

had their 150th birthday and asked if we would come and parade with them. While there we were asked to go to Delhi to a much larger parade and an audience of about 5,000 people. This was the beginning of our success, but there was much more to do.

Transportation was costly and we had to find a way to overcome this because we could not charge for anything we did. (Scout Law) As it happened Scouter Jack Ecket worked for Livingston's Wood Products in Tillsonburg and he arranged to have a truck and a man free of charge to go any place, at any time. They could then charge for their trucking and gave the money to us. This was our way of financing our mounted troop. With such interest in the boys wanting to get a mount we had to make a rule that scouting had to come first and horses after. If they failed scouting, horses were out.

We found that the boys made better scouts as well as good horsemen. They became interested in earning badges and becoming Queen Scouts. At the end of the second year there were three boys that became Queen Scouts. First aid became very important and that was good to have in a troop such as ours. We, as Scouter's, could appraise the boy's disposition by the way he used his horse. If it was not satisfactory we could help him correct it.



Allan Rice, assistant Scout Master

By now we had many newspapers wanting to interview us, such as London Free Press, Toronto Star, The Family Harold, Tillsonburg News, Windsor Star, and the Country Guide from Winnipeg and London TV. Walt Disney made a News Reel for us which was played at our local theatre and later we appeared in the Worldwide Scout Leader.



Mounted Scouts lined up for inspection in front of Old Springford School

When the R.C.M.P. heard what we were doing they helped us with our training of the troop. Some police men coming home on leave or holidays from London, Ottawa, or Calgary would lend a hand. One of the boy's fathers made a chuck wagon for us to use when we went on local camping trips so we were self contained when we went on foot.

By the end of the first year our wives and some of the Mothers made saddle blankets and martingales with our own new crest on them, and white gloves, for the boys of the troop. They looked most presentable.

Because we were sponsored by the Lions Club we were invited to go to the Lions National Convention which was held in Windsor. It was the largest parade that we had ever been in. Our parade number was 753 and we were not the last by any means. It took over two hours to make the return trip. In spite of all the floats that appeared that day, our troop was mentioned the next day in the Windsor Star. We also were invited to host the Youngville Cornplanter's Scout Fair in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. While there we climbed the Allegheny Mountains which was a thrill for the boys. Our local Agriculture Fairs wanted us each fall and we made return appearances at Owen Sound, Belmont, Norwich, Aylmer, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll and Woodstock.

I had a program that took about one half an hour. When we entered the arena the troop was lined up. They then dismounted and the boys and horses were inspected, then introduced to the crowd. I then took my place at the side and my