

Wood Badge Supplement

To The Big Book of Worship Services

This supplement is a collection of inspirational stories and other resources for use by adult scouters in the Woodbadge training program. It may also be of interest to scoutmasters and other adult leaders for ongoing troop activities, as well as to youth scouts involved with Junior Leader Training. As with the original collection (available at the following internet web address: <http://usscouts.org/reverant/BigBookScoutRev.doc>), special thanks is due to the many scouters who have contributed material for this collection.

Also, please note that I have included some Christian material in this supplement, even though most Woodbadge services are supposed to be "inter-faith" rather than simply "non-denominational."

Yours In Scouting,

Pete Metzloff

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"I used to be a Fox."

NE-IV-124

October 2000

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Introduction: To Do My Duty to God

At the beginning of organized World Scouting, the international conference in 1924 said: "the Scout movement has no tendency to weaken but on the contrary to strengthen individual religious beliefs. The Scout Law requires that a Scout shall truly and sincerely practice his religion."

In 1957, the 16th International Conference passed a resolution that reaffirmed its faith in the fundamental principles of Scouting, putting duty to God as the first of these principles.

Entry into Scouting is entirely voluntary but the making of the Scout Oath or Promise is a condition to membership for each individual boy or man.

If we believe and accept all that has gone before in the development of Scouting, then it seems obvious that we can admit and use only those adults who are prepared to accept the principles, including the religious principles, upon which Scouting is based. Every leader has to exhibit a faith himself, encourage the carrying out of the religious obligations on the part of the boy, and guide the boy who has no religious training or opportunity from any other quarter.

It is hypocrisy to encourage boys to accept and fulfill obligations if the adult is not prepared to accept and fulfill his own. It is impossible to instill a faith into others unless you have a faith to instill.

I have sympathy and understanding for the young man who believes in Scouting but in his personal religion is still groping. I have always welcomed the spiritually active seeker who in the process of helping to run a Scout troop finds the right spiritual road for himself. The genuine seeker I know we can use, and I believe we should use him, but to deliberately allow into contact with boys the militant agnostic, the declared atheist, or the middle-age spiritual lay-about is unwarranted, unfair to boys and to their parents, and a betrayal to Scout principles.

Religious belief is our foremost rule, and if you cannot accept it then you are not eligible to take part. We are a voluntary movement, but if by voluntary we mean freedom to do and to believe according to our personal selfish desires then I want no part of it. Surely though, that is not what is meant, but freedom to join and freedom to leave, freedom to accept the principles and come in, freedom to reject them and stay out.

What can we do to train the boy? I am going to give you some suggestions, but first consider the heartfelt prayer of the small girl who said, "O God, make the nice people good and the good people nice." The thinking behind this prayer is tremendously important because unless boys see in their leaders good people who are nice (and the boy's definition of nice will not necessarily compare with your own) we are not likely to get boys to follow them.

1. Give the boy a leader who genuinely accepts the principles of Scouting.
2. Train that leader so that he has the courage of his convictions - religious and others. Advise him in the ways he can help the boy in his troop to achieve a growing understanding of his religious obligations.
3. Respect the authority of the religions of the world.
4. Use the Scout Law in the way it is designed - as a positive call to action.
5. Imbue through training a missionary spirit in our leaders that will support them in their efforts to carry Scouting to the boys who need it most. Half of the boys at the Brownsea Island Camp came out of the slums and back streets of London.

6. Show that we support the efforts of men who try to do this difficult thing, that we support them when they fail as well as applaud them when they succeed. My overriding fear is that Scouting will die of respectability, having lost the urge to attempt the difficult and ending as a rather nice middle-class movement. It is more important to be proud of what Scouting does for boyhood than to be proud of Scouting.
7. Try to show Scouters how to relate the program to the Scout Oath. Do you teach first aid in order that a boy can gain a badge, or do you teach so that the boy may be equipped to help other people and, through that service to others, fulfill part of his religious obligation? Every badge a boy wears should indicate that he is better able to fulfill his promise and should not indicate how clever he is or how clever we are to have helped him gain the badge.
8. Is the Good Turn a reality or part of a legend, and is it undertaken from a religious motive or a secular one?
9. Use the patrol leaders' council as the custodian of standards in all things, including the spiritual honor of the troop.
10. Try to bring boys into contact with the best that is in life, and at the same time, protect the boys from unnecessary temptation and contact with evil.
11. Use camping, woodcraft, and nature - and the outdoors generally - as a lead to an understanding of the wonders of the Creator.
12. Be prepared and willing to discuss with Scouts their attitude and problems in relation to God.
13. Be ready to help the seeker to find, and the doubter to resolve, his doubts.
14. Use prayers at troop meetings and in camp, carefully choose prayers that are capable of being understood by boys.
15. If it is appropriate, use a "Scouts' own" service as a bridge between spiritual ignorance and ultimate conviction.
16. Make positive efforts to relate Scouting activities to the Scout Oath.
17. Bring into the life of the troop such men (Scouters and others) who are genuinely religious and who, by their actions and presence, will draw a response from the boys.
18. Keep the Scout Oath as the basis of all practical Scouting and keep it progressive, commensurate with the age and development of each boy. The boy promises, "To do his best," not "to do," making the promise a reasonable undertaking and also a considerable challenge to try to do better today than he managed to do yesterday.

There remains one other thing that needs to be worked into everything else. This is to show a boy how to enjoy his religion, how to enjoy his relationship with God. Don't let him regard duty to God as a sort of pull that adults insist he take in order to be in Scouting. We can lead a boy to enjoyment of his religion if we show that we enjoy ours.

I have said that we must strengthen our beliefs, but I want to appeal too, that we strengthen our tolerance toward other faiths. "None has a monopoly on truth." Tolerance does not mean weakness or weakening of your own faith, for it says in effect "This is what I believe, but I respect your right to believe something different." That is not the same as tolerating the right to be spiritually lazy or to believe in nothing.

There is now a poverty of spirituality possibly greater than at any other time in Scouting's history. No nation can afford to live on the spiritual capital garnered by its forbears.

Our founder gave us a promise couched in no uncertain terms and presented in an order of descending loyalties: God, country, other people. That order remains vital. Our efforts should be aimed at its maintenance.

*By John Thurman, Camp Chief, Gilwell Park International Training Center, England
Reproduced from "Scouting" by Edward W. Hammitt*

3.6 The Golden Principle

Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves.

Baha'i Faith

Hurt not others in ways that you would you yourself would find hurtful.

Buddhism

This is the sum of all duty: treat others as you yourself would be treated.

Hinduism

No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself.

Islam

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self.

Jainism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.

Judaism

Be not estranged from another, for God dwells in every heart.

Sikhism

Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self.

Zoroastrianism

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Christianity

3.7 The Scout Beatitudes

Blessed are the Scouts who are taught to see beauty in all things around them...
for their world will be a place of grace and wonder.

Blessed are the Scouts who are led with patience and understanding...
for they will learn the strength of endurance and the gift of tolerance.

Blessed are the Scouts who are provided a home where family members dwell in harmony and close communion...

for they shall become the peacemakers of the world.

Blessed are the Scouts who are taught the value and power of truth...
for they shall search for knowledge and use it with wisdom and discernment.

Blessed are the Scouts who are guided by those with faith in a loving God...
for they will find Him early and will walk with Him through life.

Blessed are the Scouts who are loved and know that they are loved...
for they shall sow seeds of love in the world and reap joy for themselves and others.

3.8 Goodwill: The Metta Sutra Guide

Once the World-Honored One, the Buddha, spoke thus:

This must be done by him who is wise to know what is good for him, by him who has grasped the meaning of the Place of Peace.

He must be able and upright and truly straight; he must be gentle of speech and mild, and he must not have any vain conceit of self.

And he should be content, soon satisfied; he should have but few wants; he should be a person of good sense. He should be composed, discreet, not insolent, nor greedy after gifts.

He should do no mean thing for which other men who are wise may scold him.

Let no man deceive another, nor think scorn of him in any way whatever. Let him not in anger or ill will desire another's unhappiness.

Even as a mother, as long as she lives, watches over her child, her only child -- even so should one practice an all-embracing mind unto all beings.

And let a man practice a boundless goodwill for all the world, above, below, across, in every way. Let him practice unhampered goodwill, without ill-feeling or enmity.

Standing or moving, sitting or lying down, let a man practice goodwill. If he is freed from laziness, let a man establish this mindfulness of goodwill. By passing over wrongful view, by walking righteously, a man should be gifted with insight and conquer greed. For this is what men call "the highest state."

3.9 God Is...

over all things
under all things
outside all things
within but not enclosed
without, but not excluded
above, but not raised up
below, but not depressed
wholly above, presiding
wholly without, embracing
wholly within, filling.

(Hildevert of Lavardi, 11th century Thanks to the Presbyterian Record)

4.20 The Sower

Matthew 13: 1 - 9 and 18 - 23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop -- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

"Listen to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

4.21 Get Wisdom

Proverbs 3: 13-16

Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
And the man who gets understanding,
For the gain from it is better than gain from silver,
And its profit is better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
And nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
In her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
Those who hold her fast are called happy.
The Lord by wisdom founded the earth;
By understanding he established the heavens;
By His knowledge the deeps broke forth,
And the clouds drop down the dew.
My son, keep sound wisdom and discretion;
Let them not escape from your sight,
And they will be life for your soul
And adornment for your neck.
Then you will surely walk on your way securely
And your foot will not stumble.
If you sit down, you will not be afraid;
When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or of the ruin
of the wicked, when it comes;

For the Lord will be your confidence and
will keep your foot from being caught.

6.13 An Ancient Prayer

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun
a bit o' work and a bit o' fun;
give us all in th' struggle and splutter
our daily bread and a bit o' butter.
Give us health, our keep to make
an' a bit to spare for poor folks sake;
give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,
an' a heart to feel for all that suffers.
Give us, too, a bit of a song,
an' a tale, and a book to help us along,
an' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson
that we may prove how grief's a blessing.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
our goodly best for ourselves and others
till all men learn to live as brothers.
Amen.

[Found on the wall of an old Inn in Lancashire, England]

6.14 Chief Dan George's Prayer

O Great Spirit! Whose voice I hear in the wind,
whose breath gives life to the world ... hear me.

I come to you as one of your many children ...
I am small and weak, I need your strength and your wisdom.

May I walk in beauty.

Make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset,
make my hands respect the things that you have made,
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may know the things.
You have taught your children, in every leaf and rock.

Make me strong, not to be suspect to my brothers
but to be able to fight my greatest enemy ... myself.

Make me ever ready to come to You with straight eyes,
so, that when life fades, as the faded sunset,
my spirit will come to You without shame.

6.15 A Parent's Prayer

I pray that I may let my child live his own life and not the one I wish I had lived. Therefore, guard me against burdening him with doing what I failed to do.

Help me to see his missteps today in perspective against the long road he must travel, and grant me the grace to be patient when his pace seems to be slow.

Give me the wisdom to know when to smile at the small mischiefs of his age and when to show firmness against the impulses he fears and cannot handle.

Help me to hear the anguish in his heart through the din of angry words or across the gulf of brooding silence; and, having heard, grant me the ability to bridge the gap between us with understanding.

I pray that I may raise my voice more in joy at what he is than in vexation at what he is not, so that each day he may grow in sureness of himself.

Help me to regard him with genuine affection so that he will feel affection for others. Then give me strength, O Lord, to free him so he can move strongly on his way.

*Ken Walker, CM P-200, ASM T-259
District Training Committee
Circle 10 Council/Great Plains District - Plano, TX*

6.16 The Wood Badge Prayer

Great Spirit,
Thank you for guiding me to Gilwell.
Thank you for my Animal Spirit Guide [coach counselor] and for those who share it with me.

Great Spirit I am Afraid.
As I have climbed your mountain, I have learned Wisdom.

But as I look at my Guides, I ask myself:
Can I ever have the Sincerity of my Troop Guide?

Can I ever have the Ageless Wisdom of the Instructor?
Can I ever have the Fatherly Love of the Scoutmaster?

How can I ever mean as much to others as they mean to me.
As I look down the mountain at those who seek my guidance,
I feel unworthy.

When I look up to the clouds and see the Spirit in the Quartermaster,
I wonder if I can Care so much for so long.

Great Spirit, I will not let my fear cause me to fail.
But I know I will need help.

Grant my heart wings, that I may soar with the Songmaster.

Grant me Charity, that I may wear the caring smile of the Assistant Scoutmaster.

Grant me Strength, that I may show the confident Leadership of the Senior Patrol Leader.

Grant me these, Great Spirit, and I will carry this Learning to every young man who looks up his mountain and to me his Guide.

I will share your Wisdom all of my days, until I join my Wood Badge Guides again and we walk with Impessa through the Lea of Gilwell.

Daniel Flynn
Wood Badge Course C-35-98.

6.17 A Scoutmaster's Prayer

A little boy came knocking at my Scout room door,
An awfully little fellow, just twelve and no more.
His eyes danced as he watched my gang at rowdy play.
"I would like to be a Scout," he said, "I'm 12 just yesterday."

In the weeks to come he found his place, a trim young Scout he made.
The tests he passed with eagerness, a thorough job sure paid.
The oath, the laws, the knots and flag were taken to his heart.
A better man he was sure to be tho he'd just begun to start.

By the candle-lighted darkness I watched his round face beam
As the oath and law he pledged to keep – just like a prayer it seemed.

The years to come were happy ones as we followed on the trail –
that greater men had laid for us, far up where eagles sail.
I watched him grow from boy to man, the days were far too few,
To try and teach the important things that Scouting said were true.

He thanked me once for what I did so many years ago.
It was not his thanks that paid me because he did not know
that greater thanks he'd given me a thousand times before
by his dancing eyes and smiling face – could one ask for more?

There are other boys a-knocking, I must invite them in.
Please, God, give me strength to make them better men.

Buch Burshears, Scoutmaster Koshare Indian Dancers, La Junta, Colorado

6.18 Evening Prayer

Lord, in the quiet of the evening,
come into our hearts as we lie down to rest,
and help us to know that, in camping outdoors,
we need not fear. For surely, You are with us.

The Outlook, B.C./Yukon

7.11 Faith - The Mountain Climber

They tell the story of a mountain climber, who desperate to conquer a high mountain, initiated his climb after years of preparation. But he wanted all the glory to himself, therefore, he went up alone. He started climbing and it was becoming later, and later. He did not prepare for camping but decided to keep on going. Soon it got dark...

Night fell with heaviness at a very high altitude. Visibility was zero. Everything was black. There was no moon, and the stars were covered by clouds. As he was climbing a ridge at about 100 meters from the top, he slipped and fell. Falling rapidly he could only see blotches of darkness that passed. He felt a terrible sensation of being sucked in by gravity.

He kept falling....and in those anguishing moments good and bad memories passed through his mind. He thought certainly he would die. But then he felt a jolt that almost tore him in half. Yes, like any good mountain climber he had staked himself with a long rope tied to his waist. In those moments of stillness, suspended in the air he had no other choice but to shout, "HELP ME GOD, HELP ME!" All of a sudden he heard a deep voice from heaven..."What do you want me to do?" "SAVE ME" "Do you REALLY think that I can save you?" "OF COURSE, MY GOD."

"Then cut the rope that is holding you up." There was another moment of silence and stillness. The man just held tighter to the rope. The rescue team says that the next day they found, a frozen mountain climber hanging strongly to a rope...

... TWO FEET OFF THE GROUND.

7.12 The Devil's Sale

There is a story that the devil once announced he was going out of business and offered to sell his tools to anyone who would pay the price. On the night of the sale, the tools were all attractively displayed. And they were a nasty looking lot-- malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, deceit-- each marked with a price tag. A little off from the rest lay a harmless looking wedge-shaped tool, much worn, and priced higher than any of the others.

"What is it?" someone asked the devil.

"That's discouragement," he replied.

"Why is it priced so high?" the prospective customer asked.

"Because," said the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a person with it when I could never get near him with any of the others. Once inside, I can use the person in whatever way suits me best. That's why it is so worn, you see. I use it with nearly everybody, because few people yet know that it belongs to me."

It is probably not necessary to add that the devil's price for this tool was so high that there were no bidders. And he is using it still today.

Colin McKay in Scouting (U.K.) magazine

7.13 Everybody's Canoe...

A young Indian brave was busy at work carving a canoe out of a log. As he worked, members of the tribe passed by. Everybody had a piece of advice to offer the young man.

"I think you are making your canoe too wide," one of them said. The young brave, wishing to show respect for the advice of an elder, narrowed down the canoe.

A little later, another warrior stopped by. "I'm afraid you are cutting the stern too full," he said. Again, the young brave listened to his elder and cut down the stern.

Very soon, yet another member of the tribe stopped, watched awhile, then said, "The bow is too sheer." The young brave accepted this advice as well and changed the line of the bow.

Finally the canoe was complete and the young brave launched it. As soon as it hit the water, it capsized. Laboriously he hauled it back onto the beach. Then he found another log and began to work anew.

Very soon, a member of his tribe stopped by to offer some advice, but this time the young brave was ready. "See that canoe over there?" he asked, pointing to the useless craft on the beach. "That is everybody's canoe." Then he nodded at the work in progress. "This one," he said, "is my canoe."

7.14 Consider the flashlight

Equipment needed: Flashlight, a paper grocery bag and darkness.

Consider the flashlight...

Think how useful it is as we find our way along the trail at night or prepare to bed down in our tents.

Consider the batteries in our flashlight. If we keep them too long or use them too much, eventually they lose their power and our light dims beyond usefulness.

Consider that if we have only one flashlight for a group of people, only the one person holding the light determines what we will see or what direction we will proceed. If we have many lights, we have many possibilities and choices to make.

Also notice that if everyone holds his light high at the same time, the light fills an area larger than if everyone holds their light low. Notice how the group benefits from the light held high.

Consider what happens if we put our light inside a paper bag and turn it on. We can see what is inside the bag very well but can not see things outside the bag well at all because the bag cuts the light. Sometimes it is important to see inside the bag. Sometimes it is important to see outside the bag.

The flashlight is like us, like people. We are most useful and helpful to others when we are outside the bag and in groups.

The batteries are like our beliefs and our ideas. Sometimes they need recharging or replacing in order for the light to remain useful.

The bag represents some of the choices we make about sharing ourselves with others. How will you hold your light? How long will your batteries last? How many bags do you bring along and is there anything worth finding inside?

...Consider the flashlight.

7.15 The Eagle and the Prairie Chickens

The Indian brave was walking by the cliffs when he stumbled across an eagle egg. He picked it up, turned his gaze upward, shook his head, and knew that he could not climb the cliff to return the egg to its nest. He searched until he found the nest of a prairie chicken and placed the egg in with the prairie chicken eggs. The eagle hatched and stayed on the ground with the prairie chickens scratching in the dirt for bugs and worms and seeds and never flying more than ten or fifteen feet, not knowing within its heart it had the ability to soar the skies.

One day a mighty eagle was soaring the skies when the little eagle looked up and exclaimed, "Wow, what kind of bird is that!" The prairie chickens hollered out, "Shut up! That's the mighty eagle. You'll never soar like that. Keep scratching in the dirt for bugs, worms and seeds."

So the little eagle spent its life only flying a few feet from place to place on the ground as it scratched in the dirt for bugs and worms and seed with the rest of the prairie chickens. Finally, it died, not knowing that within it had the ability to soar like the eagle, but lived its life listening to the prairie chickens around it, and all it did was scratch in the dirt for bugs and worms and seed.

How many times do we listen to the prairie chickens in our lives when within us we have the ability to soar with the eagles? We would like to be challenged and soar, but the prairie chickens say, "You can't soar. Be happy to scratch in the dirt for bugs and worms and seeds." They say you're dumb, you're stupid, you can't do that. We listen, turn our heads and thoughts back to the ground and scratch in the dirt for bugs and worms and seeds.

Meanwhile, back at the eagles' nest what has gone on there? The eagles built the nest out of sticks that are not at all comfortable to lay on, so to make it a soft and a suitable place to raise their young the eagles pull the soft downy feathers from their breasts and line the nest with these so that the little eaglets will have a nice soft warm place to grow up. Time has passed. The eaglets are now teenagers. They are kicked back watching MTV and hitting the icebox and pantry for drinks and chips.

Deuteronomy 32:11 says, "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions..." What happens is that Mom comes in and starts pulling out the soft downy feathers, tossing them to the wind. All of a sudden it is not such a soft place any more. The little ones are squirming and hollering, "Ouch!" The mother eagle then stirreth her nest, which is to say she kicks the little darlings out of the nest. They are now on the edge of the cliff by the nest. They look waaaaaaaaaay down! Momma eagle walks behind one of them and gives him a kick. Off he goes falling, falling, screaming, "Aaaaaaa aaaaakkkk!" flapping and a flopping, falling hundreds of feet. The ground is rushing up, and it looks like the little one will be splattered on the rocks below. When right at the last moment the mother eagle swoops down, clasp the little eaglet in her great talons, and returns the little one to

the cliff. With huge eyes and its heart pounding the little eagle looks up at its mom, and screams, "Don't ever do that again!!!!"

But guess what! Mother eagle knows that if the little ones are going to soar then they need to be pushed and challenged. Sure enough. she gives him another push, and another, and another until at last, the eaglets begin to soar with great exuberance.

We as Scouters need to be pushed and challenge so that we can do the same for our scouts. We must be careful not to be scratching in the dirt for bugs and worms and seeds, nor should we let our scouts scratch in the dirt with the prairie chicken for bugs and worms and seeds when they have within them the potential to soar with the Eagles.

J. Phil Gilbreath

7.16 Climbing The Mountain

Afar in our dry southwestern country is an Indian village, and in the offing is a high mountain, towering up out of the desert. It is considered a great feat to climb this mountain. So that all the boys of the village were eager to attempt it. One day the Chief said; "Now boys you may all go today and try to climb the mountain. Start right after breakfast, and go each of you as far as you can. Then when you are tired, come back; but let each one bring me a twig from the place where he turned." Away they went full of hope each feeling that he surely could reach the top. But soon a fat, pudgy boy came slowly back, and in his hand he held out to the Chief a leaf of cactus. The Chief smiled and said, "My boy, you did not reach the foot of the mountain, you did not even get across the desert."

Later, a second boy returned. He carried a twig of sagebrush. "Well," said the Chief, "You reached the mountain's foot but you did not clime upward." The next had a cottonwood spray. "Good", said the Chief, "You got up as far as the springs."

Another came later with some buckthorn. The Chief smiled when he saw it and spoke thus: "You were climbing; you were up to the first slide rock." Late in the afternoon, one arrived with a cedar spray, and the old man said, "Well done. You went half way up."

An hour afterward, one came with a switch of pine. To him the Chief said, "Good, you went to the third belt; you made it three quarters of the climb." The sun was low when the last returned. He was a tall, splendid boy of noble character. His hand was empty as he approached the Chief, but his countenance was radiant, and he said: "My father, there were no trees where I got to; there were no twigs, but I saw the shining sea."

Now the old man's face glowed, too, as he said aloud and almost sang: "I knew it. When I looked on your face, I knew it. You have been to the top. You need no twigs for token. It is written in your eyes, and rings in your voice. My boy, you have felt the uplift, you have seen the glory of the mountain."

Scouts, keep this in mind, then: the badges that we offer for attainment are not "prizes." Prizes are things of value taken by violence from their rightful owners. These are merely tokens of what you have done or where you have been. They are mere twigs from the trail to show how far you got in climbing the mountain.

From Woodland Tales, by Ernest Thompson Seton

7.17 Our Spiritual Compass

For Scouts on a hike or canoe trip, a compass is an important tool. Because it gives you a stable reference point (magnetic north), you can set a course and follow it. As long as your compass is accurate and you don't damage it, it will serve you faithfully. If you trust it.

Our faith or spirituality is something like that. We have a point of reference that does not change, God. And we have a compass, so to speak, in our relationship with God. It's something we have learned and continue to learn about, just as we learn to use a compass properly.

We use our spirituality and faith to get us through this grand journey we call life. If we are prepared to trust the things we have learned about God and creative living, our spirituality can guide us through the joys and temptations of life. We can use it to show us what service we may give and what potential dangers to stay away from. We can use it to guide us in our friendships, in our work, in what we say to people and about people, and in how we treat our natural world.

Scouter Rob Brown, N. Saskatchewan Region

7.18 Big Rocks

One day, an expert in time management was speaking to a group of high-power, overachiever business students and, to drive home a point, he used an illustration. He said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide mouth mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?"

Everyone in the class said: "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the space between the big rocks.

Then he asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" By this time the class was on to him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is the jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted. Once again he said "Good." Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, "Now, what is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is this: if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."

So my question for you this morning is: "What are the 'big rocks' in your life?" Time with your loved ones? Your faith, your education, your dreams? A worthy cause? Teaching or mentoring others?

Whatever they are, put them in your jar first.

7.19 An interview with God

(Could be done effectively "theater style" between two speakers, "A" and "B.")

A: I dreamed I had an interview with God.

B: "Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"

A: "If you have the time," I said. God smiled and said,

B: "My time is eternity and is enough to do everything. What questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

A: "What surprises you most about mankind?" God answered,

B: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived."

A: God's hands took mine and we were silent for while and then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

B: God replied with a smile, "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved. To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis. To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally different. To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them, and likes them anyway. To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves."

A: I sat there for a while enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for His time and for all that He has done for me and my family, and He replied,

B: "Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I'll answer."

A: People will forget what you said,
People will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Chuck Bramlet WEM-10-95
ASM Troop 323, Phoenix, Az.

7.20 THE TRIAL

After living a "decent" life, my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a courthouse. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table. As I looked around I saw the "prosecutor," he was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat my lawyer, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed very familiar to me.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as he moved across the room. I couldn't take my eyes off of him. As he took his seat behind the bench he said, "Let us begin." The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in Hell." He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole and the times in the past when I cheated others.

Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own lawyer, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently, not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I've done?

Satan finished with a fury and said "This man belongs in Hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise."

When it was his turn, my lawyer first asked if he might approach the bench. The judge allowed this, over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned him to come forward. As he got up and started walking, I was able to see him now in his full splendor and majesty. Now I realized why he seemed so familiar, this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior. He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge "Hi Dad" and then he turned to address the court. "Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And yes, the wage of sins is death and this man deserves to be punished." Jesus took a deep breath and turned to his Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life. He has accepted me as his Savior, so he is mine." My Lord continued with "His name is written in the Book of Life and no one can snatch him from me. Satan still does not understand yet, this man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy."

As Jesus sat down, he quietly paused, looked at his Father and replied, "There is nothing else that needs to be done, I've done it all."

The Judge lifted his mighty hand and slammed the gavel down and the following words bellowed from his lips, "This man is free – the penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord led me away I could hear Satan ranting and raving, "I won't give up, I'll win the next one!" I asked Jesus as he gave me my instructions on where to go next, "Have you ever lost a case?" Christ lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone that has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you . . . Paid in Full."

9.38 The Story of "Taps"

It all began in 1862, during the Civil War, when a Union Army Captain named Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, in Virginia.

The Confederate army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a single soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field, in no-man's land between the picket lines. Something made him particularly want to help this soldier. Not knowing if he was a Union or Confederate, the Captain decided to risk his own life and bring the stricken man back to the Union lines for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the sporadic gunfire, Captain Ellicombe reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him towards his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier and what is more, the soldier was already dead. The Captain lit a lantern.

Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he finally saw the face of the soldier and realized it was his own son!

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the son had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. The request was denied. However, in deference to his rank and heroism in rescuing the soldier, the Captain's superiors did allow him a token gesture.

He had asked if he could have a group of Union Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son during the funeral. This was the request that was turned down, since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, the Captain's superiors said he could have one and only one musician.

The Captain chose a bugle, the simplest of all musical instruments. He requested the bugler to play a few musical notes composed by his musical son that he had found on a scrap of paper inside the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This modest request was granted.

Those few notes were the haunting melody we know as "Taps," the tune that is now used at all military funerals.

11.11 A Scouting Benediction

Wood and water ... wind and tree,
Wisdom ... Strength ... and courtesy,
Scouting's spirit go with thee.

11.12 A Zulu Farewell

Go well and safely, go well and safely, Go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.
Stay well and safely, stay well and safely, Stay well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

14.5 America: The Good Neighbor

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States. When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it. When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans. I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American Planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon not once, but several times – and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."

Stand proud, America!

14.6 I Am An American

(As an opening ceremony, just after the presentation of the flags, with speaking parts for 12 scouts)

1st scout: My country gives each one of us the opportunity to advance according to his ambition. Education is for all. I am an American.

2nd scout: My country means love of freedom, faith in democracy, justice and equality. I am an American.

3rd scout: My country believes in the moral worth of the common man. I am an American.

4th scout: My country gives us the privilege of expressing beliefs or opinions without fear of persecution. I am an American.

5th scout: My country has the best form of government. It is our duty to keep it that way. I am an American.

6th scout: My country promises life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I am an American.

7th scout: My country gives privileges that we shall protect and defend even with our lives. I am an American.

8th scout: My country is and always shall remain the land of the free and the home of the brave. I am an American.

9th scout: My country offers a living Americanism that demands an informed, intelligent, and active citizenship. I am an American.

10th scout: My country meets any need or suffering with it's abiding love and loyalty. I am an American.

11th scout: My country is the servant -- not the master. I am an American.

12th scout: My country possess a Statue of Liberty whose torch shall burn as long as we keep it alight with our devotion to the freedom of the individual. I am an American.

Master of Ceremonies: Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

14.7 Ragged Old Flag

I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
I said, "Your old courthouse is kind of run down."
He said, "Nah, it will do for our little town."
I said, "Your old flag pole is leaned a little bit.
And that's a ragged old flag you got hanging on it."
He said, "Have a seat." And I sat down.
"Is this the first time you've been to our town?"
I said, "I think it is."
He said, "I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that ragged old flag."

You see we got a little hole in that flag there;
When Washington took it across the Delaware.
And it got powder burns the night that Francis Scott Key
Sat watching and writing 'Oh, say can you see'
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans;
With Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams.
But it almost fell at the Alamo,
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on though.
She got cut by a sword at Chancellorsville.
She got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,
And the South wind blew hard on that ragged old flag.

On Flanders Field in World War One;
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
She turned blood red in World War Two.
She hung limp and low a time or two.
She was in Korea, Vietnam,
She was on "The Line in the Sand."

She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waved from our ships upon the briny foam.
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.
In her own good land here, she's been abused.
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused.
And the government for which she stands,
Is scandalized throughout the land.

And she's getting threadbare and she's wearing thin;
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
'Cause she's been through the fire before,
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.
So we raise her up every morning, we take her down every night.
We don't let her touch the ground and fold her up right.
On second thought, I DO like to brag;
"Cause I'm mighty proud of that ragged old flag!"

By Johnny Cash

15.01 The Bridge Builder

An old man traveling a long highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You're wasting your time in building here.
"Your journey will end with the closing day;
"You never again will pass this way.
"You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
"Why build you this bridge at even tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said.
"There followeth after me today,
"A youth whose feet must pass this way.
"This stream which has been as naught to me,
"To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
"He, too, must cross in the twilight dim--
"Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

15.02 The Scoutmaster

There isn't any pay for you, you serve without reward,
The boys who tramp the fields with you but little could afford,
And yet your pay is richer far than those who toil for gold,
For in a dozen different ways your service shall be told.
You'll read it in the faces of a troop of growing boys,
You'll read it in the pleasure of a dozen manly joys,
And down the distant future - you will surely read it then,
Emblazoned through the service of a band of loyal men.
Five years of willing labor and of brothering a troop,
Five years of trudging highways, with the Indian cry and whoop,
Five years of camp fires burning, not alone for pleasure's sake,
But the future generation which the boys are soon to make.
They have no gold to give you, but when age comes on to you,
They'll give you back the splendid things you taught them how to do,
They'll give you rich contentment and a thrill of honest pride,
And you'll see your nation prosper, and you'll all be satisfied.

Edgar R. Guest

15.03 Take A Woodbadge Walk With Me

God, Take a Woodbadge walk with me,
And see what I've discovered;
An inner strength I hadn't known,
new skills that I've uncovered.

My body may feel tired now
But my spirit soars on wings
As I reflect on all we've done
And heard, and felt, and seen.

Thank you for new friendships made
And old bonds now renewed,
And help me live the Oath and Law
In all I say and do.

As I depart from Gilwell Field
With ticket firm in hand,
Lord, help me do the best I can
To help my fellow man.

For my journey does not end today,

In fact, it's just the start,
So take a Woodbadge walk with me
And hold me in Your heart.

by Diane Miller
NE-IV-124
September 20, 2000

15.04 One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village,
the child of a peasant woman.
He grew up in another obscure village,
where he worked in a carpenter shop
until he was thirty. Then for three years
he was an itinerant preacher.

He never set foot inside a big city.
He never traveled two hundred miles
from the place he was born.
He never wrote a book,
or held an office.
He did none of these things
that usually accompany greatness.

While he was still a young man,
the tide of popular opinion
turned against him.
His friends deserted him.
He was turned over to his enemies,
and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross
between two thieves.
While he was dying,
his executioners gambled
for the only piece of property he had - his coat.
When he was dead,
he was taken down
and laid in a borrowed grave.

Twenty centuries have come and gone,
and today He is the central figure
for much of the human race.
All the armies that ever marched,
and all the navies that ever sailed,
and all the parliaments that ever sat,
and all the kings that ever reigned,
put together have not affected the life of man
upon this earth as powerfully as this

"... One Solitary Life."

15.05 Take Time To Pray

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems came tumbling about me;
And heavier came each task,
Why doesn't God help? I wondered,
He answered "you didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak,
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said "but you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence,
I used all my keys at the lock,
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day,
I had so much to accomplish,
That I had to take time to pray.

*Margaret Frost
Northfield, Ohio*

16.01 On Character

Character cannot be summoned at the moment of crisis if it has been squandered by years of compromise and rationalization. The only testing ground for the heroic is the mundane. The only preparation for that one profound decision which can change a life, or even a nation, is those hundreds of half-conscious, self-defining, seemingly insignificant decisions made in private. Habit is the daily battleground of character.

Senator Dan Coats

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But, if you must choose only one, choose character.

General Normal Schwarzkopf

Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries.

James A. Michener

Character is largely a matter of environment and training and, later on, of experience. It is by the character of its citizens, not by the force of its arms, that a country rises superior to others.

Lord Baden-Powell

Character is the one thing we make in this world and take with us into the next.

Ezra Taft Benson

Character is what you are willing to do when the spotlight has been turned off, the applause has died down and no one is around to give you credit.

Unknown

Character is what you do when no one is looking.

Unknown

16.02 Action

It is not the critic who counts,
not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled,
or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena;
whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;
who strives valiantly;
who errs and comes up short again and again;
who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions,
and spends himself in a worthy cause;
who, at the best knows the triumph of high achievement;
and who, at the worst, if he fails,
at least fails while daring greatly,
so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls
who know neither victory nor defeat.

-- *Theodore Roosevelt*

16.03 Ten Commandments of Human Relations

1. Speak to people - there is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people - it takes sixty-five muscles to frown, only fifteen to smile.
3. Call people by name - the sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of their own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful - if you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial - speak and act as if everything that you do is a real pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people - you can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise - cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others - it will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others - there are three sides to a controversy; yours, the other person's, and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service - what counts most in life is what we do for others.

16.04 Give or Take?

In Israel, there are two major bodies of water. Both of these bodies of water are fed by the waters of the River Jordan.

One is the Sea of Galilee, which is full of fish, and is surrounded by lush vegetation and trees. It is a living body in every sense.

The other is the Dead Sea. There is nothing green there, there are no fish, and the sea is stagnant and dead.

The difference is that the Sea of Galilee overflows. For every gallon of water that flows into the sea, a gallon is given up and is passed on downstream. The Sea of Galilee is constantly renewing itself. It gives as much as it takes.

The Dead Sea, on the other hand, because of its geography, only takes. It gives up nothing. The water there is never cleansed, it stagnates and dies. And everything depending on it dies also.

Some people say that there are two kinds of people in the world -- those that constantly give of themselves (who help other people at all times), and those that only take.

"Those that only take, eat well.
But those who give, sleep well."

Marlin Price

16.05 A Careless Word

Once there was a man who said some things about a friend that were neither true nor complimentary. Afterwards, he felt ashamed and went to his friend and apologized. Still, as he walked around town, he could hear the false words being repeated. Troubled by this, he went to the wisest man in the community.

"How can I undo this terrible wrong that I did", he asked the wise man. The wise man thought for a moment and said, "Bring me a feather pillow." The man did so and quickly returned. "Now go to the hilltop outside of town, slit open the pillowcase, and shake it until all of the feathers are gone."

Again, the man quickly did as he was instructed. When he returned to the wise man, the wise man said, "Now go and pick up every single feather and place them all back into the pillowcase." The man replied, "But that's impossible. There is no way that I can find all those feathers and put them back." "Indeed," answered the wise man, "and there is no way to gather back the words that you cast into the air either."

And so it is. Once we speak, we can never gather the words back into the pillowcase. So it is important to think about what we are going to say before we cast our words into the wind.

Alan Houser

16.06 A Burden to Carry

There is an old story of the missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh. He was traveling through the Himalayas with a Monk in the bitter cold. Night was coming and the Monk said, "If we don't reach the monastery by nightfall, we are in danger of freezing to death." Just as they reached a narrow path, they heard the cries of a man who had fallen over the edge. The Monk said, "Do not stop. God has brought him to his fate. He must work it out himself."

Sadhu replied, "God sent me here to help my brother. I cannot abandon him." The Monk went on and Sadhu climbed down a steep path. When he found the man, he saw that his leg was broken and he could not walk. Sadhu made a sling from his blanket and tied the man to his back. He then began a body torturing climb. He made his way through the deepening snow. It was dark and it was all he could do to follow the path. He persevered, and faint with exhaustion, he

finally saw the lights of the Monastery. As he moved toward the light, he stumbled for the first time and nearly fell. He did not stumble from exhaustion, but over an object. As he brushed the snow off the object, he looked down and saw that it was the body of the Monk.

Years later when a student asked him, "What is life's most difficult task?" he replied, "To have no burden to carry."

16.07 When night ends...

"How can we determine the hour of dawn - when the night ends and the day begins?" the rabbi asked of his students.

"When, from a distance, you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?" one of his students suggested.

"No" the rabbi answered.

"Is it when you can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?" another student asked.

"No" he replied.

"Please tell us the answer, then" said the students.

"It is when you can look into the face of a human being and have enough light to recognize in him as your brother," the wise teacher replied.

"Until then, it is night, and the darkness is still with us."

16.08 An Attitude For Today

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight.

I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy, or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health, or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up, or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns, or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work, or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school, or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework, or I can feel honored because God has provided shelter for my mind, body and soul.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

So, have a great day! ... unless you have other plans.

16.09 Lessons Learned From Reading Ann Landers

- You are responsible for your own happiness. No one can make you feel inferior unless you allow them to do it.
- People won't stay mad at you long if you can say, "I was wrong, and I am truly sorry. I hope you will forgive me."
- When something is troubling you, tell someone you trust instead of trying to cover it up. You will be surprised to learn that the other person has been through something similar.
- Don't pass up an opportunity to tell people you care about them. You may never get another chance.
- Reserve judgment until you know all the facts. Even then, keep your mouth shut if no useful purpose is served by adding your two cents' worth.
- Be grateful for your good health and the health of those you love. Be aware that without good health, money and success mean little.
- If you enjoy your work and your life, you are rich. If you aren't happy with either, how can money help?
- If you are having a rotten day, don't take it out on those around you. Simply say to yourself, "Today is a rotten day. Tomorrow will be better." That attitude will improve your disposition as well as your digestive system.
- Spend time with your children. It's the best investment you will ever make.
- Don't be afraid to try something you think you can't do. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- There's no such thing as the perfect man or woman. Look for the best overall package of kindness, consideration, ambition and intelligence. Otherwise, you will spend your life alone.
- You can respect and learn from people, even if you don't like them. Be aware that you can learn something from everyone, because every person in the world knows something you don't know.

*Nancy Line Jacobs
Omaha, Neb.*

16.10 On Peace and Understanding

Every moment, a child is born somewhere on earth. At the same time as you were born, another child was also born in another country. You knew no prejudices, no hatred or envy. As you grew, you began to discover borders. You learned what is "home" and what is "far away."

You found that borders are important to us. They make us feel safe, if we are on the right side. Sometimes it could be exciting to try the borders. What is on the other side? Are the apples more tasty there?

Most borders are invented by human beings. Through the years, people have hurt one another and our planet by disagreeing, arguing, and fighting wars about borders.

In Scouting, we have friends all over the world. There are 26 million Guides and Scouts and, even if we don't know them all, we have something very important in common, in spite of borders and different backgrounds.

We have a lot to share and teach each other. Everyone can do something to make the world more peaceful; together we can do something great.

Swedish Guide and Scout Association

16.11 Around the Campfire

Kneel always when you light a fire;
Kneel reverently and thankful be,
For God's unfailing charity.
Tall trees that reach the sky,
Mountains and lakes nearby;
Draw near my friends,
Come sing, my friends,
Our campfire time is nigh.
The fire is lit, come lift your voice;
Let song and skit beguile the hours;
The fire is lit, so let's rejoice,
Our hearts are full, the night is ours.

16.12 Like a Spider's Web

Peace is like a spider's web,
Vulnerable yet indestructible;
Tear it and it will be rewoven;
Peace does not despair.
Begin to weave a web of peace;
Start in the center
And make peace with yourself
And your God.
Take the thread outwards
And build peace within your family,

Your community,
And in the circle of those you find hard to like.
Then stretch your concern into all the world.
Weave a web of peace and do not despair.

(from Scouting (UK) magazine)

16.13 If Only...

Won Lee was a stone cutter who lived in ancient China. He cut large stones and he cut small stones. He made them into ornaments for gardens. Some he cut to build houses. He was proud of his work, but sometimes he would think, "If only I had more money" or "If only I had less work." One day, Won Lee was walking home from work. The sun was very hot and he was tired, so he sat down at the side of the road. He felt the heat of the sun and thought, "It's the sun that gives us the daylight, the warmth to grow our crops. Surely the sun must be the most powerful of all things."

Won Lee said quietly to himself, "God, if only I could be the sun I would love to feel what it is like to be the most powerful, the greatest of all things." God answered Won Lee. "You may become the sun," He said. And Won Lee became the sun. He felt wonderful; so strong and powerful. He shone down on the world far below. After a few days, a puffy white cloud appeared in the sky. It drifted about and, when it came near Won Lee, it blotted out his rays and cast a shadow on the world. Won Lee was sad. Surely this cloud was more powerful than he? "If only I were the cloud. That would make me the greatest of all things," he said.

God heard and again He answered: "Won Lee, you may become the cloud." So Won Lee floated about the sky feeling very grand. One day, Won Lee saw a great black cloud coming his way. Soon it surrounded him, and he saw the black cloud dripping droplets of water. The drops fell on the earth and made a mighty river. Won Lee thought that this black cloud must be very powerful to swallow up a cloud and turn itself into a river, so he said, "If only I were the river. How mighty I would be. Then I would be truly happy."

Again God heard and answered: "Okay. You may be the river." So Won Lee flowed along, feeling the mighty rush of water. Then he came to a bend in the river. There was a great boulder jutting out into the river. The great boulder held the river, swirling it back onto itself. Won Lee thought, "The rock! The rock! At last I have found the mightiest of all things. If this rock can hold back the raging river, then it is the greatest. If only I were this great big rock, I would be happy."

So God made Won Lee into the boulder and he stood there, holding back the water and feeling very great and happy. Then, one day, along came a man who cut a large piece off the boulder. Won Lee was sad. No longer was he the greatest if this man could come along and cut him up. "If only I could be the man who cut up the stone, I would surely be the greatest," Won Lee thought.

And God said to Won Lee: "But you are the Stone Cutter!"

(With thanks to Australian Scout magazine.)

16.14 A Man on a Hill

A time ago, a man on a hill had a thought. What could he do to help his country, his world? The thought became a plan, and 20 boys sailed off to Brownsea Island. By 1909, those 20 had become thousands of boys and girls, men and women. The plan was now a course of action.

Years later, in the midst of battle, a soldier spares his enemy and tends his wounds, because both are Scouts. The course of action is something more. Wells are dug, schools are built. Many people share, help without fanfare. because that thought is now a way of life. From that one thought stretches a web of hands, young and not-so young, male and female, all faiths, all peoples. We are an important link in the encircling net. What will we do with our small share of the thought? Whose hand will we, in turn, grasp?

(Scouter Shanie, 902nd Toronto Cubs)

16.15 Only One -- The Starfish

A man is walking on the beach and sees another man throwing something back into the ocean. When he gets closer, he notices that the man is throwing a starfish, one at a time, back into the ocean. The first man looks around and sees thousands of starfish everywhere on the beach. He says to the man, "what are you doing?" The man says, "I'm throwing these starfish back in the ocean so they won't die." The first man says, "you can't possibly save all of them. There are so many of them. There is no way that you can make a difference. Who cares?" After the man throws back another starfish, he says, "Made a difference to that one".

You never know in which child's life you can make a difference.

Moral: I am only one person, so I can't change everything in this world. But, I am one person and I can change some things.

16.16 Thoughts on Camping

Have you ever thought how a camp helps your boys to practice living the Scout law?

For example, trustworthiness. There's hardly any place where things are as open and available as a camp, if a fellow wanted to steal. But somehow the camp atmosphere helps a Scout to be trustworthy.

A Scout demonstrates loyalty every time the flag is lowered at camp.

And where else offers as many opportunities for him to be helpful? Other Scouts need help on achievements; new campers need encouragement; some boys need a lift here and there. How about friendliness? Well, every once in a while a fellow in camp needs a friend -- the kind of friend his fellow Scouts can be to him.

A Scout finds chances to be courteous any time, anywhere. At camp there are chances to be kind to animals. And courtesy is involved in treating the outdoors and the campsite with respect.

Obedience is important in many camp activities; swimming, boating, canoeing.

Finally, there's no place like camp to bring out the cheerful spirits of boys.

B.-P. summarized the values of camping when he said: "It is in camp that the Scoutmaster has his opportunity for inculcating under pleasant means the four main points of training; character,

service for others, skill and bodily health. But beside all, it is his golden chance to bring the boy to God through the direct appeal of Nature and her store of wonders."

(Adapted from the Scouter's Five Minutes, and from B.-P.'s Outlook.)

16.17 Scouting Heritage

A Look at 100 Boys That Join Scouting:

- 12 will receive their first time religious contact
- 5 will earn their religious emblem
- 2 will enter the clergy
- 18 will develop hobbies that will last a lifetime
- 8 will enter a career based on Merit Badges work
- 17 will become Scout volunteers
- 1 will use Scouting skills to save the life of another person
- 1 will use Scouting skills to save his own life
- 28 will continue lifelong hobbies started in Scouting
- 2 will attain the rank of EAGLE

Were you aware that Boy Scout Alumni include:

- 63% of Air Force Academy graduates
- 68% of West Point graduates
- 70% of Annapolis graduates
- 72% of Rhodes Scholars
- 85% of FBI agents
- 65% of college graduates
- 65% of US Congress
- 85% of airline pilots
- 85% of student council presidents
- 89% of senior class presidents
- 71% of football captains
- 65% of basketball captains
- 88% of school newspaper editors
- 77% of editors of school annuals
- 75% of business managers of school publications
- 80% of junior class presidents
- 26 of the first 29 astronauts were Boy Scouts. 11 of the 12 who walked on the moon were Scouts. 108 of 172 astronauts were Boy Scouts. Over half of the 108 Scout Astronauts attained Star, Life or Eagle ranks.

16.18 Creator Spirit, Come

O God, Creator of lakes and dunes
Help us to feel your spirit
In the beauty of nature around us:
Make us calm and,
In the quiet, speak to us:
Help us to listen;
We have so much to learn from you
And also from one another:

Help us to share
Our plans and our decisions,
Our dreams and expectations:
Help us to celebrate
Your presence among us,
And to work together in your name.

(Martha Koenig, from United Church Camping, Spring '85)

16.19 Leadership, by Waite Phillips

Through the years, many things have been said about leadership but few have put it as precisely and as accurately as Waite Phillips, donor of Philmont Scout Ranch, when he said:

The boss drives his men;
the leader coaches them.

The boss inspires fear;
the leader inspires enthusiasm.

The boss says "I";
the leader says "We."

The boss assigns tasks;
the leader sets the pace.

The boss says "Get here on time!";
the leader gets there ahead of time.

The boss fixes blame for the breakdown;
the leader fixes the breakdown.

The boss knows how it's done;
the leader shows how.

The boss makes work a drudgery;
the leader makes it a game.

The boss says "Go!";
the leader says "Let's go!"

The world needs leaders,
but nobody wants a boss.

16.20 Instructions for Life

1. Take into account that great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. *Follow the three R's:*

- Respect for self
 - Respect for others and
 - Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
 5. Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.
 6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
 7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
 8. Spend some time alone every day.
 9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
 10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
 11. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
 12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life.
 13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
 14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
 15. Be gentle with the earth.
 16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
 17. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.
 18. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
 19. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.

*Ginny Gillam
Troop 164, ASM
North Carolina*

16.21 Ten Needs of a Boy

1. To climb a mountain and look afar.
2. To sit around an embered campfire with good friends.
3. To test his strength and his skills on his very own.
4. To be alone with his own thoughts and with his God.

5. To be ready to reach out and find the hand of an understanding man ready and willing to help.
6. To have a code to live by ... easily understood and fair.
7. A chance to play hard just for the fun of it ... and work hard for the thrill of it.
8. To have a chance to fail ... and know why.
9. To have and to be a good friend and have a chance to prove both.
10. To have a hero ... and a vision to measure him by.

16.22 Preparation

The most prepared are the most dedicated.

Raymond Berry

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

To be prepared against surprise is to be trained. To be prepared for surprise is to be educated.

James Carse

When you're prepared, you're more confident. When you have a strategy, you're more comfortable.

Fred Couples

The best preparation for good work tomorrow is to do good work today.

Edward Hubbard

If you are prepared, you will be confident, and will do the job.

Tom Landry

I will prepare and some day my chance will come.

Abraham Lincoln

In the field of observation, chance favors only the prepared minds.

Louis Pasteur

Be Prepared.

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell

Thorough preparation makes its own luck.

Joe Poyer

Spectacular achievement is always preceded by spectacular preparation.

Robert Schuller

The tendency of an event to occur varies inversely with one's preparation for it.

David Searles

Trust in your preparation.

Davie Sheppard

You don't run twenty six miles at five minutes a mile on good looks and a secret recipe.
Frank Shorter

17.1 The Traveler and the Tracker

Once a Traveler and a Tracker set out to explore the world together. As they wound their way through the wilderness, the Traveler was amazed at the Tracker's habit of pausing several times a day to pray.

"Why do you pray to something intangible?" the Traveler asked. "How do you know there is a God?"

Now the Tracker was very skilled in noticing things and, through the years, had gained much insight reading the smallest signs. And he answered the Traveler this way: "I know there is a God when I see the leaves turning yellow. I know there is a God when a trout jumps at a fly, and when grass waves in the dry wind. I know there is a God when clouds shade my head and the stars wink at night."

"So you see," said the Tracker, "I know there is a God, for I can see his footprints throughout the Universe."

17.2 It's All Yours

Fall, the Hunting Moon of our predecessors. Leaves changing and last year's pine needles falling.... Nature's carpet springing up after each step, leaving no track. Shafts of sunlight striking through beech and birch, spruce and maple.

Smell it! Open your arms, throw out your chests. Drink it in. Help yourself; it's all yours. Did you ever smell anything so wonderful as the fragrance of the pines?

Open your eyes! See the sun on the river. See the eddies past the beaver dam. See that partridge dart off through the trees...

Open your hearts. God is here.

(From an outdoor investiture, published in the May 1949 Scout Leader.)

17.3 When You Walk Through The Woods...

When you walk through the woods,
I want you to see ...

The floating gold of a bumble bee,
Rivers of sunlight, pools of shade,
Toadstools sleeping in mossy jade,
A cobweb net with a catch of dew,
Treetop cones against the blue.

Dancing flowers, bright green flies,
And birds that put rainbows in your eyes.

When you walk through the woods,
I want you to hear ...

A million sounds in your eager ear.
The scratch and rattle of wind-tossed trees,
The rush as a timid chipmunk flees,
The cry of a hawk from the distant sky,
The purr of leaves when a breeze rolls by,
Brooks that mumble, stones that ring,
And birds that teach your heart to sing.

When you walk through the woods,
I want you to feel ...

That no mere human could make this real,
Could paint the throb of a butterfly's wing,
Could teach a wood thrush how to sing,
Could create these wonders of earth and sky,
There's something greater than you or I.

When you walk through the woods
and the birches nod,

Please, meet a friend of ours named God.

*Ian Ross
Kingston, Ontario*

18.1 Various Thoughts for the Day

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.
Peter Marshall

What you do says so loudly, I can't hear what you say.
JB Rettew

The things that count most in life are usually the things that cannot be counted.
Bernard Meltzer

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Scouting will add years too your life and life to your years.

Never do a job a boy can do.

Anyone who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new.
Albert Einstein

What greater ornament to a son than a fathers glory, or to a father than a son's honorable conduct?

Sophocles, (450 B. C.), contributed by Keith Smith

Leadership is taking a little more than your share of the blame and a little less than your share of the credit.

Without knowledge, there is no wisdom.

Motto of Grove City College, Pa.

18.2 What Scouting is not...

In Aids to Scoutmastership, B-P cautions us that:

Scouting is not a charity

Scouting is not a school

Scouting is not a brigade

Scouting is not messenger service

Scouting is not a show

All of these come from without

Scout training comes from within...

Rather, scouting is a game in which adults provide boys opportunities of healthy activities (nature study, woodcraft), such as will help them develop citizenship, character and fitness.

19.1 You might be a scouter if ...

- you keep a bucket of water by your side while cooking dinner.
- you spontaneously break into strange songs in public.
- you carry your own toilet paper wherever you go.
- you horde tent stakes.
- you keep a lantern hanging outside your bathroom door.
- you carry a duffle bag-size first aid kit in your car.
- you take the family on vacation, and you stop at the Scout office to pick-up a tour permit.
- you go on a family walk around the block and you take a map and a compass along.
- if you're the only one on your block with a fire pit in your backyard.
- if you've ever been mistaken for a park ranger or a State Trooper.
- if most of your wardrobe is olive drab or khaki.
- your favorite cologne is Deep Woods Off.
- if you've ever heard the phrase, "Trust me, it's only an hour a week!!"...
- if your "family vacation" includes 30 kids your wife/husband doesn't know.
- if the trash collector has ever requested that you not hang your bags between the trees in the parkway.
- you're always counting how many matches you have left.
- you know all the words to Little Bunny Foo-Foo, but can't remember your anniversary.
- you always cook enough food for twelve, or order 14 pizzas at a time.
- you always have a cup hooked to your belt.
- you can't remember which hand to shake with in the office on Monday morning.
- someone asks for a volunteer and you find your hand is already in the air.
- you correct someone who says "Gee, I used to be an Eagle Scout" and then get him to volunteer in your Troop.
- you know you have brothers all over the world.
- you have seen the spiritual power the outdoors can have on men and boys.

... then you may be a scouter.

19.2 You Know It Was a Great Campout When...

- the Scouts fall asleep on the way home;
- everybody is too tired to complain, and you're too tired to care if they do;
- you have managed to bring back most of the troop gear, and none of the dishes are moldy;
- you have half a dozen new jokes to tell at work;
- your head count finally comes out right just as you get back to the hall;
- the troop critic looks up at you and says, "How come we never did this last year?"
- your spouse (mother, friend) refuses to come close to you because of the way you smell;
- your dog thinks you smell wonderful.

(Greybeard, Sunnybrook, Alta.)

20.1 A Wood Badge Beads Presentation Ceremony

History of Wood Badge

In 1911, four years after the first experiential Boy Scouts' camp on Brownsea Island, Baden-Powell began training Scoutmasters in the aims and methods of Scouting. On September 8, 1919, the first Wood Badge training course began at Gilwell Park using a series of lectures, demonstrations, practices and games.

It was not until 1948 that Wood Badge training came to the United States. For the first ten years it was advanced training for scoutmasters, troop committee members and commissioners. Since 1972, leadership development has been the standard course content for Wood Badge in the United States.

The Thong and Beads

In looking for a suitable recognition for the men who completed the first Wood Badge course Baden-Powell found among his old army trophies and souvenirs a long necklace of quaintly carved wooden beads. In 1888, during the African Zulu campaigns, Baden-Powell found the necklace in a hut that had been recently deserted by the African King Dinizulu (Dinny-zulu). He presented each man who had taken part in the camp with one of the beads. They were badges of wood. The beads gave the training its name - Wood Badge Course. These simple wooden beads signify the completion of the training course soon became one of the most highly prized possessions a scoutmaster could have.

Two simple wooden beads knotted on a leather thong have come to signify that the wearer has completed the most respected scout training program and is dedicated to the highest standards of service. The two beads represent "skills" and "ability" which you have shown by completing the practical portion of the course. The leather thong represents "leadership," strong yet flexible, which you have show through working your ticket.

The Neckerchief

In the early days of Scouting in England, training leaders presented a challenge, as it does today. The generous action of one individual transformed the picture. Mr. W. de Bois (de boy) MacLaren, a district commissioner, offered to buy and donate Gilwell Park, an estate of fifty-seven acres for a camping ground. Located northeast of London bordered on Epping Forest, Gilwell Park became the headquarters for scouters in England on July 26, 1919. Ten years later, when Baden-Powell was made a baron by King George V, he chose *Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell* as his title.

Every Wood Badge course regardless of its geographical location, is held at Gilwell. All Wood Badgers are members of Gilwell Troop 1, representing the first course held. By 1921 the Gilwell Neckerchief appeared with a small patch of the MacLaren tartan at the tip.

The Woggle

The leather woggle is symbolic of the skill of leather workers making Turk's head neckerchief slides. The slide has neither a beginning nor an end, symbolic of the never-ending commitment made to serve youth and others.

The woggle reminds us of the skill in all Wood Badge training that is emphasized in the practical phase of the course.

The Certificate

In the designs on this parchment certificate we are reminded of the Wood Badge experience and the satisfaction we have received from doing our best. The certificate testifies of your abilities and dedication to scouting and to others.

During the time of Lord Baden-Powell, it was common for English soldiers to be stationed throughout the world to protect the King's interests. When they completed their tour of duty, the soldiers were released where ever they were and had to find their own way back to England. To shorten the trip home, as they got closer to completing their service, soldiers would request posts closer to England. This was working their tickets back home.

As those soldiers of old worked their tickets back to England, so too this new Wood Badge recipient has worked his ticket back to Gilwell.

Congratulations on a job well done.

Dave Hohl
NE-IV-124

20.2 What the Scout Law Means to Me, by John Wayne

A great American, John Wayne, passed away some years ago. One of his last public appearances was at a dinner. He was riddled with cancer and knew he was close to death. The purpose of the dinner was to benefit a land purchase for a Scout Reservation to be called the John Wayne Outpost Camp.

At this dinner, Wayne recited the Scout Law. Then he did something unusual. He said the twelve points of the Scout Law are "nice words." "Trouble is" he continued, "we learn them so young we sometimes don't get all the understanding that goes with them. I take care of that in my family, as each boy reaches Scout age, I make sure he learns the Scout Law. Then I break it down for him, with a few things I have picked up in more than half a century since I learned it."

Then Wayne proceeded to explain the importance of the Scout Law, breaking it down for the guests at the dinner; much like he would have done for his grandson.

TRUSTWORTHY - The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look at any man in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep this one at the top of your list.

LOYAL - The very word is life itself; for without loyalty we have no love of person or country.

HELPFUL - Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help ourselves; not to mention mankind. Be always full of help -- the dying man's last words.

FRIENDLY - Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions - and do - but make sure and start with brotherhood.

COURTEOUS - Allow each person his human dignity; which means a lot more than saying, "Yes, ma'am" and "Thank you, sir." It reflects an attitude that later in life you wish you had honored more... earlier in life. Save yourself that problem. Do it now.

KIND - This one word would stop wars and erase hatreds. But it's like your bicycle, it's just no good unless you get out and use it.

OBEDIENT - Starts at home. Practice it in your family. Enlarge it in your friends. Share it with humanity.

CHEERFUL - Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.

THRIFTY - Means a lot more than putting pennies away; and it is the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.

BRAVE - You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against the law of odds. Keep the word handy every day of your life.

CLEAN - Soap and water helps a lot on the outside. But it is the inside that counts, and don't you ever forget it.

REVERENT - Believe in anything that you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you are just biding time.

John Wayne then thanked those at the dinner for putting his name on the camp and said, "I would rather see it here than on all the theater marquees the world over."