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THE GILWELL GAZETTE

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The First Scoutmaster's Course



September, 1919- Baden-Powell is seated center in the front row at green arrow

On the morning of September 8, 1919, nineteen men dressed in short pants and knee socks, their shirt-sleeves rolled up, assembled by patrols for the first Scoutmasters' training camp held at Gilwell Park in Epping Forest, outside London, England. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a 61 year-old retired general of the British Army and the founder of the World Scouting Movement.

When they had finished their training, Baden-Powell gave each man a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a Zulu chieftain's deserted hut in South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continued to be held year-after-year.

At the end of each course the wooden beads were used to recognize the completion of training. When the original beads ran out, new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge Course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as the advanced training course for leaders in Scouting.

At the time of the first course, Baden-Powell presented to Gilwell Park a Kudu Horn he had captured during the Matabele War of 1896. Its deep booming sound (when played with skill and no small amount of courage) would summon course members to assemblies and activities and was used in courses at Gilwell Park for many years. Baden-Powell would use this same horn to open the 3rd World Jamboree held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England in 1929. The jamboree was known as the "Coming of Age" Jamboree as it celebrated 21

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Today's Schedule

MORNING	
7:00	Breakfast and Assessments
8:00	Return from Overnight
9:00	Camp Breakdown
9:30	Ticket Review / Clean-up / Load Vehicles
10:30	Gilwell Field Assembly
11:00	Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting
11:30	Interfaith Worship Service
Noon	Closing Luncheon
AFTERNOON	
1:15	<i>Leaving a Legacy</i> (Troop Presentation)
2:30	Break
2:45	<i>Summary Session</i> (Troop Presentation)
3:15	Course Assessment
3:45	Closing Gilwell Assembly
4:15	Adjourn

Weather Prognostication

Today, the weather is performing perfectly and beautifully!

Making a Difference—How Do You Know?

How do you know if you have made a difference with your Scouts? The answer is—you may never know, or you may not until years later when the Scout shows his or her appreciation. Let me relate how we realized that we had made a difference.

Our calendar is always filled—weeks and sometimes months in advance. This past summer my husband, Roy, and his family, a large and close-knit group, had plans to visit a brother, who lives in Missouri. This plan included 10 people, who wanted to travel together, to arrive about the same time, to be able to visit together for about a week and then to leave about the same time. You can imagine that this process took some wrangling of personal schedules.

Our original plan included leaving early on a Saturday morning with Roy's two sisters and one sister-in-law in tow. However, a couple of weeks before the trip the mail brought an invitation that changed our plans. Lori, a young woman who had been in our Military Science Explorer Post back in the late 1980s, was getting married the same day we were leaving on our trip.

We always try to attend special events in the lives of our Scouts, but this time we had the dilemma of changing our plans and changing several other people's plans, plus we really wanted to get started on our trip. However, we took a collective breath and called our relatives and explained the situation and asked—could we change our departure to late afternoon?

Good relatives always understand—they said "yes." And we went to the wedding with our van stuffed for the trip because we were leaving for Missouri immediately after the ceremony.

After arriving in Austin, we had trouble finding the church and were late. Mumbling something under my breath about skipping the wedding and going on our way, I flew the van into the church parking lot with a white-knuckled Roy beside me. Feeling bad about sneaking into the back of the church with the ceremony underway—we did just that—crept in while the pastor was finishing his message. Luckily, we were just in time to see the vows exchanged.

Next came the reception line, and we couldn't wait to get through it and be on our way. But when it was our turn to congratulate Lori—our plans changed—again. When she saw us, Lori began to cry and through her tears told her new husband, "These are the most important people in my life. They mean so much to me." And to us, "I'm so happy you came!"



Glenda, Lori and Roy

We hadn't seen Lori in quite a while and were surprised that our presence meant so much. As you might guess—we stayed for the meal, the cutting of the cake and for photos with the bride and groom. Later as we talked, Lori admitted she was so worried we wouldn't come that she had almost called us the day before the wedding.

Thank God, we decided to change our plans. Otherwise, we would have disappointed her, and, more importantly, we would not have known that we had done something good in her young life all those years ago.

Sometimes Scouters don't get to see that they've made a difference—even though they do make a difference every time they attend a Troop meeting, go on an outing or just listen. We feel blessed to know that we were important in Lori's life, although we don't think that we did anything special. Our wish is that you and all Scout leaders can have the same pleasure of knowing that you've made a difference.

~by Glenda Griffin



The Bridge Builder

An old man traveling a long highway

Came at the evening cold and gray

To a chasm, vast and deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,

The sullen stream held no fears for him,

But he turned when safe on the other side,

And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old Man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,

"You're wasting your time building here,"

"Your journey will end with the closing day,

You never again will pass this way."

"You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,

Why build you this bridge at evening's tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,

"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,

"There followeth after me today,

A Youth whose feet must pass this way"

"This stream which has been naught to me,

To that youth may a pitfall be."

"He too, must cross in the twilight dim."

"Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

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*We hope that you too, in the Spirit of Wood Badge, will become the builder of a bridge.*

**First Scoutmasters** from p.1 years since the foundation of the Scouting Movement. A Kudu Horn is still used today by many advanced leadership courses in Scouting.



# PATROL NEWS



## Bobwhite News

Diversity –

What makes us individuals? What makes us the same? How can we make our

differences work together in a team and in a unit? These are a few of the questions we have been asked throughout our training and more especially yesterday.

When I arrived to Wood Badge and met the others in my patrol, they and I were very much aware that we are very different. But, they accepted my differences as I have accepted theirs, and we work well as a patrol. This weekend when we arrived, and I discovered that our patrol would share a campsite with another patrol, imagine my surprise to discover that within the new patrol, still there was no one like me in that patrol either.

It has its advantages I have to tell you and some disadvantages, too. When I shower or go to the latrine, both patrols are put on alert to stay away from both places! And I must say both the Bobwhite and Fox Patrols have treated me like a queen. Could it be because I am the only woman in the camp? Or is it because I am camping with the best men of Troop 1.

Toni Lee—Bobwhite Patrol



## Eagle News

WOW!! What a campfire – BSA traditions, memories and crickets. This gave way to campsite “cracker barrel,” sharing of food led the way to

sharing of self. It was a fun method of getting to know the Buffalo Patrol – all from the Corpus Christi area. A terrific HERD of Scouts. Akoustii Beef Burgers for lunch. If you are wondering what this is, please feel free to ask Gary Ford. You may still see a dust of flour on his face. Thanks George, a good CHANGE of the burger.

**Big Eagle Scream for Troop 1** – we demonstrated throughout our projects how the acceptance of diversity allows “me” to be a part of the TEAM. Hey Scouts, do you know what name is used twice in the Buffalo Patrol? Richard

Now that our weekend is over, what did change? The Eagle Patrol is no longer screaming, we are SOARING because of WOOD BADGE.

Thanks to all. Respectfully submitted, Mary Hodgkinson, Eagle Patrol Scribe



## Fox News

Ron Nelson took the reins of the Fox Patrol today. We struggled with each of our tickets, but eventually all were approved today. **The work day** was a good chance to stretch our legs and our muscles. Our meals

have been very good, and we all cooperated well. **Our skit** seemed to be well-received and now our hearing has improved; but, snoring has too! Oh well, all the projects were so good; it made all the meetings at the Portland DQ worth it. **Challenges:** Now it appears we have to go back home and do all the stuff we said we were going to do! WOW! But it will be worth it.

Respectfully submitted, Darrell Thompson, Scribe







### Owl News

The owls would like to express their concern with the Raccoons. We know you have food in your own kitchen—was it necessary to rummage through our campsite and steal some of our food! Also the Owls



would like to thank everyone for their help with the campfire; it went very well and very smoothly. As far as the Bobwhites, Eagles, and Owls, we are all the perfect proper pile people ever! We are excited to see all the projects today since we have all been working super hard trying to make sure they are the best possible.

We hope the day is hoot-tastic for everyone.



### Bear News

As the Bear Scribe, I want to take the time and thank you for believing in me. This time with you has given me a chance to grow into a better Scouter. I told you my writing is

the worse, which it still is; you just kept supporting me.

I love how everyone here is so excited about Scouts. This is what your Scouts need. I hope to bring this excitement to them. Kelley Drastata, The Mighty Growling BEARS!



### Buffalo News

The Buffalos had visitors (Lloyd and Meredith), two Raccoons for breakfast. Who said big and small mammals alike cannot partake in bread breaking. This is of no surprise as we (Buffalos) are cohabitating with the Eagles in Campsite

#5. **Conservation Project** went very well. The “Beast” did some field raking at the Cope site, followed by some caliche plowing in the washout road. Troop teamwork at its best! Coaching, mentoring and self assessment were the topics presented today by the Wood Badge Staff. **Special Project** presentation by the Buffalo:

“Becoming an Effective Leader in a Global Scouting Environment.” Today is **Day #5**—Tomorrow will be the beginning of a new outlook in Scouting ... Even though the Buffalo herd will be dispersed, we’ll keep in contact with each other. Until we meet again Buffalos—“Go Buffalos”

P.S. Millions of thanks to Ron Molina our Troop/Venture Crew Guide and, of course, the outstanding Staffers.



### Raccoon—Staff News

**Campfire**—We, the staff, were asked to describe last night’s campfire with one adjective; the following descriptions were used:

An amazingreallyreallygoodcampfire—awesome, teamwork, spirit, camaraderie, variety, splendid, bodacious, uplifting, touching, aromatic, outstanding, glowing, inspirational, fantastic, great, enjoyable, entertaining, superlative, moving, togetherness, graceful, supportive, powerful, masterful, amazing and impressive. You all did a wonderful job! Congratulations!

**Patrol Projects**—The staff also spoke some descriptive words about the Patrol Projects. They are as follows; Fantastic!; superlatively fantabulous; impressive doesn’t even begin—so far above expectation, awesome; exhibited creative thoughtfulness and great understanding of course intent; RAD!; intelligent leadership and dedication; profoundly extraordinary; very relevant; extraordinarily interesting; OH MY GOSH!; very well thought out and very well done; the bar is now very much higher; so diverse. Congratulations on very fine projects.

**Weather  
Prognostication**

The weather today is fairly

