

# THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES BULLETIN MADRAS STATE

*(Approved by the Director of Public Instruction, Madras)*

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No. 9

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## Scouts and Guides felicitate Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar

An impressive Rally of Scouts and Guides was held on 21st November 1959 at the State Headquarters, Wenlock Park, Triplicane, to celebrate the Eighty-first Birthday of Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, formerly Provincial Scout Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association, Madras Presidency. Sri Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India, presided over the function. After a chorus singing of "Happy Birthday to You" by the Scouts and Guides, and the presentation of the Birthday cake by Smt. D. L. Gopal Ratnam, State Commissioner (Guides), Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner, said it gave the Scouts and Guides great pleasure to celebrate the Birthday of one of the founders of the Movement in South India and they regarded him as "our hero". Dr. Ramaswamy Aiyar said "there are other Movements for adults but for Boys and Girls there is hardly anything that can equal the Scout Movement for getting rid of provincial, regional, caste and communal differences". He added that the Movement had progressed in India "beyond the expectations of most of us". An address on behalf of the Association was presented to him by Sri P. R. Ganapathy Pillay, Honorary State Secretary. Prof. Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India, conveyed the Greetings on behalf of the 6,00,000 Scouts and Guides of India to Dr. Ramaswamy Aiyar on the happy occasion. The Scouts and Guides gave several items of entertainment and Sri T. R. Kothandaram Mudaliar, Asst. State Commissioner, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Rally was in charge of Sri H. Ramanathan, District Commissioner (Scouts), South Madras District, and Kumari S. Bakkiamuthu, Deputy Camp Chief.

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## News from the State Headquarters

**State Chief Commissioner:** Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner attended the National Executive Committee Meeting at New Delhi on 29th November 1959.

**State Commissioner (Scouts):** Sri N. D. Sundaravadi-velu, State Commissioner (Scouts), inaugurated the Scout and Guide week at Coimbatore on the 25th November 1959.

**State Commissioner (Guides):** Smt. D. L. Gopal Ratnam, State Commissioner (Guides), attended the Scout and Guide Week Rally on the 30th November at Coimbatore.

**Honorary State Secretary:** Sri P. R. Ganapathy Pillay, Honorary State Secretary, attended the Scout and Guide Week Rally on the 30th November at Coimbatore.

**State Organising Commissioners' Tours—Nov. '59:** Sri M. Rajagopalan, State Organising Commissioner (Scouts) toured along with Prof. Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India, and Sri D. P. Joshi, National Organising Commissioner (Scouts) and visited the following places:—Kuzhithurai, Marthandom, Thuckaly, Nagercoil, Suchindram, Cape Comorin, in Kanyakumari District and Madurai, Chekkannurani and Usilampatti in Madurai District.

Sri R. Messiah Doss, State Organising Commissioner (Scouts), visited the following places in Chingleput District: Chingleput, Wallajabad, Tambaram, and Vellore.

Kumari C. John, State Organising Commissioner (Guides), was deputed to help at the Holiday Camp for Girls from the Welfare Institutions in Madras City, at Tirukalikundram from 11th to 25th November. She attended the Scout and Guide Week Rally at Coimbatore on November 30, 1959.

**Finance Committee:** Met on 19th November 1959 at the State Headquarters, Wenlock Park, Triplicane, Madras.

**The Himalaya Scout Wood Badge Parchment:** The Camp Chief (Scouts) India, has issued the Himalaya Scout Wood Badge Parchment No. 54 dated 3-12-1959 to Sri N. V. Ramaswamy, Scouter, Pachaiyappa's High School, Chidambaram, South Arcot District.

## The Psychology of Boyhood

The first step towards success as a Scoutmaster is to know something about boys in general and a little more about his own boys in particular. A boy is not a small edition of a man, nor is he a piece of blank paper upon which the would-be teacher may write. Every child has his own peculiar curiosity, his inexperience, and normal mysterious frame of mind to be tactfully encouraged and moulded.

It is a good thing to try to recall as far as possible what one's ideas were when he was a boy himself and he can then much better understand the boys' feelings and desires. It is strange how most of us forget so soon our own boyhood with all its problems and difficulties to us, just as real as any we may be faced with even now.

### The Ordinary Boy

There is no such thing as the "Ordinary boy" Every one of them is extraordinary in some way or another, with abilities and weaknesses of their own. Let us consider some of the characteristics of the "Ordinary Boy," bearing in mind however that generalisations are often faulty, sometimes even dangerous.

**Humour** is one of his strong points. It is the greatest of pities that in India he often loses it before manhood. The boy the world over is full of humour. It may be on the shallow or vulgar side, but thank the powers he can always see the funny said of things and enjoy a joke, even when the joke is against himself.

**Courage** is a dominant trait in the character of the average boy. The poorer boy who has a life of hardship—generally manages to have pluck as well. He is not by nature a grumbler, though later on he may become one when his self respect has died out of him and when he has been in the company of grouchers.

**Confidence** is a strong point in almost every boy. The average boy is supremely confident in his own powers, especially the poorer class of boy, because in many cases he has had to fend for himself through the neglect of parents. He is therefore rather averse from being treated as a child and being told to do things or how to do them. He would much rather try for himself, even though it may lead him into blunders, but it is just by making mistakes that a boy gains experience and moulds his character.

**Sharpness and Keeness of Intellect** are to be found in almost every boy, no matter what his heredity. There are very few boys who are dull-witted but the fact that many of them soon lose their sharpness reflects no credit upon our system of education.

**Love of excitement** is a weakness inherited by every boy and if we are clever enough we can turn it to advantage. A good fight or a passing fire-engine will rouse his interest like a shot. Here is a handle which the psychologist will not fail to employ in training his boys. Our Scout methods abound with illustrations of this.

**Responsiveness and Hero-worship** are embedded in the heart of every boy. The poorer boy as a rule gets very little attention at home so that when he finds somebody who takes an interest in him, he responds and follows where he is led and it is here that hero-worship comes in as a great force for helping the Scoutmaster.

**Loyalty** is another feature of the boy's character that inspire boundless hope. The poor are loyal friends to each other and thus friendliness comes naturally to the poor boy. It is the one duty he understands. He may appear selfish outwardly, but as a general rule he is very willing under the surface to be helpful to others. This is where our Scout training finds good soil to work upon.

If one considers and studies these different attributes in the boy one is in a far better position to adapt the training to suit the boys's different propensities. Such study is first step to making a success of Scoutmastership. What we have to realise is that boys have a world of their own. Their language is not our language and their values are not our values.

**The Boy's World** It is a world into which neither the teacher nor the teacher's lessons are admitted. A boy's world has its own events and standards, with its own code, its own gossip and its own public opinion. In spite of teachers and parents, boys remain loyal to their own world. They obey their own code although it is quite a different code to the one that is taught to them at home and in the school-room. If we wish to succeed we must take our Scouting into the world of the boy.

- (By a Practical Scouter)

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## American Scouting Enthusiast in Madras

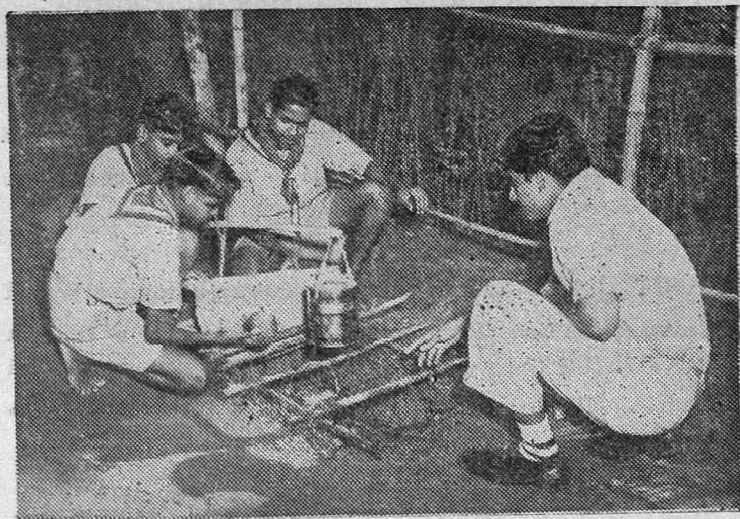
(BY N K. KRISHNAMURTI)

Early in November, at Y.M.C.A. Boys Town at Madras a camp for scouts was organized. Some 16 scouts attended the camp.

ASGT. John Dudzik Jr., a Marine Security Guard attached to the American Consulate General in Madras and a staunch scout is assisting the scout group as an adviser since his arrival in Madras. He has been helping them in their instructions and activities.

The two days camp gave the scouts good practices in the fields of First Aid, tracking, stalking, knots, lashing, health, cleanliness and sanitation.

The campers were introduced to a new gadget, something like a REFRIGERATOR, by Mr. Dudzik. It is a simple device in vogue among the American campers to keep vegetables, milk, etc. cool at a campsite which is far away from civilized habitation. The scouts dug a pit by the side of the tent and lined the edges of the pit with bricks and green grass and covered it with a gunnysack covering the provisions inside. At the top of the gunny sack was suspended a can containing a gallon of water from a rod kept in position by props. Through the holes blocked with soft wood, water trickles down drop by drop on the gunny to keep it wet and thus the provisions are kept cool.



A device to keep provisions cool at the Y. M. C. A Boys Town scout camp was introduced to the group by American scouting enthusiast and adviser to the campers John Dudzik Jr.

Picture shows campers at the pit which serves as the receptacle for provisions and a can of water suspended above from which water trickles down to keep the provisions cool.

In the beginning Mr. Dudzik experienced the language barrier. But, he however, surmounted this with the help of an interpreter. Now Mr. Dudzik and his interpreter closely work on a lesson beforehand and together they are able to put it over more efficiently to the group.

Mr. Dudzik said, "I am in competition with my Pa." His 'Pa' is John Dudzik Sr, who is a Neighbourhood Scout Commissioner in their home town, Auburn, Maine. Both father and son compare notes extensively about their scouting highlights in America and India. Also they exchange photographs of their respective groups and their activities.

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## Notes by the way.

Madurai did well. The Chief Commissioner (Scouts) and the National Organising Commissioner were with them only for 24 hours, but it looked as though they were there with them for days—so many and so colourful the engagements that were got ready for them.

\* \* \*

And such good engagements too!

\* \* \*

There was the rally of the Kallar Units—at Usilampatti—a colourful thing, with quite a number of Scouts, Cubs and Bulbuls. The journey to and fro consumed much petrol, and time.

But it was well worth it.

\* \* \*

Then there was the rally at Y.M.C.C. and a visit to the Rover Crew at Madurai Mills—each good in its own way.

\* \* \*

There was the public meeting at which the C.C. made a most effective appeal—for quality.

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There was of course a well organised lunch at which important Scouters were introduced to the C.C. and the N.O.C. And there were teas and refreshments at every rally.

\* \* \*

And one shouldn't forget the visit to the Temple and the offering of worship on the day of arrival.

\* \* \*

Searchlight heard it said that colourful as the rally at Usilampatti was, there was lack of colour in the uniform worn by many who turned up at parade. Father time had touched the thing with his icy hands!

\* \* \*

And the badges on the uniform of some of the boys, particularly some of the cubs, had defied time. They belonged to an age long anterior to the Merger!

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It is good to know that when the defects were pointed out to the sponsoring authority, he took it nicely and offered to rectify them before long.

\* \* \*

Scouting surely is a matter of the spirit. But externals also count—in the eyes of the public. Slackness in regard to uniform or badges can do immense harm. One slackness will lead to another, and all will conspire to spoil the good name of Scouting.

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But why "Kallar" Units? Why that name with an obvious stigma? Couldn't the old order change and yield place to something new—to something refreshing?

\* \* \*

Y M.C.C. put up a good show—smart personnel, smart uniform, and everything spick and span. It was a small sized rally, but quite a good one.

\* \* \*

Yes, they had smart uniform, really smart stuff, but with a scarf patch not so smart as it should be. Better than the hieroglyphics, they should devise a good emblem, and sport it there. It would fit them better.

\* \* \*

The meeting of the evening came as a fitting *finale*. Mr. Diaz who presided couldn't help showing that he had inside knowledge of Scouting and quite creditable knowledge too! It was so refreshing to know that inspite of police ways and police discipline men can still maintain a Scout heart!

\* \* \*

And the speech of the C.C. just bucked people up. It shook them out of the despondency into which they had fallen. He swore by quality, and cautioned workers against the obsession of numbers. He warned them against giving way to despair. Other organisations might hold out better attractions—for the worker, but Scouting, he said, stood all by itself, and it thrives on its own inherent merits, and its inherent strength. And it had a mission to fulfil.

\* \* \*

Madurai really did well. And the success of it all could be ascribed to two dynamic personalities, who vied with each other to make every function a success, the D.C. and the D.S., men with the same name, the same amount of energy, and the same measure of enthusiasm!

\* \* \*

One claimed that the district came out second best, the other went one better, and said taking Scouts alone into consideration it stood first. But first or second, there is good stuff in Madurai and with two enthusiastic men at the top, and a host of willing workers to assist them, Madurai certainly promises to do better, and very much better!

—SEARCHLIGHT

## District News

### TAMBARAM

A Joint Rally of Scouts and Guides was held at the Corley High School premises, Tambaram, on Saturday the 21st November at 14-00 hrs. in honour of the visit of Prof. Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India, and Sri D. P. Joshi, National Organising Commissioner (Scouts). Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner, Srimathi D. L. Gopal Ratnam, State Commissioner

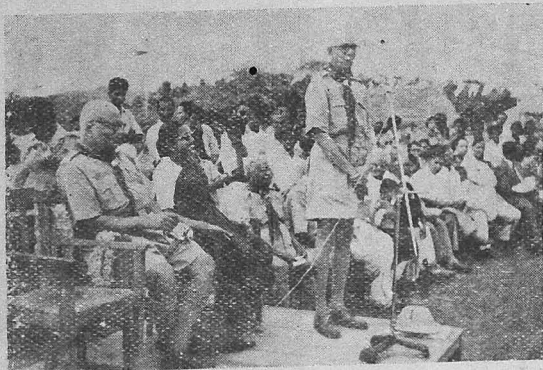
(Guides), Sri P. R. Ganapathy Pillay, Hony. State Secretary, Sri T. R. Kothandaram Mudaliar, Asst. State Commissioner (Scouts), and Sri R. Messiah Doss, State Organising Commissioner (Scouts), participated.

There was a Luncheon Party in which the Chief Guests and Scout and Guide Officers participated. A rousing reception was accorded to the Chief Guests by the Scouts of the Hindu Religious School Troop,

Wallajabad. The District Commissioner presented the Assistant District Commissioners to the Chief Commissioner and other officers.

The Rally was attended by 1200 Scouts and Guides and 100 Officers drawn from all over the District. The local Railway Scouts and Guides were also present with their

respective Officers on special invitation. Mrs D. L. Gopalratnam, State Commissioner (Guides) hoisted the Flag. There was a march past by the Rovers of the Majumdar Air Rover Crew, Avadi, at which the Chief Commissioner took the salute. Sri S. Kanagaraj Elias, Principal, and Vice-President, Local Association,



Sri K Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner. addresses Right  
Seated : Sri Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India and  
Mrs. D. L. Gopal Ratnam, State Commissioner (Guides).

Saidapet welcomed the guests. The units were presented to the distinguished visitors at the review. There was a Scout display followed by entertainment items which were appreciated. The Chief Guests spoke and stressed on the need for efficiency and progress.

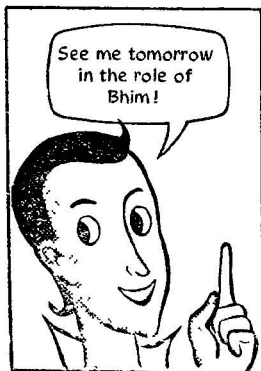
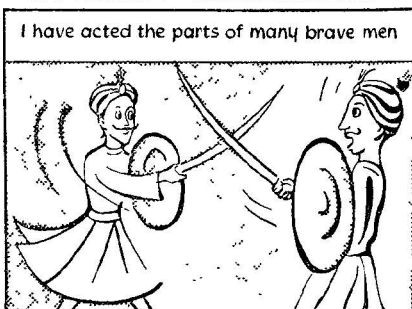
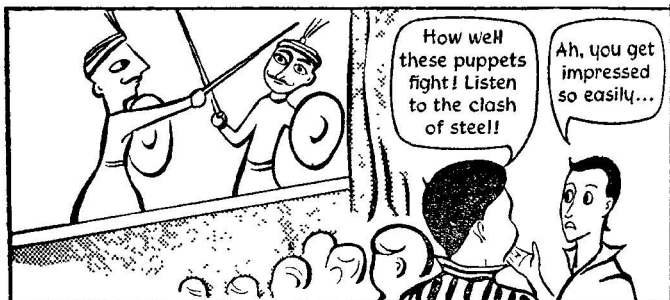
Sri D. S. Gururaj, District Commissioner and Sri L. Sreeraman, District Scout Organiser, District Board were

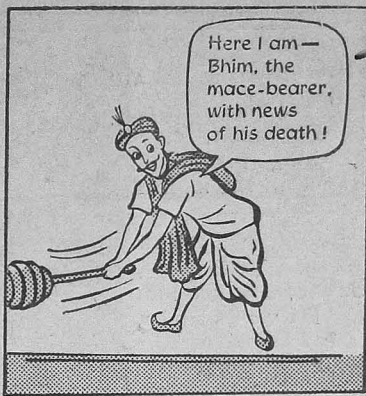
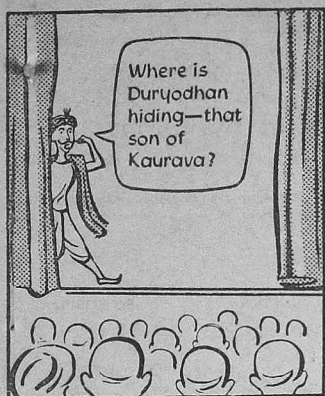
presented with the Himalaya Wood Badge Parchments.

The Rally was a great success and thanks are due to the Special Officer, Chingleput District Board, to the Headmasters of the various Schools in the District and to the many Assistant District Commissioners (Scouts & Guides) and the many Scouters and Guiders of all ranks.

 **BRAVE MUNNU** & **BOASTFUL CHUNNU** 







An empty boaster is soon humbled. If you wish to be strong, you must drink milk every day and eat food cooked with DALDA

CHILDREN, YOU NEED DALDA VANASPATI FOR STRENGTH. VITAMINS A AND D ARE ADDED TO THIS NOURISHING FAT. AND DALDA-COOKED FOOD IS

DELICIOUS AND STRENGTHENING. ASK MOTHER TO COOK YOUR FOOD IN DALDA VANASPATI—ALWAYS.



## NILGIRIS

Sri V. P. Ramaswamy, District Scout Organiser, visited the following places in Nilgiris District in the month of November 1959:—

Gudalur, Glenvans, New Hope, Seaforth, Yellamalai, Kelleys, Guynd, Lauriston, Balamadies, Devershola, Devon No. 1 & 2 Division, May Field, Sussex, Nellakotta, Bitherkadu, Hockwood, Emerald Division and Pearl Division, Wood Briyar and Panchura.

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## GUDALUR

The Scout and Guide Week was celebrated at the District Board High School, Gudalur, on 5th November 1959, under the presidentship of Sri Vasudevan Nair, Circle Inspector of Police. About 100 Scouts and Guides took part in the Rally and there was an interesting demonstration of the various Scout and Guide activities. Sri V. P. Ramaswamy, District Scout Organiser and Sri J. Josam, Asst. District Commissioner, addressed the gathering. Sri M. Ramachandran, Headmaster of the Board High School, proposed a vote of thanks

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## KORAKUNDAH

Sri Kotavala, Manager, Korakundah Estate, inaugurated a new Cub Pack and a Bulbul Flock at Methodist Mission School, Korakundah,

on 26th October 1959. Sri Kotavala and Sri V. P. Ramaswamy, District Scout Organiser, addressed the gathering.

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## TIRUCHIRAPALLI

The Scout Troop of the N.C.B Aryan Secondary School, celebrated the Scout Week from 7th to 14th November 1959.

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## KILAPPERUMBALLAM

The Chidambaranar Scout Troop of Board High School, Kilapperumballam, celebrated Scout and Guide Week and Children's Day on 14-11-1959 at their Camp at Nadarajapillai-chavadi.

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The Chidambaranar Scout Troop of Board High School, Kilapperumballam, camped at Tirucadayur, on Monday the 30th November 1959 and rendered service at the Karthigai Somavaram festival at the local Temple under the leadership of the Scoutmaster Sri A. S. K. Vadivu.

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## KUMBAKONAM

A Patrol Leaders' Training Course and a Scouters' Refresher's Course were inaugurated on 6-11-1959 by Sri A. Y. S. Parisutha Nadar, M.L.A., District Commissioner (Scouts) at Ammachatram. Sri K. S. Seshadry, Asst State Commissioner (Scouts), presided over the inaugural func-

tion. These Camps were organised under the auspices of the Local Association at Kumbakonam. The Camps were in-charge of Scouters, Sri H. Krishnamurthi, Sri G. Deva Irakkam, Sri K. S. Viswanathan, Sri S. Kuppusami Pillai, Sri S. Viswanathan and Sri V. Pichumani. 21 Scouts took training as Patrol Leaders and 21 Scouters underwent Refreshers Training. The Visitors' Day was presided over by Sri K. Abdul Rahim, Personal Assistant, to the Special Officer, District Board, Tanjore.

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### CHIDAMBARAM

The Scout and Guide week was celebrated from 7th to 13th November 1959 by the Local Association at Chidambaram. The inauguration of the Scout and Guide week was held on 7-11-1959 when Sri M. Subbaraya Pillai, Municipal Chairman and President of the Local Association presided. Dr. V. Krishnamurthi, District Commissioner (Scouts) delivered the inaugural address.

The Second Day (8-11-1959) was presided over by Sri K. Swaminathan, when Sri P. N. Shanmugham addressed on "Scouting and Education".

The Third Day (9-11-1959) was presided over by Sri S. Ramalingam Pillai, Vice-President of the Local Association when Sri S. Thiruvengada

Nainar, gave a talk on "Our duties as Citizens".

The Fourth Day (10-11-1959) Sri P. R. Gurumurthi, presided, when Sri L. Srinivasan, gave a talk on "The Value of Scouting".

The Fifth Day (11-11-1959), Sri P. R. Swaminatha Mudaliar presided when Sri N. Rajagopalan, addressed the Scouts and Guides on "Scouting for All".

The Sixth Day (12-11-1959) Sri D. I. Jesudasan, presided when Sri C. Ramalingam, delivered an address on "Scout Discipline".

On the Final Day (13-11-'59) Sri P. Ranganathan, presided and Sri G. Shanmugham gave a talk on "Obedience and Discipline".

The Seven Days' functions were held in different places such as Government Nandanar Boys' High School, Sri Arumuga Navalar High School, Pachaiyappa's High School, Sri Ramakrishna Vidyasala, RCT. High School, Annamalainagar, and Annamalai University.

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### ANAMALAIS

Sri P. S. Ranganathan, Scout Organiser, Anamalais visited the following places during the month of November 1959.

Velaparai, Pattuthottam, Stanmore, Mudis, Cinchona, Savarangadu, Nallacathu, Sirikundra, Veliamalai, Akkamalai, Selaliparai, Sholayan, Waverly, Pachamalai, Kanjamalai and Combatore.

**KATTUMANNARKOIL**

The Scouts of the Board High School, Kattumannarkoil celebrated the Scout Week on 13-11-1959. The Headmaster Sri K. Ranganathan Pillai addressed the Public Meeting presided over by Sri S. Ganapathiya Pillai.

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**CENTRAL MADRAS**

There was a conference of Heads of Institutions and Scouters and Guiders of the District held on 9-11-1959 at the residence of Sri K. M. Cherian, President of the Central Madras District Association to discuss ways and means of improving Scouting and Guiding in the District. There were 65 members at the conference including Heads of various Institutions. Sri Cherian, President was 'At home' to all members present and presided over the conference. Various topics of interest and ways and means of improving Scouting and Guiding were discussed. Special talks were given by Sri Md. Nooruddin, District Commissioner (Scouts), North Madras District, and Sri D. S. Mathias, Asst. District Commissioner (Scouts). Sri Cherian, in his final address stressed on the character development aspect of Scouting and Guiding and appealed to the Scouters, Guiders and Commissioners to get more and more service minded and help the many boys and girls in this big game.

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**BODINAIKANUR**

A Cubmasters Training Course under the Orientation Training for Village School Teachers was held at Kodangipatti Village in Bodinaikanur Block from 2nd to 8th Nov. 59. 49 men underwent Training. Sri J. D. Asirvatham, Asst. Deputy Camp Chief, was in charge of this Course ably assisted by Scouters, John Seeni and T. N. Bhumathan.

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**USILAMPATTI**

Prof. Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India, and Sri D. P. Joshi, National Organising Commissioner, visited the T.E.L.C. Basic Training School for women on 20th November 1959. Srimathi K. Samuel, Headmistress and Correspondent welcomed the distinguished visitors. The Chief Commissioner inaugurated a Ranger Team for the students of the Training Institution.

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A Scout and Guide Rally was held in honour of the visit of the Chief Commissioner (Scouts) and the National Organising Commissioner on the Market Grounds at Usilampatti on 20th November 1959 when Sri N. Lakshmana Perumal Naidu, Revenue Divisional Officer presided. 600 Scouts and Guides of the many Kallar Schools from 20 surrounding villages participated. Sri S. Krishnamachari, Special Deputy Collector, Kallar

Reclamation, welcomed the distinguished guests. There were many interesting demonstrations, displays and entertainments. The Chief Commissioner addressed the huge gathering of public assembled there and exhorted them to lend their support to the Movement. He congratulated the Harijan Welfare Department, Kallar Reclamation Scheme for the fine support they are giving to Scouting and Guiding in the various Kallar Schools and requested them to continue their good support in an increasing measure. The Rally was in charge of Sri T. N. Bhuminathan, District Scout Organiser, Kallar Reclamation, Usilampatti. After a vote of thanks and the singing of National Anthem, the Rally dispersed. The Scouters' Union entertained the Scouts and Guides who participated in the Rally at a lunch.

### \* \* \* NORTH MADRAS

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Gokhale Rover Crew were inaugurated on the 1st November 1959 by Sri M. M. A. Nawas and a dinner was held in this connection and Sri M. Ram Mohan, one of the founder leaders of the Crew delivered the commemoration address. 100 past and present members of the Rover Crew participated on this occasion.

The Jubilee Day was held on Sunday the 15th November

with Dr. P. V. Cherian presiding. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner released the Souvenir published on the occasion and Sri T. Chengalvaraya Pillai delivered the commemoration address. Messrs R. Messiah Doss, S. R. Venkataraman, M. R. Chandrasekharan and others spoke on the occasion. Earlier Sri K. Ramiah Chetti Garu, President of the Group Committee, welcomed the members.

On the 16th November a dinner meeting was held when Sri K. Govindachari addressed the gathering and Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, State Chief Commissioner was the Chief Guest. On 22nd November the members of the Group separately felicitated the founder leaders and also Sri K. Ramiah Chetti Garu on the occasion of his Sashtiabdashpoorthi.

On the 29th and 30th November, the Scout Groups conducted by Gokhale Rovers at Chennapuri Annadana Samajam Orphanage and the Chengalvaraya Naicker's Orphanage had their own meetings in connection with the celebrations, and sweets were provided to the inmates of the Orphanages by Messrs M. M. A. Nawas and K. Ramiah Chetti Garu.

The Group has recorded in its Souvenir, its variety of activities which are associated with the Scout Movement and

unique services rendered by them.

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### AVADI

Thirty-five candidates drawn from the Chingleput District and Madras City underwent a Scoutmasters' Training Course at Camp Tonekala, Avadi, from 25th November to 6th December 59. The Training Course was in charge of Sri R. Messiah Doss, State Organising Commissioner, and he was assisted by Sris L. Sreeraman, P. Gopalakrishnan, A.D.C.C., and H. A. Kirmani, A.D.C.C.

Sri T. R. Kothandaram Mudaliar, Asst. State Commissioner, visited the camp and encouraged the campers.

### POONAMALLEE

A Refresher Course for the Scoutmasters of the Chingleput District Board, was conducted by Sri D. S. Gururaj District Commissioner, assisted by Sri L. Sreeraman, District Scout Organiser, on 27th and 28th November 59 at Poonamallee. The Scouters were given practical training in Tenderfoot and Second Class tests.

## The Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India and the National Organising Commissioner (Scouts) in Madras State

Prof. Madan Mohan, Chief Commissioner (Scouts) India and Sri D. P. Joshi, National Organising Commissioner were in our State on the 9th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd November 1959, and visited the following places :

**Chingleput District :**  
(9th and 21st Nov. 1959)

Poonamallee—visited the Blind School and met the Blind Scouts—Attended a Rally of about 1,500 Scouts and Guides at Tambaram.

**Kanyakumari Dist. :**  
(18th Nov. 1959)

Visited Scout, and Guide Groups, at Kuzhithurai, Marthandam, Thuckalay, Nagercoil, Suchindram and Cape, and addressed a meeting of Scouters and Guiders at Nagercoil.

**Madras City :**  
(9th and 21st Nov. 1959)

Visited Scout and Guide Groups in South Madras District—Visited the Southern Railway Scout Headquarters and the Hobby Centre at Perambur and addressed the parents of the Scouts and Guides. The Chief Commissioner presided over a huge Rally of Scouts and Guides to honour Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar on his Eighty-first Birthday.

**Madurai District :**  
(19th and 20th Nov. '59)

Visited Scout and Guide Groups at Madurai, Chekkanurani and inaugurated a new Ranger Team at the T.E.L.C. Training School for women at Usilampatti and attended a Rally of about 600 Scouts and Guides at Usilampatti. Attended a Rally of Scouts and Guides of the Southern Railway at Madurai and addressed a public meeting at Madurai.

**Trichinopoly :**  
(20th Nov. 1959)

Met a large number of Scouters and Guiders of the Southern Railways and of the Trichy Town area at Trichinopoly Jn.

**Vellore :**  
(23rd Nov. 1959)

Visited Vellore in North Arcot District and met the Local Scouters and Guiders.

During this short tour they covered about a thousand miles, met nearly 4000 Scouts and Guides of all ranks, and gave nearly 25 talks and addresses to Scouters and Guiders, Scouts and Guides and the Public. They met many prominent men and women in the various localities at the many breakfasts, luncheons, teas and dinners that were given in their honour.

The visit of the Chief Commissioner and the National Organising Commissioner brought happiness and joy to the many Scouts and Guides they met and gave hope and encouragement to the many Scouters and Guiders and enlisted the sympathy and co-operation of many men and women of the public for the Movement.

M. RAJAGOPALAN,  
*State Organising Commissioner, (Scouts)*

## HISTORY OF GUIDING

### III - Lest we forget the growing pains of the early days

(continued from the last issue)

By

MISS C. JOHN, *State Organising Commissioner (Guides)*.

What a height of duty placed before their willing feet, but set with the 'IF' which held the secret of success!

In the placid life of the Victorian age to invite the Guides to 'Look Wide', was rather strange.

"You may find yourself in back parts of other colonies—what about knowledge of their histories and inhabitants? Can you cook and bake; make, mend and wash clothes? Do you understand farming, milking, keeping bees and poultry, harnessing a horse and riding? Life in a solitary farm may be very dull, unless you can, when the day's work is done, play music, sing or draw".

Half in fun, half in earnest the truth of the business of being 'Prepared' for woman's life in any corner of the world, began to unfold before the children, interesting, romantic and exciting. The effort was worth making. Everything was put into a nut-shell in their training tests and badge work.

Very soon reports and photos of activities began to pour in. A Manchester Company had got the matron of a big hospital to instruct them in Nursing and Ambulance.

A favourite game of the guides was 'DESPATCH RUNNING' played with all their cunning, at a time when Sherlock Holmes was an enthralling hero with powers of observation and deduction!

A Guider from Lancashire reported 'when the girls got at loggerheads with each other, we made them put on boxing gloves and settle their differences in cold blood'.

Another one—"The girl guides who made a raid on the Boy-Scout Camp at midnight were NOT A REGISTERED PATROL—B. P. Girl Guides are not allowed to have anything to do with Boy Scouts and are not allowed after dark!"

In Birkenhead they paraded through the streets behind the drums, and bugles of their own colourful Guide band. They were indeed an eye-full in those days of trailing skirts and wasp waists.

In Liverpool they had rotten eggs thrown at them and hoards of jeering street urchins throwing missiles, shouting

“Girl Scouts, Brussel Sprouts”. The Headquarters being far away the girl Guides everywhere with natural enthusiasm were characteristically independent concocting their own uniforms.

But they were all doing their stuff—The daily good turn was an inescapable part of a Guide. The practice in those early days of reciting ones good deeds was part of the 2nd Class Test. Though unthinkable perhaps today, it had the use of driving home the idea. And some were surprisingly worth repeating, considering Guiding was only two years old!

A thirteen year old Guide saved a small girl and perambulator baby from being crushed between two trams, though bystanders shouted at her rashness. A couple of Guides got out a bogged horse by means of all correct knots. Two older ones rescued a man who could not swim. ‘Girls seem to be quite as brave as boys’ commented Miss Agnes Baden Powell from her one roomed office in Victoria street while despatching the medals.

By 1912 a set of rules were found very necessary. So the ‘Handbook of Guides’ or ‘How Girls can help the Empire’ by Miss Agnes Baden Powell came out. It lifted bodily all it could from the Scouts Hand-book inserting a womanly purpose wherever possible. The section on Stalking, Tracking, Signalling, Camping and all outdoor pursuits which girls had got mad about, was camouflaged as ‘Finding the Injured’ throwing dust in the eyes of mothers who dreaded their daughters becoming tomboys.

Indoor activities were lumped together under ‘Tending the injured’ Agnes Baden Powell had to reconcile the conservative middle class mothers who dreaded their daughters joining the ‘shrieking Sisterhood’ who demanded votes, and the persisting women who were storming for professions held sacred to man! It must be admitted that she tackled this herculean task with great skill, understanding and courage. The Handbook did the trick. The movement-uniform—technique and all—was tightened up. Not however too tight. An important Guider, in her anxiety to see that her two hundred children should not sit on damp grass at the public function had an original idea of a ‘Brown Paper Drill’. Each guide was to bring a uniform size brown paper in their haversacks. At the word ‘sit’ the guides came to attention—‘One’—they put their hands in haversacks. ‘Two’ they draw out the brown paper. ‘Three’—turn right about—place paper on the ground—turn left about. ‘Four’—sit on the paper, and the same rotation taken backwards when

it was time to get up—Though ridiculed by others this showed the originality of the Guider. The independence of guide patrol went like this. Finding their Guider's conception of a meeting was a long crocodile walk and then reading loud from a book, they left her and attached themselves as an 'Eagle Patrol' to the nearest Boy Scouts!

In spite of the Handbook, there was no organisation as such. It was a timely help when Y. W. C. A. a highly organised body of 50 years standing appointing Miss Helen Malcom as head of a special Guide section of their Association. She travelled all over the country speaking and giving training, starting companies, forming Committees and local Associations with five other Y. W. C. A. 'adjutants' to help. Guide Headquarters thankfully accepted this timely help making her a County Commissioner. Thanks to her! When the War came, there were Nine thousand Y. W. C. A. Guides!

Thanks to all the energetic efforts put in from the President down to the recruit, the Guides were firmly established when the fateful August 1914 arrived. Here was a chance to prove their mettle. They survived the war for they were 'PREPARED'.

## The Bharat Scouts and Guides.

MADRAS STATE

State Headquarters,  
"Wenlock Park",  
Madras-5,  
1st December 1959.

### **IMPORTANT**

All formal and official letters and communications for the Officers of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, should be addressed to the Honorary State Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, State Headquarters, "Wenlock Park", Post Box No. 424, South Beach Road, Triplicane, Madras-5. This will facilitate quick attention and speedy disposal.

Personal and confidential letters intended for particular Officers may be addressed by their names.

P. R. GANAPATHY PILLAY  
*Honorary State Secretary*