

SERVICE FOR OTHERS WORKING WONDERS FOR BOY SCOUTS

300,000 in the United States Are Gaining Friends by Their Rule of "One Good Turn Every Day"—Their Work and Fun

During the week just ended the Boy Scouts of America and their 7,000 men who are their scout masters have celebrated the fourth anniversary of the founding of this country of one of the most remarkable organizations of modern times. Throughout the length and breadth of the land these 300,000 lads are formed into troops and patrols, each with its leader.

From the national headquarters in the Fifth Avenue Building James E. West, chief executive scout, long ago set to all scout masters a carefully arranged programme for the anniversary week. The first thing after arising each morning, for example, each scout was urged to do what is termed an individual good turn, that is, to perform some definite act of kindness or helpfulness that he would not ordinarily do.

Last Sunday afternoon all scouts of a given community were to do a scout birthday good turn by visiting the sick in hospitals and private homes, carrying them good cheer as well as taking flowers and the best wishes of the scout movement.

Every day of this anniversary week the scouts made a special effort at the individual good turn, and in addition each afternoon when school was over the programme provided for troop good turn, by which is meant that the scouts working together as troops or patrols carried out some effort for the community as a whole—cleaning up and burning the trash of a certain ill kept block of the town or city; putting school playgrounds in order for the coming spring; or doing any one of a score of helpful things needed in one neighborhood or another.

At the various meetings no word was spoken which suggested military prowess, much less war, for the Boy Scouts of America have nothing to do with such matters except to discourage them.

The good turn idea is a feature of the organization. Thus it was something more than four years ago that a Chicago man found himself lost in the streets of London one night. He was going to dine at a private home in a quiet neighborhood and when a thick fog settled down he became confused and wandered this way and that and finally stood still on the pavement wondering what to do next.

Then he saw some one coming toward him carrying a lantern. Nearer and nearer came the light and soon the Chicago man perceived that it was borne by a lad wearing a uniform, who stopped, saluted, and said:

"I beg your pardon, sir, but can I be of service to you?"

"Indeed you can," the Chicago man exclaimed and quickly explained his plight.

"That's all right, sir," the lad responded. "If you will step this way I'll show you where you want to go. It's only a short distance."

The American thanked his young guide heartily, and arriving at his destination he paid him for the trouble he had taken. But the lad declined.

"Much obliged, sir," he said, "but I can't take money for doing a good turn. That's what I am out for this foggy evening."

"How do you mean?" asked the Chicago man, instantly interested and forgetful of idleness.

"Why," the little fellow replied, "it's one of my duties—all Boy Scouts have to do a good turn to somebody every day. If they don't they fail to keep the scout's oath and have to quit."

The Chicago man forgot his dinner invitation and all else for the next few minutes, for at once he grasped something of the possibilities latent in the idea of bringing up thousands of boys to perform some good turn, day after day, during their most impressionable years.

What might logically happen as a result of this cumulative habit on the part of fifty or fifty thousand lads in the country almost stunned him.

He had question after question at



250,000 scouts are learning the means of artificial respiration.

the little chap in uniform, who stood there, lantern in hand, that drizzling foggy night. He learned that a scout's first duty is forgetfulness of self and service to others, especially in time of danger. He learned that the cornerstone was truth and honor, loyalty to God, to family, country and all placed in authority; that a scout learns how to drive out evil thoughts and desires by systematic exercise which hardens his muscles, by cool baths, by proper food and suitable clothing, and especially by keeping his mind occupied by doing things that are interesting as well as being what older folks call worth while. And finally the Chicago man learned that at the head of this wonderful organization of English boys was a great and distinguished Englishman, Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

The American went in to dinner; his young guide saluted and went on his way. Next day the American sought Gen. Baden-Powell, and before long had so absorbed the spirit of the scout movement that he hastened home full of the idea of organizing a corresponding movement for American lads. And that is how the Boy Scouts of America came to be started.

Since the time when it was placed on a permanent footing, just four years ago today, the Boy Scouts of America have grown by leaps and bounds. Within two years word came from Boston that there were 20,000 lads in and around that city who wanted to become scouts, and could not because there were not enough men volunteering to act as scout masters. To-day there are more than 300,000 scouts in the whole country, but only 7,000 scout masters, and the need for more men to help develop and guide boy life is growing keener month by month. Those active in the enterprise are convinced that if

the value of the movement was understood by American men there would be 50,000 volunteer scout masters instead of 7,000.

The activities of the scouts can hardly be touched upon, so varied and comprehensive are they. Work in gymnasiums, hikes in the country, experience in building shelters in the woods, lighting fires with one match and without any match at all, cooking plain food, finding edible roots, berries, etc., when food supplies are lacking; instruction in swimming, diving, life saving, resuscitation of persons apparently drowned, fighting fires, rescuing persons from burning buildings filled with smoke and flames, skating, snowshoeing, building temporary bridges, preventing fires and extinguishing fires, cleaning up dirty neighborhoods, exterminating flies, abolishing mosquito pests, all the principal forms of first aid to the injured, stopping runaway, handling small boats in heavy seas, carrying messages with utmost accuracy across short or long stretches of city or country, running, jumping, guarding game and fish, training dogs and horses, setting up and working wireless apparatus in town or open country—these are only a few of the many features which enter into scout work. And at the basis of all is that single principle of self-control and service for others which includes rigidly the rule of at least "one good turn every day."

At the national headquarters in the Fifth Avenue Building hundreds of reports are received week by week telling of what Boy Scouts are doing in various sections of the country. It will be remembered that at the suffrage parade in Washington the day before President Wilson's inauguration a mob of unsympathetic onlookers bore down

upon the paraders, upset the line of march and nearly broke up the demonstration.

The Washington police were so amused that they did nothing to speak of, and it was left for the little lads in khaki to struggle against the swarming mass of hooting sightseers. That they succeeded is shown by photographs sent to headquarters a few days later. One, for example, pictures a Boy Scout certainly under 15 who, with two fellow scouts, was holding back a section of the mob, the little fellows struggling desperately, while close by is shown a hulking big policeman, a smile on his face and his hands folded comfortably.

Perhaps the most extraordinary service rendered in a large way was at the Gettysburg encampment last summer, when about 500 scouts reported for duty. They met every incoming train, helped the visiting veterans to find their tents, carried valises, made up cot beds, brought food and water to those too feeble to leave their tents, cared for man after man overcome by the heat, protected girl visitors from masher in the streets of the tented city, acted as messengers and orderlies for the officers and performed a multitude of other duties.

In a formal report afterward issued by the surgeon in charge special reference was made to a squad of Boy Scouts who were assigned to assist the Red Cross doctors and nurses. The surgeon wrote that the extraordinary low mortality of the thousands of veterans was due in great degree to the incessant activities and trained intelligence of the Boy Scouts. One instance is particularly interesting. It relates that on a certain night a Boy Scout, patrolling through a large patch of woods, found a veteran lying in the underbrush, unconscious from exhaustion.

The scout summoned two others, they carried him to the nearest field hospital, administered restorative measures and left him in the hands of a doctor who had been sent for. Then the scouts signalled for a patrol leader, stated their experience and suggested that some other veteran might be lying exhausted in the great stretch of woods. The next moment a silent alarm went flying through the encampment; every scout was ordered to report for emergency duty and as fast as they arrived they were told off in squads to cover every square yard of that wooded section.

"By daylight," the report concludes laconically, "Boy Scouts on this special duty had discovered, brought to field hospitals and had restored more than 100 other aged men, some frail, all feeble, whom they had found exhausted in the underbrush."

Not one of these rescued veterans died as a result of exposure and exhaustion. In a large percentage of cases the Boy Scouts had to administer first aid before the unfortunate man could be removed from the spot where he had fallen.

In Massachusetts Boy Scouts are now making a census of trees, describing the species, size, growth and location, so a record may be compiled by the Forestry Commission. In several States they act as deputy game and fish wardens. In other localities they are regularly enlisted as aids of the official fire wardens of great forest tracts. In city after city, especially in the middle West, they have carried out campaigns of cleaning up neighborhoods. Elsewhere they have pursued campaigns for exterminating flies, for ridding roadsides of noxious weeds, for destroying poison ivy, etc.

Philadelphia has enlisted the cooperation of Boy Scouts in protecting the city squares and parks. William H. Bull, chief of the bureau of public property, declares that they can do far more than regular attendants in preventing other lads who are thoughtless from destroying shrubbery and damaging fine trees.

The local authorities of Darby, Pa., some time ago asked the scouts of Troop I to remedy conditions in an alley that had become unsanitary through neglect. The scouts started to clean up the place, and in the process they were inspected by the health board. It was pronounced in perfect sanitary condition.

Gov. Hoffman of Illinois enlisted the services of Boy Scouts in helping the Public Safety Commission of Chicago and Cook county. The job of the scouts is especially to help other children understand and avoid dangers in the

streets, to guide very little folks across crowded highways and show them how to keep their heads when unexpectedly caught in a maze of vehicles. Each of these scouts had been furnished with a safety commission button, so that other children and adults too, have no hesitation in calling on them for assistance and advice.

Scouts of Texarkana, Ark., have been very kind to a woman who was in great need after the death of her husband. In all probability she thanked the boys, but also wrote a letter to headquarters, in which she told of the material help the lads gave her when she was without means of support, and how their cheerfulness and brightness gave her more courage than anything else.

The list of rescues of drowning persons saved by scouts is a long one and the instances come from almost every part of the country. Particularly self-sacrificing was the experience of a little chubby faced scout named Homer Hathaway of Oconomowoc, Wis. During the Christmas season last past he, with a crowd of other boys and girls, went skating on Lake La Bella, near by. While they were playing a game of hockey a man named George Grokosky, skating by himself, crossed the ice and went through.

Homer Hathaway and Russell Eddy, both scouts of Troop I, rushed to his rescue, but were drawn out by water and were forced to try to save the man on their own lives. Dudley Cook, a new member of the troop, threw a rope to Russell and Grokosky and managed to pull them to stronger ice. He then tried to reach little Homer in the same way, but could not do it. But Dudley did not hesitate to spring into the icy water and swim after his little comrade, who sank, however, before the rescuer reached him. Meantime the scout master had ar-

rived and Dudley was helped out, after which the scout master, A. M. Henderik, and all of the other scouts who had been trained in life saving, dived again and again in effort to recover Homer's body. Finally it was found, brought to the surface and rushed ashore, where every means of resuscitation was kept up until further effort seemed useless. The body had been under the ice for an hour when recovered.

Homer's funeral was held the day before Christmas. The scouts of his troop acted as guards of honor, while six members of his patrol were pallbearers. At the grave the boys planted an evergreen as a perpetual remembrance of their heroic brother scout, and the scout call was given by the bugler over the grave as a last farewell to the scout who lost his life trying to save the life of another.

One of the most widespread duties rendered by scouts this past year was in connection with county fairs held at various places throughout the country. At fair after fair, where country people gathered by thousands, alert little fellows wearing scout uniforms acted as guides, cared for persons overcome by the heat, found lost children and restored them to distracted parents and in other ways showed that they could do things worth while.

This ability to search for lost children brings to mind the further fact that on many occasions fathers have asked Boy Scouts of the entire land to search for a son who had run away from home or who had disappeared from other cause. In some instances the father sent a full description and card photographs of his missing boy to scout masters in every community, who thereupon called their troops and patrols together, showed them the picture, told them how the lost boy looked and what clothes he wore, and set them on the job. It is said that

Achievements of the Lads Who Have Just Been Celebrating the Fourth Anniversary of the Founding of Their Organization

more than once in such a case there have been nearly 200,000 scouts, scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, hard at work looking for the youngster who had disappeared. In one such case scouts found, lying dead in an out of the way place, a young man whom the authorities of Pennsylvania had been unable to trace.

But the Boy Scouts do not confine themselves to hard work by any means, although they are always ready to respond to a call for duty, to carry out their motto, which is "Be Prepared." As showing some of the fun they enjoy, typical instances have been furnished THE SUNDAY SUN by National Headquarters.

Thirty members of the Danville, Ill., Boy Scouts, accompanied by Scout Commissioner L. J. Barzer, recently went on a tour of inspection through the yards of the Big Four railroad system. The chief car foreman, John Marvel, conducted the tour. Roundhouse Foreman Bair gave them permission to go through the roundhouse, where they clambered over, under and into the great engines, were given a ride on the turntable, and saw the many improvements being made there. The scouts were given a demonstration of the big wrecking derrick, the gigantic arm being swung into midair covered with clinging boys hanging on the big iron hooks, the hoisting chains and the top of the hoisting arm.

The Moscow Boy Scouts camp last season was located at the forks of the Polkatch River, Idaho. The Scouts spent two weeks in camp, dividing the time between fishing, swimming, hiking to the neighboring lumber camps, studying the logging operations, and learning something about nature study, forestry and engineering. Raising a giant flagpole was the first task that tested their resourcefulness, but after one unsuccessful attempt the feat was accomplished.

A signal tower of fir poles, lashed together with wire to a height of thirty feet, was built by the smaller boys, while the stronger lads worked on the erection of a bridge over the Polkatch River. The bridge was of a unique cantilever type, with a span of forty feet, and was built after a sketch made by the scout master, who is a civil engineer. These scouts also hiked to the top of Moscow Mountain, an altitude of 5,000 feet, with blankets, canvas and provisions. They spent two nights on the summit, in spite of thunder showers and dust storms.

Two of them with the scout master took a horseback trip through the interior of Idaho, carrying their supplies on a pack horse. They visited the Indian reservations, the cowboy country, the placer mines, forest reserves, camped on mountains, river, prairie and in forests and had a glorious time exploring the country, fishing and hunting with a camera. They covered four hundred and fifty miles.

A character club is to be formed in Albany, organized and carried on by boys connected with the Y. M. C. A. there. They intend to issue stock certificates and sell them to people who are interested in a club of this kind. No boy will be allowed to qualify unless he is a Boy Scout or is willing to qualify as one. They must not use tobacco or alcohol in any form, be profane or idle. In fact, the members pledge themselves to gain a college education or its equivalent for two years at least, though no distinction is to be made between rich and poor. Each member must be able to earn money and save it, the requirements for money in the bank being the same as those for the first and second class scouts.

They expect when they are well started to buy and equip their own camping ground, have a wireless station, club rooms and other things dear to the hearts of all boys. Other scout organizations in neighboring towns are to be taken into fellowship with these Albany boys if their plan works out successfully.



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