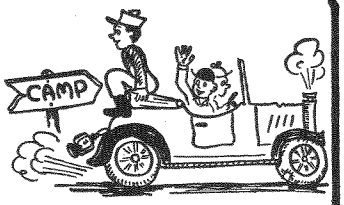
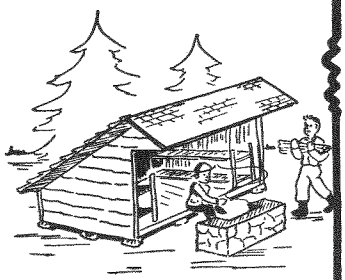
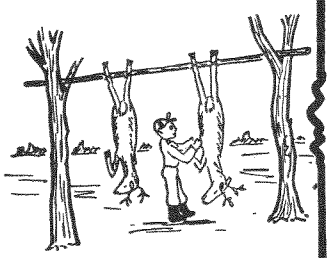
PAUL BUNYAN

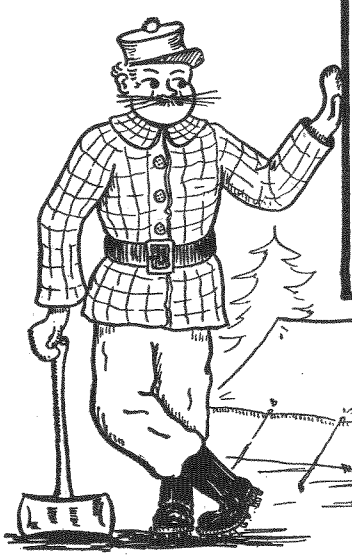
By Ralph W. Benson

Sketches by the Author









THAT colorful colossus of the Northwoods, Paul Bunyan, provides the theme for an annual encampment of Senior Scouts from six neighboring Councils. The mythical super outdoorsman offers unlimited ideas for a rip-snortin' two days of fun in the tall timber.

This event, rotated among the various Council camps, has the following staff:

Paul Bunyan — Big mucky-muck of the whole lumber camp.

Major Domo — On hand to welcome you and keep you happy.

Bull of the Woods — Tells you where to go — campsites, that is.

Johnny Inkslinger — Handles registration, records, fees.

Straw Boss — In charge of Backwoods Smorgasbord.

Medicine Man — In charge of Furst Ade Shanty.

The Whale — Head drip of the waterfront.

Bullslinger — In charge of Bullslinger's Jamboree.

Gun Gunderson — In charge of exhibits.

Dan Boone — Advises on hike routes for exploration.

Buffalo Bill — Chief of the Barbecue!

Sachem — Handles arrangements for religious services.

Shanty Boy — Morale leader in charge of campfire.

Totem Maker — Keeps the Log, takes photos for posterity!

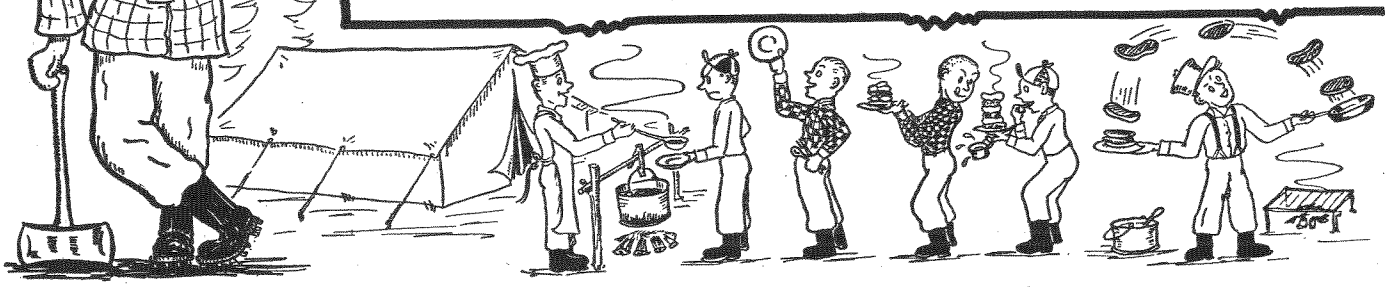
Crew campsites are transformed into lumbering camps for the occasion. Tents and leanto's have borne such titles as Big Pine Camp, East Fork Camp, Blue Ox Camp, Deer Yard Camp, Lost Bear Camp, Horsebarn, and Doghouse.

Lumber camps are synonymous with good vittles, so it is only logical that food has an important role in the program. One of the highlights has been a venison barbecue. Two deer, obtained through the State Conservation Department, have hung high on a rack; and many a Senior Scout has seen for the first time the art of skinning a deer. There's many a claimant for the antlers, hoofs, and hides for craft projects.

After skinning has been done early in the evening, Buffalo Bill and his crew go to work on the barbecue. The carcass starts roasting about midnight, to be ready for dinner next day, a culinary climax complete with Bill's own barbecue sauce, plus all the trimmin's.

In case you're figuring on a barbecue a little out of the ordinary, buffalo, elk, and mule deer can be purchased from several government reservations. They can be had "on the hoof" or refrigerated, whole and half carcasses. Certain regulations govern the sale of such animals or meat. A few agencies where you can get the details on cost and procedures of purchase are:

U. S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma.



Senior Scout ENCAMPMENT

A WOODSMAN'S CAMP COMPLETE WITH A VENISON BARBECUE, BACKWOODS SMORGASBORD and a BULLSLINGER'S JAMBOREE!

Scout Executive
Rutherford, New Jersey

U. S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska.

South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks, Custer State Park, Hermosa, South Dakota.

National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana.

Ever try a BACKWOODS SMORGASBORD? Now there is something to tickle the palate of Paul Bunyan himself. In a designated area the Crews cook supper. Each prepares its "specialty" but not for its own members — they get only a taste. The idea is to cook something unusual, imu, roast chicken, pie, turtle soup, kabob, or what-have-you, all to be ready about 6 P.M.

As your Crew finishes its special dish, you shout, "Smorgasbord!" That's the signal for anyone within ear-shot to come running with plate and eating tools for a sample, not a whole serving, of your delicious, delectable dumplings or whatever it is. By that time someone else yells, "Smorgasbord!" So you tear over there to get another sample of grub. Soon everybody has collected quite a spread of "this and that."

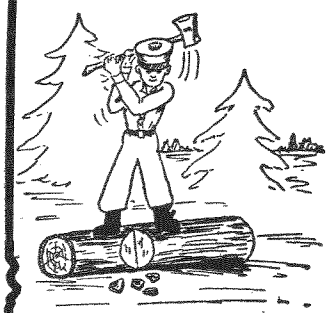
Each Crew provides its own bread and beverage but concentrates on preparing enough of their specialty to give a lot of visitors a tasty sample. Here's where those shanty chefs shine!

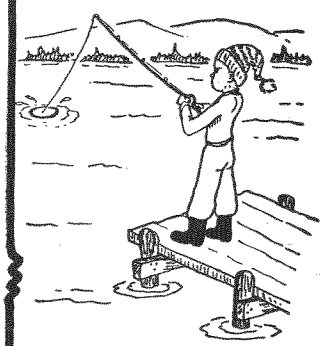
Of course, you can't spend all your time eating, so here's a few other activities that lend themselves to the Paul Bunyan theme. Our BULLSLINGER'S JAMBOREE has been an afternoon period in which the Crews try their hands at various skills and novelty stunts. About a dozen stations are manned by a Senior Scout or two, and each Crew makes the rounds, testing their skill at such things as bait casting, life ring tossing, rope work, identification of dehydrated foods, and other activities related to Air, Sea, and Explorer Scouting.

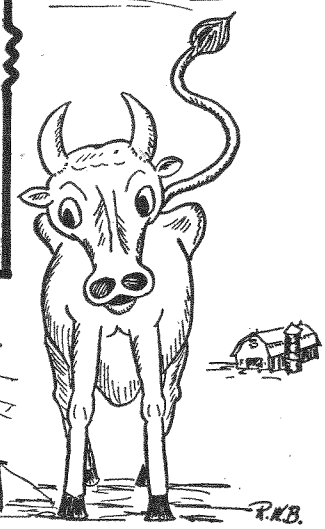
It isn't a genuine Paul Bunyan camp unless the axe, symbolic of the Seven Mighty Axemen, plays a prominent part. Demonstrations and contests along this line are a natural on such occasions.

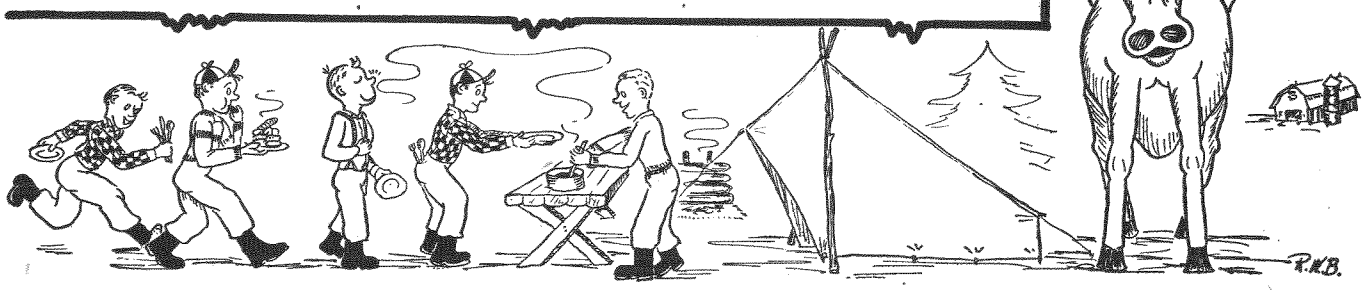
Oh sure, the whole gang comes dressed in their brightest wool shirts that can be heard from here to the back forty. Also boots and suspenders. The whole place looks, smells, and tastes reminiscent of that mythical giant of American immortals.

And can you think of a better theme for a campfire, with yarns and tall ones galore, maybe highlighted by a parade of Paul's personal belongings, such as his pipe, axe, watch and chain, boots, or — by golly, there's no end to the ideas that crop up when you mention Paul Bunyan. One way to get every Crew to bring something of Paul's to display is to award prizes, like the deer antlers, hoofs, and hides, for the best.









SENIOR PROGRAM

Resuscitation Team

YOUR Senior Scouts would get thrilling satisfaction from saving a life by artificial respiration — or from a life saved by someone they had instructed. This first aid skill may cheat death of victims anywhere anytime that there is danger of suffocation by drowning, asphyxiation, or electric shock.

Suggest in your Unit that a half dozen Seniors form a resuscitation team to give a fifteen to twenty minute demonstration. Both the service and public performance angles will appeal to them.

When the team is trained, make it available to other Senior Units, Troops, high schools, youth centers, playgrounds, PTA's, businessmen's clubs, and church, veterans' and farmers' organizations. Reach the general public by demonstrations in a store window or on a truck parked on a downtown square. One team member may be the manager, doing nothing but booking appearances and handling publicity.

Before teaching others the prone pressure method of artificial respiration, the team must become experts in it themselves. The technique is explained in the *Explorer Scout Manual, Scout Field Book, Life Saving* Merit Badge pamphlet, and the Red Cross manuals on *Life Saving and Water Safety* and *First Aid*. Competent instruction may be obtained from doctors, Red Cross chapters, police and fire departments, and industrial safety experts.

With the method down pat, the next problem is how to make it interesting — entertaining as well as clear. Organize the demonstration down to the last detail. (See "Giving a Demonstration" and "Directing a Dramatization" in *Hints On Senior Scout Leadership.*)

Rehearse until the team is letter perfect, each man knowing his part but ready to help another in case of a slip. Put in plenty of action, so the demonstration moves as fast as is consistent with clearness. Make it realistic, for example, by removing a bunch of homemade "seaweed" from the victim's mouth, and by using spectators' coats to keep him warm. Beforehand, make sure that a platform or table is available to put the prone victim in full view of the audience.

One Senior is the commentator, introducing the team (including a "plug" for his Unit and Senior Scouting). Then as they go into action, he explains, step by step, what they are doing and why. Afterwards he leads a short question and answer period, directing some questions to his team mates.

Men on the team learn a useful skill, serve their community, and gain experience in public appearances.

World Friendship Ball

SCOUTING'S own "Marshall Plan," not just for Europe but for Scouts around the world, is its World Friendship Fund. To brother Scouts in war-torn countries it sends packages of Scouting equipment and literature for $15; and through CARE it sends packages of camping food for $10. These were described in the May and October, 1947, SCOUTING magazines.

One way your Senior Unit can start or continue contributing is a World Friendship Ball or Masquerade. Cover the party expenses from the treasury, and ask each couple to give a certain amount or whatever they wish to the World Friendship Fund.

To play up the purpose of the party, have everyone come dressed in a foreign costume. Whether an invitation or open affair, give it plenty of publicity so people will be anxious to attend.

At intermission announce the sum collected, and give the crowd a chance to add any part of $10 or $15 required for another package. Hold a vote on what countries the packages should go to. Then remit to the World Friendship Fund, c/o Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

HELPS

April Fool's Formal

SAY, "It's formal," to 99.9 ladies out of 100, and they'll want to come to your party. The girls — regardless of age — look for opportunities to wear their swishy gowns with the "new look." "Us guys," on the other hand, are not so keen, or not keen at all, about getting decked out for parties. Sure, parties are OK, but old clothes are more comfortable anytime than formal attire.

An April Fool's Formal will make everyone happy about the way she or he is dressed. Your girl comes in formal, and you informal — VERY informal. Wear your oldest clothes, perhaps "painting" slacks and a shirt with a few "manufactured" rips.

Where does the April Fool's angle come in? Yup, you guessed it. The way their escorts will be attired is kept a secret from the girls; the longer it's kept, the better. The fellows get to the party first. Meanwhile some of the Unit Committeemen or the dads call for the girls and deliver them.

It won't be necessary to plan an activity to "break the ice" at this affair!

Invite Yourself In

EVEN before the labor shortage of recent years, many Local Councils saved on their budgets by inviting groups of Scouters to spend a day or two in April and May at the Council camp, preparing it for the summer. Some have realized that Senior Scouts are capable of sharing the work and enjoy doing so.

If your Council does not have such work parties or does not include Seniors, start the ball rolling by volunteering your Unit's services. With some one from the staff directing, much valuable work can be done, merely at the cost of food for the gang.

Besides a good time and fellowship, the Seniors will gain useful experience on maintaining buildings, equipment, and grounds. One Senior Scout several years ago learned tricks about painting and minor plumbing and electrical repairs that he is putting to use in his own home today.

The good work done is a good-will builder for Senior Scouting. Council committeemen and Scoutmasters will have confidence in the Senior Program and be glad to cooperate more in the future. "Invite" your Unit in on a camp work party this spring.

Early Bird Breakfast

ONE kind of early bird gets the worm, but another kind gets the birds. With the spring migrations starting in many sections of the country, now is the time for those pre-breakfast bird walks.

Get into the field at daybreak, and end with an outdoor breakfast, or stop for one and then continue the walk — if you're still awake. At the expense of some concentration on birds, the girls might be invited to the early bird breakfast.

Divide the party into as many groups as there are leaders who know birds. In case you have to learn by yourselves, either of the following two books (depending on whether you live east or west of central Nebraska) is the best substitute for experts in person:

Field Guide to the Birds and *Field Guide to Western Birds* by Roger Tory Peterson, published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1947 and 1941, $2.75 and $3.50.