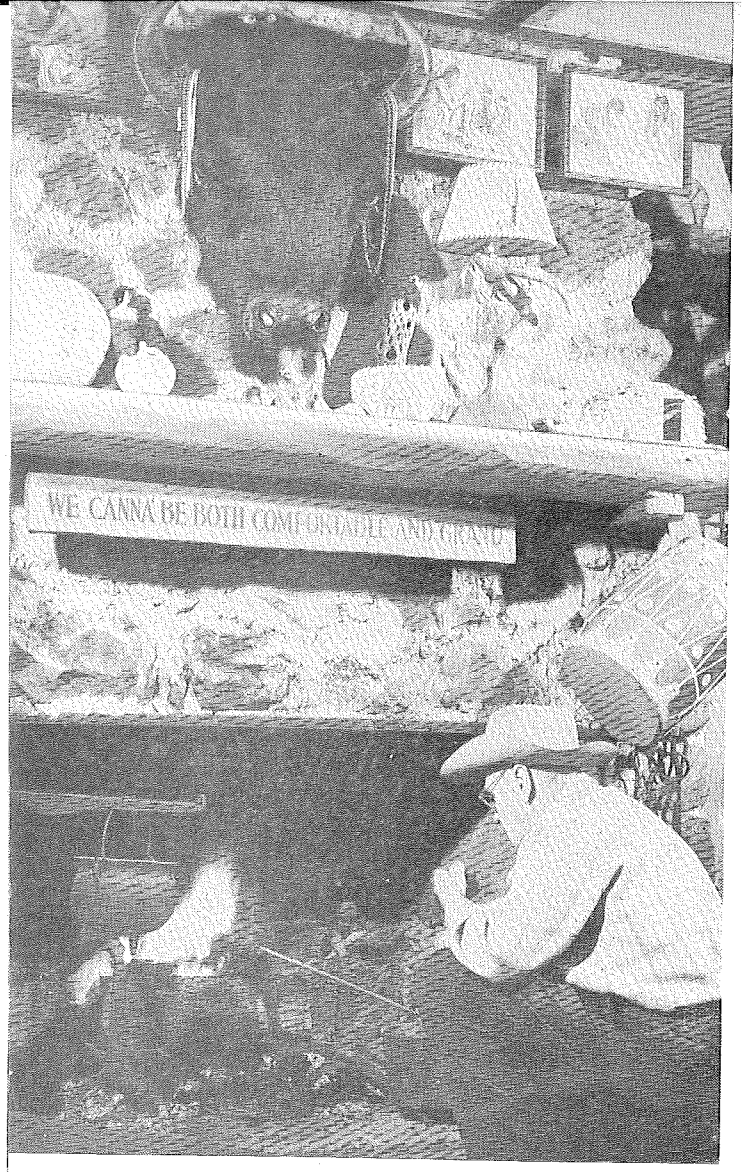
BEN HUNT SEES CHARACTER



Ben Hunt before the fireplace in his famous cabin. The inscription on the mantel "We canna' be both comfortable and grand," well fits the home-spun philosophy of the owner.

Grandfather had to do many things for himself, with his own hands, and it did something for him. Ben Hunt, nationally recognized authority on Indian lore, believes that handicraft skills, a basic part of Scouting, help a boy today develop ingenuity, resourcefulness, and self-confidence.

When Ben Hunt was a red-haired boy of twelve, a band of Sioux Indians came to Milwaukee with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. They were the first Indians whom Ben had ever seen, and they fascinated him with their buckskin leggings, their war bonnets of eagle feathers, and their painted faces. Among them were famous warriors who had helped defeat Custer at Little Big Horn.

Young Ben Hunt hung around their tepees all day trying to talk to them, but they completely ignored him.

"If I could only figure out some way to get them interested in me, if I could only think of something they want, maybe I could get them to talk," Ben thought.

Then he remembered that the wild rabbits were plentiful in back of the park. He hinted to the Indians that they might like some wild meat for a change. It wasn't very long until a twelve-year-old Milwaukee boy was

Hunt has one of the most famous collections of authentic Indian headdresses in America. He is also a past master at making them.

IN CRAFTS

By WALTER MacPEEK
SCOUTING *Magazine Field Reporter*

stalking cottontails with a band of wild Indians just off the western plains.

After the hunt, the Indians took Ben back to their encampment and allowed him to go into their tepees with them. They skinned the rabbits and threw them in cooking pots for their dinner.

The circus band soon started to play and it was time for the big show. The old chief put his arm around Ben's shoulder and said, "Come." He led the boy right through the performers' entrance into the big top where he was their guest for the show.

"I was the envy of all the kids in Milwaukee that day when they saw how friendly those Indians were to me," Ben Hunt recalls.

Today Ben Hunt lives in a house by the side of the road. Many people go by his house every day and many stop in, not only to see his house but to see the log cabin that he built in 1924 in the two-acre wildlife sanctuary behind his home—but most of all to see the man who wears a western hat and a smile almost as big.

Mr. Hunt began to work with Troop 598 of Hales Corners back in 1930. Since his boyhood days he had been a commercial artist and had developed a considerable interest in handicraft and Indian lore.

As he began to help boys of the troop learn to coordinate their hands and do simple research into handicraft and Indian lore, Ben Hunt's interests grew and reached farther and farther. Soon he was doing articles for an industrial arts magazine for teachers, sharing with them the results of his interest and ingenuity in the handicraft field.

Always generous with his time and his abilities, Mr. Hunt soon began helping with training courses for Scout leaders, all the time expanding his own interest and knowledge. Then, in 1942, he was invited to prepare material for BOYS' LIFE magazine. He has continued with this since then, turning out articles under the names of Whittlin' Jim, Lone Eagle, as well as his own name. Today he has twelve books in use throughout the country, one of them achieving sales of over a thousand copies per week.

Ben Hunt really believes in hobbies. He sees handicraft as important, not so much for what the boy does to the piece of material he works on, but for the influence the material has on the growth of the boy. Mr. Hunt is enthusiastic about handicraft values for the entire family. He believes that a family can grow stronger in working together on handicraft projects, especially Indian lore.

"A boy becomes a different person when he gets into a costume. He begins to feel something of the culture and the pageantry and the color behind the costume that he wears."

"Our white Indian dancers," Mr. Hunt says, "do not pretend to be Indians, they merely interpret Indian dancing and help to share the satisfaction of this activity with other people."

Needs Place to Work

"A boy needs a place to work. He needs a corner that's all his own . . . a place where he can whittle and work and paint, a place that he doesn't have to clean up each time when he has to quit for a little while," he says.

"We need to provide incentives for a boy to make an article for himself rather than buy it ready made. If you have the ability to put things together, you're a craftsman. If you have developed the skill to design and to create new things for yourself, then you're an artist craftsman," Mr. Hunt points out.

"When I was a youngster on a Wisconsin farm with no money, I had to make what I wanted for myself. There were raw materials and tools around, but I had to provide the motive power. I made an Indian bridle and saddle. I had my own traps and a boat. I made bows and arrows and greatly enjoyed it when one of the old settlers showed me how to skin a mink. I used to stand in awe and watch these men working over the forge and with their blacksmith tools making things for the farmers." No wonder that such a boy grew to be such a man!

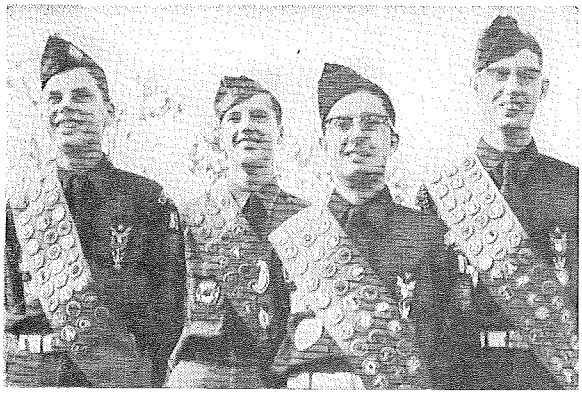
"I read widely a tall stack of *Review of Reviews* and *Harpers Magazine* when I was ten-years old. The principal of the school lived next door to us and he let me take books for the summer. Dan Beard's *American Boys' Handy Book* was my constant reference and I took it to the farm with me each summer."

Emerson might well have had Ben Hunt in mind when, according to report, he said that if you can make

(Continued on page 22)

Scout Shorts

SCOUTING IN ACTION. These Scout Shorts pages are a cross section of our program in action. Announcements, information, healthy examples of good Scouting. We welcome good items and pictures.



BROTHER EAGLES. Darrell, Duane, Dale, and Doyle are all Englehart's, Eagles, and Explorers in Troop 81, sponsored by the Lions Club, Susquehanna, Pennsylvania.

CUB SCOUT HANDICRAFTERS. Pack 45 members demonstrate handicrafts in Philadelphia to two thousand delegates from thirty countries at the International Recreation Congress, sponsored by the National Recreation Association as part of its fiftieth anniversary celebration.

OUR FRIENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES. In consideration of our God and Country program, our National Council President Kenneth K. Bechtel and our home office staff were delighted to be advised that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines on November 4 conducted a "Church and World Brotherhood Day." You will be pleased to know that in connection therewith Jorge B. Vargas, President and Chief Scout of the Philippines sent a message to the Boy Scouts of America stating ". . . it is our great desire that we might remain friendly with your own people and with the people of the rest of the world. May the spirit of brotherhood reign in our hearts and make us all brothers and diffusers of friendliness and good will." We of the Boy Scouts of America heartily reciprocate this fine expression of brotherhood.

FIFTEEN MILLIONTH COPY. Last December the fifteen millionth copy of the *Handbook for Boys* came off the press. This manual, second in total printings only to the Bible, has been one of the most important books in the lives of millions of boys since its first edition was printed in this country in 1910.

It is planned to present this fifteen millionth copy to President Eisenhower on February 8. Similar copies of this edition will be presented in many local councils to governors, mayors, and other civic and community leaders.

RHODES SCHOLARS. Two-thirds of the 512 Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford University, England, awarded to Americans in the past sixteen years went to young men who had been in Scouting. Their average tenure was a little more than three years.

BEST SERMONS. Again we invite you to send in copies of that outstanding Boy Scout Week sermon. Send one copy to the Relationships Division, Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, New Jersey. We may want to use it in suggested material for Boy Scout Week. Another copy might go to Dr. Paul Butler, Little Silver, New Jersey, who edits an annual volume of best sermons. He would be happy to see your suggestion.

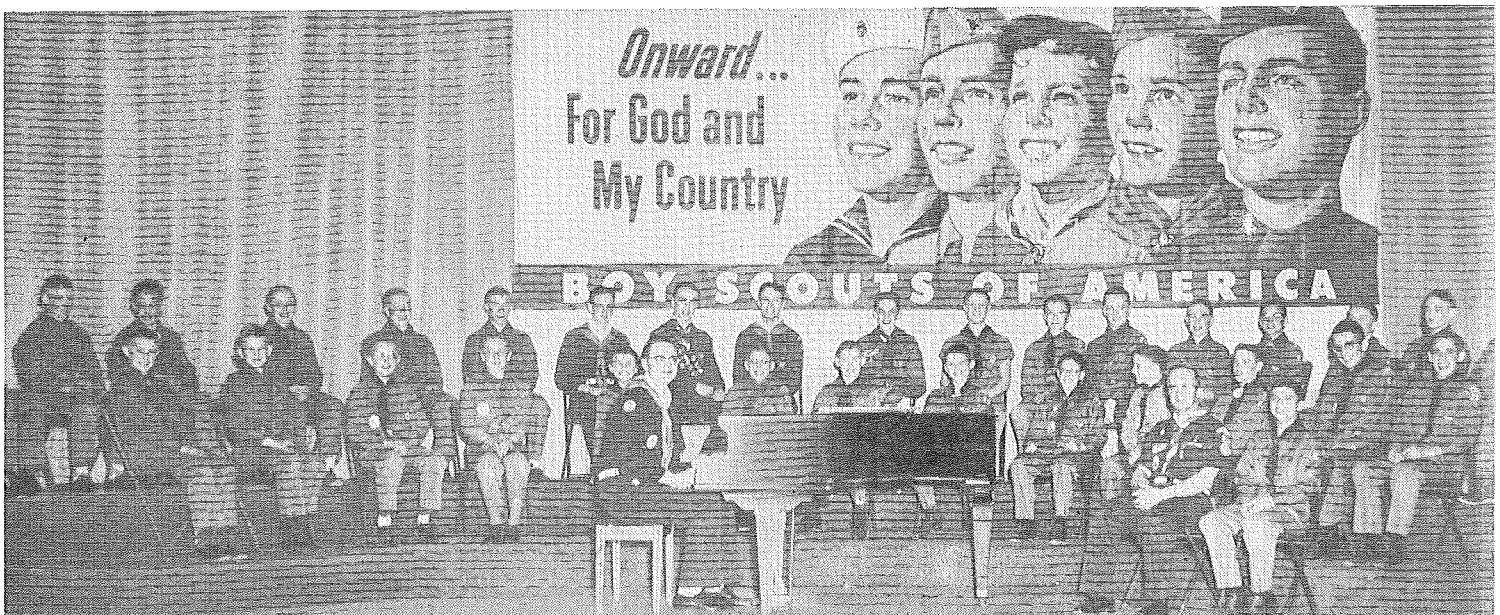
RECRUITING COUNSELORS. Scouts of Troop 302 in Louisville, Kentucky, listed fifty-four merit badges they wanted to earn. But merit badge counselors were hard to reach. The Scoutmaster and district Scout executive appeared before the Men's Club of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which sponsors the troop, and told of the need for the job of counselors. They signed up thirty-eight of the forty men there and later ran an evening session to orient them on their function.

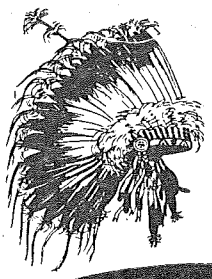
FOR INSPIRATION. A Scoutmaster in Montana asks each of his Scouts to write down a Good Turn he has done and hand it in unsigned. The best half dozen are selected. A Scout then reads them at the opening or closing of a meeting of the executive board, commissioner staff, district committee, or unit committee.

THE "WHY." Parents of Scouts generally know the "why" of Scouting because they've seen its influence on their own sons. That's a good reason for recruiting parents to volunteer positions in Scouting.

SPRING QUARTERLIES. ***Spring program quarterlies, crammed with ideas for March, April, and May, should be reaching you this month, through your local council office. The Cub Scout quarterly gives a preview of the monthly themes for 1957-58. In addition it gives detailed den and pack meeting ideas for this spring's themes—Indian Trails in March, Swiss Family Robinson in April, and Cub Scout Firemen in May. The Boy Scout quarterly contains weekly patrol meeting and troop meeting outlines. Big events and hikes to support the monthly themes are Make-It-Yourself Expo and Scavenger Hike in March, Conservation Good Turn Camp and Know-Your-Wildlife Hike in April, Jambo Camporee and Kabob Hike in May. The Explorer quarterly suggests two events each in the outdoor, social, service, and vocational fields. The feature events described in detail are Muscle Tournament, Dad-and-Son O-limp-ic games, Driverama, Summer Job Strategy, and High Adventure Expo. Unit leaders, including Den Mothers, should be sure to get their copies.***

SCOUT TALENT SHOW. ***Sold out for two performances, this Scout show at Crawford, Nebraska, provided funds for a health lodge at the council camp and qualified thirty-three members of the cast for the Dramatics merit badge. Put on by Troop 212, sponsored by the Rotary Club.***





for March:
INDIAN TRAILS

NEW HORIZONS
a suggestion we hope proves helpful

knowledge and fun

About The Book of Indian-Crafts and Costumes by Bernard S. Mason—with authoritative How-To.

In getting up next month's Indian Trails, there's lots of help in Mason's 118 page book of Indian-Crafts and Costumes . . How To Make and Use Them . . . . . Written by an Indian specialist—reliable and accurate.

Real-life photo close-ups give you effects. Clean-cut sketches with clear diagrams and down-to-earth, concise directions make it easy for group to prepare war bonnets, forehead rosettes, feather bustles and complete dress; pouches; dancing bells; drums, etc.

Pages 114-115 give correct makeup. Directions for masques, "warpaint" and wigs.

Here's reference book that can be used over and over by different groups. So, your public library may be glad to stock it for you at this time.

As described—THE BOOK OF INDIAN-CRAFTS & COSTUMES by BERNARD MASON. RONALD PRESS, 15 E. 26th, N.Y.C. $5.

Always a refreshing treat!

The delicious bit of sweet in Wrigley's Spearmint flavor satisfies between meals. Tastes so good. Lasts so long.

BEN HUNT

(Continued from page 7)

a better mousetrap than anyone else, the world will make a beaten path to your door. Each year more than a thousand people come to Ben Hunt's home and cabin to see him and to enjoy the collection of handicraft and outdoor life that he has developed. They chuckle over the inscription across the fireplace that says "We canna' be both comfortable and grand."

In addition to his many callers, people all over the country and in foreign countries frequently write asking for guidance in their handicraft projects. Ben Hunt often spends a full morning in carefully answering by longhand each letter that comes to him.

He greatly enjoys discussing what handicraft does to a boy, and he is often referred to as the "know-how man of Hales Corners."

Recently a letter came from Sydney, Australia, addressed, "The Sage of Hales Corners, Wisconsin, U.S.A." The mailman had no difficulty in figuring that it was for Mr. Hunt. "Any mail that's funny, we always try Ben Hunt," the postman explained.

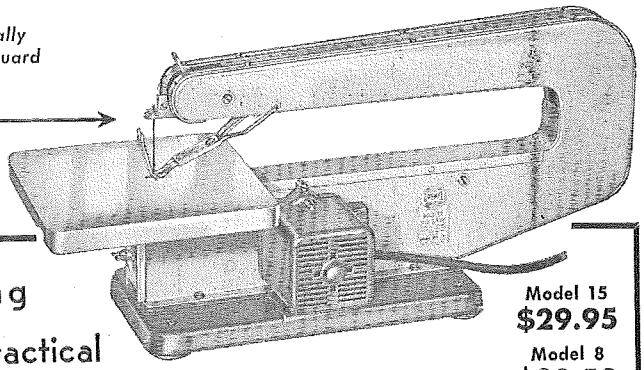
Part of Ben Hunt's success is that he looks at a project through the eyes of a boy.

Through the years Ben Hunt has been a friend and counselor and guide to hundreds of boys. His cabin is decorated with many very personal gifts from those whom he has helped. A book entitled *The Cry of the Thunderbird* bears this inscription written in a boy's hand "To the man who has helped the cry of the thunderbird to be heard throughout the nation. Thanks for everything."

Surely no man has done more to lead boys into the fascinating world of Indian crafts and into the character values that craftsmanship engenders. *END*

Something new for Cubs and Scouts

Super-safe! *Specially designed blade guard provides complete protection.*



Woodworking is fun and practical with a **DREMEL Moto-Jig Saw**

Model 15 $29.95
Model 8 $23.50
Prices include rotary motor.

Here's your answer to a new, interesting handicraft activity—the new, super-safe **Dremel Moto-Jig Saw**. And, man, how boys go for it! It's a professional type Jig Saw—yet so safe and simple to operate that any Cub or Scout can turn out projects like a pro. It's powered by a genuine ROTARY MOTOR—not a vibrator. It's lightweight (12 lbs.) and portable too. Set up shop anywhere. No basement workshop needed.

Den mother or Scout leader, you find it makes your handicraft program easier—and more fun too. Make your own ceremonial boards and plaques, gifts for parents, and hundreds of useful projects—for fun and profit. Your family will love having a **Dremel** at home too. Discuss getting one for your pack or troop and let each group take turns using it.

NEW! 8 different pattern packets available. Contain full-size patterns, complete instructions for many projects. 75¢ each. Write for packet No. 1 today.

See your hardware or hobbycraft dealer. If he can't supply you, order direct on 5-day trial, money-back guarantee. We ship postpaid.

DREMEL MFG. CO., Dept. 307B, Racine, Wis.
Enclosed is ☐ check, ☐ money order for $....., full payment for one model ..... Dremel Moto-Jig Saw.
☐ Enclosed is 75¢ for Packet No. 1, 16 patterns.
☐ Please send free folder on 8 packets available and power tool catalog.

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