

GIRL SCOUTS' MOTTO:

'Living the Good Life'

The Birmingham Eccentric played an important role in the organization of the area Girl Scouts in 1927.

At that time, Mrs. Lee White ran an ad in the paper asking for interested women to organize the first Girl Scout Council of Birmingham to lead the young girls. Troop B-1 was formed at Adams School, and Troop B-2 was organized a few weeks later at Baldwin.

The movement quickly became popular in the area, and the Pontiac council sent women to train local leaders to keep up with the expansion.

Until 1952, the Birmingham council was operated entirely by volunteers. Funds were raised by

sales of calendars, cookies and an annual Penny Drive.

DUE TO THE large increase in Scout registration, the council voted to join with the Southern Oakland County Girl Scouts, a Red Feather service supported by the Torch Drive.

Today, more than 3,400 girls in Birmingham are active participants in Scouting programs. According to leaders, activities are designed to "prepare girls to take the responsibility and initiative in the arts, the home and the out-of-doors."

Troops, now numbering 150, are organized in all Birmingham schools, and more than 700 adult women are active in the programs

which include all phases of living, from personal care to camping.

ACTIVITIES ARE keyed according to grade levels. Girls in the second and third grade are called Brownies; fourth through sixth, Junior Girl Scouts; seventh through ninth, Cadettes; and tenth through twelfth, Senior Girl Scouts.

Besides local camp outings at Camp Narrin in Ortonville, Girl Scouts are beginning to make plans for their annual national encampment, the "Round-Up."

One of the Scouts' most successful projects was a recent "Cadette Countdown" in which 950 junior high school scouts participated in workshops developing good habits and personal traits.



GIRL SCOUTS LEARN TO SAW WOOD
"Great outdoors" plays vital role in activities.

Eager Scouts of Yesteryear

By MARY LUPTON
Special Writer

In 1916 the Rev. W. C. McKnight of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham began forming a Boy Scout troop. Only six years before, William D. Boyce had incorporated the Boy Scouts of America at Washington, D.C. Detroit and Flint had troops.

McKnight's congregation voted to sponsor a troop, because the young minister felt that the community's youth needed guidance. His own two sons were too young to join, but he became the first scoutmaster in what would eventually become the North Trails District.

However, McKnight faced many difficulties. The idea of Scouting was new, and many parents felt the uniforms unnecessary. Most of the boys in the community had chores to do at home and could not spare the time for "entertainment."

BY 1918, B-1 had become a troop. Among the first members listed are Mort Neff (TV naturalist and sportsman), Victor Peck (Peck's), Foster Toothacker (Shain's Drug Store), Stuart Cobb (post office), Manley Bailey (Bailey Funeral Home), Mark Smith (Smith Electrical Service), Clyde Peabody (Peabody's Market), Russell McBride (Russell's Hardware), Art Hartwell and Ward Baley.

Others were Leroy Weir, Jack

Keep Traditions Alive

Gaffil, Fred Fisher, Ed Coryell, Erving Greene, Donald Plumstead, Norman McQuater and Weir Burkman.

Cobb recalls that word spread that the Scout troop was not limited to church members. Parents began to get in touch with Rev. McKnight. The troop held no activities on Sunday, so there were no week end camp-outs.

VICTOR PECK'S father, Charles, sold Scout uniforms, and Peck's is still the official Scout outfitter. Peck recalls that each troop member owned only a piece or so of equipment.

"A few had the pointed campaign hats, and a few had breeches and lacings. Only three or four owned packs, to be carried on hikes. The Scouts worked on physical fitness, with seven- and 14-mile hikes. Dr. Schatlock lectured on astronomy to our group," Peck recalled.

"We couldn't get enough members. We needed eight for each patrol and most of the time we had only 12," he said.

Manley Bailey recalls having chores to do that kept him from meetings, which were held in the First Presbyterian Church, the wooden municipal building and even in an old brickyard kiln.

FOSTER TOOTHACKER said, "When

World War I began, we sold Liberty Bonds and saving stamps. We had scrap metal and paper drives."

Mark Smith is presently supervising the Scout swimming program. His grandson, Dale Smallwood, is now a member of B-1, sponsored since 1941 by the First Presbyterian Church Men's Club.

Russell McBride was the first Scout to attain the coveted Eagle Scout award. He worked his way up from tenderfoot to assistant scoutmaster.

Scouts maintained a campsite on the Col. Edwin S. George estate in Bloomfield Hills. Camp George, a cabin on Long Lake, was used until the formation of Kirk-in-the-Hills Presbyterian.

AFTER WORLD War I, the movement grew. Sometime before 1929—the date is uncertain—Troop B-2 was sponsored by the United Presbyterian Church of Detroit. B-3 was formed in 1925 by the Birmingham School PTA. Service Clubs of Birmingham became sponsors of B-4 that same year. The United Presbyterian Church sponsored B-5 in 1931.

In the 1930's other part of the township became interested. Vaughan School in 1934 became sponsor of B-6, which is now sponsored by Wing Lake School PTA. B-7 was formed in 1935 by the Bir-

mingham Fire Dept. and B-8 in 1937 by the Birmingham Rotary Club.

THE TROY Center Presbyterian Church formed Troop B-9 in 1937, and the Big Beaver Methodist Church formed B-10 the following year. The next troop in the North Trails District was B-11, formed in 1938 by the Franklin Community Association, and now a pack, troop and explorer post.

During World War II, the Scouts worked as plane spotters for the Ground Observers Corps and did emergency police duty. They collected scrap metal, waste paper and foil. Thirty-five Emergency Service Explorers took special civil defense training and then trained younger boys in the troops.

Cub Scout packs became numerous. These younger boys are led by a den mother. They learn to work together with boys their own ages and to create many useful projects.

ACCORDING TO Paul F. Nelson, district commissioner, a new phase which is attracting Explorer Scouts is sponsorship by companies.

Michigan Bell Telephone is offering assistance in communications. WXYZ is training North Trail Explorers in radio and television, while Ford Motor Co. is offering general and agricultural training. Other businesses are being recruited.

District Chairman Guy Holloway reports that this region has always produced more than its share of outstanding Scouts. This has been a leading area in the advancement of boys to Eagle Scouting. There are now 4,659 Scouts in the District. This includes 17 Explorer posts, 64 Scout troops and 56 Cub packs. So, Scouting has really grown from Rev. McKnight's handful of eager Scouts 48 years ago.

Dr. Raynale 1st Franklin Medic

The land on which Franklin stands was originally purchased in 1824-25. The village received its name in 1828 when the first post office was established with Dr. Ebenezer Raynale as postmaster.

He was the first professional man in the community. The story is told that on one occasion Dr. Raynale was called several miles into the country to treat a sick lady who had little money.

RETURNING HOME he became lost in a snow storm and after being out all day and all night and having covered 60 miles, his bill was \$3.

Dr. Raynale later moved from Franklin to the "Frontier settlement of Birmingham."

Dr. Raynale was a member of the first senate of the Michigan legislature.

On Birthdays, She's Hills' 'First Lady'

When Mrs. Susan Miner's 70th birthday rolled around, friends, relatives and business acquaintances got together to give a big party for her at the Kingsley Inn.

Among the 80 to 100 guests who gathered for the festivities was Sen. Philip Hart. Former President, Harry S. Truman, whose birthday is also May 8, sent congratulations.

A large banner proclaiming her The First Lady of Bloomfield was prominently displayed. Each year since on her birthday, her son, Richard, who, with her, operates Miner's liquor store and gift shop on West Long Lake Road, hangs up the banner.

"He won't let me have it," she says, "he knows I'd burn it."

MRS. MINER WAS born in 1888 in Rockwood, Mich., and went to school there. In 1904 she came to Bloomfield Hills to live with an uncle, William Story, whose home on Woodward Avenue is now part of St. Elizabeth's home.

"Woodward Avenue in those days," she recalled, "was just a muddy road with a street car to Pontiac."

Mrs. Miner lives in a white frame house, dating back to 1838, on W. Long Lake Road. It was once an old Indian trading post.

Although she has celebrated her 76th birthday, Mrs. Miner doesn't take things easy. She keeps busy at the store and finds time to take her grandchildren bowling.

E. V. L.

Wedding Called For Pontiac Trip

When Mabel Ives and the late Perry A. Vaughan were married in 1906, they had to travel to Pontiac for the wedding ceremony. There were no churches in Bloomfield Hills, just miles and miles of farmland.

The newlyweds settled down on the old Fosdick property on Circle Center Road, now known as Vaughan Road, and with the exception of winters spent in St. Petersburg, Fla., Mrs. Vaughan has been a resident of the Hills ever since.

Unlike many long-time residents who view with dismay the encroachment of real estate developments, Mrs. Vaughan is delighted with the influx of people to the suburbs.

Booming Business

Birmingham in 1883 had three first class hardware stores, two drug stores and another promised a new first class dry goods and boot and shoe store about to open with a \$5,000 stock.



BIRMINGHAM BOY SCOUTS JOINED IN 1941 WAR EFFORT.
Scrap rubber collection was one of their duties.