

Boy Scouts learn to live together at Camp Babcock-Hovey

By BETTY AUTEN
CAMP BABCOCK-HOVEY — There are many today who insist this country is literally and morally going "to pot". There is a very simple way to disprove this statement. All that is required is for disbelievers to take a couple of hours and visit Camp Babcock-Hovey or any other Boy Scout or Girl Scout camp in the area. A few hours at Camp Babcock-Hovey is guaranteed to restore anyone's equilibrium.

All summer an average of 200 boys and seven to nine men, together with an additional 17 or 18 others who are the permanent staff at the camp, communicate with one another. For two week periods, the boys are taught more about getting along with one's fellowman than they will probably learn in any other given time of their life.

Just a few hours is enough to convince anyone who doubts that most people, youth and adults are still A-O-K. A young man or boy who can remember back to the two weeks of enjoyment he had at Camp Babcock-Hovey must certainly grow up to be a better person.

If one arrives at the camp at about 6 p.m. the boys will be just finishing supper. Recently supper was creamed chicken, vegetables and pineapple dessert.

Each table in the mess hall seats eight persons. Chores are divided among six of the boys each meal. One sets the table, one serves the food, one serves the beverage, one clears, etc. Two of the boys are excused from KP at each meal.

Each day at camp is filled with interchangeable moments of seriousness and laughter.

For about five or ten minutes after everyone is through eating there is a time for clowning and a couple of "inside jokes". Then quickly, most everyone goes to the parade ground between the mess hall and the trading post for retreat. As the 200 or so men and boys stand at attention, the color guard lowers the American flag, folds it and present it to the camp director.

With retreat over the boys take their free time and do the things that boys like to do. Some of them go to the pool, built by area Rotary Clubs, some visit the nature conservation area and take another look at the various birds that are kept in large clean cages.

Other boys go down to look at Seneca Lake with their family and friends who have come to visit, and others wander over to the trading post for an ice cream cone or soft drink. After all, it's been at least 15 minutes since supper.

Suddenly, above the din of many voices, the bugle sounds. With unerring step, the majority of boys and men walk in the same direction.

They walk along a pathway through the woods. Heading towards a clearing they come to a fairly steep stairway. About 50 people are seated on benches at the bottom of the stairs. They sit facing a clearing in which there is a simple stone altar backed by a plain wooden cross.

A select number of young men, leaders and assistants, begin a contemporary service of worship. One young man speaks, "We have something to celebrate. What Exactly? Well, just being alive. Being together, singing together, talking together."

The dialogue from the Adoration continues and then as one young man softly plays a guitar, everyone starts to sing, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

A short prayer, that could be transposed for any religion, and again the people sing. In looking back, those who arrived early can see that every seat is filled and men and boys have also filled every step up the bank. Although this part of camp-life is strictly voluntary, very few stay away.

To emphasize the need for thought and understanding, the readers relate items from the daily newspaper to verses from the scriptures. The litany which follows emphasizes the need for understanding



THE TOTEM POLE at Camp Babcock-Hovey built by V.A. Hospital patients at Canandaigua.



AQUATIC ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR Dan Bonacci prepares Ken Ormsbee, Michael Smith and Paul Thomas for their trip down Seneca Lake to Watkins Glen. The boys are from Troop 55, Holcomb.

of the words of God. It is the questioning of youth today.

It is a worship service for the youth of today: questioning and still believing, doubting but still loving.

The benediction is generally the end of a worship service. To youth, as exemplified at this service, it is just a beginning. Before leaving the outdoor chapel, each leader took the hand of another person, saying his first name and giving him the peace. He said, "Dan, celebrate your life." He responded by saying, "I will, Ed." This was passed from one to another until all had received.

Wednesdays and Fridays are special days at camp. At dusk, everyone begins to assemble at the foot of the totem pole. The totem pole which stands 40 or 50 feet high was a gift from the patients at the VA Hospital at Canandaigua. It was carved and painted by them. The bright colors are beginning to fade and several of the people from the hospital are planning to visit the camp in the near future and give the totem pole a new coat of paint.

Together, campers and guests total over 300 persons on the nights when the boys do a "Scout's own" around the blazing campfire.

Last night, Dan Bonacci of Waterloo, one of the younger staff members was master of ceremonies. Those who are in charge work out the program for a given night. As the fire burns brightly there is a time for jokes, songs and laughter. The staff member who doesn't get doused with water can count himself lucky.

Those in charge of the program try to think of devious ways to convince the leaders that soaking them is the farthest thought in their minds.

If last night's performance is any example, the master of ceremonies ends up behind the eight-ball most of the time. By the time the boys got through dumping flour, water and other delightful concoctions over Dan's head, he looked like a likely subject for a ghost story.

Again, as the camp fire began to smoulder, the proceedings took on a

more serious vein. Dennis Marco, camp director was introduced. He explained that Wednesday's campfires are designated for boy scouts who have earned the Order of the Arrow. He told the visitors and boys that those who have earned this award have learned the meaning of brotherhood, cheerfulness and service.

He then asked all those who had earned this award to come forward for the closing. Approximately 60 boys locked hands in a circle and singing, brought the evening to an end.

Each week at camp has a different theme. This week's is Aquatic. Not all boys take part in the aquatic program. Some base their studies and skills on conversation, nature, cooking, etc.

If anyone spies two Indian war canoes on Seneca Lake today it will be a group of boys from Camp Babcock-Hovey. They plan to paddle down to Watkins Glen and back again.

There is a lot to see and do in a few short hours. It would take much longer to meet and get to know all those who devote their energies to strive so willingly to develop the morale fiber of a boy.

Here are just a few of them. Ladies first — Mrs. Janice King of Geneva is camp nurse. With a gentle touch she tends to all the bruises and aches of 200 boys each week. Sometimes it's just a "tummy-ache" for a boy who is spending his first week's away from home. Occasionally it is more serious. One boy broke his finger, but after he got a splint on it, he continued his camping. One young man is at camp this week with his leg in a cast up to his hip. He refused to let a little thing such as a broken leg keep him away from camping.

There is Dan Bonacci from Waterloo,

Area News



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT people at Camp Babcock-Hovey is Mrs. Janice King of Geneva, the nurse. Here she is checking Guy Hibbard of Dresden.



TAKING DOWN THE FLAG during retreat is a serious moment at camp.

Gary Tiffany from Phelps and a dozen other young men from many area communities who are working as staff members for the first time this year and enjoying every minute. From the younger boys expressions, they are enjoying it too.

Ed Heard Aquatic instructor, is a teacher in Geneva. Ed is co-author on the contemporary worship service which was read recently.

Then there is Stanley Waters of Lyons. Stanley is program director at the camp. As each diverse group of boys arrive at the camp, it is Stanley who steps in and tries to make everyone feel at home. Last week it was a group of non-scouts from the Chartres Homes in Geneva.

Stanley is the father of five sons and one daughter, Amy. Amy and Mom came to camp, yesterday to visit. It was easy to pick out Amy because she was so happy to see her daddy but it would be difficult to pick out his sons. All the boys think the world of Stan.

There are any number of other men who are giving their time and effort to helping boys. Some of them have gotten quite gray on the top and others have gotten quite sunburned on top but all of them have the look of having the time of their lives.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

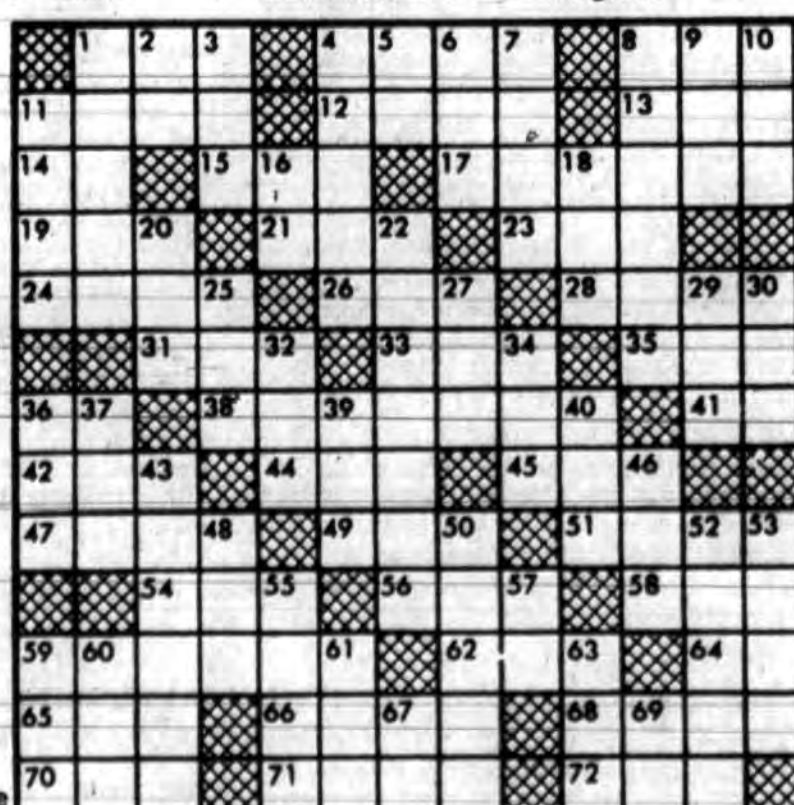


ACROSS

- 1-Insect
- 4-Small amount
- 8-Cleaning device
- 11-Dispatched
- 12-Short jacket
- 13-Macaw
- 14-Parent (colloq.)
- 15-Likely
- 17-Season
- 19-Be mistaken
- 21-Lamprey
- 23-Speck
- 24-Paradise
- 26-Bone of body
- 31-Bushy clump
- 33-Article of furniture
- 35-Fish eggs
- 36-Hebrew month
- 38-Struck out
- 41-Sun god
- 42-Obstruct
- 44-Armed conflict
- 45-Negative
- 47-Apothecary's weight
- 49-Pigpen
- 51-Precious metal
- 54-Soak
- 56-Still
- 58-Possessive pronoun
- 59-Trade
- 62-River island
- 64-Note of scale
- 65-Be in debt
- 66-Shout
- 68-Again
- 70-Marry
- 71-Principal
- 72-Seed container

- 1-Whiskers
- 2-Printer's measure
- 3-Greek letter

- 4-Measuring device
- 5-Pronoun
- 6-Haul
- 7-Wife of Geraint
- 8-Substance
- 9-Native metal
- 10-Equality
- 11-Pintail duck
- 16-Hebrew letter
- 18-At present
- 20-Soak
- 22-Freedom
- 25-Bow
- 27-Wager
- 29-Conjunction
- 30-Afternoon party
- 32-Condensed moisture
- 34-Lair
- 36-Total
- 37-Prohibit
- 39-Spanish plural article
- 40-Canine
- 43-Defaced
- 46-Also
- 48-Encountered
- 50-Long for
- 52-Enticed
- 53-Delineated
- 55-Fixed period of time
- 57-Note of scale
- 59-Nod
- 60-Reverence
- 61-Brown
- 63-Hit lightly
- 67-Three-toed sloth
- 69-Negative



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Bronx man jailed for hypodermic

WATERLOO — A New York City man was arrested late Wednesday night at a Seneca Blvd. residence in Waterloo and charged with criminal possession of a hypodermic instrument.

Filbert Leonard Smith, 23, of 1210 Woody Crest Ave., Bronx, was taken into custody by the New York State Police in Waterloo. He was arraigned before Town of Waterloo Justice Peter Bodine and committed to the Seneca County Jail in lieu of \$1,000 bail pending his securing of counsel.

Smith will re-appear before Justice Bodine at a later date.

WSCS picnic Aug. 13

EAST VARICK — The annual picnic dinner of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Varick Church, will be at noon, at the home of Mrs. Lester Hammond, Thursday, Aug. 13. The regular devotional, and business meeting will be at 1 p.m. The president, Mrs. Clyde J. Gable, will preside.



TROOP 55 of Holcomb with Bob Thomas scoutmaster, received a blue feather for having the cleanest campsite during inspection.

"My wife, the chinchilla rancher. I'd hardly know she was working-except for the second income."



Says Mr. JOHN PODMOKLEY of VINELAND

"My wife wanted a second income so she could stop working. Then, two years ago, I mailed in a coupon to Upper Canada Fur Farms and that's how we got started in chinchilla ranching. Takes just an hour a day — between the kids — to keep our chinchillas bringing in a nice nest egg — we already have 186 chinchillas."

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