

FUN and SERVICE



A HISTORY of the BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA
in the MIAMI VALLEY COUNCIL

FUN AND SERVICE

A 60 year history of
the Boy Scouts of America
in the Miami Valley Council

Any Scout or Scout leader in the Miami Valley will enjoy and cherish this book. It traces the fun and service of Scouting from its early days in Dayton before the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 as a result of a good turn performed by an English Boy Scout in London.

In that same tradition of service an unknown Dayton boy later helped a strange woman carry her heavy basketball of groceries, turned down a proffered tip with "Scouts do not take money for a good turn" and brought to Scouting a man who served as president of the Council in this area longer than any other.

Fascinating stories of the early days in Miami Valley Scouting, including the dramatic test of bridge-building contests by driving a Model T. Ford across each as it was finished; the Council's first Canadian trip with the Scout Executive and 30 Scouts stranded in St. Ignace, Michigan without funds; a fire by friction demonstration on board a ferry boat that almost caused a panic; the excitement which brought sheriff's deputies, armed to the teeth, scampering

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100 Year History of Boy Scouts of America
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DEDICATION

Dedicated to all the boys, men and women who have been touched by Scouting since it began in the Miami Valley many years ago, but especially

. . . to Chief or Whitey, a "typical" Scouter whose broad smile, twinkling eyes, effervescent humor and complete dedication to Scouting have inspired scores of others and whose amazing memory provided most of the information for the early years of this history.

. . . and to Milt, a "typical" Scout, the spark plug of his Troop and of the Council Camp as a boy, world-famous in his chosen profession, always ready and eager to contribute his valuable time and tremendous talent to any request Scouting has ever made of him.



1

"MAY I BE OF SERVICE, SIR?"

IT WAS in the fall of 1909, and a heavy fog swirled through the streets of London. William Boyce, a Chicago publisher, had lost his way and was already more than an hour late for his appointment when a small boy wearing some sort of uniform appeared out of the mist.

"May I be of service, sir?"

The boy led Boyce swiftly to his destination, and then, much to the American's surprise, turned down a tip.

"A Scout does not take money for a good turn," he explained.

Boyce was so impressed that he wanted to find out more about this thing called "Scouting." He contacted Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Movement in England, and the more he learned about it, the more enthusiastic he became. By the time he returned home, Boyce had acquired a trunk full of Boy Scout literature, and a determination to bring the movement to the United States.

The love of adventure has always been apparent in boys. Few things seem to satisfy a boy's adventurous spirit like getting out into nature, camping, hiking, cooking over an open fire. The life of a frontiersman, of an Indian, of an explorer, has a very real appeal to boys. The Scouting

movement, as Boyce saw it in England, seemed to answer the craving for adventure which is so much a part of a boy. But Scouting was not simply camping out; it affected every part of a boy's life. It provided a sense of honor, of loyalty—it was a Scout's devotion to service which introduced Boyce to Scouting.

Upon return to the United States, Boyce immediately began work on a Scouting movement in America. He discovered several organizations, already in existence, which were working along the general lines of what he had seen in England. There was Daniel Carter Beard's organization, the Loyal Sons of Daniel Boone. Ernest Thompson Seton had organized a group known as the Woodcraft Indians. There were the National Scouts of America, the Peace Scouts in California, The Knights of King Arthur, the United States Boy Scouts. But for the most part, these groups lacked efficient organization, and for one reason or another were inadequate.

Working with the Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations, Boyce tried to unite the various groups into one strong movement. Edgar Robinson of the Y.M.C.A. was very enthusiastic about the idea and did much to put Scouting on its feet nationally. They worked swiftly, and on February 8, 1910, a new corporation was officially founded—the Boy Scouts of America.

The new movement soon spread to every part of the country. The national headquarters was deluged with letters asking for information, wanting to know how to become a Boy Scout, and how to form a Troop. Orders for the new *Handbook for Boys* began to pile up, and printers were hard-pressed to keep up with the demand. Wherever a *Handbook*

was sent, it inevitably introduced a number of people to Scouting. Newspapers gave much publicity to this new youth organization sweeping through the country.

Through those newspaper articles the people of Dayton first began to learn of the Boy Scouts. It was a newspaper article that introduced members of the first Dayton Troop to the Boy Scouts. In 1908, a small group of boys, all members of Sunday School classes at the Central Church of Christ, joined the Loyal Sons of Daniel Boone. But the Sons of Daniel Boone was very loosely organized and required the boys to play roles of specific pioneers, so it did not give them what they really wanted.

In 1910 they read about the new organization, the Boy Scouts of America, and since they had the required number of boys, and a sponsor, the Central Church of Christ, they applied to join the National Council as a Troop. The National Council acted quickly upon their application and soon they were officially named Troop 3.

Lionel Keppler, Charlie Martin, Harry Wertz, Howard White, Ted McConnon, Willard Kidd, Harold Janney, and Everett Hamm were the boys who made up that first Troop. Organizing the group was not without its problems. The first of these was the difficulty of finding a Scoutmaster. Finally the boys talked Jesse Keppler, father of Lionel Keppler, into taking on the job. Even though his time was occupied with business matters, Mr. Keppler proved to be a fine Scoutmaster always managing to find time for the boys. The Troop was divided into two Patrols, with Harry Wertz as leader of one and Lionel Keppler leader of the other.

In the summer of 1911, the boys received their first taste

of camping as a Troop. They took some rowboats a few miles up the Stillwater River and set up camp on a small island. For three weeks they slept under shelter halves, cooked over small open fires and learned the skills of Scouting.

During the same year another Troop was being formed through the Dayton Y.M.C.A.. Samuel Finn, active in the Y.M.C.A., became its first Scoutmaster. The new Troop started out with about fifteen members, but soon the list grew to almost twice that number. They managed to find a good camping spot not far from Dayton, known officially as Harshmanville Camp, but called "Don't Worry" camp by the boys.

The traction lines took them to within a few miles of the camp, then they hiked the rest of the way. Approaching the camp, they shouted "Don't Worry," and so the tradition grew.

Members of Troop 3 were anxious to share with other boys what they had found in Scouting. They set up an exhibition in Memorial Hall to promote the idea. The display included many projects the boys had been working on, as well as demonstrations of first aid, safety, knot-tying, and other skills. They showed the wireless they had built and how they had made their first canoes of barrel staves and canvas.

As a result of the exhibition, many more parents began to understand that Scouting was something more than a gang of boys who liked to camp out together. In Scouting, boys were learning skills which were valuable not only to themselves, but to the community.

Scouting was not confined to Dayton, and the idea gradually spread throughout the Miami Valley. Boys living on farms, who were not able to join an actual Troop, sent applications to National Headquarters and became "Lone" Scouts. They were pitching tents on their farms and learning about Scouting from the *Handbook*.

By 1912, there was a very active Troop in Lebanon, which participated in Dayton parades and went on frequent camping trips. The Lebanon Troop and Dayton Troop 3 marched in the parade honoring the Wright brothers.

Late in March, 1913, it rained steadily in the Miami Valley for four days. By the time the deluge ended, the Miami River, fed by the Stillwater and Mad Rivers had become a raging torrent. It burst over its banks, swept away dams and levees and crashed through the streets of Dayton. A tide of swift brown water up to twelve feet deep swirled through the city.

People in their homes were forced to attics or rooftops as the houses filled with the rising flood. The swift current ripped houses from their foundations and sent them floating toward the south. Terrified horses swam through the streets.

During the next few days, Dayton Boy Scouts had the first chance to prove their worth to the community in a time of emergency.

The boys were quick to make themselves available to help. They worked with the Red Cross as messengers. Those with boats rescued hundreds of people from second-story windows and rooftops. And when the waters finally receded, leaving a residue of thick brown mud, the Scouts pitched in to help

with the enormous job of cleaning the city. Martial law was declared, militiamen patrolled the streets to keep order and prevent looting. The city administration issued printed cards to the boys of Samuel Finn's Troop which authorized them to clean the downtown churches. It became increasingly clear—the Boy Scouts could be counted on when they were needed.

The year of the flood was a time of development for Scouting, nationally. Local Councils were beginning to be formed. The number of Scouts in the nation grew to more than one hundred fifteen thousand. New emphasis was put on the training of adult leaders, and *Scouting* magazine was developed as a leader's magazine.

Also in that year, more development came to the Dayton area. The established Troops continued to grow. The first uniforms were purchased from the national supplier in New York. New Troops were formed. Troop 3 established its first permanent summer camp on the site of its first camping trip up the Stillwater River. There the boys spent much of their summer, some getting up at three o'clock every morning in order to get to Dayton in time to make deliveries on their paper routes. With the money they earned from those deliveries, most of the boys were able to pay the cost of living at camp.

In July of 1914, war suddenly exploded in Europe. The war seemed pretty far away to most people in Dayton and life went on much as usual. It was a good year for the city. The first local symphony concert proved to be a great success. Business and industry were on the increase, and

Dayton was very fondly referred to as the "City of a Thousand Factories." Circuses were popular, and the boys of Troop 3 once played hookey from school to watch a circus being set up.

By 1914, Troop 3 had increased to about twenty members, and continued to be very active. They made a bicycle trip to Fort Ancient and camped at Lebanon with the Lebanon Troop. They made many canoe trips on the Stillwater River. Any time there was a parade in Dayton, the Scouts were sure to be strongly represented.

During the next few years, the people of Dayton became more aware of what was going on in Europe. Newspapers printed stories calculated to enflame American patriotism. Posters showed atrocities of war, appealing strongly to the emotions.

Finally in 1917 the United States entered the war and the people of Dayton swung into the enormous task of mobilization. Factories operated at their maximum production. Hundreds of men enlisted in the services and soon left for basic training.

During 1917 and 1918, the Scouts made themselves available for any sort of service. They worked with the Red Cross, assisted local draft boards, did guard duty at McCook Field and located thousands of black walnut trees for making gun stocks. They collected peach pits for gas masks, sold thrift stamps and participated in Liberty Bond sales. During the war years more boys became Scouts in Dayton than ever before and by the end of the war it became increasingly obvious that some sort of local organization was necessary

in order for the Dayton Scouts to continue to work efficiently.

One of the best Troops in Dayton during this period was at Christ Episcopal Church, where the Reverend B. H. Reinheimer was Scoutmaster and Herb State his assistant. The Troop was active in all of the war support efforts of the Scouts and in addition, during 1917 and 1918, delivered half of all the phone books in Dayton, earning about \$200 each year for their Troop. They used this money to support a week's camp each year at Silver Lake.

One of the eager youngsters in Scout uniform who trudged through Dayton streets with a knapsack full of phone books on his back was tenderfoot Dave Rike, son of Frederick H. Rike, a local dry goods merchant who had summoned enough courage a few years before to expand the Rike-Kumler enterprise and move it to Second and Main at the far north end of Dayton's business section. Young Dave carried his enthusiasm for the Scouts home, and his admiration for the movement soon spread to his father.



2

"A SCOUT DOES NOT TAKE MONEY
FOR A GOOD TURN"

NATIONAL headquarters was not unaware of the problems which faced areas such as Dayton and every effort was made to help in the formation of local Councils. Six men were selected to serve as National Field Scout Commissioners. They were to go into areas where there was some organizing difficulty. The main problem in setting up a new Council was that of raising funds to hire a professional Scouter and his staff, and to obtain an office plus the necessary equipment.

Late in 1916, and again in 1917, the National Headquarters sent two men to Dayton to try to set up a local Council. But both left without success. In February, 1918, they decided to try again. By this time Fred Rike had become interested in organizing the Council, and at his suggestion the National Headquarters sent a man to Dayton for the third time.

For the job they chose Arthur E. Roberts. Although already enlisted in the Army and shortly to be shipped overseas, Roberts went to work in earnest. He contacted Fred Rike and outlined his plans for getting the Council rolling. He suggested that Rike ask fifteen friends to meet with him for lunch and at that meeting he would try to show them the good that the Scouting movement accomplished and why

it was important that a Dayton Council be organized.

Late in February, 1918, as a bitter wind swept through Dayton from the north, the men gathered in Fred Rike's office. Of the fifteen Mr. Rike had invited, thirteen appeared. Roberts had a deep interest in boys and he sincerely felt that his mission was of real importance. He presented his case simply and earnestly and asked for their support. When he had finished speaking, a vote was taken. Twelve of the thirteen men voted against the Council. Rike's was the only vote in favor of it.

There were several possible reasons for the lack of interest in the idea. Those same men had been involved in so many drives and campaigns in such a short period of time that they had probably become just a little tired of all of them. Perhaps even the bleakness and cold of the day had something to do with their reluctance. It seemed as though this third attempt to organize a Council was to end much as the other two had.

Roberts stood up from the table and began to put on his coat when he happened to remember a hundred dollar Liberty Bond in his pocket which he had received only that morning. He asked to talk again, and for five minutes he told them how important he thought it was that a Council be organized in Dayton, and of the great value of Scouting. He ended by saying, "I don't know a single boy in Dayton, and this Liberty Bond represents twenty-five percent of all I have in the world, but I'd like to start the Council with this." He laid the hundred dollar bond on the table and turned to leave.

There was a moment of silence as the men stared at the

mahogany table top. Then Ralph DeWeese, of Winters Bank, obviously moved by what Roberts had done, jumped up and said, "Wait a minute. We can't let you leave like that." He turned to the others and went on: "We should be ashamed of ourselves. If a stranger to our city has so much faith in this Movement that he is willing to donate a large part of his worldly goods to see it work, there must be something to it. I move we reconsider this."

A new vote was taken and this time it was unanimously agreed that the Dayton Council should be formed and that they would organize a campaign to raise money in order to do it.

Included among those who had given their approval and agreed to back the new Council were Fenton Bott, Charles Kettering, Robert Patterson, Ralph DeWeese, and of course, Fred Rike. These were very prominent members of the community, and to have them supporting the campaign was a great asset. But much was still to be done. The idea had to be sold to groups all over the city. Fred Rike signed the contract with the National Council which made the formation of the new Dayton Council official. He also agreed to serve as chairman of the fund raising campaign.

On March 25, 1918, an organizational meeting of the new Dayton Council was held at the Dayton City Club. By that time there were more than twenty small Troops operating in Dayton and at this meeting Scoutmasters of these Troops met for the first time as a single body. Fred Rike was elected President of the Council, but agreed to serve only until a permanent president could be found. John Haien, who had been obtained with the help of National Headquarters, was

approved as the one who would serve as the first Scout Executive of the Council.

Roberts remained in Dayton and went on working with the campaign until time came for him to be shipped overseas. He began a speaking tour of the city, introducing dozens of organizations to the Scouting movement and seeking support for the infant Council. The Advertisers Club was particularly helpful to him throughout the campaign. With their help, the Council was able to get a great deal of fine newspaper publicity. The Club even had a billboard erected in front of the old courthouse asking for support of the Boy Scouts.

When Roberts asked the Rotary Club for support, he found no help at all. Rotary had given a great deal of support to the 1917 campaign and that had been a complete failure; however, the president of the Rotary Club at that time, C. L. G. Breene, later became very active in Scouting and eventually received the Silver Beaver Award, one of the highest awards for service to Scouting. Before another year had passed, Rotary was a leader in supporting the Council and through the decades since, has been one of its staunchest friends.

It was bitterly cold in Dayton during the winter and early spring of 1918, and to make matters worse, the city suffered from an acute coal shortage. As the temperatures fell lower and lower, the shortage became an increasingly desperate problem. Schools were forced to close because they simply did not have enough coal to heat the buildings.

In spite of bad campaign weather, the drive for funds

continued to make progress. The new Scout Executive, John Haien, proved himself to be a vigorous and effective campaigner and a leader of boys. Before coming to Dayton, Haien, a Harvard graduate, taught economics at an eastern college. When he found that teaching was not entirely satisfying to him, he left that position to do settlement work in a notorious section of Boston known as the "Settlement of Forty Thieves." While there, he became acquainted with the Scouting program and he was so impressed with its effectiveness that he decided to make Scouting his profession.

Haien proved to be a quick judge of publicity value and kept the newspapers supplied with information about what was happening in the Council. The newspapers in 1918 carried stories almost daily telling of Scouting activities in the Dayton area. When a Troop went on a particularly interesting hike or camping trip, Haien made certain that the newspapers heard about it. If a Dayton Scout earned a special award of any kind, Haien saw to it that the newspapers were on hand for the presentation. As a result of his efforts, a full page advertisement was used to appeal for financial support of the Boy Scouts.

But Haien's work was not confined to the adult side of Scouting. He also found time to work closely with the boys themselves. He often accompanied Troops on overnight trips, and sometimes led trips of his own. It was largely through his efforts, that the Dayton Scouts obtained their own farm to work during the summer of 1918. Eight acres of land near McCook's Field were donated by Colonel E. A. Deeds. The boys plowed and planted the farm and profits were divided between the Troops and local Council.

During that same summer the first Council camp began operation. Located near the farm, it was called Camp Pershing, honoring the popular General. The land, more than thirty-five acres loaned to the Council by Ralph DeWeese, spread along the east banks of the Stillwater River. It was intended that the camp be used not only during the summer months, but the whole year round.

After the Council obtained the land there was still much to be done. In the late spring of 1918 the new campsite bustled with activity. The Scouts went to work building roads, clearing underbrush, preparing for the summer season. Gerald Matthes, of the Miami Conservancy, helped in planning the general layout of facilities. It was decided that they would build a single barracks large enough to provide shelter for all the boys at the camp. In order to do this, they needed lumber and John Haien again demonstrated his ingenuity.

Work had just begun on wrecking an old baseball park in North Dayton, when John Haien made a proposition to the wrecking foreman. Haien would supply boys to pull nails for the wrecking crew in exchange for lumber. The foreman agreed and soon the boys had earned enough lumber to build their shelter and have some left over.

In addition to the shelter a kitchen was built, with sleeping space behind it for the cook. Near the kitchen they erected a mess tent. In the southern part of the camp they set up a baseball diamond and track for foot races. Only one problem remained. It was estimated that it would cost at least a thousand dollars to operate the camp through the summer.

To understand how the camp was financed, we have to look backwards a couple of years to an unknowing echo of the young London Scout who refused William Boyce's tip seven years earlier.

Late one afternoon in 1916, a woman in one of Dayton's busy markets struggled with her heavy basket full of groceries. A passing boy who saw the trouble offered his service. He helped her with the basket, carried it outside and stowed it away in the waiting car. When the woman offered him a tip, to her surprise he turned it down.

"A Scout does not take money for a good turn," he explained.

Little did he realize that his act of kindness would be the thing that sold the Scouting idea to a man who was to become a great friend of the Dayton Council. The woman was Mrs. Fenton Bott, who told her husband what had happened. Mr. Bott, Master of the Mansion Studios, Dayton's finest school of dancing, became so impressed with the story that he resolved to do anything he could to further a movement so dedicated to kindness and service.

Fenton Bott found out more about Scouting from his friend, Fred Rike, and became one of the original Executive Board members at the organizational meeting in March, 1918. When he heard of the problems of the Council in raising money necessary to operate the summer camp, he presented an idea destined to become one of the traditions of early years of the Dayton Council. He offered to the Council the annual spring recital of his classic dancing classes. The boys sold tickets to the affair, held on the large lawn of John H. Patterson's Oakwood estate. The recital, entitled "Le

Ballet Forest," was a sell-out and assured operation of Camp Pershing.

The war in Europe continued to rage and more than six thousand young men of Dayton had been sent overseas. Industry in Dayton was operating at peak production, many of the factories working on a twenty-four hour basis. On June 21, the Wright Airplane Company completed its one-thousandth warplane. National Cash Register produced airplane parts and instruments, triggers and other war products. An intense patriotism enveloped Dayton, and there were many flag-raising ceremonies and parades every week.

The Boy Scouts of Dayton took an active part in many of these parades and their contributions to the war effort were not going unnoticed. In a letter to Colonel Livingston, President of the National Council at that time, President Wilson commended the Boy Scouts for their work in the war effort, and bid them to continue.

"The active service of every Scout and officially enrolled member of the Boy Scouts of America is depended upon. . . . I beg every member of the Boy Scouts of America to realize that the services rendered by the boys have been greatly appreciated by the whole nation . . ." he wrote.

The Dayton Scouts continued their work through the summer and fall. They participated in the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign and collected and dried a full carload of peach pits, essential in the manufacture of gas masks.

During the summer and early fall of 1918 the number of Scouts in Dayton increased at a tremendous rate. Whole Troops applied for membership at one time. By October

the Council had expanded to a point where it was becoming difficult for the Scout Executive to work as closely with each Unit as he thought necessary. It was decided that the headquarters staff should be enlarged to meet this need. The man selected was H. W. Sinclair, Secretary of the Dayton Molding Machine Company, who had been working with the Scouting Movement for about three years. His job on the staff was to work closely with individual Units, bringing back to headquarters information on the development of each Troop in order to assist the Scout Executive, John Haien, in his overall planning. Sinclair could be known as the first Council Commissioner.

One weekend, Scouts from all over the city pitched their tents in Triangle park for the first Council-wide encampment. It was not only the first time that all the Scouts of the Council had camped together, but the first time the public had an opportunity to see Scouts in action. It proved to be quite a show. Messages flashed around from one corner of the camp to the other as the Scouts demonstrated their signalling. Scouts showed their skill in starting fires by friction, kindling the fires in seconds. There were contests in bridge-building in which the Troops used only lashings for their construction. The test for each bridge was a simple one: a Model T Ford was driven across it. If it held, it passed. By the time the weekend was over, the public had gained a respect for this mushrooming movement.

The need for better leadership at the Troop level has always been one of the greatest problems in Scouting. A Troop can be only as good as its leaders. In order to improve

the leadership of Troops in the Dayton Council, John Haien added another member to his headquarters staff. He appointed Paul Schenck to handle the instruction of adult leaders and patrol leaders. It was decided to set up a patrol leader's school. The leaders from each Troop would receive special instruction in Scouting skills, and then relay what they had learned to the boys in their patrols. There was also to be instruction for Scoutmasters who would learn how to improve the operation of their Troops.

On the morning of March 11, 1918, the first case of a mysterious sickness appeared at Fort Riley, Kansas. Case after case followed throughout the day, until by nightfall 107 men were stricken. Doctors worked round the clock to determine the identity of the mysterious killer. Soon the answer became painfully clear: Spanish influenza!

By the fall of 1918, Spanish influenza had become a worldwide epidemic. The sickness swept from city to city through the United States and the doctors had nothing to fight it with. In a single week in October it left 21,000 Americans dead.

The disease was slow in getting to Dayton. It struck first at Wright Field and by October 4 the first fifty-one cases in the city were reported. By the next day that number had almost doubled. Authorities acted quickly, enforcing every preventative measure they knew. Rabbi Lefkowitz, head of the Red Cross in the Dayton Area, appealed to women for volunteers to serve as nurses in the coming crisis. He also called on the Boy Scouts to assist the Red Cross in locating blankets and sheets, to help in the over-crowded hospitals

and to serve as messengers.

In the middle of November, the disease seemed to have run its course, and disappeared as mysteriously as it had come. During the months it had raged, twenty million Americans were stricken. Five hundred thousand of them had died. In Dayton, as in the rest of the nation, the Boy Scouts again rendered great service in a time of need.

Strangely enough, almost at the same time the last cases of influenza disappeared, the last shots were being fired in Europe. Finally, on November 11, the Armistice was signed. America could again look to her future and a new period of peace. There would be many new problems and adjustments to face.



3

"SURE, WE'LL FINISH THE JOB!"

Across the Nation the Boy Scouts adopted a new motto: "The war is over, but our work is not."

Though the war was over, the country still needed finances. In order to raise the necessary money, it was decided that there should be a fifth and final Liberty Loan drive, this time to be known as the Victory Loan. The Secretary of the Treasury, Carter Glass, again called on Boy Scouts to assist in the campaign.

In Dayton, as in the rest of the United States, Scouts responded to the appeal. The boys placed posters which shouted, "Sure, we'll finish the job!" throughout the city. They worked from door to door, helping to secure thousands of subscriptions. By the end of the last campaign, Scouts across the Nation had sold some \$400,000,000 worth of subscriptions, an average of nearly \$1,000 per boy.

During the year 1919, Daytonians were becoming aware of changes that were to revolutionize the face of America during the twenties. There was the feeling of relief after the war, a tendency to let go and have a good time. Automobiles became more and more commonplace. The small, aging wooden street cars were replaced with those constructed of steel.

A new kind of music began to find its way to Dayton

"SURE, WE'LL FINISH THE JOB!"

21

from the South, from Kansas City, from Chicago; the strange music known as "jazz."

There was much talk of prohibition, soon to go into effect, and it was rumored in Dayton's department stores that women's skirts were soon to get even shorter than six inches above the floor, then considered fashionable.

In this growing atmosphere of change, Scouting in Dayton and the surrounding area continued to expand and develop at a tremendous rate. Interest in Scouting began to take effect in Darke County, where Herschel Krickenberg began organizing the first Troop. Late in 1919, Treaty Troop No. 1 was officially chartered. Soon Krickenberg had to obtain permission to operate his Troop with double the normal number of boys. For several years there were more than sixty members of Treaty Troop 1, and the number sometimes exceeded seventy.

Toward the end of the spring of 1919, the Dayton Council held its second weekend of camping at Triangle Park. Called the Spring Jamboree, the event gained much newspaper publicity preceding the big weekend. Because of the large number of new Troops started during the year, problems of organizing the event were much more difficult than in the year before. John Haien suggested that Troops compete with each other during the jamboree. The spirit of competition would not only provide spectators with a real show of camping skills, but also simplify the problem of discipline in so large a group. The idea proved to be a good one, and by the end of the weekend, it was clear that competition would remain a part of Scouting in the Council.

Also held in the spring of 1919, was the second organiza-

tional meeting of the young Council. New officers were elected, new responsibilities delegated the various committee members, and the program for the coming year outlined. Fenton Bott was unanimously chosen to serve as president, replacing Fred Rike. Ralph DeWeese, Stanley Krohn, and Emil Metzger were named as Vice-Presidents, Neil Eyer as Secretary. Chester B. Spies was given the responsibility of directing rallies and expositions for the year. Rabbi Lefkowitz agreed to study the problems of the boy not yet old enough for Scouting. The Cub Scout program would not be supplying an answer to this need for many years to come. C. H. Comer, former Chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee, was designated to work out publicity angles for the Council, and George Marshall Jr. would be Chairman of the Camp Committee.

With organization once again settled, the Dayton Council was ready to go ahead with another year of progress. Fenton Bott, the new president, was a very active civic leader, especially interested in work with handicapped children. Through his efforts, Scouting for such children began in Dayton, and eventually there were whole Troops of handicapped children who passed their tests in wheel chairs, on crutches or in hospital beds.

Bott was skilled at handling meetings. Perhaps the feeling of dignity that his looks seemed to give him helped. He had an uncanny knack of recruiting important persons of the community to serve in Scouting. After he had been president for awhile, serving on the Council Executive Board seemed almost a way of acquiring "status" in Dayton, for when on the Scout Executive Board you were in the company

of top civic leaders of Dayton.

"Le Ballet Foret" was so successful in 1918, that Fenton Bott decided to use it in 1919 as a means of raising money, and it was again held on John Patterson's estate. The recital was a big success and more than two thousand dollars were raised. John Patterson arranged to have motion pictures taken of the program and the movies were shown at downtown theatres and at the National Cash Register Company.

More financial support was needed, not only in the Dayton Council, but in all the Councils of the nation. The National Council itself needed additional financial resources to meet the demands of its staff and to keep up with the rapidly increasing number of local Councils.

President Wilson kept in close touch with the Boy Scouts and was convinced of the importance of the movement. In May, 1919, he issued a proclamation which set aside the week of June 8 to June 14 as Boy Scout week. He urged Americans to get behind the Scouting movement and to support it in any way that they could. Scout Week was to be not only a time set aside honoring the Boy Scouts for the service they had performed, but also a time when an all-out appeal would be made to Americans asking their help so that the Scouts could continue their work. "Anything that is done to increase the effectiveness of the Boy Scouts of America will be a genuine contribution to the welfare of the Nation."

During the winter of 1918-19, a little fellow by the name of William Perkins had continually asked A. W. Payne of the West Side YMCA to organize a Troop of Boy Scouts, without

much satisfaction.

Then one night William attended the old Midget Theatre on W. Third Street where an East Indian mystic was answering questions from the audience. The youngster thought of the thing nearest his heart, and asked whether or not Mr. Payne was going to form a Boy Scout Troop. The audience laughed, the mystic said "yes" and, as if by telepathic inspiration, A. W. Payne made his own decision that night, and began to plan for the Troop.

On July 1, 1919 twelve boys gathered in the YMCA, at the corner of West Third and Charter Streets to organize Troop 30.

The original Troop included: Charles Moore, Harold Caesar, Theodore Ross, Randolph Taylor, William Gillespie, Robert Hickerson, Charles Higgins, John Brown, James Buckner, Herman Lewis, Herschel Guy, and as you might imagine, William Perkins.

The first civic act recorded for the troop was the placing of a tablet at the home of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the great Negro poet, on North Summit Street, June 27, 1921. This tablet bore this inscription:

"Because I had loved so deeply,
Because I had loved so long,
God in His great compassion
Gave me a gift of song."

Although the season in 1918 at Camp Pershing was very successful, there were drawbacks to that set-up. The land was only on loan to the Council and this limited the amount of development and work that could be done. The Council needed a permanent camp built on land of its own. Robert Patterson tackled this problem, working through the Dayton

Rotary Club, by then actively backing Scouting in Dayton. Eleven acres of land were purchased. The new camping area was located on Markey Road, across from the Camp Pershing site.

Immediately the Council went to work preparing for the 1919 summer camping season. Scouts spent much of their free time at the new reservation, clearing away underbrush and building a road. Clearings were made for campsites and a dam was thrown across the creek, a lodge constructed at the camp. Many members of the board spent their weekends cutting wood and fitting stones for the new building. By the end of June the camp was ready for its first season.

Even before work on the new reservation was completed, Scouts all over the city were working to earn money for their time in camp. In April they delivered more than 18,000 new directories for Bell Telephone Company. They saved money from their paper routes, mowed lawns, and by the time the summer finally came, hundreds of the boys were able to spend a few weeks at camp.

During the war years, it seemed as though almost anything provided an excuse for a parade. The love of parades was still firmly entrenched in Dayton in 1919, and the Fourth of July event of that year brought out one of the largest crowds on record. Under the glaring sun, more Scouts marched through the streets of Dayton than ever before.

Late in 1919, Scott Pierce and a small group of interested men wanted to form a Scout Troop at Fairview School. They invited Perle Whitehead, the principal, to attend one

of the committee meetings. He became interested and before the meeting was over he agreed to serve as Scoutmaster of the new Troop until a permanent one could be found.

There were no training courses for new Scoutmasters in those days, and when Perle Whitehead took over the Troop, he went through the same procedure of learning as the new Scouts. He had to run the Troop pretty much by trial and error, but it was soon clear that he was a natural leader of boys. He found that the more he became involved in his work with the boys, the more he enjoyed it. It wasn't long before he began hoping that the Committee would not be able to find a permanent Scoutmaster. Luck was with him, for he remained Scoutmaster of Troop 6 for several years and his reputation as a leader soon spread throughout the Council.

Perle Whitehead had spent his childhood in an area southwest of Germantown, Ohio, known as Brown's Run. He grew up on a farm and even while he was still in grade school he began to show the ability to get things done which was so much a part of his character in later years. He organized the first YMCA for rural boys in America with a membership of seventy farm boys meeting in the Brown's Run Farmers' Alliance Hall. He won recognition among the other farmers of the area as a boy by raising more bushels of corn per acre than any other boy in the county. He won the Perry Cleveland centennial essay contest while at Germantown High School that brought him a cash prize and a trip to the site of the Perry Monument in Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio. At the age of seventeen he was teaching a rural school on his own in German Township—The Moyer School & The Bickel School. Afterwards, he attended Otterbein College from which he was

later to receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

As a result of his pioneering in "Y" work for farm boys, he was asked by the boys' work secretary of the Dayton YMCA, Carl B. Kern, to join his staff. He served here until the United States entered World War I, when he enlisted and was shipped overseas with the Red Diamond Division where he served until the end of the war. He had been married only a short time before he went overseas. His first child was born while he was at the front in France. When he returned from Europe, he took over as principal of Fairview School in Dayton and after his first taste of Scouting, he became one of the most important figures in the development of Scouting in the Miami Valley. Concurrently with his principalship of the Fairview School, he directed the youth activities of the Irwin-Springfield Street Mission in what was then a low-income area of the city.



4

A NEW ASSISTANT SCOUT EXECUTIVE

LATE one afternoon in February, 1920, as Perle Whitehead gathered up the papers on his desk preparing to leave his office at Fairview School, John Haien arrived. Haien had heard about the fine work Perle Whitehead was doing as Scoutmaster of Troop 6, and visited a few of the Troop meetings to see his work in action. Perle Whitehead was the sort of man that Haien needed on his professional staff and he had to come to try to persuade Whitehead to leave Fairview School to become a professional Scouter.

Haien didn't have to be much of a salesman to sell Whitehead on the idea. He was sold already and had been ever since he began operating the Scout Troop. Whitehead gave the school board the necessary one month's notice and early in March he became Assistant Scout Executive of the Dayton Council, replacing H. W. Sinclair, who went to Middletown as Executive of that newly formed Council.

For a while after he came to the Council office as Haien's assistant, Whitehead continued to serve as Scoutmaster of Troop 6. Jack K. Taylor followed him as temporary Scoutmaster for a short period, but more permanent leadership was needed. Nearby at the Fairview U.B. Church, however, interest was developing in Scouting and a Troop Committee with Dr. Samuel G. Ziegler as chairman was appointed to look

into the possibilities of the program. George Clark accepted the Scoutmastership, the boys interested in the new Troop at the church merged with the members of Troop 6 and the Troop number was shifted to the church.

Thus began a dual service to boyhood that may never be equalled in the Miami Valley.

Another important event took place in February, 1920. Curtis Shaw became the Council's first Eagle Scout. He was acknowledged as one of the most outstanding Scouts of the Council.

Raising money continued to be a problem in 1920. In the early part of that year Robert Patterson presented an idea to help meet the Council's growing need for financial support. He formed a new organization called the "Old Scouts." The group was not connected with the Boy Scouts of America in any way, and it was not made up of former Boy Scouts. Its function would be to provide the Council with financial support, and the only requirement for joining the "Old Scouts" was a check for ten dollars. The idea soon took hold in Dayton and during the first year more than \$7,500 was raised. Years after the "Old Scout" method of providing money had been abandoned, hundreds of checks continued to come in from former "Old Scouts" wanting to continue to support the Council.

February 8, 1920, marked the tenth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. In the nation the number of Scouts had gone over the 500,000 mark. This rapid expansion brought growing pains to the National Council and to the local Councils. Men were needed to keep pace with the growing number of boys. Leaders had to be trained. Camping

facilities were no sooner completed than they became overcrowded and inadequate. While the professional staff constantly increased in size, the bulk of the leadership still had to come from volunteers, and the need for them grew more and more pressing.

As an additional source of funds, the Dayton Council decided in 1920 to participate in the Community Chest. Though the Chest had been operating for several years, up until 1920 the Council had preferred to look for its own sources of financial support rather than tie itself up with other organizations. After 1920, the Community Chest became one of the prime sources of the Council's finances.

Early in 1920 John Haien began planning the biggest camping venture ever attempted by the Council. He proposed to take a group of qualified Scouts on a trip into the wilds of Canada. By spring of that year his idea had taken shape and it was decided that there would be room for about thirty boys. Those to go on the trip would be selected on the basis of some sort of Council-wide competition, with Haien devising a set of qualifying tests. In addition, he ruled that in order to be eligible for the trip, a Scout should be at least Second Class in rank.

Haien later decided to combine the competition with a public exhibition of Scouting skills on a date early in June, 1920. The exhibition, called the "Round-Up," was held at the fairgrounds and tickets were sold to the public. Ticket selling by the boys was part of the competition for the trip.

The sun was warm on the afternoon of the Round-Up, but few people showed up to watch the Scouts go through their paces, although more than two thousand tickets had been

sold. All the Troops of the Council assembled at McKinley Park and paraded to the fairgrounds where the show was held on the infield and racetrack.

The lack of an impressive audience didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the Scouts, and the people who came were not disappointed. One of the Troops built a sixty-foot bridge on the track, using only rope lashings in its construction. When it was finished it was tested in the way that had become a tradition in the Dayton Council: A Model T Ford was driven across it. Another Troop built a log cabin. Troops drilled on the infield and there were contests of fire-by-friction. One Troop set up a wireless station and sent messages from one end of the track to the other. Troop 28 won the close-order drill competition and Troop 1 cheered as Curtis Shaw won the fire-by-friction contest for them in a matter of seconds.

Haien decided that so much money had been made from the tickets sold for the "Round-Up," that the Scouts who were selected to go on the Canadian trip would not have to pay anything. In July the final selection of boys was made, and they began gathering equipment and preparing for the journey which was scheduled to leave Dayton at the end of the first week in August. As the big day approached, the boys became more and more excited and many of them had their packs all made up and ready to go weeks before they were to leave.

When the day finally came, the boys met at the railroad station with all their gear. Many of them were two hours early and most of them were surrounded by their parents, friends and relatives.

It was not only the boys, but parents and friends too, who cheered as the train steamed into the station. The Pullman car they were to occupy during the first leg of the journey soon had a huge sign chalked on the side: **BOY SCOUTS—CANADA OR BUST!**

H. W. Sinclair, of Middletown, sent boys from that city to make the camping trip a cooperative venture. Melvin Brown, chosen to act as special correspondent for the group, sent back reports of their progress to the newspapers and kept a log of the trip. Melvin Brown later graduated from Annapolis Naval Academy and went on to become a Major General in the Marine Corps.

That night the Scouts slept two to a berth, and Eddie Breen, who later became Mayor of Dayton, and two friends took turns keeping awake all night to mark the exact time they passed each landmark and station.

On the next day the group changed to a Canadian railroad. About seventy miles into Canada they left the train at a little station in the middle of the wilderness. There they were met by the two Canadian guides who would lead them into the camp area.

It was about a five-mile hike from the railroad tracks to the shore of Spruce Lake. By the time they got to the lake it was already late in the afternoon and they had time for little more than pitching tents, gathering wood for fires and making fir-bough mattresses before it was dark. The guides had brought in canoes and food before the group arrived and they remained with the Scouts during the week of their visit.

The boys spent the days hiking with the guides or swim-

ming in the icy lake, fishing, canoeing and finding souvenirs to take back to Dayton. The guides took them to an abandoned mining camp, where they explored the cabins and stores that miners had left to the wilderness. In the miners' shacks they found old tins of food, broken picks and shovels, an old hat or two; all important souvenirs.

On one of their hikes, the Scouts went to an area where thousands of acres of timber had been left a charred and blackened wasteland. The rules they had learned about preventing forest fires could not have been driven home more forcefully.

The week at Spruce Lake went all too quickly and soon it was time to break camp and make the five-mile trek back to the railroad track. At St. Ignace they were ferried to Mackinac Island, where they were to have spent the night. Haien decided that they didn't have enough money to stay at the hotel as had originally been planned. In fact, they had barely enough money for a meal that night. He explained the situation to the manager of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac and the man was very understanding. He gave permission for the Scouts to sleep on the front lawn of the hotel as long as they didn't lay out their bedrolls until after dark and had them rolled up again early in the morning, before the guests at the hotel would be up and around.

At that time, the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island was the social hub in Michigan during the summer season. The hotel itself was a large, rambling white frame building, with lawns and hedges spreading away from the building to the golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool and garden. On the well-trimmed front lawn the Scouts laid out their gear

and rested, waiting for the sun to go down so that they could get out their bedrolls.

The next morning the group ferried back to St. Ignace, where they were to catch a lake boat for Detroit. But they did not have quite enough money left for all the fares. Money had to be raised somehow. Finally it was decided that the only thing they could do would be to put on a little show for citizens of St. Ignace in hopes of arousing some sympathy for their situation.

In the middle of Main Street in St. Ignace the Scouts sang their campfire songs. Businessmen and customers stood in the doorways of shops as the boys went through their entire repertoire. After the songs they decided to give a demonstration of fire by flint and steel as a grand finale. This was Curtis Shaw's specialty and within seconds he was waving the smoldering tinder around in the air for the merchants to see.

The people of St. Ignace were indeed sympathetic after hearing of the group's troubles and by the time the boat came in the boys had enough money for fares, but there was still the matter of food, and still the train ride from Detroit to worry about. Then, having had so much luck with the show in St. Ignace, they decided to try it on the boat.

When the captain heard their story, he agreed to let them give the show. That evening the Scouts assembled on the little stage in the dining room of the boat. One of the boys stepped forward and told what had happened to them, then they went through their stock of songs and again decided to wind up the show with a flint and steel demonstration.

Curtis Shaw had the tinder smoldering in a few seconds and

triumphantly waved it around in the air for all to see. What the audience saw, however, was smoldering bits of tinder falling onto the deck. A small panic whipped through the dining room as passengers suddenly feared that the Scouts were about to set the boat on fire. A watchman jumped quickly onto the stage and doused the smoking tinder.

Fortunately, the people were not so frightened that they forgot why the boys were there. Altogether the audience provided not only a fair amount of money, possibly enough for the next day's train fare, but also a good supply of fruit to eat that night.

When the Scouts docked in Detroit and went to the railroad station, they found they had just enough money to pay for day coach seats. It was not a Pullman as planned, but at least they would be getting back home.

Because they arrived in Dayton a day early, no one was at the station to meet them and many of the Scouts walked home with their packs on their backs.

It had been a long trip and a good one in spite of the money problems. Not one of the Troop would ever forget it.



5

KIT CRICKET APPEARS

IN THE closing months of 1920 and part of 1921 a depression came to the United States, at the beginning of a period which the new President, Warren G. Harding, called "normalcy," due to reaction to the sudden slackening of industry after the war. Thousands of men were back from Europe needing jobs, while industry had to cut back rather than increase production. There was no depression, no cutback in the Boy Scouts of America. Across the nation, Scouting was expanding and developing as never before.

Scouting in Dayton found increasing support among the businesses and service organizations. Activities of the Council were reported in newspapers of the city.

Late in 1920 the Dayton Journal began publishing, each Sunday an entire page devoted to Scouting under the direction of Whitehead as editor. The Scouts themselves were the writers for this special page. The scribe for each Troop submitted an article every week, telling news of the Troop, issuing challenges to other Troops and making announcements of special meetings and camping trips. The Scout page permitted boys of all Troops to become better acquainted and also served to strengthen the Council, making it a more closely-knit organization. In addition to this, the pages kept Scouting always in the public eye and aroused interest in each new project.



MILTON
CANIFF
NEW YORK
February 1961

FOR WHITEY — Who gave us so much of himself
— and asked nothing in return — With deep affection



Among Scouts who contributed cartoon work to the Scout page was young Milton Caniff, who later became one of the top professional cartoonists in the country. Few Scouts have been as active in the Dayton area as Milton Caniff was in the early 1920's. As Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 16 he made quite a reputation for his ability to get things done. He also gained fame for his "tall" tales and was much in demand at campfires. At the summer camp he was editor of the camp newspaper. His cartoons became a regular feature of the Scout page in the Dayton Journal. Other boy cartoonists included Bob Conover, Vincent Macbeth, Paul Ackerman, Jack Taylor, Bob Kingsbury, Charles Brand and Myron Scott.

A cartoonist on the Journal, Ferd Apple, noticed some of Caniff's drawings and realized that they showed real talent. He offered to help the boy and soon began a career which eventually took the young artist to the top of the field with his famous "Steve Canyon" and "Terry and the Pirates."

The budget for the Council in 1921 was set at \$14,750. Haie and board members agreed that this figure would allow them to accomplish the things they were aiming for during the year. But 1921 proved to be a bad year economically. With the depression, money was a little hard to come by and the original budget had to be slashed to only \$8,180. Yet they did manage to give the Assistant Scout Executive a raise from \$30.00 to \$40.00 a week.

Early in each spring a strange illness breaks out among boys—Baseball Fever. Warning often comes a few weeks before the disease hits full force, as mitts suddenly appear

around the house and adhesive tape disappears for the taping of the bat handles. Baseball Fever hit Dayton especially hard in the Spring of 1921, and as Babe Ruth began his second season playing with the New York Yankees, local Scouts were organizing a baseball league of their own.

Soon almost every Troop in the Council had its baseball team, a schedule was set up and they played through the summer. Results of games were posted and teams were ranked each week on the Scout page of the Dayton Journal. By the end of the summer the league was well organized and Dayton had its own equivalent of what later thrived as Little League baseball.

The games began drawing a great many spectators and in the 1922 season, news of the games in the Scout League was printed on the sport page of the newspaper right along with results in major leagues.

Despite the limited budget in 1921, plans went ahead for the biggest season of summer camping at the Council reservation. It would be the third season at the new location and during the spring many improvements were made. Since the camp was new, no traditions and customs were connected with it. Scouts of these early years were establishing traditions which would stay with the camp as long as it was used and always remain with the Council.

Stories began to be heard at campfires about how the camp supposedly came into being. Legends began to develop and certain legendary characters figured in the stories.

In the summer of 1921 a contest was held to select a name for the new camp. The one finally chosen was Milton Caniff's suggestion—Cricket Holler. The Camp newspaper of the

year before had been called The Cricket. Legends grew up around the new name, and many years later Milton Caniff created a mascot for Cricket Holler—Kit Cricket. The little fellow in buckskins is a familiar sight to Scouts in the Council now, as is his version of the story of Cricket Holler. In the words of Kit Cricket himself:

"It was many, many years ago that Crickets frum all over the countryside were a lookin' fer a place to git together and holler. Ole Gran'pappy Cricket got them to cum to his little spread out on Brandtford Road an' they had a convenshun (like Kiwanis Intr'nt'l, or sumpin').

"Whut a time they hed—hollerin' to their hearts' content. Well, it wuz at the time uv one uv the hollerin's thet a young Scout camper named Milton Caniff came to the valley to larn the ways uv a good camper thet he heerd all uv the crickets a hollerin'. He sez to himself, sez he, 'This is the place the crickets come to holler,' and thet's whut it's been knowed as ever since—Cricket Holler.

"Soon the kids in Scout Troops started to go out thar and they hed 'bout ez much fun ez the crickets—and made bout ez much noise. Crickets and kids became close buddies and young Kit Cricket (thet's me) became the mascot and pet uv all campers.

"Then came the Hodags—the onery troublemakers thet turned good Scouts into mischeevous brats who chopped trees and recked tents. We got together, though, with our rocksalt rifles and stuff an soon killed off all the old Hodags so thet Cricket Holler hez been saf an happie fer Scouts and crickets ev'ry since."

The Hodag was one of the legends of Cricket Holler from

the very beginning of the camp. Although no one has ever actually seen a Hodag, it is known that they are always lurking out in the woods, waiting to pounce on Scouts who show that they are poor woodsmen and go crashing through the woods like greenhorns. There are many descriptions of the Hodag. Some say it has the head of an animal and the body of a huge bird; others say the head is more that of some fearsome reptile. One thing all agree on: it is not a very likeable beast.

As the story goes, the one weakness of the Hodag is that he is fascinated by the song of the cricket. Ever since the Scouts began using the Holler as their camping ground, Kit Cricket and the other crickets have been singing their song, hoping to lure the last remaining Hodags closer so that Kit could get a shot at them with his long rifle.

Another tradition of the early years of Cricket Holler was the group of lifeguards. In those years, the boys did their swimming in the Stillwater River, and lifeguards had a very important job. In order to qualify as a lifeguard one had to be an Eagle Scout and an excellent swimmer. The lifeguards' boat was called the "Cuspidor," and the lifeguards became known as "The Crew of the Cuspidor." Their special uniform at camp was a sailor's hat, a white sweatshirt with a large skull and crossbones on the front. Each member of the Crew of the Cuspidor had a name, such as Long John Schoff and Blackjack Taylor, Blue Dog Caniff and Snag Beak Funsten. The younger Scouts looked up to the crew and the special uniform made becoming an Eagle and a good swimmer look just that much more attractive to them.

During the early 1920's a mysterious band roamed Cricket

Holler, known as Rob-Em-Good and his men. The band was made up of older campers who kept their membership a closely-guarded secret. They would wait until taps sounded, then slip away from their tents, meet at a certain spot, put on the uniform of the group, then begin the task of the night.

For instance, once they rebuilt a bridge which had washed out, finishing it in the night, so that in the morning the boys would get up to find that a new bridge had mysteriously appeared. The only sign of who could be responsible for the work was the emblem of the band pinned to a log with an arrow. The mystery appealed to the younger Scouts, and supplied another incentive to become a good camper. Only the best campers were initiated into the band.

By the end of 1921, Cricket Holler was well established. A log cabin had been erected by the Optimist Club. There was a camp lodge and other shelters and permanent tents dotted the area. In the winter of 1922, the Council had its first period of winter camping. Not only in the Miami Valley, but all across the nation, Scouts seemed to have suddenly discovered the fun of cold-weather camping, and for awhile it appeared that winter might prove as popular as summer for such recreation.

In 1922, the United States entered a period of growth that was to continue virtually without interruption for nearly a decade. Though the Council's budget for that year did not have to be quite as low as the preceding one, money problems continued to be a major headache. As the Council spread, including more and more of the Miami Valley, the Scout Executive's job became increasingly difficult. He needed

more volunteers and training for more adult leaders. He needed a car to cover the widening territory of the Council.

The board was aware of Haien's increasing problems and in February, 1922, they discussed the possibility of getting the much-needed automobile. But after a close look at the Council's purse, someone suggested that a motorcycle might serve just as well and would be much less expensive.

Apparently this did not please John Haien, for at the next board meeting he presented a carefully drawn-up list of reasons why a motorcycle simply would not do. The board then voted \$730.00 to buy a second-hand car.

Before H. W. Sinclair left the Dayton Council to become Scout executive in Middletown, he organized several special groups of Scouts. One was the Pine Tree Patrol, a group of crack Scouts who worked as a team in making demonstrations of various Scouting skills. They visited Troops in the Council, showing what could be done with practice and teamwork as a Patrol. For instance, they could disassemble a trek cart and put it back together in twenty seconds or pitch a wall tent in a matter of seconds. Often they were asked to give their demonstrations for Scout groups far outside the area of the Council and the idea spread until many other territories had developed their own Pine Tree Patrols.

Another active group organized by Sinclair during the twenties was Gimogash. Members were older Scouts, and Curtis Shaw, who had been the Council's first Eagle Scout, served as the first leader. Gimogash helped out whenever extra leadership was needed. If a Troop lost a Scoutmaster, Gimogash took over until a new adult leader could be found.

Many members of Gimogash worked on the staff of Cricket Holler during the summers, but they were not exclusively a service group. They had their own camping trips, canoe trips and also a cabin of their own at Cricket Holler.

A nationwide membership roundup was held by the Scouts during 1922, and by the end of that year national membership had increased by more than 80,000 boys and 20,000 adults.

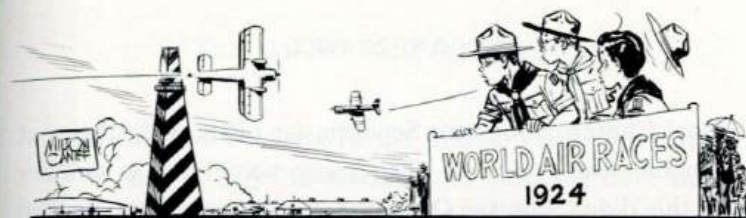
Streamer awards were given by President Harding to Troops and Councils reaching their membership goals. President Harding also wrote a letter to each First Class Council which earned the award. Through the years, Scouting has had the wholehearted support of every president since. It is significant that the Chief Executives of this country have continued to recognize the importance of the Boy Scout movement, and have done everything in their power to see that its work continues to move forward.

When the increase in membership was felt in Dayton, plans were started for improvements in organization of the Council. The board would be reorganized early in 1923 and preliminary consideration given to the idea of dividing the Council into districts.

In October, 1922, John Haien resigned as Scout Executive and Perle Whitehead was appointed acting Scout Executive until January 1, 1923.

Shortly after Whitehead became Scout Executive, the Council headquarters was moved from the 13th floor of the E.U.B. Building to the third floor of Loew's Theatre Building. There was an elevator shaft in the building, but no elevator, and to reach the new office it was necessary

to go up the fire escape. In the winter they would lower a tray down the elevator shaft to the Tea Room on the first floor. The waitress in the Tea Room would fill it up, and the people in the Boy Scout office would haul it up, avoiding the cold trip down the fire escape for coffee. Along with the new office, the board voted to provide Whitehead with a salary of fifty dollars a week.



6

"SHIP AHOY" SEA SCOUTS ORGANIZE

WHEN the end of Perle Whitehead's temporary term as Scout Executive came, the board met and unanimously voted to appoint him permanently. This pleased him as he enjoyed his work and saw that there was much to be done in the Council.

To the boys of Dayton in the winter, basketball became what baseball was in the summer. It was an obsession that lasted nearly three months.

In the early weeks of 1923, a basketball league formed and almost every Troop organized a team. The schedule was set up so that there was a game or two somewhere in the Council almost every night. The Scout page of the Journal again served to keep Scouts and the general public supplied with information. James K. Davis, Council Commissioner and a member of the board, donated a trophy and rivalry grew fierce as time of the contest wore on. After preliminaries, a tournament was held to determine which of the top eight teams would win the cup. The chief rivals for first place were Troop 30 and Troop 48, with Troop 48 finally copping the honors.

At about this time there was a growing interest for a new Scout Troop in Oakwood and Whitehead encouraged Jordan MacGregor, Assistant Scoutmaster of the Troop at Christ

Episcopal Church, to become Scoutmaster of the new Troop at Harmon Elementary School. The Troop was given the number 13, but this didn't stop the Oakwood youngsters. They flocked to the new Troop immediately, among them a just-turned-12 Oelman boy, Bob, who showed his future leadership capacity early by quickly progressing through the ranks to become a Life and Star Scout.

Cricket Holler was teeming with activity in the remaining hot days of July, 1923. At that same time President Harding was returning from a visit to Alaska. While traveling down the West Coast he became ill and died August 2. A special train carried the President's body across the country to Washington. Burial services were held in his birthplace, Marion, Ohio. The Dayton Council received a call asking for uniformed Scouts to guard the casket. Accordingly, Dr. Gale Russum took a group of Scouts including Insko Williams, Neal Shoenberger, Ed Dohse and Tom Sands to Marion where they were impressed by their stations of honor.

One of the most colorful ceremonies in Scouting has always been the Court of Honor. In 1923, the Council was still small enough that full Council Courts were practical, but already there were signs that soon it would no longer be possible to present awards for the whole Council at one time. The Court of Honor held in the old courthouse in October, 1923, was the most impressive up to that time. On that occasion, the number of Eagles in Dayton almost doubled, with a class of ten. Scott Pierce served as Eagle Scout Commissioner. It was at this ceremony that Milton Caniff received his Eagle award, as did Paul Ackerman, later associated with Paramount Studios, and Neal Schoenberger, who con-

tinued to serve Scouting in the Miami Valley for many years.

Few men or boys connected with Scouting have not at one time or other subscribed to the official Scout magazine—*Boys' Life*. This magazine dates back to the very beginning of Scouting in the United States, though it did not become an official publication until 1913. Shortly after that time, a talented young artist got his start doing covers for the magazine. The young man was Norman Rockwell who became famous for his illustrations while still a Scout.

In 1923 *Boys' Life* received a grant of \$100,000 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation. With this grant the magazine began a program of expansion and increased circulation. In Dayton, a drive was held so that as many Scouts as possible would be enjoying *Boys' Life* at the reduced price permitted by the grant. A Troop competition was held, with the goal 100% subscription for every Troop.

Most boys and young men at some times handle a gun of some sort, although Scouts are not permitted to carry firearms of any kind in hiking and camping without supervision. Because most accidents with firearms are due to carelessness or simply not knowing the proper way to handle a gun, a course of instruction was set up for Scouts of the Dayton Council in 1924.

Completion of the course usually enabled the Scout to qualify for the Marksmanship Merit Badge, and at the same time he acquired safe habits that would last the rest of his life. The instruction was given by D. C. Maier, McCook Field squad head, and members of the McCook and Indian Rifle rifle range.

There came a time when many older boys of the Council,

who would have graduated from Scouting at the age of fifteen, wanted to continue, but there was no special organization for them within the Scouting framework in Dayton. Some served as Assistant Scoutmasters, Gimogash provided for some of them, but many simply dropped out of the Scouting program.

Sea Scouting had been developed as an answer to this problem by the National Council before 1920, but there was no organization in the Miami Valley.

Don Nesbitt, Sea Scout Commissioner, and Commodore George Lane, member of the board of directors, saw the need for such a program for older boys in Dayton and in 1924, they organized the Sea Scouts. It was a popular program and the boys found the change of emphasis from camping and hiking to sailing and sea lore both interesting and challenging.

Nesbitt and Lane continued to work with Sea Scouts in this area for many years and saw the program develop until Dayton was the home port for two well-organized ships, and Covington, Ohio rated a fine ship.

Cricket Holler was booming during the summer, bubbling with the yeast of enthusiasm that spread from Whitehead, through his staff, to the young campers, many destined to become major leaders on the national scene. Bob Oelman, later Chairman of the Board of NCR but then Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 13, was one of the enthralled campers during the regular camp period that summer. As a preview of his future leadership, he managed to scare up the funds necessary to tack on an extra three week camping period for the members of his Troop, who returned to Troop activities in the fall brim full of enthusiasm for Scouting.

Few people in the world have not heard the story of the Wright brothers, who in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, made the first successful flight of a heavier-than-air craft and opened up a whole new field of development—that of modern aviation. After their success at Kitty Hawk, the Wright brothers returned home to Dayton, where they continued their flights and experimentations for many years.

The brothers had their start in a bicycle shop, the kind of a shop that naturally attracts boys. It was while working there that Orville Wright acquired his liking for boys and it lasted all his life. When the Boy Scouts began in Dayton, Orville Wright was happy to serve as counselor for Cycling and Aviation Merit Badges. Scouts spent many afternoons in the bicycle shop working under the watchful eye of Orville Wright. He insisted that before they worked on the Aviation badge, they should earn their Cycling badge.

Orville Wright probably possessed more world fame than any other man who lived in Dayton, yet he was a quiet man and seldom seen at public events. Strangely enough, when invited to Scout functions, either as guest or speaker, he could be counted on to attend. Often he had groups of Scouts at his home and on three occasions in the late 1940's he entertained all the Air Scouts of the Region 4 Encampment at Wright-Patterson Airforce Base, at one time—more than two hundred boys.

In the twenties the whole country was air-minded. The flyers were heroes to many boys and the new flying stories and reports of the exploits of aviators were in the newspapers nearly every day. Cities vied with each other to be chosen as the place where air races would be held and crowds of

thousands flocked to the flying fields to see the great event.

The World Air Races of 1924 were held in Dayton, October 2, 3, and 4. The Dayton Council offered the services of its Scouts as ushers during the entire affair. In view of the crowds expected, it was estimated that about 1500 Scouts would be required to handle the job.

The Council at that time numbered only a little over a thousand, but the executive knew how to handle the situation. Scouts from Hamilton, Springfield, and Middletown, as well as unaffiliated Troops from the surrounding area told the Council they would be there, and two days before the races more than 1400 Scouts moved in and began setting up camp on the edge of Wright Field.

It was the biggest undertaking the Council had ever attempted. The problems of handling a large encampment were new, but Whitehead took them as they came. Tents were loaned to the Council by the U.S. Army. For every two boys there was a pup tent, and the camping area turned into a tent city within two hours after the Scouts had arrived. A chef and a crew of cooks had been hired, and food was supplied by the Chamber of Commerce, otherwise the Scouts were a completely self-contained outfit.

When the day of the first race came, the weather had turned cold and there had been some rain. Many Scouts and leaders spent the first day directing traffic. Some of the Scouts were able to get more glamorous duties and a lucky few were allowed up into the pylons when the races began.

The Pulitzer Race was one of the best known of the annual events and a larger crowd than usual was on hand to watch. The distance to be run was 124.28 miles, equiva-

lent to four laps of the course. Four army planes were entered. The crowds watched quietly as they took off and circled the field for altitude. When they reached 5,000 feet they swung around into a steep dive for the starting line, directly in front of the grandstand.

The crowd watched as the planes made their dive for the start, then gasped with disbelief, as right before their eyes they saw the wings of Capt. Burt Skeel's Curtiss racer sheer off and the plane screamed straight down like a bullet into a nearby ravine. Bits of the disintegrated wings rained down over the field as the three other pilots dived on and finished the race.

A group of Dayton Scouts rushed off in the direction of the ravine, joining with police and army personnel in search for the ill-fated plane. The Boy Scouts finally found it—what was left of it. The heavy engine had buried itself ten feet into the ground, the rest of the plane disintegrated with the terrific impact; and with the engine was the body of Captain Skeel.

Despite the tragedy of the Pulitzer Race, the remaining races continued and large crowds attended. When the great event was over and the camp broken, the Dayton Scouts, along with Scouts of Hamilton, Springfield, and Middletown, could credit themselves with another service to the community.

IN 1924, a man, who had recently returned to the United States from the Near East, addressed the Scouts in a Council-wide meeting. In addition to stories of his adventures, he told of the need and hunger so common then in that part of the world. As a result, the Scouts decided to conduct a drive

to collect condensed milk to send to those countries. The boys used an empty room on Main Street for storing the cans and by the end of the drive, the room was filled to the ceiling.

Late that year, Perle Whitehead computed that the City of Dayton had received 350 percent interest during 1924 on its investment in the Boy Scouts and \$7,600 was spent on the Council's operation. He figured that the Scouts had given 47,759 hours of service to the community. At the rate of thirty cents per hour (if the services had to be paid for) that would be equal to a \$14,627.70 return. Clearly, an investment in Scouting was a sound one.



7

SCOUTING GROWS ACROSS THE VALLEY

By 1925, the period often called the "Roaring Twenties" was in full swing. It was a time of jazz and bootleggers, of good times and gangsterism; a time filled with change and new things. The radio, the automobile and motion pictures were taking their place in America.

Changes were coming to the Dayton Council, too. The Council was spreading over so much territory, including not only Dayton, but areas in all surrounding counties as well, that it became necessary to divide the Council into districts, with a Commissioner working with each one. Perle Whitehead and Assistant Scout Executive Robert Dalrymple were no longer able to give adequate time to all parts of the expanding Council. By 1926, a total of nine districts had been formed and Scouts numbered near the 1300 mark.

In other areas of the Miami Valley, Scouting increased at a pace that almost outstripped the development in Dayton alone. In Sidney there were three active Troops and plans for establishing three more. Tippecanoe City still had only one Troop, but it consisted of seventy boys who were very active. Scouting continued to develop in Greenville and Troy. In Piqua, Walter Ide and Vern Osborn organized a Troop sponsored by the Presbyterian Church.

During Boy Scout Week in February, 1926, Scouts in

the Miami Valley celebrated the anniversary of Scouting and many special activities were arranged. In Piqua, they took over all public offices for an hour one afternoon, and the boys had a real taste of police and fire protection on the job. In Dayton, too, Scouts temporarily held the reins of city government.

A reunion for Scouts who had roughed it together at Cricket Holler during the summer of 1925 was held in February, 1926, at the old courthouse. The evening began with camp songs and it wasn't long before the old camp spirit prevailed. Announcements were made about the staff for the 1926 camping season.

At the Board Meeting of the Dayton Council in March, 1926, Fenton Bott was again elected president. By that time the board had grown considerably in number, but many of the members had been working with the Council since its earliest days.

Ralph Hubbard, one of the leading authorities on the American Indian, spent the first week of March, 1926, in Dayton. His visit was arranged by Robert Patterson, president of the Old Scout organization. Although a professor of biology at the University of Colorado, Hubbard spent much of his time traveling around the country teaching Boy Scouts about Indians. He was born in New York, near the Seneca reservation and went to school with the Indians. As a young man, he homesteaded in the Musselshell Valley among the Blackfeet, and later lived with the Crows, Hopis, Cochise and Ojibways.

Hubbard brought with him a \$12,000 collection of Indian costumes and it was planned that at the end of the week a

dozen Boy Scouts would wear the costumes and perform some of the dances and rituals they had learned for a meeting of the Old Scouts. Each night they met with Hubbard, then the Scouts selected by him presented the Ojibway Scalp Dance, the Ghost Dance and the Cochise War Dance. More than three hundred Old Scouts attended the event.

By the year 1925 Scoutmaster Payne of Troop 30 felt the time ripe to take his boys on extended excursions to other cities and took trips to Toledo and Niagara Falls without incident.

But in 1926, another trip to Niagara Falls was made in a truck owned by fathers of two of the boys. At the start all went well, but hills eventually began to take their toll and before nightfall the brakes had burned out completely.

After being towed to the nearest garage, the Troop was housed in the concrete basement of a barn. As it grew dark the boys became aware of numerous cars driving into the barn-yard. They grew apprehensive and when Scoutmaster Payne began his nightly inspection he discovered huge piles of rocks heaped by each bedside for defensive ammunition as a precaution against imaginary attacks.

When Mr. Payne asked the farmer about cars, he was informed a Grange-meeting was in progress. Only then did members of Troop 30 sleep in peace.

During the 1920's, a Scout band was developed by Vearl Scheffer, a musician who donated his time to work with boys. In order to join the band, a Scout had to be in good standing with his Troop, well able to play an instrument and have a uniform. It was not long before the Council could boast a 120 piece band. Members rehearsed each week,

and after they had given a few concerts, the city agreed to have them play in the parks several evenings a week in summer. The band received many requests to play in other towns in the Miami Valley and remained for some years one of the Council's most active groups.

In the same period the Council also had a bugle corps with Jack Taylor as leader. The corps was prominent in Dayton parades and took part in Courts of Honor and other Council activities. Taylor was succeeded by Glenn Bayless and Robert Beachdell. Another bugle corps was led by Richard Olinger of Troop 16, with the help of Assistant Scout Executive Robert Dalrymple. Contests were held in the corps, and the top bugler was presented a red, white and blue bugle cord.

That same Troop 16 at Raper M. E. Church produced a number of outstanding Scouts during this period, each with his own hobby. Young Frank Stanton, for example, was a bug about radio. One evening when he brought his prized Atwater Kent receiver to Troop meeting so the Scouts could listen to a presidential address, a photographer captured the moment for history. Frank, of course, stuck to his hobby which led him, before many years had passed, to the presidency of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.

With the ever-increasing number of boys in the Council, it was evident that Cricket Holler would have to be expanded. A great deal of undeveloped land lay around Cricket Holler, and it was hoped that one day the camp might include much of the area surrounding the original eleven acres. A step in this direction came in 1926, when additional acres were donated to the Council.

June 14, Bastille Day, marks the independence of France and was cause for celebration as far as the Boy Scouts of Piqua were concerned. On that day in 1926, Scouts from that city, more than 150 strong, paraded through the streets. Ceremonies were held on the Federal building lawn, then the boys hiked on to Chimney Hollow where they camped for the night and had a huge campfire.

While Scouting was making great strides in the United States during the 1920's, in some European countries, the movement encountered serious resistance. In 1926 Pope Pius ordered that the Catholic Boy Scouts organizations in Italian cities be dissolved. This was because of the growing conflict between the Boy Scouts and the Fascist youth organization.

In Russia, too, the Boy Scout movement suffered in 1926. In October of that year, 150 trained Scout leaders were rounded up and banished to Arctic Siberia. After the revolution most of the trained Boy Scout leaders had entered the services of the Consomal, or the Communist Youth Society, but a few held out with their non-communist groups. The sudden raid in June, 1926, put an end to the Boy Scout movement in Russia.

Fred Rike, who pioneered the Dayton Council in 1918, never lost his interest in Scouting. In 1926 he suggested that Scouts take over running the Rike-Kumler Department Store, of which he was president. Accordingly, in late September, Scouts gathered in the store and took charge for an hour and a half on a busy Saturday morning. John McConaughy, ranking Eagle Scout at that time, took over Fred Rike's position, while the other Scouts were joined by a number

of Girl Scouts in filling various jobs throughout the store. The experience gave the Scouts a better idea of how retail business was conducted.

By the end of 1926, Scouting in Tiptecanoe City had expanded to more than 100 boys. J. C. Fitzpatrick, leader of Scouting activities in that area and other Tipp City leaders, agreed that the local Scouts would benefit if they were to affiliate with the Dayton Council. This advancement was heralded with a huge celebration in Tipp City, with both the Dayton and Tipp City Scouts participating. The celebration began with a parade through the city and a barbeque. Following the barbeque there was the presentation of a parade flag to the Tipp City Troop and an address by the Dayton Executive welcoming Tipp City to the Council.

During prohibition, the flourishing business in "home brew" and "moonshine" kept law enforcement agencies busy tracking down "stills" in out-of-the-way places, and raiding the operations they managed to find. One day in 1927, the sheriff's office received a telephone tip that smoke had been seen drifting out of an isolated section of woodland near Greenville. Deputies were hastily called in, and when a force of sufficient size was mustered, they set out for the woods. Armed to the teeth, they were taking no chances! As they neared the area described, sure enough, smoke still floated out of the woods. Firearms and ammunition were distributed—enough to start a small revolution—and the deputies swooped down on the operation—just in time to sample the hot dogs and biscuits which a Patrol of local Scouts had just cooked on their campfire!

A competition between newly organized districts began

in early January, 1927, for the I. Rome Thomas cup, presented by the Thomas Jewelers for district efficiency. The cup, two and a half feet high, was a prize that set off real competition. Districts were judged according to registrations, advancements, training, inspections and organization. Top districts were Tecumseh, led by Dr. Abe Cline; and Miami, led by Joseph Schell.

It is a pretty common occurrence when someone is tagged with a ticket for careless driving, but it is a rare thing when he is tagged for good driving. Yet that is what happened to many drivers in Dayton during March, 1927. Boy Scouts working with the Dayton Herald and the State Theatre, were keeping a sharp lookout for particularly careful drivers, and when found the drivers were promptly rewarded with tickets. The safe driving tickets were a bit more pleasant to receive than the usual traffic ticket, however, for the Boy Scouts were tagging motorists with tickets good for two seats at the State Theatre.

There had not been a severe emergency in Dayton since the disastrous flood of 1913, but the Boy Scouts strive for preparedness, and it was the Council's goal to be able to mobilize the entire organization immediately should any crisis occur. In order to test their readiness, a complete Council-wide mobilization was scheduled for April 30, 1927. Other nearby Troops and Councils agreed to participate.

It was to be imagined on this Saturday afternoon that Dayton had just been struck by a tornado, which left in its wake scores of victims. The victims were Scouts who had registered with headquarters and were assigned spots along the path of the supposed twister. They were to lie in

realistic positions that they might actually have been found in if the twister had been genuine. One victim would be lying under a pile of lumber with just an arm protruding; another would be lying under shrubbery next to a building; another would be lying in plain sight with a timber lying next to him, indicating that he had been struck unconscious. Each one wore a tag detailing the injury that he was supposed to have received.

Major Currie, Commandant of McCook Field, sent a fleet of bombers over Dayton, and when the Scouts heard the bombs detonating at McCook Field, it meant that the disaster had struck.

Scout signalers immediately dashed to the tops of the tallest buildings. Others climbed to hilltops, others to the rooftops of buildings in the outlying areas. The first message was sent out in all directions by wig-wag from the top of the Masonic Temple.

Buglers blared the signal calling for mobilization. Every Scout quickly got into his uniform, gathered up his signal flag, pup tent, and first aid materials and proceeded to the point where his Troop had agreed to gather. Every city in the Miami Valley soon responded to the call. Scouts from Hamilton, Springfield, Middletown, Germantown, Xenia, Brookville, Johnsville, New Lebanon, Arcanum, West Milton, Tipp City, Jamestown, Cedarville, West Carrollton, Farmersville, Pasadena, Belmont and Riverside arrived in Dayton within an hour and a half.

The Scouts assembled at Riverside Park, pitched their tents and were given assignments to various areas of the city. A general headquarters and field hospital had been set up

at the park. The boys searched for bodies of victims, applied required first aid, then improvised litters to carry the injured back to the field hospital.

A number of local physicians were on hand to inspect the boys' work. City officials, Old Scouts, Chamber of Commerce members and officers of other organizations had special invitations to watch the proceedings. It was an impressive show and proved conclusively that Scouts of the Miami Valley were, indeed, prepared.

After Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic in May, 1927, he immediately became an American hero. To the Boy Scouts of Dayton, the lanky flyer's visit here the following August was one of the biggest things that ever happened, and they turned up by the thousands at McCook Field to watch his arrival. And it was doubly a red-letter day for the Scouts when they found that Perle Whitehead was chosen to welcome the courageous flyer for all the youth of Dayton.

An annual joint meeting of the Girl Scout and Boy Scout summer camps was held at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Delscamp on the Stillwater River with the Delscamp family playing the role of host. A mammoth campfire and refreshments featured the evening's festivities.

It was during this period that the Council's greatest exponent of High Adventure arrived on the Scouting scene. A quiet, youthful Charlie Breish was introduced without fanfare one evening by Scoutmaster Irv Boehm to the members of Troop 26 at the Wayne Avenue EUB Church. Not long afterwards he became a Neighborhood Commissioner and, later, as a temporary stop-gap, became Scoutmaster of Troop 54

at Ohmer Park Methodist Church in 1934. As the first group of his Ohmer Park Scouts grew older, Breish searched for a way to keep them in Scouting longer and shifted his attention to the organization of an Explorer Pack.

Since those depression years, Breish hasn't missed a single summer of high adventure with his continuing stream of top-flight teenagers. Pack 54 Explorers have camped overnight at the bottom of the Grand Canyon and added rocks to the cairn at the 14,000 foot top of Mt. Elbert. They've tested their French on the Gaspé Peninsula and scooped smelt from the Pacific; climbed Mt. Katahdin in Maine, visited the 10,000 foot John Muir Shelter on Mt. Ranier and tackled Long's Peak in the Canadian Rockies five times, three times reaching the top, twice defeated by storms. Hundreds of young men have grown stronger by traveling the rugged trail that Breish has opened for them over these more than 35 years.



8

GOLD MEDALS FOR HEROISM

DR. JAMES E. WEST had been Chief Scout Executive of the National Council since 1911. His work in Scouting had brought him the respect of Scouters everywhere in the world, and it was exciting news for the Scouts of Dayton when they learned that he planned to visit the Council in January, 1928. Here he would attend a meeting of representatives from Councils in Region Four, which included Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio.

Dr. West and many representatives from other areas were to arrive in Dayton on the morning of January 14. More than fifty boys of Troop 49, of Grace M. E. Church, were assigned special duty during the conference. Before daybreak on that day, they took up their posts at railroad stations and hotel lobbies to serve as guides for the incoming visitors.

The Chief Executive had a full day in Dayton. Morning brought meetings with the local Council Executive and executives of other Councils, then a luncheon meeting at the Engineers' Club. In the afternoon there were more meetings with various members of the Region, then he was to attend the annual meeting of the Dayton Council in the evening at the Y.M.C.A.

It was shortly after six o'clock and Perle Whitehead was in his office about to leave for the Council Meeting, when

the phone rang. It was Dr. West calling from his hotel room. He also was about ready to leave for the meeting, but he was missing one important item—his trousers! He had taken advantage of the lull after the afternoon meetings were over to send his trousers out to be pressed, with the assurance that he would have them back by six o'clock. But it was six-fifteen and no sign of them. Whitehead quickly left his office and went in search of the missing trousers, tracked them down, got them up to Dr. West, and he and the Chief Executive managed to be walking in the door of the Y.M.C.A. just as the gavel was rapping to bring the meeting to order.

The late 1920's brought many new areas into the Dayton Council from surrounding counties of Miami Valley. Many of these areas were very active—for a time Tipp City could boast the amazing distinction that every boy of Scouting age in the city was a Boy Scout. Gradually the Council had included Scouts from Montgomery, Miami, Darke, Preble and Shelby counties, and with this expansion came new problems. One of these concerned the name of the Council itself. With so much of the organization made up of areas other than Dayton, Scouts in those areas resented having the name represent only Dayton. They thought that it should be changed to the "Miami Valley Council" which would include all the Council's territory.

There was a difference of opinion in Dayton, however, since the Council was born in Dayton and the highest percentage of Scouts in the Council were Dayton boys, those living in the city felt that the name should rightly remain the "Dayton Council."

Finally a compromise name was chosen which kept both

factions happy, and in 1928 the Council became officially known as the Dayton-Miami Valley Council.

Celebration of Scout Week in February, 1928, was a doubly important one. Not only were the Scouts celebrating the anniversary of Scouting in the United States, but 1928 also marked the tenth birthday of the local Council. The number of Scouts had grown to 2100 in those rapid years since the Council was organized. Across the Nation there were more than 810,000 active Scouts and Scouters.

Dayton Scouts began celebration of Scout Week by doing a good turn. They built 1000 bird houses and offered to install them free for the first 1000 persons who phoned their request to Scout Headquarters where the Ohio Bell Telephone Company had installed a battery of telephones with their compliments. Within ten days each one was erected and ready for the birds to move in.

Later the Scouts presented an hour-long program on radio station WSMK through the courtesy of Stanley M. Krohn. There were flag ceremonies, special programs and meetings every day, and the week ended with Scout Sunday, when the Scouts were honored by many churches.

John Schoff, Eagle Scout of Troop 35, rescued two boys from drowning following a freshet on the Stillwater River. He was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism and also a \$1600 scholarship to complete his education.

A small boy sped down a snow-covered hill on his sled, and before he could stop at the bottom, he slid out onto the cracking ice sheet which covered the Miami-Erie Canal. The sheet of ice cracked and broke away and the boy

disappeared in the freezing water beneath.

Bob Conover, an Eagle Scout of Dayton, saw what happened and without a moment's hesitation went to the rescue. He brought the boy to shore, applied proper first-aid and a lad's life was saved as a result of Conover's swift action.

A car raced through Dayton streets with a drunken driver at the wheel, slammed into a power pole and overturned. Gasoline poured from the tank and the man's cigar had already started small flames moving in the direction of the tank. It would be only seconds until that tank blew.

Harry Dedrick, a Dayton Scout, rushed to the car, dragged the man free and was clear of the wreck before flames reached the gas tank. He administered first-aid and was credited with saving this man's life.

Four Dayton women were swimming in Twin Creek. One of them went out beyond her depth, got into trouble and called for help. The others responded but they got into difficulties too. Two West Alexandria Scouts, Robert Schunke and James McLean, heard the cries and plunged into the water. They managed to get the four women ashore, then applied artificial respiration to two of them. When a West Alexandria physician arrived on the scene, he said that there was nothing left for him to do. "But," he said, "had it not been for the methods used by the boys, I think one, and likely two, of the women would have died, even after they were on land."

These instances of human lives saved, because of Scouts' bravery and skill, all took place within a one-year period in the late 1920's. They are typical of the many rescues, often at the risk of their own lives, that Scouts in the

Dayton-Miami Valley Council, and in all other Councils, have performed each year since the beginning of Scouting.

The boys who took part in these instances were decorated with one of the highest honors in Scouting—the gold medal for saving a life.

In 1928, a special train was made up by National Headquarters to display every aspect of Scouting. Then it steamed across the country from New York to San Francisco, and one of the five cities chosen for a two-day stop was Dayton.

The train rolled in on March 6, and the exhibits were immediately taken out and set up in a new addition to the Gibbons Hotel. Transportation of the exhibits from the train to hotel was provided without charge by the Dayton Power and Light Company, and there was no charge to the public for admission.

Every sort of Scout project could be found in the display: handicraft, insignia, Lone Scout and Sea Scout gear, models, tents, shelters, pioneer gear, fire sets, literature, archery equipment, paintings, Patrol subjects, first aid demonstrations, awards, posters and aids for boy leaders. During the two days nearly every Scout in the Council, as well as thousands of adults, found time to see the immense showing.

May, 1928, brought the big Mad River Round-Up. Nearly one thousand Scouts turned out and pitched their tents for a weekend of camping at the Barney Community Center in North Dayton. A full program included an industrial hike with Scouts visiting several of Dayton's manufacturing plants. An inspection of the camp was held to determine the top Troop at the Round-Up. Each Troop's camp was

rated by an inspecting committee headed by Dr. O. B. Kneisley, and the winning Troop was announced at the evening campfire.

J. A. Macready, internationally known in the field of aviation, entertained the boys at the campfire with the tale of his "most thrilling moment in the air." Chief of Police R. F. Wurstner kept the Scouts spellbound with the story of his "most harrowing experience as a police officer."

The Court of Honor in June, 1928, was a special one. For the first time, awards were made to Scouts of all five Counties recently organized into the single Council. At this Court of Honor the first fully-organized Sea Scout Unit in Dayton was installed, with E. M. Wiselogel as Skipper. Lieutenant Commander George R. Fairlamb, Jr., Inspector of Naval Aircraft at Wright Field, and Sea Scout Commissioner, presented the official charter to the new Unit, Ship 71.

The first award for fifteen years of active Scouting was presented to DeWitt Saunders, who joined the first Scout Troop organized in Dayton in 1913.

Council Headquarters was moved to a new building in September of 1928. With the expanded Council, the office space they had been using was no longer large enough, and space was needed for storage and for meetings. The new headquarters was on the first floor of the Castle Hills Real Estate Building, opposite the Steele High School on North Main Street.

Scouts of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council honored veterans of the War of 1812 on Armistice Day, 1928, when they presented a flagpole to the city in VanCleve Park. The flagpole, dedicated to the heroes of that war, was erected

at the spot where Dayton soldiers assembled when preparing to leave to join the battles to the North and East. The flagpole was donated by Rodger Bowers, a member of the Troop Committee of Troop 49.

Denver Harrison ran away from his mother's side as she talked with a neighbor in the South Park area of Dayton late in November, 1928, and that was the last seen of the four-year-old boy. Police searched for several days without finding a trace of the child. More than a week passed, then it was suggested that he might have been struck by a car, then removed by the driver, that he might have been kidnapped by a band of gypsies, or that he had fallen in the Stillwater River.

The banks of the river were searched by police and firemen dragged some parts of the river, but still no traces were found. More than one thousand Scouts from the Council offered their aid and searched every inch of the area. In their search they discovered the first clues: his shoes and socks near the river. The next day they were joined in their search by the boy's father and it was while wading along the banks of the Stillwater River that he came upon the body of his son.

An experiment in Scouting, undertaken in Dayton late in 1928, attracted national interest. The new idea was being tried through the joint efforts of the Boy Scouts and the American Business Men's Club.

Two Troops of Scouts, one of them made up of physically handicapped boys, both meeting at Barney Community Center, had an equal number of businessmen enrolled in the

Troop as "buddies." The men advanced in Scout rank and took part in the same activities as the boys. Each Scout was assigned three businessmen, each of whom was registered officially as a Scout. A schedule was planned so that one of the men could be at each Troop Meeting.

For the physically handicapped boys, the American Business Men's Club provided transportation to and from the Troop meetings and to any other places where Scout activities were held. Each Friday noon a Scout was entertained at a luncheon meeting of the club.

Early in 1929, work began on another Scout experiment in Dayton. An Air Scouting Unit was to be made up of older Scouts, for the same age boys as Sea Scouting, but to emphasize aviation instead of sea lore. The new Air Scout Unit was headed by Pilot C. A. Lewis, who mapped out a national Scout Aircraft Program, in hopes that Air Scouting would be recognized by the national office and developed in other Councils.

In March, 1929, the Dayton-Miami Valley Council was incorporated. Incorporation made it possible for the Council to own property and simplified legal aspects of the organization. The executive board became the board of trustees for the new corporation and the title for land developed for Cricket Holler was transferred to the Council.

By 1929, Cricket Holler had become much too small to serve more than two thousand Scouts; therefore, the Council bought 111 acres around the existing camp, then immediately mortgaged it to pay for developing the new area. The twenty thousand dollars needed to purchase the land was donated by Frederick B. Patterson, head of the National Cash

Register Company. This gave the Council 122 acres, plus 55 acres on lease. With additional land, the camp could be developed so that it again would be adequate.

Cricket Holler was divided up into a number of camping areas. In the woodcraft section, boys slept in forester tents and learned the ways of the backwoods. The pioneer section gave them a chance to learn how to build things in the woods, using only lashings and logs. During their stay in that area, the boys slept in covered wagons. The seamanship camp was run like a ship and emphasis was put on swimming and boat handling. There the boys slept in hammocks on a land ship.

The most popular section was the Indian Village. McCook Field contributed balloon silk and Sidney S. King, of the Dayton Lumber Company, donated two carloads of poles from his Tennessee Lumber Camp. With these, the Council built teepees, sixteen feet high in the style of the Blackfoot tribe. Boys staying in this section learned to make Indian headdresses and jewelry; also they learned the skill of stalking and how to use the bow and arrow.

Through the summer camping season a Scout could spend time in each section, learning skills stressed in one, then moving on to the next.

Efforts of members of the Executive Board did much to make the new camping facilities a success. Dr. O. B. Kneisley, president of the Montgomery County Fish and Game Protective Club, persuaded the state conservation commission to make Cricket Holler a game preserve.

George W. Lane contributed expert advice on handling the Council's real estate transactions.

John G. Pool tackled the construction end of the project. B. R. Shaman handled the legal end of the Council's affairs, and as a result of his efforts the site of the camp was tax-exempt.

O. B. Reemelin, of the Dayton Power and Light Company, made power and light available. Without such support, success of the new camping area would not have been possible.

A World Jamboree was to be held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England, in 1929, and for the first time the Council planned to send a representative to an international event. Elections were held in each Troop to nominate the top Scouts to compete for final selection. The number narrowed down to two boys, and entire Council voted on which would be the lucky Jamboree Scout.

Sixteen-year old Jack Cunningham won the Jamboree trip. A Life Scout of Troop 49, Cunningham had never been out of the Midwest, but by the end of summer he would be a world traveller. Harold W. Norton, Scoutmaster of Troop 19, was chosen as leader of the group from Dayton. Cunningham and Norton were the only persons to have all expenses paid by the Council. To finance their trip, each of 1500 Old Scouts donated one dollar. But other Scouts could go if they were qualified and had the six or seven hundred dollars necessary.

By mid-July, the Council had a full twenty-five Scout Troop to represent the Dayton-Miami Valley area. It was the largest Troop from the United States made up of Scouts from a single Council.

Richard Anderson, Troop 19, had his trip paid for by the

Dayton Herald. To earn his way, he mailed back a series of articles to keep Dayton informed of the progress of the Scouts as they traveled through England to the Jamboree, then on through Europe.

Because of his fine work during the ten years since he started out as a Scoutmaster, Scout Executive Perle Whitehead was sent along on the trip by the Dayton Rotary Club. He would have no official duties. It was to be a well-earned vacation.

Late in July, the Jamboree Troop started on the first leg of the long journey to England. In New York, they boarded the S. S. Cedric to cross the Atlantic. On the ship the boys met hundreds of other American Scouts on their way to the Jamboree, and the crossing was filled with cheers and singing and practice for the stunts they would perform at the Jamboree. The ship landed at Liverpool, and from there the Scouts went on to the Birkenhead landing in smaller transport boats.

The Jamboree began officially on August 1, and was the largest gathering of youth in history. More than fifty thousand Scouts from seventy-three nations set up camp in Arrowe Park, led by the Boy Scouts of America. More than fifty thousand Scouts paraded past the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, Ambassador Charles G. Dawes and other important people in the opening ceremonies.

Arrowe Park became a city of tents. Scouts from many countries wandered through the maze making friends with boys from all parts of the world. Probably the biggest pastime at the Jamboree was picture taking and swapping. The boys from the Council reported that one of the items

most in demand was the First Class Badge from the United States—a Scout could swap that for practically anything.

The Prince of Wales often wandered through the camp in Scout uniform and boys from the Dayton-Miami Valley Council talked with him.

In spite of some bad weather, days of the Jamboree went all too quickly, and soon the Dayton Scouts were beginning a new adventure. From Birkenhead they went to London, where they saw the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, London Bridge and Buckingham Palace.

From London they went to Belgium and Holland, then to Paris, which proved to be a real high point of the trip. They stayed at the Hotel Majestic and went to the Paris Opera where they were welcomed by the leading soprano, Suzanne Hedouin. After the performance, the Scouts presented her with a neckerchief.

The elevator of the Eiffel Tower was not operating, but every boy of the Troop climbed the thousands of steps to the top. By the time they reached the ground again, most of them were pretty much done in, and when Hunter Mann discovered that he had left his camera at the top, that's right where it stayed!



9

ENTER THE CUB!

FOR nearly nine years economy in America had been on a steady upswing. But in October, 1929, the bubble burst and good times turned to hard times. The stock market crash wiped out investments by the millions, businesses were bankrupt and banks were forced to close.

In the next few years, the whole nation suffered a depression. The number of unemployed reached the millions and those who still had jobs were suffering great cut-backs in pay.

In Dayton, with only one exception, every bank and every building and loan office was forced to close. There were thousands of unemployed in the Miami Valley and many farmers were hopelessly in debt.

However, Scouting was not drastically harmed by the situation. Virtually every boy could afford Scouting in a time when money was scarce. For fifty cents a year he could be a fully registered Scout. If a boy could not afford a uniform, the Troop Committee or the local council saw to it that he was properly outfitted.

In 1929, the National Council took action on the problem of the boy who was too young to enter Scouting, but nevertheless wanted to be a Scout. In various Councils throughout the nation, experimental "Cubbing" Units were set up. The

Dayton-Miami Valley Council was one of the first to have a Cub Scout Unit. By 1930, Cub Pack 1, sponsored by the Victory M. E. Church, was thoroughly established. Tom Richards became the first registered, uniformed Cub Scout in the Council.

Harrie Leslie served as Cubmaster of the first Pack. The Cubs were patterned quite closely after the Scouts in those early days. They met weekly as a Pack, as the Scouts met weekly as a Troop, and the Dens were much like the Patrols in Troops. Other Packs were soon formed and a Council Cubbing Committee consisted of George W. Lane, F. J. Blose, and Pierce M. Schaeffer.

Pack 2 in the Council was organized in Oakwood with Don Chase as Cubmaster. Since Cubbing was still in the experimental stages, the Cubmasters had no definite plan to work by, and the packs that were formed differed considerably from one another in the way they were set up and operated.

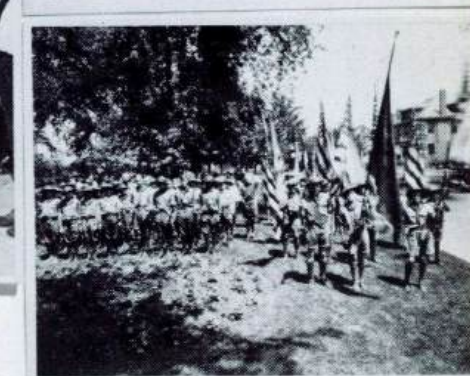
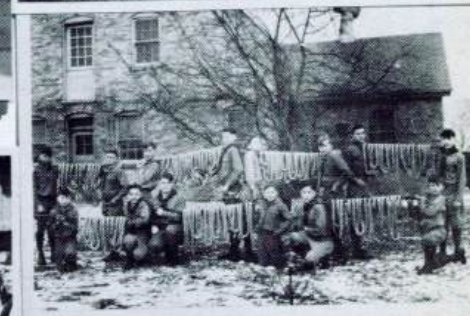
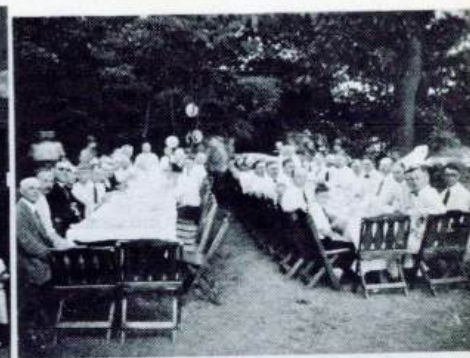
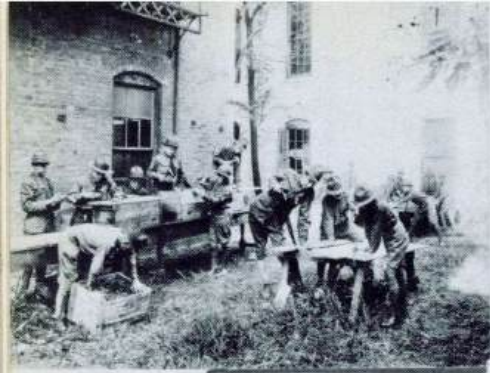
During the Depression, Scouts were called on to help in projects to provide the needy with food, clothing and jobs. In January, 1930, the Council worked with the Optimist Club in making a city-wide round-up of odd jobs for the unemployed.

They also participated in the "Goodwill Week" campaign. Paul E. Ackerman served as chairman and by the end of the week much food and clothing had been collected and made ready for distribution.

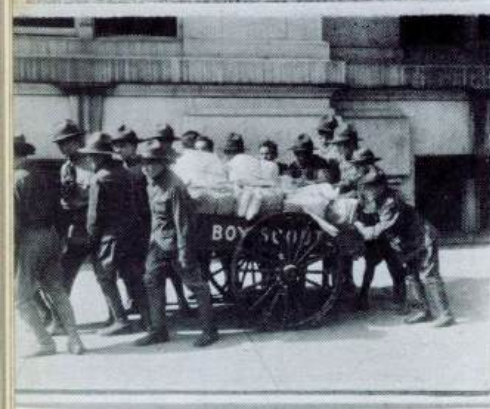
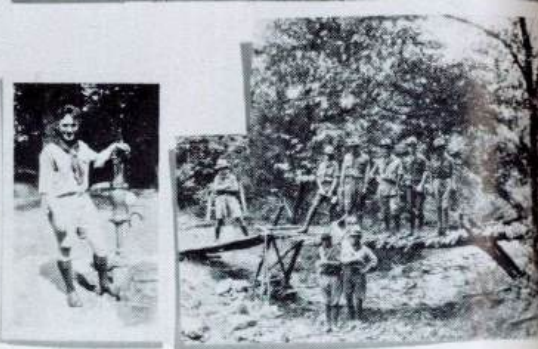
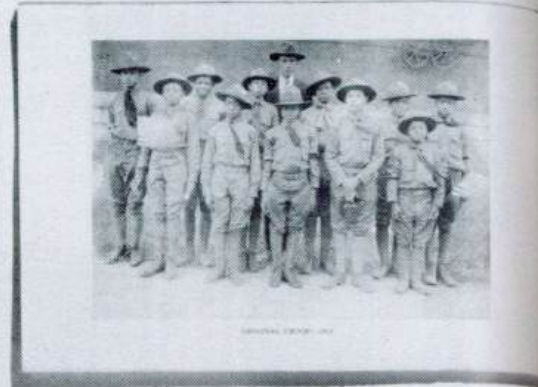
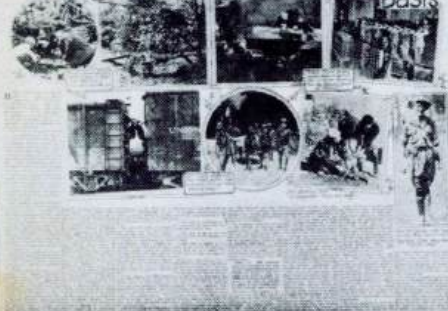
Michael Haley, of West Branch, Michigan, made a gift of land to the Council early in 1930. It comprised twenty acres on Ambrose Lake, about twelve miles north of West Branch, an ideal site for camping. The land was located



The Pine Tree Patrol heads down a 1918 version of a paved road to camp . . . newspaper clippings from the same year . . . the Model T that tested all the Camporee bridges tries one in Triangle Park . . . that's Scout Frank Stanton with his Atwater-Kent radio on the far right; on his way to the presidency of Columbia Broadcasting System.

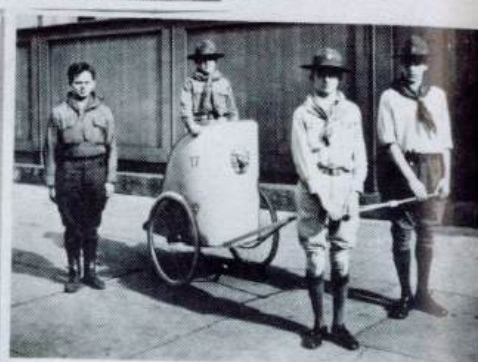
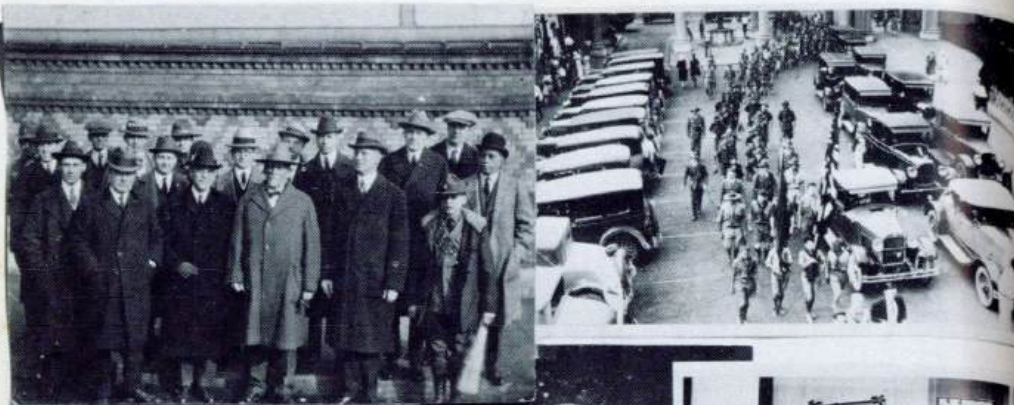


Putting Dayton Boy Scouts On a Self-Sustaining Basis



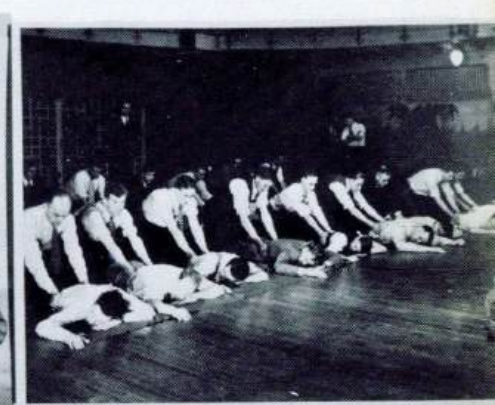
The news story is the beginning of the "Old Scouts" in 1919, with the same picture of Curtis Shaw "Who has more Boy Scout merit badges than any Scout in Dayton" that you see in the front of this book ... the Scouts are packing gas mask carbon material for shipment and collecting paper in 1917 ... that's a gang of Rotarians at Cricket Holler in 1918 (one moved) ... a young Perle Whitehead at the pump and a young Scoutmaster Payne with his very first Troop - Great Oaks from those Little Acorns grew.

A Father and Son party at the Holler ... help with the butchering at St. Joseph's Orphanage ... the first Sea Scout Ship ("but don't go near the water") ... Whitehead again with Chief Strongheart and with the 1929 contingent for the Jamboree at Birkenhead ... Scoutmaster Clark appears at the head of Troop 6.



There's Daniel Carter Beard, with Fenton Bott on one side, Scott Pierce on the other and George Lane peering over his shoulder . . . off to Birkenhead while the Scouts who stay home do a little civic service . . . the original lodge at Cricket Holler . . . and the originator of the camp's name—the "young left-hander," Milt Caniff, sketching cartoons at camp and off for a short afternoon "ride" . . . Max Van Orman is the chariot "horse" second from the right.

Fishermen Kohnle, Pool, Bott and Reemelin borrow some fish from an Indian guide, no doubt . . . Charlie Whitcomb and Boyd Downing bring-em-back-to-life during training classes in the thirties . . . one of the early Cub circles . . . and a reminder of the past, a cabin at Camp Pershing.





Duane Stump and Roger Bowers lead the Sea Scout Ship Buckeye State ... while the country's first Air Scouts get their advice from the first flyer of all time, Orville Wright ... only three Dayton Scouts make it to the Budapest Jamboree in '33 ... Scouts take over the city for a day ... Dalrymple and Anderson survey the Mad Anthony Wayne Camporee.



Silver Buffalo holder Ed Kohnle honored again and again, but never enough ... the Kleon Thaw Brown Campfire ... training at Tait Training Center ... action at Woodland Trails.



President Wozar and his "Eagle Class" ... a Den Mother's workshop in full flight ... the Scout Oath, Henry Schneider, Del Hanks and the Ed Kohnle's at Woodland Trails.

next to acreage belonging to Benjamin R. Gantt, Chairman of the Committee of Troop 73, and he worked with the Council in improving the grounds and maintaining the area. There was only one drawback to the new campsite—it happened to be more than four hundred miles from Dayton.

A new camping place in Michigan would by no means serve as a replacement for Cricket Holler, and in April, 1930, Scouts of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council began a program of improvement on the "Holler," preparing it for the approaching season.

Siebenthaler Nurseries donated 75 trees. John G. Pool arranged to have them transported to camp and each Troop of the Council helped to plant them. A week later the whole Council turned out to plant more than 3,000 evergreens which had been donated.

In 1930, the Council began broadcasting a regular weekly radio program on station WSMK, through the courtesy of Stanley M. Krohn, owner of the station. Some programs were discussions of Scouting and problems in working with boys. Other programs were given by the Scout band. For one program the entire drum and bugle corps made up of more than one hundred boys crowded into the studio for a broadcast.

Scott Pierce joined the Council Board in 1920, and during many years of work, he did much to further the success of Scouting in the Miami Valley. When full Council Courts became too large to be satisfactory, he suggested the change to Troop Courts of Honor. The idea was presented to National Headquarters and after successful trials, headquarters recommended it for adoption by all large Councils.

When a National Boy Scout meeting was held in New

York in May, 1930, Scott Pierce represented the Council. He took with him the model of a canal boat, made by Robert Conover, Eagle Scout of Troop 10. The model was to be a gift from Region 4, to Dan Beard, one of the most famous America Scouts. The boat, a replica of the "Alpha," first canal boat launched in Dayton, was a particularly fitting gift for Dan Beard as he had lived in Dayton, for a brief time, in the canal boat days.

In August, 1930, Scouts from the Council got their first chance to use the new camp in Michigan. The site was named Camp Ogemaw, and fifteen Scouts went by bus to spend a week there. Robert Dalrymple, Field Executive, went with the group and brought back good reports of a fine session of camping.

Sam Kaser, Scoutmaster of a Troop in Sidney took his boys on a trip they would never forget in the summer of 1930. They traveled through the East in a large truck, saving money by camping out each night. The high point of the trip came when they reached Washington, D.C. Robert Miller, Secretary of an Ohio congressman, arranged a tour through the Capitol, and to their surprise arranged for them to meet President Hoover. After talking with the President in the White House, they went out on the White House lawn, where they had their picture taken with President Hoover.

On Monday morning of Scout Week in 1931, the Council received a letter from Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement, containing a message to the Dayton-Miami Valley Council. It was the twenty-first anniversary of Boy Scouting and the thirteenth anniversary of the

Council. In his message, Lord Baden-Powell said:

"At the Scout movement coming of age, you Dayton members can look back with some content on the years of your infancy and gradual growth to the standing you, as Scouts, enjoy today.

"This does not mean that you can, therefore, sit down with hands folded across your abdomen and say—I'm through, all's well.

"Not a bit of it.

"—Visualize on the basis of the results obtained what you may achieve in the next twenty-one years working at the same rate.

"Then—up sleeves and tackle the game—for game it is—with confidence, with hope and with good cheer."

El Comancho had been a contemporary of Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickok. He hunted meat for a railroad construction gang and remembered the time when herds of buffalo covered the western plains so thick that trains were sometimes forced to wait for days while great seas of the massive animals crossed the railroad line.

When he came to Dayton to talk to the Scouts of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council, he was nearly ninety years old. Scouts from all parts of the Council crowded into the auditorium to hear and see the famous pioneer. He recalled for them the days of the stage coaches, road agents, Indian uprisings and pioneers, and the Scouts knew they had met one of the last of the rugged men who lived and fought in the Old West.

Colonel Dudley, a thoroughbred Boston Terrier, became the official mascot of the Council in 1931. Colonel Dudley was an educated dog and made radio broadcasts from more than 200 commands, and he also did a bit of mind reading. Because of his talent, the Council's new mascot rated being included in Ripley's *Believe It or Not*. In 1933, Colonel Dudley and his owner and trainer, George Kohan, made a tour of the United States as "ambassadors" from the Dayton-Miami Valley Council.

Thomas Sands, a Scout in Dayton during the early 1920's, was one of the early Eagle Scouts of the Council. After graduation from high school in 1925, he went on to West Point, where he continued his record as an outstanding Scout and cadet. After graduation at the top of his class from West Point, he represented the United States in fencing in the 1932 Olympic Games in San Francisco. He serves as an excellent example of one whose high standards while a Scout remained with him throughout the rest of his life.

Christmas, 1931, found Dayton in the depths of the depression, and for many families it was a barren, hungry holiday. The Council did everything possible to make the season bright for many of the needy people. Old toys were collected and repaired. These went along with baskets of food prepared by the American Legion and The Journal-Herald and were distributed by the Scouts on Christmas Eve.

More than one hundred Scouts from the Council had attained the rank of Eagle by 1932, and in January of that year a banquet-reunion was held for all Eagle Scout alumni. Curtis Shaw, then living in Syracuse, New York, came to Dayton for the event. As the first Eagle Scout of the Council,

he was the guest of honor.

In the year 1931, the National Council established the order of "The Silver Beaver" to be given by the local council for effective Scout work in the local field. The number allowed to any local council was strictly limited.

In Dayton the first awards were made January 15, 1932, at the annual banquet. Edward L. Kohnle, member of the Council board, presented four Silver Beaver awards for outstanding work to: Fenton Bott, council president; A. W. Payne, Scoutmaster of Troop 30 for over 12 years; D. L. May, Scoutmaster in Brookville; and Harris V. Bear, Superintendent of schools and Scout commissioner at Miamisburg.

It was during these first years of the thirties that Perle Whitehead was often seen driving around in a strange little car that struck some people as looking more like a toy than an automobile. The car was a midget Austin, one of the very few in Dayton. He had first seen the little Austin in England when he was there for the World Jamboree and he was so taken with it that he purchased one on his return home. More than once when Council Headquarters was across the street from Steele High School, Perle Whitehead came out of his office in the late afternoon and found that his little Austin had somehow, mysteriously, crossed the street and come to rest at the top of the high school steps.

In 1931, the Council Headquarters was moved to the Dayton Industries Building. It seemed that each of the Council's offices had some peculiarity, such as the fire escape entrance to Loew's Theatre Building offices. The Council's new headquarters proved to be no exception. The offices were on the third floor with access to a swimming pool, a gym-

nasium and an auditorium. When a Merit Badge show was held in the building Dr. F. G. Barr included a "horsemanship" exhibit, so the Scouts had a horse at headquarters as well as a swimming pool. There were times when it must have appeared as quite the resort spot!

The depression did make itself felt on the Dayton-Miami Valley Council's budget. In 1932 finances were so much below the amount hoped for that it was decided that Cricket Holler could not be operated that year. Instead, a day camp would be held on the east side of the Stillwater River, extending from Triangle Park bridge to about 300 yards north of the Siebenthaler bridge. A day camp is never as satisfactory as a regular session of camping, but the Scouts themselves would have been hard pressed to pay the seven dollars per boy per week needed to run Cricket Holler.

Sea Scouting continued to develop in the Dayton-Miami Valley Council, and in 1933, there was a new Ship 251, fully organized, in addition to the one installed in 1928. In January of that year the Ships received their charters in a special ceremony in the Fountain Room of the Dayton Industries Building. In the center of the room a large replica of a two-masted schooner was set up. In order to board the vessel, one had to cross over a gangplank. All the awards and ceremonies during the meeting took place on the quarter-deck of the land-locked schooner.

George W. Lane, who continued to be active in the Sea Scout program, presented charters to the SSS Buckeye State, and the SSS Miami Star. Assisting him were Robert Dalrymple, who had been working with the new Sea Scout Units, and Edward Kohnle. Don Nesbitt, "spark-plug" for

Sea Scouting in the council, served as Chairman of the Committee.

Piqua was chosen as the site of a huge Scout "Camporall" in July, 1933. Scouts from western and central Ohio streamed into the town and erected a tent city in Fountain Park. More than five hundred boys were on hand for the opening campfire. The biggest attraction at the "Camporall" was the three-ring Scout circus, held in the public square. The Scouts paraded through the streets where several thousand people gathered for the big show.

Another World Jamboree was held in the summer of 1933, in Godollo, Hungary, but because of the depression, few Scouts from the Dayton-Miami Valley Council were able to go. Only 402 Scouts and Scouters from the United States attended and only three boys represented the local Council. They were: Ted Newill, Jack Storms and Bill Cook. The Dayton Scouts visited Liverpool, London, Paris, Munich, Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, Hamburg, Budapest and finally reached the jamboree where more than 20,000 Scouts from 46 countries gathered for the week of international camping.

Few people in the United States have not heard of the annual Soap Box Derby, but probably it is much less known that the Soap Box Derby was born in Dayton as a Scouting project on Huffman Hill. While working in Scouting, Myron Scott first thought of organizing a race between home built cars. The project was tried very successfully by a group of Dayton Scouts who built and raced their cars long before the Soap Box Derby had even been imagined.

Myron Scott presented the Dayton Daily News his idea of a city-wide race similar to the one tried by the Scouts. As

a result, in August, 1933, the newspaper sponsored a Soap Box Derby in which 325 racers entered. The race was held on Burkhardt Hill and drew a crowd of more than 40,000 from Dayton and the surrounding area. The sixteen-year-old boy who won the Dayton contest that year was clocked at 44 miles per hour.

When Myron Scott left Dayton to work in the public relations department of General Motors, he found his chance to make the Soap Box Derby a nation-wide contest. Now each year the Derby, under the sponsorship of Chevrolet, is the climax to months of planning and building for thousands of young mechanics.



10

NO DEPRESSION FOR SCOUTING

THE depression reached its lowest ebb in 1933. By 1934, many of the New Deal reforms of President Roosevelt were going into effect and for the first time since the stock market crash of 1929, business took a slight upswing. But it was not enough to ease the problems of millions of families in the United States who were without income, without sufficient food, inadequately clothed and with little hope for the future.

In February of 1934, the President made a nation-wide radio broadcast to the Boy Scouts of America. In Dayton, nearly 1400 Scouts gathered at the National Cash Register Company's schoolhouse to hear President Roosevelt's message.

When the President began speaking, he addressed his listeners as "Fellow Scouts." He spoke to Scouts of the planned National Jamboree scheduled for the summer of 1935.

At that Jamboree, Scouts from every part of the country would gather at Washington, D.C. for a week long session of camping in celebration of the twenty-fifth year of Scouting. He called upon the Scouts to help the country by collecting household furnishings, clothes, bedding and distributing them to the millions of people in need.

Scouts of Miami Valley were quick to start work on the

"National Good Turn" asked of them by President Roosevelt. In Piqua, Greenville, Troy, Tipp City and other towns of the valley, Scouts collected bedding and clothing; working with other agencies, they redistributed the material to families particularly hard-hit by the depression.

Soon it became obvious that the Council could do much more work in the upper Miami Valley and late in the spring of 1934, Robert Dalrymple moved his residence to Piqua in order to give more attention to Shelby, Miami and Darke counties. Preble County was still served out of the Dayton office, then located in the Dayton Industries Building at Third and Ludlow Streets.

The building was only about 20% occupied during the depths of the depression and, with plenty of time on their hands, Scout leaders took to dropping in at headquarters to pass the time of day with Whitehead. A friendly, outgoing person, Whitehead would never allow his secretary to tell anyone he was busy. As a result much of his day was one long interruption. Whitehead finally solved this problem by taking a portable typewriter, a card table and chair and hiding out in one of the other empty offices in the building whenever he had work that needed to be done. When some of the more persistent leaders would run him down in one office he'd simply move to another one on another floor and work there until they managed to find him again.

More than 2000 Scouts from Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky set up camp at Devou Park, Covington, Kentucky late in the summer of 1934. They were gathered for a huge three-day Regional Camporall. Highlight of the session was the arrival of Daniel Carter Beard, the guest of honor.

Leaders had encouraged the Scouts to break into a cheer as soon as he arrived, but when Dan Beard passed by there was no cheer—the boys were too absorbed, too awe-stricken, at seeing the most famous Scout of them all, "Uncle" Dan Beard.

The visitor made a hit with the boys during the three days, passing out dried bear meat, showing tricks in pioneering, and keeping them wide-eyed with his endless supply of tales about pioneer days.

"When I was a boy about twelve years old (Scout age) I was an orderly in a Civil War hospital," he recalled during one of his glimpses into the past. "And the only antiseptic I had was a palm leaf which I used to keep the flies off the wounds."

Scouts of Miami Valley made a good showing at the Camporall, ending with highest honors in the various competitions.

It seemed a little ironic that in the depths of the financial depression, Scouts of Miami Valley should go on a treasure hunt. But in October, 1934, a mysterious treasure map appeared in Dayton newspapers with hints as to how it might be deciphered.

On the maps the Scouts could locate such points as Fang Swamp, Bloody Mace Crossing, Black Dog's Thicket, and other spots which would help lead them to the buried loot. Further instructions were printed in the papers using Morse code.

On the day of the hunt, Scouts paid a toll of ten cents each as they crossed Ben Gunn's Island (Island Park), and with much map work and compass reading, eventually

reached Cricket Holler where the treasure had been buried. There they began to dig, and finally the treasure chest was uncovered—filled with loot that bore a remarkable similarity to the dimes they had paid on Ben Gunn's Island.

With Dalrymple gone and an increase in Troops, Perle Whitehead needed more help in the local office. In the early fall of 1934, John D. Yeck, an Eagle Scout, who had come up through Scouting ranks in Akron and been inspired by Akron Executive, Dwight Ramsay (later Regional Executive of Region Four and a member of the National Personnel Division Staff), chose Scouting as a career. His college education planned with this in mind, he was one of the early "executive educated" products of Scouting and became an Assistant Scout Executive of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council.

One of his extra-curricular interests in college was dramatics, so he soon became involved in the weekly radio program being broadcast by the Scouts on WSMK. Until that time, programs had been devoted to interviews and to talent from Troops of the Council, but this talent pool had run rather thin.

Early in 1935, a weekly serial began. The story was centered around the mythical character of "Captain Stormalong," a retired sea captain who spun highly imaginative yarns to a Patrol of Scouts who "visited" him each week. The character was invented by Joe Hirsch and Dave Ekberg, Sea Scouts of Ship 249 at Grace M. E. Church.

Members of the "Patrol" varied from week to week but soon dwindled to a hard core of faithful Scout actors. John Yeck took the part of the captain. Gradually, the authors produced their scripts nearer and nearer to the deadline until

finally the system broke down altogether.

After that, each week at the Scout office, John Yeck and secretary Kitty Jane Longsdorf worked feverishly to dream up new exploits for Captain Stormalong, get the script typed, and try to rehearse the Scouts who were to take part. The adventures of Captain Stormalong were soon well known to the listeners of WSMK. Letters about the program came from as far as Philadelphia and New York, and for over a year Captain Stormalong was a regular feature of Dayton radio each Monday evening.

The depression, and to a certain extent the geography of Dayton, made it difficult for Sea Scouts of the Council to get much actual sailing experience. Don Nesbitt was an alumnus of Culver Naval Academy, Indiana, and in order to give the Sea Scouts a chance to try their skill at handling various types of sailing craft, he took groups to Culver during the summers. There they used the Culver boats and got a taste of actual sailing under canvas.

Naturally, the Scouts were always cautioned in the use of sailboats and safety procedures to be used around water. From this point of view, the trips were completely successful. Only the two leaders, Don Nesbitt and John Yeck, managed to fall into Lake Maxinkuckee, Nesbitt walking off the dock in full dress uniform.

Preparations for the National Jamboree in Washington, D.C. went on through the summer of 1935.

The government provided the Boy Scouts with 400 acres of land along the Potomac. By the middle of August more than ten thousand tents had been erected and five miles of water line had been laid to provide the million gallons of water

that would be needed daily.

It was expected that at the camp preparation would be made for more than 100,000 meals per day and that some 250 tons of food would be consumed. A city of canvas had been erected, complete with its own newspaper and thirty post offices.

The Scouts of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council had paid their money, and some were even partially packed for the trip, when the sad announcement came—the Jamboree was to be postponed for a year.

The President of the United States made that announcement, and told Scouts all over the country that a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in the area of the huge camp had forced the disappointing postponement.

About this time a Scouter dropped into headquarters to share a theory with Perle Whitehead. He had decided that the famous moundbuilder earthworks scattered throughout Ohio were built for the purpose of communications.

Never slow to react when he saw possibilities of excitement and publicity for the Scouts, Whitehead made arrangements for Scouts to send a smoke signal from Dayton to Cincinnati via the Miamisburg Mound and other high spots along the way. Scouts were to be stationed at these points on a Saturday with fires built and ready to light in order to see how quickly a single puff of smoke would arrive in Cincinnati. Each group of Scouts was to light their fire when they saw the smoke of the previous one.

Promptly at one o'clock the fire at the Soldiers' Home was lighted and the smoke from the next fire rose immediately.

Smoke was sighted by those watching from atop the Carew

Tower at 1:15, certainly a world's record, and there was great celebration at the project's success.

Later it was found that one group of Scouts half-way between the two cities had not been able to find their "elevation" until long after starting time, and waited around all afternoon without ever lighting their fire.

The mystery of just what did arrive in Cincinnati was finally solved when it was discovered that a barn somewhat further down the line had conveniently caught fire shortly after the signal was supposed to start and the smoke from the burning barn was relayed on south to Whitehead in the Tower.

A fanfare of blaring trumpets, the crashing of band music, the crack of the ringmaster's whip, and on March 27, 1936, the Dayton-Miami Valley Council's Scout Circus was underway. Clowns, acrobats, wild "animals," bands, paraded into the big-top in the Coliseum at the fairgrounds, and J. H. Schierloh, ringmaster, introduced the acts as spotlights played down on the three rings.

More than 3500 persons turned out to watch the big circus. There was a fencing drill by sixteen Scouts, a cycling show and signalling demonstrations. Wilbur Huffman and William Ballard, Scouts of Troop 35, presented a real tight-rope walking act—they were coached for it by a member of their Troop Committee who had been one of a group of professional acrobats.

The Scout Circus proved to be a great success. Behind that success was the planning and work that had gone on for weeks before the show opened.

Ed Kohnle served as general chairman of the circus committee. Others who worked hard included O. B. Reemelin, Dr. F. G. Barr, Paul Ackerman, Watson Woodward, Don Nesbitt, George W. Lane, Walter Locke, Fern J. Blose, Milt Wagner, and Roger Bowers.

In the spring of 1936, Perle Whitehead, who had gained national recognition for the fine job he was doing in Miami Valley, received from National Headquarters an offer to move up in professional Scouting. His new position would be Deputy Regional Executive of Region Four. He decided to accept the offer and in April, 1936, he left the Council.

A mock trial was held at the N. C. R. Auditorium, attended by the many hundreds of friends Perle Whitehead had made in the Miami Valley. Whitehead was the defendant.

The charge: "... that Perle L. Whitehead, between the years 1919 and 1936, did enter Dayton and, subsequently, the Miami Valley, and did steal the hearts of men, women and children of the community contrary to the form of the statute in such case . . ."

The trial proceeded, with testimony from Cubs, Scouts, members of the Executive Board and Scoutmasters. A scrapbook containing letters from many of the Scouters who had known Whitehead and expressed their feelings about his leaving the Council, was entered as evidence, and later presented to him. When the evidence had been heard, and Perle Whitehead was allowed to make his final address to the group, the jury deliberated for a moment.

The verdict: guilty as charged. The judge, Fenton Bott, pronounced sentence on the defendant, "Perle Whitehead . . . I hereby declare that you shall be sentenced to remain in

the hearts of every Scout, Cub and leader in this community for the rest of your natural life."

In May, 1936, B. W. Stayton took over as Scout Executive. One of the first problems to be faced was that of summer camping. Money was still very scarce in the Council, and it seemed likely that a day camp system would have to be used again. Water supply had become a major problem in Cricket Holler, and the Council did not have enough money to develop an adequate system.

Camping, of course, was a problem all during the depression. Finances had made it impractical to continue the use of Cricket Holler and wilderness trips were suspended for the same reason.

In those days, it was the custom of Boy Scout Councils to provide camping on a Council-wide basis in summer. "Troop Camping" as practiced later, was not yet popular, but Scouts and leaders wanted some kind of camping.

Yeck and Dalrymple, close to their own youthful camping experiences, were determined that the Council should have a camp and they planned for a "split camp" for the summer. They chose a spot near Vandalia, on conservancy district land, available at no charge, for the first part of the camp, and a spot in one of the northern counties for the second session. Each session was to run for four weeks.

Fortunately, in a barn on the Cricket Holler grounds, the Council had stored an old circus-type tent with two telephone poles as tent posts and room for feeding up to 100 to 120 boys. This tent was erected in a small grove near one of the old toll gates on a section of the old National Road which had been abandoned when Taylorsville Dam was built.

A nearby spring provided water.

Because the Council had absolutely no budget for camping equipment, all expenses had to be paid from camper's fees which were set at \$6.00 a week. Two surplus World War I army field kitchen units were purchased and a Pullman cook who wanted to spend a summer in the out-of-doors was hired.

John Yeck had charge of the camp, and it took a lot of ingenuity on his part to keep it going throughout the summer. The entire staff, headed by Dick Peckinpough, a high-school-age Sea Scout from Ship 249, were volunteers and they did much to make a success of the undertaking, and in spite of makeshift equipment, did a fine job. Max Van Orman, who became an Eagle Scout in 1935, was a great help in keeping the camp going. As for the Scouts themselves—they had the time of their lives.

Yeck, knowing the adventuresome nature of the boys and their willingness to take risks, was particularly concerned about the safety features of the 25-foot cliff near the camp. Finally he obtained a long length of rope and strung it about four feet back from the edge and hung on a sign saying, "Please don't fall over the cliff." The humor did the trick.

When the time came to move the camp to Dalrymple's area for the second half of the summer, it was obviously far too much of a job to be justified by the relatively small number of boys who had signed up from outlying counties. As a result, a smaller camp, with boys doing their own cooking, was arranged on some low ground along Twin Creek, near West Alexandria.

One night, at Twin Creek Camp, the boys began to notice that water along the shore was rising. A heavy rainstorm

farther north contributed a good deal of water to the stream, and sticks that the boys began to position along the edge of camp were quickly covered. Everyone became so interested in the way water in the creek was rising that they failed to notice they were suddenly on an island, cut off from "mainland."

There was a good deal of scurrying around to break camp and haul it across the rapidly-rising stream, but they were able to get the last load off before their island disappeared entirely. They spent the rest of that night in a nearby barn.

The spring of 1937 again brought the search for a place where the summer camp could be held. Stayton and his Assistant, John Yeck, did their best to find a site farther away from Dayton with more room for adventure than could be provided at Vandalia.

This time a spot was found quite a distance from Dayton, in the Hocking Hills near Athens. The land could be rented at a low rate. The nearest town was Gibsonville, about ten miles away, which consisted of a gas station, general store and a few scattered houses.

By the time arrangements had been made to rent the land, the camping season was almost upon them. John Yeck and his crew of older Scouts, many of whom had been with him at Vandalia, worked in feverish haste to get the camp up in time for the opening summer session. All the supplies and equipment had to be hauled in, and to do this they bought an old pick-up truck for seventy-five dollars. Fred Jache drove it and spent half his time changing tires—in the first week the truck had fourteen flat tires!

The equipment was often in as sad shape as the truck, but

by this stage of the depression, any camp at all was a luxury. Early one Saturday morning a week before the opening of camp they loaded the entire camping equipment, including the old circus tent, on the pick-up truck and a larger truck rented for the occasion, and joyfully headed for the Hocking Hills expecting to eat a late lunch on the camp grounds.

Instead, flat tires and low bridges found them in the hills but still some distance from camp long after dark. The driver of the larger truck, having never been in the area before, following directions a little too literally, found himself marooned far off the main road on a hill too steep for the truck to climb, too narrow to turn around and too dangerous to back down.

The rest of the caravan finally found the truck near midnight and began to unload it, hoping to carry the major share in via pick-up truck and auto. The first load finally made it to the campsite as dawn broke and the birds welcomed them to camp. It was Tuesday before everything reached the campsite, and the balance of the week was a frenzied effort to get things in shape before the Sunday opening.

Max Van Orman, an outstanding Scout of the period as were Curt Shaw and Milt Caniff in earlier years, served as assistant camp director although still in high school. Later to be lost in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, Max was a miniature whirlwind. He planned meals, ordered supplies, bossed the staff and supervised constant repairs on the equipment in a manner that would do credit to men twice his age. In ability, cheerfulness and a desire to be of service, Max was outstanding. After the first few days things seemed to have settled down and it looked like their

troubles were over for a while. Then one morning Max found that the spring had dried up.

John Yeck and Fred Jache took the truck into Athens where they bought water pumps and random lengths of pipe. They borrowed empty shortening barrels from a bakery, and this was their water system. They loaded two large tanks into the back of the truck and each day went down to Gibsonville, filled the tanks from a hand pump in front of the general store and hauled the water up to camp.

Once again things settled down to "normal" with over 100 boys in attendance and camp sessions changing each week until the third Sunday when, with both sets of boys and parents in camp a small cyclonic thunderstorm came to visit too. The camp was well protected against prevailing winds but not against the reverse and a sudden gust scattered kitchen utensils through the edge of the woods while a stray bolt of lightning ripped apart one side of the circus tent. For most of the following week the boys ate outside while the tent was being repaired. But not even thunderstorms could dampen their enthusiasm.

Precarious though the camp seemed, it was a great success with the boys and every session was filled. When the farmer learned the extent of the camping that was going on, he decided that maybe he could get a little more money out of the Scouts before they left by locking the pasture gates while he checked for possible "damages" to the area. Jache, who went to town each day for water, managed to learn this from the town gossip. Since the camp was working on a zero budget, he decided to engage in a little counter-espionage. Toward the end of summer, after Jache had filled the

water tanks, he wandered into the general store, bought a little candy, and casually mentioned that the Scouts might add another week to the camping period. Naturally the farmer caught wind of this, and didn't bother to put in his appearance at the camp when so much time remained. Right on the original schedule, however, the camp closed and early one morning the boys broke camp and were on their way—paying no more than the original agreement.

The first National Jamboree, previously postponed because of an infantile paralysis epidemic, was finally held in the area around the Washington Monument which had been so carefully prepared two years before. A large group of Scouts from the Council attended the Jamboree, and the Council Camp in the Hocking Valley was suspended for a week while the leaders visited the Jamboree and Washington as a partial reward for their summer's work. A shower unit used in Washington was purchased by the Council to fill out the inadequacies of the Hocking Hills Camp, but the water shortage which followed made it simply something else to haul home.

In 1938, the Council had somewhat better luck in finding a campsite. The new area, near Bainbridge, was called Camp Pike. More than 2500 acres of very rugged terrain were available for camping and the Council was gradually getting in a financial position where it could afford improvements. This camp was used with much success into the early 1940's, with many hundreds of Scouts from the Miami Valley making good use of the huge camping and hiking area.

The Council had been reorganized early in 1937, owing to the increased Scouting activity in areas of the Miami Valley outside of Dayton. Milton H. Wagner became presi-

dent and Fenton Bott, who had served as president and devoted many years of service to the Council, became vice-president, representing the Dayton area.

Under the reorganization, comparatively new areas were given more representation on the Executive Board. From Greenville there was Jesse K. Brumbaugh; from Sidney, Urban Doorley; J. Warren Safford came from Troy and Otto Heeter represented Eaton. Vernon Marchal and Joseph Patty represented Darke County; W. R. Minton and Thomas Anderson, Shelby County; Walter Ide, Joe Kastner, Kenneth Cron, Milton Katker and Emmet C. Meyers, Piqua; K. O. Brandon and Judge Paul T. Klapp, Troy.

As budgets improved somewhat, the Scout headquarters moved around, spending some time in a large suite in a building at 18 South Main Street, then in the new Talbott Building, at the corner of First and Ludlow Streets. Later the offices were moved to the Community Chest Building on North Jefferson Street and finally to the Community Services Building on Salem Avenue.



11

A NEW LIFE FOR THE CRICKET

By 1940 the war in Europe made itself strongly felt in the United States, and the problems of unemployment and depression in this country had nearly disappeared. The situation in the world was uneasy, but with money beginning to be more available in the United States, many companies and organizations were launching new programs and developments.

The Dayton-Miami Valley Council began plans for expansion and development of a permanent Council camp, also new efforts were being made to reach more boys of Scouting age.

The Cub program had been in existence in Dayton for nearly ten years, but interest in Cubbing seemed less than it should be. The number of boys enrolled was decreasing, and the Council's younger-boy project did not keep up with National Headquarters' new theories of Cubbing.

The program in Dayton was being operated much as a form of "junior Scouting," with weekly meetings as a pack, and with emphasis on activities found in regular Scouting. This did not seem to work out well for the younger boys, and some Scoutmasters felt that it dulled a boy's appetite for Boy Scouting proper.

Charles A. Whitcomb, who came to the Council in 1937,

had recently attended the National Training School where he learned the latest methods of Cubbing. B. W. Stayton, Scout Executive, asked him to try to "kill off" Cubbing in Dayton as it was, and then to rebuild it more in accordance with new theories.

Whitcomb talked with O. B. Reemelin, who for many years had devoted much time to the Council Executive Board and was particularly interested in the Cub program.

The two men met with the Reverend Herman Page of Oakwood St. Paul's Church where one of the Cub Packs was sponsored and they laid plans for starting a new Pack organization.

Mrs. Reemelin also became interested in the new plan, especially in the "den" idea. She agreed to organize a trial den and to serve as Den Mother.

According to the new conceptions of Cubbing, parents were to be involved and trained in the work. Without their cooperation, the new set-up would be impossible. Before the first meeting, Reemelin and Whitcomb were doubtful about getting many parents interested enough to devote the time required. When they placed chairs for the first parents' meeting at St. Paul's they expected around twenty-five people and were happily astounded when more than one hundred turned out.

After that, the problems were few. Oakwood Pack 101 was set up as an experimental group, with Mrs. Reemelin's Den taking the lead. The Pack became very successful, and served as a model for all the other groups being formed or reorganized. Charles Whitcomb and Glenn Noggle worked as an organizational team, going around the Council telling

about the success of the new Cubbing program.

With the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, the United States was plunged fully into World War II. After the declaration of war, the Boy Scouts of America again placed their entire resources at the service of the government. And the government quickly took advantage of these resources.

Scouts in the Miami Valley, as in all parts of the country, went to work distributing defense bonds, making defense housing surveys, starting victory gardens, distributing air-raid posters and working with the Red Cross. They also worked with Civil Defense as messengers, assisting emergency medical units and as fire watchers.

A two-week whirlwind rubber salvage drive was conducted by Scouts across the nation in 1942. In the Miami Valley, Scouts working under the leadership of B. W. Stayton had an unusually successful drive. More than thirty million pounds of rubber were collected by the Boy Scouts of America.

The membership drive in Dayton that year was also very successful and the Council grew to a total of 3600 Scouts.

George Lane and Don Nesbitt continued the Sea Scout program, and in 1942, a cabin was given to the Council by the city at Island Park for use of the Sea Scouts.

In 1943, B. W. Stayton left the Council, and H. M. "Mac" Privette became Scout Executive. Milton H. Wagner still served as Council President and E. L. Kohnle as Commissioner. Over the years, Ed Kohnle did much to develop the commissioner system in Miami Valley.

War brought the necessity of rationing gasoline and this made it difficult for families to make the long trip to Camp Pike, nearly one hundred miles away. Also the area became crowded with other campers and its value as a Scout camp diminished. Mac Privette was quick to recognize the value of Cricket Holler as a year-round camp, and soon after he came to the Council, plans were formed and work started on redeveloping the Holler.

Surveys were made and estimates figured to determine the cost of changing the Holler into a fully satisfactory campsite. Wells had to be drilled, shelters built and a swimming pool was a necessity. Not all of these things were possible at once, but Mac Privette saw to it that the Council kept moving and the camp was reopened in the summer of 1943.

Four campsites were built, with a screened dining hall and kitchen in the center of each one. They were operated by several Troops, and each Unit was responsible for its own cooking, a part of camping experience. Shacks at the campsites were made from salvaged lumber donated to the Council by the Brinkman Engineering Company. Although the wood had been in a fire and charred, it could be used. Men who worked with the lumber on weekends building shacks and bridges, were blackened by the charcoal. The flooring was such hard wood that a hole had to be drilled for every nail; however, a complete camp was built and in time for the summer season of 1943.

Early in 1944, Troop 30, one of the oldest Troops in Dayton, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. It was also the twenty-fifth year that A. W. Payne had served as Scoutmaster of that group. Payne began working with Scouting

when his new Troop was just a handful of boys and also continued to be active in affairs of the Council. In 1932, he was one of four persons in Dayton to receive the Silver Beaver award, presented for the first time that year.

In the early 1940's the Council received much support from the Frigidaire Division in Dayton. The company named a Scout planning committee, and many new Troops were organized as a result. Mason M. Roberts, Frigidaire Division Works Manager, had a large part in the support the Scouts received from Frigidaire and he continued for many years to be active in the Council.

In 1944, Mac Privette sparked more development for Cricket Holler, and that camp was becoming an excellent year-round facility. The swimming pool was completed, and at much less cost than had been anticipated. The pool was built largely by donated labor and the Council obtained much of the building material at little or no cost. From an abandoned swimming pool at Steele High School came all mechanical equipment and the concrete was reinforced with old iron bed springs furnished by the Salvation Army. Major assistance for the swimming pool project came from that long time organizational friend of the Council, the Dayton Rotary Club.

Cricket Holler could not be operated without a ranger living on the grounds. Fortunately the Council had an architect member, George T. Neuffer, who designed and built a brick residence for the camp ranger. Mac Privette, always interested in Cricket Holler, used that residence during his association with the Council.

In October, 1944, the first issue of "The Miami Valley Scouter" was published. A bulletin of Scouting news in the

Miami Valley, it was sent each month to members of the Council. The entire expense of publishing and mailing the bulletin was covered by Larry Nathan and the Metropolitan Company, who were the official outfitters for Scouts in Dayton. Ralph Blosser served as editor of the "Scouter," and Melvin Edwards worked as circulation manager.

For some time the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Dayton had been interested in Scouting and in 1945, they conducted a campaign to raise money for a contribution to the growing camp at Cricket Holler. Milt Wagner headed the drive, which brought in \$18,000. With this money the Kiwanis Lodge at Cricket Holler was built and furnished. The lodge included a kitchen, recreation and dining room and would accommodate more than two hundred boys. The Hobart Company, through efforts of David Meeker of Troy, and the Frigidaire Division, through Mason Roberts, furnished the complete kitchen. The F. A. Requarth Lumber Company, through Kiwanian Harvey Requarth, contributed most of the lumber used. The lodge was decorated by the women of Kiwanis.

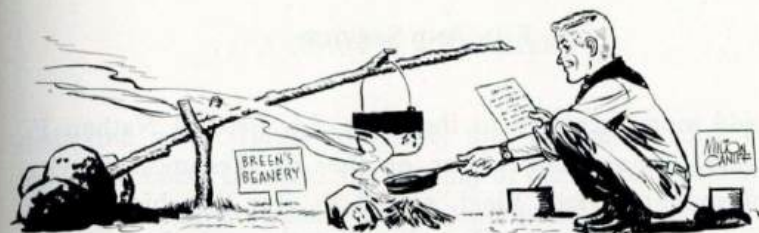
Each year a few prominent men in each of the Scouting districts in the United States are given Silver Antelope awards for outstanding service to boyhood on a regional basis.

Dr. F. G. Barr, vice-president of the National Cash Register Company, and vice-president of the Dayton-Miami Valley Council, received the Silver Antelope for Region Four in 1945. Few men could have been more deserving of such an honor.

Dr. Barr began his long service to Scouting in 1926, when he became a committeeman of Troop 9. Later he became

a member of the Executive Board of the Council, and served as chairman of several committees during that time. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of Region Four, and it was largely for his work on the Regional Committee that he received the award. He had previously been awarded the Silver Beaver, for outstanding service to the Council, in 1938. Dr. Barr's two sons, Bill and Fred, were Eagle Scouts in Troop 101 when Bill Yeck was serving as Scoutmaster there.

Several thousand trees were given to the Council in 1945 by the U. S. Forestry Department and they were used in a huge reforestation project at Cricket Holler. The trees were planted by the Scouts and their leaders, and those planted by each Scout became his responsibility to water and watch until they began to show signs of new growth. Scouts who planted one hundred or more were eligible to become members of a new organization known as the Cricket Holler Forest Builders, and received special badges for their uniforms.



12

"A SCOUT IS A BROTHER TO EVERY OTHER SCOUT"

WHEN World War II finally ended in 1945, it left much of Europe a shambles. Ahead lay the great task of clearing away the rubble and rebuilding. It was not only towns and cities that would have to be rebuilt, but much of society itself. The war made a shambles not only of buildings and streets, but also of many institutions and organizations. Scouting also suffered in Europe. The Scout movement in Italy had been replaced by Mussolini's "Balilla," and in Germany and France Scouting was stopped by the Nazis. Those devastated countries would need help in rebuilding their Scout organization.

A generous donor is often described as someone who would "give you the shirt off his back." And that is what the Boy Scouts of America did in 1946 to help the Scouts of countries torn by war. The idea that "A Scout is a brother to every other Scout," proved to be more than just words. Scouts in every Council of the United States donated parts of uniforms and equipment to be sent overseas to Scouts in Europe.

In the Miami Valley, Scouts were quick to respond to the needs of Scouts in foreign countries and the "Shirts-Off-Our-Backs" campaign was conducted with much success.

To add more incentive to the drive, Lt. General Nathan F. Twining, commanding officer of the Air Technical Service Command at Wright Field, agreed to give the shirt off his back to the Unit in the Council giving the most Scout clothing and equipment. Troop 5, of Troy, won the campaign contest and members of the Troop were taken to Wright Field to claim their prize.

In 1946, the Council got underway with the plan to erect Adirondack shelters at Cricket Holler. Individual Districts took on construction of the shelters as special Troop projects and the first were built by Darke District Scouters, led by Joseph Patty. The shelters would make Cricket Holler truly a year-round camp. With a reflector fire in front, it was possible to keep them warm even in cold winter weather.

One hot July afternoon at Cricket Holler, Scout Edward Breen was cooking dinner over an open fire—finishing up the requirements for his Cooking Merit Badge. Watching his progress were Council President Milt Wagner, Vice-President, Dr. F. G. Barr, and H. M. Privette, Scout Executive.

Edward Breen was then mayor of Dayton. When he had been a Scout in the early 1920's he completed all the requirements for Eagle except the Cooking Merit Badge. More than twenty years later, on July 19, 1946, he finished the last requirement and fulfilled his old ambition. In a special Court of Honor at Cricket Holler, Milt Wagner presented the Eagle Badge and declared him to be Eagle Scout Edward Breen.

In the late summer of 1946, a Council ring was built at Cricket Holler by Murlin Robertson and the Yellow Cab Company, in memory of Kleon Thaw Brown. The ring was

dedicated as a tribute to peace, and at the opening ceremonies Scouts reenacted the signing of the Treaty of Greenville as a symbol of peace and brotherhood. John Yeck, who had left professional Scouting and organized his own business in 1938 so that he could make Dayton his permanent home, wrote the dedication ceremony. The fire was lighted with ashes from the spot where the original fire burned at the signing of the treaty and each year the fire was rekindled with wood charred in the flames the year before, making a peace fire that never died.

DEDICATION OF KLEON THAW BROWN COUNCIL RING

Cricket Holler

September 21, 1946

COUNCIL RING — THE HEART OF SCOUTING

In 1795, Mad Anthony Wayne pressed westward. The new republic was growing, stretching its frontiers, battering its way.

Near Greenville, in Ohio, he smoked, with Little Turtle, the pipe of peace.

Last summer, Valley Boy Scouts raced the flame of peace from Greenville and perpetually enshrined it in this growing council ring.

They tend it, guard it, night and day. It burns before you now.

What is this flame? It is but light, combustion, fire? No.

This flame is from the hearts of men. It is kindness, care and courtesy. It is Scouting's Oath and Law. It is the brotherhood of man.

It is the focal point of the council . . . the treasure of the camp . . . the memory of every boy.

The flame is the heart of the council ring.

And now we meet to dedicate a spot . . . a memorial. We call it a council ring. Is it but a pile of stone, a mass of mortar? No.

It is pageantry and tranquillity . . . blazing fire and dying ember . . . clarion call and cautious whisper.

It is priceless ease to tired muscles and well earned rest for weary bones.

It is the long, long thoughts of youth. It is where the best of a boy brings the rest of the boy . . . a spot where hearts are strong, and clean, and clear . . . where souls are molded and men are

made . . . where a boy is one with nature, and very close to God.

This spot is the heart of a camp.

What is a camp? Is it just dirt and fields and trees? No.

It's the incubator of the world. It's the spring of life. It's a place of growth. It's a human farm, where the harvest is vital . . . priceless . . . irreplaceable

Boys, who would be Men.

A camp is the heart of a world of hope.

What makes a world of hope? Is it giant, tremendous, measuring eight thousand miles from pole to pole? No.

It is tiny, unmeasurable. It is but a soul-like spark in the heart of a man. It is a striving for friendliness, brotherhood, understanding.

The hope of the world is in peace and

Peace is in the hearts of men.

So, today, on the twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-six, the way we reckon time, we gather to dedicate a spot . . . in a camp . . . in a world.

But what is dedication?

Is it the end . . . the goal? No.

It is rather the beginning, like a high-school commencement. Not the goal, but the starting line. It is a pause, a look at the tools, before they are put to work. It is a challenge, a charge, a plea, for more tools and more work.

It is a challenge which comes in the night.

In a world of hope . . .

in a camp of growth . . .

at a spot of reverence . . .

in a flame of Peace . . .

HERE IS THE HEART

In 1946 a handful of older Scouts from the Miami Valley Council made a trip to New Mexico to see the new Philmont Scout Ranch, located near Cimmaron. Until that time these Dayton boys had done their camping at Cricket Holler. In New Mexico a whole new world of adventure opened to them. They learned to ride and take care of horses, how to pack a burro, how to take care of themselves on the wild land where Kit Carson once lived.

By the time they left Philmont to return to Dayton, they were seasoned campers who could survive in the wilderness with nothing but a hatchet and a knife. They no longer jumped when a coyote suddenly howled somewhere in the night, nor were they frightened any longer by the vastness and wildness of land which at first made them feel small and helpless.

The Philmont Ranch, of 129,000 acres, given to the Boy Scouts of America in 1946 by Waite Phillips, supplied an answer to the craving of Explorers all over the country for big adventure. After that first year of operation, it became the highpoint of the summer for many thousand Explorers and leaders. The Dayton boys who went to Philmont brought back so many exciting tales that it was not long before hundreds of Explorers made the trip each year. Cavalcades from the Council were formed each summer, and these "Philtreks" crossed the country as a group, sightseeing, sharing expenses of their high adventure.

By 1947, the number of Scouts in America had grown to more than two million. The Dayton-Miami Valley Council accounted for 5364 of that total and the number of Units in the Council increased to 237. The staff included not only

a Scout Executive and Assistant Scout Executive, but also six Field Executives who worked in various districts.

Moisson, France, was the site of a World Jamboree in the summer of 1947. The French called it "La Jamboree de la Paix," because it was the first world gathering of Scouts since the war. Among the thousands of Scouts who journeyed there were boys from Germany, Italy and Japan, where Scouting was again on its way. Seven Scouts represented the Dayton-Miami Valley Council, and their trip included tours of Holland and Belgium.

One of the largest outdoor events in the history of the Council took place in Greenville in June, 1947. Nearly six hundred Scouts set up camp in the Greenville Park for a weekend of competition and Scouting fun. The Camporee commemorated the signing of the Treaty of Greenville, which had taken place on the very spot where the Scouts put up their tents. In 1795, "Mad" Anthony Wayne and his men had camped there and signed with the Indians the treaty which ended the hostilities in the Northwest Territories.

At the first campfire of the Camporee, signing of the Treaty was depicted by Scouts in costume. General chairman was Guy D. Hawley of Greenville. Also very active in making the camporee a success were Joseph Patty, Judge Jesse K. Brumbaugh and Edward Kohnle. It was decided to make the Treaty Camporee an annual event.

In March of 1948, Silver Beaver awards were presented to two men who had contributed their services to the Council for nearly twenty-five years. Dr. O. B. Kneisley had been one of the original trustees when the Dayton-Miami Valley Council became incorporated in 1929. He served on many

important committees, and was particularly interested in camping and conservation. For twenty-five years he served as president of the Montgomery County Fish and Game Protective Club and through his efforts Cricket Holler became a State Game Preserve. Kneisley had posted on the wall of his dentist office the one word "Others" to remind himself daily of his obligations to society. As one of the original authors of the Dayton City Charter in 1913, he was actively interested in civic affairs all his life.

George Lane was also one of the original trustees of the newly incorporated Council. For many years he had worked to bring the Sea Scouting Program to Dayton and stressed both Sea Scouting for older Scouts and the importance of developing the camping program for all Scouts of the Council.

During the 1940's much progress was made in the Miami Valley in solving the problem of the older Scout. Although Air Scouting began in Dayton many years earlier, it was not until the early 1940's that it became a national program. Sea Scouting offered an opportunity to learn something of boating and the sea; however, greatly needed was a good program for the older boys which emphasized camping and hiking, yet offered greater challenges and more chance to learn.

Before the Explorer program began, individual Troops often found solutions of their own. An outstanding example of this was in Charles Breisch's Troop 54 where some members were becoming too old for activities of younger Scouts, but wanted to stay in Scouting and have a worthwhile program of their own.

Their solution was the Order of the Silver Eagle. Although entirely their own creation, many requirements and activities of the group were later included in the Explorer program. To belong to the Order of the Silver Eagle, a Scout had to be at least fifteen years of age, and a Star Scout. They had their own meetings and many camping and canoe trips separate from the younger Scouts.

Not all Troops discovered answers such as the Order of the Silver Eagle; consequently, many boys were lost from Scouting simply because the program no longer had enough to offer them. The Explorer program, which became fully developed in the late 1940's, solved the problem. Many experiments were tried—the Dayton-Miami Valley Council was chosen in 1948, as one of sixteen Councils in the country to test a program which combined all older boy programs (Sea Scouting, Air Scouting, Exploring) into one. This idea failed to work out, and a return was made to the separate programs.

The name of the Council was again changed in 1948, by deleting "Dayton" so that the organization became simply the Miami Valley Council. It is interesting to note that the Executive Committee of the Dayton District proposed the change, while years before the Dayton group argued to keep the city's name in the Council's title.

"A Scout is Reverent" is the twelfth of the Scout Laws, and to help Scouts live up to that law during their stay at Cricket Holler, Henry Schneider and his family had a chapel built for them at the summer camp. The chapel, of California redwood, was equipped for Protestant, Jewish and

Catholic services. The benches donated by Joe Patty were made of hewn logs. The new chapel seated about one hundred people.

In 1949, the Medical Society gave a dinner at \$50 per ticket, including the raffling of two Cadillacs. The purpose of the dinner was to raise money for construction of a health building at Cricket Holler. The fund raising proved successful and the new health building reached completion in time for the camping season. All the equipment was provided by the Society and each boy received a weekly check-up by doctors who were also supplied by the Society.

During the years of E. L. (Ed) Kohnle's service to Scouting in the Miami Valley, he found himself becoming more and more involved in Scouting affairs, not only of the local council, but also on a Regional and National basis. In 1946, he had been awarded the Silver Antelope for outstanding service on a regional scale, and in 1949, he was elected to the highest position in Region Four—that of Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee.

On the national scene he had been a member of the National Protestant Advisory Committee on Scouting, and was a leader in planning the program for revitalizing Scouting in the early 1950's, the "Crusade to Strengthen the Arm of Liberty." But in the Miami Valley he was known to Scouters and Scouts chiefly as a truly great Scout Commissioner.



13

A COUNCIL OF 10,000!

FEBRUARY, 1950, marked forty years of Scouting in the United States. In that time the national membership had grown to more than two and one-half million. That same forty years had seen the membership of Scouts in the Miami Valley Council grow from seven to more than seven thousand.

By 1950, there were as many Field Executives in the Council as there had been boys in 1910. In 1950, the Council had expanded to eleven districts, each with its own chairman and commissioner.

Scouting in Miami Valley had become a huge organization. But the focus of all this growth, the reason for the existence of a Scout office on North Jefferson Street, staffed with full-time personnel; the reason for the existence of Field Executives, District Chairmen, Commissioners and Board Members had not changed. It was still *The Boy*.

When Scouting sometimes seemed to take on many aspects of a big business, it was always brought back into proper perspective by men who never lost sight of the fact that all Scouting organizations had only one goal: service to boys. And because the leaders never lost sight of that ultimate goal, Scouting continued to be of value.

In celebration of the fortieth anniversary of Scouting,

the second National Jamboree was held at Valley Forge. From the Miami Valley Council, a contingent of 160 Scouts and leaders took the trip and set up camp in the midst of the more than 47,000 other Scouts from all parts of the country. The campsite of the Miami Valley group was situated near the center of things, and had two popular attractions for visitors—Kit Cricket, in person, and a unique entrance which symbolized the Treaty of Greenville.

The highest honor bestowed on an adult by the Boy Scouts of America is the Silver Buffalo award. It is presented each year to a few men for outstanding service to youth on a national or international basis.

Charles F. Kettering of Dayton received this recognition in 1950. He was one of the most outstanding citizens of Dayton, and his life could well serve as inspiration to the many boys who benefited from his long and faithful service to Scouting. As a noted inventor, he received honorary degrees from more than twenty-five colleges and universities. His membership in scientific, civic and educational organizations would be a virtual listing of the more notable groups. Scouting was fortunate to have such a friend.

Thirty-eight acres of land adjoining Cricket Holler were purchased in 1951, as part of the program of expansion of camping facilities. The purchase was made possible by donations of many long-time friends of the Council, and increased the size of the Holler to 167 acres. In one corner of the land was a "never-failing" spring, and since at various times water supply had been a problem, this made the addition particularly valuable.

During the nine years he served the Miami Valley Council

as Scout Executive, "Mac" Privette had done much to strengthen and develop Scouting. When he left to become Scout Executive of the Philadelphia Council in August, 1951, Scouts and Scouters from all five counties of the local Council were sorry to see him leave.

During his service with the Miami Valley Council he had seen Cricket Holler developed into a fine year-round facility. The number of Scouts in the Council had more than doubled. And the enthusiasm with which he worked served as inspiration for all Scouters and Council members who came in contact with him.

Wayne Hopkins, new Scout Executive, with many years of experience in Scouting had served nine years before coming to Dayton as Scout Executive of the Gamehaven Area Council at Rochester, Minnesota. He had been in professional Scouting for seventeen years. He and his wife and son made their new home at Cricket Holler.

In the year 1952, Milton Wagner retired as President of the Council and Mason Roberts was elected as the new president. Vice-President of General Motors Corporation, and General Manager of its Frigidaire Division, Roberts was well known as a leader of men. For many years he had been a friend of Scouting in the Miami Valley, serving on the Executive Board and often helping the Council in its projects through the use of the facilities of the Frigidaire Division in Dayton.

Roberts brought an unusual combination of talents to the presidency. He was a dramatically successful business executive, expert at getting the most out of any group of people on a team and willing to tackle what seemed like impossible goals.

At the same time, he was uncommonly idealistic, expecting and often receiving the best that everyone working with him had to give. He always had time for and interest in individuals and the problems of humanity. Scouting was close to his heart and he gave freely of both time and substance.

The training of adult leaders has been a very important item in a Council program since Scouting began. If leaders are well trained, Troops benefit and Scouts who must depend on their leader to learn many of their skills benefit and the leaders themselves benefit by being better equipped to handle the many problems encountered by a Scoutmaster.

In 1952, an important step was taken in the Miami Valley Council toward better training of leaders, when the Blanchard-MacNeal Memorial Training Center opened at Cricket Holler.

During the summer camping season, the new building served as a craft center where boys were able to learn many new skills. In other seasons it was used for the vital purpose of leader instruction. Largely responsible for the fund which made the Training Center possible were employees of Aero-products Division of General Motors Corporation.

Don Crawford began to work on the Executive Staff of the Miami Valley Council in 1946, as Field Scout Executive of the Southwest District. At that time he also became editor of the Miami Valley Scouter, and under his direction that publication gained national recognition. A keen analyst, outstanding and forceful speaker, and highly dedicated to his service to youth, in 1952 Crawford was named Assistant Scout Executive of the Council, a position in which he served for over ten years.

One Saturday morning in 1952, C. Russell Dole, Chairman of the Committee of Pack 223 at Fairview School, stopped in the Scout office to register a Cub. And with that registration, Rod Norris, age 8, brought the total number of boys in the Council to 10,000. For the first time in the history of the Council, there were 10,000 active Cubs, Scouts and Explorers registered at one time. Rod Norris might have symbolized the challenge that faced the Council in the early 1950's—the Cub program was feeling the sudden influx of boys which resulted from the so-called “post-war baby boom.” Those Cubs would soon be Scouts, and the Council had to grow fast to keep up with the number of boys who would be wanting summer camp experience, trained leaders and Council activities.

A swim in Great Salt Lake, a tour of San Francisco, a day to wander around the diggings of Gold Rush days, a day at Grand Canyon—all these were side attractions to the 245 Scouts and their 21 leaders from the Miami Valley Council who, in 1953, went to the National Jamboree at the Irvine Ranch in Southern California.

More than 45,000 Scouts from all parts of the country gathered at the ranch for seven days filled with swapping, ceremonies and opportunities to meet the boys from all Councils of the Boy Scouts of America. The camp was set up on the Pacific shores and during the Jamboree, with more than fifty-thousand swimmers in the surf, Scouts proved that Scout water-safety programs really work, for there was not a single accident in the water.

In June, 1953, the Miami Valley Council had what

amounted to a Jamboree in miniature. The annual Greenville Treaty Camporee had increased to a huge affair and more than 3500 Scouts set up camp in Greenville Memorial Park. It was like a teeming city of tents, dotted with hundreds of cooking fires, and it was the most successful Treaty Camporee up to that time.

The Order of the Arrow, a service organization for honor campers, founded in 1915, became an official part of the Boy Scout Program in 1922. But not until 1953 was an Order of the Arrow Lodge organized in this area. In October of that year, members of Owasppe Lodge of Chicago came to Cricket Holler, where they initiated charter members of the Miami Valley Lodge into the Order of the Arrow. Warren Lusk was named Chief of the newly-formed Lodge and one hundred and twelve Scouts were the first members of the Order in Miami Valley.



14

WOODLAND TRAILS— 1,800 ACRES IN PREBLE COUNTY

THE Council made rapid strides in keeping up with the growing demands of the greatly increasing number of boys. At the beginning of the 1950's more than fifty percent of the top unit leaders (Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Explorer Advisors) had received training.

By 1954 more than seventy percent had been trained and this increase came in spite of the fact that there were more Units in 1954 than in 1950. The number of boys in the Council had been increased by one-fourth, while the number who advanced in rank was almost double that in 1950. The Commissioner Staff of 1950 had been slightly more than one hundred. By 1954 there were more than 180 commissioners.

Mason Roberts had done a good job during his two-year term as president and the Council continued to have excellent leadership when in 1954, Edward L. Kohnle was elected to the Council Presidency.

Kohnle had long since gone farther in Scouting than anyone else from the Miami Valley.

He held the high post of Regional Chairman of Region Four and was a member of the National Executive Board. The only higher post he could have held would have been the National Presidency. But although his interest in Scouting

was nation-wide, Kohnle had long been especially interested in the Miami Valley Council, and he served as a vigorous and progressive president.

The eight Scouts from the Council who attended the World Jamboree in 1955, had not nearly so far to go as the World Jamboree groups before them. They travelled only to the small village of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, where more than 10,000 Scouts from sixty nations gathered for the Eighth World Jamboree. The event, formally opened by Canada's Governor General Vincent Massey, continued for a week of campfires, swapping and sightseeing.

The \$750,000 Community Services Building on Salem Avenue was completed in 1955, and eventually became the new Miami Valley Council headquarters. For the first time, the Council had brand new office space in the same building as other service organizations. It was a far cry from the strange offices used by the Council in the early days of Scouting in Miami Valley.

Though the number of Scouts continued to grow in this area, Cricket Holler, unfortunately, could not. Each year the Holler became more and more crowded, and many Scouts, particularly Explorers, began to look for new places to camp. Transportation was usually a problem for groups that wanted to do long-distance camping, but Explorer Post 163 in Westwood found an answer which seemed hard to beat.

They dreamed up their solution in 1956. For weeks they pounded the pavements in Dayton selling candy, then when they had raised \$250 they bought the old bus which was at the heart of their plans. They repainted the orange color to a more fitting forest green, laid linoleum on the floor, installed

a kitchen, and set out on their first trip. It was an ideal, if slightly "soft" way to camp. If it rained, they could sleep in the bus. If there were mosquitoes at night they could drive on to a new spot. And if they got thirsty in camp there was a good supply of ice-cold soft drinks in the refrigerator!

Al Lauzon became the Council's sixth president when elected to that office in January, 1956, and Ed Kohnle was named Vice-president. During his time in office the number of boys registered had grown to nearly 18,000, double the number in 1950.

A National Jamboree is always an adventure, but in 1957 there seemed to be a special aura in the city of tents. The Scouts were camped at Valley Forge, on the very spot where George Washington's men had camped during their long, hard winter in the fight for independence.

The Scouts amounted to quite an army themselves. More than 50,000 Scouts in all were encamped at the historic spot. From the Miami Valley Council alone there were 333 boys, divided into nine troops. They had made the trip by train—one of the fifty "specials" taking Scouts to the Jamboree from all parts of the country.

By 1957 Cricket Holler had become inadequate as a Council camp. Each summer it was more and more overcrowded, and in spite of the overcrowding, several hundred boys were not able to go because there was not room for them.

Feelers were out for the area best suited to accommodate a Boy Scout camp. It was Harmon C. Darrow, a veteran Scouter, who discovered 1,800 acres situated in Preble county, just 32 miles southwest of Dayton, six miles south

of Eaton and two miles north of Camden. The area had a host of other qualifications—rolling topography, wooded areas galore and limitless water resources. The land had over five miles of good gravel roads and numerous houses and barns.

But before the final decision to purchase the site was made, estimates as to the cost of the development had to be made and surveys taken. Then the Council faced the monumental decision as to whether it could raise the necessary funds. Harmon Darrow provided the amount necessary to hold the option for the land while the Council secured the money. Meanwhile, Cricket Holler overflowed with boys.

The original plans called for the immediate development of a camp of approximately 1,000 acres, including a man-made lake and a specially designed swimming pool. The remaining acreage would serve as hiking and outpost areas until later when it was to be developed into two additional camps and one more lake. During the first ten years of camp, the council figured more than 100,000 pairs of young feet would have opportunity to run, jump, slide, kick and scuff over the 1,800 acres of countryside.

The estimate came—nearly \$900,000 to develop the area into a Scout camp. The sum was considerable, but it didn't stymie the council. With the spirit of Kit Cricket, the decision to go ahead with the project was made.

The council decided upon a public subscription campaign to raise the money and the job was put in the hands of a "go-get'um" team headed by Ed Kohnle. Backing him up were men like Mason Roberts, Milt Wagner, Louis Wozar, Henry G. Schneider, Harmon Darrow and Al Lauzon.

Because of established schedules of the Community Chest,

the public drive for funds could not be started in 1957, but for a few weeks in the summer of that year contributions were accepted from firms and individuals who preferred not to wait until 1958. To launch this first segment of the campaign, a special kick-off meeting was held at Cricket Holler, June 5, 1957.

At that meeting, the National Vice-President of the Boy Scouts of America, Ellsworth H. Augustus, spoke of the need for improved camping and training facilities in the Miami Valley, and stressed the importance of the fund-raising drive. The campaign got off to a great start with the generous gift of \$75,000 from Frank M. Tait, Chairman of the Board of Dayton Power and Light Company and of Tait Manufacturing Company. Mrs. Tait made an additional contribution which brought the total to \$87,500.

This was the amount needed to convert Cricket Holler into a training center for Scouts and Scouters. Immediately after Tait's announcement, a motion was made and unanimously approved that the new training center be named "Frank M. Tait Scout Leader's Training Center at Cricket Holler."

It was not until April of 1958 that the big public funds campaign got under way. By that time Louis Wozar had become Council president. Forty teams of solicitors were organized for the funds campaign in Tipp City, Bethel and Monroe townships alone. Hundreds of such teams were organized in the Council. The goal was \$896,500 by May First.

A star-spangled kick-off for the public subscription drive was held April 8, 1958 at the University of Dayton fieldhouse with such long time Scouters as cartoonist Milt Caniff and the great conductor Fred Waring in attendance. More than 5,000

other interested parties were present, too, and it was decided that the whooping \$900,000 had to be unearthed in one short month of concentrated campaigning. An acre plan was instituted. With it, a contribution of \$1 would provide ten square yards of camp; \$5, fifty square yards and \$484, a full acre. For those wishing to designate gifts, price tags were attached to various projects at the camp. A donor wishing to give a campsite, for instance, would donate \$500, the price tag for campsites. On April 30, the drive went over the top with a total of \$1,000,584 contributed.

Doubtless, the secrets to the drive's success were the sheer number of volunteer solicitors and the great acceptance of Scouting that had grown in the area through the years. A phenomenal 38,827 contributors in the five-county Miami Valley Council area pledged their faith in Scouting in donating to the camp cause. Each county seemed determined to out-donate the next. Shelby county alone, for instance, bettered its \$40,000 goal by more than \$600 thanks to the more than 1,000 volunteers rallied and trained by county chairman Norbert J. Pointner.

The million-dollar drive was the climax of Wayne Hopkin's tenure as Scout Executive. His determined efforts supplemented the fine work of the Scouter committee by turning up new and unexpected sources of funds.

"Wayne's dogged determination made the difference," said Kohnle afterwards. "Without his special push we'd never made the million."

Delbert Hanks became Scout Executive of the Council in 1958, and under his leadership the Council enjoyed the fruits of fifty years of hard work that made Scouting grow and pros-

per in Dayton. Almost a half century had brought many great developments in Scouting organization, in the Miami Valley, and across the Nation. The Scouts themselves had changed very little. They still needed good leadership. They still wanted the adventure of camping out, of cooking for themselves, just as those first Scouts in Dayton wanted then, when they went camping up the Stillwater River.

Months before its official opening, tents sprouted on the rolling terrain of Woodland Trails. Scout units had already claimed the camp as their own. They held spring camporees, survival weekends and overnights. During 1958, approximately 300 boys visited and camped at the new reservation. The distinction of being the first unit to pitch a tent at Woodland Trails fell to Troop 100 of Corpus Christi church in Dayton.

Ground was officially broken at Woodland Trails, so named because of its miles of trails, on January 21, 1959. Ranger Larry King swears he'll never forget that gusty, frostbitten day.

Says King, shaking his head, "The Scouts didn't want any of that little ol' shovel sort of ground breaking. Nope. Instead Al Lauzon, climbed aboard a bull dozer and shoveled a heap of mud and stones. Now, that's what I call a ground breaking."

More ground breaking followed.

The first and biggest project was the creation of the 35-acre lake; an unheard facility to-date for Scouting. The lake bottom was cleared of stumps and drain tile laid. A dam built, the lake filled.

Roadways and parking lots took shape. Three and three-quarters miles of power lines were installed. Wells and water

lines were constructed. A uniquely engineered swimming pool with shallow areas at either end and deep water in the center along with bath house and shower facilities became a reality. A trading post, commissary and quartermaster unit appeared on the camp horizon. One family camp was completed with cooking and toilet facilities. A staff center was outfitted as were 16 campsites. And last, but not least, a modernized and fully equipped ranger's residence was completed.

As the result of "good turn" days that became commonplace, costs in some areas were less than anticipated. A "good turn" day was one on which volunteers from a district selected one of the troop sites as their district's project; erected handsome shelters, latrines and painted tables. Some did even more.

One of the first official actions taken by the Camp Development Committee was to have all fences removed from the reservation, so that Scouts hiking along the streams, over the winding roads and through the fields and woods would never be troubled by fences to climb or have to change course because of a fence. As the excited Scouts swarmed into camp, they experienced the freedom of roaming over thousands of acres of beautiful countryside. In each hundred or so acres they found different terrain, each section with its own geological and biological wonders. In some areas the path of the glaciers could be clearly seen. In streams and creek beds, Scouts could study and explore ancient fossils and intriguing rock and slate formations.

The most dramatic program addition to the Council's new Scout camp was the horse ranch.

When Scout Executive Hanks presented the idea of a horse ranch to the Council Executive Board, he maintained, "...

love of horses is universal . . . a boy thrills to the idea of being responsible for the care and tending of his own riding animal."

Upon approval of the horse ranch, one of the barns on the reservation was renovated, a tack room was equipped and a corral erected. Much of the work was done by Order of the Arrow members.

On June 21, 1959 summer Scout camp season opened with 150 Troops registered at camp. And what a camping experience it was, for those Miami Valley Scouts.

Camp dedication ceremonies came at 3 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, and were held by the lake overlooking the spillway. The dedicatory address was delivered by E. L. Kohnle.

Said Kohnle, "This camp is a realization of a dream that began 10 years ago. It is a test and a tribute to those persons who gave so much to the development of the camp. We will never really know how many boys will catch the real meaning of the reverence of life or how many will realize the true meaning of Scouting."

His address was met with enthusiastic and appreciative applause. Cartoonist Milt Caniff at this point sketched Kit Cricket and dubbed him Woodland Trails camp symbol. Then Kit came to life with the appearance of Larry King all decked out in Kit attire.

The affair wasn't without other sidelights. The camp's old blue pickup truck was all dressed up in its Sunday best and served as the speaker's platform. And the makeshift steps leading up to it, gave the spectators a big chuckle when they broke down as the dignitaries climbed them.

Nevertheless, the setting was perfect and in spite of the

87-degree heat, Scouters paddled their canoes across the lake, fished, rode horses and hiked—all within a few hundred feet of the speakers' platform.

Camp captured the hearts of many that first summer, just as it has done every summer since. When Troop 79 of Versailles left Woodland Trails their registration fee for the 1960 camp season was paid in advance. Scoutmaster P. L. Trittschuh simply stated their reason for doing so, "The boys just loved Woodland Trails."

But the magic of Woodland Trails was not confined to boys alone. As Ed Kohnle reported concerning one of the camp development meetings held at the reservation, "there should have been more members of the committee present at the formal meeting but unfortunately some of them got lost on the reservation. They liked what they saw so much, they decided to explore the rest of it."

A new era opened for Scouting in the Council in 1959. Scout registration reached an all-time high in all three phases of the program and 250 Scout commissioners were registered, more than at any previous time in the Council's history. Tait Training Center at Cricket Holler was becoming recognized as a fine adult and junior leader training camp, while Woodland Trails Scout Reservation was receiving national attention because of its pioneer and wilderness camping program.

Program activities at all levels of Scouting and in all operating committees were expanded. Adult participation was encouraged, more Scouters recruited, and new avenues of financial support, program resources and community involvement were pursued.

During the annual meeting in 1959 there was some conversation about the history of the Miami Valley Council that stirred President Lou Wozar into action. On February 24th, he wrote W. R. Hunter, a member of the Council Executive Board, and asked him to become Chairman of a Council History Committee. Hunter agreed and shortly afterwards the committee was formed with Judge Robert McBride, Judge Jesse K. Brumbaugh of Greeneville, Dr. O. B. Kneisley, Milt Wagner and John Yeck as members. The committee's function was to gather information and pictures of historic value to the Council. There was some vague talk about the possibility of writing a book about the Council's history, but this wasn't taken too seriously by most of the Committee members.

It was a year of initiation and growth, as well as evaluation and planning. Salem District led the Council in Cubbing with 222 Cubs out of a total of 300 eligible Cub-aged boys.

A film library of record players, projectors and screens along with films—a monetary value of \$15,100—was established through the generosity of George H. Leland.

Under the watchful eye of Council President Harry G. Schneider, Cricket Holler bulged with one of the largest volunteer training programs to be found anywhere in Scouting.

During the year Dr. Roy D. Miller inaugurated the Protestant Church Awards Ceremony to recognize the Scouts in the Miami Valley Council who had earned a Protestant church award that year. The Catholic church awards had been presented for several years but the first Protestant service recognizing the Scout award was held Sunday, March 8, 1959 at Fairview E.U.B. Church.—Scouts and their parents and friends attended to hear speaker Dr. A. E. Iverson, Director

of Protestant Relationships from the National Council, B.S.A., commend the Council for cultivating community awareness of the Scout church awards.

Under Howard Whitaker's guidance, the Council organization was realigned to increase the effectiveness of committee work through Council coordinated committee meetings and roundtables. Scouters from the five counties attend the roundtables to learn about, discuss and participate in the Council program planning and activities for the following month. The roundtables sparked ideas, suggestions and improvements while Commissioners, Scoutmasters, Cubmasters and Explorer Advisers received encouragement.

The coordinated committee meetings attended by operating committee chairmen, committee members and Executive Board members from each district, became the sounding board and embryo policy planning sessions for the Scout Council.

And, if these and many, many other accomplishments weren't enough, Woodland Trails received an "A" rating from the National Council camp inspectors with 99 points received out of a possible 100.

1959 closed with the Miami Valley Council looking forward to a dynamic, stimulating Golden Jubilee year. Plans were underway to remodel Tait Training Center and to expand the Council training program at all levels. Camping Director Dangremond of the National Council called Woodland Trails "one of the finest projects in the nation" . . . the wilderness camping required at Woodland Trails was enthusiastically endorsed by Scoutmasters and Explorer Advisers. Letters received at the Council office reflected the pride and satisfaction of the Scouts after their pioneer camping experience.

Don Huxley, Jubilee Jamboree Chairman, announced in November that the Miami Valley Council had been the first in the Region and one of the first in the nation to fill its 1960 Jubilee Jamboree quota.



15

SCOUTING'S GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

THE Golden Jubilee Year of Scouting for the Boy Scouts of America was enthusiastically welcomed by the Miami Valley Council. The momentum gathered in 1959 carried Scouts and Scouters right into the annual meeting and the Council's proposed Jubilee program.

The annual election of Council officers produced another example of Scouting's long term values. A second-generation president, the first one who had been a Scout as a boy, took over the helm of the Council. David L. Rike, the eager tenderfoot in Troop 20 during the World War I years and the son of Frederick Rike, the man most responsible for forming the Dayton Council in February, 1918, accepted the presidency in 1960. The young lad working feverishly on his second class tests had matured into a soft-spoken, genial gentleman with great influence in the community, yet had remained a friend and staunch supporter of Scouting in Dayton ever since his boyhood. He was the Council's first second-generation president and the first who had been a Scout as a boy.

The half century had brought great development in the Scouting organization, in the Miami Valley and in the nation. But the Scouts themselves had changed little. They still needed good leadership. They still wanted the adventure of camping out, of cooking for themselves, just as those first

Scouts in Dayton had when they went camping up the Stillwater River.

The 1960 annual meeting was opened with a tribute to the Boy Scout movement: "From the 8th day of the second month of the year that ushered in the teen-age years . . . the terrific, teeming, turbulent, sometimes terrifying teens; down through the roaring twenties; the depressing, but maturing, 30s; the frustrating, fighting forties; with big aircraft and big paychecks; and on through the so-called fabulous fifties; to the dawn of a new decade already tagged (appropriately, no doubt) the soaring sixties . . . this is the dynamic, fascinating personality of the historic half-century that has seen the Boy Scouts of America grow large and strong and eminently valuable; all from the good turn of an English Scout and the devoted genius of millions who have lent a hand."

The Council, during the Golden Jubilee year of Scouting, continued its policy of striving to bring more Scouting to more boys. Leaders pledged themselves to recruit more boys into the movement so they would not miss the exciting activities planned for the Council during Scouting's 50th anniversary.

The National program for the Golden Jubilee Year of Scouting was augmented in the Miami Valley by the Council's own Jubilee program. Mason M. Roberts, past president of the Council, worked during 1960 as chairman of the special 50th Anniversary Jubilee Committee, whose responsibility it was to plan and coordinate the many special activities for the Council throughout the year.

Highlight of the National anniversary program was the Jubilee Jamboree at Colorado Springs, Colorado. Late in July

more than 50,000 Scouts and leaders from all parts of the nation met in Colorado for a week of camping and excitement. More than 300 Scouts and leaders were on the special train that pulled out of Dayton's Union Station with the Miami Valley contingent. The Miami Valley Council had been one of the first in the nation to fill its quota for the Jamboree, and there were many disappointed Scouts who were not able to be on that train to Colorado. But there were so many activities planned for the Council that most of the Scouts that stayed behind were having too much fun to be disappointed for long.

The Explorer Scout program had traditionally been simply a continuation of Scouting for older boys. It placed more responsibility with the boys themselves, but differed little from Scouting in its programs and organization. By 1959 it had become clear to the National Council that Exploring would have a wider appeal to older boys if the program more closely reflected their interests. A new uniform was adopted, and a broader program inaugurated. In Dayton the new Explorer program was launched and gained momentum under the guidance of Frank Schaefer, a veteran Scouter and recipient of the Silver Beaver award. An Explorer cabinet was set up with two representatives from each post. This group met monthly to discuss future activities and to search for solutions to some of the problems of the Explorer program. District officers were elected from the members of the cabinet. After several years of very little growth, the Explorer program was moving forward again.

The Jubilee Jamboree had caught the imagination and Scouts, leaders and their families looked forward to the many special events which had been planned at practically every

level of the Council. Units celebrated the 50th anniversary during Boy Scout Week, Districts planned camporees and special exhibits, the Council was busy keeping track of the Scouts who were going to Valley Forge to participate in the National Jamboree, while organizing the Council's own Jubilee Camporee.

The Jubilee Camporee was to be held at Woodland Trails the same weekend as the national Jamboree and all Scouts sharpened their skills to demonstrate at one or the other. The results of Troop activities were prepared for display and uniforms were carefully inspected for the upcoming event. Woodland Trails was a beehive of activity. A special activities area was laid out with an obstacle course designed and installed to give Scouts and Explorers an opportunity to test their endurance. The camporee area was surveyed and staked out for district camp sites. District committees promoted attendance and prepared special gateways to identify their areas for visiting parents and friends of the Scouts.

While all this was being prepared, some Scouts were enjoying summer camp at Woodland Trails, others had made the Philmont trek, some travelled to a canoe base, some hiked in the Smokeys, and the Jubilee Jamboree Scouts received instructions for their trip to Valley Forge and camped with their Jamboree Troop, learning to know each other and sharing the excitement of planning the trip.

The "soaring sixties" were greeted with enthusiasm by the Scouts of the Miami Valley Council. The men and boys who were to make Scouting grow during the next few years were accepting the challenge without hesitation and certainly with great enthusiasm.

Innovation continued to be the keyword for action in the Miami Valley Council. In addition to the Golden Jubilee program plan, two new major ventures were started in 1960.

A plan to get the Scout program to the boys who needed it the most, or would reap the greatest benefit from it, was approved by the Executive Board in February. Known as "The Hard-to-Reach" project, the five major foundations in Dayton were approached to underwrite the cost. They responded generously, pledging to contribute to the endeavor for the ensuing five years. A comprehensive recruiting effort was started in those areas of the Council which had many boys of Scout age but were low in the adult human resources and financial assistance which give Scout units stability and leadership potential.

Especially trained Scout Executives were assigned to the designated districts. Their efforts were directed toward informing the industrial and business leaders in the community about the need for adult leadership, to motivate them to sponsor Scout units and furnish men and women willing to take training to equip them for the task of getting Scouting to the boys. The project called for increased personal instruction and individual contact with the neighborhood sponsors on the part of professional Scouters. The Scout Leader's manual was the basis for the instruction, but it was often the District Scout Executive and the unit leader who spent the evening together poring over the pages and discussing the contents as they related to the leader's particular unit and its specific program.

Eventually, as the leaders gained confidence from this individual attention, their units developed better programs. They

began to attend the Roundtables, leadership training courses; their boys were appearing at the Council camporees and were enjoying more overnight and weekend camping trips; they began to participate in civic projects; and the district committee membership was increased.

The second major enterprise of this very active year was the addition of training sessions for more Scouters, and the new Bear-Claw program for junior leaders. Under the leadership of Doris Scott, Den Mothers Workshops, an entirely new concept of leadership training, began and received overwhelming approval from the women in the Council. The 400 women from the five counties attending the first Council Workshop for Den Mothers responded enthusiastically. They assembled at the Miami Hotel, took over the ballroom and listened, snipped, drew, painted and pasted handicraft; sang, played games, exchanged ideas; and returned to their homes and their units stimulated, and glowing, from their first workshop. Little did they realize that they had been a part of a training program which would receive national recognition five years later.

Tait Training Center had come of age with the development of Woodland Trails as the Scout Reservation. All activities at Cricket Holler were now directed toward training. Results were immediately evident. A Learn-to-Swim program for Cub Scouts began with an overwhelming response . . . the Scouters had underestimated the popularity of such a program, and were swamped with applications and the Learn-to-Swim program had to be extended several weeks to accommodate all the Cubs who wanted to participate.

The lane leading off Brantford Road into the Training

Center was heavily travelled in 1960. New Troops not familiar with pioneer camping began their training at Cricket Holler to gain proficiency in outdoor cooking, patrol cooperation, and unit programming. Cub packs used it for summer activities, picnics, Cub-O-Ramas and pack meetings. Wood Badge courses for adult Scouters were scheduled. Den Mothers met at the Kiwanis Lodge, to continue the workshop program on a district basis.

"You begin by training men to teach boys how to lead other boys," said an astute and veteran Scouter about the training program. "You don't do it by plopping the men in a classroom and telling them; or suggesting that they read a book. You take them to Tait Training Center at Cricket Holler and *show* them."

This was the reason for the Training Center's existence and it soon became the heart of the Scouting program of the Council. First, men and women received leadership training, then returned to their units to give the boys the value of their experience.

Later the unit leaders returned to the Training Center with the boys. In the popular Junior Leadership courses, under the watchful eye of skilled coaches, the junior leaders learned how to teach other boys.

The series of courses produced strong, working patrols where things happen every week, with or without the Scoutmaster on the spot.

As the Golden Jubilee year closed (and for some years thereafter) many of the Scouters who had joined Scouting in the early days of the Council, either as Scouts or leaders, were still active.

By 1960, Charlie Breish had spent vacations for over 25 summers with groups of older Scouts from Troop 54 following the rugged trail through far off mountains, rivers and plains. These Scouters, as do many others, find their reward and satisfaction in observing the brilliant careers of men they helped as boys.

Four, at least, deserve special mention because through all the years, their work had been directly with boys. A. W. Payne, celebrated the Jubilee year as Scoutmaster of Troop 30, a position he had held since 1919! George Clark, Scoutmaster of Troop 6, and his Troop Committee chairman, Dr. Sam Ziegler, had served in those positions with that Troop ever since it had moved to Fairview U.B. Church in 1926.

Scouting requires good leadership, and good leadership requires training. Few Scouter training courses in the world are more respected than the Wood Badge course. Started in 1919 by Lord Baden-Powell himself, the aim of Wood Badge Training is to demonstrate in a practical way the methods of Scouting. It is a course in which the Scouter learns by doing. Scouters become part of a patrol, sleep under canvass, build fires, cook meals, attend campfires and troop meetings, learn all the skills that they in turn will pass on to the boys under their leadership.

The name "Wood Badge" comes from the small wooden beads that Baden-Powell gave to each man who participated in the original course. The beads were from a string given to him by a South African tribal chief. Replicas of these wooden beads have become a symbol of recognition, and are worn by Scouters who have completed a Wood Badge course.

Wood Badge Training did not come to the Miami Valley

Council until the early 1960's. Scout Executive Del Hanks felt that Wood Badge Training would be an important step in upgrading Scouter training of the Council. Fortunately the Miami Valley Council had a qualified Wood Badge instructor who had been trained in London. Two Wood Badge Training sessions were held at Cricket Holler during the summer of 1960, each lasting eight days. For each of the participants it was a memorable and very valuable experience.

This was election year in the United States, and once again the Boy Scouts went to work to "Get-Out-the-Vote." Cooperating with the Freedoms Foundation, Scouts across the nation distributed more than 40 million doorknob hangers encouraging people to go to the polls. Scouts of the Miami Valley Council distributed more than 175,000. The Scouts' participation in these projects not only encouraged millions of adult citizens to exercise their right to vote but also helped the boys themselves toward an understanding of what their responsibilities would be as adult citizens.



16

EAGLES IN ORBIT. THE COUNCIL FLIES HIGH

In 1961 Henry C. Schneider became president of the Council. He had done an outstanding job in the funds campaign for Woodland Trails and would continue to provide fine leadership. As the size of the Council increased, with more than 20,000 boys served by the organization, its responsibilities became immense. The need for professional assistance to institutions sponsoring Scout units, and those organizing new units, brought constant demands for new leaders and increased staff. Professional Scouters had to be recruited and trained. Volunteer leaders, too, needed training.

While the Wood badge program provided excellent leader training, that course alone could not begin to answer the growing need for Scoutmaster training. To provide additional leader training the Show-N-Do program was developed in the early 1960's. Held at Tait Training Center, the program was broken down into more than twenty sections, each dealing with a particular phase of Scoutcraft. There was camp-making, ropework, cooking, woodcarving, compass and mapping, pack-boardpacking. At each section was at least one instructor acknowledged as an "expert" at that particular skill. The Show-N-Do Course followed no particular schedule. Scoutmasters moved from area to area at their own pace, staying at each until the skill was mastered. This firm understanding of

the basic Scouting skills helped develop really effective troop leadership, for these are the skills that the boys want to learn from their Scoutmasters.

While working as a Scouter in Alaska, Del Hanks saw many dog team races and learned much of the lore of the Klondike and of the men who raced dogs and sledges across the frozen wastes of Alaska in search of gold. Seen after he came to the Miami Valley Council, he brought the excitement of sledge racing to Scouts with the Klondike Derby. A course was set up at Woodland Trails in January and patrol teams pulled their homemade sledges over the snow, encountering obstacles which had to be overcome before the team could continue on the trail. There was an "ice jam" obstacle where the whole patrol was required to build a tripod six feet off the ground, out of logs, cook hot chocolate on the platform they had built, and each finish drinking a cup of their brew—all within ten minutes. Patrols that succeeded were given "gold nuggets." There were other obstacles along the way, and more gold nuggets for successful patrols. The winner of the Klondike Derby was the patrol which had collected the most nuggets along the way.

There were nine sledges in the first Klondike Derby. Since then the annual event has grown to more than two hundred entrants. This event introduced many Scouts to cold-weather camping as many Troops and Patrols camped out for the weekend of the Derby. Scouts often discovered that some of their best camping experiences came when snow was on the ground.

In September of 1961 thousands of Scouts, leaders, Explorers, parents, and friends jammed Welcome Stadium in Dayton for the biggest Scout Show in the history of the Council. Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers alternately filled the football stadium

with displays of the skills and games which related to their programs. There were monkey bridges, interlocking bridges, camp sites set up and broken, signal towers and even a band to provide half-time entertainment. When the show was over, the Scouts left the stadium with a sense of accomplishment and an even stronger awareness of the fun of Scouting—the parents and friends left with a new appreciation of Scouting and what it means to boys.

Countdown, ignition, and on May 5, 1961 a huge Atlas rocket lifted Alan Shepard into the bright morning sky. With that fifteen minute flight America entered the space age. Other flights followed, and in February, 1962, John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth. These astronauts quickly became the heroes of boys everywhere, just as the Wright brothers had been less than fifty years before. America's first space men specially caught the imagination of Boy Scouts, for almost without exception they had been Boy Scouts themselves, many of them Eagle Scouts.

Aware of the influence they had on boys, many of the astronauts became active in Scout programs, and in bringing the message of Scouting to boys who were not yet Scouts. Gus Grissom and Gordon Cooper were active in Scouting. John Glenn was particularly active in the program, and took many tours around the country to talk to Scout groups and attend their events. Glenn visited many groups in Ohio, and had a special interest in Scouting of the Ohio area, as his first Scouting experiences had been in Cambridge, Ohio.

As the Miami Valley Council moved into the space age it was a time of change and development. By 1962 tens of thousands of young trees had been planted at Woodland Trails as

part of a conservation and reforestation project at the camp. Each Spring since its opening, Scouts volunteered to spend Saturdays at the camp planting seedlings as a good turn and as work toward the Conservation merit badge.

Woodland Trails was being used in many more ways than simply as a place for boys to go and camp. Because of its great size and rugged terrain the military felt it would be an ideal site for the training of reserve units. With the Council's permission almost all branches of the Service have had units training at Woodland Trails. Units of the Marines, Army and National Guard have used the camp for maneuvers, and the Seabees and Air Force units have had special training exercises in the area. In return for the use of the camp, the military units have assisted in several Scout projects. The Seabees built a much needed bridge over Beasley Run Creek and were of help to the Scouts in several small earthmoving jobs. Other units assisted with the Scout's rifle range, built fences, and helped in other ways.

Portions of Woodland Trails have been farmed and have produced income for the Council either through the sale of crops or from the rental of the land. In 1961 more than 11,000 bales of hay were produced on the farmed area of the camp. Much of the feed necessary for maintaining the camp's string of horses is raised right at the camp itself.

Edward L. Kohnle, active in Scouting for more than thirty years, underscored his belief in the value of Scouting in 1962 with a very generous gift to the Council which would make possible many new developments at Woodland trails. His gift provided for a new entrance and gateway on Route 127, a central control area for the reservation, and the construction

of three new buildings, one of which would be a five room house with attached garage for the camp ranger. Of great importance for the camp was the development of the central, formal, overlook area. This area provided a panoramic view of the lake, the dam, the chapel and the camping areas, allowing for controlled access to the camping facilities. The improvements did much to ease the camp ranger's responsibility by making it possible to repair tents and work on camp vehicles during the winter months in preparation for the summer camping season when it was difficult to find time for repairs.

Construction of the improvements at Woodland Trails moved quickly, and dedication ceremonies of the administration area and of the open air chapel, which had also been completed, took place on August 1, 1963. On that sunny August afternoon more than 600 persons gathered at the camp, and as the new facilities were dedicated, visitors enjoyed the sweeping view from the new outlook area—they saw sailboats and canoes darting on the lake, and beyond, the wooded campsite areas, alive with happy Scouts.

After many years of service in the Scouting movement, in 1963 Don L. Crawford left the professional staff of the Miami Valley Council to become Associate Director of the Community Welfare Council. His hard work and enthusiasm had done much to further Scouting in the Miami Valley, and it was with regret that Scouts and Scouters of the Council heard that Don was leaving their ranks.

In 491 B.C. the Persian fleet lay in Marathon Bay, only twenty-six miles from Athens. Outnumbered and threatened on two sides, the Athenian generals dispatched a runner to

Sparta, hoping to enlist the aid of the strong Spartan armies against the invading Persians. The runner, Pheidippides, gained a place in history by covering the hundred and fifty miles to Sparta in little more than a day. While Pheidippides was making his historic run, the armies of Athens set out for Marathon. There on the beach they met and overwhelmed the Persians, saving Athens from a defeat which might well have changed the course of civilization in the western world.

In the summer of 1963 Scouts from all over the world met at that historic spot for the 11th World Jamboree. Miami Valley Council was represented in Marathon by Douglas C. Kirk, an Eagle Scout from Troop 101. Kirk was so moved by his experiences in Greece that in a talk recalling his experiences for the Council Executive Board he thanked the men for helping "to make the difference" in his life by enabling him to attend that outstanding event.

The new developments at Woodland Trails made possible by Ed Kohnle's generous gift were soon followed by other improvements. A gift by Scouter Albert C. Lauzon gave the Council a walking trail around the overlook and lake. A water tower with a 15,000 gallon capacity assured that the camp would not be without water, even in the event of a power failure at the pumphouse.

The contributions of long-time Scoutmasters such as A. W. Payne, Scoutmaster of Troop 30, are often hidden in a larger community. But in 1963 at a combined meeting of Keystone District Commissioners and Commissioner Staff, with over two dozen leaders in attendance, Scout Executive Hanks wondered aloud how many of the leaders in the room had been members of Scoutmaster Payne's Troop and all but two of

the Scouters present raised their hands.

Henry G. Schneider, who had provided the Council with active and competent leadership during three years of rapid growth and development, retired from the Council presidency at the end of 1963. Elected to succeed him was Edward L. Kohnle, who had contributed so much to the Council. It was Ed Kohnle's second presidency in the Miami Valley Council, and as before he would bring to the job great enthusiasm and skill.

In New York the 1964 World's Fair opened and was soon jammed with crowds of people. Among the attractions was a Scout booth where Scouts from various parts of the country demonstrated Scouting skills. Each night there was a typical evening campfire at the Scout booth with songs, stories, and skits. Scouts served as messengers and guides at the Fair in addition to manning the booth itself. Scouts from Councils all over the country came to New York to serve for ten days at the Fair, after which a new group of 200 Scouts would replace them.

The 1964 World's Fair contingent from the Miami Valley Council consisted of eleven boys and two leaders who went by train to New York. They were housed at Fort Totten, an Army base about twenty miles from the Fair grounds, and rode to the Fair each day in an Army bus. Food was trucked in from the Army base. Their duties at the Fair varied from day to day, and often there were free periods when they could roam the Fair in pairs, enjoying the exhibits and the excitement. Some Scouts served on guard duty at the United Nations, and when U.N. Secretary U. Thant visited the Fair, five lucky Scouts served as his personal escort. Other Scouts had the pleasant

duty of escorting Miss America through the exhibits. Nearly 5000 Scouts served in the World's Fair Service Corps in 1964, and for most it was an exciting and interesting adventure. There were mixed feelings, however, about the daily cleanups and inspections in the Fort Totten barracks.

This was a National Jamboree year and the Miami Valley Council was represented at the huge Valley Forge campout by seven Troops. More than 250 Scouts and leaders from the Council left Dayton on July 7 for a week long tour on their way to the Jamboree. Traveling by bus, the Scouts visited Niagara Falls, New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., then spent a week at Valley Forge camping with more than 50,000 other Scouts from all over the country.

Swift currents of the Stillwater River near the Englewood dam pulled an eleven-year-old boy underwater. The treacherous undercurrents sucked the boy through a tunnel nearly 800 feet to the other side of the dam. Mark Sanna, Eagle Scout of the Miami Valley Council, saw what had happened, ran over the dam, plunged into the swirling water, and pulled the boy to safety where he gave artificial respiration.

Smoke and flames poured from a Dayton house and a woman screamed that her baby was inside. From the house across the street Miami Valley Scout William Denzer raced to the burning building. He found that the bottom of the window to the baby's bedroom was seven or eight feet off the ground, but he jumped, grabbed the bottom of the window frame, and hauled himself over it into the room. The baby's father took a two-by-four and broke a picture window in the front of the house and climbed inside. He never came back out. Though smoke was so thick he could not see, young Denzer located the baby

by its cries and handed it out through the window, then went back to try to find the baby's father. Denzer tried to make his way down the hall, but the heat and smoke forced him back.

For their heroism these Miami Valley Scouts received the Gold Medal for Saving Life. Clearly, Miami Valley Scouts of the 1960's, just as throughout the whole history of the Council, continued to live up to the tenth Scout Law: A Scout is Brave.

Charlie Breish's Explorer Pack decided this was the year to tackle the 14,000 foot Mt. Elbert in Colorado, a high adventure trip that gave them a bit more than they'd bargained for when they began the steep climb. The Explorer's had been up a number of high mountains before this one and had learned the lessons of thin air so Lloyd Jukkola having some trouble with asthma, stopped climbing above the timber line at about 12,000 feet and waited for the rest of the group to climb to the top and back. On the way down he lagged behind and suddenly called for help. Backtracking, the Scouts found him with terrible pains in his chest, unable to walk. Dave Shindel-decker immediately started running down the trail toward the Lodge at the bottom while the others tried to make Lloyd comfortable. When the pains diminished somewhat, two Scouts made a seat of their hands and laboriously worked their heavy burden down the slopes until men from the Lodge met them with an improvised stretcher: a blanket and two saplings for poles. One of the poles broke and the rest of the trip was out of a nightmare, with Scouts scrambling along the steep narrow trail holding up one side of the blanket. At the bottom an ambulance was waiting to rush Lloyd 25 miles to the Leadville hospital.

Another long walk to their parked cars delayed the tense

and tired Scouts as they continued on to the hospital and quietly approached his room, expecting the worst. Instead they found Lloyd eating supper and joking with three cute nurses. The pain, it developed, had come not from a heart attack as everyone had supposed, but from hyperventilation. Lloyd, troubled by his asthma and knowing the problems of thin air, had actually overcompensated for it and had taken in more oxygen than he could use.

Although more 12,000 foot climbs were ahead, the doctor encouraged Lloyd to continue and gave him a prescription for "medication" in case the condition reoccurred . . . a paper sack. Breathing into the paper sack and re-breathing the air would immediately relieve any pain, he explained.

The trip continued, without further incident, but a check later turned up eight additional folded sacks in various pockets, each taken along as a precaution in case anything happened to Lloyd's. One of these trips down the mountain was enough.

As the United States moved into the second half of the 1960's it was a time of stress and tensions, of cynicism and unrest in much of the country. In many of the urban centers of the country this unrest and tension flared up into riots. Hundreds of thousands of American men were fighting a difficult and unpopular war in Vietnam. Both on the National and local levels Boy Scout programs developed to help ease the tensions and rekindle National spirit.

Dayton's Hard-to-Reach program had been quite successful and had received national recognition. In the late 1960's similar programs were developed in major cities of all areas of the country. The efforts and effectiveness of such Scout

programs were not unnoticed by the federal government. As Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development put it, "You can be sure that our department officers are aware of the efforts the Boy Scouts of America is making toward a better life for boys living in our urban areas. We are particularly pleased that so many youth, living in low-rent public housing, are now enjoying the benefits of the Scout movement."

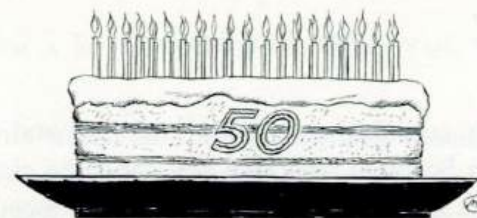
In 1965 Scouts of the Miami Valley Council participated in a "Fly-the-Flag" campaign. They sold American flags at a low price, participated in flag raising ceremonies, and contacted homes in the community in an effort to emphasize the need and responsibility of citizens to own and fly the American flag. The Boy Scouts, radio, television and the daily newspapers made a joint effort to insure that as many homes in the community as possible would display the American flag on Veterans Day as a symbolic rededication to the ideals that the American flag has represented through the years.

The History Committee had collected a mass of bits and pieces of information about the Council and after some discussion decided to commission Warren Hauff, a recent graduate of Miami University, to pull the pieces together into some kind of a written history. Hauff spent a good deal of time in Dayton, interviewing men who had been Scouts in the early days, reading the Council minutes and digging into the old newspaper records at the library. Of course, he did much of his digging in Cincinnati with Perle Whitehead, where the most complete and finest lode of early Council history was carefully filed . . . in a space of about six inches by four located between Whitehead's ears. In addition to a phenomenal

memory, however, Whitehead also had his own scrapbooks which he kept regularly as a hobby and, by sheer chance, over a hundred photographs from the early days of area Scouting. On one of his many visits to Dayton, some time after moving to Cincinnati, he had stopped in at the Scout office during a "spring cleaning" effort and noticed the old photographs in a pile ready to be thrown out. Many of those rescued pictures are in this book.

After Hauff got to the mid-fifties in his original write-up of the Scout history, events took him away from the area and the project languished. Others made some valiant attempts to finish the book, but the writing styles were different enough to discourage the Committee. Finally, in 1968, Hauff was located in St. Louis and agreed to spend a vacation period in Dayton and bring the book up to date.

His narrative, after considerable Committee review for accuracy and some major additions, became the volume you now hold.



17

FROM A MOUNTAINTOP. A VIEW TWO WAYS

The year 1966 marked the Golden Anniversary of Miami Valley Council. Fifty years of Scouting in the Miami Valley had brought many changes and developments since John Haien took office as the Council's first president. Much of the change was in sheer size and numbers. From its original area, consisting only of the city of Dayton, the Council had swelled to encompass five counties. From a few hundred Scouts the Council had grown to more than twenty thousand. As they began their Golden Anniversary year, Scouts and Scouters of the Miami Valley Council were determined to make it the best yet.

During the annual Scouters Recognition meeting held in the Frigidaire cafeteria during Scout Week three old-time Scoutmasters stood together for the last time.

It was the 50th anniversary year of the Council itself and they'd been around almost from the beginning.

Perle Whitehead, bringing his famous grin up from Cincinnati on one of his frequent "homecoming" visits to the Dayton territory, had one last chance to swap stories with two long-term Scoutmasters, George Clark, who'd been "holding" Whitehead's Scoutmaster spot at Troop 6 for years, and the ageless A. W. Payne, Scoutmaster of Troop 30 since 1919 and for many years the dean of Scoutmasters in Dayton.

The happy occasion emphasized the joy and satisfaction that comes to Scouters who love boys and the glow that surrounds them when they talk about old times together.

Payne was destined to hear his last Taps before another Recognition meeting, but Clark and Whitehead were to celebrate, with Dr. Sam Ziegler, the forty-fifth anniversary of the day in 1922 when Ziegler, as Troop Committee Chairman, had induced Clark to become Scoutmaster at the then new Troop at Fairview E.U.B. Church.

At the Annual Business Meeting held in the N.C.R. Auditorium Scouters paid tribute to Edward L. Kohnle who was retiring again from the presidency. His efforts over more than thirty years had helped to build the Miami Valley Council, and he was confident that the Council would continue to grow and improve. "The future of Scouting in the Miami Valley Council is excellent. With the dedicated effort of all who promote the program of Scouting, a new 'Breakthrough' in all phases of this character building organization will continue to make Miami Valley Council the best council in America," Kohnle said.

"Breakthrough" became the key word as Herman F. Lehman, veteran Scouter of the Miami Valley Council, took over as Council president. During the Golden Anniversary year the Council would strive for breakthroughs in all phases of the Scouting program. Many special activities and programs were planned for the year. There would be special service projects, public displays of Scouting, special camp activities.

A highlight of the special events planned for 1966 was the Golden Anniversary European Goodwill Tour. Fifteen Scouts and a leader left Dayton in July on a tour arranged by Marks

Travel Service which led them through five countries and more than ten major European cities. Included was a visit to the famous Gillwell Camp of Lord Baden-Powell, and a visit to Augsburg, Germany, Dayton's "Sister City."

Each Fall in the Miami Valley Council during Round-Up time an all-out effort is made to introduce the Scouting program to boys who are not yet Scouts and to adults who are not yet leaders. Depression-days camping memories also helped Bill Yeck, now Scoutmaster of Troop 289, as he wrote a booklet on back pack camping that received national recognition in 1966.

As a result of the 1966 Fall Round-Up effort, more than 570 new Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers were officially inducted into the ranks of Scouting at the Miami Valley Council 50th Anniversary Camporee. Held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, it was the largest camporee in the Council's history. More than 2400 Scouts and leaders and 10,000 visitors arrived for the big campfire program, an especially exciting welcome for the new Scouts. "Uncle Orrie" (Joe Rockhold), popular WHIO-TV personality, and Del Hanks, Scout Executive, personally presented each new Scout with a special Camporee certificate. Other highlights of the Camporee were a helicopter demonstration, concert by the Air Force Band, a fire-fighting demonstration, and of course the traditional competitive Scoutcraft events.

Early in 1967, a Long Range Planning Committee, with J. Ken Kay as Chairman, was asked by President Lehman to look ahead to the year 2000 and predict the progress and needs of the council until that year. While realizing that Perle Whitehead, rattling around in the half-empty Dayton Indus-

tries Building back in the depression days of 1934, couldn't have remotely imagined the Council's growth during the past 33 years, the Committee bravely accepted their crystal-ball task to look an equal distance ahead. Sub-Committees were chaired by Gordon A. Lowden, finance; J. Gordon Keever, office; Frank W. Schaefer, camp land and facilities; and Edwin G. South, membership projections, organization and manpower studies. Ira G. Hawk accepted the responsibility of writing the overall plan and presentation of the plan and Rex Smith the public relations. The Committee was asked to report before the end of 1968.

Several changes were introduced into the Cub Scout program in the Miami Valley Council in 1967. Under the new program, boys eight, nine, or ten years of age, or in the third grade, were now eligible to become Cub Scouts. Ten-year-old Cubs moved into a new area of Cubbing called Webelos, while the eight and nine year olds continued to meet in Dens, with a Den Mother as leader; Webelos Scouts would have male leaders. The Webelos program was intended to provide a transition from Cubbing into the regular Boy Scout activities. The Webelos Scout would be introduced to camping on one or two overnight trips camping with his dad. Day Hikes would be part of the Webelos Scout program, and the Webelo Scout worked on advancement in ways that more closely paralleled the advancement methods he would encounter as a Boy Scout. Webelos Scouts worked in fifteen advancement subjects called activity badge areas, which included such things as aquatics, sports, forestry, geology, engineering, and others. Webelos Scouts continued to wear the traditional Cub Scout uniform, but could be identified as Webelos by the new Webelos cap,

achievement badges, and the bright new plaid neckerchief. Boys who successfully completed the Webelos program moved into Scout troops and automatically became Boy Scouts.

By 1967 Woodland Trails was beginning to feel pressure from the increased number of Scouts in the Council, and from the increased number of boys who came to the camp for a week or two of summer adventure. Camp attendance in 1967 was up some 18% from the year before, and there was no reason to believe that interest in the camp would decrease in years to come. Temporary campsites had to be constructed to handle the overflow in the 1967 season, and it was time for the Council to begin looking ahead to developments at the camp which would adequately provide for the Council's swelling numbers.

The Twelfth World Jamboree was not as far distant for Scouts of the Miami Valley Council as previous ones had been, and more Scouts from the Council were able to attend the huge affair than ever before. Seventeen boys from the Miami Valley traveled to Farragut State Park, Idaho, the summer of 1967 to camp with and get to know Scouts from all over the world. On hand for part of the World Jamboree excitement was a former Scoutmaster from Huron, South Dakota—Vice President Hubert Humphrey, who recalled his six years as Scoutmaster as "one of the happiest times of my life."

The Keystone District established the annual A. W. Payne Memorial picnic in honor of the District's first Scoutmaster, who had served as Scoutmaster of Troop 30 from the summer of 1919 until his death, the longest service as Scoutmaster in the Council and one of the longest in the nation. Payne had lived to see his service to boys multiply in the second

and third generations, until some 50 Scout Troops, Cub Packs and Explorer Posts in the area were led to a large extent by men he had trained in leadership. The first A. W. Payne Awards, for service in the District, were made to: Bill Bond, Charles Brantley, Phyllis Brown, Julia Cadena, Ray Deis, Patricia Faulks, Grover Foote, James Grube, Al Hounshell, Lillian Kelly, Hazel McCloud, Larry Nichols, Earl Railey, Elsie Smith, Milt Stone, and James Wilson.

Although the number of Scouts in the Council was at an all-time high, plans were developed in 1967 to bring Scouting to even more boys of the Miami Valley. In order to introduce more high-school age boys to the program, a project was developed called O.N.E.—Organize Now for Exploring. Under the leadership of George Sheer, Vice President of McCalls, the project was specifically aimed at organizing new Explorer Posts. To expand the Cub Scout program, a C.U.B. project was developed under the proven leadership of Doris Scott.

While the O.N.E. and C.U.B. programs were as much concerned with finding institutions willing to sponsor new units, and assisting in the organization of new units, the first annual "School Night for Scouting" was directed at individual boys and their parents. "Uncle Orrie" (Joe Rockhold) served as chairman of the Council Round-Up in 1967, and directed the "School Night" campaign. More than 130 schools in all parts of the Council participated in the project, each presenting a Scouting program, making information about Scouting available to boys and their parents, and signing up boys interested in joining. The results were tabulated and broadcast on the WHIO-TV news—it is estimated that "Uncle Orrie" Rockhold was directly responsible for bringing more than 2000 new

Scouts and 450 new adult leaders into the Council.

The increase in new members brought increased demands for leadership training. Tait Training Center at Cricket Holler was being used for some sort of training event virtually every weekend of the year, and was in daily use during many periods of the year. This high intensity of use demanded constant development and repair of facilities. Miami Valley Council has been fortunate in having many interested and concerned friends whose generosity makes possible the improvement of old and development of new facilities. In 1968 a gift by Henry G. Schneider made possible the construction of an altar and improvement of the chapel at Cricket Holler. Further development of facilities at Cricket Holler will insure that the Miami Valley Council will continue to have excellent leadership training facilities.

This long time Council campsite, which fifty years before appeared to be far out in the country, was completely surrounded by urban growth by 1968. Such an unguarded area was subject to abuse and it became apparent that it must have additional protection. Lou Wozar, former Council President and Chairman of the Tait Foundation, heard of the situation and shortly before the end of the year the Foundation Trustees appropriated \$45,000 for materials and labor to completely surround the acreage.

This was a year of development at Woodland Trails as well as at Cricket Holler. In August, 1968, dedication ceremonies were held for several new facilities at Woodland Trails. First to be dedicated was the new Memorial Flag Quadrangle, made up of 32 brushed aluminum flag poles. At one end of the Quadrangle stand eight poles for flags which depict the de-

velopment of our present flag. At the opposite end are poles for displaying the state flag, the Boy Scout Region Four flag, and the Miami Valley Council flag. Forming the two remaining sides of the Quadrangle are twenty poles for the display of honored unit flags. Towering above all others stands the central pole from which the American Colors are flown. An eagle atop this pole is dedicated in honor of Mark S. Schramm, Eagle Scout, and is symbolic encouragement for Scouts of the Miami Valley pursuing the rank of Eagle.

Also dedicated was a 170 foot boat dock, a boat house, and newly developed teaching areas which would be safe for beginners while learning to handle boats before they move to open water.

All Scouts who spend time in camp return with memories of tales that were told and songs that were sung around the evening campfires. Dedicated at the August ceremonies was a new campfire area which would insure Scouts of the Miami Valley inspiring and memorable campfires at Woodland Trails for years to come. The Earl E. Spriggs Memorial Campfire Ring includes two fireplaces, special outdoor lighting, and a public address system.

With more boys in camp every year, the Council in 1968 began to look forward to the time when a second unit site area and a second lake would have to be developed at Woodland Trails. A Long Range Planning Committee, after a two-year study of the future of Scouting in the Miami Valley, predicted that by the year 2000 there would be more than 45,000 Scouts in the Council. One thing was certain: the Scout's interest in camping, in hiking over rugged terrain, sleeping under canvas and cooking over open fires would be unchanged. Facilities

would have to be provided to meet the ever increasing demands for them.

In the fall of 1968, the Council's history stood at a watershed. The Long Range Planning Committee's forward looking report was accepted by the Council Executive Board as the History Committee was sending first copy for the Council's history to the printers for typesetting.

At this rather appropriate point, Del Hanks, who had left an indelible mark on the Council's planning and history during his tenure as Scout Executive, the second longest in the Council's history, announced that he had accepted a new position. Having served the Miami Valley Council since 1958, he had been asked to join the National Council staff and serve in the field of International Scouting. His first assignment was to assist Scout organizations in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean with their financing problems. His home would be in Mexico City.

During Hanks' service as Scout Executive he had directed the entire development of Woodland Trails, from raw farmland in 1958 to the magnificent facility of 1968.

At Hanks' final board meeting, the Rev. Harvey C. Hahn read a special tribute to the departing executive who was presented with, among other gifts, a framed picture of the Woodland Trails gateway signed by Board Members. President Lehman praised the "rustic, pioneer, 'High Adventure' camping which Hanks brought to the Council's Scouts through his guidance of the growth of Woodland Trails."

There is little doubt that camping in the Miami Valley was quite different when Hanks left in 1968 than it was in 1958 when he first arrived. On his arrival, Woodland Trails was

still rough farm land and Scout camping was a crowded affair at the over-crowded Holler. During Hanks' last summer with the Council, 132 Units and 2172 boys had camped at Woodland Trails and action was heavy at both camps the year around.

Richard B. Frans, Director of Field Service for the Chicago Area Council, was selected as Hanks successor and became the Council's seventh Scout Executive on November 15, 1968. Frans, a professional Scouter since 1950, had previously served as Field Executive in St. Joseph, Missouri and Assistant Scout Executive in Kansas City, Kansas.

During 1969 the Council took a step calculated to make Woodland Trails attractive to more boys by introducing "Plan B" Camping for those Troops and Patrols not quite able to handle their own planning as individual units. Shelter and equipment was rented to the boys on arrival and planned menus with pre-packaged food furnished on a cost basis, following a camping procedure similar to those used at Jamborees.

The Miami Valley Council, as usual, was above average in the number of boys attending the National Jamboree and three separate groups went on the Philmont Trek, a total of 80 boys and 10 leaders, including Bud Westendorf, now chairman of the Camping Committee and, as usual, one of the most active of Scouters.

Twenty-four enthusiastic Scouters finished the Woodbadge Course under the prodding of Judge Carl Kessler as Scoutmaster.

The gossip mills worked overtime for a while in 1969 as police paddy wagons were noted pulling into the Cricket

Holler entrance. Neighbors wondered what had happened to the usually well-behaved Scouts and leaders at Tait Training Center. However, the more inquisitive investigators soon found that all was well. The Dayton Police Department, sponsoring a Troop of Scouts from the inner city area, was taking them camping on Saturdays. When such a sponsoring institution needs transportation for its Troop it needn't look far for it. The wagons were ready and waiting.

A special Cub Recruitment night in the schools held late in September encouraged many new boys to enter Scouting as it headed into the new decade of the "70's." It was well advertised in advance, and WHIO-TV carried a running comment of the progress as reports were phoned in from the schools.

At the Region Four meeting October 10th in Columbus, David A. Meeker of Troy, a member of the Region Four Executive Committee, became the eighth Miami Valley Scouter to earn the Silver Antelope for service to the Region.

At the November meeting of the Board, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scott were presented a full color photo of the quadrangle of flags at Woodland Trails as a token of the Council's appreciation of their help in making that possible. Charles Van Doren told the Board members that no leader who wanted training during 1970 would have to wait very long to get it, as at least one training course would be starting every month somewhere in the five-county area.

Woodland Trails was still in a state of growth. Two new camp sites were scheduled for development in 1970 as the beginning of a plan to improve camp site locations and give a

year's "rest" to those sites which have had the heaviest use.

To make the camping experience even more enjoyable, week-ahead training was scheduled for Patrol Leaders and Senior Patrol Leaders at Woodland Trails. By following this schedule the boy leaders, with a week of camping under their belts when other Troop members arrived, are ready to make camping meaningful from the first minute of the period.

The annual Scouters' Appreciation Dinner, having grown too large for ordinary meeting rooms, was scheduled for January 23rd at Wampler's Ballarena. Council Board member Jim Wilson, one of the many scout leaders who served under A. W. Payne, was chairman of the dinner. Alden Barber, Chief Scout Executive, making his first visit to Dayton to speak at that meeting, undoubtedly packed an extra pair of pants after being briefed about James E. West's experience back in 1928.

Dick Frans was busy through the year, driving around the whole area, meeting and counselling with the Council's leadership. Using what he termed a "fireside chat" technique, he visited large groups of Scouters and parents in every District.

In his visits to schools, civic groups and service clubs, Dick Frans stressed what Scouting could do for all boys. Although the environment of the typical American boy had changed mightily since Scouting began, Frans pointed out, his basic desires, dreams, ambitions and ideals had not and boys still act in groups, or "gangs," of one kind or another, good or bad.

He pointed to a 30% growth in boy membership on Dayton's West Side during 1969 as evidence that Scouting could be made attractive in all parts of town, and pledged greater staff and

leadership training as he looked forward to the 1970's.

"The young American of today has learned to question, and to re-question, every accepted value of society," Frans told his audiences. "Given its tolerance, its knowledgeability, its capacity for hard work, its insistence on meaningful relationships—and above all, sensitive, adaptable, creative leadership—this generation has the capacity and the commitment to impose a new kind of moral order on society. To erect new peaks of human achievement."

Frans called on every boy to become a member of a gang—the Scouting gang—"that offers adventure, companionship and recognition . . . that teaches how to use time best; how to be a leader instead of a loser . . . that teaches three things above all: to worship God, to respect our country and to do something for somebody else."

Almost exactly 60 years after that foggy morning when William Boyce lost his way in London, the last words of this story of Scouting in the Miami Valley were written.

The world *had* changed . . . in almost every way imaginable . . . even beyond the earth itself. During 1969, Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong had landed, in the "Eagle," on the moon. Millions watched him take "a small step for a man, a great step for mankind," as clearly as though he were in their living rooms.

But London still was foggy; men were still groping blindly, still losing their way. Our hope for mankind's future was still tied tightly to young boys in uniform, full of the fun of Scouting, who would take time to pause and ask a stranger: "May I be of service, sir?"



18

MAKING HISTORY

WHILE you've been reading this book, Scouting in the Miami Valley has rolled merrily on, continuing to make more and greater Scouting history every minute of every day.

History shapes the future, for those who understand the past are better to control what is to come. An organization's history can speak to those who operate it now, so they can repeat the strengths of the past and avoid the weaknesses.

One who reads this history with understanding sees the changes of the decades clearly. Scouting has changed with the times and is changing still. But the very heart of Scouting, the relationship of man and boy, changes not. It rolls on like the river, ever to the sea.

Somewhere today there's another tenderfoot, eager as young Dave Rike, destined for the Council presidency in years to come. Somewhere dedicated Scoutmasters, like Perle Whitehead, A. W. Payne, George Clark and Charlie Breish, who started when the Council was young and never stopped pointing the upward road to the thousands of boys their lives have influenced, are beginning a long history of their own. Somewhere new Unit Committeemen, sponsoring organizations, public officials and other community voices are learning, as others did in the early days, that Scouting has rare values to offer the community.

For more than sixty years Scouts and Scouters have been bringing Fun and Service to the Miami Valley. At times the road has been rough, but always at the steepest places there have been men and boys so dedicated to the spirit of Scouting that all obstacles have been overcome. The story of the Miami Valley Council is a story of men and boys, of men helping boys. The history of the Council is full of the stories of men who believe so strongly in the principles of Scouting that they willingly contributed their time and money to make it work. In the years that lie ahead, if the Miami Valley Council continues to have the support of men and boys who are as dedicated as those who went before them, there is little doubt that Scouts will continue to enjoy the best of Scouting in the future.

As for the boys, they still grasp Scouting tightly, with joy and enthusiasm. They still love camping and respect Scouting ideals. For many, the lure of Scouting is best stated in the philosophical comments of Kit Cricket who once said, "I tell ya, ef'n the guys who go to camp had any more fun, I guess they jest couldn't stand it."

Perhaps nothing could better sum up the feeling of Scouts who had shared in the "first sixty years" of Scouting throughout the Miami Valley, whether they were talking about camp, Troop meetings, hikes, Council-wide activities or advancement, than Kit Cricket's magic word—fun.

May Scouting ever keep the spirit of fun for boys—through all the years to come.

Behind the fun, as those men who had so strongly supported Scouting through the half century, with their time, talents and money well knew, has stood the Scout Oath and Law. Probably no other code or precept of modern times has affected

so many American lives as strongly as these shining stars of boyhood.

Study them, reader. Think through their meaning. Ask yourself thoughtfully: Is Scouting worth while?

SCOUT OATH

On my honor, I will do my best:
To do my duty to God and my country
To obey the Scout Laws
To help other people at all times
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful,
thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Comments regarding this book, corrections and additions to the history of Scouting's first sixty years in the Miami Valley as well as photographs and "memories" of Scout activities since this book was published are earnestly solicited by the History Committee of the Miami Valley Committee.

Send all contributions to History Committee, Boy Scouts of America, 184 Salem Ave., Dayton, Ohio, 45402 where they will be compiled for future editions of *Fun and Service*.

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

Fred H. Rike	1918-1919
Fenton Bott	1920-1938
Milton H. Wagner, Sr.	1939-1951
Mason M. Roberts	1952-1953
Edward L. Kohnle	1954-1955
	1964-1965
Albert G. Lauzon	1956-1957
Louis Wozar	1958-1959
David L. Rike	1960-1961
Henry G. Schneider	1961-1963
Herman F. Lehman	1966-

SCOUT EXECUTIVES

John Haien	1918-1922
Perle Whitehead	1923-1936
B. W. Stayton	1936-1943
H. M. Privette	1943-1951
Wayne Hopkins	1951-1958
Delbert R. Hanks	1958-1968
Richard B. Frans	1968-

RECIPIENTS OF THE SILVER BEAVER AWARD

1932

A. W. Payne
Harris Bear
Fenton Bott
A. L. May

1934

Boyd Downing
H. W. Norton
Glenn Bayless
J. H. Schierloh

1936

George Clark
Charles Potts
John Rauch
Watson Woodward

1938

Dr. F. G. Barr
E. L. Kohnle
Al Kolleda
I. G. Boehm

1939

Neil Eyer
O. B. Reemelin

1940

Tom Anderson
John G. Pool

1941

Charles Breish
Walter D. Ide

1942

Roger Bowers
Charles Mattocks
Milton H. Wagner

1943

William E. Harbottle
Lloyd Reck
Robert H. Roth, Sr.
Harry A. Hoffman

1944

Herbert Thum
Howard A. Valiquette
Ben R. Shaman
Jesse K. Brumbaugh

1945

Dan C. Eby
Al Halteman
A. H. Balliett

1946

Russell Minton
Robert B. Shawen
Harry F. Schiewetz
Joseph Schwarz

1947

Charles F. Kettering
Walter C. Meranda
Henry G. Schneider
Rev. Henry J. Taske
Richard P. Wuichet

1948

Kenneth L. Cron
Dr. O. B. Kneisly
George W. Lane
Earl Sonnanstine

1949

Rev. Roy D. Miller
Otto K. Schroeder
Hugh A. Staley
Dr. S. G. Ziegler

1950

J. Warren Safford
Urban H. Doorley
William H. Murphy
Joseph C. Patty

1951

Very Rev.
Raymond Schroder

Otto Heeter
C. E. Shawen, Jr.
Rev. George E. Smith
William C. Katker

1952

Richard W. Smith
Mason M. Roberts
Keith E. Manter
J. Ray Estle
John W. Dare

1953

Judge C. E. Edwards
Earl E. Spriggs
Dr. T. L. Light
Ralph W. Weikert
H. I. Fearn
Rev. Harry E. Boyer

1954

Don A. Nesbitt
Charles S. Mueller
Rev. Harvey C. Hahn
Marshall V. Baker
Vernon L. Marchal
Lester H. Beemer
Wendell E. Whipp

1955

Floyd B. Manchester
Daniel A. Schryver
John D. Coleman
Daniel W. Coughnour
Earl H. Dixon
Bernard J. Barhorst
Clarence J. Heindl

1956

Wilfred E. Romer
Robert Hobbs
Carl Oldfather
Robert B. Shaffer
Ellsworth N. Beach

Robert S. Wooddell

1957

Lorin W. Surface, Jr.
W. Robert Hunter
William Crusey
Leland A. Phillips
William J. Rueth
Leonard L. Valiquette
Gerald E. Detrick
Kenneth K. McMaken
Robert Fairchild

1958

Paul L. Trittschuh
Frank M. Tait
Dale L. Cummins
Stanley S. Smith
David A. Meeker
Dale Douglas Bauter
Ralph Dennler
Judge Donald L. Ziegel
Albert G. Lauzon
Donald Huxley
Vearl Metzger
Leonard West
Hubert J. Miller

1959

Roscoe McIntosh
Louis Wozar
Ralph Edgington
James Boyle
Harman Darrow
Leonard Welke
Dr. Robert Zipf
Robert Henn
Vernon Eyler

1960

Hubert Short
Bernard Wildi
Ralph Carney
Lawrence Deal
Lloyd Miller
Milton Caniff
Carl Pritchard

Rev. Murn B. Klepinger

1961

L. L. Haendel
Ted E. Goldenberg
Leroy Dickey
Ralph Engelbrecht
James Wilson
Owen Walker
George Cathcart
Charles Lathrem
Norbert J. Pointer

1962

Lawrence M. King
Charles F. Van Dine
Charles H. Reece
William Ryan
Walter E. Weidner, Jr.
Dr. Roscoe L. Snyder
Judge Carl D. Kessler
David L. Rike
Loren F. Minnick

1963

John M. Gallaher
John E. Shank
W. L. McCarthy
Earle A. Ziska
Herschel K. Headley
W. Dwight Prather
Edgar P. Moore
Stanley Buchanan
Howard Whitaker

1964

John A. MacLardie
Carl Luneke
Frank W. Schaefer
Horace A. Hoertt
Herbert Huffman
Sid Tomberg
Dwight E. McDonel
Charles J. Marshall
Robert Riesinger

1965

Don Cole

Robert Wilson
C. E. McGarey
Robert Beachdale
James Vance
James Lynn

1966

Richard Bish
Paul Schadon
Clarence Westendorf
Walter Lemaster
Roger Houdeshell
John Yeck
Jay Foreman
Ferd Trobridge

1967

Richard A. Meyer
Judge Arthur O. Fisher
Carl Lurz
Robert E. Johnson II
Oliver E. Saettel
Ralph Sliney
Elmer S. Schramm
John Jones
Bert T. Olson

1968

Horace Long
Joseph Rockhold
Robert Derringer
Clyde Kayser
James Manion
Robert Wening
Herbert Smith
James Grube
Grover Foote

1969

James F. Speer
George Loney
Leo Nartker
William Kane
John Biggs
Walter Shively
Philip Frantz
Herman Lehman

RECIPIENTS OF THE REGIONAL SILVER ANTELOPE AWARD

Rev. George E. Smith	Joseph C. Patty
Dr. F. G. Barr	Louis Wozar
Edward L. Kohnle	Dr. Roy D. Miller
Howard E. Whitaker	David Meeker

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Edward L. Kohnle	Charles F. Kettering
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after moonshiners, only to "capture" hot dogs and biscuits; the lost pants of America's Chief Scout Executive and how they were rescued in the nick of time; Scouts as heroes receiving three gold medals for life saving in a single year; a sterling visit from Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts; Orville Wright's service to boys as counselor for Cycling and Aviation merit badges; the founding of America's Soap Box Derby as a Scouting project in Dayton; the great treasure hunt of 1934; the million-dollar effort to purchase Woodland Trails, and a reflection, through the long spans of service, of the hold that Scouting has over boy and leader alike.

Illustrated by America's favorite, Milton Caniff, who makes his personal appearance in the history as "Blue Dog" Caniff, one of the "Crew of the Cuspidor," life guards at Camp Cricket Holler, the name Milt himself submitted as a young Scout in the name-the-camp contest in 1921. The illustrations include priceless "early Caniffs" drawn in his Scouting days.

Much of the early content of the book has been dredged from the prodigious memory of Perle L. Whitehead who served the Council as Scoutmaster and a member of the professional staff of the Council from 1920 to 1936.

Numerous contributors have collaborated in material for the book, edited by the History Committee of the Council.

