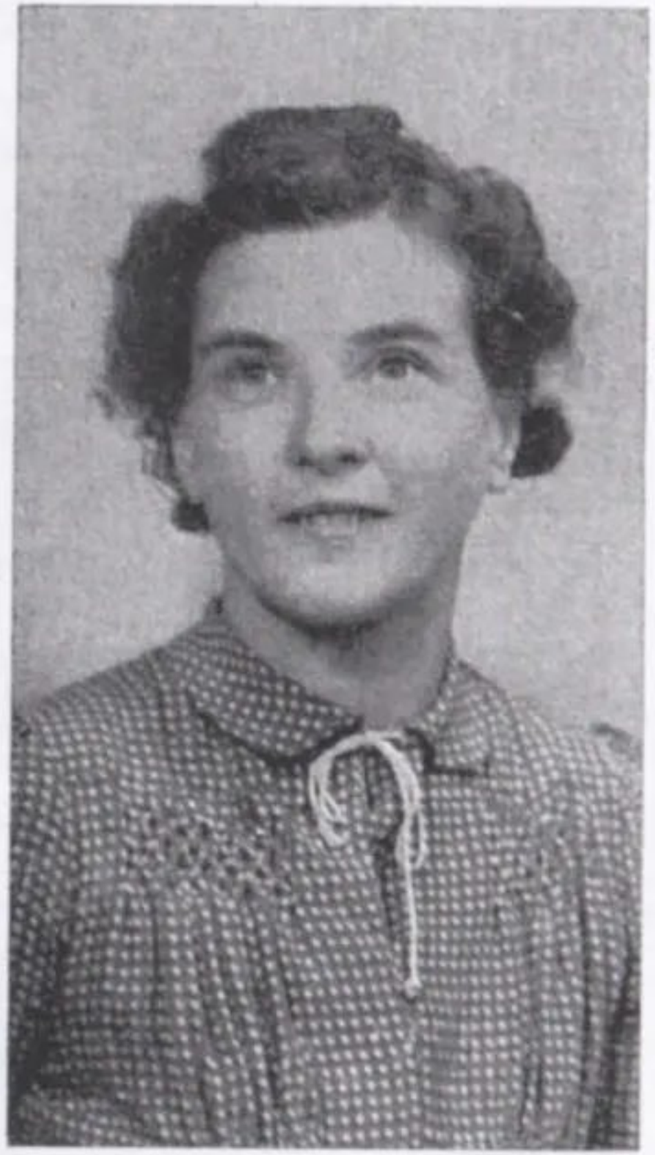




The History of Scouting in Craven 1907-1965

1/6



Foreword.

The South Craven District Scout Council are deeply indebted to Vice-President Mrs. J. S. House who, before her death early this year, spent two years in searching for information about the various local Scout Groups which have been in existence in the first fifty years of the Scout Movement.

Mrs. House was aware that there were many omissions and perhaps some inacuracies in the text of her History, and it is hoped that further information will be submitted by readers.

Since her youth Mrs. House had been intensely interested in the Guide and Scout Movements having taken a very active part in the district's scouting until illness made it impossible for her to rush around to Camps, bazaars, jumble sales and other functions.

The District Scout Council feel that this booklet is, in some small measure, a memorial to the immense and happy enthusiasm which Mrs. House put into Scouting during her life at Grassington, Skipton and Cross Hills.

BROOK NAYLOR,
District Commissioner
(South Craven).

29, Park Avenue,
Skipton.

The History of Scouting in Craven 1907 - 1965

Compiled by Gladys House

INTRODUCTION.

There is a thread of continuity running through the whole of this brief history, which commences at the formation in 1908 of the 1st. Skipton Troop and is woven throughout the whole of the fifty years and more of scouting in this area. The thread was almost severed with the outbreak of war in 1914 and again in 1939, but, with the tenacity of the Bulldog, which is the symbol of the present Local Association of Scouts in this area, it has been held and knotted together by the constant loyalty of its members.

1st & 2nd Skipton Troops

Sir Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scout Movement in 1907, and Skipton was one of the pioneers of the new idea, as Ernest Metcalfe formed the first patrol early in 1908, to be known as the "Wolves" patrol. This patrol was eventually absorbed into the 1st Skipton Troop under the leadership of Mr. Breedon, Mr. Metcalfe being appointed as Assistant Scoutsmaster in 1909. He resigned six months later and joined the Regular Army in the 3rd Prince of Wales, Dragoon Guards. At this period the troop had its Headquarters in the Old Silk Mill, on Sackville Street.

In 1911, the 1st Skipton Troop amalgamated with the 2nd. Skipton Troop which became known as the "Bulldogs" owing to the fact that the Scoutmaster, Mr. Anthony Slingsby, was always accompanied by his bulldog. When the troop had been established for a year, a very important event occurred. The whole Troop attended a rally at Colne, where all the troops present were inspected by the Scout Founder and Commander, Sir Robert Baden-Powell. A memorable occasion for all those who attended and one of the most stirring happenings of the day was when everyone present took part in a torchlight procession. The "Bulldogs" contribution to the Rally was to give a display in signalling and first aid; no scouting occasion is complete without refreshments so the Skipton boys were entertained to tea at the Crown Hotel, whose proprietor had a son in the troop. In the same year a Flag Raid was organised on Cowling Moor, between Yorkshire and Lancashire Scouts. To make amends for losing the War of the Roses, Yorkshire won.

ANTHONY SLINGSBY.

Many of the boys in this troop fought in the 1914-1918 war, in fact they went in as a complete unit in the "Royal Signals" with Mr. A. Slingsby as their officer. Unfortunately most of them were killed in action, including Mr. Slingsby. Those boys who survived carried on the scouting traditions and continued to follow the example of those who had died in the service of this country. The activities of the troop were varied and included their attendance at the Gala and Whitsuntide processions, an activity which is still continued by the present boys.

Although, today the Scouting curriculum is much the same as it was in 1907, many changes in method have occurred, one of which is the mode of transport for taking equipment to camp. The 2nd. Skipton Troop, when they went to camp, walked, carrying all their needs on a trek-cart, whilst the present day scouts ride with all their tackle by some means of mechanical transport, in the utmost comfort.

1st SKIPTON TROOP BOY SCOUTS.

First Camp, August 12, 1909, on Crookrise Race Course.

The camping outfit consisted of wagon covers borrowed from Mr. William Mattock, High Corn Mills, Skipton. Permission to feil Larch Trees was kindly granted by Mr. R. B. Barrett, Estate Agent to Skipton Castle, for the framework of the tent.

The entire equipment for the Camp was transported by several journeys by Scouts on a Trek Cart. The weather was perfect. Each Scout took a ration of flour, sugar and tea. Each member of the Camp contributed 5/-. Milk had to be fetched from a farm across the Fell (by the youngest member of the Troop).

It was a very enjoyable experience and was followed by many other weekly and weekend camps in various parts of the district. All equipment being carried on the Trek Carts.



Scoutmaster, Captain Beadon. B. Sedgwick, H. Addison, W. Harding, E. Fotherby, S. Darnbrook, D. Smith, J. Churchman, E. Cowgill, G. Bailey, H. Edson, D. Smith.

All the members of the Troop served in the Forces in the First World War. Captain Beadon, J. Churchman, E. Cowgill and W. Harding were killed in action.

Apart from the Scouters mentioned in the previous paragraphs, it is interesting to note the names of others who played their part in the building up of this, by now, famous troop. In 1908, Mr. W. Barnes and Mr. F. Midgeley were warranted Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Rev. C. J. Cohu was warranted Scoutmaster in 1910. On one occasion at this period, the troop was inspected by Major Roundell, who was at that time the Member of Parliament for Skipton, in the grounds of Gledstone Hall.

Dr. R. Fisher was Assistant Scoutmaster during these camps. As anyone will realise and appreciate, it is always encouraging to enter any competitive scheme if there is any kind of trophy to be won, therefore with this in mind the "Horsfall" and the "Gala" Shields were presented to the scouts for competition.

The "Horsfall" Shield was won by the "Bulldogs" in 1911, and 1912, Mr. Barnes being scoutmaster at that time. They also won the "Gala" Shield in 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. In 1909 the Scout movement held its first Rally at Crystal Palace and a second Rally in 1911 at Windsor, at which a small contingent of boys from the "Bulldogs" repre-represented the spirit of the Yorkshire Dales by attending this earliest of scout gatherings.

CARRIED ON.

During the early years of the first World War the troop was kept open with Mr. L. Boyden as Scoutmaster, assisted by senior boys and later Mr. J. Atkins took charge and kept the troop going for some years. During this time a Wolf Cub Pack had been formed with Miss Barbara Slingsby in charge, assisted by Miss Nora Farey. Both Pack and Troop were disbanded in 1927 when Miss Slingsby left for a visit to India, as there was no one at that time ready to take charge.

In 1920 the Slingsby family and friends erected a hut in Broughton Road for the use of the troop, in memory of Anthony Slingsby. In 1929 an attempt was made to revive the troop by Mr. R. B. Steel who had been Group Scoutmaster of the 7th Skipton (Congregational) but this did not last very long. After the troop was disbanded the hut was sold and eventually the fund was used to purchase another hut for the use of the Local association.

3rd Skipton (St. Stephens) Troop

A further early formation of a troop was the 3rd Skipton. This was comprised of boys of the St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church and was formed in 1915 with Mr. J. Arrigoni as Scoutmaster. The Rushworth brothers were members of the troop at this period, and until 1918 the whole troop was very active and keen.

As with most troops the lack of scouters after the 1914-18 war caused a lapse and very little was known of the troop for a long time and then, of course, the same thing happened during the 1939-45 war. At this time, Father Tehan was warranted Group Scoutmaster, and Mr. Aldridge Scoutmaster, but in 1946 Mr. Pemberton took over as Scoutmaster.

This period, 1946 onwards, proved to be quite an active one, as Mr. W. Fattorini held the position of president in the Local Association during that time, and Mr. W. Kerrigan was chairman. Also one of the troop members became assistant secretary, Mr. Brian P. Russell. During the troop's active period they joined with members of other troops in several activities in annual camps. They have also taken part in the various parades and ceremonials.

During the past year, 1965, Keith Thornton was Scoutmaster, and the troop was flourishing again. Albert Barrett and Wilfred Hodgkinson were assistant scoutmasters and there was a pack of Cubs run by Miss Mary Hodgkinson.

A strong parents committee, formed mainly of old members of the troop, has recently been organised.

(Grammar School) Troop 4th Skipton

The 4th Skipton (Grammar School) Troop was formed on November 16, 1914, with an announcement, given by Mr. A. C. Powell, the head

master, to the school in general, that a scout troop would be formed. The Scoutmaster would be Mr. Breakell, with Mr. T. Hibbert and Mr. Binns as his assistants. All were masters in the School. The uniform would be navy blue shirts and shorts, with red scarves, these being the colours of School House.

The troop, at its first meeting was divided into six patrols; these were named respectively, Stag, Horse, Wolf, Seal, Eagle and Bear, with seven boys in each. To add further prestige to the troop, and to take full advantage of the musical reputation the school had made for itself, a small band of two side drums and six bugles was formed. This band was the first to be formed in the Skipton Local Association.

During the August of 1915 the troop held its first camp on Malham Moor. Although, no doubt, many mistakes were made through lack of experience, everyone had an enjoyable few days under canvas. The Malham camp became a small part of the memorable year of 1915, memorable because Mrs. Powell, the head master's wife. presented the troop with its first colours. Also during that year the King's Scout badge was gained by Robert Steel. Although the badge did not hold the same position of importance that the present day Queen's Scout badge does, it still was something to be sought after.

The year 1916 brought about quite a few changes in the organisation of the troop, as it was being held together by the senior members of the patrols, owing to the fact that so many of the adults were in the Services. William Hardacre was one of these patrol leaders, and he was later to become one of the well known persons in the district through his work with the scouts and as a master at Ermysted's Grammar School. On one occasion when the patrol leaders were in charge, a church parade was held at Cononley and the troop attended, marching there and back.

I have a suspicion that it such an occasion arose today there would be a very sparse attendance indeed! Two more King's Scout badges were gained by William Hardacre and his brother Henry during this period, and also the troop won the trophy for the Scouts Swimming Gala at Keighley.

MANY OFFICES.

It behoves me to mention at this point the connection Mr. W. Hardacre had with the Skipton Local Association. In 1918 Mr. Hardacre left the troop to join the army, but when the war finished he returned to the troop as Assistant Scoutmaster. This state of affairs, however, only lasted two years, as he had to leave to attend Leeds University. After a period of a few years, he returned as a member of Ermysted's teaching staff. He took an interest in the other troops of Skipton, as at this time the 4th Skipton had been disbanded. Eventually Mr. Hardacre became the District Commissioner and held the position from 1939 to 1951, when he attained the office of International Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

However, to continue the history of the 4th Skipton Troop, the boys played a great part in the War effort. There was a certain badge which could be gained for 28 days service and this was gained by Scouts Carr and Hardacre during the summer of 1916.

During the next two years, although very busy with War activities, they still managed to keep up with scouting interests and a Wolf Cub Pack was formed with Mr. Breakell as Cubmaster In 1915, whilst W. Hardacre was in the services, his brother Henry took charge of the Troop and he ran it until his brother's return in 1920. The troop had a successful two years and then after Mr. Hardacre had left, the troop was forced to disband owing to lack of numbers.

This was, however, by no means the finish of scouting at Ermysted's as the troop was re-formed. Apart from retaining the title of 4th Skipton there was a complete reorganisation. The uniform was changed to green shirts and yellow scarves. Various activities took place, including hikes and short duration camps, and during the Spring Term (1939) the troop had a joint Church parade with the Christ Church (9th Skipton), presumably at Christ Church.

Once again the forbidding clouds

of war hung over England, and patrol leaders and senior boys were left to carry the vital work of the Scout movement. Gang Shows began to be a popular form of raising the necessary funds for running a troop, and the 4th Skipton were not slow in helping to put on such a show organised by the Local Association.

In 1947 the troop was once more forced, through lack of support, owing possibly to the effects of the war, to disband. Unsuccessful attempts to re-form the troop were made in the following years.

KHAKI AND RED.

One master, however, managed to arouse more interest than his predecessors, and the troop was reformed in 1959. Their uniform was all khaki with a red and black scarf, red being the predominant colour. The master had to give up running the troop and Mr. J. S. Leigh took over as Scouter-in-Charge. Immediately the results of Mr. Leigh's work began to show by the increase of the badges gained, and the way in which the troop began to win scouting competitions within the district and in other areas and lands.

Mr. J. S. Leigh formed a successful senior troop, five of the senior scouts gaining the Queen's Scout badges. The Queen's Scout badge is the highest award which a boy under 18 can gain after years of hard work. In recognition of gaining the aforementioned badge, the award is presented by the Chief Scout or one of his Commissioners; a further honour which can fall upon a Queen's Scout is his attendance at St. George's Day Parade at Windsor Castle where those present are reviewed by Her Majesty the Queen.

To help Queen's Scouts to attend this great occasion the Local Association have a fund to give financial aid to those who would care to attend. To any boys attending, it is a very memorable occasion. I have mentioned previously the competitions outside the district, one of which was the Explorer Belt Expedition and most of the boys who competed, though quite youthful, managed to gain this coveted award. This event takes place in Europe so these boys represented Great Britain as well as their own District.

Unfortunately, Mr Leigh, now also District Senior Scout Leader, left the district in 1964, for a teaching post on Tyneside, having also recently become a member of the Chief Scout's Advance party.

5th Skipton (Parish Church) Troop

In 1915 the 5th Skipton (Parish Church) Troop was formed—it was to prove eventually, one of the largest troops in the district. At that time there were several choir boys attached to the church who became very anxious to try out the new idea of Scouting. A Mr. Mason, of Skipton, was their first scoutmaster, and their first camp was at Malham Tarn. Following Mr. Mason as scoutmaster was Mr. H. Tasker with Mr. Edgar Clough as assistant.

However, progress was quite slow for a few years, in fact, the troop practically ceased to exist until 1924, when Mr. J. S. House, and Mr. A. Hewson, a master from Ermysted's Grammar School took over, and then Mr. Edwards, who had been formerly with the 6th and then the 8th Skipton, (until both finally closed) was asked to give his assistance, too.

The troop now began to flourish, and in 1927 held a camp in Brighouse Bay, Scotland, and in the same year a cub pack was started with Mr. E. Edwards as "Akela." Mr. House left the group to go to Grassington, where he started a troop.

An innovation was begun in 1930, namely, a patrol of senior scouts. These boys gave great assistance to the scouters as have all senior scouts since. The troop won the "Gala" Shield in 1918, and again in 1927, 1928, 1934 and 1935, and the "Horsfall" Shield in 1946, 1947, 1948 and the "Gala" Shield again in 1949. In the early 1930's the 5th Skipton Group had an old bus body at Millfields Hall, which was used as a storing place for the group's camping equipment. This formed the basis of the King George V Silver Jubilee Beacon in 1935, and was replaced by a wooden garage.

In 1936 Mr. R. B. Steel provided the troop with a room for meetings,

known in future as the 'Upaloft!' The Reverend Kennedy was Scoutmaster at this period. It did not seem long afterwards when preparations for war were begun and, as with all troops in the district, the boys willingly took their part in the various duties connected with the preparations that were being made at the time.

WAR AGAIN

In 1939 we were again at war, once more there was a general loss of Scouters into the services. Again the senior boys took over the management of the troop and carried on most successfully until the return of their scouters. Again, the need for new headquarters arose owing to the fact that the Military had commandeered the old headquarters. An old loft at the back of the King's Arms, Skipton, was given by Mr. Riley, which, when inspected proved to be so full of old junk that it was promptly named "the Dump," this name being carried forward to the present day. In 1943, when the need for new headquarters once more became obvious, Mr. E. Edwards bought the old Skipton Laundry in The "Ginnel," for the use of the troop. This building carried on the old name of "The Dump."

1945 brought about the end of the hostilities in Europe and both the 5th Skipton and the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill groups took part in a County Rally, at Barnoldswick.

Prior to this year, i.e. in 1944, several events of note took place; to begin with, the first "Bob-a-Job" week was held, this being an innovation of the Scout movement to try to raise funds. The 5th Skipton had at this time a magazine called the "Potterite," edited and printed by the boys, and the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill Troop joined forces with their own magazine "The Javelin." Also that year both groups combined in a summer camp at Witherslack, near Grange-over-Sands.

In 1946 "The Dump" was officially opened by Haydn Dimmock, editor of "The Scout." The following year, Mr. G. E. G. Robinson, formerly a troop leader, became the assistant scoutmaster of the troop, and with T. Lord, J. Rogers, P. L. R. A. Lowe and two more boys, attended the Jamboree of Peace, in France. In 1949 a new scouter and his wife had joined the group, Mr. and Mrs. N. Storer. Mr. Storer became the S.M. (S) and his wife was Lady Cubmaster, Mr. Robinson (having returned from College) was Scoutmaster.

A Rover Crew was formed and Mr. Thos. Bates was warranted as Rover Crew Leader of the group.

Another innovation took place, this being the start of the Baden-Powell Guild, which was for the benefit of old scouts who had ceased to belong to a particular group and who still wished to keep in contact with the movement, Mr. Curwin, of the 5th, took charge of this branch.

CORONATION

The year, 1952, as has been mentioned before, was memorable in that the death of His Majesty, King George VI took place, and as with all troops in the district the 5th joined in the services of mourning which were held. In the following year the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II was held, and once again the Group took part in the official celebrations.

In the year 1958, on November 3, a tragedy befell the group! The headquarters were burnt down and almost completely destroyed. Almost all the camping equipment, records, flags, &c., were lost or badly damaged. Nevertheless, as in all times of difficulty a great deal of assistance was forthcoming, and I should say everybody helped in the rebuilding of the new headquarters on the site of the old one, and on April 8, 1961, the new headquarters was opened by Rex Hazlewood, the Editor of the Scout and The Scouter.

Though a beautiful, commodious building, it was impossible to get the boys and others interested in scouting in the district to refer to it as the 5th's new headquarters, and it is known to all affectionately as "The Dump."

Last year (1965) was the 50th anniversary of the group's inception, and plans were made to celebrate it in the style we expect of the 5th Skipton (Parish Church) Group.

6th & 8th Skipton Troops

There were two more troops which were counted amongst the earliest ones, namely, the 6th and the 8th Skipton. The 6th, was formed in

1915 and was attached to Brougham Street, School. The Headmaster at that time was Mr. A. Townsend and he became Scoutmaster. Boys who had left school were invited to join and very soon there was a fairly large troop. A kind of Patrol System was run which helped the Scoutmaster a great deal, as at that time there was no Assistant S.M. The first camp ws held at Drebley in 1916 and was a great success. Mr. W. High was one of the early members of this Troop and left to join the forces in 1918, returning to the Troop in 1920 on being demobilised.

The troop now had some Assistant Scoutmasters who were members of the school staff. Messrs. P. Godward and T. Dodgson, also Mr. C. Townsend and later when the two latter left the town, two old scouts Mr. J. Emmett and Mr. H. Newbould became Assistants.

After the Wolf Cub pack returned from their visit to the Jamboree at Olympia in 1920 Miss Jowett resigned and W. Haigh became Assistant Cubmaster.

In 1924 Mr. Townsend resigned and the troop left Brougham Street and changed to the 8th Skipton with Mr. P. Godward as S.M. and W. Haigh C.M. Messrs. W. Reeder and J. Dobson became A.S.M's, and Mr. Ernest Edwards A.C.M. All three were old members of the troop. Headquarters were in the old Skipton Laundry behind the Albion Inn. From the outset the troop made very little progress and was finally disbanded in 1927. During its short life however, through the influence of Mr. Reeder, a regular camping site was made available at Pottersghyll and was used for many years later by the 5th Skipton. It must be mentioned here that three of these Leaders transferred their services to other Troops when the 8th Skipton was disbanded. Mr. E. Edwards and Mr. W. Reeder joined the 5th Skipton (Parish Church) and Mr. Haigh went to the 7th Skipton (Congregational) where they are still doing valuable work at the present time. Altogether, these are remarkable records along with others who have given similar long services.

Before this short account of the 6th. and 8th. is completed, there is one amusing incident which took place and which I think, deserves recording. About 1917 a Wolf Cub Pack had been formed with Mr. A. Townsend as Cubmaster and Miss P. Jowett as Asst. C. M., and they managed to get hold of a live fox cub, which they kept as their mascot. This had been caught on Crookrise, and in 1920 they attended the Jamboree at Olympia taking their mascot with them. Unfortunately, when they arrived in London it escaped causing tremendous excitement. Luckily, it was recaptured and brought safly home again.

Although of short duration, compared with some Troops, the Group held the usual camps during the summer months, only with a difference, a trek cart was always used to carry equipment.

7th Skipton (Congregational) Troop

The 7th Skipton (Congregational) Troop was formed in 1924 by Mr. R. B. Steel, with the help of Mr. Phillip Hurst and progressed steadily. Mr. J. Snowden was Asst. S.M. but left in 1927 to form a troop connected with the Gargrave Road Methodist Church, later to be known as the 10th Skipton. In the same year a Wolf Cub pack was formed by Mr. W. Haigh who had had previous experience with both the 6th and 8th Skipton packs.

Both troop and pack attended the "Jellibree" at Wakefield, when the Chief Scout B.P. was there, this was in 1928, and in 1929 some boys attended the Jamboree at Arrowe Park. By this time, Mr. Haigh was warranted Group Scoutmaster of the Group and he enlisted the assistance of two Rangers, i.e. Senior Girl Guides, to carry on the pack. The troop was rebuilt from older members of the Cubs, and in 1931 a Rover Crew was formed. Mr. Haigh left Skipton in 1932 and the Rev. W. H. Walker took charge of the troop.

From this period until 1944 there was little to record, the Troop lapsing and the Rover Crew completely disappearing. This sad state of affairs was due to the fact that there was no Scoutmaster. The pack

struggled through until 1946 when Mr. Haigh returned.

In 1944 Mr. A. C. Coe took charge of the Scouts and once more there was an enthusiastic troop. Over a long period Mr. Coe did a highly creditable job, and the troop flourished.

In 1953 Messrs. Alfred Dewhirst and Geoff. Holmes were appointed A.S.M.'s, but from 1954 there was a temporary lapse of enthusiasm in the troop and later spread to the pack. Whether this had any connection with the unsettled state of affairs in the troop could not be ascertained, but it took almost 18 months before the pack fully recovered.

STAFF CHANGES.

The group had tried to run a patrol of seniors, but unfortunately there was a shortage of Scouters to manage to run all sections effectively, and the Seniors were allowed to lapse. This situation continued until 1958 when Mr. Coe and Mr. Dewhirst resigned. Mr. G. Holmes was appointed G.S.M. and Mr. E. Horner S.M. An interesting point here was that Mr. Holmes was one of the first boys to join the Cub Pack in 1927, and Mr. Horner joined later. As readers will probably have noticed, this sort of thing happened all through the history of the Groups where boys joined the Pack and stayed throughout until they, in turn, became Scouters and were able to return, in some way, the things they had gained as boys in their own scouting career.

The troop again became very much alive with both Boy Scouts and Senior section running well. The Seniors received a slight setback in 1960 when the Church formed a Youth Club with several promising attractions, but they soon recovered. Mr. Horner resigned towards the end of 1960, and David Shillito, who had first joined the Group as a Wolf Cub, then became A.S.M.

During these later years the troop has worked closely with both Christ Church and the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill Groups.

In 1960 Mr. Haigh had also resigned but within a few weeks Mr. J. Whittam offered his services. This worked for quite a while, but in 1963, Mr. Whittam had to resign owing to his work taking him out of the area, but Mr. Haigh who was by now A.D.C. (Cubs) stepped into the breach once more, until in September 1964, when Mrs. Holden, who had been an A.C.M. with a Lancaster pack, offered her services and was accepted and appointed Cub master.

No history of the 7th Skipton (Congregational) Troop would be complete without due appreciation of its leaders, notably Mr. Steel, a former Skipton dental surgeon, who became District Commissioner and did much to encourage Craven lads to camp in his beloved Scotland; Mr. Coe, who when lads were being blamed for aimlessly running about the Church premises (with nothing to do), set to work to give them a weekday interest by reviving and reorganising the Scout Troop; and thirdly, Mr. Haigh. All credit and good luck also to the present Scoutmaster, Mr. Holmes.

9th Skipton (Christ Church) Troop

The 9th Skipton (Christ Church) troop was formed in 1927, the Rev. M. Talbot being the first Scoutmaster, and Mr. Henry Hardacre, brother of Mr. H. W. Hardacre, who has been previously mentioned in connection with other troops, started the first Cub pack, along with their sister, Mary. Then in 1928 he was assisted by Norman Birkett and Leslie House, whilst Mr. W. H. Hardacre was temporarily warranted as Scoutmaster.

Later a Rover Crew was formed and proved very successful. The first meetings were held in the school, then Messrs. John Gill Ltd., one of the local firms, allowed the Group the use of a cottage until it was required by the firm.

However, as had been found out by other troops, new headquarters became a necessity and after the conclusion of the 1939-45 war, great efforts were made to fulfil this need. Eventually, Mr. Hardacre, (by now the District Commissioner) and Mr. W. Burrows acquired one and it was constructed near the Ambulance Hall. It was opened

by Captain J. C. Scott (then County Commissioner).

Once again, prior to these events, and as readers will have realised according to the dates, activities were interrupted by war and in some cases almost completely disrupted, but when peace came again, it proved the faithfulness of many members of the Brotherhood of Scouts, as it did with so many troops. Mr. Eric Green (now a S.M. in Liverpool) carried on as S.M. with Mr. J. Miller assisting him for a period. Then in 1949, Mr. and Mrs. J. Butler joined the troop as S.M. and C.M. respectively. Once more the troops began to prosper and in 1951 won the Local Association Swimming competition. Also four boys gained their King's Scout badges. Eventually, Mr. Butler was warranted District Scoutmaster, but in 1959 he obtained a teaching post further affield and unfortunately so far as the L.A. were concerned, he and his wife had to leave the district.

Not completely, however, because they often return to fulfil various engagements at the invitation of the L.A

STRONG AGAIN.

Mr. T. Newbould, who had had previous connection with the 1st. Kildwick and Farnhill troop, took over as Scoutmaster. In 1955, the troops formed the Guard of Honour at the Annual Gala and in 1957 they won the Campers Craft Competition. After a year or so, under Mr. Newbould's leadership the troop again flourished, but when he had to resign, the troop once more began to disintegrate. A few of the boys joined up with the 7th Skipton and worked with them for a time, but they needed leadership of their own, and even though they were able to attend several joint camps it did not really suffice.

However, in spite of the troops having no S.M., the Parents' Committee under the very active leadership of Mrs. E. Fewson, as had happened so often in other Groups, attempted to help by obtaining new H.Q's. This they did by building one themselves, which was opened in 1963. But unfortunately, no-one answered the appeal for a Scouter, so the L.A. took over the building and it is now their H.Q. until such times as the 9th Skipton (Christ Church) once again take up the cudgels. The handful of scouts who kept together through several years of difficulties are now the nucleus of the senior band of scouts with the 7th Skipton Group. The 9th Skipton Cub pack continues in existence under Miss Maritza Bentley and one of their number won a recent L.A. competition for Arts and Crafts.

1st Kildwick & Farnhill Troop

Now we come to the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill Group. In 1908, though little was known generally of the Scout Movement, Mr. R. Gledstone realised the value of the training it offered and he proposed to form a troop in Kildwick. He explained to the Rev. E. B. Brereton, the Vicar of the Parish, the Scouting principles, and soon afterwards the first Patrol was formed, the Grouse Patrol.

Public interest, however, was still not fully aroused, and the patrol almost came to an end, but activity was again renewed when a Mr. Edwards took charge in 1909, and a second patrol was formed, to be known as the Lion Patrol. The troop took over a house in Farnhill as Headquarters. At this time one of the adult members was Mr. Ashlee, who left the troop to form one of his own in Cononley. Interest now fully aroused and the older members of the troop were formed into a separate patrol and were known as the Ambulance Patrol.

During 1910-1911 Sir John Brigg allowed the troop to use an old house for drilling and indoor work. In February 1911 a distribution of badges took place and it is worthy of note that James Lee won most of them. A notable event took place during this year, the second Rally was held at Windsor and several members of the troop attended.

At a Scouts' meeting held in the Christ Church school in the Autumn of 1910, it was decided to make a levy of 5% on the profits of all social entertainments which was to be paid to the district secretary, Miss Dewhirst, for secretarial expenses.



At this point I think special mention should be made of an outstanding member of the 1st Kildwick Troop i.e., James Lee. It has already been mentioned that he had won practically every badge it was possible to win, including the award of the Silver Wolf, and this in spite of the fact that at the age of 14, he had been unfortunate enough to lose his sight. In spite of this terrible disadvantage he had forged ahead in the true spirit of Scouting, and had succeeded in conquering his disadvantage.

After a long lapse, during which a Wolf Cub Pack was formed in 1930 with but a short life in spite of the visits of Mr. Haigh, the District Cub master, another start was made to form a troop. The Rev. Hodgkinson, in 1937, was very interested in the Scout Movement and helped to get a troop going; there were several of the boys interested i.e. J. Hargreaves, J. Shuttleworth, the Bancroft boys and several more. The troop still held the title but added to it thus:—1st Kildwick & Farnhill. Miss W. Smith, of Farnhill, formed a Wolf Cub Pack and also helped the older boys. These boys still had no official Scoutmaster but eventually two of the fathers took charge, namely Mr. Alec Hargreaves and Mr. Anthony Hargreaves.

GALLANT EFFORTS

These gentlemen did not, however take out warrants as official Scoutmasters, but carried on very gallantly in an unofficial capacity for a very long time. Miss Smith meanwhile, carried on with the Cub Pack and today continues to keep the troop supplied with very efficient scouts. Although the original handful of boys had no official Scoutmaster, several of them managed to gain their King's Scout badges. This achievement was remarkable under the circumstances and great credit was due to them and their leaders at this time. In 1941 Miss Smith arranged and held the first Gang Show, which then and in all the years following, proved to be an unqualified success, both financially and socially.

During the following years, which were the latter years of the 1939-45 war, much the same procedure took place in Kildwick as in other troops. All the menfolk were in the services, but luckily, most of them returned and as the majority of the older boys had also left the troop, the Scouts were, once more, without a leader, the Rev. Hodgkinson also having left. However, there lived in Cross Hills an ex-Scouter who had been demobbed from the Air Force, and he had had previous experience of the Scout Movement in the Skipton district.

The boys asked him if he would become their Scoutmaster — Mr. House accepted and had as his assistant, Mr. S. Hargreaves, an original member. During this year, the troop won the "Horsfall Shield." For the next four or five years, the troop occupied the Parish room at Kildwick for meetings and social occasions, but as the numbers increased rapidly, it soon became cramped and they had to start looking around for other accommodation. Every effort went into this plan and eventually a hut was found, a site cleared, and in 1950, the new Headquarters were officially opened by Mr. L. Wright, the Asst. County Commissioner for Scouts.

KING'S SCOUTS.

In 1951 R. Beattie, J. W. Monkhouse and D. A. House gained their King's Scout Badges, and in the following year, D. A. House and Gordon Annan of the 5th Skipton (Parish Church) group together with a King's Scout from the 7th Skipton, P. L. Robinson, attended the Jamboree in Austria and spoke on their experiences at a Rotary Luncheon on their return. Also in that year warrants were issued to J. H. Lund (S.M.S.), Terry Newbould and J. W. Monkhouse (A.S.M.'s). In 1952 the troop won the "Gala" Shield.

It must be pointed out that as well as the successes as stated, the troop also took part in the annual Gang Show. At this time quite an important step was taken in the future of the boys. A patrol was made up of Senior boys, that is, boys of fifteen and over up to eighteen. Their activities were of a more strenuous nature than those of the younger ones, and more was expected of them. However, with their horizon being wider, it gave them more scope and increased their enthusiasm.

In 1952 the troop, with muffled drums, took part in the commemoration Service for King George VI, and in the following year celebrated the Coronation of our present Queen by lighting beacons on the hill tops.

In 1953 warrants were presented to Mr. S. Hyde (A.S.M.) seniors, and to Mr. Bruce Beattie (A.S.M.). So the troop progressed, going from strength to strength, and again increasing in numbers.

In 1954 W. Daggett and Peter Beer were awarded the Queen's Scout Badges. In 1957 a warrant was presented to Mr. J. W. Monkhouse as Scoutmaster. The resignation of Mr. House as G.S.M. followed, on his promotion to Asst. District Commissioner for the area. Then Mr. J. W. Monkhouse became G.S.M.

Four new Scouters were warranted in the troop, Mr. Finlayson and Mr. Brocklesby as A.S.M's. and Miss Hargreaves and Miss Platt as A.C.M's. Also in the same year J. Holding gained his Queen's Scout Badge.

Once again the troop was faced with the need for new H.Q's. and at this time the old Liberal Club was up for sale. Mrs. Coulthurst, of Gargrave, a lady well known in the district for her great generosity, became interested in the whole idea and bought the building for the use of the Group on the understanding that what monies the Group had earned for use in acquiring a new headquarters should be used on the decoration and refurbishing of the building.

Soon after the opening which took place in 1961 and was performed officially by Mrs. Coulthurst, Mr. Monkhouse resigned as G.S.M. and became an honorary Scouter of the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill Group. His place was taken by A.S.M. Neil Tillotson who gained his Queen's Scout Badge in 1958, as also did T. Sugden. He was assisted by R. Hoyle and J. Cowling. It would be timely to say that at this stage Mr. Tillotson and Mr. Cowling were awarded the B.P. Award for Rover Scouts, a very unusual occurrence in this area. There were two more Queen's Scout Badges gained this same year, by Glyn Richards, T.L., and Michael House, P.L. It was also the 21st year since the re-formation of the troop, so special arrangements were made to celebrate this event in the Annual Gang Show. Another Queen's Scout Badge was won in 1964 by J. Wilkins.

In 1965 the Group made a notable contribution to celebrate their 25th year. Donations were asked for and given by old Scouts, present Scouts, Cubs and Parents, and a beautiful silver cross was bought and presented to St. Andrews Church, the first 'home' of the troop. An inscription was engraved on it to say it was in thanksgiving for 25 years of Scouting. A special service was held during which the cross was officially handed over to the Church. The troop paraded to the service and there was an enormous gathering of parents, old Scouts and their families, and numerous scouting dignitaries and friends of the Group.

It will be noted that many of the Groups, as with this one, although not necessarily sponsored by a church, have very close ties with a local church. This was obviously intended by the Founder of the Boy Scout Movement when he worded the Scout promise.

1st Cononley Troop

The Cononley Scout Troop was one of the most successful in its early days and one of the first formed in 1911, with Mr. Ashlea as Scoutmaster. Mr. Ashlea had been in the 1st Kildwick and Farnhill from its inception in 1908 when Mr. Edwards was the Scoutmaster, and shared in the setbacks of those early days. However, in 1911 he left the Kildwick Troop and formed the 1st Cononley with Jack Parker, Dick Hudson and others. In 1913 a few of the members attended the Birmingham Scout Rally.

The scouts in the 1st Cononley worked for the war effort as did other troops, mostly in connection with the local hospitals. Both Wolf Cubs and Rovers were formed in 1919 and progressed well, several members at-

tending the Olympic Jamboree in 1920. Mr. Ashlea became District Scoutmaster, and in 1924 all attended the Blackburn Rally where Baden-Powell and his wife reviewed the troops.

This was about the last event which the troop attended as later that year Mr. Ashlea left for Canada and the troop was kept going for a time by Mr. Jack Parker, who later became L. A. secretary.

There were other troops formed in the district about 1940, but for one reason or another none of them had very long active lives with the exception of the two school troops, i.e., Eshton School and Malsis (Cross Hills) Preparatory School; these are both still in existence even though both have had periods over the years when their activities have almost lapsed. The Malsis Hall troop, formed in 1940, was visited from time to time by Mr. W. Hardacre, the District Commissioner at that time.

Mr. G. E. T. Brown was warranted Scoutmaster and Mr. B. C. Gadney as Assistant Scoutmaster.

As with so many school troops, especially those who catered for boarders, scout activities at Malsis were always regulated by the terms, and most of their outdoor work had to take place during term time. Therefore, one might say that the non-school groups had a distinct advantage in that they could participate in scout activities all the year round.

In 1941, warrants were presented to acting Scoutmaster, Mr. Derek Fawcett and to Asst. S.M. Mr. Robert Prentice. Then, because masters were often leaving and others coming to take their place, there was a lapse here which lasted quite a long time, but in 1946 the head master, Mr. B. C. Gadney, took over as Scoutmaster. There was one event which took place and to which the local troop was invited. This was the visit of the Chief Scout of South Africa who inspected the scouts of the school and 1st Kildwick and Farnhill at Malsis School before attending a dinner at Dyneley House Hotel, given by the L.A.

1st Grassington Troop

In 1927, Mr. J. S. House, formerly of the 5th Skipton, had formed a troop on his removal to the village. Several members of the troop accompanied Mr. House to the Arrow Park Jamboree at Birkenhead in 1929.

Unfortunately after a number of highly successful camps and other scout activities, Mr. House left the troop (which became defunct) to go on active service with the R.A.F. and did not return to the village after the war, but took up scouting again in his new home district of Cross Hills. However, in 1950, a new troop was registered at Grassington with the Rev. J. C. T. Baker in charge. This Group is still in existence and has a flourishing Cub Pack run by Mr. Roy Walker, the head master of the local junior school. They try to take part in most district activities and recently won a swimming trophy after only a two hour notice of the event.

Mr. Walker has some very able assistance from Mrs. Chris. Baker (whose husband is secretary to the Parents' Committee) who still manages to turn up to pack meetings though now living in the Cross Hills area. Also living away from the Grassington district as an ex-Queen's Scout, Jack Whitton, who has been Scoutmaster for some years and whose father, Ex-Police Sergeant F. Whitton, has recently been warranted as Group Scoutmaster. Phillip Newbould has given useful help and is assistant Scoutmaster of the troop. P. Driver, whilst still at grammar school did excellent work with both the Cubs and Scouts for several years before leaving the area to attend University, where he has continued his scouting career.

FELL RESCUE

The Group has done much in providing working members of the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue team over the years. The troop, reformed in 1950, retained the scarlet scarf of the original troop. Mr. Baker, in 1951, was appointed Acting District Commissioner in place of Mr. W. Hardacre, who had been granted a year's sick leave, and later was warranted as D.C. He held the two positions until 1960 when his work took him out of the district. He did, before leaving, arrange for the permanent use by the Scouts of a large room and store over the Rectory

garage. This is now in process of complete renovation by the scouts and scouters.

The troop is most useful in the district as it offers temporary membership to boys attending the resident tial school at Netherside Hall.

This history cannot be completed without some comment about the various and different camps which have been held from beginning to end of this period by every member of the groups. They could not be mentioned separately because basically each troops, camps are similar, be it an annual or weekend patrol camp.

However, to each boy who has even attended a scout camp there are always memories, particular memories, humorous or otherwise, which remain with him for ever. All the troops I have mentioned, whether of long or short duration, must have had at lease one Scout Camp which they will remember, or, if not, they will have missed one of the best things in life.

THE SKIPTON IN CRAVEN LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF BOY SCOUTS.

The overall work and coordination of the various Groups has been, since 1909, controlled by a Committee known as the Local Association. Over the years the boundaries have changed and now covers the area of Draughton, Bolton Abbey, the whole of the upper Wharfe Dale valley, Malhamdale as far as the boundary of Airton, Airedale from Coniston Cold to Cross Hills/Sutton.

The Association consists of scouter and lay members of all existing Groups in the area and any friends who wish to assist in any way. There is a President, a number of Vice-Presidents, a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary, who are all elected and who are non-scouters. All scouters may attend meetings and voice opinions. Bye laws of the association provide certain rules of procedure to be followed.

The complete team of workers, both scouter and lay, is led by the District Commissioner (D.C.) with the Assistant Commissioners (A.D.C's), who are appointed by the County Commissioner for the Chief Scout. The D.C. is also greatly assisted in the organisation of Scouting in the district by District Scouters of one or more of the Scouting Sections i.e., Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts, who are elected bi-annually by the Local Association.

The Skipton L.A. came into being in November 1909; Prior to that date all Groups in this district were in the Keighley L.A. Mr. Ben Walls was its first Chairman and Mr. C. Driver, Secretary. Miss Barbara Slingsby became the first lady District Commission and she succeeded her brother, Anthony who was killed in action in the 1914-1918 war. In 1924 7*r*. Wills of Gargrave was D.C. He allowed scouts to take advantage of his large estate and therefore, very many Patrol Camps were held there.

In 1929 the Birkenhead Jamboree was held, this being the first Jamboree to be held in England on such a big scale. Several scouts and scouters attended this great event which was known, mainly from reports received afterwards, as "the days the rains came," as everyone floundered in mud the whole of the time.

Mr. Wills, having resigned his office as D.C. was succeeded by Dr. A. Fisher in 1930. Mr. R. B. Steele was the next D.C. (1936-1939). He had been the first scout to win the King's Scout Badge. The number of boys in the various Groups now totalled 200 and the D.C. was Mr. W. H. Hardacre. On the 2nd February, 1941, it was suggested that scouts in the L.A. should present the first Gang Show, and this was achieved in 1942 in the Skipton Town Hall.

Up to this time the activities of the scout went from age 11 to 18 and it was soon decided to make two sections. 11-15 Scouts and 15-18 Senior Scouts.

In 1946 the Rev. Sephton was appointed Chairman, his predecessor being Mr. R. B. Steele. At this time there were 310 boys in the L.A.

In 1947, this being the 40th Anniversary of the Scout Movement, special events took place in the L.A. to celebrate the occasion. An

exhibition organised by the L.A. was held in the Gala Field and this proved very interesting as photographs and articles appertaining to the Scout Movement from the earliest days, were displayed in a huge marquee. In 1951 a Field Day was held in Blue Buttons field to celebrate the Festival of Britain. The "Gala" Shield and cup were presented to the lucky competitors.

In 1948 the Slingsby Trust gave the L.A. a hut which was erected in the grounds of Broughton Hall by kind permission of the owner, Capt. Stephen Tempest, and in 1950, this was officially opened by Mrs. Cropper (nqe Barbara Slinsby).

In 1951 the County Empire Day Service was held in Bradford Cathedral and several scouts and scouters from this L.A. took part. Following the service there was a very impressive parade of troops from all over the County. It was a very colourful sight with the boys in their varied coloured neckerchiefs, shirts and shorts.

In the same year the D.C., Mr. Hardacre, was granted leave of absence for twelve months, and the Rev. J. C. Tl Baker was appointed acting D.C. for that period; also Mr. J. S. House was appointed Parade Marshall.

In 1952, as has been mentioned previously, was memorable in that the death of His Majesty, King George VI took place and all troops in the district joined in the services of mourning. In the following year the Coronation of Her Majesty was held, and under the directions of the L.A., scouts helped in building beacons. Also in 1952, the Rev. Baker was appointed D.C. and a presentation was made to Mr. Hardacre on his leaving the L.A. on his promotion to International Commissioner for West Yorkshire.

In 1953 it was proposed by the L.A. that the Slingsby Memorial Hut be removed from its present site at Broughton Hall and sited at Draughton, and that Mr. Cash should be Warden of same, and it has been used a considerable amount since then.

In 1955, the County Conference was held in Skipton, and the Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Rob. Lockhart was the Chief Guest at a dinner held at the Black Horse Hotel. He presented Queen's Scout Badges in the grounds of Skipton Castle.

The Rev. J. C. T. Baker continued in office until 1962 when Mr. Brook Naylor was elected District Commissioner. Mr. Naylor had held the position of Secretary from 1949 until he was appointed D.C. Previous Secretaries were Mr. Barnes, Mr. Cyril Clarke, then B. Naylor assisted by B. Russell. Mr. Lefevre is the present one. The Chairman has been, in turn, Rev. Sephton, Mr. Kerrigan, Mr. W. Reeder and Mr. S. Waterfall.

Annual Field Days, Camper Craft Competitions, Swimming Galas etc., have been held over the years.

Before the completion of this history, I would like to place on record the present members (lay and scout) of the Local Association (see attached list). Also to take the opportunity of thanking all Group Committees, without whom no Group could work efficiently.

G. M. HOUSE.

May, 1965.