



THE CHESTER TRIP

During the winter of 1921-22, a competition was held between the eight patrols of the Wolfville Boy Scouts.

Under the present plan of organization, these patrols are connected directly with the various churches. The patrols consist of three in the Baptist church, two in the Church of England and Roman Catholic combined, one in the Presbyterian church, one in the Tabernacle and one in the Methodist church.

The competition consists of reports for good turns, various games, scout badges and attendance at church, Sunday School and weekly meetings. The competition was very keen and four of the patrols came out close together, the Methodists leading with 117 points, the No. 3 Baptists with 112, the No. 1 Church of England with 104 and the Presbyterians with 84 points.

The reward for this competition was a trip to Chester. Such a trip had been carried out by the Wolfville Patrol in 1912, and since then other such trips had been planned but never accomplished.

We, the Methodist patrol, eight in number, with Scoutmaster Brown and Asst. Scoutmaster McKinnon of Port Williams, left for Chester on Friday morning, Aug. 25th, at 8.30 o'clock, in a 2 1/2 ton truck.

The roads were heavy with mud and very slippery, but with the assistance of all the boys showing up hills and prying out of ditches with poles we finally arrived in Chester Basin at 3.30 p.m. No dinner had been served on the road, but we subsisted on chocolate bars, apples and songs. From Chester Basin the course was laid for the hospitable farm of Colin Borgal, who willingly let us put up our tent on his grounds and gave us the full use of his cooper shop which he had done the year the Wolf patrol visited him. The cooper shop had a spacious open fire-place over which the cooks prepared supper under the direction of Mr. McKinnon, while the rest of our gang put up the tent and made the beds. The cooper shop was also used as a dining room as well as kitchen, so we made it our head quarters for the trip, and in case of continued wet weather it would always furnish a comfortable retreat.

After supper, Mr. Mac and Mr. Brown with Sing and Jim borrowed a boat and rowed to Marryat's Cove for the whaler and row boat which had been arranged for. These were taken over to Borgal's point and anchored not far from camp.

Early Saturday morning we set sail for back harbor of Chester and thence to Deep Cove. On the way to Deep Cove a thick fog set in so that we were out of sight of land for some time, and had to go by compass most of the way, but we safely arrived there, but could not sail up the cove as there was not enough wind. We had dinner on board and before leaving we bought a dozen mackerel for five cents and a fifteen pound codfish for fifteen cents (notice what the middle man gets) from a vessel which had just arrived. Deep Cove will be described on next visit. On the return trip there was a heavy breeze and either it or Si Woodman's head cracked the foremast close to the deck. Sea sickness was narrowly avoided but a dizziness remained and afterward the cooper-shop and tent seem-

ed to dance a regular turkey trot.

On the return from Deep Cove we sailed close to Oak Island where we landed after picking up Gordon Boates who was preparing to go ashore in the rowboat that the brainless Farmer Johnson had cast adrift without the oars, and then we had to tack half a dozen times to pick him up, but after a time we landed safely on Oak Island the scene of a search for Captain Kidd's Treasure for the past fifty years. This search has been continued more or less intermittently. Shafts have been sunk to the depth of 200 feet and the island is dotted with holes. At the present time six or seven men are employed fitting up an air compressor and engine to continue the work to greater depths (it would be interesting to know how Captain Kidd buried his treasure at such great depths with less modern machinery). The reader may doubt the above statements in regard to Oak Island, but photographs will show just how the work is being carried on. We returned to camp and spent the night dreaming about Capt. Kidd's Treasure.

Sunday was spent quietly in camp after attending service at the Basin.

Monday morning we returned the whaler because we discovered it leaked very badly, and we were able to get in its place a small schooner rigged boat, named the Beatrice B., with gasoline auxiliary. We then set sail for Chester and arrived there early and explored the town. We returned to camp and had dinner and then packed all our equipment and set sail for Mahone Bay. With a Sou'west wind we had a long beat out of the bay to Round Island, thence a pleasant reach past Murder and Indian Points until the fog shut down thick and we had to use the engine into Mahone Harbor. We went close to ledges where a number of seals were enjoying themselves in the fog, and giving an exhibition of plain and fancy diving. Some of the gang went on shore to Mahone while the rest stayed, made the beds and named the different sleeping sections. These were "The Bummers' Retreat", occupied by Ding and Sing Schofield, "the Noisy Section", occupied by Farmer Johnson, Si Woodman, Free Walsh, Mr. Brown and Mr. Mac, "The Peaceful Lodge", where George Johnson and Jim Williams reigned in peace and "the Snoring Lodge", which could be heard over all the vessel, occupied by the honorable Gordon Boates.

Tuesday morning under sail and gas we arrived at Young's Landing, which is 2 1/2 miles from Lunenburg. We walked into Lunenburg before dinner where we met Mr. Silver, the principal of our school. After dinner we sailed to the back harbor of Lunenburg, known as the saw pits, which consisted of small salt water lakes connected by short passages. We met Mr. Silver who took us through the school building and through the Church of England and the Methodist Churches, and we were also surprised to notice that contrary to what we had seen in Wolfville the Baptist church was exceedingly smaller than any of the other churches.

Wednesday morning Mr. Silver entertained us by taking us to Felsone South by the ferry "Mascotte" which left the

front harbour at 8.30. We arrived at Felsone South and hiked four miles to Riverport, where we took a truck and went two miles to Oxner's Beach on the LaHave River. We went in for a swim and had a dinner of chocolate bars and raisins. We returned to Riverport and then to Felsone's South and the ferry brought us back to Lunenburg at 4 p.m.

The champion schooner "Bluenose" had just arrived with a cargo of fish which she was unloading, so we borrowed a boat and went on board and had our pictures taken with some of the crew and the cook showed us all through the vessel and the places where the water and black diamonds were kept, and then where he did his cooking and kept the flour, etc. Mr. Silver was our guest at supper and we had quite a large bill of fare, fish and clam chowder, corn, blueberry grunt and tapioca pudding. During the peaceful hours of night, Mr. Brown was rudely awakened by Farmer Johnson punching him in the ribs.

Thursday morning we started for Deep Cove, using the engine all the way because there was no wind and the bay was as calm as a mill pond. On the way we passed two Canadian Patrol boats and went close to them so we could take pictures. Before reaching Deep Cove, we passed Big Tanook which is quite a thickly populated island. We cooked dinner on board and arrived at Deep Cove in the afternoon. We put on corn beef and cabbage to boil for supper and climbed Aspetagon Mt. at the risk of life and limb. That evening we had a large campfire in a deep hollow. Mr. Mac told ghost stories that made our hair creep and we had to sing to take off the effect. Mr. Mac then made some biscuits by the fire which were served with hot cocoa.

During the quiet hours of early morning we were startled to hear that we were lost or the occupant of "Snoring Lodge" was talking in his sleep, because we heard him say "Brown! Brown! we're lost! we're lost!"

The next morning we stayed in bed until a late hour which was very unusual, as we had been getting up early, but we had decided to stay in Deep Cove until

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that afternoon. Deep Cove is a narrow channel which runs 1 1/2 miles inland, where there is a large basin, in which we anchored the Beatrice B. The water is very deep up the channel and in the basin, so a large vessel can easily sail into it. In the War of 1812 it was used by privateers, who came there for supplies. At 4 p.m. we started for Chester, using the sails all the way, arriving there at 7.30 p.m. On the way we stopped at a small island and cooked our supper on shore. During the evening we invaded the town.

Saturday morning we started for Chester Basin after having our breakfast on the same island where we had supper, and arrived there at 10.30, where the truck was waiting to take us home. Our equipment was packed and after a good dinner we set sail for Wolfville, leaving Mr. Brown to come back with Mrs. Brown who had been driven out by Master Arthur Brown.

We had a rough ride back. Mr. Mac with three cheers and a tiger was left at Port Williams corner and the rest of us arrived safely home at 6.30.

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