Eager Scouts of Yesteryear

By MARY LUTTON
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. Devoe and Flint had troops.

"McKnight's congregation voted to support the idea," a young minister felt that the community's youth needed guidance. His own sons were too young to join, but he became the first scoutmaster in what eventually became the North Trails District.

However, McKnight faced many difficulties. The idea of scouting was new, and many parents felt the uniforms unnecessary. Most older boys were of coveralls, and it had to be taught 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 Hef, "(F) naturalist and sportsman," Victor Buck (Peck's), Foster Toothacker (Stahie's Drug Store), Stuart Cobb (post office), Hanley Bailey (Bailey Funeral Home), Postmaster Arthur Whipkey, Marshal McBrider (Rogers Hardware), Art Hartman, and Lovell Smith.

Others were Larry Warr, Jack

GIRL SCOUTS' MORO:

'Living the Good Life'

The Birmingham Eccentric—May 14, 1942

Commemorative Centennial Edition

Section 8—Page 12

Eager Scout of Yesteryear

Keep Traditions Alive

By MARY LUTTON
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. Devoe and Flint had troops.

"McKnight's congregation voted to support the idea," a young minister felt that the community's youth needed guidance. His own sons were too young to join, but he became the first scoutmaster in what eventually became the North Trails District.

However, McKnight faced many difficulties. The idea of scouting was new, and many parents felt the uniforms unnecessary. Most older boys were of coveralls, and it had to be taught 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 Hef, "(F) naturalist and sportsman," Victor Buck (Peck's), Foster Toothacker (Stahie's Drug Store), Stuart Cobb (post office), Hanley Bailey (Bailey Funeral Home), Postmaster Arthur Whipkey, Marshal McBrider (Rogers Hardware), Art Hartman, and Lovell Smith.

Others were Larry Warr, Jack

GIRL SCOUTS' MORO:

'Living the Good Life'

The Birmingham Eccentric—May 14, 1942

Commemorative Centennial Edition

Section 8—Page 12