

On the seventh of September, 1948, the 1st Ardrossan Rover Scout Crew was reconstituted under the leadership of Mr. R.R. Shedden.

Regular meetings were arranged in the scout hut on Tuesday nights. The following scouts have attended some or all of the meetings in September:-

R. Shedden, J. Douglas, J. Boyle, J. Goodall, R. MacSherry, F. Forsyth, I. Gillan, D. Murchie, A. Davidson, J. McGrath, G. Maule, I. Monteith, S. Stewart, G. Hunter, F. Taylor, J. Young, J. Skinner, S. Brown, J. Munn, B. Breckenridge, R. Alexander, B. Hunter, A. Bond, G. Weir, C. Crooks.

ACTIVITIES

The general scheme of the meetings have been built on the following skeleton programme:-

10 mins.	Business
10 mins.	Recruits Training
20 mins.	National Affairs
20 mins.	Games
20 mins.	Culture
20 mins.	Scoutcraft
20 mins.	Hobbies, Handicrafts and Sport
10 mins.	Camp-fire
10 mins.	Comments and suggestions on the programme

The meeting commences at 7.30 and finishes at 10.00.

A Scottish Country dance class has been formed with Miss D. Third and Miss N. McCubbin as tutors.

The brick piers for our new hut (if and when we get it) have been repaired and a number of new ones built. A start has been made with rehearsals for the forthcoming Gang Show in November. The Rovers are doing three items, two sketches and shadowgraph.

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

OCTOBER, 1948

As the Crew gradually settles down during its second month of existence we find a general increase in the number of things to report.

The Tuesday night meetings have continued generally along the lines laid out in the scheme described in the last newsletter though towards the end of the month rather more time ^{was given} over to Gang Show rehearsals.

One of the most successful features was a trial by jury when Sandy Stewart was accused of the murder of Mr. Shedden. He was tried at the Old Scout Hut by Chief Justice John Douglas. Counsel for the Defence was George Weir K.C. and the Counsel for the Prosecution Jim Goodall K.C. Numerous witnesses were called and an elaborate case was built up, the jury returned the verdict of guilty but so far the sentence has not been carried out.

Instruction in Country Dancing has continued during October and some progress has been reported. We have learnt up to the present or rather been taught so far - the "Dashing White Sergeant", "Petronella", "Scottish Reform", "White Cockade", the "Highland Scottish" and Canadian Barn Dance.

A visit was paid to Kilmarnock baths and further visits are planned.

The hut has eventually arrived but it is in rather bad condition and so far has not been erected.

MIDNIGHT HIKE.

On Friday the 15th a poor innocent farm hand making his way homeward over the Metallic Brae at a late hour was insulted by being mistaken for Abbie. The cause of this was a group of six D.O.P.'s (disturbers of the peace) who were arrayed in retired A.R.P. battle-dress and an assortment of old army footwear. The individuals in question were S. Brown, G. Maule, R. Alexander, J. Boyle, J. McGrath and J. Douglas and had assembled there on account of somebody's weak minded idea of a midnight hike.

However the night couldn't have been better with a full moon and an almost cloudless sky. After scratching the conventional signs we set off and by the time we had got to Chapelhill we had decided we had had enough of road walking so going over the Mound we descended into the/

the Mill Glen where apart from Goosey losing his hat, all went well. Following the burn we skirted the reservoir and reached the Lime Kiln. Conversation had descended to the level of local murders when S. Brown pointed out that there had been a "Killin'" here. There had been a barrage of these corny jokes so the culprit was warned and we proceeded. The surface of the reservoir was like glass and gave a crystal clear reflection of the hills. Here we made tea and by the time Skinny had rigged up a Heath Robinson gadget to support the billy, the water was boiling. Half an hour later we cut up on to the moor and reached Knock Jargon where the view was even more fascinating than in daylight with the Arran peaks showing up across the silver streak of the Firth. By wading through a marsh and going round Square Wood and the Viaducts we eventually reached the shore road. Here all was peaceful until Goosey through the misguided goodness of his heart serenaded a lighted window in Loop Cottage with a somewhat inaccurate rendering of "The Sash my Father Wore" on a tin whistle. We arrived home shortly after five.

ACTIVITIES With the Gang Show behind us the weekly meetings are gradually returning to normal.

Main features have been a film show which included the Gang Show film. Due to poor lighting it is rather dark in places but is quite enjoyable and brought back many happy memories. It certainly stimulated the suggestion to make a really big film of the Gang Show in the hut with full lighting etc. We also held a mock parliament. The motion put forward by the Honourable Member for the Northern Horse Island (Rev. J.S. Douglas) was one of no confidence in His Majesty's Government. A sign of the times was the emblem used for the mace - a pick and shovel.

THE HUT After about a fortnight we find that the hut we have been sent is the wrong one and will have to be returned. We are still waiting impatiently for the correct one.

NEWCOMERS We welcome to the crew Wesley Harry, a rover from Poole who is now working at Ardeer - we hope permanently. We are also pleased to have amongst us again - Kerr McGrath.

VISITORS We had a visit last Tuesday (30th November) from G. Smart home on leave from Vienna.

BRANCH MEETING We have seemingly opened a new branch of the Rover Crew at Castlecraigs. Meetings take place regularly on Saturday nights from 7.30 p.m. - 11.00 p.m.

GANG SHOW On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 11th, 12th and 13th November the Group presented Gang Show of 1948 and at each performance including a special children's matinee on Saturday afternoon the hall was packed to capacity.

Items were varied and the most interesting to you will be the Rover Crew's numbers. The first act 'No Cigarettes' a short comedy play by Douglas Berwick (3rd Bromsgrove) on how to obtain cigarettes firstly in Glasgow where Goosey and Jimmy Munn were the Stars, over to gay Paris where Monsieur Clarionet Weir and Jimmy Goodall got tangled up with words but Jimmy left satisfied with gum. A flip over to Moscow where Comrade Bond at the Kremlin was an impossible case for Sandy/

Sandy Stuart but Jimmy Goodall again was satisfied with a packet of Pasha before the Iron Curtain Closed. Last act was very colourful, going to Vienna with the Carl Noisa Operatic Company. All started romantically but ended in tragedy Romeo Murchie killing Smokio Crooks the Tobacconist, but after finding he was Mac's brother not his lover, Romeo killed himself and Mac with nothing more to live for died of a broken heart.

The Second item was the Shadowgraph ably performed by leg and tooth puller, Goodall acting the part of the dentist before and after Nationalisation. Sandy Brown played the part of the patient and Miss Cowie (Cubmaster) the receptionist, Colin off stage was in charge of effects and caused an extra laugh on Saturday evening with an extra effect.

The Rovers last item was a scream, showing how the New Horse Island Radio Station worked from inside - the Radio Engineer, A. Bond was in difficulties during each show and had three broadcasts performing over the same wavelength and the parts of each speech fitted in very appropriately. The actors were Rev. J.S. Douglas giving his 364th talk on "Social Welfare"; Colonel Blowlong Murchie N.B.G.T.D. explaining his "Adventures in the African Jungle" and Conductor 191 Gilbert Hunter of the Millglen trams giving an account of his days work - Sandy Brown was the announcer.

The main troop items were the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" acted by Sam's Troop. This play was excellent and the main actors were Robin Burns as the villain, Kennedy Crawford the dainty fairy, David Hyndman the old Grandmother was a scream demonstrating the rhumba accompanied by Alexanders Ragtime Band. Jack was played by Teddy McMillan with Gordon Wightman his lover and he was acclaimed the best looking dame ever seen at a Gang Show. Younger scouts were in the dance and chorus.

Jim Boyle's troops main item was a dream "The Fairy Comes" an odd type of play with Mac playing the part of the "Spiv" husband and Allan Hunter the perfect nagging wife - Jim Boyle played the part of King Bubblyjock with Billy Fraser his slave - After Mac killed the wild beast of the forest (Ken Haughan) he was to marry the beautiful veiled Princess Lulu (Jackie Tyre) but seeing her face, fainted and soon found his wife shaking him for his tea.

Other/

Other troop items were the old favourite "Cupids" which was the only Gang Show review number.

The Monologue by Logan Cowan to his young brother Godfrey was acted well but Logan insists his name should be Bill.

The Old camp-fire number Moby Dick was on stage for five minutes without a word being spoken.

Rover Scout Weir at the interval played in his usual capable manner on the Saxophone and Clarinet.

The Cubs had two items, the first being "John Bull" written and produced by the Cubmasters. In this item each Cub represented a different type of worker, all making up 'John Bull', and gave a neat speech on their own type of work and finished off with singing "Land of Hope and Glory".

The second item "International Jamboree" with Scotsmen dancing the Cumberland Reel, a duet 'Uist Tramping Song', Cowboys who sang 'Don't Fence me In' and a small cub sang 'Home on the Range'. Their friends the Indians also sang well and ended with their Chief's song 'Hiawatha'. No praise was too high for the fine effort these small cubs put up and for the first time on stage it was a grand debut.

The opening chorus 'How do you do' followed by 'Sing as we go' rocked the hall with the volume of the whole group on and off stage. The second chorus 'Anchors Aweigh' was a good hit, the Crew and older Scouts dressed all in white in the form of a cone and Colin gave a fine rendering of the verse.

Camp-fire with nearly one hundred scouts on stage went off in the usual 15th Manner.

Once again Miss Guthrie kept her record intact being pianist at every Gang Show. On Saturday night G.S.M. Shedden paid tribute to Miss Guthrie for her excellent service towards the Group despite many commitments and the cub who played "John Bull" presented Miss Guthrie with a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates.

Our Producer Sam Aitkenhead was tops and expended his usual energy, Colin was Stage Manager and no hitches came his way.

The/

The total proceeds are not official yet but will be an asset to the new Headquarters at Kilmeny Terrace which is now on its way to completion - slow but sure.

NEWSLETTER NO. 4

DECEMBER, 1948

ACTIVITIES There is not much need to say what the main activity was this month. The finale to a years scouting - a weeks scrubbing and as usual the dances. This did not entirely fill the meetings though it was discussed at most of them.

Early in the month there was an interesting item prepared by A.R.L. Each person had to speak on a chosen subject for two minutes and had only a few seconds to collect his ideas in. Most of the boys were full of self-confidence and spoke for their time but the general idea was to keep on going and touch the subject as little as possible. After each speech criticisms were offered by the rest of the gang. If we didn't learn how to speak we learned how not to - and that is always something.

Another enjoyable evening was when Mr. McNeil and an assistant, both of S.Y.H.A., delivered a talk on 'Hostelling' and showed us some films. Even by our keenest hostellers - who have toured most of the Arran hostels - this talk and film show were appreciated. It is really marvellous what we don't know about Scotland. Mr. McNeil was one of the original members of the S.Y.H.A. and most of the other associated clubs and though his three score and ten are almost over he thinks nothing of getting up at 7.00 a.m. and going 70 miles on his bike to a hostel for the night. Really! some of these old-timers don't know what the thumb is for!!!

John Douglas tried out an old army test on us one night. The crew divided into two and the idea was a race to cross about 15 feet of floor space and the only apparatus allowed was one bench, one stretcher and one pail. You can imagine the position we got in to but eventually everyone got across. John, however, could not supply us with a simple way over as we thought he was going to do.

ROVER BALL The Rover Ball was the climax to a week of parties and dances. The crew had to decorate the hut and, tho' there weren't as many decorations as in previous years, the hut looked excellent. The music was supplied by the Barclay Fullarton trio - who played the/

the gramophone records - Barclay also supplied streamers and tons of confetti applied with a vacuum cleaner. There were about 35 couples present. Ian Gillan and Forbes Taylor - who are in H.M. Forces - obtained leave to attend. I believe this is the third time their respective grandmothers have died!!

The dancing was mostly modern but there were a few old tyme selections but no Scottish Country dancing. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and as the evening went on and 12 o'clock came on the ^{new} wireless was turned on and the New Year brought in. After an interchange of good wishes etc. the first dance of 1949 was an eight-some reel. The dance continued till about 12.45 a.m. and then everything broke up and the business of first footing began - Everyone managed home in time for breakfast.

RUGBY MATCH A match has been arranged between the Rover Crew and the Accies but at the time of going to press the result was not at hand.

SPORT Rugby Match. On New Year's Day at least 15 stalwarts of the crew dragged themselves reluctantly from their cosy beds, full of spirits our "Rugby" team, who were they?

Backs:- W.G.J. Weir, G. Hunter, A. Brown, J. Munn, J. Burns, R. McSherry and D. Murchie.

Forwards:- G. Nelson, F. Taylor, N. Ramsay, S. Aitkenhead, I. Monteith, C. Crooks, R. Alexander, C.K. McGrath and J. Skinner.

This was a special Rover's Union team modelled after Ardrossan Accies, i.e. 16 aside. At half-time after great controversy it was found that the Accies had fielded 16 players, the discovery was made by the Rovers who were able to look at a single object without seeing two. The final score was 6 each, the Rover scores consisting of a fine drop goal by Mac in the early stages of the game and a try by speed merchant G. Hunter. C.K. McGrath led a fine pack of forwards, prominent among whom were C. Crooks in brawn and Sam in lung inspiration.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES The first ordinary meeting of the month was devoted to a review of the progress of the crew in 1948 and a discussion on future plans was held. It was agreed that everyone should endeavour to pass the initial test by the end of February.

One night Colin introduced a discussion on the Scout Promise. A lively debate followed, mainly concerned with Duty to God. A suggestion was made that the Rovers should visit one of the local churches, listen carefully to the sermon and then ask the minister along afterwards and discuss it with him. This was agreed to and in February we are visiting St. John's.

Two talks were given this month, one by George on music with his vibrations and oscillations easily outpacing J. Skinner's centrifuges and regurgitations. George outlined the general make-up of the modern orchestra but the subject of his talk was the woodwinds with the downbeat on the clarinet. The talk was well illustrated with records, ranging from the dizzy heights of "Scrub me Mama with the bust half brick" to the abyssmal depths of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. The other talk was given by Colin on "Colour Photography".

A/

A very pleasant half-hour was spent during one meeting browsing through the troop logs dating back to the early twenties when big Willie Duncan was just wee Willie Duncan.

BURN'S SUPPER A Burn's Supper was held on the 25th when the table tennis table groaned under the weight of ambrosia and nectar gleaned from the meagre larders of the demented and long suffering mothers the ambrosiast of the ambrosia was the haggis piped in on the mouth organ by the Rev. J.S. Douglas and addressed by D. Murchie. After the feast was over, tooth and leg puller J. Goodall (whom we congratulate on being successful in the first part of his finals) proposed the immortal memory.

FILMS The Crew's Chief Director of Photography, Colin Korda Crooks, started on the production of the "Gang Show of 1948" to preserve memories of this grand show for future generations of the group.

GOSSIP Jim Boyle is getting married in March and we all wish him every happiness. John Douglas is to be best man and C. Crooks and R. McSherry are representing the Crew at the ceremony. Jim is giving a party to the Crew in the hut later.

Ian Gillan and Forbes Taylor were home on leave this month.

Miss Agnes Cowey, one of the Lady Cubmasters, best remembered for her part in the "Gang Show" as J. Goodall's assistant in the shadowgraph, was 21 during the month. She held a party in the Moorings and out of the 12 male guests, 11 were Rovers.

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

FEBRUARY, 1949

RELIGION Following a talk on the Scout Promise by ARSL C. Crooks the crew decided to attend the church with their maxim. "There is always something in a sermon which applies to you" the result being that St. John's Church was invaded on the morning of Sunday the 6th. The following Tuesday the minister of the church (Rev. D.O. Galbraith B.D.) came down to the meeting and answered questions put to him regarding his sermon. After this he gave reasons for some of the problems of present day religion and ably dealt with the smart-alick questions of Alexander - McGrath Co. Ltd.

Previous to this a Student of Divinity, one Samuel Aitkenhead, came down and outlined many of the modern religions, paying particular attention to Christianity, or lack of it in Britain.

METEOROLOGY Wesley Harry passed on some of his knowledge regarding the complicated subject called Meteorology (for those ignorant ones among us, Meteorology is not a study of table tennis balls) and Weather Observations explaining common terms used by the B.B.C.

FILMING GANG SHOW On the 22nd. the scene in the hut brought back memories of Gang Show nights, the reason being the Korda Crooks Incorporated Film Company were shooting in glorious technicolour "The Rover Acts".

TALK George Weir outlined the 6th Scout Law in the series of talks on the ten laws.

GOSSIP It was found out at a recent meeting that Jim Boyle is Telepathetic! This was proved on numerous occasions. Jim was brought into the hall blindfolded and he was able to pick up objects placed around the hall, while the other members of the crew kept their minds on Jim and the objects in question.

ROVER DEN At last prospects of our own den look very bright - the hut that arrived months ago and later found not to be the proper one is to be erected for our use near the wall on the scout grounds. Plans have been drawn up, but the go-ahead signal is still awaited from/

from the Dean of Guild but foundation piers will soon be laid by the crew.

TABLE TENNIS Latest results of the crews progress in the No. 9 area league:-

Rover Crew 2, Tortolano T.T.C. "A" 3.
Ardrossan Academy 1, Rover Crew 4.
Tortolano T.T.C. "B" 2, Rover Crew 3.

RUGBY On the 5th the crew travelled to Edinburgh to play Edinburgh County Rover Scouts but thick fog said "no game". However the bus-load of Rugby fans were not downhearted and at Murrayfield which was half-fog cleared a great Scottish Victory was recorded over Wales.

EDINBURGH COUNTY R.S. V. ARDROSSAN R.S. (on the 26th Copy newspaper report in A/S Herald).

Last Saturday morning 26th February a team of Rover Scouts from the local crew travelled to Edinburgh and played Edinburgh County Rover Scouts.

Edinburgh kicked-off and Ardrossan, playing against a strong wind, was first to attack. This, however, was shortlived, and, after a fine break-away by Edinburgh's veteran scrum-half, they opened by scoring a try between the posts, and Robertson converted. Soon after this, Edinburgh's "stand-off" showed his kicking abilities by putting his team three more points ahead with a fine penalty goal, awarded for an off side infringement.

Starting off the second half, a grand passing movement by the Edinburgh threes culminated in a try between the posts, Robertson bringing out full points. After this Ardrossan pressed and had hard lines when Munn was tackled on the home team's line. The Ardrossan pressure was short-lived, and Edinburgh were soon on the offensive again, and, after a loose scrum, their captain crashed over the line, and Robertson was successful with the difficult kick.

The Ardrossan boys were unlucky not to cross the Edinburgh team's line, this being mainly due to lack of cohesion in the pack, ably led by wingforward C.K. McGrath in their losing struggle.
Result:- Edinburgh County Rover Scouts, 18: Ardrossan Rover Scouts 0.

Ardrossan were represented by: W.G. Weir, G. Hunter, J. Munn, R. Rankin, J. Burns, R. McSherry, D.G. Murchie, R. Alexander, W. McTavish, C.W. Crooks, A. Davidson, I. Monteith, J. Douglas, J. Skinner, C.K. McGrath.

The game was hard and fast and enjoyable, and everyone agreed that this would be a regular fixture for "International" mornings.

ACTIVITIES March opened with some very cold weather, which curtailed much of the outdoor activities of the crew. Meetings were continued weekly in the hut. The programme of the meetings continued on similar lines to that described in previous letters. An Easter hostel tour of Arran has been arranged for next month and an outing to the Ayr Pavilion Dance Hall in a special 'bus.

The talks on the scout laws continue to provoke lively discussion. The 7th, 8th and 9th laws were dealt with this month.

The games sessions were under the able guidance of P.T.I. Murchie. Head tennis, round the table tennis table, restricted handball and floor soccer were all played with tremendous vigour and a little skill.

George gave a talk on the manufacture of coke one night. Many questions were asked and it seems that even on such a dry sounding subject the rovers can work up some enthusiasm.

Some small progress has been made with the building of the new den but final instructions are awaited from the Town & Country Planning Authorities.

Colin Korda Crooks gave us the lowdown on a new aspect of photography in a talk entitled Print Criticism. He explained the various points to look for in commending or deploring a photographic print - subject matter, lighting, positioning, flaws to mention a few. The crew were then given a chance to show their worth in criticising some ten odd prints by the expert himself. The criticisms were varied and pointed and the master was justly hoist by his own petard!

VISIT FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR HANDICAPPED SCOUTS On the 22nd we were honoured by a visit from Mr. Levy, the Commissioner for Handicapped Scouts who was introduced to us by Mr. J. Gall Smith, our D.C. In a short address Mr. Levy explained the object and functions of Handicapped Scout Troops and what could and is being done in the running of such groups. He then told us of a handicapped boy in our own area who he hoped we would be able to help by getting the boy to join the scouts and mix with other boys of his own age. We agreed to do what we could in this matter.

FILM SHOW The Gang Show film starring us, produced and directed by Colin Korda etc. etc., was shown and given a gala premiere before an enthusiastic audience of rovers recently. The film, part of which is in/

in colour, is a fine documentary record of an epic show (sez us!) and is not lacking in humour. No talent spotters from J. Arthur Rank were seen in the audience but several of the stars are still hopeful!

PARTY Jim Boyle entertained us to a party recently to celebrate his entry into the blessed state of matrimony. A sumptuous repast with all the attendant trimmings (a blow out) was given full honours by the hungry mob. During a lull in the proceeding R.L. Bob Shedden took the opportunity of presenting to Jim, on behalf of the crew, a lemonade set and half tea set. In the course of a short neat speech he congratulated Jim and wished both Margaret and him every happiness in their married life. The rest of the evening was spent in reminiscence and jest. Prize storytellers were Norrie Ramsay and Bob Shedden whose stories were much appreciated. Our heartiest best wishes go to Jim and Margaret on their marriage and our heartfelt thanks are due to Jim for giving the boys such a wonderful party.

NEWS FLASH On Saturday, 26th March, in Erskine Church, Mr. James Boyle and Miss Margaret Shedden were married. Mr. J.S. Douglas was best man and guests included A.R.L. Crooks and Rover MacSherry. Guard of Honour at the church were scouts from Jim's troop.

GOSSIP Branch meetings continue on Saturdays at the Moorings and Castlecraigs. Rumour has it that Goosey is starting a branch of his own at the University Palais. Jim Goodall, however, affirms a prior claim to founding this new branch.

The Ardrossan Accies branch is functioning satisfactorily. Seven rovers have played for their first team.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Members of the Crew attended a meeting of the Ardrossan Town Council during the month. The meeting was at the same time amusing, instructive and interesting. We all felt sorry for the poor "Roads and Parks" Committee who were delegated most of the work. At the close of the meeting, the late Provost Cunningham thanked the R.S.L. for his work among the youth of the town and also for bringing the Rovers along to the meeting. Mr. Shedden, replying

replying for the Rovers, thanked the Provost and said we would all like to come back again.

It is planned to hold a mock town council meeting in the hut, during April.

NEWCOMER We are pleased to welcome Norrie Ramsay into the Crew.

THE MOOT Four Rovers are going to the Moot in Norway in August of this year. They are C. Crooks, J. Douglas, R. MacSherry and F. Forsyth.

SUMMER CAMP The troop are camping in Northern Ireland this year and some of the Rovers will help with the running of the camp.

STOP PRESS A representative from the Ministry of Town and Country Planning arrived recently to inspect the 'proposed site' of the Rover Den. He found the foundation piers had all been erected - we await the summons. This will be our second trial this year and it won't be a mock one this time.

P.S. Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the skeleton programme upon which the weekly programmes are based.

ACTIVITIES Meetings continued weekly in the hut during the month. The discussions on the Scout Laws were concluded this month by R. Alexander on the 10th Law and Jim Boyle on the 11th. Many interesting points were debated.

A demonstration was given by A.R.L. Crooks on making contact prints from negatives from the Gang Show. Several Rovers tried their hand.

R.L. Bob Shedden gave us a talk on 'Butchering' one night and he described with many illustrations the modern practice of slaughtering, curing, skinning and cutting up of the carcasses. This was very informative and parts most amusing.

One night we have a team quiz and the teams consisted of experts on various subjects e.g. sports, books, films and lucky dip. George acted as the question master who knew almost all the answers. Team 'B' of D. Murchie, J. Goodall, J. Skinner and Sandy Stewart were worthy winners with $6\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 8.

Donald, our Physical Education expert, whom we all congratulate on being appointed Captain of Ardrossan Accies 2nd XV had some new games up his sleeve as usual. This months efforts were Bucket Ball and First Tie Football and were up to his usual standard.

The R.L. lead two games on observation one night. One was a sound direction test and a blindfolded rover had to distinguish from which direction came certain sounds made by other rovers e.g. lighting a match. The other quiz was an illustration of 20 actions by the R.L. (e.g. drying himself with a towel) after which the rovers were told to write down the actions in order. The standard was not too good but we'll do better next time.

An enjoyable campfire was held one night and all the old songs and many new ones were sung.

OUTING TO AYR PAVILION The outing to a dance at Ayr Pavilion proved a great success. A deficit of 5/3d. on the bus expenses was settled by a whip-round at the following meeting.

Mac. and George were instructed to arrange further and more ambitious outings. Next outing is to the White City Speedway in Glasgow and has been arranged provisionally for the last week in May.

RATEPAYERS/

RATEPAYERS MEETING Several Rovers attended the Ardrossan Rayepayers meeting to listen to the Candidates for the local council elections. The heckling was much enjoyed.

DANCE AT IRVINE CENTRAL The Rovers received an invitation to go to a Nurses Dance in Irvine Central one Friday evening. The jig being free was very well attended and the rovers were out in force.

NEW DEN Contrary to expectations the summons to appear in court regarding the building of the new den did not materialise and the plans were passed by the Town and Country Planning Authorities. Furthermore, the new den has arrived and work will be carried out each Tuesday to erect and equip it.

THE ROVER TEST Three Rovers have been busy with the hike part of the initial test recently. Colin in Ireland where he had a grand time and made arrangements for the troops summer camp, and Mac and George in the wilds of Fairlie Moor. Reports have been read at the meetings and discussed.

CREW MOVEMENTS John Douglas is now working in Manchester with the Metro-Vic. Co. and will not be with us for a while. Sandy Stewart has departed to the R.A.F. We wish them both all the best of luck and shall be glad to see them back soon.

We welcome back Bill Breckenridge who is now once again splitting hairs in the district. Maybe the rover hair styles will improve, who knows!

VISITORS Visitors this month included Finlay Forsyth and Ken Mellor home on leave, also Ian Gillan, Extra! Extra! At a recent Forces Jamboree in Holland Finlay bumped into Forbes Taylor.

ACTIVITIES Meetings this month were held in a new type of uniform and ran on a different basis from our usual way. Work on the Rover Den has begun, the building of the fireplace^{and} the Pisa like chimney will in future go down in the Bricklayers Trade Union as the greatest bit of Research Work since the building trade was founded but with all comments, one cold evening an adventurous Rover Scout lit a fire and to his amazement and other Rovers present the smoke flowed out the top of the chimney. The erection of the hut is also a feat of patience and hard work. On the 24th, cross-pieces, floor and two sides were completed, and on the 25th the squad turned up again to go ahead but found that the sides had to be taken off and the floor stripped again, and they had to start from scratch. This mistake was no fault of the Rovers but the plans that arrived with the hut were wonky. Fortunately Mr. Bond gave useful assistance that evening and work progressed favourably. Every evening after six, overalls with their pet names chalked on the back such as 'Da Boss', 'Tiger', 'Lion', 'Wolf', 'Gen Man', 'Snooky of the Chicago Reds', 'St. Louis Dodgers' and 'Shell Bluebacks' encouraged this happy band to bach on, and by the 31st the roof and door were on and mainstays and bottom floor creosoted, but, there is still a great amount of work to be completed and by the time winter programme starts we shall have a 'Gen Den'.

ON LEAVE Brian Douglas arrived home from sea to spend a week's leave but the Ministry of Labour directed him for hard labour at the building of the Rover Den and Brian certainly worked like a trojan and the Crew are greatly indebted to him.

SPORT On Wednesday, the 11th, the North Ayrshire No. 9 Area Inter-Youth Organisations Sports were held at Ardeer Recreation Park. The Rover Crew represented the Scout Group in the Senior Section, and in every event won 1st and 2nd places and also the Relay.

Details:

100 yds. - J. Munn and R. MacSherry
800 yds. - J. Munn and J. Goodall.
Shot Putt - R. Alexander and K. McGrath.

Relay/

Relay Race: In the 880 yards Donald Murchie ran brilliantly and gave the team 50 yards lead and J. Munn and R. MacSherry 220 with Gibby Hunter 440 had no bother in beating Eglinton Harriers.

In the Junior Section Norman Ramsay won the Shot Putt. The Scouts retained the Blair Trophy in the Senior Section with 61 pts., with Eglinton Harriers 2nd with 28 pts. In the Junior Section for the Victory Trophy the Scouts and Stevenston Athletics Association tied with 36 pts., but the scouts received the cup because they were the winners in the previous year. The Cubs won the Morrison Trophy for the 3rd year in succession, so once again it was another Scout Gala Day.

On Saturday, the 14th, at the Academy Assembly Hall a presentation dance was held and the Senior Trophy was received by Donald Murchie, the Junior Trophy by Ronnie Harris with Miss Agnes Cowie receiving the Cubs' Cup. Music for the dance was supplied by Rover Scout George Weir and his Jivebombers, and they certainly hit out to the enjoyment of all present.

TABLE TENNIS On the 24th at Livingstone Church Hall, Stevenston, Tortolano Club, Academy and Scouts 'A' teams played off for the Deans Trophy. The semi-final between Tortolano 'A' and Scouts 'A' was terrific - Jimmy Goodall and Mac won the first two games and then Brian Castell unfortunately lost 2 - 1 in the third game after putting up a good show, Donald Murchie and Goosey lost the last two games so the Scouts 'A' lost 3 - 2 and the Deans Trophy. In the final Tortolano 'A' easily defeated the Academy in the first three games.

ROVER JOURNEY On the 21st and 22nd Jimmy Goodall completed his journey with enjoyable cycle trip to the Merrick and Galloway.

NEWSLETTER NO. 10

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1949

ACTIVITIES As detailed in Newsletter No. 9 all efforts are still being concentrated on the erection of the Den. During June we finished the roof, painted the exterior, built the front steps and installed the electric lights.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP The troop camp in Ireland this year was run entirely by members of the Crew. They were R. Shedden, C. Crooks, A. Bond, F. Forsyth, S. Brown, R. Alexander, G. Hunter, B. Hunter, and to make a correction the only non Rover A. Davidson.

We were blessed with pretty good weather and most of the activities were a great success with the one exception of the journey to and from Castlewella. We were dogged with bad luck on both journeys. On the way out the Laird's Isle developed engine trouble and after lying off Ardrossan all day we were eventually transferred to another ship to arrive in Belfast at 1.30 in the morning. Coming back the Laird's Isle couldn't take us on board as she already had her full complement by the time we had arrived at the docks, so we had to return by the night boat.

The highlight of the camp was the trip to Dublin. The shops were filled with many things which were in short supply at home especially sweets. Apart from parcels carried back to camp most scouts managed to send large parcels of sweets home. Whilst in the city we received hospitality from a local D.S.M. who took us to the newspaper office where we had our photo taken, for publication in the newspaper.

The main activities centred round the lake. Bathing and canoeing in the coffins were the order of the day and every day. A very dangerous aerial ropeway was rigged up, it was 250ft. long and very steep. Only one uncontrolled descent was made and the participant, Bill Boore, was distinctly white about the gills afterwards. Unfortunately with a rope to hold you back it was too tame for most. Cricket was played frequently, the pitch being an old road. It proved too bumpy for the rovers who with the help of the seconds of each patrol lost the big match of the camp to the rest of the troop (40 of them).

The aspect of the camp was outstanding being easily the best the troops has ever had. The Mountains of Mourne being visible from all Patrol sites.

Troop/

Troop cooking was used throughout the camp. It was not so satisfactory as at Bromsgrove last year partly due to the inexperience of some of the P.L.'s and Seconds.

Robert Alexander completed the last part of the initial cover test by walking and hitch hiking up to Portrush and back. "He took the opportunity to renew some acquaintances."

The portable wireless of C.W.C.'s was very handy for the weather forecasts and in the marquee on wet days.

In spite of the extra expense caused by the travel difficulties the deficit in the camp was only 18/-d.

A very flattering report was received from D.C. on our return home as a result of his visit to the site. Needless to say the camp was well filmed not only by most scouts but in 200 ft. of glorious technicolour by our 'Official Photographer'.

ROVER MOOT On the 2nd of August four Ardrossan Rovers, John Douglas, Finlay Forsyth, Robert MacSherry and Colin Crooks in the company of 100 other Rovers from all parts of Scotland left Prestwick Airport for the 4th World Rover Scout Moot at Skjalk in Norway.

During the $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours flight to Oslo the skirl of the bagpipes could be heard above the drone of the engines. Even the Air Hostess struggled through a pibroch.

The train journey from Oslo to Skjalk immediately struck an international note. The Scottish contingent travelled with Swedish Rovers and exiled Rovers from Latvia.

Within twenty four hours of leaving Ardrossan we were encamped in a beautiful wooded valley of the Hotunheim. Around us in closely packed circles in the woods were the tents of almost 40 nations. Each had its own particular style of lay out; some with very ornate gateways; one with coloured lanterns, which were lit by candles at night; some with simple but original gadgets; others with vividly coloured banners and national flags. In fact each gave you some insight into the general character of the nation. I won't say what we had.

Our first day in camp was spent in rigging up gadgets, exploring the very extensive site and trying to exchange Monzie badges. Before we left we were dished out with huge quantities of very fine badges which had been left over from the last Moot held in Scotland just before the war. At first they had a high exchange value/

but as each member of the Scottish contingent had about a couple of dozen each they soon became a drag on the market. One thing that was in great demand was the kilt but business was far from brisk as foreigners seem to have a queer idea of the real value of a kilt. Mac had brought a spare one with him and managed to swop a fur lined leather jacket from an American.

We also had our first introduction to Norwegian food; knekkerbrod, a kind of rye biscuits and goat cheese.

Norwegian day was in the form of short hikes with varied routes we decided to take one of the medium ones with a circular tour reaching the height of 4,500 feet, the pace set by the others was practically scout pace, so Ardrossan made their own and after 10 hours trekking we were glad to arrive back at camp for lunch.

A short visit to the neighbouring village of Lom was enjoyed the following day and visits were paid to the 12th century wooden church, the second oldest in Norway, and various shops and cafes. In the evening films on Norwegian Life and Norway were shown at the camp cinema - It was difficult to see the films because to the natives of Skjak this was an event and they swarmed around the cinema in droves.

Left early following morning by special 'bus to Geirangek Fjord. The bus journey which lasted over 3 hours was packed with scenery and thrills. The scenery being the beautiful snow-capped Jotenheim. The thrills arose after leaving Djupvasslytta Hotel where the road came from 4,000 ft. to sea level in three miles with hairpin bends every hundred yards. After arriving at Merok a delay of two hours confronted us before we set sail on Geiranger Fjord on board one of the small pleasure steamers. The weather was nigh perfect and scenery superb with cameras clicking all over the ship and the noise of C.W.C.'s cine as Kadachorome ran through at various intervals. The outstanding view was the one of the famous Seven Sisters. On the way the ship called in at various small ports and as darkness fell we arrived back at Merok which looked a complete picture with lights glowing over the hill sides. The 'bus journey back over Ureissvingene Road with its hairpin bends galore and not too safe surface was a feat of perfect driving and luckily most of the Rovers slept the way back arriving in camp in the early part of the morning, but to our surprise the site was quite busy with Norwegian/

Norwegian Rovers patrolling and emptying store lorries.

Saturday afternoon was ideal to snap a few gateways and the camp-site in general and evening brought along the Grand Camp-fire where each nation gave a display which was either in the form of Song, Dance, Play or Custom. The Scottish contingent were popular with the bagpipes and Eightsome Reel in which Colin and "Sir Ernest Whiskers" Douglas represented. But the most popular were the New Zealand contingent demonstrating their Maori war dances.

An impressive service on Sunday morning conducted in English by Archbishop Schersjeirk was well attended. Afternoon saw the British contingent gathered in the Arena where Lord Rowallan presented a plaque of St. George and the Lion to the Chief Scout of Norway. Afterwards the Scottish contingent held a Scouts Own on the banks of the River Otta and a fine address was delivered by Rev. Renton Brown of Stonehouse.

The great hike followed on Monday with 1,800 scouts of 40 nations setting out on various routes at all hours of the day. Colin and John were in the same patrol and Finlay and Mac were together in a different patrol but both patrols went the same route. The first day was hard going with mist, rain and snow-storms with accompaniment. Colin and John's patrol had no mishaps but their P.L. set a cracking pace and they ended the day soaked and half dead. But the patrol Mac and Finlay were in, one of the Pakistan Scouts collapsed on the mountainside about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Jvasshytter Inn - but Finlay carried his rucksack and one of the Norwegians and Mac went to the Inn, where we couldn't even get a stretcher. So with the help of another three Rovers, who were at the Inn, and two poles we made use of Tenderfoot principles and rigged a stretcher capable of carrying our casualty the way to the Inn where he soon recovered and we enjoyed a typical Norwegian meal which Finlay ordered the first time he arrived at the Inn - even 'Whisker' enjoyed his second meal. The evening was spent with a camp-fire and our bed on the floor.

Heavy mist blanked out the view of the mountains and the weather was dull in the morning but we set off to climb Galdhoppegan, on crossing the Styggerbreen glacier a slight snow-storm accompanied us but although it was cold and no view would be visible from the summit/

summit we eventually reached the summit of the highest mountain in the Northern Hemisphere and in the mountain hut we signed the Log and ate the few sandwiches we carried with us. Owing to the cold we wasted no time in getting back to the Inn where we packed our kits and walked three miles to the valley and set camp for the night.

The following day consisted of a short 10 mile hike along a track to Rossheim where buses awaited us and returned to Skjak.

Thursday saw camp-sites demolished and the closing ceremony in the arena which ended in the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'. After waiting two hours in the cold and during this period the Scottish contingent dedicated a song to Cecil Potter, leader of the British Contingent, we left by bus for Otta Station where the Special Moot train took us to Oslo arriving there at 6.30 a.m. Our H.Q. here was Sinsen School and after sprays, a short rest and breakfast, the rest of the day was our own in Oslo.

In glorious sunny weather we visited as many of the famous and historic places of interest including the Vintland Parks and a sail to visit Roland Amumsens Ship "Fram" in which could be seen most of the equipment used on his South Pole and many other expeditions. Unfortunately, we did not get to the Viking Ship Museum. Evening was spent in the theatre Norge where the American Show "Oklahoma" was staged but unfortunately all the speaking was in Norwegian. We stuck it out except C.W.C. - Finlay earlier on met a relation of his at the Square so he spent the day with her.

After breakfast the airport buses arrived at the school and within an hour and a half we were once again at Gardemsen Airport where we discovered our plane would be $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours late but we passed the time eating in the Cafe and began to write this newsletter. The time soon flew past and at 1.45 we were piped aboard our plane. The journey was similar to coming with the exception that two Air Hostesses accompanied us and a few air bumps but 6 p.m. saw us safe and sound at Prestwick where we were met by Mr. Crooks and Rover Leader R. Shedden. The Bus journey home took longer than expected owing to the buses being packed as usual on Saturday evenings. We arrived in Ardrossan at 8.30 p.m. to find it the same old place and so ended our experiences at the 4th World Rover Scout Moot.

Work is now progressing well in the den, wall seats and plaster boarding on roof and walls is nearing completion. New floor laid.
Colin/

Colin finished inside of fireplace and outside red bricks to complete it will arrive shortly. Although wash-hand basin, cupboards and interior painting is to be completed we are hoping to have the den opened by the first week in December.

The New Scout Hut has arrived, the size is 60' x 20' and will be joined by a 10' passage from the existing one, work has begun on foundations and with a concentrated effort it is hoped to have the hut ready for Christmas.

On 11th September the first Annual Meeting of the Parents Committee (Mothers Section) of the Group was held in the hut and Colin showed the film of Castlewellan Camp to the 51 mothers present.

At a Group Scouters Meeting held in August Mr. R.L. Shedden retired from Rover Leader, so Colin Crooks is now the new Rover Leader with Finlay Forsyth, Assistant Rover Scout Leader - Mr. Shedden is still Group Scout Master, with Scout Masters this year again Sam Aitkenhead and Jim Boyle.

The Rover Den was well visited by Rovers home on leave during the summer and included Forbes Taylor from Germany, Gordon Smart (Vienna), Brian Douglas (M.N.) and Sandy Stewart, (R.A.F.)

As you may already know Finlay is now demobbed and back at work in Glasgow and on 17th September Douglas "Super" Ramsay arrives home from Singapore and on 15th September Ian Gillan was demobbed from the Army.

The Rover Crew was well represented when the Accies kicked off for the season 10th September. Six rovers represented the 1st XV which won 9-6 and six represented the 2nd XV (Capt. D. Murchie) which lost 9-3. Both games were against Kilmarnock.

1 S T A R D R O S S A N
R O V E R S C O U T C R E W

N E W S L E T T E R

V O L U M E 1

1 9 4 8 - 1 9 4 9