



THE HANG-UP

It is coon country, bear country, and mouse heaven. Dinner is over and an evening free from care lies before us. Well, not quite. There is the food pack to hang up. Actually it is an evening free from care because we have a method guaranteeing that animals will never be able to reach the food unless they cut the cords, and it involves a minimum of effort on the part of the camper. Of course, no doubt most of you who may read this will already know all these tricks, so this idea is directed to all newcomers to Wildwood Wisdoms or those of you who haven't thought of it.



We carry two ropes with us, each 50 feet long. Bernard ties a flat stone about the size of a hatchet head to one rope end and after about 3 to 10 tries, successfully throws the stone-weighted rope over limb of a selected tree and lowers the stone back to earth. We now have a rope hanging close to the tree trunk, over a limb about 20 feet up.

Bernard unties the stone and ties one end of this first rope to the pack on the ground.

We then repeat the stone throwing using the second rope and another appropriate tree, but not throwing so high this time: (Between the two trees there is either a little ravine or simply open ground. The trees may be 12 to 20 feet apart.)

When the second rope is free of the stone, one end of it is tied to the pack also. Then, with Bernard hoisting the pack in the air and perhaps aiding it with a paddle, I haul on rope No. 1 until the pack is about 1/3 to 1/2 of the way up in the air. I tie my rope securely to tree No. 1. Bernard then pulls on rope No. 2. This move hauls the pack out into space and well away from tree No. 1 and, of course, it is now even a little higher off the ground. He secures his rope (No. 2) to tree No. 2 and the job is done.

There are times, of course, when there may be a good clearing but poor trees, i.e. they are too dense for the rope throwing stunt. That is when yours truly swarms aloft, rope in teeth, to do the honors. In fact, if one doesn't mind a little pine gum and a reputation afterwards of having simian aptitudes, it is sometimes quicker to do it this way, and good exercise besides.

Well, that's all there is to it. How about a little contest sometimes? Found any good stones lately?