

Testing survival techniques

Students camp overnight



Grade 4 students attending Whitechurch-Highlands Public School on the Bloomington Rd. had a unique experience last week. They camped out in a field north of the school. It was to put into practise various survival

techniques stemming from classroom work. Here Mark Dekkema, Todd Cotter, Brad Jones and Chris Conolly re-arrange their campfire set-up. —Don Bernard

WHITCHURCH — Fifty Grade 4 students from Whitechurch-Highlands Public School put their survival training course to the test last week.

The students slept overnight in a field behind the school.

It wasn't all fun and games, however.

The students had been studying survival in classroom work and had been divided into working groups to plan and execute the overnight excursion.

Teacher David Payne explained that Science, and Mathematics were integrated into the study of how to survive in the wilderness.

The project was part of the Science program for the students.

After school Thursday, each group started working on setting up a campsite. Tents were erected and large rocks collected to make fire places.

Each group also had to create some kind of project, related to survival. They were judged on this and the results marked in a special

Judges Report

At the end of the overnight stay, the groups could judge how well they would have done if they had been in the wilderness.

The youngsters were not allowed to bring any pre-cooked food with them. Raw vegetables were permitted. They had to use wild plants found around the campsite.

Tea and coffee, for example, can be made from certain weeds. The food must be cooked and according to Mr. Payne the groups were judged on how well they created a well-balanced diet.

The inspectors tasted the food and judged it. Each group would cook over an open fire and had to start the fire without using paper. To receive full points a group had to start the fire with two matches.

Mr. Payne said that the students had been working for three weeks before and had 14 pages of recipes in their workbooks, all made from plants found in the wild.

There are five students in each group and each group had its own tent. A captain was elected.

After the tents were set up, and supper cooked, the youngsters gathered around a large campfire for a singsong. Each group created a survival skit to be performed around the campfire. Those were also judged.

Mr. Payne said that the emphasis was on "safety", especially in regards to fire.

The judges, who would be sleeping over with the students included a nurse Carol Baldasti and her husband Bill, Marie Lloyd, a Grade 4 teacher also slept over, along with Mr. Payne.

The highlight of the day was a weiner and marshmallow roast before bedtime.



Farm Report

How to handle hay

By A.A. Wall
Agricultural Representative

The weather last week was the kind that keeps the search going for different ways to handle hay. As herd sizes go up, the necessity for a system that depends less on good drying weather, intensifies.

The hay day at Elora last Thursday demonstrated a whole flock of new equipment for silage systems, and for much faster dry hay system. Both are in the direction of getting the crop off quickly, with or without good weather.

The big balers and stackers have a lot of

potential, but they fit a dairy or beef feedlot situation better than our average sized tie stall dairy barns.

Haylage is a sound system for our dairy farms, and a few more make the change each year. It brings new problems — takes more equipment, is hard to blow, hard to get out, and feed losses if it heats too much.

However, faster harvest, less work and much better preservation of the feed value in the crop, more than compensates. The bugs can be minor ones if the crop goes in at around 70 per cent moisture, the silo is

filled quickly, mechanical distributor is used, and capped with a sheet of plastic with a foot of wet haylage on it.

Costs are not very different. Total cost for a haylage system works out to just under \$10.00 per ton of dry matter, while custom rates for baling are around 20 cents a bale, plus \$2.50 a ton for swathing.

Good haylage is great for dairy cattle. Cut early and with lots of alfalfa, it should be around 18 per cent protein, and along with a grain corn or mixed grain, it could supply all the protein needed for a cow milking up to 60 lbs. per day.



Steve Chyer chops firewood for a campfire. The groups had to start a fire without paper, using only two matches. Points were awarded for various successful achievements.

Council refuses to approve Humane Society tag day

STOUFFVILLE — The Ontario Humane Society has been refused permission to hold a tag day in Stouffville, on September 26 and 27.

The permission was denied by council recently. Councillor Eldred King commented before the vote was taken, "I don't think they ever did anything too

extravagant for this municipality."

Mr. King was highly critical of the Humane Society saying they would be much more functional if they did what they were set up to do. He said he is "not too sure they are doing their job at all."

Beta Sigma Phi The Eta Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi held its birthday party at the Parkway Hotel, June 3. Awards were presented to the 1974-75 executive, and the girl of the year, Pam Follett is the president for 1975-76. Other executive members are — Bev Kettle (vice-president), Joyce Caudle (treasurer) and Norma Emery (recording secretary).

specifically mentioned the Society's inspectors following the wagon train.

Council's vote was tied until Mayor Gordon Ratcliff voted, saying, "I'll go along that they don't have a tag day."

Council's relations with the society have been somewhat strained since the society with drew their canine control services in a manner council considered high-handed and arbitrary.

Visitors from Manitoba Mrs. Edna Miller from Killarney, Manitoba, is visiting with her nephew, Murray Stewart and family, of Stouffville. While in southern Ontario, she attended the wedding of her niece, Jill Ann Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garth Stewart of Toronto.

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