DOES SCOUTING SERVE THE NATION?

Back of the Boy Scouts and their junior officers, are the —

Scoutmaster (the Key men in Scouting) and their Assistants —

Then the Troop Committees —

Then the Parent Institute (Church, etc., Chartered with Boy Scout Units.)

Then the District Committee (with its functioning Sub-Committees and Commissioners Staff serving the Troops) —

Then the Local Council (with its President, Commissioner, other officials, Executive Board, Policy-making Committees and Employed Staff) —

Then the Regional Corps of National Executives who service Local Councils —

Then the Home Office or National Council with its Congressional Charter giving comprehensive and effective Service to all Scouting in personal leadership, program, training, wealth of text books and publications, protection of Uniforms and Insignia, etc.

Briefly, the Service of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, is administered through four Divisions as follows:-

1. Program Division: Responsible for all handbooks and literature, Training, Publicity, Reading, Relationship, Research, etc.

2. Operation Divisions: Responsible for Field Service, Extension Work, Chartering Troops and Local Councils, Local Council Service, Camping, Standards, Health and Safety, Rural Scouting, Sea Scout Program, etc.

3. Personnel Division: Responsible for policy and administration affecting all leaders and leadership, both professional and volunteer.

4. Business Division: Responsible for the Supply Service, licenses and royalties, protection against unauthorized use of the name of Scouting, distinctive words or insignia, business management, purchase of all National Office supplies, etc.

The National Council is the controlling body of the Movement and its membership is derived mainly from the local organizations, and then by Act of Congress, this National Council controls the standards of Scouting in the United States.

The National Council further serves the Local Councils and Boy Scout Troops through its Regional Executives. There are 12 regions in the United States. Illinois is in Region 7 with Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. The 87 Local Councils of Region 7 with their 5000 Boy Scout Troops, are served by a Regional Executive and 5 Deputy Regional Executives. The membership of the Boy Scouts of America is mounting annually.

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WLS BARN DANCE AT WOODSTOCK, APRIL 18

The stars of Radio Station WLS have in former years, always been native born Americans. However,

this year, the radio audience has welcomed into their homes (via radio) the voice of a young and pretty miss, born across the waters in Holland. This young lady is none other Christine Smith. (She had another and more difficult name, but it proved to be to hard for announcers, and was dropped in favor of the plain "Smith."

Ten years ago, at the age of eight, Christine was brought to America by her father and mother. Here, she learned to speak English, while still adding to an already copious vocabulary of Dutch and German. It was while studying old German folk songs that she learned to sing and yodel in real Swiss fashion. At present she is one of the featured artists on the WLS barn dance, which will appear at the St. Mary's Gym, Woodstock, on Sunday, April 18, shows at 2, 4, 7 and 8:45. If you enjoy real swiss yodeling and singing, you will want to hear her as well as see her in person, when she appears at Woodstock, sponsored by the McHenry County Home Bureau.

SAN CARLO OPERA CO. AT AUDITORIUM, SPRING ENGAGEMENT

L'Oracolo and LaGioconda are additions to the San Carlo Opera company repertoire for the spring engagement at the Chicago Auditorium, opening Monday, April 19 and running through the next Sunday.

Leola Turner, well known Chicago singer who has been heard with the Civic company, now is a member of the Fortune Gallo forces and will be heard as Marguerite in Faust, Musetta in La Boheme, and in other roles.

Leonora Corona, for several years one of the sopranos of the Metropolitan, is being brought from New York City to sing in La Gioconda and Cavalleria Rusticana.

L'Oracolo will introduce Hizi Koyke, best-liked Madame Butterfly, in a role and a work unfamiliar to many of the newest generation of opera patrons. The one-act of life in San Francisco's old Chinatown long was in the repertoire of the "Met," where it was given its American premiere in 1915, with Lucrezia Bori and Antonio Scotti in the roles that will be sung by Impresario Gallo's Japanese prima donna and Mario Valle.

The opera, by Franco Leoni, who was a pupil of Ponchielli, composer incidentally, of La Gioconda, the other addition to the San Carlo repertoire for the Chicago engagement, will be sung in English. It will be followed by the ballet's staging of Viennese Life, and the bill, on the opening night, will close with Il Pagliacci. When L'Oracolo and Viennese Life are staged again for the Saturday matinee, the program will end with Cavalleria Rusticana.

For the other days, the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, April 20, Rigoletto; Wednesday, April 21, Aida; Thursday, April 22, La Boheme; Friday, April 23, La Gioconda; Saturday night, April 24, Faust; Sunday, April 25, Il Trovatore.

Bianca Saroya, Lucille Meusel, Charlotte Bruno, Dimitri Onofrei, Rolf Gerard, Aroldo Lindi, Mostyn Thomas, Mario Valle, and Harold Kravitt are among the familiar San Carlo principals who are returning. Dreda Aves has rejoined the company.

HE PREFERS MUSIC

Archie San Romani of Kansas State Teachers' college, who turned the 1936 "mile of the century" into an upsetting affair by defeating Jack Lovelock and Glenn Cunningham at the Princeton invitation, Princeton, N. J., looks upon track only as a hobby and prefers the cornet with which he is shown. When he receives a degree in music this spring he plans to teach it.

Toadstool Fly Poison

The poisonous toadstool called the fly amanita used to be made into fly poison.

OLD TIMERS' CLUB

SOX HAD HIS FUN

West McHenry, Ill.,
April 4, 1937.

Dear Old Timers:

It would be mighty fine if some of the "back-seat drivers" would get in on this column and help out. There are undoubtedly many old friends hereabouts that I have not seen and maybe blame me and think me indifferent. Such is not the case and it would afford me great pleasure if they would call up and say, "Hello, Come on over for a chat."

We started a movement, we hope, to have an exhibit of early day relics, but that flattened out, and is it due to lethargy, indifference or, "let someone else do it" attitude?

Anyway, I met Mat Rauen the other day and his greeting was heartening and we got to talking about the days when men were men and the women glad of it. And Mat says, "Remember how Sox kept the old town from passing out?" And I says, he sure did.

We got to roaring about the time he got "Wischen" Bishop's goat (Hello, Lew). "Wischen" had a deliberate low-toned manner of talking and Sox, who was very mimetic, would stand just outside the barber shop door on a nice warm day and would make up yarns and mimic Lew, to the joy of the audience. The following monologue lingers in memory:

"When a fellow goes up to Johnsburg, he has to be careful he don't step on any of their toes, because they can find more stuff to fight about than any town in the United States.

"I never had any trouble up there but once. Me and Mike Thelen rowed up there in a boat fishing and Mike sez, 'What do you say that we go over to Charley Karls' saloon and drink a couple and shoot a little pool?' and I sez, 'Maybe we hadn't' beter,' but Mike sez, 'Come on.'

"So we went in and had a couple of schooners and got some cues and played pool. The place was full of Johnsburgers, but we was careful and had shot about seven games when the bartender sez, 'You owe me for eight games,' and Mike says, 'No it's only seven.' The bartender sez, 'Settle up, it's eight games,' and Mike starts to argue about it and the bartender starts coming out from the bar.

"Then for the first time we realize that the gang was starting to close in on us and Mike whispered, 'Make for the cues,' and we did and started cracking heads right and left. Once I thought they had Mike because he was down, but I swung a carrom just in time and got my man and Mike's too. Mike says, 'Thanks, "Wischen,"' and a couple more swings they was all down and laid there and Mike steps on Charley Karls' neck, as he walks behind the bar and says, 'What will you have, "Wischen?"' and I says, 'I'll take the same,' and we had a few and when we went outside there wasn't a Johnsburger in sight."

That was Sox idea of fun. He used to tease anyone and a favorite of his was when I approached, he would start telling the boys how my "old man" got bowlegged, as follows:

"As I was saying, Capt. Bennett didn't always have bow legs, he got 'em at the Battle of Bull Run. That battle ot its name because it was in a cow pasture and Capt. Bennett was keeping one eye on the cannon balls and one eye on the bulls. He did pretty well until he had to dodge both at the same time and couldn't sidestep the cannon ball, so he bent his knees out to let the cannon ball pass between them and couldn't get them together again, etc., etc."

A brother of Sox' is living here in McHenry. He was christened Matthias Engeln. We called him "Miz" or "Mattas." "Miz" has a remarkable memory and S. I. H. can't go astray if he uses a notebook when he interviews him. It was the Gates home that did not burn at the "big fire," not Gage's.

Speaking of S. I. H., if any of the Plaindealer readers miss that weekly column of wit and sport news, they are cheating themselves. Let you in on a secret, if you will promise not to tell, Earl. "Mose" is worried from week to week that S. I. H. will become the property of a big Chicago daily and he has cause to worry, and we can worry with him.

Very truy,
FRANK BENNETT.
Northwestern Hotel—Phone 23

THANKS, OLD TIMER!

Dear Old Timers:-

To say that I appreciate the efforts that Frank has put forth to revive the spirit of the Old Timers' Club would be putting it mildly. Hence my contribution to inspire others to follow his many kind suggestions for the club. Readers have inquired why the exchange of letters so interesting could not be continued. A letter from Mary L. Cobb, of Richmond, Ind., prompts me to send a line for publication. She does not feel equal to writing a letter to be inserted in The Plaindealer, but I can quote her as saying that she was glad to be remembered by many of her one time students. She would like very much to see the old town again, but fears she might not have strength for the trip. Said that her son, Frank, and wife had sent her postcards of the two fine churches that were erected since she left. She concludes with many kind wishes to her old friends and hopes that the Old Timers' Club will continue to function.

Mrs. Cobb taught successfully in the McHenry Schools for many years. She will accept kindest wishes from all old time friends with a hope that some day she will feel equal to the trip. Rest assured Mrs. Cobb, that you will be received with honor and a hearty welcome awaits you.

Members and friends will be grieved to know that my sister, Mrs. Costello, of Elgin, met with a serious accident when she fell down a flight of stairs, recently. She was rendered unconscious for several hours. Happy to relate that she is recovering. That Florence Wray underwent an operation at Sherman hospital, Elgin, on Friday. That Dora Besley Price met with an accident while visiting in New York. She has a sprained ankle. That Hattie Meade Datton is recuperating from a five-weeks illness. I talked with her and she spoke joyously of the centennial celebration.

We anxiously await a promised letter from Alice Sutton. In the interim, please accept this disconnected one from a member whose mind seldom travels outside of home duties and please write something. Tell us how your children and grandchildren are doing at college. Tell us about the Red Cross unit in your city. Intense interest was shown here in the drive for funds and clothing in the recent disasters.

Remember way back when we asked a companion if our hat was on straight?—Well, now-a-days, we look in the mirror to be sure it isn't on straight. That's how times change, so let us have faith in the future, gratitude for the past, joy in the present, with a hope for a full page of letters from ye old time friends in our next issue of the good old Plaindealer.

Didn't Riley say:

"It's the songs ye sing and the smiles ye wear
That's makin' the sunshine everywhere."

I await a scroll from present members and anticipate an enrollment of brand new members.

"Thank You."

LORETTO WALSH.

INTERESTED "OLD TIMER"

Spencer, Iowa,
March 31, 1937.

McHenry Plaindealer:

I have greatly enjoyed The Plaindealer and eagerly look for it each Saturday. Especially enjoyed the papers previous to the Centennial, telling of the expectancy work and plans for the great affair, and from the voice of all my old friends and relatives, it was all a great success.

I think you must have good talent, as well as hard workers, to produce such a fine and interesting three-day program. I was so anxious to get the paper telling all about it, but it never came. I looked for it several weeks, thinking it had been overlooked and intended to write to you about it. However, the intense heat at that time caused one to forget letter writing of any kind. I wonder if you have a copy of the paper of August 5, that you could send me. I know it is very late to ask for it. However, I would greatly appreciate it, along with your efforts, and enjoy reading it, even at this late day.

I am so glad to know that Frank Bennett is back. I hope he will decide to remain. I missed him and his friendly letters and attitude toward the old home town.

Wishing prosperity for McHenry and The Plaindealer, I am, as ever, a very interested "Old Timer."

MRS. F. A. SCHNORR.

May Sleep Too Long

"De man dat sits aroun' waitin' foh opportunities," said Uncle Eben, "is mighty liable to doze off an' not recognize 'em."

Wm. H. Althoff Hdwe.
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