

Boy Scouts

Notes of Troop and Camp

Big Horn Troop 324
The organization of the troop committee together with the objectives of the various committees is indicated below:

Sponsoring Institution—Highland Park Presbyterian church. Chairman, W. A. Mann; vice chairman, F. F. Krohn; vice chairman, L. A. Rankin.

Organization, Extension and Public Relations—Chairman, H. A. Alexander; vice chairman, B. K. Martin.

Objectives—(1) Give all boys opportunity to be scouts—build troop. (2) Obtain suitable publicity for troop.

Advancement—Chairman, Irving W. Barnett; vice chairman, L. A. Rankin; vice chairman, Wilson Richardson.

Objectives—(1) Regular rank advancement of every scout. (2) Dignified recognition for advancement.

Secretary-Treasurer—A. E. Peterson.

Objectives—(1) Minutes of committee meetings. (2) Proper finances and records for troop and troop committee. (3) Annual re-registration on time.

Health and Safety—Chairman, E. W. Erickson; vice chairman, F. F. Krohn.

Objectives—(1) A safe, healthy meeting place for Scouts. (2) Medical examination for every scout. (3) Approve plans for all unit trips, hikes, camps, cruises, etc.

Camping and Activities—Chairman, F. F. Krohn; vice chairman, Ray M. Sneed.

Objectives—(1) One hike a month. (2) Two weeks of summer camping for the troop. (3) Keep "service" foremost in Scouts' minds.

Leadership Training—Chairman, L. W. Thompson.

Objectives—Training of Troop Committee and patrol leaders.

Representing Sponsor—Dr. L. W. Sherwin.

Chaplain—Rev. Dean O. Luginbill.

The troop is very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Baker M. Hamilton as Scoutmaster for the ensuing year. Dr. Hamilton has been identified with Troop 324 for the past several years. Under his able administration the Troop has grown from approximately twenty scouts to the present enrollment of fifty-four. Troop 324 is one of the best in the Chicago Motor Club Area Council, and is recognized as one of the leaders in activities for Boy Scouts of every age.

An additional feature inaugurated by Scoutmaster Hamilton is the inauguration of a Safety Patrol which has been authorized by the Chicago Motor Club. This safety patrol is the only Boy Scout Safety Patrol operating in conjunction with the Chicago Motor Club, and the duties of this patrol are to provide safety to small Sunday school children going to and from the Presbyterian church on Sunday morning.

The work is rotated among the various scouts and it is in this manner that they are able to take care of their "good turn daily" even on Sunday.

The group is having their annual

dinner on Thursday evening, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. It so happens that this day falls concurrently with the anniversary date of the inauguration of the boy scout movement in the United States and marks the start of Boy Scout Week.

Tells of 25,000 Mile Trip Across U. S. To Alaskan Wilds

Following is a continuation of the round robin letters sent to friends by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Patton, on their 25,000 mile trailer trip to Alaska.

Dawn broke clear and a couple of hours put us 325 miles into Nome coming in at Norton Bay and following the coast of Norton Sound. We had only been in our room at the hotel a few minutes when a knock on the door brought a reporter from Nome's tri-weekly newspaper for an interview. He sure gave us quite a writeup which announced our arrival in town. The people in Nome and all over the coast turned themselves inside out to see that we had a good time and see to everything we wanted. They were glad to see us.

We were invited up to the meeting of the Nome Camera club where we saw some marvellous movies of the natives taken at Hooper Bay and St. Lawrence Island. Sue met a Mrs. Waldhelm there who invited her over for lunch next day to see her ivory collection and pictures. The natives do beautiful ivory carving particularly those on St. Lawrence Island.

Two days I spent out watching the native seal hunters. Open water is about 2 miles from shore, which you reach after a half hour walk over the sea ice. Just watch your step as there are spots a little thinner than the rest and a salt water bath is not to be relished in zero weather. I might have needed a bath, but am glad to say I reserved my abolutions for the community tub in the hotel.

The last night in town I joined a crowd of young natives who were charivariing a newly married couple. They circled the cabin, pounded on the door, tapped on the windows and generally congratulated the happy pair's new status. Finally in desperation the best man appeared with silver in his palm to buy the assembled multitude ice cream. The din ceased.

It is remarkable the part radio plays in this country. We had complete dope on landing and weather conditions all up the coast to Tigara our further-most point from home about 200 miles north of the circle, jutting out into the Arctic Ocean.

Lower Nome is beautiful along weather, we flew over Seward Peninsula to Kotzebue. A herd of 3,000 reindeer with three natives dog

teams appeared below so down we went circling as close as we dared without causing a stampede. The government's bureau in charge of native reindeer does not look with great favor upon curious pilots who scratch the back of the reindeer with the skis of their planes. In fact they get quite nasty about it. Our first glimpse of the Arctic Ocean was Katzebue Sound, but all Seward Peninsula is tundra, covered with several feet of closely packed snow, so I didn't wake up to the fact that we were many miles from land until we were half way across. Flying over the seas this time of year is very safe, a landing field every two feet. If your steed gets "miserable" you have no trouble in coming to earth, you may have a chilly saunter to relieve and naturally there is little opportunity to warm up as the timber is just a trifle scarce.

Kotzebue faces north, on the tip of a long sand spit separating Hotham Inlet from the sea. It is quite a fur center and all grub has to be lightered 12 miles from the ships that must anchor way out. They tell me with the usual wind blowing it is rather a choppy voyage out to the steamers.

We located a Parki for Sue there, made out of Sic Sic Puc, the Eskimos when they speak English say "Heap big squirrel." That night the Roadhouse keeper, Paul David-owic, put on a movie for the natives in the lobby of his hotel. The pool table was shoved up against the wall, the Eskimos came young and old sitting in front on the floor with their feet straight in front of them or on chairs to the rear. The lobby was crowded and oh what wonderful perfumery they use. All the girls like the same scent. Parfume La Blubber. As Sue remarked most unappreciatively "What a God Awful Smell." The movie was a silent social thriller of a girl on a barge, who had so many hairbreadth experiences it left you fearing she never would live happily ever after. More radio reports of clear

weather to the North so once again we donned wings to fly up the bleak Arctic coast to Tigara, where the Eskimos live in igloos, eat blubber, perfume with blubber, heat their mansions with blubber, feed their dogs blubber and even use blubber to pacify the babies when they cry, really they are quite blubber minded. Circling the village we found the landing field marked off with gunny sacks, had been blown too clean so that the gravel would strip off the metal from our skis, so we landed on the sea. Mr. Ripley the school teacher met us and assured us our landing spot was quite safe. The last time he had been out there it was nothing but open water and with a good breeze coming up we might have a long swim in the morning to our plane. We had no choice but pray for another day of calm. Chopping out a handle in the ice we tied down one wing, the other being securely anchored to a nearby iceberg. A mile trudge over the sea and along the treeless tundra brought us to steaming coffee and the school house.

After lunch we started out to see the sights and the natives. We enjoyed seeing real eskimos, the natives enjoyed seeing a couple of foot tourists who would fly into the Arctic in January for fun. It was a mutual admiration party. A call upon an Eskimo family in their igloo. We climbed up to the top of an old igloo and squeezed down through a skylight to a ladder, then down to a tunnel four feet under ground. Stooping as we floundered along a dark passage, stubbing our toes against dead seal, well solidified by the action of the icy temperatures, we came to a seal gut curtain. I dropped to my knees and followed the others into a very comfortable room about 15 feet in diameter. It was lighted by a seal gut skylight and warm as toast. A stove burning seal blubber threw off plenty of heat, as well as an aroma all its own. Sue had a headache all the rest of the day. They says they don't burn fat in Alabama for heat.

Dr. Francis Drouet, curator of cryptogamic botany at Field Museum of Natural History, who is currently conducting a botany expedition, reports that he has so far obtained more than 5,000 plant specimens. His present field of operations is in the Mexican state of Sonora. He recently completed work in the mountains and along the coast of the Gulf of California.

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