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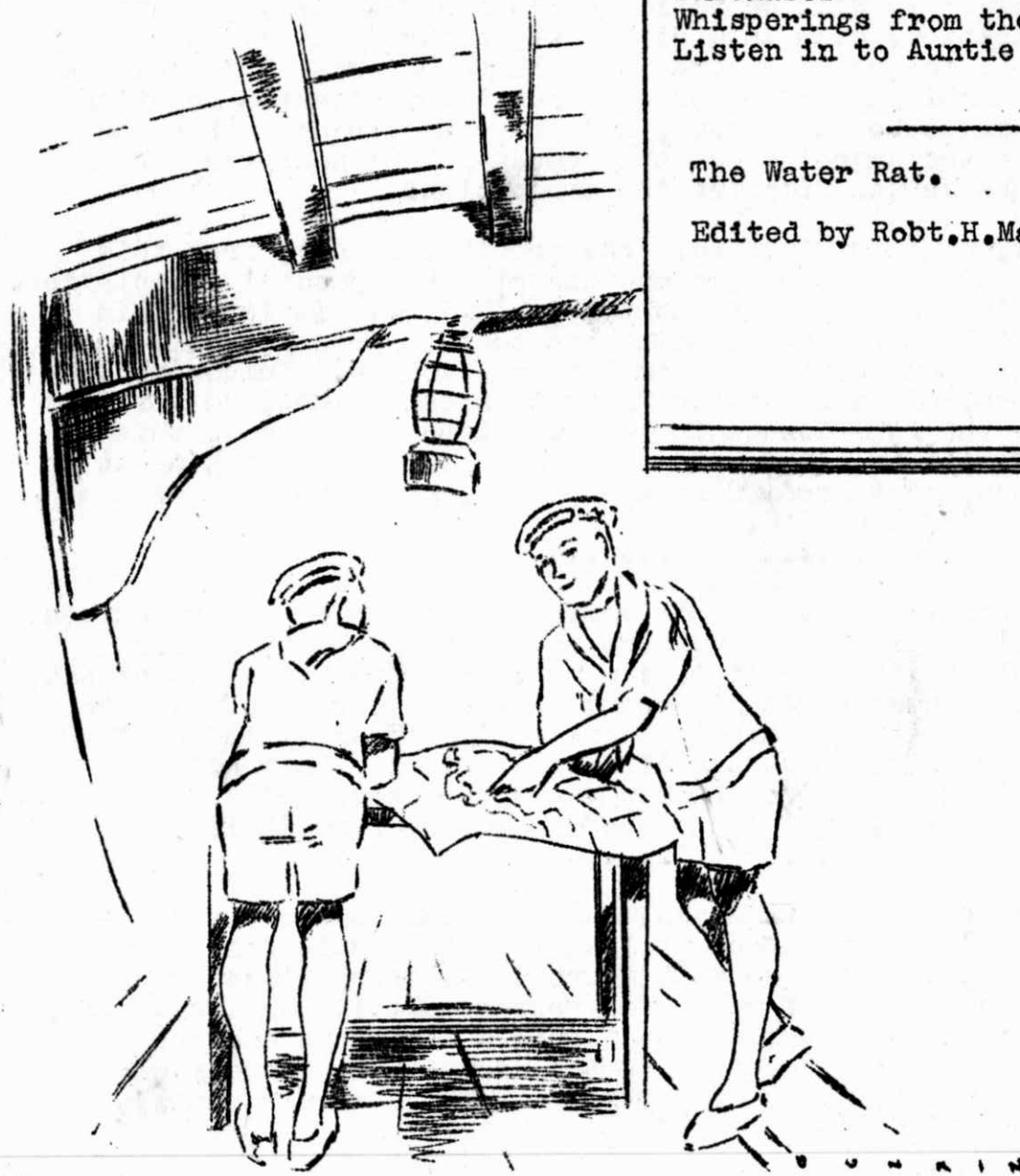
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The Water Rat. Vol. VI. No. 3.

Edited by Robt. H. Marrion.



## E D I T O R I A L .

The "Water Rat" has a strong and ever-growing reputation among a wide circle of readers as an efficient, readable Scout publication. (We may blush in modesty to say this, but the power of advertising is strong upon us). Particularly is it appreciated locally, several different people or bodies availing themselves of its "plant" and personnel for duplicating purposes. We therefore felt encouraged, when preparations were being made for this year's Scoutcraft Exhibition in Kingston, to apply for permission to produce a special Exhibition Magazine. This was readily granted, and now plans are nearly complete. Let us enlarge.

This magazine will not be an extra edition of the "Water Rat", but an entirely separate and distinct paper which we hope will interest the whole of the Kingston Scouting public. Under the title of "SCOUTCRAFT" it will be published in four numbers, one every night of the Exhibition, each in a different coloured cover. Each night the doings of the previous evening will be reported and commented on, together with articles and notes on general and Kingston Scouting topics. Twelve pages to each issue, and you can come and watch the giant printing presses churning out this epoch-making pennyworth by the thousand on the actual floor of the Exhibition!

Now, don't mistake us. The profits, if any, from this undertaking will go to the Kingston and District Boy Scouts' Association. All we shall get (but we hope for plenty) is "kudos". It is certain that the demand will be great, certain also that most people will wish to receive all four copies to complete the volume. Unless you are sure, therefore, of being at the Exhibition each night, we strongly urge you to order the four issues in advance. Send sixpence to this office NOW and we will engage to dispatch you a copy each evening as it comes off the press, post free. Sixpence please, and your good wishes for the success of "SCOUTCRAFT".

.....

In Tubby's Topical this month a note has been struck about Rovering which will call forth divergent opinions from many of our readers. He himself invites criticism; a member of our Staff has already rushed into print in hearty disagreement; we shall be very pleased to give publicity to any letters from readers airing their views. Whatever line you take, just **write** to us and give other people the benefit of your experience. Only remember, no such views are necessarily the opinion of this Magazine, so it's no good suing us for libel!

.....

Easter is upon us again, and the question arises "What are we going to do?" Looking back at last year the Cycle Cruise undoubtedly proved a success, so that there seems every reason for repeating it. At the moment of going to press no details are available, but from experience gained it seems that such a strenuous undertaking must be limited to the older members of the Group and to owners of efficient cycles. Any of you who fancy you fit those requirements, hand in your names at once!

THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

The work of extension at Headquarters is proceeding in an extremely satisfactory manner. The first stage, that of excavating the site and building the retaining wall, was completed a fortnight ago. The foundations and drains for the new portion of the building will occupy our attention until the end of April as, in the interval, we have the Scoutcraft Exhibition and a proposed Easter Camp.

The change in the character of the work will necessitate a change of method in so far as it is no longer possible to tackle the work in large bites by large gangs of workers. From now onwards the work will be split up into a large number of smaller jobs requiring a steady flow of workers in small groups of three or four. However, with the advent of light evenings, it will be possible to do much of the work at odd times, rather than waiting for Saturday afternoons.

... ..

We hope to see all our Readers - and their friends - at the Kingston Association's Scoutcraft Exhibition at Surbiton Assembly Rooms. This will be open for the four evenings April 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and on the afternoon of the 4th. Judging from former Exhibitions many people will deem it worthy of more than one visit. Leanders have made themselves responsible for the Refreshment Department, as usual, and in addition we are producing a daily magazine to be called "SCOUTCRAFT". These two activities will absorb a large amount of "labour" of which the Troop and Crew will provide that needed for the Magazine. The Refreshment Department will also be open on Monday and Tuesday evening, to cater for those preparing the Exhibition and taking part in rehearsals. Offers of help from those willing to act as Waitresses, etc. on any of the six evenings or Saturday afternoon, will be welcomed, and should be sent either to Mrs. Gentry, 162 Kings Road, Kingston, or to myself.

Whilst on the subject of the Exhibition, may I take this opportunity of reminding all Scouts, Cubs and Rovers, that we wish to make the Exhibition a success not only financially, but from a propoganda point of view. We must show visitors that it is good to be a member of the Scout Movement. We want more members in each branch in Kingston, but we want the real thing. We can do much by our exhibits, but even more by our behaviour and courtesy and also by outward appearance of smartness of uniform and bearing.

... ..

Some misunderstanding appears to have arisen about the Social held recently at Headquarters. This was for Stall Holders and Helpers at the Bazaar only. It is proposed to hold a gathering (at which lantern slides of the past history of the Group will be shown) for all parents and friends of the Group, on the completion of the extensions.

... ..



THE MUTINY OF THE BOUNTY AND THE STORY OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

by Captain J.J.Cameron.

(continued from page 23.)

The feelings of the people were stirred by Bligh's story when he arrived home from the ill-fated voyage of the "Bounty" and the Admiralty were resolved not to let the mutineers escape punishment. The frigate "Pandora" was sent to visit the Society and Friendly Islands and to make every effort to seize and bring the offenders home for trial. On her arrival at Tahiti three men came on board and gave themselves up. They were Coleman, the armourer, and two midshipmen, Heywood and Stewart. Although they had taken no willing part in the mutiny they were immediately put in irons; and eleven more were captured who also were heavily ironed. Two others were ascertained to be dead - Churchill and Thompson; they had gone to a neighbouring island where Thompson in a fit of jealousy shot Churchill who had succeeded the native chief. The natives then punished the murderer by stoning him to death.

Captain Edward Edwards, unable to learn anything of the whereabouts of the "Bounty" and the remaining nine mutineers, confined his fourteen prisoners in a box only eleven feet long from which they were never permitted to emerge for any purpose or on any pretext and with this box lashed on the quarter deck of the "Pandora" set sail for home. He was a tyrant of the worst type; his inhuman treatment of those wretched prisoners could not be justified, for they had not yet been tried and found guilty of any crime; in fact many were blameless in regard to the mutiny having been given no choice as to whether they would remain in the "Bounty" or go in the open boat with Captain Bligh, and even had they been permitted to choose could not have embarked in the boat which with the nineteen men on board was dangerously overloaded and could not have taken one more.

The "Pandora" was wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and when it was evident she would founder, the Master-at-Arms asked Captain Edwards' permission to release the prisoners from their irons; it was brutally refused; but unperceived by the Captain the Master-at-Arms dropped the key into the box and ten of those unfortunates managed to get clear of the manacles and leg irons. The other four prisoners went down in the ship and were lost with thirty-one of the crew.

The survivors - prisoners and crew - made their way in the ship's boats to Timor, and it is remarkable that Lieutenant Thos. Hayward who had been in the "Bounty" and afterwards in the boat with Bligh was in consequence of this wreck again adrift in the same sea in an open boat and exposed to similar hardships. They got passage home in four Dutch East Indiamen, and the prisoners were tried by Court martial. Four were acquitted and six found guilty; three of the last were recommended to mercy and subsequently pardoned. Finally on 26th

October, 1792 - the fourth anniversary of the arrival of the "Bounty" at Tahiti - three able seamen, Burkitt, Ellison and Millward were hanged at the yard-arm of H.M.S. "Brunswick" in Portsmouth Harbour.

All that could be learned from the captured men was that on setting the launch adrift the "Bounty" had gone to Toobouai, a small island about 300 miles South of Tahiti, intending to form a settlement, but because of the opposition of the natives and lack of animals on the island the ship returned to Tahiti.

In order to account for the absence of Captain Bligh and the others a story was concocted that they were making a settlement on a newly discovered island with Captain Cook, and that the "Bounty" had been sent back for further supplies of pigs, goats, fowls, plants, etc. Those were readily supplied and the "Bounty" set out again for Toobouai with twenty-four Tahitians on board, eight men, nine women and seven boys, in addition to the twenty-five Europeans. They built a fort and stayed about two months during which time they were in frequent conflict with the natives, many of whom were killed, then thought better of it and once more returned to Tahiti.

There the sixteen men who had been accounted for - two killed and fourteen taken prisoners in the "Pandora" insisted upon leaving the ship which sailed away into the unknown having on board the other nine mutineers, their nine native wives, six native men of whom three had wives, and a native child (girl) ten months old, and for a period of nearly twenty years they were not heard of again.

The following is a list of those nine white men:-

Fletcher Christian	Master's Mate	24 years.
Edward Young	Midshipman	22 "
John Mills	Gunner's Mate	40 "
Matthew Quintal	Able Seaman	21 "
John Adams	" "	26 "
William McCoy	" "	25 "
John Williams	" "	25 "
Isaac Martin	" "	30 "
William Brown	Gardener	27 "

The two first named - Christian and Young - being officers were of good education; Williams was a Frenchman and Martin an American.

On the final trip from Tahiti the mutineers directed their course to Pitcairn Island which had been discovered in 1767 by Captain Carteret during his famous voyage round the world in the "Swallow" and had been named by him after the young officer, Mr. Pitcairn who first sighted it. Pitcairn Island rises steeply out of the sea, its highest point being 1,008 feet above sea level and is visible at a distance of forty miles in clear weather; it is a mile and a half long by a mile broad and has no beach nor good landing place.

Situated just outside the tropics it has a genial climate and the rich volcanic soil is exceedingly fertile, producing a great variety of fruits and vegetables as well as potatoes, yams, maize, beans, arrowroot, breadfruit, etc.etc.

It was the 23rd January, 1790, when the "Bounty" arrived at Pitcairn; the island was found to be uninhabited but with traces of former inhabitants, crude stone images and rock carvings, spear heads, hatchets and other implements of stone as well as some human skulls and bones.

The "Bounty" was brought close in to the shore and everything that could be of service taken out of her, including the plants and animals from Tahiti; then she was set on fire, burned to the water's edge and sunk. Her destruction compelled the party to stick together, whereas her existence might have betrayed their presence to a passing vessel.

At first they lived in tents made from the ship's sails and in caves while cottages were being built; the land was shared between the nine white men; the native men and women were regarded as servants and helped to clear and plant it. They appear to have lived amicably together during the first two years: then trouble began when the wife of Williams searching for sea birds' eggs fell from a cliff and was killed. Williams demanded and took the wife of one of the native men who felt outraged at the high-handed act and plotted to kill the white men. One day when the mutineers were working on their allotments they were attacked by the native men who had managed to get possession of firearms and five were killed - Christian, Mills, Williams, Martin and Brown. The other four escaped to the woods where they received an assurance from the native men that no harm would be done to them. Although a reconciliation was effected and peace again reigned on the island the four mutineers felt they never again could trust the native men and therefore when a favourable opportunity came they killed them with the assistance of the native women who in all these troubles had sided with the white men.

The next thing of note which we find taking place on the island is the making of intoxicating liquor. McCoy who had worked in a distillery before he went to sea, converted one of the "Bounty's" kettles into a still and with the help of Quintal produced a strong drink from the root of the Tee plant. So drunkenness was introduced to the island, and in the year 1798, McCoy tied a large stone to his body during an attack of delirium tremens, cast himself into the sea and was drowned. His body was recovered. Of the three who were left, Quintal was so quarrelsome and violent when in liquor, frequently threatening the lives of Young and Adams, that they decided they were justified in taking his life in order to preserve their own and the quaint entry in the diary of the island records that they "did it with an axe".



Next year - 1800 - Young died of asthma. Thus ten years after the landing from the "Bounty" only one man was left on the island. He was John Adams, an able seaman, then 36 years of age. About that time he became religious and used to relate it was through the influence of a dream, but there can be no doubt he was a serious thinking man and realised it depended on him whether the young children growing up on the island would become Christians like their fathers' people or heathen like their mothers' race. In all there were twenty-three children on the island, four of whom were his own. By means of a Bible and a prayer book, the only two books saved from the "Bounty", he taught the young people to read and instilled into their minds the principles of the Christian religion. The community lived like one family under the fatherly control of Adams and this quiet simple existence continued without interruption for eight years when the solitude was at length broken by the appearance of a ship. She was an American vessel, the "Topaz", commanded by Mayhew Folger. Seeing smoke and other signs of life on the island which was believed to be uninhabited, Captain Folger hove to his ship and in one of her boats went on shore. There he met Adams, heard his story and told him of some of the recent happenings in the outside world, Adams being very moved on hearing for the first time of our Naval victories, St. Vincent, Copenhagen, The Nile and Trafalgar. On arriving in America Captain Folger made public his discovery and from there the news probably reached England but made no great stir as our country was engaged at that time in a mighty struggle with the power of Napoleon.

Six more years passed before the lonely island was again visited: then came two ships together in the year 1814; they were H.M.S. "Briton", Captain Sir Thomas Staines and H.M.S. "Tagus", Captain Pison. Captain Staines landed and found the youthful colony living harmoniously under the patriarchal rule of Adams who, on meeting a warship for the first time since the mutiny, feared he would be arrested and taken home for trial. He was assured, however, that the time for that was long past and that he was too useful to the islanders to be removed. By that time many of the children had grown up and Captain Staines described them as being modest and religious, very strict in regard to Divine Service and family prayers, and that they always knelt to say Grace before eating. Labour was under the direction of Adams who kept a diary of the work done; private property existed, and in addition there was a common stock from which issues were made to the community.

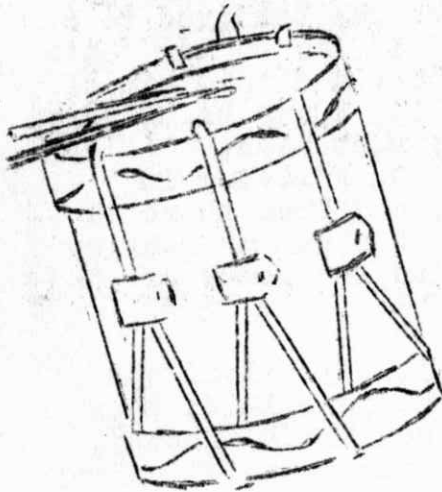
Five years later the "Hercules" East Indiaman made a call at Pitcairn and presented the islanders with a much needed and welcome gift of carpenters' tools.

(to be continued)

D O Y O U R E M E M B E R ?

As time goes on and one still belongs to a big organisation one begins to hear among the members the phrase "Here comes the Old Man". This title has no few times reached my own ears on entering the Rover Den, and it makes me look back to the days when I first joined the Movement. Yes, they were good, those early days from 1909 - 1914, when we frequently would meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings and set off for Oxshott Woods.

It was on an outing such as this that I was first thrilled by the roll of drums, a sound that set me dreaming and eventually materialised into an entry for the first Scout Exhibition of work held in the Kingston District. Drums! What boy of ten even now could resist their rhythmic tap? I was no exception to the rule, and I determined to make a drum of my own. So as the time drew near many drawings were made and then discarded, till I decided that the best pattern was the deep Guard's drum, partly because the materials required seemed the easiest to obtain and partly because that type appealed more to my boyish imagination.



For the next few weeks I am afraid the neighbours must have thought I was collecting cheese boxes, for when you try to reduce the diameter of a cheese box to ten inches it has a nasty habit of splitting. At last one was persuaded not to, and the drum now consisted of the body, two skin-rings and two outer rims. A pair of banjo vellums were next bought from Mr. Parson's music shop in Fairfield Road and duly wetted and stretched over the rings, fitted on the body and allowed to dry. The woodwork was then painted and the leather tabs made to tighten up the cord. When finally assembled and tried out, however, it did not respond with that exhilarating and longed-for note, but only gave forth a dull thud. What was wrong? A drum that looks nice but has no note seemed but half a drum, so I paid a visit to Mr. Parson, who was only too pleased to give his advice.

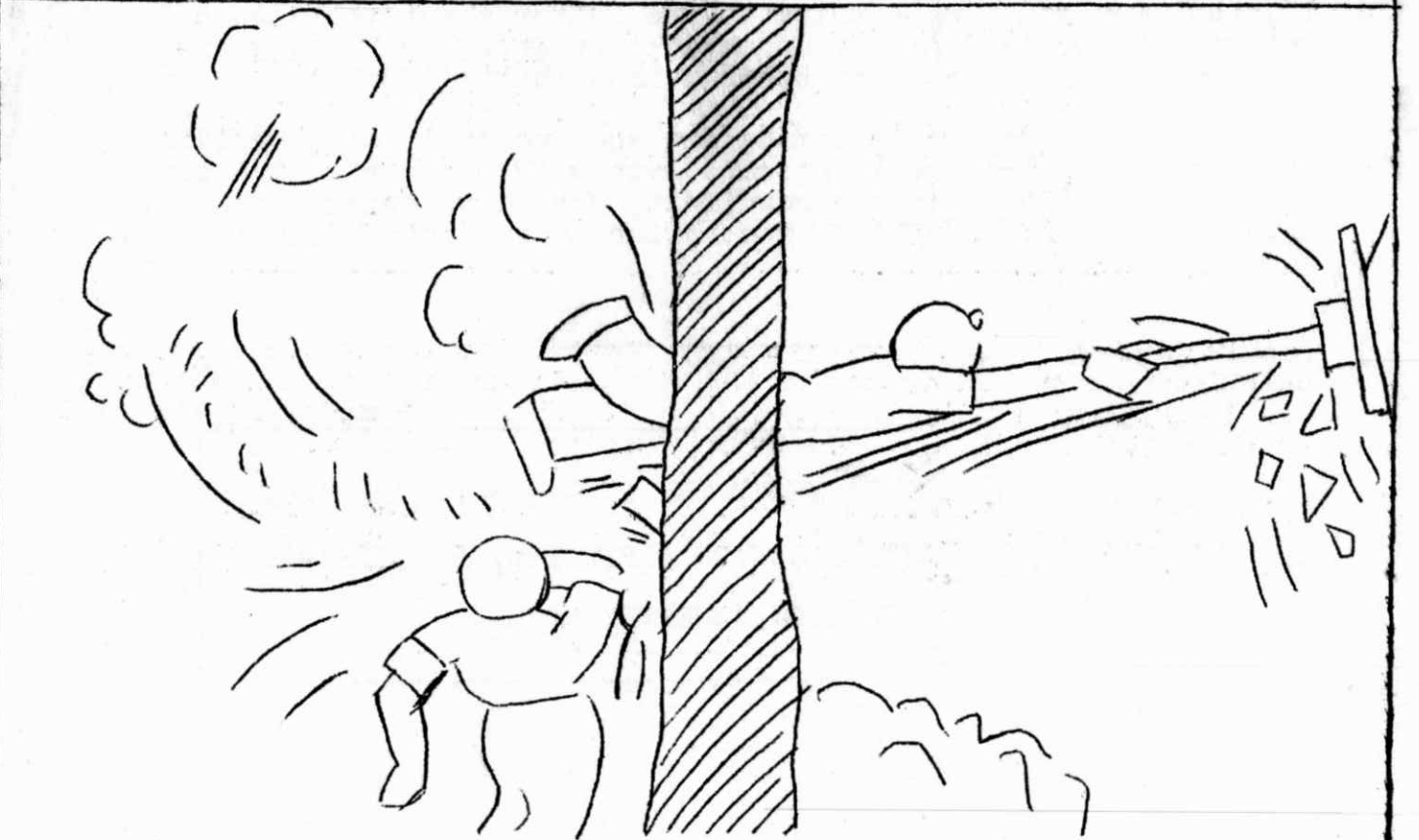
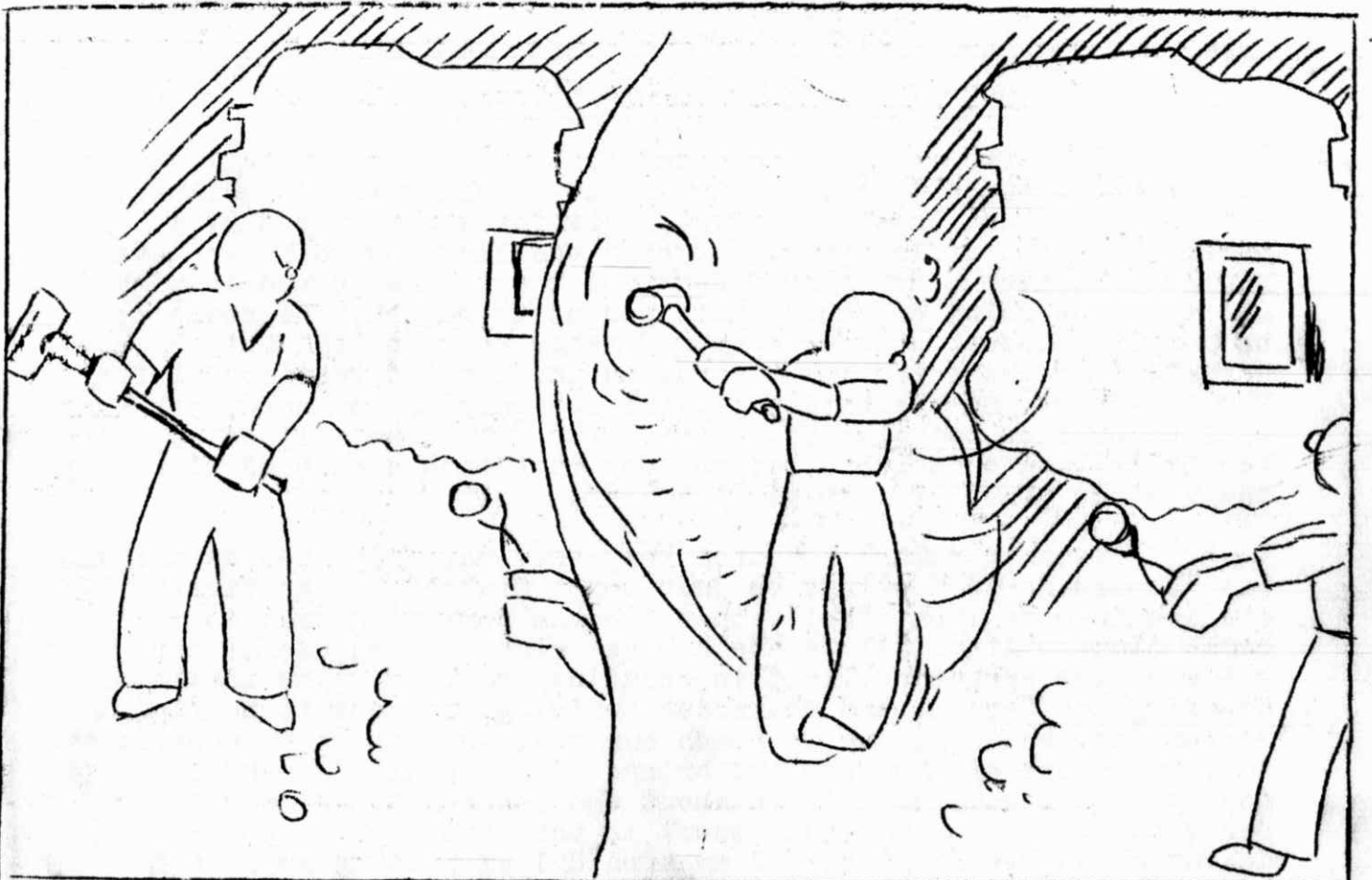
Apparently the trouble was that I had no "snare", so back I went to the workshop and with the aid of a spoke and nipple soon fitted one across the bottom skin. Then what a thrill, it really did sound like a drum!

At several summer camps after that my drum led the Troop to Church Parades, and I never lost that glow of satisfaction at having made something that could really be used. Which brings me to the moral of this story. For your Exhibition exhibits or at any other time - make your article as well as you possibly can, but above all make something useful.

A.K.B.

(N.B. We have persuaded the writer to loan this historic drum for display during the coming Scoutcraft Exhibition.-Ed.)





TUBBY'S TOPICAL TALK TO ROVERS.

How often have I expressed the query "Can you tell any difference between a Scout or Rover and a fellow who is neither?" Well, at the last Whist Drive this question was answered by a parent - in the affirmative. During the last few weeks we have had as a visitor a Rover from Kent and the way he joined in with all that was going on caused this parent to remark, "He seems to be a pretty decent sort of chap. Somehow you can tell he's a Rover". So there you are Rovers, an unsolicited testimonial for you. Now at the Exhibition it will not only be our handywork that will be on show but also US. And, although there will be no prizes for exhibiting ourselves, let us hope that each one of us will bear the visible stamp of a "typical Rover".

Another remark let drop the other day which set me thinking was "Should Rover Meetings be just boys' Clubs?". At first I was inclined to shout "No!", then I began pondering what is a boys' club. After all we are a boys' club only we use as our guidance the system outlined in Scouting for Boys. The ideals of Rovering are Service and character training, so does it really matter what route we use to reach our goal as long as it appeals to the members of the Crew and brings about results? And I feel sure the general opinion about the Leander Rover Crew (only for goodness' sake don't tell them) is that they are a set of decent clean-living lads. I am afraid I am putting my foot in it, (but you can always write to the Editor about that) when I say with Rovering don't be dogmatic; use Scout training where it appeals but also adopt any other method that will help.

Well, Spring is coming and soon we shall stop building clubrooms and start building ourselves with outdoor activities. Let us be sure that in our rebuilding scheme we enlarge our minds and plan as our final decoration "motif" the Visible Stamp of Character.

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DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT THE KINGSTON ASSOCIATION  
SCOUTCRAFT EXHIBITION ON APRIL 1st, 2nd, 3rd and  
4th, at the SURBITON ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

IN REPLY.An Open letter to Tubby about Rovers.

Dear Tubby,

I apologise for stepping in thus on the heels of your Topical, but being on the Staff I was able to read it before it was printed, and immediately asked for space in which to reply.

Let me state my case clearly. Firstly, you do not try to define a "boys' club" but I take it you mean the gathering of a number of young fellows together for the playing of games, cards, smoking, or yarning. Further, I take it you are trying to defend the position of a Rover Crew which does this and very little else. May the Chief and the Movement forgive you!

Think of the ideals you mention. Where is the Service in ping-pong or the character training in allowing your fellows to do just what "appeals" to them? And if your "results" are to turn out "a set of decent clean-living lads" I consider you are sitting back in blind complacency while actually pulling your own leg. How many times has the Chief said that Scouting is the active happiness of doing good rather than the mere passiveness of being good? You say that Scout training should be used only when it appeals. I don't want to appear hard, but it seems to me that if you can't make real Scouting appeal to a Crew such as yours, the fault lies not in Scouting, nor in the Rovers, but rather in yourself.

Now, Tubby, let us forget personalities and discuss this matter in a rational way. When Rovering began it was designed to find a place for young fellows who had outgrown their Troop but who were still imbued with the fire of Scouting, and who wanted to continue it on a bigger and more adventurous scale than was possible while they were still in the company of boys much younger. That is why the hike was exemplified as a real Rover activity: tougher, more venturesome, more "character training" than the larger camps of the Troop. But Rovering was certainly never meant to be a separate Movement. A Rover is essentially a Rover Scout, and to him applies as much as to his younger brother that much-used tag about the "out" in Scouting. Never can Rovering be as it should if confined between four walls.

But your Crew, Tubby, is something more. It is part of a Sea Scout Group, and as such a whole gamut of additional activity is opened to it. Sea-Scouting is receiving world-wide recognition to-day as the ideal system of training for senior Scouts. Logically then, it seems that Rovering was made for the water branch, and vice-versa. Think what adventures, what achievements in the name of Scouting might be accomplished by a resolute band of young men filled with enthusiasm for the water and its ways. They would be older, more experienced, better able to withstand the physical hardship of a strenuous programme, better placed financially to support

(continued on page 45.)



R O V E R     N O T E S .ADDITIONS, EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS.

Apparently my touching appeal of last issue together with improved weather conditions had some slight effect, for the final section of the now notorious concrete wall was completed in splendid time, thus proving the value of adequate labour on these occasions. I would like to pay my humble yet sincere tribute to our Skipper for his work in designing and supervising the execution of this job; he has my particular admiration for his accurate assessment of quantities. It is interesting to conjecture how many members of his dignified profession could descend from their respective high places and perform the functions of the Irish Navvy, without even putting on a pair of glasses... Short pause while I think of suitable quotation, Ah!

"If you can walk with Kings nor lose the common touch".....  
(That will cost you five bob, Skipper)

WINTER PROGRAMME.

During a short pause in shovelling at a recent Rover Meeting, Rover Mate Hallett was heard holding a discussion with Rover Mate Stimpson as to what we should do this winter. I took the liberty of making a few rough notes of the main points in the debate, and now submit them for your amusement.-

R/M. S: You know, it's time we did something about this winter.

R/M. H: What winter?

R/M. S: Why this winter, I mean the Rover programme.

R/M. H: Yes, old boy, what we want is more ROVERING. Stir the blokes up a bit, show them that we are something more than mere sausage and tea caterers.

R/M. S: By gum, Fred, you're right, we must get together and put our backs to the wall! By the way, who are you bringing to the Rover Ball?

R/M. H: Wouldn't you like to know! How is the car running?

R/M. S: Not so bad, how's your bike!

R/M. H: I've just fitted a new pump washer, and she seems to do about another 10 m.p.h. Gee, it's nearly ten! Pack up, and let's have some grub, Jack.

R/M. S: O.K., Fred, chips and ginger beer tonight.

SEPIOUSLY THOUGH

As in past history, it seems inevitable that the meetings will be for some time devoted to building operations, and after all what more practical and enjoyable way could there be of spending one's leisure than the gradual development of the biceps and brain box through the time-honoured medium of pick and shovel?

WHIST DRIVE MARCH 12th.

This, the last of our series of Whist Drives for this season, was an overwhelming success. The attendance was so good that we were able to hang out both the house-full notices, and an inspired overflow meeting was held on the Main Deck. Personally I played some very uninspired Whist during the first half, and then feeling a little

overcome by the magnificence of the assembly I handed my card to Ginger Wild and adjourned next door to witness some very artistic washing up by R/L Ervine, who appears to have received some very good training in the science.

#### THE DITTON SOCIAL.

Three members of the Crew were privileged to attend a Social at the Headquarters of the Ditton Group. Two of us who were on our first visit to this palatial H.Q. were a little bit overpowered by the splendours of the Shack, but the warm and scouty welcome we received soon readjusted our mental balance.

It was a tip-top evening in every way, and well up to the very high standard that is traditional to all Ditton events. But what greater praise could be given than the following outpourings of a Leander's soul:-

"Well boys, it cost us nothing and we even won some money".

#### THE ROVER BALL.

According to the great demand for tickets Leanders will be extremely well represented at this event. (Special Blanco suitable for white caps and restoration of boiled shirts, 2 gns. per tin - Advt.)

A.J.L.

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#### IN REPLY. (continued from page 43).

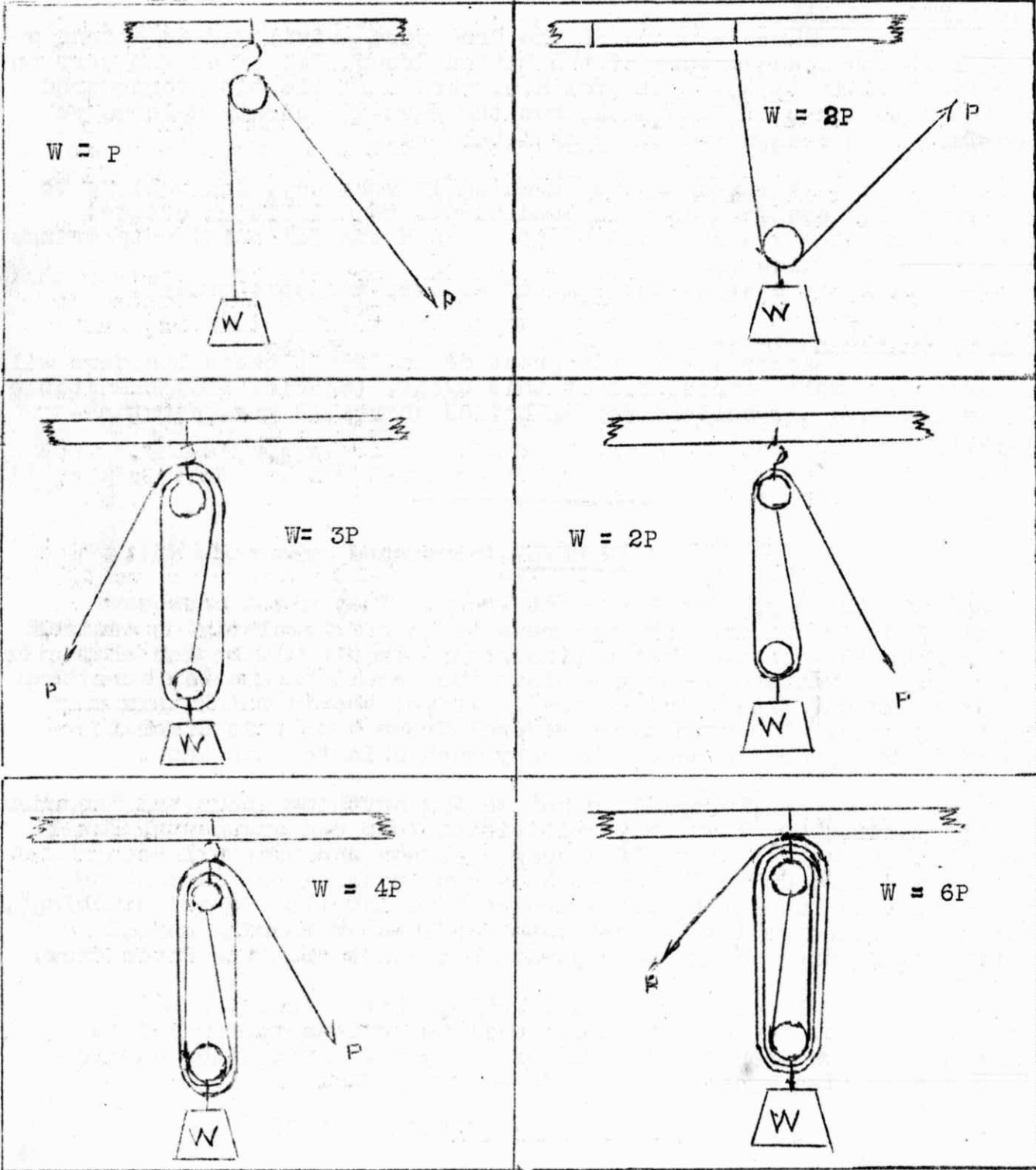
it than are the boys of a Sea Scout Troop. They might possess a boat of their own and make up crews to go off regularly on cruises up and down the coast. What a fine ground that would be for character training! I venture to suggest that they would become far more than a "set of decent clean-living lads". If you should think this a flight of fancy, I can instance several Crews - on this River too - who regularly practise something very much akin to this idea.

Now, Tubby, I am not saying anything about the "Leander" Crew in particular, I am only criticising your own arguments. But I would like to suggest that if a gang of chaps who have all been through a Sea Scout Troop cannot be shown anything to "appeal" to them more than the activities which we have labelled "boys' clubbing", then it would be well to investigate the idea of forming an Old Scouts' Club which should be separate and apart from the Rover Crew.

I need hardly say, Tubby, that I bear you no personal grudge, since my identity will be obvious to you and to all Leanders, but for the benefit of the Water Rat's wider public I had better sign myself,

ROVER SEA SCOUT.

PURCHASES.





WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

Dear Little Brothers,

The sunny days and longer evenings are here again, so we will be able to enjoy our Jungle as all cubs do. Those Cubs who are blind might work harder to get one eye opened and those four who are working to open the second eye should have mastered their signalling by now. However, we must leave tests just for a while, and get down to our Exhibition jobs. I am afraid you are not all doing as well as I could wish. You seem very much asleep just at present; wake up and get a move on. I feel some of you give in to yourselves too easily and this is not playing the game.

However, I hear from Bagheera and Grey Brother that the toy-making is getting along quite nicely, and the stunts for the working party should prove attractive to the visitors, but they must keep their hands off or they will stick!

On Saturday 14th we played a game of football against the 11th Kingston Pack. The Captain arranged this match and collected the team on Saturday morning entirely by himself. Very fine, but it's a pity the same Cub couldn't come to Grey Brother for his Handiwork when asked.

Rehearsals are in hand for the play which we were asked to do again at the Exhibition, and things are going well, although the open hole in the wall of the Rover Den is rather a serious distraction. We find the space at the Assembly Rooms will be much less than we had before, so it will be rather a job to curl ourselves up small enough. We lost our Bluebeard, of course, when Hawkins went up into the Troop, but the new one is managing quite well. The Property Man should be back with us in time for the Show.

The Oxford and Cambridge Imps are going well again in the time we can spare between other things. I am particularly pleased at the way you are bringing in the money as soon as you get it. Carry on the good work!

We have a new recruit to welcome this month, and I hope Cub McIvor will be in full form by the time the Exhibition comes along.

Good Hunting, Little Brothers,

AKELA has spoken.

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LISTEN-IN TO AUNTIE MURIEL.

I was very disappointed when I discovered that my spring-sided boots were in need of repair on the very night of the famous SCOUT BALL, but, nevertheless I have heard that some members of the "Leander" Troop and Crew were present, and one or two managed to get in "disguised as gentlemen" instead of members!

.....

I understand that one member of this Association was seen enjoying his pipe, although attired in full evening dress. Really, you know, this is not "done" in the best circles.

.....

Have you heard the modern version of the story of the "Babes and the Wood". No? Well, here it is. One day, two Babes set out for a load of wood, with the Troop Trek-cart. They were given full instructions of where to find the wood, and they went on and on and on, but couldn't find it anywhere, so presently the smallest Babe had to return to ask where they had to go! How's that!

.....

Although S.d T..n..th has laid aside his school-cap, he has not yet graduated to the Bowler-Hat and Umbrella style. No doubt that will come with years of discretion, and a down-y lip!

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I hear that in spite of the utmost vigilance on the part of the pickets, the Group are putting in at least one exhibit for the coming Scoutcraft Exhibition! Who is the black-leg?

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I also hear that L.s St..f..d and Ed... C..p..t.. are going to engage a Secretary between them, to deal with their fan-mail after their debut on the legitimate stage.

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Is it true that P..l Cl...t's signature tune is "Smoke get's in your eyes"? Ask N...y M..t.n!

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I hear that with regard to the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race, there is likely to be a battle between two members of the Group, not as to the result of the Race itself, but as to the result of the number of Imps sold.

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1st MOLESEY (SEA SCOUTS) NEW HOME.

The Sea Scout section of the 1st Molesey Troop, have recently passed through that difficult period, the first year of their existence, which as we all know is a very exacting time both for Officers and boys, well, we have safely completed the first Tack, progress has been at "Full Ahead" perhaps a little to rapid, still this is 1936, and effort has its rewards, as will be seen, when one considers the many years of hard work many other Troops have had to put in to get the same results.

Situated on the Surrey side of the river, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile above the Hampton's Guard Ship "Parkfield" is the site of the new H.Q. until recently called the Old Lambeth Water Works. It is a nice tall brick built building, within 25 yards of the river, with outside camping accommodation for about 8 ridge pole tents, there is a really first class quay on the front where craft drawing up to 6 ft. of water can come alongside, our Boat moorings can be seen from H.Q. window being on the Middlesex side of the river. It is proposed to have a house-warming, complete with invitations to our brother Sea Scouts, but that will be subject matter for the next issue of the "Water Rat". We shall be happy to welcome any Crews from either upstream or down, a postcard will assure you of feather beds and china cups.

E.W.SHIELD.

S/M. 1st Molesey.

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WANTED. - Gig, state particulars and where can be seen to S/M. E.W.Shield, 1st Molesey, The Hut, Walton Rd. East Molesey, Surrey.

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Mr.L.Geering of 18, Ashleigh Road, Mortlake, is the new G/S/M of the 1st Mortlake Group in the place of Mr.C.E.Peters.

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The Belsize Boat Yard of Priory Road, St.Denys, Southampton, have four 25 ft.x 6ft. x 2ft.3 in.ex-Admiralty centre board whalers for sale.

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Rehearsals for all Sea Scouts taking part in the Albert Hall Production of "BOY SCOUT" are now two per week, viz.- on Tuesdays at the Central Hall, Westminster, and on Thursdays at Chenies Street Drill Hall. Although summer rig is not usually worn until May 1st, those taking part are reminded that for the show WHITE CAPS will be worn. (WHITE DUCK CAPS, not merely cap covers, will be required).

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THAMES SEA SCOUT COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN'S LETTER.

Strange as it may seem, we still find fellows on the Thames who jib at calling themselves SEA Scouts.

There must be a strong misconception of distances to cause this, for after all, none are so far from the sea, that they cannot get there even at week-ends.

We must get Patrols to go beyond their home waters - the spirit of adventure is still alive - and provided the P.L. is well trained and his crew obedient to him, there is no reason why they should not get beyond the Pool of London.

To this end troops up-river will find the "Sea Scout" lying at Lambeth most helpful.

A Patrol can work its boat down to Lambeth one weekend, and leave it there, and push on from there the following week - a considerable distance can be covered between tides.

There are other Ports of Call besides the "Sea Scout" as some troops have suitable mooring space and arrangements with their Skippers should not be difficult.

We want more Patrols trying these long pulls, for when they do they will feel justified in calling themselves Sea Scouts.

W. G. BERTLES.

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All our readers will join us in offering our sincere sympathy to the parents of Patrol Leader Watson of the 33rd Fulham Troop who lost his life following the overturning of a kyack at Chelsea recently. No praise is too high for the heroic manner in which he thought first of his younger companion. If Scouting breeds fellows of Watson's character, we need have no doubt that we are on the right lines.

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The following Groups have recently started Sea Scout Sections. The Scouters' names and addresses are given in order that neighbouring Sea Scouts may get in touch with them. There are many directions in which a little help may mean very much to a new Troop.

16th Lambeth - Rev. M.W. Bulstrode, 86, Vassall Road, S.W.9.  
 65th Lambeth North - C. Carlow, 167, Kennington Park Rd. S.E.11.  
 23rd Marylebone - B. Green, 13 St. James Mansion, West End Lane. N.W.6.

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