

# HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN RAFT AT A NOMINAL COST

BY JOHN HUNTINGTON

A VERY desirable raft may be made by any boy who has ambition and a very little money.

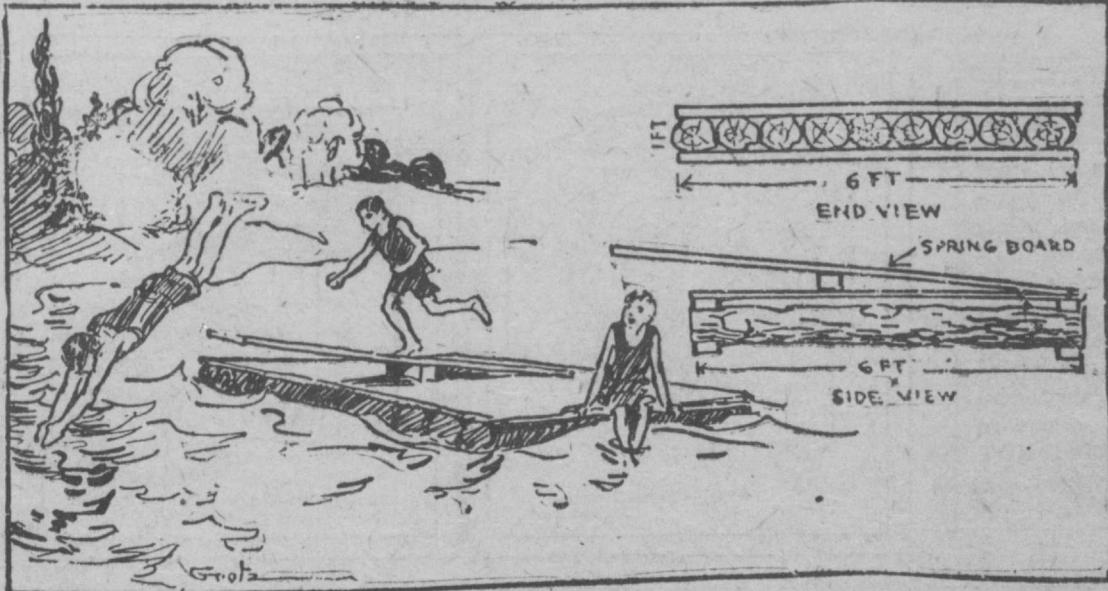
The materials needed are as follows:  
 Four beams 2x4 in., 6 ft. long...\$0.75  
 One plank 12x1 1/2 in., 9 ft. long... .80  
 Two yards of canvas, 30 in. wide... .50  
 One pound nails, 3 in..... .10  
 One box of tacks..... .05

Total .....\$2.20

When you start to build your raft, select a clear, level place near the river or lake on which you intend to use it. After you have selected the place for building go into the woods and cut some logs six inches in diameter and six feet long. You will need nine or ten of these. If you live near a railroad you can probably obtain some old railroad ties, and these will serve the purpose very well.

First lay your logs together, touching each other, and nail one of your 2x4 beams across the ends of these with three inch nails (Fig. 1). Then do this at the other end, nailing the beam firmly as before. After this is done get some planks of driftwood and put a deck on your raft by placing the boards lengthwise from beam to beam, nailing them firmly at each end.

The next thing to do is to cut your canvas into two pieces six feet long. Lay these pieces across the deck and tack them down. This will make your



deck smooth, no matter how rough your planks may be.

After the deck is finished turn the raft over and nail the other two beams one across each end, as was done on top.

Now your raft is complete unless you desire a springboard to dive from

when you go swimming. For this you will need an oak board 9 ft. by 12 in. by 1 1/2 in. Nail this board firmly in the middle of one end of the raft and let it extend in the direction of the logs (Fig. 3). Four feet from the place where you nailed the springboard place a beam 2 in. by 4 in. by 12 in.

under it and nail it firmly to the deck (Fig. 2).

When this is done your raft is finished. Roll it down to the water's edge on some log rollers. Then tie a rope to one end and anchor the raft wherever you wish. In this way I made a very nice raft last summer.

## Foolscap

Many boys and girls wonder why a sheet of paper of a certain size, on which many of them write their examinations, should be called foolscap. It was originally so named because it bore a watermark representing a fool's cap and bells.

The reason for this is as follows: When Charles I found himself in financial difficulties he disposed of certain privileges in order to increase his income. Among the privileges he sold was that of manufacturing paper. The exclusive right to do this he let out to certain parties, who, having a monopoly of the trade, charged exorbitant prices. At that time the law required that all English paper bear the royal arms.

The parliament which met under Cromwell derided and made fun of this law. Among other humiliations to the royal memory it gave orders that a fool's cap and bells take the place of the royal arms. The journals, which were written on the size paper now known as foolscap, bore a very decided water mark of this sort. When the "rump parliament" broke up the name given to this size of paper remained and is still with us in the foolscap used by children for "examination papers."

## Some Historical Stamps

Many intensely interesting historical events have been recorded in postage stamps, so that a large collection of stamps often shows in a most striking manner how history was made. There is a period of French history which is particularly interesting in this way because the stamps issued at that time so plainly show the changes in the ruling power from monarchy to republic and back again. On one French stamp you see M. Barre's head of Liberty and the words "Republic France." On the following issue of stamps—those issued in 1849—Louis Napoleon's head appears instead of the Liberty, the words on the stamp being still "Republic France." After that there was a new stamp, on which Louis Napoleon's head still appeared, but the words "Republic France" were replaced by "Empire France."

## Tide Waits for Lawson

Thomas W. Lawson is looked upon as a patron saint by the Portuguese fishermen who live in the vicinity of Dreamworld, the Lawson summer place. There have been occasions when the great man has handed out bills of large denominations for small favors, such as boat rides, so every fisherman is anxious to do all he can to gain and retain the favor of his wealthy neighbor.

Last summer Mr. Lawson had driven over to Cohasset beach and was strolling along when he met the captain of the lobster boat Betsy. The captain removed his hat and stood at attention. "What time is the tide high, captain?" asked Mr. Lawson.

"Any time you say, Mr. Lawson. Any time you say," responded the captain.—Everybody's Magazine.

## Making Grandma Happy

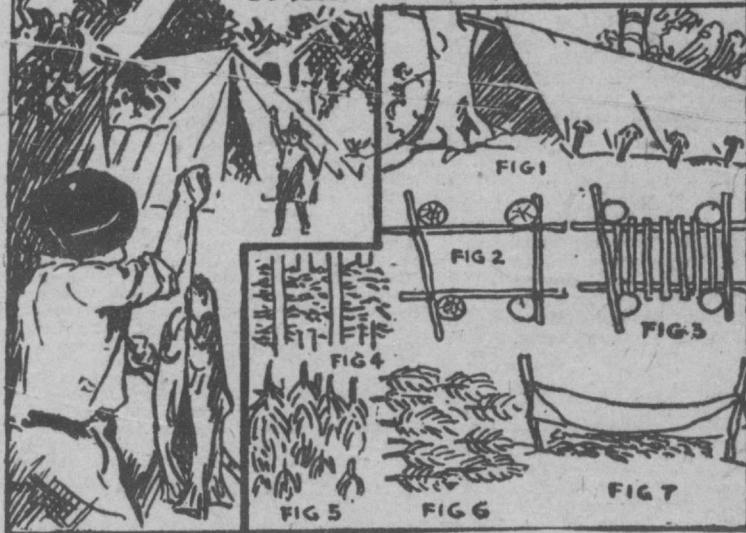
Sunday school teacher—I told you last Sunday that I wished each of you would try to make at least one person happy during the week. Did you?

Boy—Yes, miss; I made grandma happy.

"That's noble. How did you do it?" "I went to visit her, and she's always happy when she sees I've got a good appetite."—Tit-Bits.

# HINTS TO INEXPERIENCED CAMPERS

BY JESSE T. HILLER



DO not claim unusual experience as a camper, but as I have lived near rivers and woods the best part of my life I think I can give younger boys a few points about camping.

The first thing to consider is your shelter, and most important in selecting a place to pitch a tent is the drainage after a rain; never pitch a tent in a hollow space; I awoke one morning to find myself surrounded by a foot or more of water. Fortunately, my cot was two feet from the ground, so I was not wet, but it broke up the camp until I could procure extra clothing and food in place of that which was floating around the camp. Always pitch a tent on high, slightly sloping ground, with the entrance facing to the south or west.

In most cases young campers are not fortunate enough to own a "waterproof" tent of comfortable dimensions. A 14x12 foot is not any too large for two fellows, and I have seen three of them in one tent—result, not enough room to jump if a snake should walk in.

Shelters are about the hardest thing to make, even if you do know how to make one. The simplest one that I can think of is a hammock stretched between two trees with a waterproof blanket or tarpaulin stretched over it. Another quick and easy method to keep from getting wet is to cut a pole seven feet long, lean it against a tree and throw a blanket over it. The blanket should be pegged down. (Fig. 1.)

The hardest kind of a shelter to make is the four walled hut. First cut down four poles and nail them to four trees about seven feet from the ground (Fig. 2), then cut poles that will reach across the top (Fig. 3). To make the roof sun-proof cut a large quantity of reeds or rushes, take these and weave them in and out among the poles (Fig. 4). The sides may be made the same way. The poles may be laid at a small slant. It gives them greater strength.

I think the boys have their hut built by this time, so we will see about making them a place to sleep. They may have hammocks or cots, but if they

haven't, here's one that will beat them, any way:

Cut down a large quantity of spruce, pine, fir or balsam branches, the smaller the better. Be sure that there are no small stumps upon the spot selected for your "shakedown," as it is called. Then lay the branches down in this manner (Fig. 5); then lay them in this manner (Fig. 6). Keep doing this until you have a bed three feet by six feet and six or seven inches in thickness. Over this peg down a blanket. If you are afraid of snakes or bugs fix the blanket in this manner (Fig. 7), by driving pegs in the ground, leaving them about a foot above ground. Be sure that there is plenty of blanket in the middle of the bed, so that you will not pull the pegs down upon you. I have tried these kind of beds myself, and they certainly beat the feather beds at home.

It is morning, the boys are up and looking over the menu for breakfast. As usual, they want fish, and, as usual, they get them. This is the way they cook them: Get some clean clay and add or take water from it until it is like putty; then, cleaning the fish the same way as you would clean it for the frying pan, wrap it in wet grass, or, better yet, the tender green leaves from the cornstalk; after doing this mold the clay around it until it is three-fourths of an inch in thickness. Bake from the fire a bed of hot coals, into these place the prepared fish. Providing that the fire is moderately hot 15 minutes is sufficient for the fish to cook. Do not allow the clay to get red hot or the fish will be burned. It is better to have too much clay on the fish than too little. Birds are cooked the same way, except that the feathers are left on and the leaves left off. The bird should be dipped in water a few times before putting the clay on.

By this time the fish is cooked, so we will take it out of the fire, cool it by dipping it in water, then carefully chip off the clay with an ax or hatchet, unwrap the leaves and the fish is ready to be eaten. Reader, you don't know what you're missing. The flavor is delicious.

## Paper Towels for the Doll House

Little house keepers who have dolls' houses, either for the paper dolls or for the larger bisque beauties, will find it very easy to make sets of towels to go on the doll washstand and in the bathroom. Plain dull white paper may be used for the towels and the borders made of colored crayon. When the ends of the towels are fringed and they are folded and put on the towel rack or across the top of the washstand it is surprising how exactly like towels they look.

If a little house keeper is ambitious she may make sets of napkins, tablecloths and doilies from the damask paper which may now be bought and which looks exactly like the real damask. Sheets may be made of the white paper and counterpanes can have borders of cut work embroidery. This is made by folding the counterpane in four parts and then cutting the pattern through so that it appears uniform on the four parts. Pillows and pillow cases may be made of the paper and the pillow slips decorated with the cut work.

## A Comfortable Camp Bed

BY JAMES WILLIAMS

To make a camp bed, cut four forked sticks and drive them firmly into the ground at the spot where the bed is to stand. Two strong poles long enough to reach from fork to fork lengthwise will do for side boards; a number of sticks that are short and strong will answer for slats; after these are fastened in place you have a rustic bedstead. Gather a lot of small green branches, as brush, and cover your bed with a layer of it about a foot thick; then gather several armfuls of pine needles, hay, grass, or iron weed and cover the boughs with a thick layer of them; over this spread your india rubber blanket, rubber side down, to prevent any moisture or dampness in your bed coming through. You may make your bed with what wraps or blankets you have with you, and you have as complete a bed and as comfortable a bed as any for-ester may wish.

## How to Make a Durable Tent

BY JAMES BISING

To make a tent suitable for camping take three poles about eight and a half feet long, two of which are forked at one end. Bury the two forked poles two and a half feet in the ground and eight feet apart. Place the other pole between the forks and secure with ropes. This completes the frame.

Cover the frame with canvas. For flaps front and back use mosquito netting. Fasten the canvas four feet away from each side of the pole with rope loops and stakes. Dig a ditch for drainage. The cost of materials for this tent is \$3.37. The rope costs 12 cents and the canvas \$3.25.

I know that this will make a serviceable tent, for I have lived for two months in one that I made in this way.

## The Whole Truth

The Customer (trying phonograph)—There's something wrong with these grand opera records. There's a horrible racket in each one that spoils the effect of the music.

The Demonstrator—Ah, yes. One of our latest effects. That's the conversation in the boxes. Wonderfully realistic.—Chicago Daily News.