Man Lost In Britain's 'Pea Soup' Fog Discovers Boy Scout Movement

(Editor's Note: The following dramatic story of how the Boy Scout movement was born in America is part of the text in "The Golden Anniversary Book of Scouting" published by the Boy Scouts of America on the occasion of Scouting's 50th year in this country.)

The British capital lay in the grip of a dense "pea soup" fog. It had rolled in during the night and had enveloped the whole city in its smoky yellowness. The famous London buses crawled cautiously along but other traffic had come to an almost complete standstill. Street lamps had been lit before noon. They shone with a feeble glow that penetrated only a few feet into the murkiness.

A man walking slowly along the poorly lit street stopped under a lamp post and tried to orient himself. He had the feeling that he had gone astray but in what direction was he to turn?

* * *

A dark figure emerged from the gloom. A boy moved past the man — then turned and came back.

"Can I help you, sir?" the youngster asked.

"You certainly can," said the man. "I have a business appointment somewhere around here. I'll be much obliged if you'll tell me how to get there." There was no mistaking the man's nationality—he spoke with a decided American accent.

"If you'll give me the address I'll take you there."

As they reached the destination the American pulled a shilling from his pocket for a tip.

"No thank you, sir," the boy said, "not for doing a good turn."

"And why not?" the American asked.

"Because I'm a Scout!"

"A Scout? And what does that mean?"

"Haven't you heard about Baden-Powell's Boy Scouts?"

The American had not. "Tell me about them," he said.

The boy told him what he could of himself and his brother Scouts and all the fun they were having in Scouting.

But the American wanted to know still more.

"I know where you can find out," said the boy. "Our headquarters is close by, on Victoria street. The General may even be in the office today."

"The General!"

"Baden-Powell himself, sir."

"Fine," said the American. "Let me finish my errand. Then, if you have time, we'll go to your headquarters."

The boy waited, then showed the way to the Scout office — and disappeared before the American had a chance to learn his name.

At the Boy Scouts' headquarters, the American — 51-year-old William D. Boyce, newspaper and magazine publisher from Chicago —met the founder of the Boy Scout movement, the British military hero, Lt.-Gen. Robert S. S. Baden-Powell, and learned about Scouting from the Chief Scout himself.

* * *

Boyce became tremendously impressed with the possibilities of the movement that Baden-Powell had started. Through his business enterprises, he had had many dealings with boys, but no experience with them had ever struck him as forcibly as his first encounter with a Boy Scout.

When he left for the United States a few days later, he carried with him a trunkful of Scout literature, uniforms, and insignia.

The moment he arrived home, he took steps to introduce the Boy Scout idea to America. He counseled with his friend, Colin H. Livingstone of Washington, D. C., and with other people in the country's capital, and with them established a new corporation — Boy Scouts of America, February 8, 1910.

In this way, a good turn done to a stranger by an unknown English Scout brought Scouting to the United States.

* * *

Seventeen years after he had done his good turn, the boy who had wanted nothing for himself, received the highest award the Boy Scouts of America has to offer — the Silver Buffalo presented for "distinguished service to boyhood."

The boy himself was not there for the ceremony — he was never found — but the Prince of Wales was there to receive the award in his behalf. A plaque with a simple eloquent inscription was unveiled:

"To the Unknown Scout Whose Faithfulness in the Performance of the 'Daily Good Turn' Brought the Scout Movement to the United States of America."

Week

(Continued From Page One)

Scoutmaster.

Judge Bismarck Capps of Gastonia was elected president in 1932; Nelson Jackson Jr. of Tryon became vice president; and Warren Y. Gardner of Gastonia was named treasurer.

In 1933, funds were raised under the leadership of W. B. Garrison for the building of the permanent headquarters building in Gastonia.

In 1942, land was purchased by the council near Crowders Mountain for the establishment of a Negro Scout training camp.

In 1943, the dining lodge and kitchen at the Lake Lanley camp were destroyed by fire and funds were raised for the building of a bigger and better lodge and for the purchase of additional land for the enlarging of facilities.

In 1944, James Adams joined the Council as a professional Scouter with the title of field Scout executive to serve Negro units.

During World War II, Scouts of the Council rendered hundreds of thousands of hours of service in civilian defense activities and in collecting scrap for the war effort. Many Scout-trained young men from the Council served in the armed forces and several paid the supreme sacrifice.

Henry McKelvie of Gastonia served as Piedmont Council president for 1946 and 1947. H. Gilmer Wiget of Gastonia held the post for 1948 and 1949; and D. R. LaFoy Jr. of Gastonia for 1949 and 1950. In 1951-1952, it was Nelson Jackson Jr. of Tryon. The Council president for 1953-1957 was C. K. Bryant Sr. of Gastonia. Serving from 1958 to 1960 was Albert G. Myers Jr. of Gastonia, and in 1961-1962, Fred D. Hamrick Jr. of Rutherfordton. The present Council President is C. Frank Goldsmith of Marion.

First Stirring Of The Boy Scouts In America Is Very Dramatic Story

The biggest task that lay before James E. West when he became Executive Secretary of the Boy Scouts of America in January, 1911, was to shape, out of the Boy Scout scheme created in England by Lord Baden-Powell, an American movement with an American program acceptable to American boys.

He went about this in a way that was characteristic of all his work in the Boy Scouts of America: he called to his aid men outstanding in the fields that needed to be investigated and acted on.

At the first annual meeting of the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D. C., a month after West took office, he proposed establishment of four committees for getting the job done. These committees were appointed on February 14, 1911. These had to do with standardization of the Scout Oath and Law; requirements for rank badges, awards, and equipment; and permanent organization and field supervision.

Of these committees, the Committee on Standardization had the greatest immediate responsibility and the greatest opportunity for influencing the future of Scouting in America. Members realized the importance of writing the Scout Oath and Law in such language that it would be understood easily by boys and become a part of their daily thinking in work and play, and of making the Scout requirements as attractive to the boy as can boy that he would eagerly want to meet them.

In Americanizing the Scout Oath and Law, the committee secured for its chairman Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks of New York University. West and Jenks wanted to bring into the Oath and Law all the important human qualities that would be vital and meaningful to a boy.

In developing the code of his "Scheme" in England, Baden-Powell had studied the codes of man through the ages — the codes of the early Britons, Danes, and Anglo-Saxons; the oath of the Athenian youths; the law of the knights of the Middle Ages; the manhood codes of the American Indians, the African Zulu, and many others. From this study, he had formulated the Scout's Oath and Law:

"On my honour I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and the King; to help other people at all times; to obey the Scout Law."

His Scout Law consisted of nine points:

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.

2. A Scout is loyal to the King, and to his officers, and to his parents, his country, and his employers.

3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.

4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.

5. A Scout is courteous.

6. A Scout is a friend to animals.

7. A Scout obeys orders of his parents, patrol leader, or Scoutmaster without question.

8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances.

9. A Scout is thrifty.

The Committee on Standardization held a great number of lively meetings during March and April, 1911. Its work culminated on May 1 of that year when, at West's insistence, the revised Scout Oath, Law, and requirements went out to 500 educators — university presidents and professors — with requests for criticisms and suggestions.

The committee gave much consideration to a possible substitute for the term Scout Oath" — investigating the meanings of such synonyms as "promise," "pledge," "vow," and several others.

It was agreed, West finally reported, that the word "promise" was not strong enough to grasp the imagination of the boys; that the word "pledge" had been given a distinct temperance context; and that the word "vow" had too much of a religious significance. Therefore, the word "oath" was retained.

Out of the work of this committee came the American Scout Oath which has stood unchanged over half a century:

"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

Besides simplifying the wording of Baden-Powell's original Scout Law by expressing each point in a single word — "trustworthy," "loyal," "helpful," etc. — the most notable change was the increase of the Law's nine points to 12, with inclusion of "A Scout is brave," "A Scout is clean," "A Scout is reverent."

The 12th point, "A Scout is reverent," was included on insistence of James E. West, in his opinion, no boy could grow into a true man and a true American citizen without a deep religious conviction. The wisdom of West's insistence became evident over the years as one religious body after another enthusiastically endorsed the Boy Scouts of America and adopted the Scout program in its youth work.

In the Americanization of the Scout requirements, the committee quickly discovered that very little needed to be done — Baden-Powell had built well.

In his tests for Tenderfoot, Baden-Powell had included knowledge of the Scout Law, Scout signs and salute, of the composition of the Union Jack and the right way to fly it, of four knots that many changes were the substitution of a knowledge of the United States flag and an increase of the required knots to nine.

The original Second Class tests were kept intact: one month's service as a Tenderfoot, basic first aid, elementary signaling, tracking, Scout's pace, fire-building cooking, savings, compass points — but to these were added the use of the knife and hatchet and a requirement calling for satisfactory evidence that the boy "has put into practice in his daily life the principles of the Scout Oath and Law."

The American First Class requirements also closely followed the original; swimming, savings, signaling, 14-mile hike, advanced first aid, cooking, mapping, axemanship, judging, enlisting a new boy. To these were added a requirement on American trees and wildlife and, as for Second Class, another asking for evidence that the boy had lived up to the ideals of Scouting.

While the Committee on Standardization was working on the Scout Oath and Law, the Committee on Badges, Awards, and Equipment was busy on the designing of an American Scout badge and an American uniform, and on requirements and designs for the Merit Badges.

The original Scout badge, designed by Baden-Powell, was based on the arrowhead — or fleurde-lis — that indicates the north direction of the mariner's compass. The idea in adopting this was to suggest that a Scout should be as dependable as a compass and should point the way surely. Under the arrowhead was placed a scroll with its ends turned up, and carrying the Scout motto: "Be Prepared."

The committee decided to retain this basic design, but to Americanize it by superimposing on it an American eagle and a modified American shield. The rough sketch, submitted by Dan Beard, was turned into a finished design by Clifford H. Berryman, cartoonist for a Washington newspaper. The design was granted a design patent by the U. S. Patent Office in July 4, 1911.

The committee was less successful in redesigning the uniform. Baden-Powell's original called or a colorful uniform consisting of a broad-brimmed hat, a brightly-colored neckerchief; blue khaki or gray shirt; blue or khaki shorts; brown leather belt; dark-colored or khaki stockings; brown or black shoes. The committee kept the hat only, coming up with a design based on the military uniform current at the time in the U. S. Army, with a khaki uniform coat with a high collar and four large bellows pockets, khaki breeches, khaki web belt; khaki colored, stiff canvas puttee leggings reaching to just below the knees; and brown shoes. Within a few years, this uniform was found unsuitable and the National Council reverted to the traditional Scout uniform, with the characteristic neckerchief, the comfortable shirt, shorts or breeches, and the broad-brimmed hat.

Meet . . .
YOUNG
Mr. Citizens

Those who were lucky enough to enjoy Scouting in their own youth know perhaps best of all what the nation owes to the Boy Scouts of America and its entire program.

Boy Scout Week . . . February 7-13

There Is No Better Time To Join Than Now!

STRENGTHEN AMERICA
SCOUTING CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
SCOUT WEEK
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TODAY, AS FOR THE PAST 54 YEARS, MILLIONS OF BOYS ARE LEARNING THROUGH SCOUTING THE OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN A FREE LAND. AS WE CELEBRATE THE 54th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT, WE SALUTE THE GREAT ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS TO MOULD OUR YOUTH INTO CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.

Published In Support Of The Boy Scout Movement By

HOLSHOUSERS, Inc.

A SALUTE TO YOUNG MEN WITH A GOOD MOTTO

February 7-13 is Anniversary Week of the Boy Scouts . . . Celebrating 54 years of Outstanding Achievement.

BE PREPARED

Is The Motto That Inspires Thousands Of Young American Boys In Their Scout Work And They Are Preparing For A Worthwhile Future As Outstanding Men. We Cannot Estimate The Greatness Of The Work Of This Fine Organization, But We Can Pause To Pay Tribute To Them As They Celebrate The 54th Anniversary Of Their Founding.

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STRENGTHEN AMERICA
SCOUT WEEK

1.2 Million Adults Aid Forward March

Reaching as it does today's 3,300,000 boys in all parts of the nation with its character-building and citizenship-training program, the Boy Scouts of America could not attain its great strength without the dedicated spirit of its 1,200,000 adult volunteer leaders.

Scouting is a partnership with communities and institutions. There are nearly 70,000 churches, synagogues, schools, Parent-Teacher Associations, service clubs, veterans' organizations, fraternal lodges, industry and labor groups, and other community organizations that stand behind the nation's 111,000 Scout units.

These institutions provide facilities, leadership, boys' work program, administration, and spiritual and moral purpose. The Boy Scouts of America provides camping, training, organization, the Scouting program, and Scout ideals.

Each of these units is a "service station" for youth. Most of these are in the congested metropolitan areas or at a crossroads rural school each represents an established center for the physical, mental, and spiritual development of the nation's boys.

The Piedmont Council, with headquarters in Gastonia, now serves more than 8,000 boys in 11 counties.

Mayor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 8, 1964, marks the fifty-fourth anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1916 as a program for all boys, and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America through its program of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Exploring has affected the lives of over 36,000,000 boys and volunteer adult leaders since 1910; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America now has an active enrollment of more than 5,200,000 of whom 682 are active locally within the Iredell District of the Piedmont Council; and

WHEREAS, the Scouting movement observes this anniversary under the theme, "Strengthen America . . . Be Prepared, Be Fit," with special emphasis on the physical, mental, and spiritual fitness of our youth, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I, John C. Miller, mayor of the city of Mooresville, in the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of February 7 to 13 as Scout Week and acclaim its program as contributing to the nation's first line of defense, namely, the character of its people and the oncoming generation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our citizens be urged to recognize the important role Scouting plays in the development of boys; and, further, that they appreciate and support the unselfish, patriotic service rendered to our community by the volunteer leaders of this great movement and the assistance given by religious bodies, school organizations, fraternal groups, and civic clubs that use the Scouting program for the benefit of the youth of our community in Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Explorer units.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the seal of the city of Mooresville to be affixed this 6th day of February, One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Four.

JOHN C. MILLER
Mayor

Strengthen America
THROUGH THE
BOY SCOUT PROGRAM

All Americans look upon the leaders of Cub packs, Scout troops, and Explorer units as devoted and dedicated citizens. All volunteers, their motivation is service to God and Country through boyhood. Week in and week out they are helping boys in a big way to grow physically and mentally, morally and spiritually.

Boy Scout Week . . . February 7-13

Wherever you go in our country you'll discover that Scouting's character-building and citizenship-training program is at work. Since 1910, when the movement was organized in the United States, it has grown every year in numbers, boys as well as leaders. Its work is praised by millions of citizens. They believe the more boys Scouting serves the stronger will be America and its free institutions.

We're Backing The Scouts
-- At --

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Bowden New Executive

Scouts and Scouters, may we introduce Eugene C. Bowden, of Gastonia.

Bowden recently assumed the duties of Scout executive of the Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America, succeeding Eugene Jones, who has been transferred to Florence, S. C.

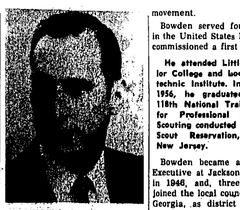
Bowden is already on the job and his family of four—wife, Opal; two sons, Mike and John; and daughter, Rita—will join him as soon as they complete arrangements in Memphis, Tenn., where they have lived for the past six years.

Prior to accepting the new work as Piedmont Council Scout executive Bowden served on the national staff, Boy Scouts of America, as assistant director of volunteer training, working in region 5 and 6, the mid-to-the southern states.

During the summer of 1963 he directed the Volunteer Training Center at Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico.

Bowden is a native of Forman, Arkansas. His Boy Scouting started in 1936 at Little Rock, Arkansas, where he attained the Eagle rank with the silver-gold palm. As a Scout he held all the junior leader posts in the Boy Scouts and was a crew leader in the Sea Scouts.

As a volunteer leader, he served in several capacities including Scoutmaster and Sea Scout First Mate before becoming a professional leader in the Boy Scout movement.



EUGENE C. BOWDEN
Council Scout Executive

Bowden served for three years in the United States Navy and was commissioned a first Lieutenant.

He attended Little Rock Junior College and Louisians Polytechnic Institute. In September, 1956, he graduated from the 118th National Training School for Professional Leaders in Scouting conducted at the Schiff Scout Reservation, Mendham, New Jersey.

Bowden became a Field Scout Executive at Jacksonville, Florida, in 1946, and, three years later, joined the local council at Atlanta, Georgia, as district Scout executive.

In February, 1954, he was selected as Scout executive at Suffolk, Virginia, where he remained until he joined the National staff, as assistant director of the volunteer training service, education division, Boy Scouts of America, in February, 1957.

During the last six years his responsibility has included the following:

Directing camping schools, directing wood badge courses, directing Philmont training conferences, assisting with National training programs, working with regional training programs, working with local council training committees, and aiding in setting up training programs for volunteer leaders in the seventy councils in Regions 5 and 6.

Building BIG MEN FOR Tomorrow's BIG JOBS

54th ANNIVERSARY

- TRUSTWORTHY
- LOYAL
- HELPFUL
- FRIENDLY
- COURTEOUS
- KIND
- OBEDIENT
- CHEERFUL
- THRIFTY
- BRAVE
- CLEAN
- REVERENT

This is a 12 word picture of a big man—a good leader, a good citizen. These are the priceless qualities that make men big—not merely in terms of ability or position or income, but big through strength of character whatever their walk in life.

These also are the principles on which the Boy Scout organization was founded just 54 years ago this week. They are the tenets of the Scout law, conceived with the faith that the best way to bring up a man with these qualities is to start when he is a boy.

That's exactly what Scouting does. It lays hold of a boy at the crucial, formative time of his life, sets a goal for him, and steers him intelligently toward that goal.

The world needs big men. It's comforting to know that such an organization exists. It's comforting to know that, thanks to the Boy Scouts, this nation has a training ground for big men . . . a constantly replenishing reservoir of tomorrow's big men, for tomorrow's big jobs.

Assisting Through Service

We, at Draymore, are appreciative of the Scouting Program and are happy for the opportunity to serve as leaders. There are 15 persons at Draymore aiding the Boy Scouts of America. We encourage all our employees to participate in the Boy Scouts as well as the other Community Projects.

Assisting Through Finance

We are also proud of the fact that we can assist the Scouting Program by supplying some of the well earned Trophys, Plaques, Troop Flags and many other needed items. The Boy Scouts know they can depend on Draymore and Draymore knows they can depend on the Boy Scouts. Again, we say thanks for the privilege.

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BOY SCOUT WEEK
February 7-13

Money alone is not enough . . .
INVEST some of YOUR TIME in SCOUTING!