

10 SUMMARY OF BOARD AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS



THE ANNUAL REPORTS

1945

From the President's Report Mark Tew

During the summer, a purchaser for the Scout Camp came into sight and it looked very much as if this property would be lost to us. At the request of the Executive, Mr. VanSomeren went to Washington to see the owner and as the result of that trip and subsequent correspondence, we are pleased to advise that Mr. Speiden has continued our lease with a view of giving us additional time to attempt to finance this purchase.

1946

From the President's Report Dr. Gordon Jackson

We feel that we have built up a strong central headquarters under Executive Commissioner Williams, and that Scouting in the District has been very considerably strengthened in every way by his whole-

hearted enthusiasm, energy and loyalty. Perhaps this is best illustrated by the fact that the most recent census shows that we have moved numerically into second place in the Province. In addition, Mr. Williams is really putting the 'out' into Scouting. He is an ardent, capable outdoor Scouter.

And this prompts a few remarks concerning a very important event in the Scouting life of our district. I refer to the acquisition of our camp site two North of Tansley on the Bronte Creek. Deserving of very special mention in this connection are Mr. A.W.E. VanSomeren and Col. H.S. Robinson, the former for his innumerable trips to the property and untold time spent in negotiations, the latter for the time and trouble taken to iron out the extremely involved legal entanglements of the whole transaction.

Camp Report (Sulphur Springs)

Mr. Williams took charge of our Campsite at the Hermitage as Camp Factor, and with the help of three Assistant Factors operated the Camp for the month of July during which time 550 nights were spent under canvas by Scouts and Cubs, and 350 Group Committeemen and parents visited the Camp.

The Campsite was also the site of a picnic of the Leaders and their wives on Saturday, June 22nd when 50 gathered for an afternoon of fun and games - and also of our first post-war Rover Moot in September, when eighty Rovers spent a weekend under canvass. This very important branch of our Movement which has been out of the picture during the war is showing vigorous and enthusiastic growth, and under the leadership of Bob Gibson, our Assistant Commissioner for Rovers, will not only provide an opportunity for training in advance Scouting and citizenship to our young men, but will provide an ever-increasing flow of qualified, competent leaders for the carrying on of our work.

We have given up the Hermitage Campsite and purchased a new property on Bronte Creek where we will have every opportunity of providing our boys with this most important part of their training. Forty-five of our Leaders have already spent a weekend there on a working party, making a start on preparing our new site.

1947

Training Report A.D.C. for Training Tom Rogerson

Reforestation - May 10th our activities moved out to happy Mount Nemo where we held our first Reforestation Camp. 100 boys camped out as individual Groups and took active part in the planting of trees. Sunday we were assisted by a group of 20 Rovers and Leaders and in all planted 7000 young trees. The species were White Pine, Scotch Pine, Ash, Maple and Elm. This effort was completed only after an average of 6 hours work per boy. In conjunction with the Camp, a Reforestation Course was held at Headquarters and a goodly number of Scouts received their Foresters Badge.

Daniel Boone - Winter weekend - January 25th marked the first of our Leaders Winter weekends and set the pace for Hamilton's Winter Camping. 10 Leaders attended and slept out under shelter with reflector fires. Canned goods were left at home with the baked bread, and cooking was of the backwoods style. Tracking, Bird Stations, Nature Study completed the programme and a comparison of the various articles of clothing and equipment was taken for future use. This course created a great deal of interest and has gone a long way towards putting the 'out' in Scouting during this time of year. Yes, it will become a definite part of our yearly programme.

Camp Committee Report

The year past has been one of both success and surprise. Success because we completed all we set out to do, namely the drilling of wells, reforestation's, getting the buildings removed from Ancaster and set up on our own property, improving Ram Inn, and fixing the road. Surprises, because of the efforts of Mr. Van-Someren and the Executive, who have completed the building of our Headquarters, and are no doubt working on another surprise for next year.

Rovering Report A.D.C. Rovers Robert Gibson

At the Mr. Nemo Camp Site, the District Rover Council has been given a tract of land for their own development. They have built a cabin which is being used and have constructed a rustic stairs to the cabin from the road. Many winter activities are on at the present time such as Winter Cabin camping.



1948

Training and Camp Committee Report A.D.C. Tom Rogerson

Our 1948 programme of training opened with our Annual Daniel Boone out-door week-end at Mount Nemo. Twelve stalwart leaders attended this course and proved once again, that 16 inches of snow and zero weather could not dampen the spirits nor inconvenience the well prepared and wood-wise Scout. Erection of shelters, reflector fires, and making ourselves comfortable for the night were our first objectives. When settled, we enjoyed a meal of three chickens cooked over the open fire, contrary to expectations they were delicious and tender. Tracking, erecting bird stations, archery and a Scouts' Own comprised the rest of the programme.

THE RAM INN proved once again to be a very popular place for Winter Camping and was booked up well ahead during the season. A good sign that our Winter Programme is getting over to the boy and the Scout group.

THE SILVER ARROWHEAD COURSE (Southern Ontario) contrary to expectations was again held at Mount Nemo. Owing to last minute arrangements the attendance was not up to our usual standard, but the staff (under the leadership of Mr. Wm. Robson) did a wonderful job and the remarks by Scouts attending, and their Scouters, have been very gratifying.

1949

Camp Committee

Our second year at Mount Nemo while not showing the spectacular advance of our first year, has been one of progress. There is still need of a supply of good drinking water.

THE REFORESTATION CAMP was held last May when 3,000 trees were planted. Over a hundred Scouts, Rovers and leaders attended and took an active part, all Scouts qualified for the Forester's Badge.

Training Report A.D.C. Tom Rogerson

Our 1949 Training opened in February with our Annual Daniel Boone weekend. Twelve stalwarts attended this course in Winter Training. The venison supplied by Dr. Gordon M. Jackson and prepared by Mrs. Pekins added the finishing touch to our Woodcraft programme.

The Scouters' Course in September hit a new height in attendance and was enjoyed by all, a total of 24 certificates were earned by members completing the necessary meetings and the weekend camp. The cook staff must be congratulated for their efforts on our behalf at Mount Nemo, any Scouter or Cub Leader wishing a special course on outdoor cooking and management could not do better than join our training department cookhouse team.

Badge and Tracking courses were held and conducted by the Scouters' Club. Attendance and number of badges earned show the wisdom of holding these one day training outings.

Camp Report

The Camp Report is one of still further advancement towards our joint ideas of what a Scout, Cub and Rover Camp should be. A new camp committee system has been set up and already new plans, new enthusiasm and greater efforts on the part of all are apparent. During the year the following additions have been made. Headquarters building now boasts a real kitchen in the making. Window and door added, sink cupboards and drainage system with further plans in the offing. Main hall, good start has been made towards installing a large stone fireplace, and before many months, or should I say weeks, will be ready for use. The stones for this project are being taken from the old barn. The idea was born at

the Scouters' Training Course and the work being carried out by the members of the Scouters' Club.

Entrance Way - Parking lot and erecting of signs have engaged the attention of our members and have greatly improved the appearance of this part of our camp, the roadway is gradually improving and with continued efforts on our part, over a period of time, we shall have this problem off our minds.

Ram Inn - The Ram Inn came in for lots of attention, new floor, new wall, with raised windows and completely lined inside with ply board. Our Friend Jim Torswick has every reason to be proud of his efforts here.

Cooler - The cooler has been completed except for a little earth work and will become of great value during the summer months.

Reforestation - Reforestation under the leadership of Herb LeVan still goes on with bigger and better courses coming up each year and more and more young trees appearing on the Campsite.

Winter Log Shelter (All Inn) - Work has been started on a log open front shelter for fall and winter Patrol Camp well down the valley towards the back of the camp and should prove a worthwhile addition to Ram Inn for the purpose of Winter Camping and adventuring, and according to some of our Lumber Jacks should be ready for at least part of our Winter Activities this year.

These are only a few of the larger projects for 1949, many Campsite improvements have been made by various Scouters, Rovers and the boys themselves, too numerous to mention here. If you are not up to date in these things then it is time you paid a visit to Mount Nemo and had a trip around our Campsite. To our factors, training teams, Scouters' Club, Akela Club and all the many who played a part in our 1949 effort, I can only say "Well Done" and may your future activities be so successful.

Hamilton District Rover Report D.C. Robert Todd

At the Mount Nemo Rover Training Camp trails have been cut by the 11th Crew, council fire and chapel reconstructed by the 22nd Crew, 40th Crew worked on the gateway and the 27th Crew on

shingling the Gibson Cabin and a number of Crews combined and are now constructing a larger camp K. Y.B.O.

Many excellent programmes have been run by the different Crews and I trust that you will go ahead and try and operate at least one outdoor programme each month.



1950

Training and Camp Report A.D.C. Tom Rogerson

TRAINING - Training opened early as usual with the Daniel Boone Winter Camp. Two Patrols of Leaders attended the Course on Winter Scouting and further logging was carried out at the side of the Adirondak shelter.

The Scouters Outdoor Preliminary Course was held at Mount Nemo. Twenty-five members attended the Course. Owing to sickness and other unforeseen circumstances we had to call upon various other leaders to assist the staff with the work. To all of these members I give thanks for a job well done.

CAMPING - 1950 will go down as one of vast improvement at Mount Nemo. After four years of persistent effort I feel confident that we are well on the way to having the problem of B.P. Road beat, with the addition of the wire gates, gravel parking lot and the further dispersal of the barn. The approach has been greatly improved, much of this work has been done by individual groups. Thanks for the efforts of the Ladies, the Leaders Lodge living quarters have taken on a more homey look and we hope to show our appreciation by having new floors laid, our stone fireplace completed and propane stoves installed.

Ram Inn, I am glad to say can no longer be referred to as the Chicken Coop having been completely overhauled, new roof, floor, log siding, wood shed lined inside, extra door and a new wood stove. We owe a vote of thanks to Scouter James Torswick for his magnificent effort.

The Cub Lodge is now a reality and by all reports is meeting the approval of the Cub Leaders. Naturally we have still more work to do on this building before we can write it off our account sheet. In the meantime I am sure that Cub Camp committee will be busy on ways and means of beautifying the surroundings.

The Rover section has also seen many changes. The Gibson Hut has been re-built inside and lined with plyboard, the playing field graded. The bunkhouse has been erected and is being improved and plans are going ahead for further work.

The Scout playing field has been greatly improved and boasts a baseball diamond, football field and baskets for basketball.

Reforestation is carried out every year with 3000 young trees going in yearly. Logging has been carried out each fall and many deceased and old dead trees are being taken out for Camp use. The wisdom of doing so can be seen in the fine crop of natural seedlings springing up where such work has been carried out. The general condition of camp is good, small and not so small improvements are far too numerous for me to mention in this report. To the many Leaders who have given so much of their spare time and unlimited effort to the improvement of the Camp I can only say "well done."

Camp Committee's Achievements During 1950

- Erected 3 wire gates to main entrance of camp
- Gravelled road twice, and graded 3 times
- Two rubbish burners installed
- Gallon water tank, located on site and platform erected at end
- New camp signs erected
- Loads of stone transferred from barn to Leaders Lodge for fireplace

- All wells tested twice
- Ram Inn reconditioned taking a period of 8 weeks
- Cub Campsite cleaned
- Parking and turning gravel arranged at end of road
- New stove erected in Ram Inn
- New trees tagged for Nature Lore
- Fire door installed at back of Leaders Lodge
- Museum improved in Leaders Lodge
- Erection of new Cub Lodge
- Cub totem pole started
- Trails cleared
- New Rover gateway started
- Rover chemical toilet erected



1951

Hamilton District Annual Cub Camp Report Marion Hill, Chairman Cub Camp Committee

During the year, the Cub Leaders' Camp Committee operated 6 working parties on the Cub Campsite. The committee feels our Cub Lodge, containing kitchen, dining room and bedroom is a credit to our Akela Club. This year the cabin has been oiled, the kitchen door cut in half for serving, propane cooking stoves erected, sheeting inside re-arranged, the wiring started, a new road located to keep the field clear for campers, the tables and forms painted.

During the summer months many happy hours of Cub holidays were spent around this Lodge, with the jungle in the hollow and the sports field across the road and the dam enlarged in Bronte Creek.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Cub Leaders who gave their time so voluntarily to improve our section of the Mount Nemo Scout Camp.

Hamilton District Annual Scout Camp Report Harry West, Chairman, Scout Camp Committee

This has been quite an active year at Camp Nemo and we have been able to accomplish a lot but there is still more projects and work to be undertaken. A new flag centre has been built with flag poles, surrounded by rope fence. A weather station has been installed. Painting of Scout Lodge was completed, also tarring of roof, and putting up water troughs. Two blue spruce were planted in front of lodge. Quite a number of additions have been added to our museums. Cupboards and a serving door have been built inside the lodge kitchen. Existing toilets have been moved and placed in new locations.

A new road leading to lodge from car park has been opened. The council fire has been made more comfortable with some new painted seats. The sandbag dam was built about 200 yards downstream from the old dam, raising the water level to about 48" high, making better swimming. A few projects have not been completed as yet, but hope to get on with them in the near future.

All in all, we have had a very successful and active year.

Hamilton District Annual Rover Camp Report Harlie F. Duncan Chairman Rover Camp Committee

1951 saw many changes made at Mr. Nemo Rover Camp Site. Gibson Hut was lined, painted and moveable bunk beds and new stove installed, also a veranda built on it.

The construction of Hencher Hut was completed, 4 bunk beds and a stove and 4 chairs installed.

The floor and 4 walls have been put up in the construction of a new hut, but due to lack of funds

the building has not been completed. The main field was seeded, and the driveway put in. 1,000 trees were planted in the nursery. On the Rover Camp Site, B.P. Road was widened through the gully to accommodate the extra traffic to the Rover Camp Site.

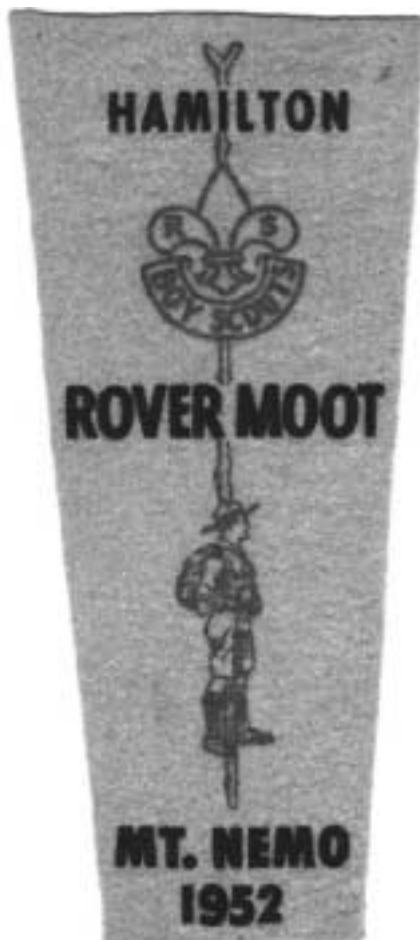
I wish to thank all the Rover Leaders and Crews who helped on construction and repairs.

In closing may I wish all the success to our A.D.C. Rovers and to my successor on the Rover Camp Committee

Rover Scouts Report

John Hencher, Assistant District Commissioner

Under the guidance of my loyal assistant, D.R.L. Harlie Duncan, there has been continued improvement of our campsite. The field and roadway have been graded, trees have been planted in strategic spots and a great deal of work has been done on our cabins. Both Gibson Hut and Hencher Hut are quite habitable and we will encourage some winter camping this year.



1952

Camp Report

George Jaap, Chairman - Cub Camp Committee

Harry West, Chairman - Scout Camp Committee

Ed Ascott, Chairman - Rover Camp Committee

A number of improvements have been made this year at Mount Nemo Campsite. Heavy earth moving equipment provided by the kind co-operation of the Hamilton Street Railway, the Steel Company of Canada, Aldershot Equipment Rentals and Mr. R. Barnes of the Executive have permitted the following work: a new and larger dam on the Bronte Creek, levelling of the barn foundation, a new pool near the artesian well, the parking lot enlarged, roads improved and gravelled.

Through the efforts of Leaders and Boys, too many to mention individually, the following works were completed: new bridges across the Nemo Creek, more K. Y.B.O.'s erected, fireplace in the Leaders Lodge completed, stairs in the Leaders Lodge moved, lodges painted, Council Fire made Indian Style, new floors in the Rover Lodges.

The Campsite has been well used this year with over 1,000 boys camping there. Groups came from Bronte, Woodstock, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, New York and Pennsylvania. Many visited the Campsite for one day.

Twenty-one groups with 476 boys took their annual summer camp to more distant campsites.

We wish to thank everyone who gave of their time and effort in a true Scouting Spirit in making such a wonderful report possible.

Rover Scout Report

John Hencher, Assistant District Commissioner

The Rover Story this year revolves around two points, the Campsite and travel.

During the last year, new enthusiasm has been shown which it is hoped will grow into a real revival of interest in our Campsite at Mount Nemo. At the present time the site looks better than it ever has. Our trees are beginning to show up, Hencher Hut has been winterized, the extension on Gibson Hut is practically completed.