



CAMPFIRE 1997

CATHOLIC HIGH SCOUT GROUP

VOL. 33 JAN-MAR 1996

HIGHLIGHTS:

Orient Resonance '95

Catholic High Scout Group Campfire

ASLs bare all

Scouting in Vietnam

And many more !!!



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
JAN-JUN 1996**

| | |
|------------|---|
| JAN | |
| 6 | Orientation |
| 20 | Group Birthday Celebration |
| 24 | Actual Group Birthday |
| 27 | Testwork |
| FEB | |
| 3 | Testwork |
| 10 | Investiture |
| 22 | World Scout Day |
| 25 | Founder's Day Walk cum Rally |
| MAR | |
| 2 | Testwork |
| 9 | Job Week |
| 16 | Treasure Hunt in Bishan |
| 23 | Cheering Competition/ Soccer Competition |
| 30 | 7 a-side Soccer Tournament |
| APR | |
| 6 | Testwork |
| 13 | Repelling/Archery |
| MAY | |
| 18 | Ubin Pre-Camp |
| 23-27 | Nat'l Pioneering Competition |
| 25 | Ubin Pre-Camp |
| JUN | |
| 1-4 | Ubin Camp |
| 8 | Proficiency Badges |
| 15 | Expedition Hike |
| 22 | Games |
| 29 | Outdoor Cooking Competition |

FOREWORD



Campfire Light made its first appearance in late 1961. This handwritten newsletter, which was written in Chinese, was meant solely to be the Group's bulletin. Through sheer perseverance and commitment of the editorial board and the core support of the Group, the magazine progressed and become a bi-monthly publication. However, the magazine ceased publication after Issue No. 32 in 1967.

After a 29-year lapse, our Rover Scouts have come together to undertake the task of reviving Campfire Light Issue No. 33. Its appearance is a very laudable and praise-worthy effort which I hope will be a refreshing revival of the magazine.

Ever more, I wholeheartedly congratulate and commend the Rover Scouts for bringing back the Campfire Light to spark up the local Scouting scene.

Viva Camaraderie and Happy Scouting!

Andrew SL Chua
Group Scout Leader
Catholic High School Scout Group



EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings from the Campfire Light committee of 1996 where we endeavour to bring to you an informative and interesting articles issue after issue. As this is the first time any of us had attempted to produce a newsletter, we did find this an enriching experience..

Campfire Light consists of regulars such as extracts from logbooks of our past Scouts, profiles of our Scout Leaders, and articles on Scouting skills. Reports on major events will also be featured in this magazine. In short, the issue will cover a myriad of subject matter ranging from the events happening within the Scout Group to articles providing general knowledge and interests.

The committee would like to thank the many people for their support and faith in us.

Tracy Yong
Editor

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1996



~ A Page From The Past ~

REUNION DAY



今天已是1960年9月3日了,和相片里的那一天有不同的地方,那时候是在旧团部,总团长是上图的卢德明修士……一切一切都和现在的有异样。

“天下无不散之宴席”,我们在小队里都只有三年的时间,接着下去就是离开先进团去当一名教练及团长,正如图中的好几位“已故”队员都已成为团长及副团长。

时间好像穿上了溜冰鞋一样,转眼间一年又过去了;物是人非,我们的小队在这一年来也变了许多。就看这三张照片好了:这是我们小队在1959年6月27日的一个聚餐日照的,那“典礼”和今天的聚餐一样,是聚合了新及旧的队员来共同再会面。



从左至右: 宪良、游有、瑞敬、国樑、业开、乙镜、淇国、业显、水华。



我希望队里的队员能把这良好的精神发扬下去。

再回头看今天出席的人吧,我们已经从九位增至十四位了。让我们希望能在下一年的聚餐日中再会面,且也希望能看到更多新的脸孔。

发扬小队精神! 小队万岁!

女青年军。一九九五

起初，要溶入这个庞大的童军团可真不简单，再加上公中是所男校，难免有点别扭。不过幸好我们全都是从南中毕业，因此对彼此已有了一点了解。

犹如其他课外活动；先进军早就为我们安排了一系列得活动如划独木舟，露营，射箭等。。。

身为九十年代女性的我们，适应力较强，因此在三月起也参与营火会的策划工作。我们五个人都被安排到不同的筹委会。经过几个月的埋头苦干，四十七周年的营火会终于在九月二日顺利举行了。当时，心中那种满足感，可说是非笔墨所能形容的。参加童军总逃不了露营得厄运。其中的酸甜苦辣相信生为童军的都心知肚明。

精力旺盛的我们都了解到工作不离娱乐的道理，所以有时会一起到外头欢聚。现在，一年已过去了，对于我们所经历的一切，我们都怀有一重特别的满足感。希望在未来的日子，能完成更大的任务。



The Humble Telescope

A quick, fun telescope project for kids and lazy adults is the Humble Telescope, a solar viewer that can produce foot- to yard-sized images of the sun, including sunspots down to a few earth diameters.

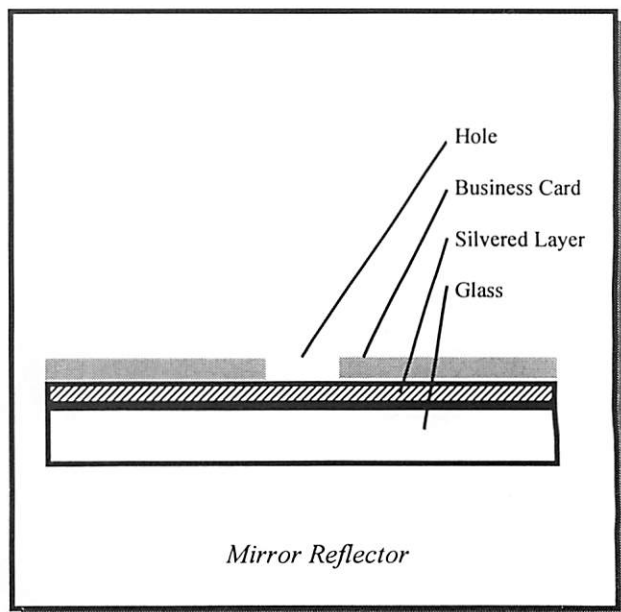
The advantage of the Humble Telescope is that you can shoot its image anywhere you please, into a darkened room far enough back to produce big if somewhat dim images. You can only do that with a pinhole by making a barn-sized viewer. As with other telescope, the key element here is a special mirror — but this one only needs to be a flat FRONT-silvered one, in almost any shape of 1 square inch or more. While you can also pick one up in any parking lot, where they are produced by the timeless forces of automobile fender-benders.

The shiny part has to be on top, because the image is ruined if light has to pass in and out of the glass. Clamp the mirror to your camera tripod. Now make the pinhole “mask” that does the actual imaging. Take your business card and poke a 1/8” to 1/4” hole with your nail.

Open the window of your viewing room — and block off most of the opening with shades or towels. Go out into the sun and use the light of the full mirror to aim the image into the room. Gently tack the mask over the mirror with tape so that only the pinhole area is exposed.

Dash in and watch or photograph at will! Sunspots appear as dim smudges that wiggle and move along with the image of the disk. You have about a minute before the disk tracks away from the wall, the bigger but dimmer the image. The bigger the pinhole, the brighter but the blurrier image.

For better viewing : 1) Set up a flat, white cardboard or screen for the image. 2) Keep the room the same temperature as outdoors to minimise heat distortion. 3) Keep the room as dark as possible so as to see more dim sunspots. 4) Have a parent or teacher do the aiming so you can keep your eyes used to the dark.



Know More About..... Lennon & Rensheng

Name: Lennon Foo
Schl: Victoria JC
Post: ASL
Patrol: Tiger



Name: Xue Rensheng
Schl: Victoria JC
Post: ASL
Patrol: Eagle

Q: What are the responsibilities that you undertook as ASL ?

The welfare and the progress of the scouts assume responsibility of the SL's post when needed.

Q: Were there any difficulties encountered ?

Yes, time management and being able to adjust to the new post. We were also unsure of our authority

Q: Did assuming the post benefit you in any way ?

Yes, to increase leadership skills and a chance to actually hold authority. When the Scouts are happy, I am too.

Q: What was the most memorable day / event during scouting life ?

Secondary 1, everything started from the day I joined scouts. It always amazes me when I look back and see how far I have gotten.

Q: What are your hopes for the Scout Troop in the future ?

May it keep old traditions and venture into new and daring motions as the field of scouting has no limits. Even in expanding new areas of progress, one should not forget old traditions, eg. how to skin a frog and serve a dish in six minutes.

Q: Finally, any last words for your juniors ?

My skills only started to improve at 13 years old when I joined the scout group. My PL Zhiwei has taught me a lot to which I still remember to this day. Quoting from Zhiwei to all the leaders-to-be : *Learn and lead the way*

Q: What are the responsibilities that you undertook as ASL ?

To maintain and improve the standard of the scout troop.

Q: Were there any difficulties encountered ?

Yes.

Q: Did assuming the post benefit you in any way ?

Yes, it helps to build up my inter-personal communication skills and develop my leadership potential. My scouting skills have also improved.

Q: What was the most memorable day / event during scouting life ?

Every day was memorable. Basically a challenge awaits me every scouting day.

Q: What are your hopes for the Scout Troop in the future ?

Firstly, the scout troop should uphold the scout motto, "Be Prepared" and continue to support the Scout movement. May the scout troop continue to grow and expand the sphere of influence internationally and conduct official activities with foreign scouts overseas

Q: Finally, any last words for your juniors ?

Group before unit, unit before self.

Pulau Ubin : N

Pulau Ubin, a sparsely populated off-shore island has been a regular campsite for the Catholics. This kampong-like island. In order to keep up with the rapid changes, we have decided to come. Development has caught up finally with Singapore's last frontier. The jetty, being a prominent seats! The Outward Bound School (OBS) has expanded and now occupies almost the entire western roads and the area has been reserved as a 'recreational area'.

What Ubin is going to go through would be spectacular leading to Year X, where Singapore's development of this offshore island into a residential area.

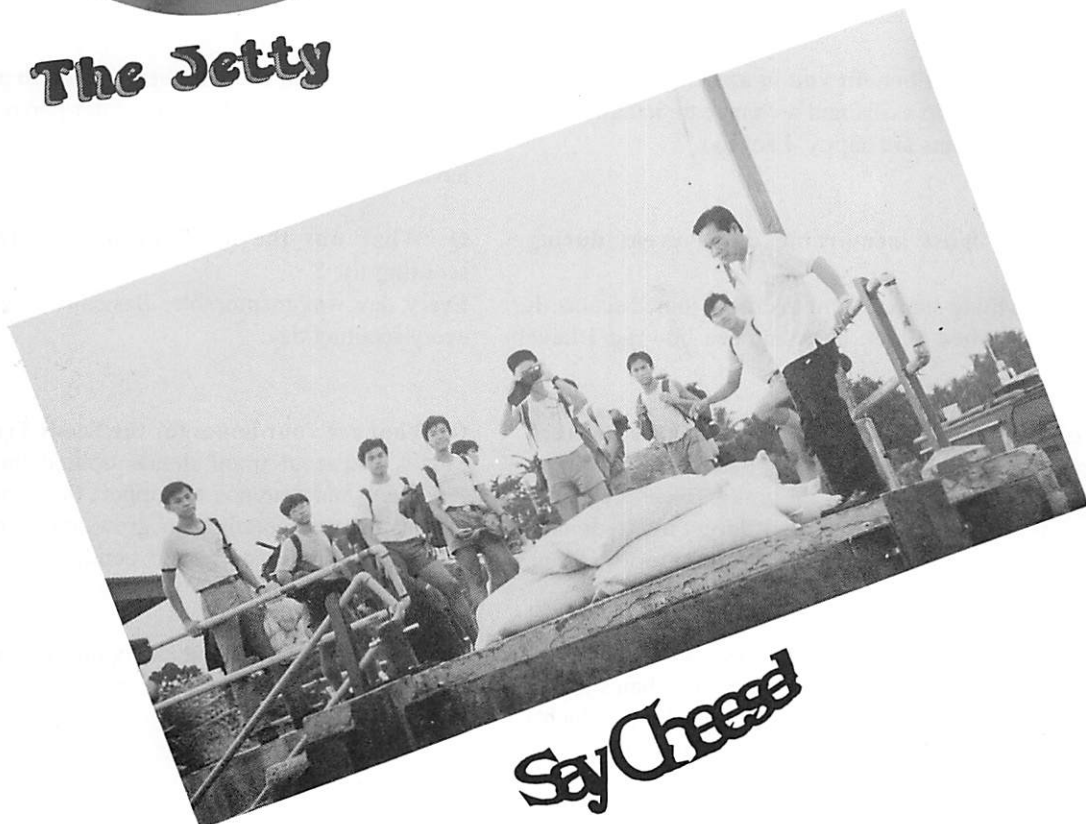
Come and see for yourselves...



The Jetty



1995



Say Cheese!

Now and Then

ic High Scout Group for a long time now. As the years go by, many changes have been made to
up with some photographs as a form of comparison of Ubin : Now and Then.

at landmark has been 'upgraded' like many old HDB estates — sheltered embarking areas and
st area of the island. Dirt tracks that our fore-fathers etched out have been replaced with asphalt

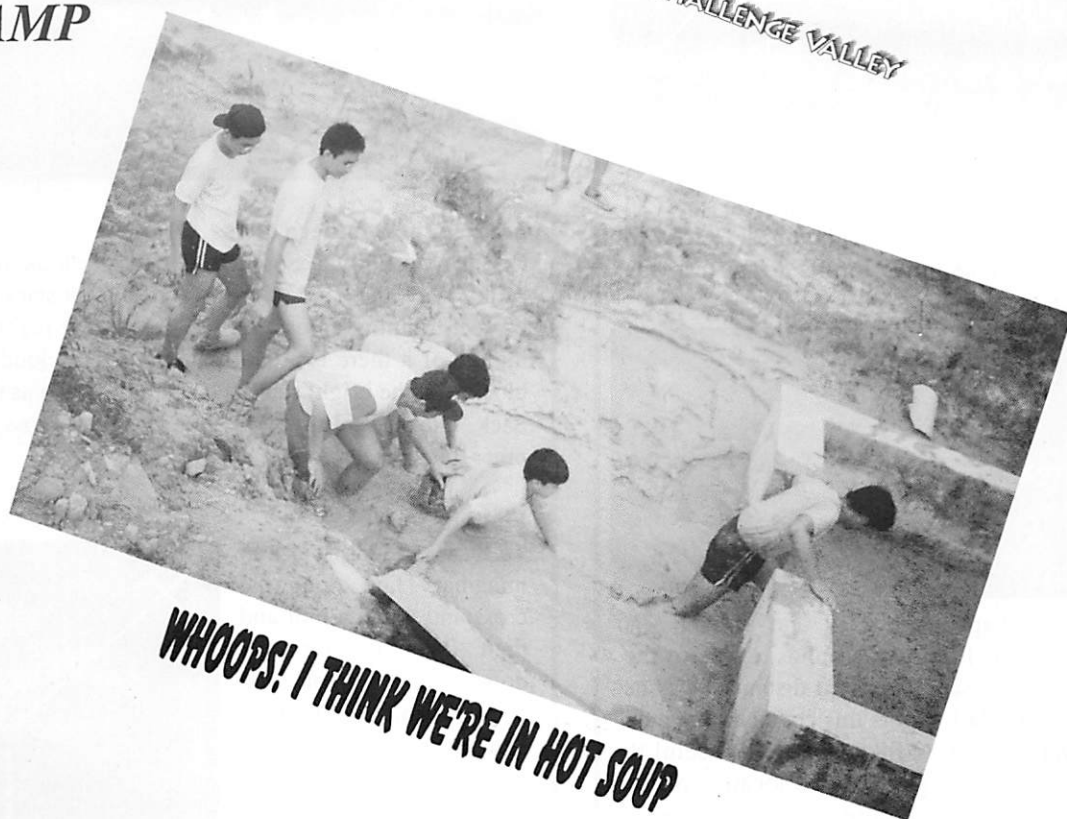
's population reaches 4 million. Then we can expect the MRT to be extended to Ubin and the



YEAR CAMP



CHALLENGE VALLEY



WHOOOPS! I THINK WE'RE IN HOT SOUP

Stars Point the Way

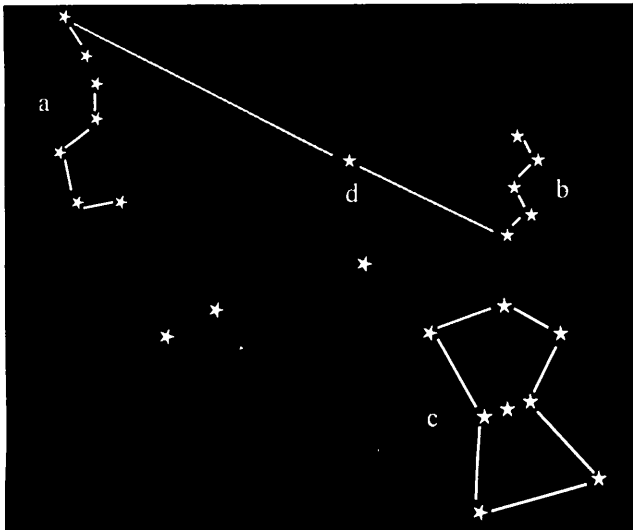


Direction by Stars

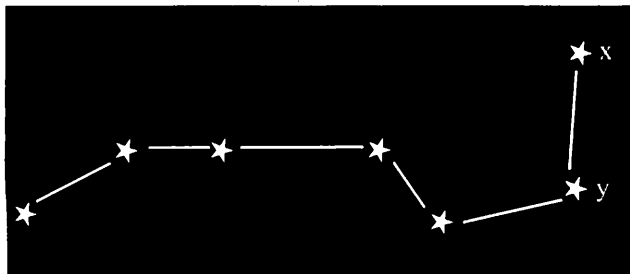
The stars have been studied for thousands of years and the groups, or constellations in which they appear to the naked eye were named in ancient times after animals and mythological figures that their shape suggested. In equatorial regions like Singapore, we get to see stars of both hemispheres but at different times of the year. However, stars like the North Star would be quite impossible to see.

The Northern Sky

The main constellation to learn are the (a) Plough, also known as the Big Dipper, (b) Cassiopeia and (c) Orion, all of which like all stars in the northern sky, apparently circle the (d) Pole Star (North Star), but the first two are recognisable groups that do not set.

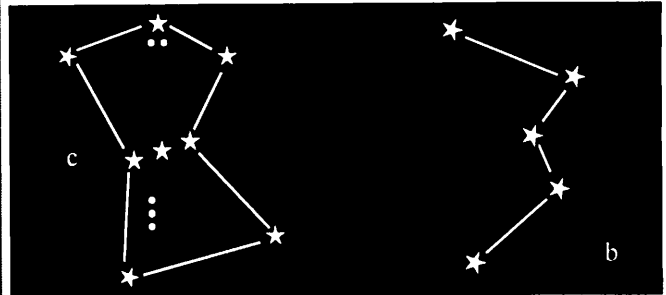


(a) **The Plough** (The Big Dipper) is the central feature of a very large constellation, the Great Bear (Ursa Major). It wheels around the pole star. The two stars (X) Dubhe and (Y) Merak point, beyond, almost exactly to the Pole Star about four times further away than the distance between them.



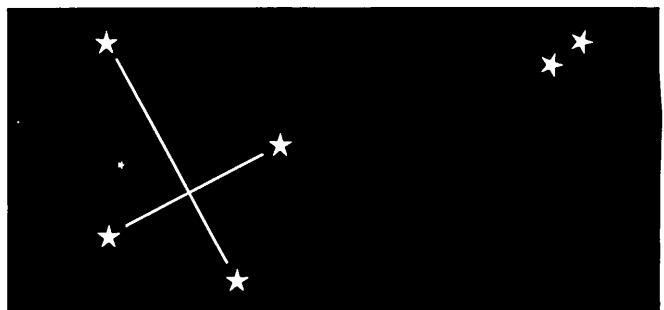
(b) **Cassiopeia** is shaped like a W and also wheels around the North Star. It is on the opposite side of the Pole Star and about the same apparent distance away as the Plough. On clear, dark nights this constellation may be observed overlaying the Milky Way. It is useful to find this constellation as a guide to the location of the Pole Star, if the Plough is obscured for some reasons. The centre star points almost directly towards it.

(c) **Orion** rises above the Equator and can be seen in both hemispheres. It rises on its side, due east, irrespective of the observer's latitude and sets due west. (A) Mintaka is directly above the Equator. Orion appears further away from the Pole Star than the previous constellations. He is easy to spot by the three stars making his belt, and the lesser stars forming his sword.



Reading the Southern sky

There is no star near the South Celestial Pole bright enough to be easily recognised. Instead a prominent constellation is used as a signpost to south: the Southern Cross (crux), a constellation of 5 stars which can be distinguished from 2 other cross-shaped groups by its size—it is smaller—and its 2 pointer stars.

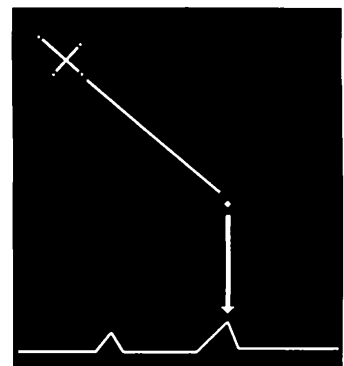


Finding the Southern Cross

One way to find the Southern Cross is to look along the Milky Way, the band of millions of distant stars that can be seen running across the sky on a clear night. In the middle of it there is a dark patch where a cloud of dust blocks out the bright star background, known as the Coal Sack. On one side of it is the Southern Cross, on the other the 2 bright pointer stars.

Finding South

To locate south, project an imaginary line along the cross and 4 and a half times then drop it vertically down to the horizon. Fix, if you can, a prominent landmark on the horizon—or drive two sticks into the ground to enable you to remember the position by day.



Scouting Experiences in Vietnam

From: Hung Le

Date: Wed, 1 Apr 1992 14:52:09 GMT

My name is Hung Le, and I'm a former cub scout, boy scout, venturer, rover scout and scouter of BSVN (Boy Scout of Vietnam). Currently, I'm with the Santa Clara County Council, BSA as a unit commissioner.

I would like share with all fellow scouts out there on the Network some personal experiences that I have had with the scout organizations, especially with the BSVN. These experiences are so valuable to my life and my children as well... When I joined the Boy Scouts of Vietnam, my country was torn apart by the war. Everywhere I went, there were always fighting leftovers. It was dangerous to travel, albeit going camping, but even so, we managed to have wonderful times, troop leaders were very creative in finding places for kids to camp, to have a meeting location. Scout meeting was always outdoors, in the open air. A lot of times we went camping without a scoutmaster because of the military draft. During my 6 years as a boy scout, I had three scoutmasters and their average age was about 19 years old.

I remember taking my Panther patrol (yes, a Blank Panther), on a trek to a remote waterfall. Each member had to be separated by a distant of 10 meters, so that a booby trap grenade would not decimate the whole patrol. I learned valuable survival skills from the boy scouts, during the war, not only to help myself, but help to my family and other beings as well. Besides learning knots and semaphores, we also learned camouflaging, how to recognize booby traps, different type of ordinance (by default), and servicing refugee camps. Servicing refugee camps was a constant activity for the troops and the posts. Sometimes the pack would chip in their help in making greeting lines for some big shots who come and visited refugee camps. During the Tet offensive of 1968, my explorer post managed a makeshift refugee camp in Dalat province for more than 3 months. This included security for people in the camp (A lot of problems came from rowdy bands of government soldiers trying to intimidate the female refugees, but when they saw the scouts, they thought another military unit was handling the refugee camp). This also included searching for food (mostly, by contacting GI units and the government in the area) for refugees. Sanitation was always the biggest task of the day: Talk about cleaning the out-houses for refugees!!! At times we organized 'dare-devil' teams to go into battle areas to retrieve civilian and, sometimes, military bodies to bury or to take back to the city morgue. The morgue was always full during those days. In the city, there was another youth group organized by the Red Cross, and we competed with them in collecting the wounded and the dead, along with other war trophies. One time we collected a "broken" bomb and decorated it as a gate for our refugee camp. It was quite a deterrent for those who passed through that gate.

(to be continued in next issue)

ORIENT RESONANCE

*"In every corner of the world the shadows of the dragon loom,
working hand in hand, heart to heart, to create a better life for you and I."*



The 1995 Catholic High Scout Group Campfire marked a turning point in the scouting history of the group when we celebrated its 47th anniversary with a grand campfire on the evening of the 2nd of September 1995.

The campfire committee started planning the campfire about 3 months before the actual day and invitations were sent out to the various VIPs. The theme of the campfire, Orient Resonance is to remind us of our Chinese heritage, to emphasise our rich culture and traditions.

On the very day, a whopping number of 1200 guests from over 25 schools all over Singapore attended this monumental event. Greeting our visitors from afar, was a majestic 3-storey pagoda tower constructed with our trusty pioneering poles complete with stairways and platforms. The campfire started with a rousing performance of martial arts by our very own Scouts and Rovers. The crowd went wild, impressed by our spectacular fire-lighting ceremony. Our two Masters-of-Ceremony, Zhengyang and Weiming, did a wonderful job leading the crowd, singing songs after songs like Gako and Father Abraham. The guest items such as oriental dance, sketches and renditions of the latest mandarin pop songs, were in a class of their own. What stole the hearts of all present was the performance by our very own cadet scouts — Little Frogs, which held us mesmerised. However, the best item for the night went to the St. Anthony's Convent Guides for their graceful dance performance. The most supportive prize went unanimously to our sister guides from St. Nicholas Girls' School. The campfire united the scouts and guides making them realise the spirit which our founders had intended to instil in us.





The campfire came to an end all too soon, with our school's principal, Mr Loke Kay Khee giving a closing speech after the prize presentation. The end of the campfire was solemn, with our GSL Mr Andrew Chua leading the last song for the night — The Scout Hymn.

The guests then proceeded to the school canteen for refreshment while some went to the school backyard for an exhibition that included a lion dance and martial arts display. Old memories flooded our guests as they flipped through the pages of monochrome photographs from the past.

For the last 3 hours, we sang, we laughed, we rejoiced and we experienced a stronger bonding among us and the flame of Scouting burned bright, for many generations to come.

In Retrospect

Preparation for the campfire had been a long and arduous task, the various committee heads wrecked their brains for weeks just to come out with an original and refreshing theme for the campfire. In all aspects, it was a true test for us, as a group, not individuals. Patience and endurance were the key words of the day, as the plans were amended time and again..

A word of advice from us:

*Command, Control and Communication make a successful
Campfire.....*



中華
回
响

BACKWOODS

COOKING

Edible Bowls

You will need: (Quantities are for two bowls.)

- Two cups plain flour
- One Cup of fat/butter
- One level dessert spoon baking powder.
- Pinch of salt.
- Water.
- Sections of logs, measuring about ten cm in diameter.

Method:

Well before the meal, mix together the flour, fat, salt and baking powder until you have a breadcrumb-like mixture.

Add enough water to produce a stiff dough, divide it and roll it into two balls.

Remove the bark from the ends of the chosen logs and seal them as you would a greenstick by holding them over flames briefly.

Take a ball of pastry and mould it around the end of a log, pressing it into a bowl shape.

Support the pastry, still on the log, and cook over hot embers, turning, regularly until golden brown.

When cooked, remove from the logs and allow to cool. The dishes will certainly only last for one meal, holding sweet or savory meals - and they can be eaten afterwards.



One-man Stew

You will need: (Quantities are for one serving.)

- 1 Potato
- 1 Carrot
- 1 Onion
- 1 Cup minced-meat
- 1 Stock cube
- Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Peel and slice the potato, carrot and onion. Sprinkle salt and pepper, if required, onto the vegetables.

Form a double-thickness layer of foil into a dish and place a layer of potato at the bottom. The meat, carrots and onions can be added in alternate layers on top of the potato.

Sprinkle a stock cube over the vegetables and add water to cover.

Place a sheet of coil over the vegetables, and place the dish onto hot embers. Cook for approximately 40 minutes.

