

Scouting celebrates 75 years of service

IT IS APPROPRIATE that the Society should pay tribute to the Boy Scout movement — now known as the Scout movement — on the occasion of its seventieth jubilee year, as many of its leaders and members over the years have made a significant contribution to the work of the Society.

FROM ITS very inception in 1907 Scouting taught boys to recognise and protect trees, not to be wasteful of natural resources, to help other people, and to be kind to animals. High ideals indeed.

Scouting really started by chance. Its founder, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, hero of the relief of Mafeking in the South African War, had formulated ideas for the training of boys and he put these into practice at an experimental camp on Brownsea Island in Dorset when he selected boys from various social classes, including the public schools. It was so successful that he was asked to write details of his programme of activity and his ideas so that the Boys' Brigade, Y.M.C.A., and church youth clubs could benefit from his knowledge.

Famous book

He then set about writing his now-famous book *Scouting for Boys*, of which millions of copies have been sold throughout the world. It was issued in chapters called "Yarns" and sold in this form. The organisations for which they were written were not enthusiastic about using the radical material.

The author

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By Arthur W. V. Reeve

Instead, boys after reading the yarns set up patrols of six or eight and went out and recruited Scoutmasters to help them form Scout troops. Soon troops were formed in several countries and the Scout movement was born. Inevitably, because sisters would not stay away, the Girl Guides or sister movement was started and later, because of the nuisance young brothers were causing, the Wolf Cub Section for boys of 8 to 11 years was started in 1918.

Today Scouting has spread to over 150 countries and territories and numbers over 16 million participants. In recent years girls have been able to join the Venturer and Rover Sections in New Zealand, and

in many countries Scouting includes both girls and boys.

Fortunately the administrators of the movement have always been progressive, updating the uniforms and keeping the programmes challenging, and flexibility has allowed Scouting to flourish in almost every country.

Baden-Powell's last message, written in Kenya to his Scouters everywhere, read:

Let us in training our Scouts, keep the higher aims in the forefront, not let ourselves become absorbed in the steps. Don't let the technical outweigh the moral. Field efficiency, backwoodsman-ship, camping, hiking, good turns, jamboree comradeships are all means, not the end. **The end is character** — character with a purpose.

And that purpose, that the next generation be sane in an insane world, and develop the higher realisation of service, and active service of love and duty to God and neighbour.



An important award to Scouting. This was for the movement's efforts in establishing and supporting Conservation Week.