, thankful that Bob had made the spare, the day before. On arriving at Itchenor, everyone except Bob, went for a walk in the village and then

visited John Malcolm, who was an A/S/M of the Scout Troop for a while when we were in it. After some difficulty we found his house and knocked on the door. At first he didn't recognise us, but eventually was able to work out everyone's name except Whiskey's. We went for a walk with John, Bob joining us later, and then went back to "Sandling". On the next day we had decided to go to Wootton Creek, in the Isle of Wight, so we left Itchenor at about 14.00. Bob and Whiskey staying in "Sandling". The gig was soon well ahead of "Sandling", but we had come to accept this by now. The gig kept in-shore while "Sandling" headed out, and about 19.00 the gig was out of sight. When Bob saw that we were making very little progress, he tried to start the engine, but found it was full of water. Because of this we had to plug the tide, while sailing, and at 21.00 were off Bembridge, about the time the gig arrived at Wootton Creek. "Sandling" did not get there until 2.00 next morning, and by then the gig's crew had made fast alongside some boat and were sleeping, or shall we say, trying to sleep. They were rather fed-up when they woke Bob and I early in the morning screaming for food. The only other time the gig's crew had to sleep in the gig was when Bob and Whiskey were once again in "Sandling", and the others were beginning to wonder if something fishy were afoot. From then on we sailed to Gosport, Bembridge, and later, after picking up Pluto, back to Wootton. At first Pluto tried to clear up, as had Pidgeon, needless to say, he failed. When Spence came three days later, he tried to do the same thing, and did have some success. Mac also had arrived, and with them we sailed across from the Hamble to Cowes to see the Duke of Edinburgh. We then returned to Wootton after trying to get to Yarmouth, but failed to do so because we stopped to help a yacht which had run aground. When we were sailing from Cowes to Yarmouth in the gig, there was a race on, and the owner of a schooner that we passed was doing his nut trying to get his boat to go faster. After this, we went back to Itchenor to see "O Wide One" again, and then regretfully returned to Gosport after a most enjoyable holiday. Doug once again helped, by taking us and the gig back to Kingston.

"WHISKEY" (A. DOW)

ROVER CREW REPORT.

Although, due to exams., we could not raise a team for the Barker Cup Competition, (I understand the date is being changed before next year), the First Aid Competition was held recently at Polyapes, and we entered two teams who gained 3rd and 9th places. For the Barker Cup Hike Event we had a very good team who did exceptionally well in gaining 8th place out of 10 entries, considering that nearly half the maximum points were lost because Arthur sprained his ankle and had to retire. Congratulations to Sticky for his excellent efforts. The one remaining Barker Event is the Pioneering, to be held in December.

Other District Rover Events include raising £70 as a contribution towards sending a number of Rovers to the next World Rover Moot in Australia in June 1961. The District Rover Night Road Rally was held on November 12th and was won by "Leander's" "A" Team - R. Spencer, A. Hockham, and Jill Whitehead. "Leander" 'B' Team (I. Dow, P. Duffin and two Sea Rangers) came sixth.

"Sandling" has been used quite a lot this year, both by the Guild and Rovers, the latter included a week by Keith Sutherland, a week by Rowland Spencer, and another week when Mac. and Spence joined the Seniors' Summer Camp. Although the weather was not too kind, a lot of sailing took place, and was enjoyed by all.

Keeping on the subject of sailing, the Warrington Baden Powell Races were held recently. Mac came 6th in the first heat, and Pete Butcher won his. Not content with that, he went on to win the final after first 'phoning his wife to say that he would be late home for tea! Congratulations "Butch", it is some time since "Leanders" won this event.

According to our latest information the following shows who is where:-

- B. Carr (A.40) - posted to Singapore in August.
- J. Evans (Dai) - moved from Devizes to another R.A.F. Camp near Oxford.
- R. Read - moved from Catterick, Yorks, to Germany.
- B. Peters (Peasey) should be home about Christmas.
- P. Butcher - now at home studying for 1st Mate's Certificate (and married!)
- A. Butcher - moved to report for yet another newspaper (in Grimsby this time).
- D. Butcher - still in Somerset, but started a little sheep farming on his own as a sideline.
- R. Spencer - working at Southampton - occasionally in Kingston on Sundays, will be moving to Sarisbury next summer.

"LEANDERS" WENT TO GILWELL.

It all started when John Thurman, the Camp Chief, asked Skipper if "Leanders" could stage a Sea Scout Show at the Annual Gilwell Re-union of Scouters holding the Wood Badge over the week-end 3rd-4th September. As the only water available was the "bomb hole", 100 ft by 60 ft., much careful planning was needed. A vast pantechnicon with eleven boats and an advance party went to Gilwell on the Saturday morning. The rest of the group, Sea Rangers of S.R.S. "Victor" and Sea Scouts from Cuddington travelled by coach on Sunday. On arrival some time was spent in getting used to the size of the pool; the Seniors actually sailed the 20ft gig round the two islands - no mean feat. The show opened with the shrill sound of bosuns' calls blown by the P/Ls, whereupon the screens, like the walls of Jericho, fell down to reveal a tableau "The Boyhood of Raleigh". Under cover of a smoke-screen the figures changed to Akela and two "cubs", who then said goodbye to Akela and swam "50 yards" across the pool to become "scouts". Rafts were built, dinghies manoeuvred to the sound of ships' sirens and the Seniors rigged the fibre-glass gig. A camp site was set up on an island, whilst Richard Smith capsised his canoe and was "rescued" by "Daisy". The Loch Ness Monster (1 "Noggin" power) appeared, spouting jets of water high into the air and was quickly captured and towed away. The Scouts then had a spectacular mud-fight and as they retired from the water, B.P. Guild frogmen recovered a bottle from the depths of the pool. This was found to contain "Spirit of Sea Scouting" and was presented to the Chief Scout. A comic turn by Ron Jault and Morrie Buer followed and "brought the house down". Finally, with Ted Boddy in charge and headed by the Senior Scout Colour Party, immaculately turned out, the mud-bespattered Troop with the other participants made a triumphant "March Past" at which the salute was taken by the Chief Scout and the Chief Guide. Before and after the show, the Sea Rangers and Cuddington Scouts and Rovers demonstrated various processes in boat building and repairing.

A wonderful day, and, as the Camp Chief wrote - "on the face of it, it was a preposterous proposition, yet "Leander" showed very clearly that the preposterous could be reduced to something completely worthwhile, because they had the training, the discipline and the enthusiasm to make it so.

R. Leyshon.

STRAY THOUGHTS OF A NEW A/S/M.

Having left the Senior Troop at Easter, I thought I would like to finish my remaining days in the Group peacefully, so I accepted the Scoutmaster's invitation to become an A/S/M in the Troop. I have since found that the last thing this job entails is "peace". The majority of the Troop are stark raving bonkers and the rest are worse. I began to learn that a Scoutmaster's job has a lot more to it than I ever realised. I soon learnt, for instance, that when a Scout makes a mistake, in doing a test, never to say "I'll show you how to do it". Try it first - if it works, say "That's how to do it" - if it doesn't, say "That's how not to do it", and hope that he has noticed what you have done wrong.

In case anyone wishes to acquire a Scout, I can now publish a road test done on one last week. The test was carried out on a 1948 model in quite good condition, though reactions when hard work was needed were a trifle slow. Here is the test sheet, with apologies to "Motoring Monthly".

BRAKING:	It will break anything, including your heart.
GEAR CHANGE:	It appears from the state of it's gear that it is not changed very often.
STEERING:	A firm grip is needed if Girl Guides are in the vicinity.
SUSPENSION:	Preferably by the neck.
FUEL CONSUMPTION:	4 meals per day.
REPAIRS:	In emergency dial 999. For normal repairs, local service stations are open for a short time in the mornings and evenings.
SPARE PARTS:	These are obtained through the National Health Service.
EQUIPMENT:	Most models fitted with built-in hearing aid which they switch off at appropriate moments.
WILL IT FIT YOUR HOUSE:	Average height 5 ft 8 ins. width 2 ft. 3 in. For those with small houses there is a 1948 version at 4 ft. 8 ins. and 4 stone 5 lbs. At the other extreme the 15 stone model, fitted with size 12 ex.army beetle crushers for extra grip.

MAC (I.C.DOW)

REPORT OF ADMIRALTY INSPECTING OFFICER.

The Inspection took place at the Troop's Headquarters, Lower Ham Road, Kingston, at 19.30 on Friday, 9th September, 1960.

On arrival I was met by Mr. Ebbage, the Group Scoutmaster, and introduced to the Commissioners. I then inspected the Troop who were fallen in by patrols on the main deck. The drill was good, apart from the fact that not one Patrol Leader remembered to salute when reporting his patrol; and all Sea Scouts were correctly dressed, there is room however, for some improvement in the smartness of the younger members' dress.

The river work was once again marred by the lack of wind, but all boats appeared very smart and well maintained and the handling of those under oars was good. Pulling boats were correctly demonstrating the use of sound signals, and there was an amusing whale hunting display.

For the remainder of the evening each patrol put on a display of varying Sea Scout instruction, these were all arranged and taken by the Patrol Leaders; the knowledge displayed by the Scouts was good, and on the whole the instruction was well given by the Patrol Leaders.

In the ten months since the last inspection a total of 3 Second, 2 First and 1 Queen's Scout badge has been gained. One Sea Scout has joined the Royal Navy as an Artificer Apprentice, and one has joined the Merchant Navy,

The inspection was kindly attended by R.G. Busbridge, Esq., the District Commissioner and F. Maund, the Assistant District Commissioner.

"Leander" put on a very wide and varied display, and showed that their high standard is being maintained. They are a pleasure to inspect, continuance of Admiralty qualification is recommended.

P. WAREHAM
Inspecting Officer
for Admiral Commanding Reserves.