



SHOOTING THE BREEZE



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* THE GIRL SCOUTS OF SCOTCH PLAINS *

During the first year of its life The Scotch Plainsman has brought to its readers stories out of the early history of Scotch Plains; stories of historical interest concerning people, places and events of the past.

It is our purpose in these next few issues to treat with the organizations of the present - stories of the active, civic-minded groups which are 'clicking' in the stepped-up wartime tempo. The first of these deals with Girl Scouting.

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GIRL SCOUTING in Scotch Plains, until the spring of 1944 nestled under the mothering wings of the Plainfield Area Council. Then a group of energetic and enterprising women who had kept Girl Scouting alive in Scotch Plains under these auspices decided that the ideals and purposes of scouting could more effectively be advanced and expanded through the establishment of a separate and independent local council.

Thus it was that the affiliation with the Plainfield Area Council was severed and the Girl Scouts of Scotch Plains came into being on their own.

Friendly, heart-warming cooperation supported the movement on all sides. Plainfield was ready with good advice and good wishes; National Headquarters sent congratulations as well as permission; and, most important of all (so the ladies say) Scotch Plains provided the necessary financial support most generously through the Community Fund. Mrs. Frank Cartwright, who later was elected Commissioner, appeared before the budget committee of that august body, told them how much she needed for Girl Scouting this year and got it. Mr. Harry Bernstein generously donated his services as well as the necessary incorporating fees, and the new council became a legal entity.

One important detail, however, remained unattended. Would the heads (?) of the affected households be agreeable to assuming the household chores so that the ladies might have their 'nights-out' for this worthy work? Seemingly permission was granted cheerfully for the ladies got busy.

Recognizing that success in any venture relies largely on effective organization - having the right person in the right place at the right time, - a constitution was drawn up and adopted and officers elected. Mrs. F. Cartwright became Commissioner; Mrs. F. Werts, Deputy Commissioner; Mrs. S. Pratt, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. H. Gotwald, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. Wassman, Treasurer; and Mrs. W. Hartpence, Registrar with Mrs. H. B. Brunner, Mrs. H. Blum, Mrs. L. Jenks and Mrs. R. Cox constituted as members of standing committees.

In all eight troops were organized with a membership of about 150 Girl Scouts. "And the only reason," reads the note submitted to Ye Scribe, "why there are not more of them is because at present there are not enough places available for scout meetings." "This problem," the note continues, "is under consideration,

of course, and when the scouts take a problem under consideration, its solution is merely a matter of time."

The eight troops consist of three Brownie troops (real cute youngsters) under the leadership of Mrs. P. Cobb, Mrs. F. Muller, Mrs. R. Mockridge, Mrs. W. Ryan, Mrs. P. Archbald and Miss Shirley Montagne.

Four Intermediate troops under the direction of Mrs. C. Adelman, Mrs. C. Hausman, Mrs. H. Hartvigson, Mrs. H. Bitterman, Mrs. C. Finter, Mrs. W. Hartpence, Mrs. A. Fischer and Miss Jean Garrabrandt;

And one Senior troop led by Mrs. P. Mauer.

The girls made an excellent public appearance when they marched in the Memorial Day parade.

At the "Court of Awards", the ceremony which marked the end of the first year's activities, 231 badges were awarded. Ten girls became First Class Scouts; five Curved Bars were presented and forty girls received Service Pins in recognition of their having given fifteen or more hours of community service.

These community services comprised aid to the P.T.A., The Women's Club, the several churches, The American Legion Poppy sale, The Cancer Fund, Bonnie Burns Sanitarium, the National War Fund Drive and last, but not least, The Scotch Plainsman.

The vitality of this vigorous young organization will exert a potent force in shaping the character of the Scotch Plains of Tomorrow.

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MORE ABOUT THE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

When the time for the old discharge rolls around the G.I.'s one thought is to get home and fast. He probably listens without hearing to the talks on veterans' rights and benefits as listed in the various servicemen acts, signs a bunch of papers, tucks his discharge in his pocket and heads for the first train out. Probably on the train and perhaps not until he is home does he give real thought to what the G.I. Bill of Rights can do for him. Undoubtedly this "Bill" has been the subject of debate at many a bull session. But just what is in it for each and every veteran including you. Well, the Veterans Service Center is the place to find out.

We have already told you about some of the specialized groups set up to help out on Loan, Reemployment and Education, but there are a number of other groups now getting experience to help out in the other fields. And when we say getting experience, we mean just that for each of the several cases we have had to date presents a different problem.

Some may want advice on Insurance (and incidentally, conversion of your insurance isn't a bad idea), others may want to know where they stand with tax collectors, and a few will need more complicated legal advice. The Service Center will be equipped to put you on the right track in all these matters.

For the fellows who have been so unfortunate as to pick up some service connected disability the Veterans Administration is the official body to take care of Hospitalization, Vocational Rehabilitation, Pensions

and the like. This is a pretty big organization for one lone individual to tackle, so to save a lot of running around the Service Center has set up several groups which are in close touch with the Veterans Administration and can save you much time and headaches if your problem falls in this classification.

And lastly, your problem may be purely personal. Your old friend, the Red Cross, is always ready to help out in this case and the Service Center is working in close cooperation with the Red Cross in such matters.

Maybe you have no problems at all. Just drop in at the Service Center anyway. The people there will be glad to see you and will always have the latest dope on G. I. rights and benefits.

The July issue of the Fanwood Sun leads off with this paragraph:

"The Scotch Plainsman recently had its first birthday and what a lustrous infant it is. We are sure that all Fanwood G.I.'s join with the Defense Council in wishing the grand little paper a most happy birthday. Some newspapers spend years and years in building up a little circulation in a small town. This paper has a worldwide circulation and is eagerly waited for by its readers. The folks who had the inspiration to think of the idea and the energy to carry it through deserve lots of thanks."

We face Fanwood, curtsy and nod and blushinglly say, "Thanks."

We haven't seen "Editor Van" for well nigh going on two weeks now and a phone call now reveals the reason. Barbara and Karen Van Allen, Van's two daughters, now have a little baby brother. Allan George Van Allen was born July 15 in St. Barnabas Hospital, Newark. Mama Edna Van Allen, Baby Allan George and Papa Van are all doing nice thank you.



Bill Garbe, Ye Scribe, at work.

Every once in a while one of our G.I.s will write, "Why don't you show some pictures of the staff working on The Scotch Plainsman?" We've never been able to get around to doing that but as a step in that direction we show

At the lower right, a drawing depicts our faithful Staff Photographer, Bruce Hall, on the trail of a picture. Boy, did Bruce enjoy posing those Post Office Girls for our Front Page Pin Up last month. Ye Scribe would be sunk without Bruce's generous help and we don't mean 'Maybe.



Bruce Hall, the sleuth in action

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