

"This Happy Game..."



*The story of
Camp Woolsey
and
Cartoons*

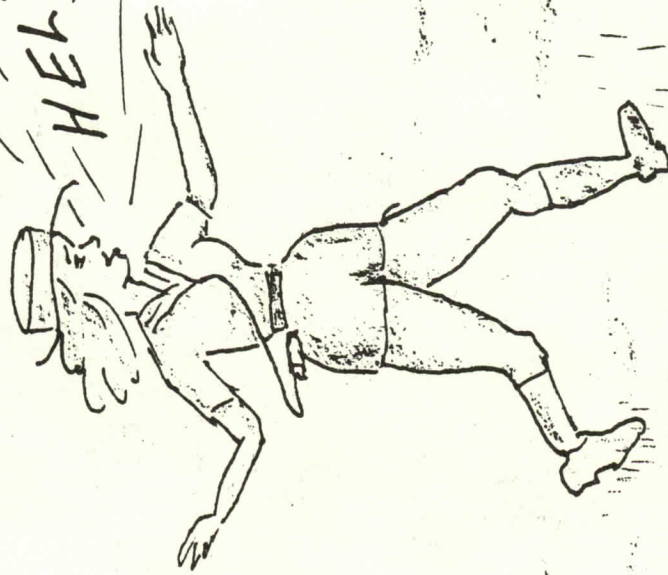
*—
by Jean Abra*

Marion -
Happy Camping Memories
Jean Ora

PROCEEDS
FROM THE SALE OF THIS BOOK
WILL GO TOWARDS
THE NEW BUILDING
ON
BROWNIE SITE AT CAMP WOOLSEY

Guiding volunteers - - -

HELP!!



- - - help with camping !!!

"THIS HAPPY GAME . . ."

"This happy game, played mainly in the out-of-doors..."

Those were the words of Lord Baden-Powell used to describe the developing Guide programme, in June 1911. And what prophetic words they were! Starting with B-P's first camp at Brownsea Island, in August 1907, camping has been the most popular activity among Guides and Scouts.

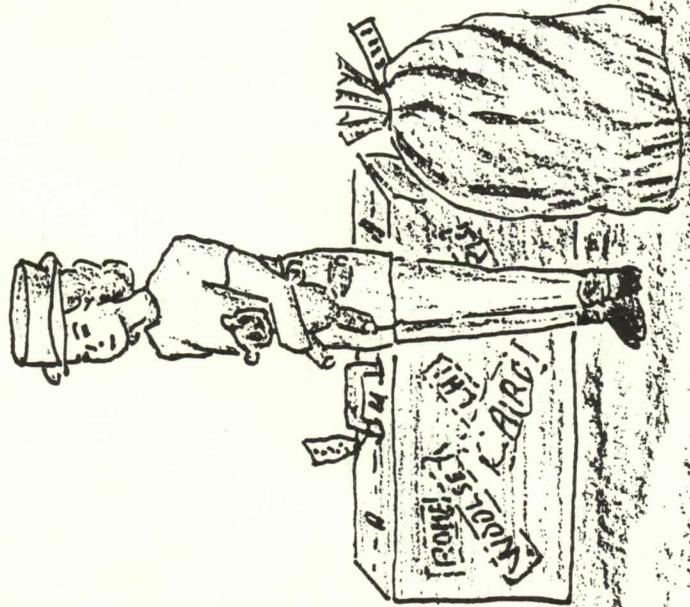
Guiding came to Ottawa in 1912, and by 1914 the Guides were ready to start camping. Today we might ask "what took them so long?", but in those days camping, for girls, was not an activity which gained the whole-hearted support of the general public. Young ladies were supposed to be possessors of delicate sensibilities, and to be generally fragile, so those girls who engaged in such unlady-like activities as stalking, tracking and knot tying, were held in a degree of distrust. It was at this period that a woman was heard to comment that "there are a lot more girls developing hair on their upper lips". This was supposedly because of all the "violent exercise and general romping about".

Those early campers, in their long skirts and broad hats, did, however, prove to their parents and other people that they could indulge in these supposedly coarse activities and still remain ladies. No doubt some, as daughters of workers for Women's Suffrage, had the support of their mothers - if not their fathers and brothers!

The first Ottawa Guide camp was at Wychwood, near Aylmer, Que., in July 1914. This was the 2nd Y.W.C.A. Company, and the camp, which started on July 1st, lasted for less than one week. They had one tent for nine campers, and one dog. Lacking a flag, they flew the Y.W.C.A. pennant. Later the same summer, Miss Kay Symes, Ottawa District Commissioner, took Guides camping at Lakewood, also near Aylmer.

The following year, Miss Symes took Ottawa Guides to the first camp South of the Ottawa River. This was held in the field next to the Rochester home in Highland Park, on Richmond Road at the foot of Broadview Avenue. The record of this camp is sketchy to say the least, but does show that the girls slept "on palliasses laid over branches". Some of the girls, weather permitting, slept outside the tent. They did their cooking over an open fire enclosed with stones, and became very proficient at beating out grass fires with the frying pan. The main excitement in camp was provided by Helen Furness, a Guide who walked in her sleep.

These camps were very small beginnings, but they laid the foundation for continuing growth and interest in camping. The annual headache was the continued search



1919

"First Timer"

for suitable camping space, and after the camp at Rochester's, camps were held at Riverside Park, Queen's Park, Aylmer, Breckenridge, Pontiac Bay, Lac Phillippe - in fact anywhere suitable tent-pitching ground could be obtained. In this search the Guides were assisted by the Local Association, and it was the continuing effort of these ladies which made the eventual purchase of Camp Woolsey possible.

Negotiations were still going on, in 1937, when permission was granted for Ottawa Division Guides to camp on the "Camp Site at Crown Point on the Ottawa River, in Torbolton Township, thirty miles from Ottawa".

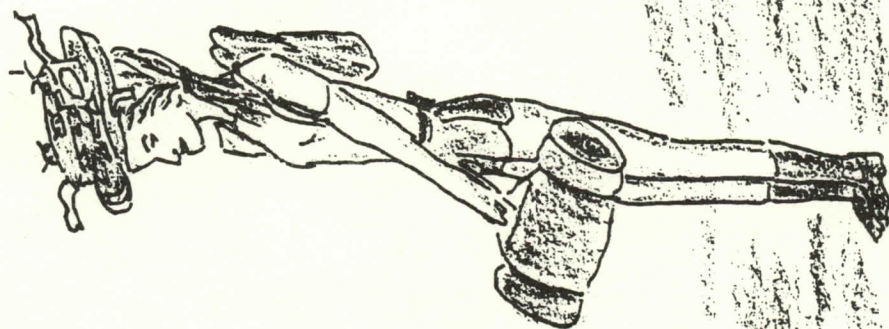
The First Camp

In 1937, from July 3rd to 31st, there was a camp at Crown Point. The Camp Com-mandant was Miss Key Eliot, who was assisted by twelve "officers" (Guiders), some of whom stayed for the four weeks, and others who were there for one or two weeks. In all, 100 Guides camped at Crown Point that summer. Some were there for one week, and some for two, three and even four.

This was pioneer camping in its truest sense. The only permanent fixtures on the site were a pump and the "log cottage". The cottage was in a poor state of repair, and so out of bounds, as it was considered dangerous. Of course the Guides immediately decided it was haunted, which meant that while the camp officers called it the "log cottage", the Guides called it the "haunted house", which, after all, is something no camp should be without! The regular problem with the pump was caused by city girls who left the handle up, but after a few priming sessions they learned to leave it down.

There was a large marquee for wet weather activities, and a smaller dining marquee. Unfortunately the large marquee was split during a bad storm experienced on the second week of camp. Stories differ on this: one states that it simply blew down and ripped, and the other maintains that a confused Guide (unnamed) tightened the guys instead of loosening them. However, the gods smiled on those happy campers, and good weather prevailed during the ensuing two weeks, and the shelter was not needed. The Guide tents were a mixture of ridge tents and bell tents, and the leaders had oddly assorted canvas structures. The most popular tent was the huge St. John Ambulance tent, fully equipped, which was occupied by Mrs. Leigh, a St. John Ambulance nurse, who was a purveyor of comforts far beyond the application of band-aids.

Cooking was done on a coal oil stove under a large fly, which could be hazardous in windy weather. The food was stored in an ice box and a large ground larder. Guides who camped at Crown Point that summer will always associate St. Williams Strawberry Jam and Marmalade with wasps. No matter how tightly sealed the tins were, there were wasps in the jam and marmalade every morning. And if the milk tasted a bit "off" at breakfast, it was blamed on the heat lightning of the night before.



"Old Timer"

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Outhouses were a luxury to be enjoyed in the future. Latrines on that first camp were trenches fitted with a balance beam (log), and screening. It was the duty of Health Patrol to clean and sanitize the beam; to give the trench a liberal dosage of chloride of lime - usually referred to as "clorida-lime", and to put a layer of earth over the lime. This was a daily operation. Personal cleanliness was achieved in small screened cubicles which were furnished with a tripod, on which to put the wash basin. Hot water for washing was issued on Tuesday and Friday.

Sleeping bags and air mattresses were another luxury of the future. Guides and Guiders slept on palliasses filled with straw, in bedrolls made up of two blankets, a flannelette sheet, small pillow and a lot of blanket pins holding all together. When unrolling the bedroll at night the proper flip could fluff up the straw in the palliasse sufficiently to make a soft bed - at least until the occupant dropped off to sleep. By morning the whole bed was somewhat lumpy.

Camp clothing was much as it is today, omitting blue jeans, of course. The kit list states that "beach pyjamas and summer dresses are not allowed". Bathing slippers, or beach shoes, were a definite requirement. And full dress uniform was worn by Guides travelling to and from camp, Guides leaving the camp for any reason, such as overnight hikes, and on Visitors' Day, which could be fun for those who had visitors, but dull for those who did not. Visiting was done every Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m. Five hours on a hot July Sunday afternoon, in long black woolen stockings, large felt hats, long sleeves and closed collars with ties, could be a penance. On one camp that summer, three visitorless girls decided to escape into the bush where they could loosen ties, roll sleeves up and stockings down, and do something interesting. They provided considerable interest for the whole camp, plus visitors, by walking across a fallen log, which was the home of a swarm of hornets which objected strenuously to the intrusion, and one of the girls was badly stung when the hornets trapped themselves under her skirt. Campers and visitors were treated to a quite different sight, when three girls ran screaming and crying across the site to the St. John Ambulance tent - half in and half out of uniform. Miss Eliot was not amused.

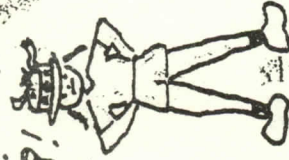
Another hazard of Visitors' Day was the number of parents who thought the campers did not get enough to eat, and sneaked in goodies. The ensuing feast of chocolate cake, apples, etc. in the tents after lights out left many campers feeling queasy. In later years Visitors' Day was discontinued.

General equipment was not as convenient as it is today. Plastics were still far off in the future, so dishes and wash basins were enamel, and other conveniences such as green garbage bags were unheard of. This meant that Health Patrol had to wash and disinfect the garbage pails daily. Lat cleaning was preferable to garbage pail detail!

The programme was entirely based on First and Second Class tests, and Guides passed Morse Signalling, stalking and tracking, swimming, fire-lighting - all the regular

Anyone for --

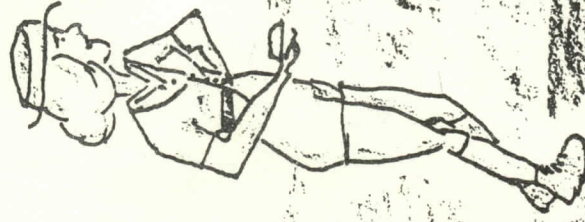
Are we?
lost
AGAIN?



Yup!



? ? ?
? NOW where did
North Go??
?



--- Orienteering?

programme work which is better done out-of-doors.

The biggest difference from today, however, was the cost. A browse through the Quartermaster's Account Book shows that the camp fee was \$8.00 for one week, and camperships were in effect as some of the girls paid either \$2.50 or \$3.50 per week. And the cost of supplies would make today's QM weep! On July 3rd, 1937, the following purchases were made:

2 lb bacon	\$.70
6 doz. eggs	1.20
6 lb butter	1.65
10 gal coal oil	2.20
5 gal gas	1.45
6 heads lettuce	.30

The Guide Camp at Crown Point worked its magic on those first campers, and during that month a camp song was written:

"Crown Point's the place to go
to make the friendships rare,
Shining skies and laughing eyes
and girls from everywhere.
Oh come and stay,
Unwillingly go away,
Only don't forget to come
back another day."

At the end of the camp the "officers" very obviously were rather reluctant to leave. Miss Eliot, in one of her weekly reports to Mrs. Lloyd, requested that she, and some of the staff, be permitted to stay on until the Tuesday after the Guides had left.

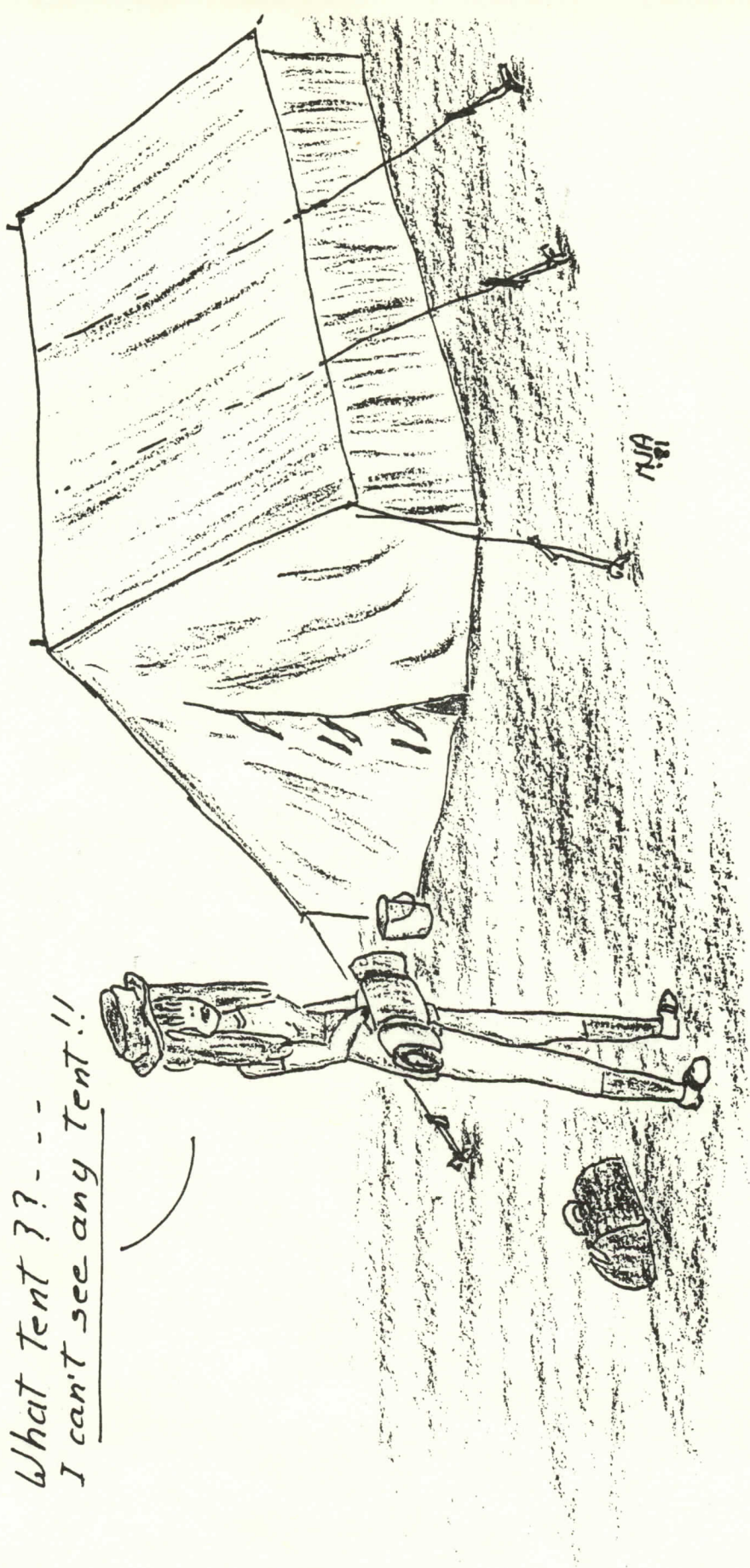
Purchase of the Property at Crown Point

The camp site at Crown Point did not just appear in time for the 1937 camp. That camp was the culmination of many years of searching for a site, and, after finding it, raising the funds for the actual purchase. No small accomplishment at the height of the great depression!

The first reference to the possibility of purchasing a permanent site appears in the minutes of the November 1928 meeting of the Local Association, which state "the question of a permanent camp site for Ottawa was again discussed, and Mrs. Woolsey urged everyone to bear it in mind". Obviously this topic had been discussed previously.

By 1931 a site had not been found, but the LA was planning ahead, and in April of that year a Tea and Money Shower was held at Earncliffe, the home of the British High Commissioner, which brought in \$364.00. \$300.00 of this was invested in Government Bonds "towards a permanent camp site. Money raising activities continued, and finally

What tent?? ---
I can't see any tent!!



in the minutes of the March 1933 meeting, "Mrs. Woolsey mentioned that there is some property near Crown Point, on the Ottawa River, that might be possible as a camp site. Later in the season, some of the LA will go out and look".

In May of that year Ottawa held a very successful rally, and the \$400.00 raised by that event was invested in Province of Ontario bonds, which yielded the highest interest available.

Then, just to confuse the issue, at the November 1935 Executive Meeting, "letters were read from Carleton Place and Almonte Commissioners, suggesting that Ottawa join them in purchasing a camp site on Mississippi Lake": but at the General Meeting a few days later, "re the suggestion of a joint camp site at Mississippi Lake, it was felt that Ottawa should have its own place. A place on the Ottawa River is being considered. Guides from other places might be allowed use of the site". They did not know how they were going to get it, or if they would get it, but Ottawa was already assuming a proprietary attitude to the camp at Crown Point!

Later, at the November 1935 meeting, Mrs. Woolsey reported that the site on the Ottawa River was suitable for a camp, and it was decided that Major Woolsey and a committee should visit the site, and if they approved, should put in a tender for an appropriate amount. An appeal would then be made to the public for funds.

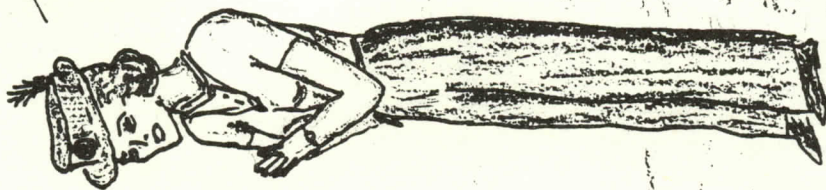
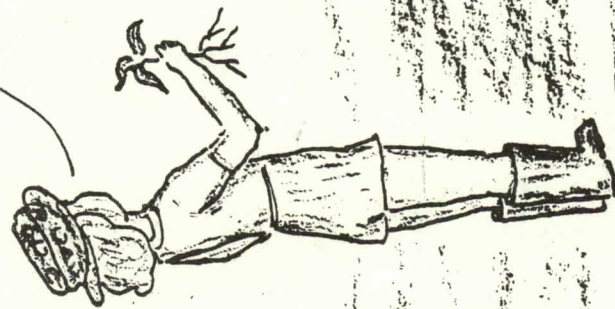
The site was part of the estate of W.H. Walters, bankrupt, advertised by the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association, Ltd., Toronto, and described as "about 97 acres, wooded, sandy soil, small building on it which can be renovated, not properly fenced, over 2,000 feet of shore line". This was discussed again at the December meeting, when it was reported that a tender, with \$252.00 deposit, had been submitted, but there had been no reply.

The road to camp was not an easy one. For a start there was a delay in the acceptance of the tender, followed by the discovery that title to the property was not clear, and that if "clear title can be had, we would need to raise \$4,000 or \$4,500 to pay for the site and the improvements needed". However, permission was granted for the Guides to use the site during that summer of 1937. At that time the decision was made that "all business re camp will come under the LA, and the training and control of Guides under Guider staff: LA members are invited to visit the site to see what the property is like: permission must be obtained from the LA for use of the site".

Many difficulties were to be experienced, but the camp was on its way, and as far as the girls were concerned, Ottawa had its very own camp! The story can best be told by the interesting and informative reports of Mrs. Hoyes Lloyd, chairman of the Permanent Camp Committee to general meetings of the Local Association.

"The Botanist Guider"

Is this really
poison ivy ??



AAAAARRGGGHHH!!!

September 1938

"As you know, negotiations have been under way for practically two years to purchase a Permanent Camp Site, but it was only in June that the Deed was finally handed over to the Association.

"This left very little time before the start of the Annual Camp in July for anything to be done to the property by way of improvement. The important thing to do was to raise the money to pay for the land. The Committee, appointed at the last meeting, and composed of the members of the Executive, submits this report of the activities in connection with the Permanent Camp.

"A circular was drawn up and sent out with over 500 personal letters to the persons on the list compiled from names handed in by members of the LA and Commissioners. These personal letters were a very big undertaking in themselves, and we thank the many friends who helped to write them.

"Editorials were secured in both the English and French newspapers; the Citizen being especially generous and giving a second column later in the summer.

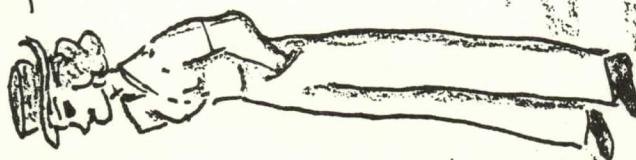
"Several members - notably Mrs. Woolsey and Mrs. Zivian, made many personal calls, and brought in a very sizeable sum to the fund.

"The campaign brought results, but was not as successful as we had anticipated. The total amount received to date is \$1,517.50, with \$400 definitely promised and prospects of \$300 more. We have a debt at the bank of \$700 which is guaranteed by two very good friends of the LA - Mrs. Woolsey and Mrs. (Montagu) Powell. Without their help we could not have financed the purchase of the land.

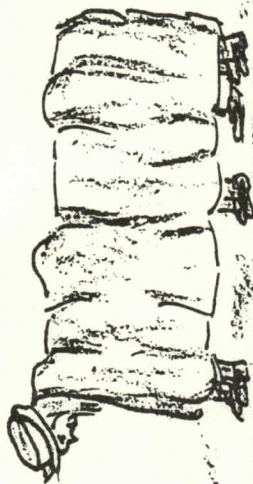
"Members of the committee made several visits to the camp site before the annual camp started, and paid friendly visits to many of the neighbours. Interviews were held in barns, in the cow shed at milking time, over back fences and formally in the kitchen and on the back porch. We feel that we have stirred up considerable interest in what we are doing. One farmer insisted on giving me a kitten - he had 11 of them! - and one old lady took much time in asking for a cure for her rheumatiz. Another neighbour agreed to keep his cows at home, - and, incidentally, to remove a new-born calf, which we discovered near the spring on the property. The farmer was sure it had not been there the day before. This man consulted us about renting pasture, but the committee felt, after securing scientific advice on the subject, that the cows would do more damage than the small rental would pay for, and refused to consider the proposition.

"One next door neighbour, Mr. James Roy (Ed. note: later identified as James Rae) has been engaged as care-taker, and for a small retainer (\$12 per annum) has agreed to make a regular patrol of the property on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and do all in his power to keep off intruders and protect the property.

Now Mary!



There is so too
a six-legged horse
behind you!!



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"A Guide's honour is
to be trusted"

"We have employed local labour and purchased all possible supplies from local merchants. We feel that this will do much to establish a friendly feeling for the Guides - as ready cash is a great asset in a farming community.

"Miss Pinhey specified that \$100 of her generous contribution should be used for repairing the fence around the property, so steps were taken to carry out this most necessary improvement.

"A surveyor was employed to check all the boundaries, and the condition of all the fences around the 100 acres was checked personally by Major Woolsey and Mr. Lloyd - who furnished details concerning necessary repairs to the line fences. These two gentlemen have done many things for the camp. Major Woolsey has performed kindnesses too numerous to mention here - the new flag pole being just one of his many donations - and Mr. Lloyd constituted himself a taxi-driver and general consultant, making many trips to camp and giving up much time from his beloved garden.

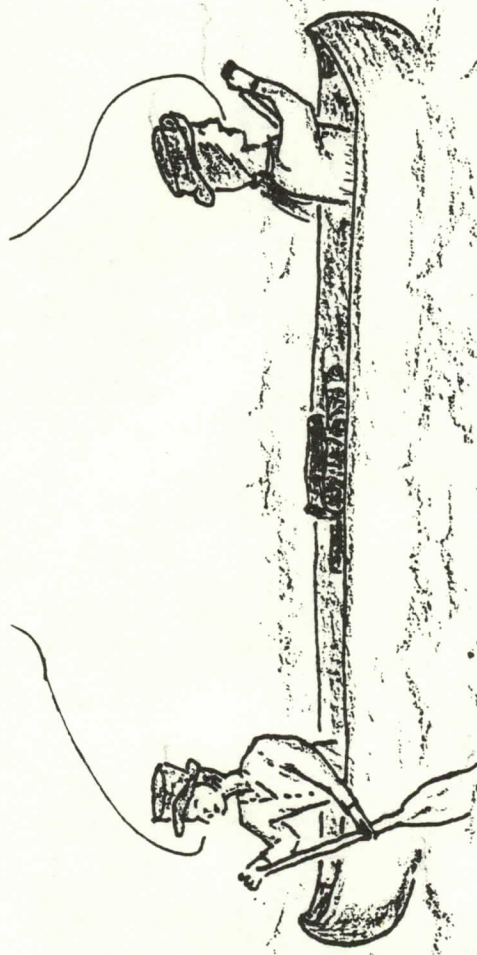
"A very fine Pine Wire fence, with barbed wire along the top, has been erected along the entire concession line side of the property. Repairs to the other fences are being proceeded with.

"The question of the old path across the property has been a troublesome one, but we hope that it is settled. Before the fence was put up we consulted the original plan at the Registry Office, and found that no road is shown on any official map - nor does it show in our deed. We also consulted the lawyer, and had a friendly interview with the Reeve of Torbolton Township. After the fence was erected, we received a letter from the Clerk of Torbolton, ordering us to remove the fence across this so-called 'road' at once. This letter was handed to our lawyer who sent an explanatory letter to the Council, which we hope will end the matter. We have ascertained that the pressure brought on Council against our fencing this part of our property arises largely from summer cottagers who have been accustomed to use this trail as a walk. Your committee will take all necessary action to protect this part of the property against trespass. We have seen car loads of picnickers and swimming parties, cars with broken axles, broken down trucks and the like making use of this most desirable part of our camp site - and we feel that it is most undesirable and objectionable, even though it did furnish entertainment for the Guides." - (The path under discussion here, is the right-of-way which goes through the lower end of the camp. Present day campers will note that it is still not fenced.)

* * * *

"Miss Pinhey also stipulated that \$150 of her contribution be spent in repairing the old log house on the property, and this work is now under way. Enquiries among my many friends in the community have brought out the fact that this old cabin is 60 years old, and that the former owner lived there with his wife. Eleven children were borne in

But- I've only got
my Bow Paddler!!



6/11/18

the house. Incidentally, the property had been mortgaged since 1859. (Which makes it 79 years old, at least, unless an earlier house had been there.) Remains of the old barn are still standing, and there are traces of the old garden, with rhubarb plants and crab apple trees still to be found. The house originally had three rooms downstairs, but we have removed the partitions and have one big room. The second floor can be divided into several rooms if desired. There is also an attic. A foundation has been put in, the logs 'chinked', a floor laid, the roof shingled, a chimney built, and new doors, windows and shutters will go on this week.

"The house has been insured against fire. I inspected the house last week, and was delighted with it. I am sure it will look like a fairy castle to the Guides who have long hoped for such a building.

"We have reason to be very proud of our Permanent Camp Site, and should be grateful indeed to all who have contributed in any way to making it possible."

Thus was Ottawa's Permanent Camp Site established, but the ladies of the Local Association did not rest on their laurels. It was necessary to build a dining hall, which could also be used for wet weather activities. To this end, the Guiders gave the LA \$500 from the Doughnut Drive, and D. Kemp Edwards built the dining hall for a cost of \$333.

The most important event of 1939 took place on Thursday, July 6th, at 5:30 p.m. Lady Campbell, wife of the British High Commissioner opened the camp, and named it "Camp Woolsey", and she named the log cabin "Pinhey Cottage". Ottawa's Mayor Stanley Lewis christened the new dining pavilion "Lloyd Hall" - which later became known as Lloyd Lodge.

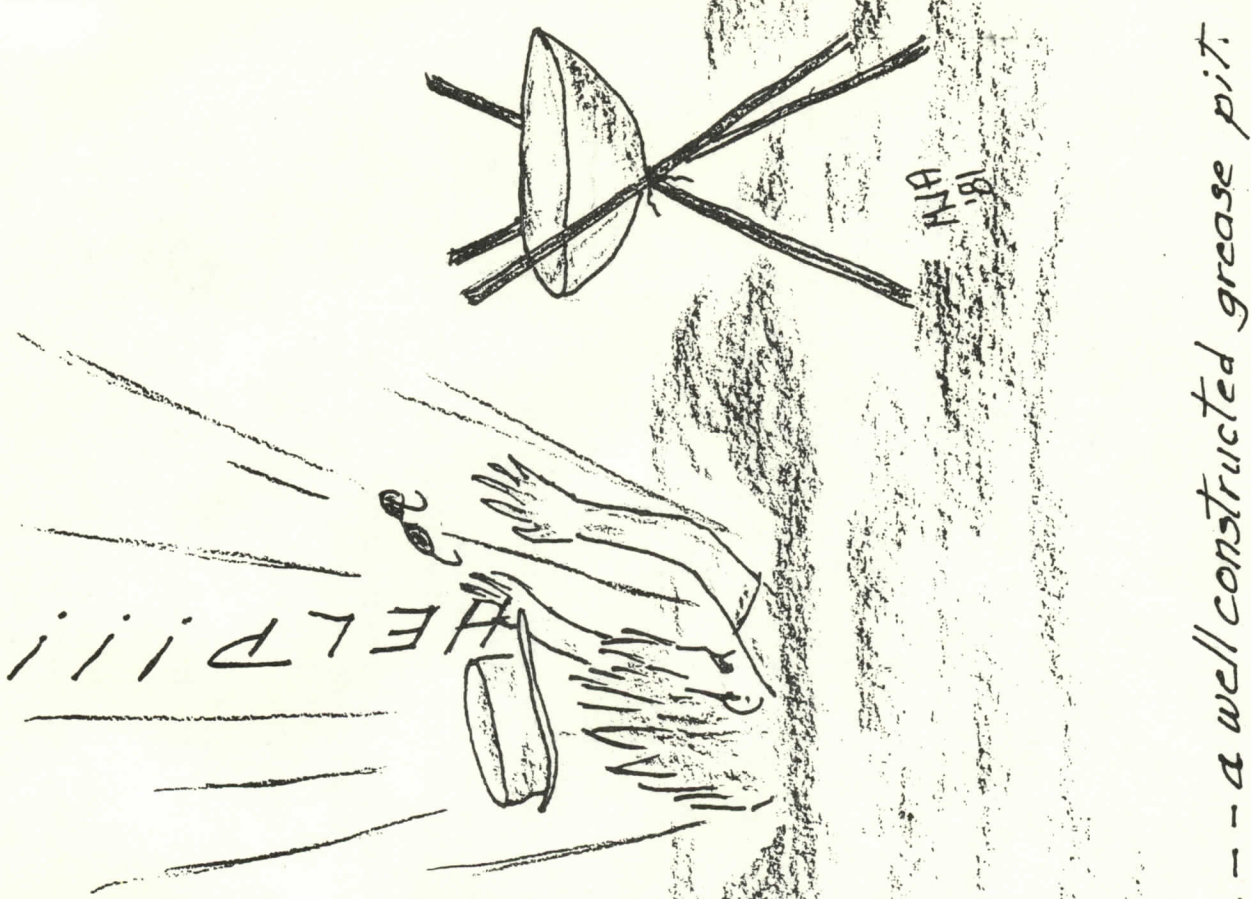
The Service of Dedication of Camp Woolsey was read by Mrs. C.F. Constantine, Provincial Commissioner, of Kingston. The service included an opening prayer, Psalm 121, a prayer for all who govern and lead, The Guide Prayer and the Dedication. The Guide prayer which was used on this occasion was not the one we use today, so is worthy of inclusion here as an historic note:

The Guide Prayer: Almighty and everlasting God, by Whose grace Thy servants are enabled to fight the good fight of faith and ever prove victorious, we humbly beseech Thee, so to inspire us Guides that we may yield our hearts to Thine obedience, and exercise our will on Thy behalf. Help us to think wisely, to speak rightly, to resolve bravely, to act kindly, to live purely. Bless us in body and soul and make us a blessing to our comrades. Whether at home or abroad may we ever seek the extension of Thy Kingdom. Let the assurance of Thy presence save us from sinning, strengthen us in life and comfort us in death. Oh Lord our God, accept this prayer. Amen.

All camps need ---

I TOLD you not to
dig it so deep!!!

OOPS!!!!



--- a well constructed grease pit.

The Dedication of Camp Woolsey: "Almighty and Everlasting God, we do dedicate and set apart this land, to be used for camping, and ask Thy blessing on those who take charge of the camp, and those who camp. Amen." Following which, flags were broken and all sang God Save the King.

Invitations to the Opening of Camp Woolsey had been sent to everyone who had subscribed to the purchase of the property. It was a lengthy list.

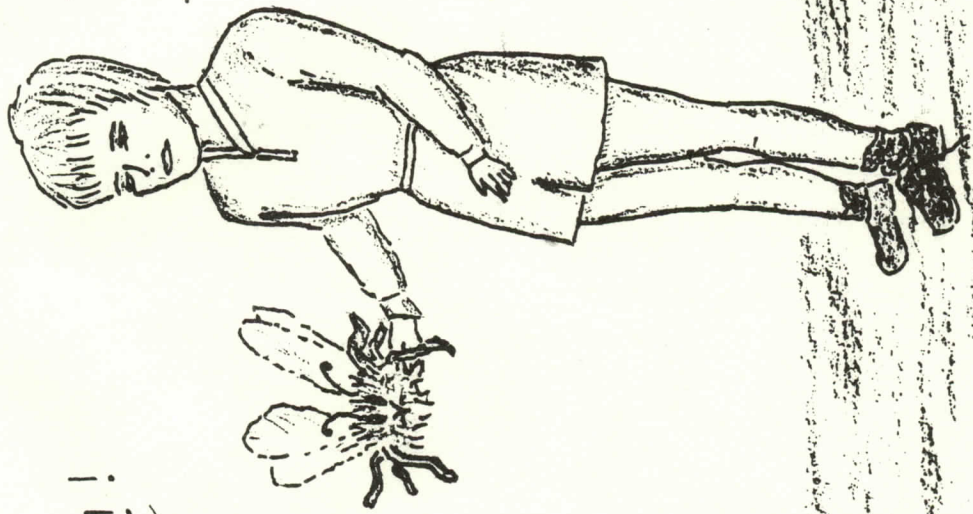
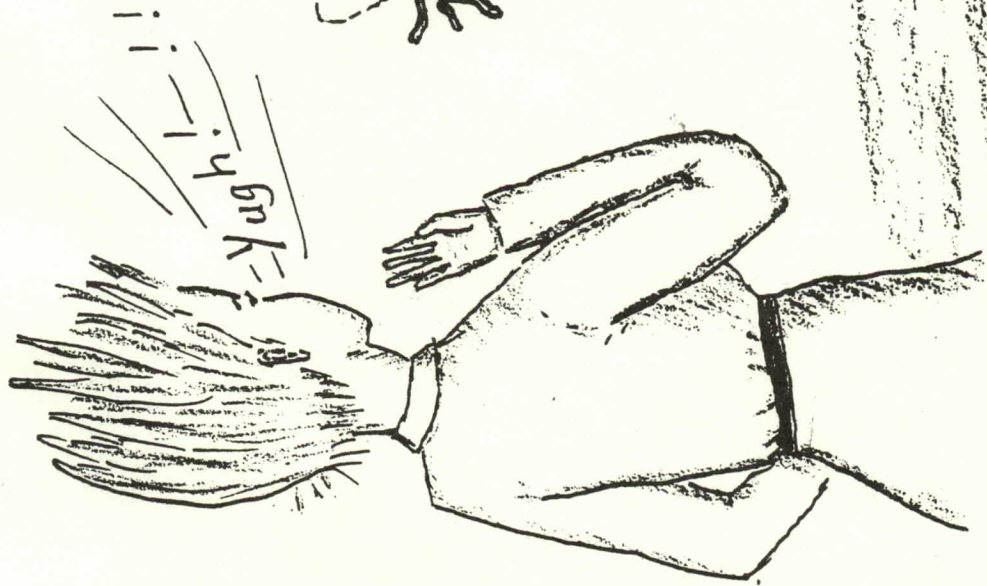
According to the report, "all roads led to Crown Point on that very hot July 6th, and I am sure that there never before had been so much excitement in that little community. Over 125 guests attended the Opening Ceremony, stayed for tea, and made a tour of the property - when the thunder-storm was over".

After all the problems of acquiring clear title to the land, the path across the property, and the raising of large amounts of money, it had to follow that a problem should arise on Opening Day. To quote Mrs. Lloyd's report, "one of the many things that are amusing to look back upon, but were very serious at the time, was all the trouble we took to make and put up road signs pointing the way to Camp. On the day of the opening, the County decided to repair that particular road, and when the advance party went out early that day they found 'detour' signs that took them far out into the country, and they did not see one of the carefully placed Guide signs until they reached the camp gate. We do not think that many of the guests were lost."

Camp Woolsey had been found, paid for, established and formally opened, but that was only the beginning of the story. Mrs. Lloyd reported in 1940 that "in the two years since we started this campaign, the public has contributed \$2,499.55" toward the purchase of the land. Lloyd Hall had been built, and the Nepean LA had contributed money to buy wire screening for the building, and "that luxury has been greatly appreciated by the campers".

The path across the property was still causing problems. Mrs. Lloyd reports that "the question of the path across the property continues to be a vexing one. We did all in our power to keep the path closed, but our lawyer decided that it would be best for us to open it for the present, anyway. We are still negotiating with the County, and expect to have a definite settlement soon. We made many visits to lawyers' offices, and had one meeting at the camp with our lawyer, the County lawyer, our advisers Major Woolsey and Mr. Lloyd - not to mention the mosquitoes. At this meeting we laid out a path which was satisfactory to the County and to us, and later we fenced both sides of it".

Later, in her report, Mrs. Lloyd points out that "while the camp site is paid for we must not feel that our work is done. At present we are in correspondence with the Provincial Government in regard to obtaining trees to plant on the property. It would be a great improvement to have the road boundaries bordered with evergreens, and some planting on the sand dunes is necessary to save the land". She also pointed out the need for a kitchen, and a store-house - "preferably skunk-proof" - to be added to Lloyd Hall.



Well - what kind of
bug is it?

hi

"The Entomologist"

Camp Woolsey Carries On . . .

May 18th, 1940, was 'Arbor Day' for the Local Association at Camp Woolsey. Mrs. Lloyd reports that "on that day two cars were stacked to the top with dripping wet bundles containing 1,000 small trees, and we set off to camp to plant them. These trees were given to us by the Province of Ontario, and the only charge was for express. I don't think that when we ordered them we realized how many 1000 trees was! (This could have been a typographical error in the report, a Freudian slip, or maybe those trees DID 'have pups' en route to camp!) The tree planting brigade consisted of members of the LA, Guiders, 7 Scouts, 2 husbands and 2 boy friends - not to forget Jimmy Rae and his team of horses and load of milk cans for carrying water. . . . It is strongly recommended by the committee that several thousand more trees be planted." This was done, of course, and the trees have flourished so that today Camp Woolsey boasts a magnificent stand of pines around its borders, and elsewhere in the camp.

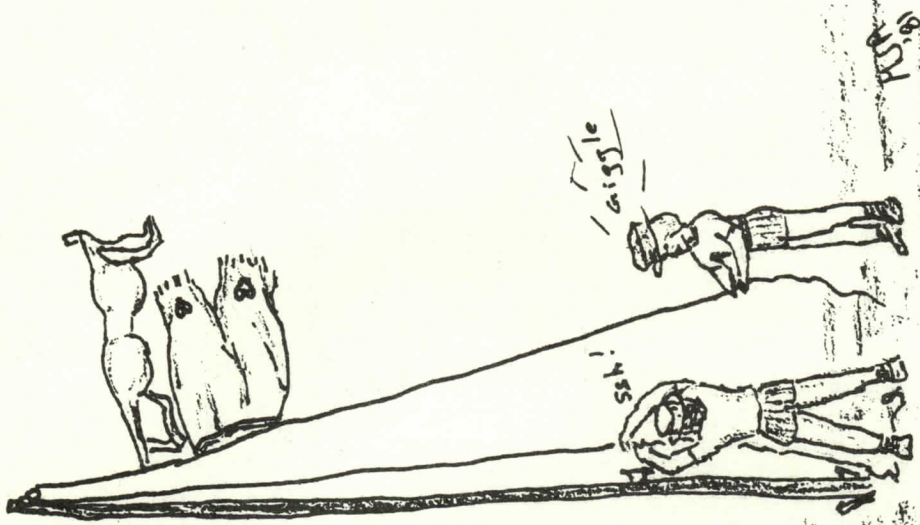
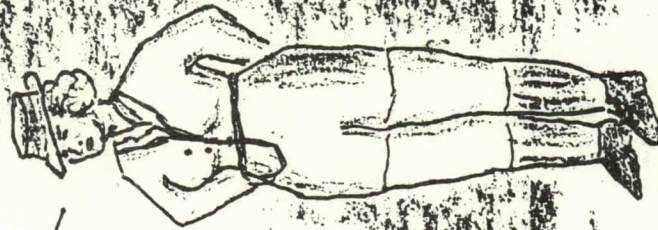
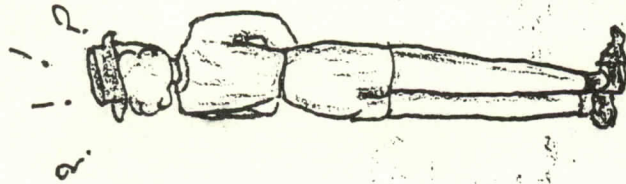
At this time the ongoing argument about the path was closed. Lawyers, committee members and advisers had searched "many old records, maps, legal volumes and volumes of history of Torbolton. The chief factor in favour of the Township was that a path across our property had been used for many years by the residents of Torbolton and a certain right had been thus acquired by them. No road had ever been registered, designated or dedeed to the Township, as the whole matter antedated such trivialities. Our lawyer advised us not to go to Court, as we might spend several hundred dollars on fighting the case, and it was about a 50-50 chance of our winning in view of the long use of the path by the old residents. I might say that many of them were prepared to come to court - at our expense - and prove that they remembered hearing their grandparents tell of walking along that path.

"We have entered into an agreement with the Township whereby a definite road is described and acknowledged by the Canadian Girl Guides and the Township of Torbolton. This road follows the old path, and extends across our property and across the adjoining property of Mr. Maclaren - thus giving a right of way from one concession line to the other."

The high point of the summer of 1940, however, was the visit of H.R.H. Princess Alice, wife of the Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, on July 25th. Needless to say, excitement ran high in the committee. "Interviews with the Secretary of State regarding procedure, with Government House, with Mounted Police, County Police and Traffic Police were just a few of the many details that had to be considered. We really felt that we had interviewed the weatherman too, when we were blessed with such perfect weather, instead of the usual thunderstorm.

"It was the first real glimpse of Canada's great out-of-doors that H.R.H had had since arriving in Canada, and we are sure that she could not have seen it under more

Well MY girls
wouldn't DREAM
of touching my
luggage!!



NO?

favourable conditions. When her car, flying the Royal Standard, drove through the gates of Camp Woolsey and over the bridge that had been carefully reinforced by the Guides early in the day, and H.R.H., in her Guide uniform, stepped out and inspected the smartly drawn up Guard of Honour, I am sure that every little Guide's heart fluttered with joy at the sight of a real - not a story-book - Princess come to visit them. I know that mine did.

"H.R.H. had tea with the members of the LA in Lloyd Hall, and then she inspected every nook and cranny of the property. Before leaving she expressed a desire to speak to all the Guides - and the sight of her sitting under the big tree outside Pinhey Cottage with the Guides clustered about her and listening with wrapt attention to her delightful talk, will long be remembered by all of us."

Later that summer Camp Woolsey was the site of a royal picnic. Princess Alice had been so delighted with the camp that she asked permission to return, and bring her grandchildren. That was one request no one would deny. It was a picnic on a grand scale. Princess Alice, the Governor General, their daughter, Lady Abel-Smith and her two children were accompanied by Princess (later Queen) Juliana of the Netherlands, and Princess Beatrix. Mrs. Lloyd writes "they brought their lunch with them, and had a real family picnic, many of them going for a swim during the afternoon, and the children joining in some of the Guide games with the campers. We hope that they will come again."

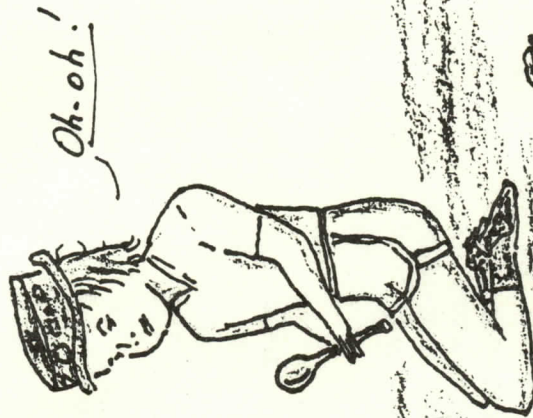
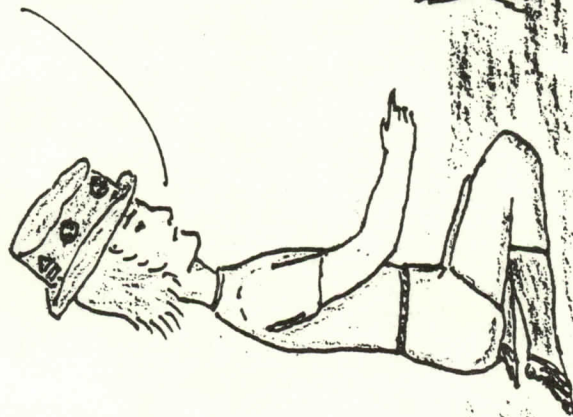
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The time has come to say something about all those hard-working ladies who were so generous with their time and efforts on behalf of Ottawa Guides. They were not only concerned with Guiding, but involved in many other community 'good works'. They were all socially prominent ladies, which was an asset to the Guides because they had entrée to circles where there was much needed money. After all, this was during the Great Depression, and ready cash was hard to come by. All this money-raising was done under the supervision of Mrs. E.C. Woolsey, President of the Local Association, and Mrs. Hoyes Lloyd, who was Treasurer. These money raising activities, which were done with a great degree of gentility, were very successful. Aside from the outright appeal to the general public for funds, there were several Tea and Money Showers. It is beyond imagination that an invitation "to a Tea and Money Shower at Earncliffe, under the patronage, and in the immediate presence of H.R.H. the Princess Alice" would be turned down. Ottawa 'society' turned out en masse, and made its contribution to the purchase of Camp Woolsey.

Reference has been made to a circular and 500 letters which went out in 1938. At that time a duplicated letter was 'not the done thing'. Therefore, all those letters were written by hand, and the follow-up 'calls' were not done by telephone, in most cases.

Of course, the Guides did their bit too. There was the doughnut sale, and, the Rally, which was a great deal of fun for the girls, and raised a lot of money.

No - I said to put the
soap on the Outside!



Lady Tweedsmuir, who was Princess Alice's predecessor at Rideau Hall had been a great friend to Guiding, as had the Countess of Besborough before her. They both gave their support to many of the activities. But the most active and memorable was Princess Alice, who was a beautiful woman, and in her cockaded hat and impeccably tailored uniform she was a commanding figure.

Miss Anna Pinhey, for whom Mrs. Lloyd's "fairy castle" was named, was a member of the well-known family of Pinhey's Point, in March Township. She was one of the large contributors, and saw great possibilities for the log cabin. Therefore, she stipulated that a portion of her contribution be used for its renovation.

* * * * *

In her report for the September 1938 meeting, Mrs. Lloyd stated that Pinhey Cottage was 60 years old. Actually it had been built in 1824 for the Grierson family, of which little is known. The building, in itself, is interesting. Considering the date of its building, it is obvious that all those logs were hand hewn, and the present day visitor is advised to walk around and take a close look at the morticing of the corners.

Lloyd Hall and Pinhey had been completed by the time of the 1939 opening, but the outbreak of World War II put a stop to a lot of the activity around the camp. Gas rationing made it almost impossible to get to the camp, and, since most of the Guiders were either in the Armed Forces or involved in war work, staffing of camps became extremely difficult.

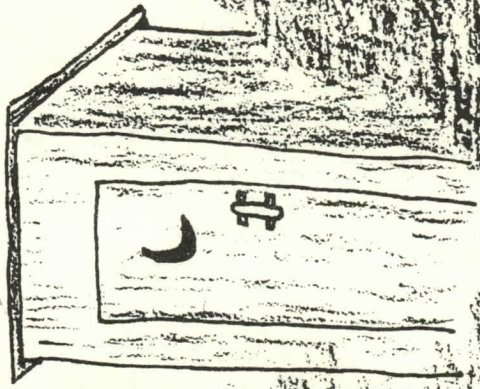
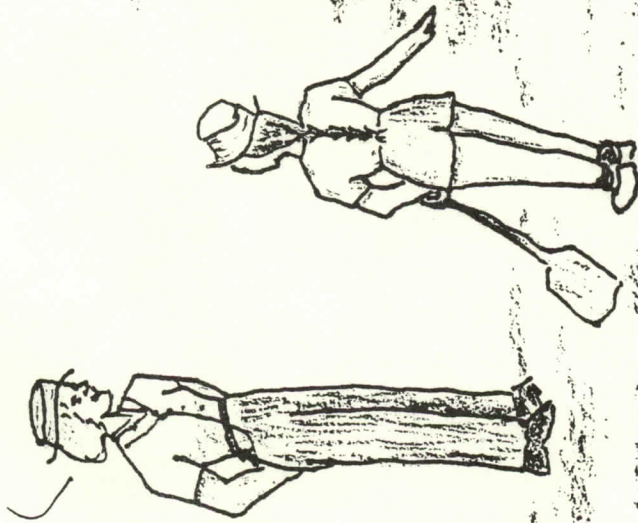
At the April, 1942, meeting of the LA it was reported that "considering all the problems of staff, supplies (food rationing was starting at that time, also) and transportation, it is recommended that no Division camp be held this year, but Pinhey Cottage may be used whenever possible for small camps. It is hoped to hold a short training camp in August . . . under Mildred Minter".

By the summer of 1943, transportation, staffing and supplying for Camp Woolsey had become so difficult that the summer camp, for 50 Guides, was held in Gatineau Park, for two weeks only. Camp Woolsey was used by six Scout leaders, for training, for one weekend, and they agreed to make a report on the state of the camp.

Minutes and reports from this period concentrate on the continuing concern about transportation and supply. Then, in May, 1944, Mildred Minter and a group of Guides solved part of the problem by going to camp on bicycles, with one car only needed for their equipment.

At this time, also, it was becoming evident that the days, of the Division Local Association were numbered, and there was some concern about the future administration

No, Mary -- I DON'T
think that's a very
good place for a
ground larder!



of Camp Woolsey. There was a general feeling that the war would soon be over, and the camp would be in full operation again.

At the June, 1944, meeting "the Convenor read to the members a report of a meeting of the Camp Committee at which was discussed the necessary steps to put the trusteeship of the camp site in the hands of a Board, when the Ottawa Local Association is no longer functioning. This was generally approved, and it was emphasized that such a Board would be a 'Property Committee' only, with no intention of meddling in camping activities. It was also approved that Rockcliffe and Nepean be included in the term of Greater Ottawa for camping purposes". The report, as read to the meeting, was adopted, and a copy was sent to Dominion Headquarters.

The disbanding of the Division Local Association was being brought about by the necessity to form District LA's. Ottawa Division was growing. There seems to have been a degree of dissension over the future administration of the camp, and, if the Division LA members showed a disinclination to hand over control, this was understandable. After all, they had worked very hard, for many years, for the acquisition and development of Camp Woolsey, and were quite entitled to the proprietary interest they maintained.

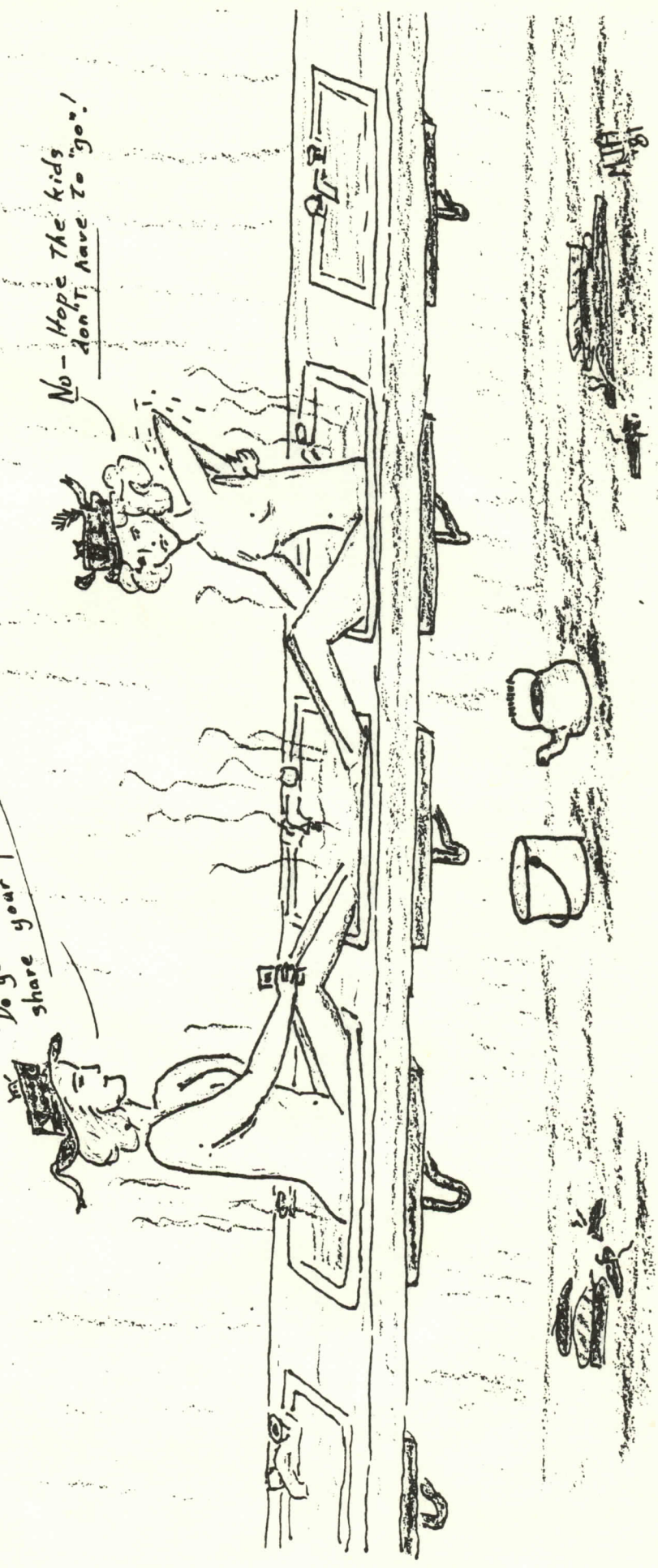
Diaries, Minutes and Reports of the time show a confusing tug-of-war between the LA, Mrs. Allon B. Peebles, the Division Commissioner, and Mrs. Corbett, the National Commissioner - with Camp Woolsey in the middle.

Finally, on May 14th, 1946, the Ottawa Division Local Association held its last meeting, and as far as Camp Woolsey was concerned, it appears to have been an upsetting one. From the Minutes: "The President spoke of the matter of the camp site and the latest paper of 'Terms of Reference' for a Property Committee received from HQ, and of our letter asking for clarification of several points; and finally of the letter received from Mrs. Corbett, threatening, that if the terms were not agreed to before the camping season opened, to refuse to allow the site to be used any more, and to forthwith cancel the registration of the Ottawa Local Association....Mrs. Laird had replied to this, and Mrs. Corbett's answer was also read, which still showed much misunderstanding of our aims and good faith. Light was thrown upon one subject, however; that Ottawa Local Association representatives to a Property Committee should be chosen from a list made before any members joined the District Associations. After much discussion, it was decided that the only dignified and Guide-like thing to do was to ignore all subjects upon which we cannot agree, and the misunderstanding of our efforts, and follow the Rule book injunction, which states that the real estate property of a disbanded Local Association shall be handed over to the Canadian Council, Girl Guides, for administration. For the reason that we desire, above everything else, that the property be used by the Guides for the purpose originally intended, and will do nothing to deprive them of it, this decision was unanimously approved by all present,

NOTHING feels as good as a
nice hot bath!

Do you mind if I bath?
share your foot bath?

No - Hope the kids
don't have to go!



and the Secretary was instructed to write to the Chief Commissioner to this effect, and to say that the deeds, inventory, and all necessary papers would be placed in the hands of our lawyer for transfer to the Canadian Council."

At the close of the meeting, the Secretary, Miss Kay Symes, read an epilogue touching on the 33 years of service of the Local Association, since 1913. Of Camp Woolsey, she said "It, of course, was the biggest job ever tackled by the Association". Surely, that was the understatement of the year!

* * * * *

To say the road to Camp Woolsey was not an easy one, is to state a fact. The paved road ended at the March Township boundary, just beyond Harwood Plains, and before the road to Lake Constance. At that point it became gravel, and deteriorated as the various communities were passed, until it ended as two tire tracks. It was not an easy drive. Paving of the highway to and beyond Woodlawn did not take place until just after the war, and many present day campers will remember when the road through the bush to Crown Point was finally paved.

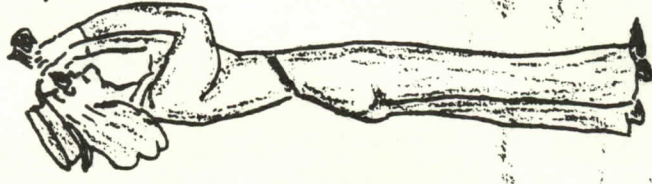
Of course, such difficulties did not deter the campers, and Camp Woolsey continued to grow, under the direction of the Camping Committee, which has been constant and continuing, and the various Building Committees, Administrative Committees, and Maintenance Committees which have been formed and re-formed. And, as in the early days, a lot of volunteer help has done much toward the development of the camp.

Campsites were opened up, and lodges were erected. The most urgent structure was a hospital. Miss Pinhey's idea that Pinhey Cottage would make a good hospital was accepted, but as time went by it became more obvious that the building was not suitable. Department of Health regulations stipulated that such a building must have an indoor toilet, a source of hot water and a separate "admissions" room. Pinhey could not provide these amenities, and there was a further problem. The copious amounts of whitewash, used to give a more sanitary appearance to the walls, and generally brighten up the interior, had a distressing propensity for flaking off, and falling into food and "sterile" dressings. Needless to say, this situation was found to be unacceptable by the Health Inspector, so consideration was given to the building of a more suitable infirmary.

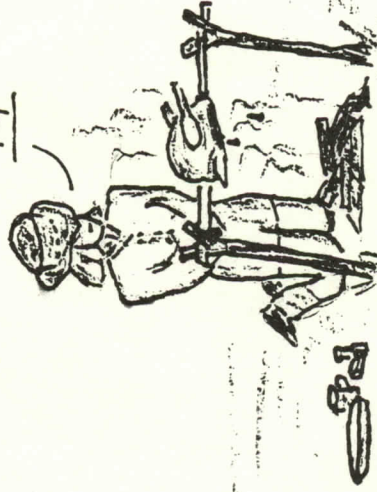
Pinhey was not abandoned. It became the home of the waterfront staff - it was used by Rangers for winter camping - at one time it was the residence of the camp Guard, his dog "and the mice". It was noted at the time that the Guard spent his evenings visiting around the various camp sites, until it was time to do his night-time prowling.

Later, in 1972, Pinhey was turned over to the Trefoil Guild, with a formal transfer of the key taking place at the front door of 475 Kenwood Avenue, in Ottawa's west end, to

Did you see where that rare
Zenaidura macroura went?



Yup!



There are different kinds
of bird lovers!

Gertrude Holt, who had been Ottawa Area's first Area Commissioner, and was at that time, Chairman of the Trefoil Guild. The Trefoil Guild was interested in doing a further renovation of Pinhey, and turning it into a museum. This proved to be a much more expensive proposition than expected, and eventually the building was returned to the Area.

A further restoration job was done on Pinhey a few years ago by the architectural class at Algonquin College. The removal of all that whitewash was difficult.

Pinhey continues to be an interest point of the camp, and as far as the Guides are concerned, it is still the "haunted house". In fact, it has been "haunted" from time to time by willing Guiders, at the request of other Guiders - more to the terror of the Guiders than the Guides!

Since Pinhey was unacceptable as a hospital, planning went ahead for the building of something which would incorporate all those things the Health Act required.

Once again the question of "how to finance the new building" was raised - and, of course, Guiders were requested to push the cookie sale.

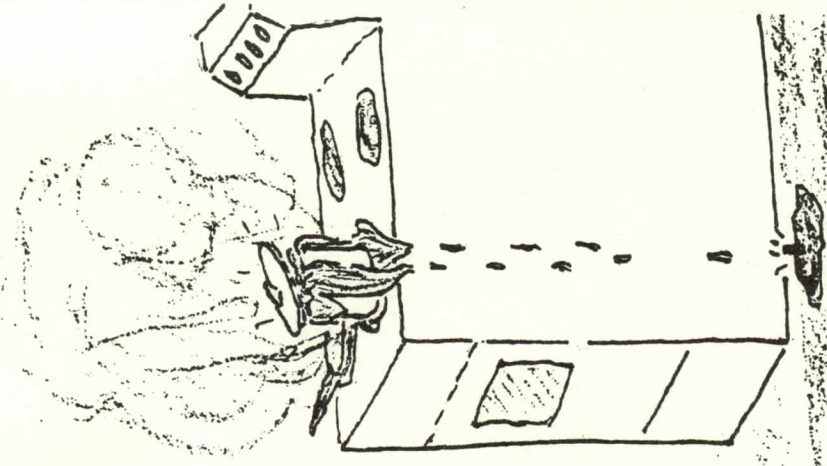
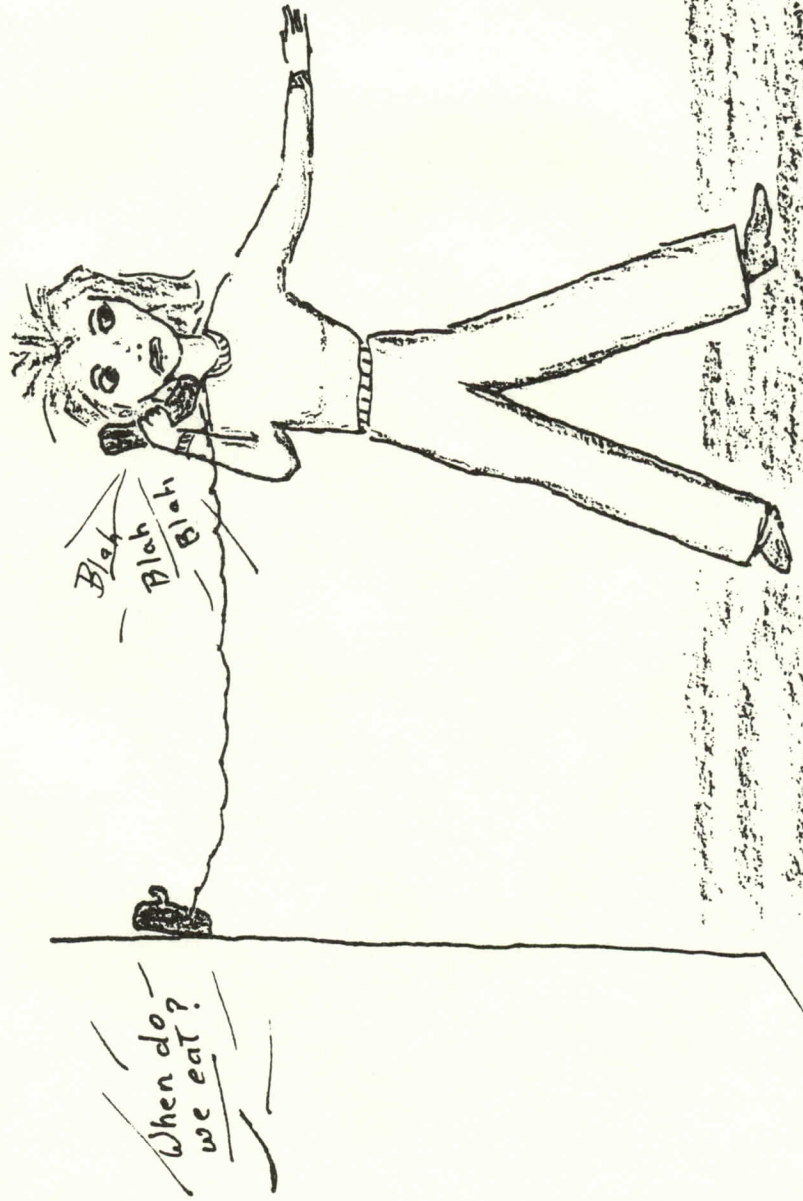
At a meeting of the Camp Committee, on June 15, 1955, it was unanimously agreed that: "The plan for this hospital, as previously discussed, would consist of a dispensary and nurse's bedroom, one small bedroom for a child under observation, ward with four beds, kitchenette and small waiting room".

The building would cost \$2,400, but if the builder worked in conjunction with the Lions Club, it could be done for \$1,400. The suggested site, "just west of the gully, beyond the pump", was approved, and the Committee decided to go ahead with the co-operation of the Lions Club.

With construction under way, and planning for the formal opening being considered, it was felt that the new hospital should have a name. A contest was held, and it was decided to call the new building "Impeesa", which means "The Wolf That Never Sleeps". This was the name that the natives on the north west frontier of India called Lord Baden-Powell, and was deemed suitable for the camp nurse, who would be on duty 24 hours a day.

Finally, in early 1957, the new hospital was finished, and the opening was planned for 3 p.m., June 23rd. Dr. Kennedy, Ottawa Medical Officer of Health, was invited to officially open "Impeesa", before an assembly of Guides, Guiders and representatives from the Service Clubs. As on previous formal occasions at Woolsey, "the storm" intruded on the ceremonies, in the form of Hurricane Audrey. The high winds created so much noise

Do you have a hard time getting
your Commissioner? - - -



-- Call her at dinner time-- She'll love you!

that formal speeches were dispensed with, and the building was simply declared open.

Impeesa was in operation, but not for long.

That first summer, if a camper was unfortunate enough to need the nurse's care and attention, Impeesa provided a comfortable and secure haven. But there appears to have been something ominous about the appearance of Hurricane Audrey on opening day. During a heavy snow storm, the following winter, the roof caved in under the weight of the snow. An architect was consulted, and he pointed out that the roof rafters had not been properly installed in the first place, and obviously the building had not been properly inspected.

The damage was repaired, and with continuing improvements, Impeesa has continued to provide shelter and security for the nurse and her patients - under a sturdy roof.

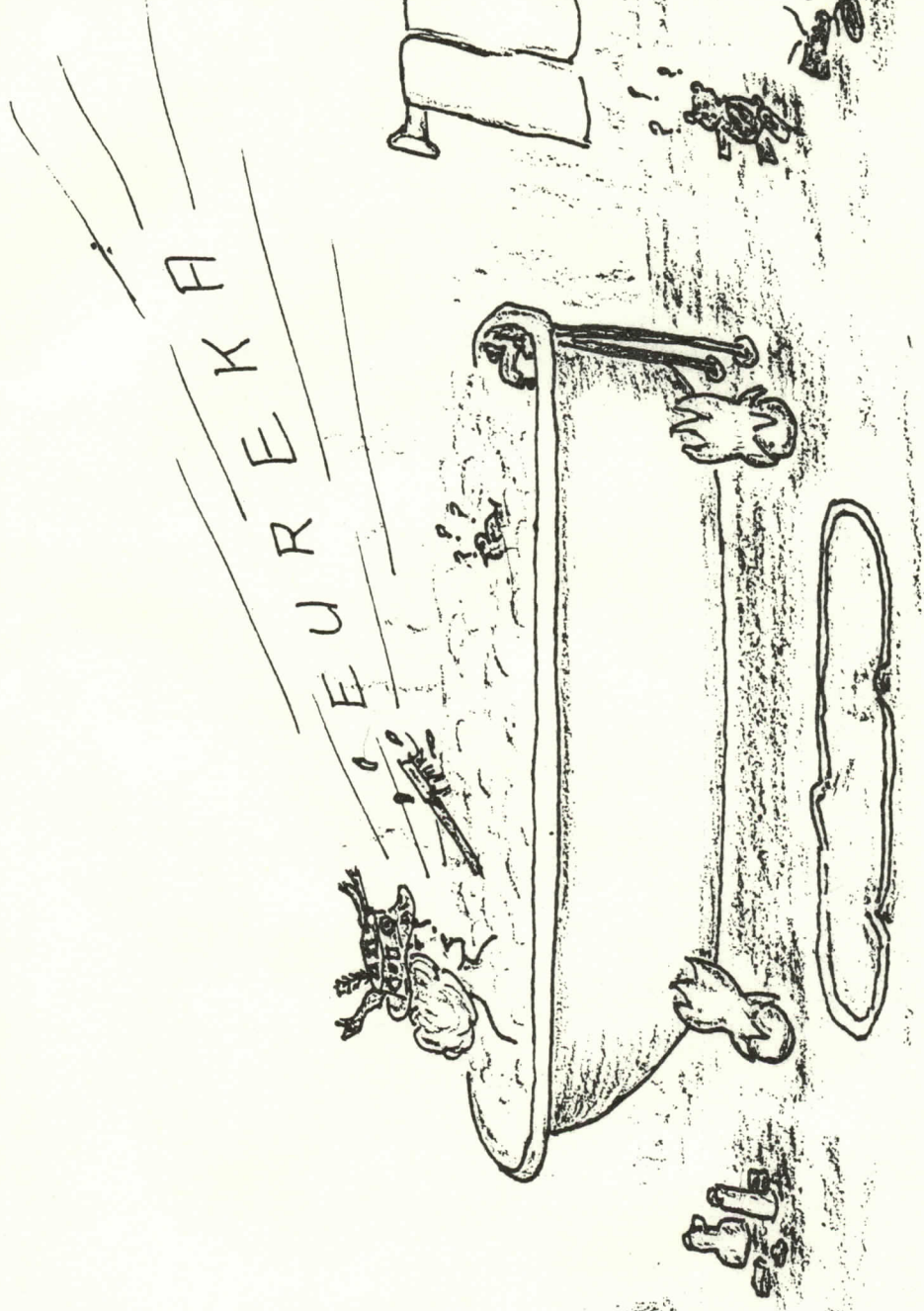
Buildings continued to appear on the camp. Brownies were not allowed to sleep in tents, so if they were going to camp some sort of sleeping shelter was needed for them. Ontario Hydro came to our assistance when they donated a dismantled Hydro building to the camp. The Committee's collective heart fell when they saw the jumbled pile of lumber, but the West Ottawa Lions used the material to build two sleeping huts, later called "Bambi" and "Flicker", on Brownie Site. Later these two huts were joined to make one long building, by the addition of a leaders' room in the middle.

Other buildings were appearing on the camp, in compliance with new regulations. Lloyd was no longer considered to be the "dining hall", but had become the camp headquarters, where the Camp Commandant oversaw all camping activities, and the central Quartermaster issued her daily supplies to all sites.

A basic lodge, for each camp site, was designed, to include a kitchen, dining room, and a leaders' room. The leaders' rooms not only cut down on the activity space in the lodges, but they were seldom, if ever, used, so were removed. Trefoil was the first of these lodges, and it was built with the proceeds from a special cookie sale. The same design was followed for the building of the lodges on Woods and Hilltop Sites.

Through the years these lodges have been in continuous use, and 'if walls could talk' could tell many happy stories. The mice who quickly took up residence in those walls were probably witness to many interesting occasions! An aside might be warranted here. There was a friendly little mouse who took up residence in Woods during the late '60s. He had a distressing habit of spending at least part of each night in the oven, and the first Guider in the lodge each morning would scare him away before turning the oven on to make toast, or whatever. Unfortunately, the little fellow met an untimely end, when a Guider forgot, and turned the oven up high, without looking, one morning. Needless to say, the oven was well cleaned before further use.

What do Guiders have in
common with Archimedes ?? - - -



--- Their greatest thoughts come in the Tub!!

Recent renovations of these lodges have shown that insulation was not necessary, as the mice had done an excellent job of filling up the spaces between panelling and outer walls with their nests. They have all been cleared out now, of course, so the story can be told.

Brownie Site was isolated from the rest of the camp by the deep gully, which caused a problem. Major Reece, and a group of men from the Royal Canadian Engineers came to the rescue, and built that very solid bridge across the gully, and, at the same time, made access to the old swimming beach safer by building steps down the steep incline.

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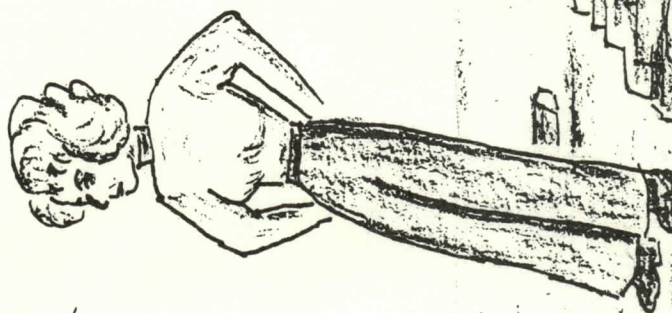
By this time, Camp Woolsey was a far cry from what it had been during that first camp in 1937. Outhouses had appeared, for each site, for one thing. At the end of the first camp, trucks had appeared and all tents and oddments of equipment were loaded, and the trucks drove off 'somewhere' to store the equipment. Breaking camp was a very large operation - particularly for Guides who did it in full dress uniform, because they were all going to leave the site, and all gear had had to be packed before tents were struck.

But with the building of the lodges, and accompanying sheds, equipment could be stored on the camp, and life had become much easier. The biggest concern at this time was the matter of lighting. Electricity had not travelled that far out into the country, and Guiders were working with girls who did not have a proper understanding of the use and handling of coal oil lamps. The fear of fire was great. One upset coal oil lamp could cause complete disaster.

Once again, the Lions Club, in co-operation with Ontario Hydro, came to the rescue. The Lions provided the money and materials, the Hydro men donated their time on weekends to complete the installation of electricity throughout Camp Woolsey, and in 1953 there was another formal event, this one devoid of the traditional storm. Mr. Bainbridge, of Ontario Hydro, did the honours, but it was a little Brownie, who he lifted up, who threw the switch.

Aside from such obvious improvements as electric stoves, refrigerators and the many other luxuries electricity brought to Woolsey, the possibility of installing an inter-site communication system was greeted with joy by Guiders. Until this time any communication between sites involved the carrying of messages from site to site, which was time taken from more interesting and productive pursuits. The Bell Telephone Company and the Signal Corps co-operated in the installation of the communication system. The dial system had been completed in Ottawa and surrounding territory, so Bell was able to donate some of their manual telephones. The Signal Corps volunteered their services for the installation, after which a series of "rings" was developed for inter-

Good Grief!! --
I'm sure I ordered 600 BOXES ---
NOT 600 CARTONS!!!



site calls, emergencies and general alarms. This was a much appreciated luxury for the site Guiders.

So the camp was growing and developing - and so were the numbers of campers. And with this growth came an equal growth in equipment. Storage was difficult, and the camp became the target of thieves and vandals. Boats were a favourite target, and as there was no one "in residence" near the beach, it was impossible to maintain constant supervision of the waterfront equipment during non-swimming hours. At this time the waterfront staff was living in tents on the lower end of Field Site, and, added to the problems with the boats, it was felt that some more permanent accommodation was needed for them. Naturally, this gave birth to yet another fund-raising operation.

In 1964 a request was made for "one dollar per total membership over a three year period", and a sale of key rings was launched. The building was designed to provide boat and equipment storage on the lower level, and living quarters, above, for the waterfront staff. The funds were raised, and the building completed in 1967, as a centennial project - hence the name "Centennial". It was opened by Gertrude Curry, the Provincial Camp Commissioner. No doubt the waterfront staff appreciated the increased comfort for themselves, and safety for their equipment, but Centennial became a great boon to site Guiders too. Centennial was the home of the first showers on Woolsey, and it was sheer luxury for the site Guiders to be able to pop in for a shower while their Guides were being supervised by the waterfront staff.

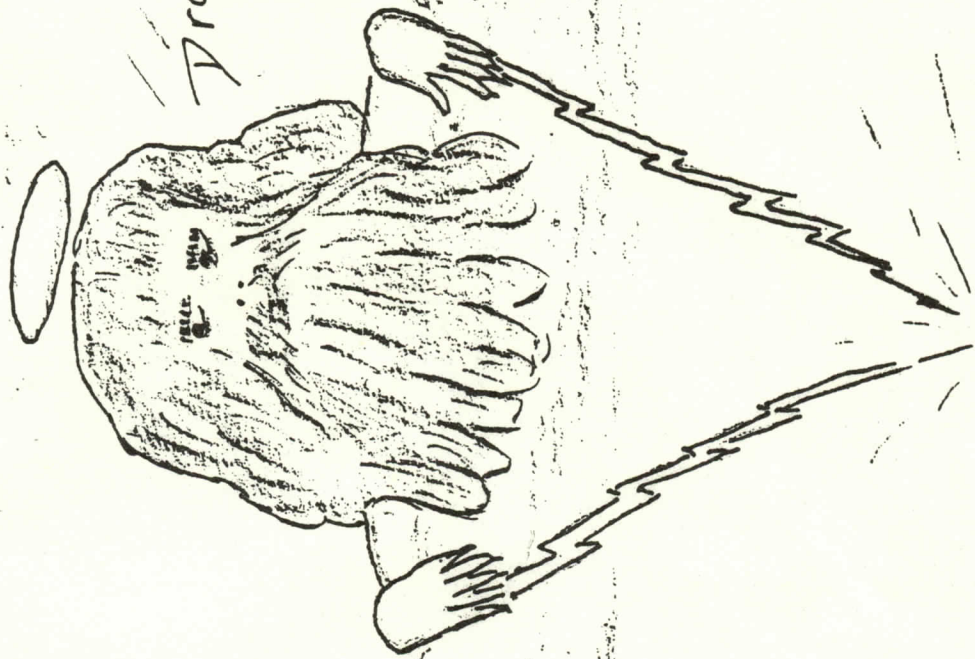
A central tent shed had been erected too, but as tents were stored on the sites, it quickly became storage for general equipment - including spare tents - and has now become the workshop.

Another benefit of electricity on the camp was the installation of electric pumps. This meant running water on all sites. And eventually led to flush toilets. The County Health Department was not happy about all the "contaminated" ground created by the necessity for constant moving of outhouses, and required the installation of septic tanks and flushies. The first flush toilets were installed on Hilltop Site - and later came the large "six-seater" lats on Woods/Pioneer and Trefoil/Field. Of course, a toilet and hot water tank, and later a shower, were installed in Impeesa.

During all this building up of Woolsey, Lloyd Lodge was deteriorating. It had been altered and renovated many times, and had served many functions. It was rapidly becoming an eye-sore, and far from a suitable monument to Mrs. Lloyd. It was no longer adequate as a camp headquarters.

Lois Wright, who was Area Camp Adviser, had had a dream for some time, that the camp should have a place where Guiders could go, away from their sites, and relax for

In six days God created the heavens
and the earth - - -



- - - obviously He didn't
have a telephone !!!

a short time, with a cup of coffee, and maybe some conversation with other site Guiders. Of course, this created the need for more fund-raising, which was achieved, mainly, through two monster bazaars.

Lois did not live to see her dream come true, but many Guiders have been able to do just what she had hoped for. The building was designed by Ann Carmichael, Captain of the 27th Company, and a member of the Camp Committee, to incorporate living quarters for headquarters staff, a large living room, kitchen, washroom, shower room and office and sleeping quarters for the camp director.

Opening Day was August 8th, 1970, and, once again, good weather prevailed. In fact, the sun was so bright and hot that Mrs. Wright, Lois's mother, burned her hand on the scissors she was using to cut the ribbon, as she declared the building open. Another amusing incident occurred at the opening, when the Carmichael family presented a new flag for the main flag pole, and the Trefoil Guild let it be known that they had planned such a presentation, and, in future they would provide flags for that pole.

Through the years Wright has been the focal point on the camp. It has seen many changes and renovations, not the least of which was the raising of the building to install a permanent basement, which houses the quartermaster stores. Wright has also been the scene of many happy occasions, meetings, residential camps for Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers, during fall, spring and winter.

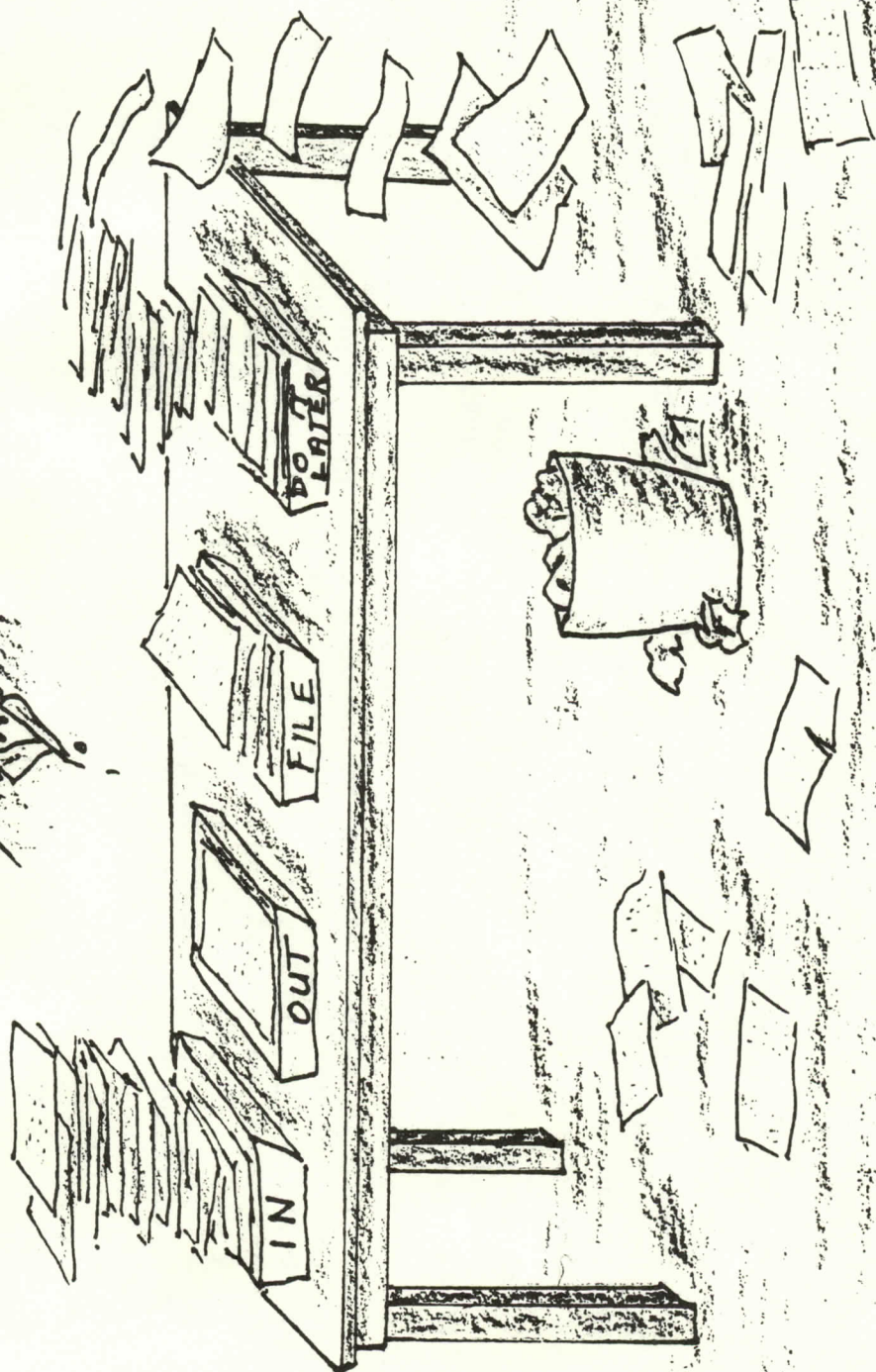
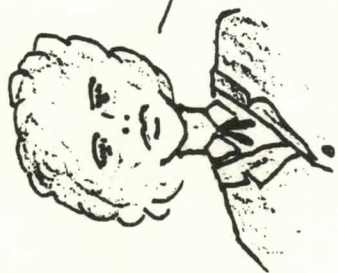
One singularly memorable occasion was the mid-April weekend in 1971, when the Camp Committee held its monthly meeting in residence, in order to put some finishing touches on the interior. Unfortunately the weather had turned mild during the previous week, and by the time those mighty campers arrived the snow was too rotten to support snowshoes. As the "resident poet" wrote in her report:

"The sun on the crest of the swift-melting snow
Cast light on a vision no camper should know;
Camp Advisers and friends,
With 'Trees' Green and Brown,
Were spread o'er the landscape,
And fast sinking down."

It was only one, among many weekends, of fun and good fellowship, which fulfilled Lois Wright's dream.

With the building of Wright Lodge, poor old Lloyd became even more neglected and unloved. From the fine dining hall of 1939, it had declined in stature to a storage building. The walls had buckled and were shored up from outside. The floor was sagging. And it still housed the plaque which stated that it had been named in honour of Mrs. Hoyes Lloyd.

Wouldn't a Paper Shortage
be GREAT????



Obviously, Lloyd Lodge had to be replaced. This project was carried out in 1981, and the new Lloyd Lodge became a much more fitting monument to all Mrs. Lloyd's hard work and dedication to the beginnings of Camp Woolsey. Her daughters attended the opening, and were very pleased with the new building.

Lloyd was built with consideration given to handicapped campers, and with the outdoor ramp for wheelchairs, the special shower stall and toilet, it has been possible for handicapped girls to enjoy happy days at Woolsey. The building also includes basement storage for tents.

There was still one facility lacking on the camp. All-camp campfires had usually been held on Pioneer Site, because it was the largest, but it had long been felt that a central campfire would be an advantage.

In June 1981, a small committee was formed to determine what recognition of years of service should be made to Chris Fortier, who would be retiring as Area Commissioner the following year. As Chris's greatest love had always been Camp Woolsey and the girls who camp there, the decision was easy. A central campfire area would be built, to be named "The Fortier Council Fire", and this led to the best-kept open secret of Ottawa Area's history. No appeal for funds was made this time, because the Divisions had agreed to split the cost, and the ensuing struggle to keep any mention of "the special project" out of Division Minutes was successful. Chris was known as an avid reader of Division Minutes!

On a rainy, of course, June evening in 1982, the Fortier Council Fire, commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Guiding in Ottawa, and recognizing Chris Fortier's 30 years of service was opened. Due to wet tinder and matches, the lighting of the first fire was difficult, but Chris was successful.

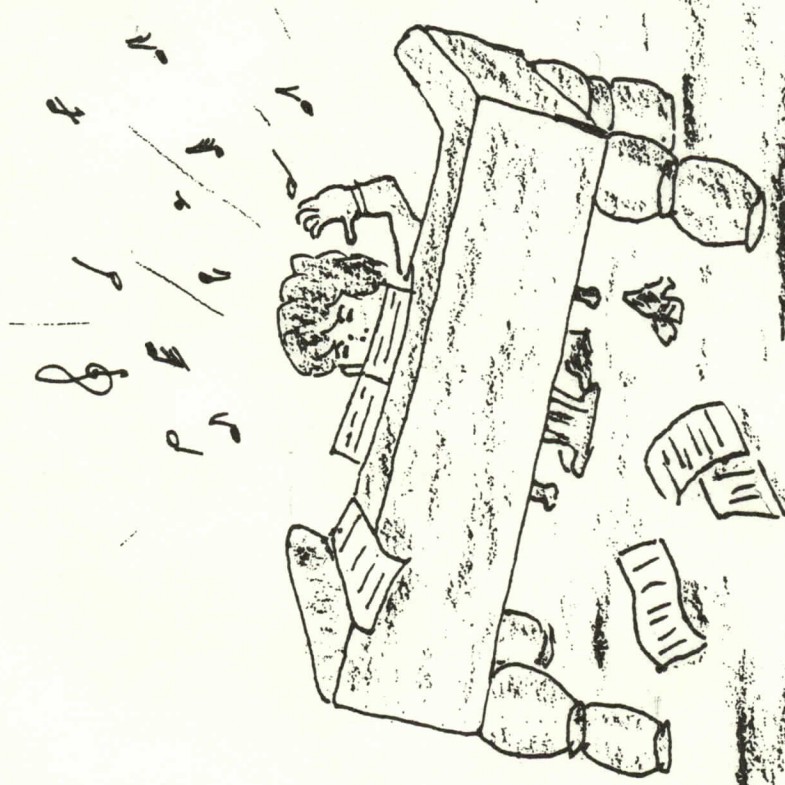
Through the years other facilities have appeared on the camp: the lodge on Pioneer (now Tamarack); the shelters on Field and Pioneer. Many improvements have been made for the comfort and convenience of the campers. The old telephone system has been replaced by CB radios, and the site lodges have been renovated and improved. It is an on-going operation!

* * * * *

Guides did their bit too - beyond helping to raise funds, that is. The two fire-places on the camp - one in Centennial which bears a plaque dedicating it to the memory of Major Reece, and the fireplace in Wright - were built with stones which Guides had gathered from the beach. Unfortunately no record has been kept of all the other ways the girls helped, but we know they did.

Do you know what
didn't happen when

Chopin was composing "Les Sylphides"? - - -



- - - the phone didn't ring!!
(Richard Needham)

The story of the construction of all these buildings on Woolsey, is not necessarily in chronological order, as some records are not available. The fact remains that they were built, and at the same time a few other points of interest appeared on the camp. And some have gone.

For many years there was a dead tree beside the tent shed on Trefoil Site. Many campers wondered at the preservation of such a tree, but it was not removed until it had become a definite hazard. However, it was a point of interest to Brownies who made regular visits to "The Brownie Tree" and heard its story. On an October Sunday, after the camping season was over, two young Brownies were visiting at MacLaren's Landing, and they walked over to visit the camp. When they got there they discovered that some one had built a fire under the tree, so while one girl ran for help, the other one stayed and tried to smother the flames with sand. Their quick action prevented a disastrous forest fire, and at the next annual meeting the two girls, June Hine and Jean Ormsby, were given Letters of Commendation.

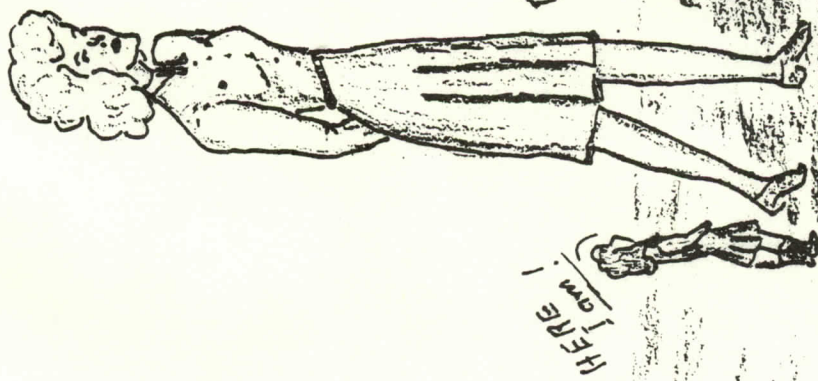
Another interesting spot on the camp is the Chapel. The point on which it stands was reputed to be an Indian Lookout, called "Windigo". Since the Dictionary of Canadianisms defines Windigo as an evil spirit, it seems strange to put a chapel there. However, the consecration of the altar, and continuous use by virtuous Guides has, no doubt, exorcised the evil spirits. The altar, which was built in 1952, is consecrated to all denominations, and dedicated to the memory of Cathy Douglas, who had been an active Guide, and a very enthusiastic camper. Contrary to recurring rumours, she is not buried there, but her spirit does live on during the many Guides' Own services, cord presentations and other events which occur in the chapel.

Many campers and visitors have observed, and rested on, the bench under the big pine tree at the entrance to Woods Site. It is a cool spot on a hot afternoon, and when Mr. and Mrs. James Cripwell, parents of a Guide, were putting in their many hours of work for the camp it was their favourite place to sit and rest. The bench was instilled in their memory.

There are a few other memorials on the camp, such as the bird feeder beside Lloyd Lodge, and a Brownie bookcase in Tamarack, but in actuality the whole camp stands as a great memorial to all those enthusiastic supporters and campers who have worked so hard to build it up and keep it going. Recording their names is an impossibility.

Woolsey, and the Guides, have had many other friends, who came to the fore as the needs arose, and gifts to the camp have been many and varied. In 1953, Mr. Emile Richard gave the camp a grand piano, which he thought would be an asset during sing-songs in Lloyd. Unfortunately there was no insulated building on the camp where such an instrument could be kept safely, and the extremes of temperature rapidly destroyed it.

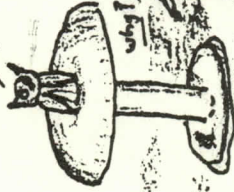
Now where did those
new kids get to?!



Is she blind?

HERE
I am.

Too
ill?



Let's
hide!

They get smaller every year!!

Docks and rafts were donated to the camp, following a National Camp at Connaught Ranges, and the Ontario Forestry Department was extremely generous with the supply of trees for the various special plantings. All these plantings were done on the advice of the Forester, Mr. Steele, who was constantly available as a source of information on the care and growth promotion of the trees.

There have been many friends who have contributed to the camp in the form of time and talents. These gentlemen and ladies are legion, but one must be singled out. For uncounted years, even the littlest Brownies were aware of the quiet gentleman who was always around the camp, fixing a lock, mending a step, building picnic tables and out-houses, and many much larger projects. Sometimes Bob Gibbs had help, but for a great deal of the time he worked alone. His efforts have been truly appreciated.

Many hours, and days, of work have been put in by willing volunteers, to make the camp not only a safe place for our girls, but an interesting one. Nature trails were laid out, and a project under way at the time of writing, is the Peggy O'Connor Fitness Trail.

Visitors - Welcome and (unfortunately) Unwelcome

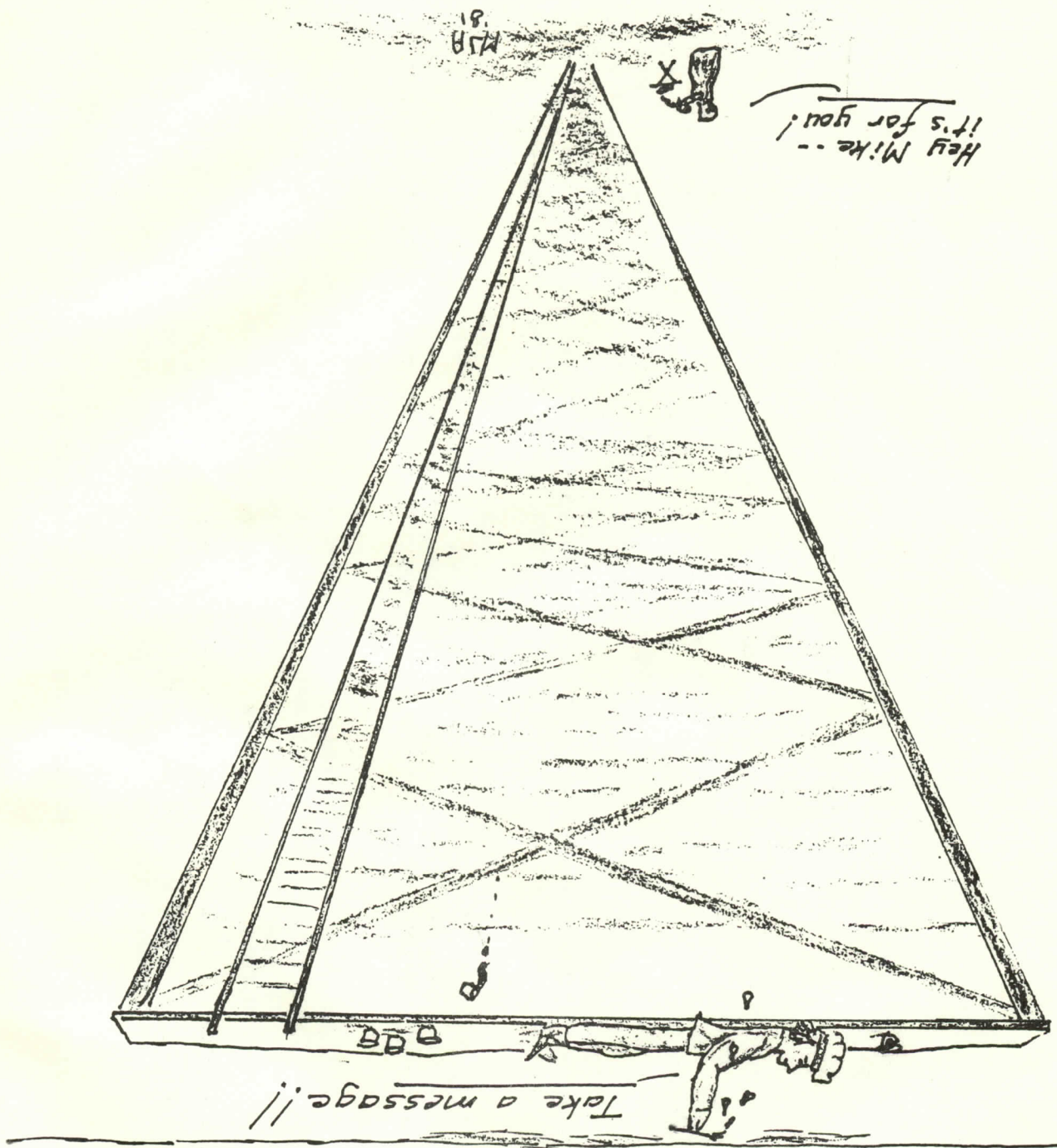
Visitors to Camp Woolsey have been numerous - and mainly of the 'welcome' variety. Starting with the visit of Princess Alice, and her return with the Earl of Athlone and Princess Juliana, and their families, in 1940, many people, prominent and otherwise, have visited the camp for a variety of reasons.

One memorable visit was that of Lady Louis Mountbatten, Nursing Chief of the Order of St. John, who was accompanied by Miss Margaret MacLaren, Nursing Superintendent of the Order in Canada. At the time of this visit the milkweed was in bloom, and Lady Mountbatten thought it was beautiful. Guiders were a bit non-plussed to understand how anyone could consider that wretched weed as a thing of beauty.

And we will long remember the visit of the Hon. Betty Clay, and Gervas, in May '85. As the youngest daughter of "The Chiefs" she, and Gervas, had many interesting stories to tell about Lord and Lady B-P, and about her own adventures in Guiding in Africa.

Margaret Trudeau visited, while she was still wife of the Prime Minister. And many many others. They have come from all parts of Canada; from the United States; from England, and Holland; from as far away as Japan and Australia. If any have been overlooked, it is because they did not sign the guest book! It is quite possible that there are a few who did not.

It's a good thing Michelangelo didn't have
a telephone in The Sistine Chapel.



Not all visitors to Woolsey have been as welcome as those mentioned on the previous page. In fact, some were decidedly UNwelcome.

As the camp grew and acquired more buildings and equipment, so did the incidence of vandalism and trespass. While some of these incidents were very upsetting at the time, they do provide a bit of humour in retrospect.

There were the two nature-lovers, found sun-bathing, 'starkers', beside the path to the beach by Wanda Reece and Alice Gibbs. Wanda dashed off to call the police, leaving a very embarrassed Alice to "keep them occupied" until help came. It is understood that Alice engaged the two nudists in conversation - staring fixedly at the tree-tops - until assistance arrived.

Another group of unwelcome visitors appeared on the camp in the mid-60s. This group of mental midgets thought it was great fun to sneak into the camp and drop tents on sleeping Guides. Several attempts to catch them had failed, when the Priest from Camp Echon heard of the problem, and came to the rescue.

On the fateful night, the Priest arrived early in the evening with a group of Scouts, which he stationed at various strategic points in the camp, and outside the camp gate. The Guides went to bed as usual, and, as usual, the harrassers appeared. Shortly after lights out a small car came down the road, parked at the camp gate, and the occupants sneaked into the camp. The Scouts stationed outside the gate immobilized the car, and waited. The Priest, and the Scouts inside the camp, chased the intruders out. They jumped into the car for a quick getaway, and while they were trying, unsuccessfully, to get it started, the Scouts outside the gate quickly ran ropes around the car. When the police arrived they discovered that the case had been neatly tied up. That group did not bother the campers again.

But a lot of the vandalism takes place when no one is on the camp. Many things have been stolen, and a lot of equipment destroyed. One enterprising group broke into the site sheds and decorated the roof of Tamarack with an array of brooms, rakes, carts mallets, pails - anything which could be hoisted up.

For this reason, it became necessary to have the Camp Director in residence all year. The most recent building project on Woolsey has been the construction of a permanent home for the Camp Director and her husband. There is a further advantage to this arrangement, in that the roads to the winterized sites are now plowed in the winter, and cars do not have to be left on the road while supplies are hiked from the gate on toboggans and snowshoes. Woolsey has come a long way!!!

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* * * * *

Everyone loves Brown Owl!

It's because we
love you, Brown Owl



MY Turn!



My Turn!

hi. Owl.

No-Me!!

Me!!



I wanna sit
beside Brown Owl!



NJA
11-81

This, according to available records, is The Story of Woolsey. Many of the records are missing, but even if they were available, they could not tell the complete story of the camp.

That story is stored in the hearts and memories of the thousands of campers, who have camped and worked on "our Permanent Camp Site, at Crown Point".

But, to quote The Bard, "What's past is prologue...", and the story is just begun.

It will be continued by the Brownies and Guides of today, who will take THEIR Brownies and Guides to many future camps, and carry on "this happy game".

Some of them may wonder where Camp Woolsey came from, and how. This story has been written for them.

* * * * *

The Cartoons

In 1981, Ottawa Area's Annual Meeting was held at Algonquin College, and I was asked to provide "something of interest to brighten 'The Mile'". 'The Mile' was that long walk, through dreary corridors, from meeting rooms to lunch in the Cafeteria.

This resulted in the production of these cartoons, which decorated the walls along the way. The project was a 'first' for me, so I make no apology for artistic discrepancies. I did my best, and learned a lot as the job went along. Obviously there was a degree of success, because many requests have been made that they be published.

It was fun, and I thank all those Guiders who shared their 'war stories' with me, and unknowingly provided the ideas. They may recognize themselves!

M.J.A.

Ottawa, Ont.
November 15, 1985.

