



Steve Dunham slides safely into 2nd Base during Sunday's Little League "All-Star" game. Photo by Burrows

Local Scouts Are Enjoying Trip To Philmont Ranch

A contingent of 23 Boy Scouts and 3 leaders from the Steuben Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, embarked on Saturday, July 20th, for a two week "high adventure" trip to Philmont Scout Ranch located at Cimarron, New Mexico. The ranch includes 138,000 acres and is owned by the Boy Scouts of America as a gift from the late Waite Phillips of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The group traveled by air from Chemung County Airport to Chicago, then boarded the Burlington Railroad "Denver Zephyr" from Chicago to Denver where a chartered bus took them from Denver to Philmont Scout Ranch. They are to be at the ranch from July 21st to August 2nd, during which time they are to hike the trails and participate in the activities of the base camps.

Leading the group are: Robert G. Dietter of Campbell serving as Tourmaster; James W. Farrell of Corning and Leroy E. Graff of Elkland, Pa. Farrell is the Explorer Advisor of Post 51, Corning and Graff is the Scoutmaster of Troop 44, Elkland.

Participating with Mr. Farrell's crew are: James F. Gardner of Alfred, N. Y.; Walter J. Harrison, Jr., Beaver Dams, N. Y.; Terry Hunt, Greenwood, N. Y.; Thomas Langendorfer, Mark Perry and Jeffrey Robinson of Bath, N. Y.; Michael A. McHale, Corning, N. Y.; Ronald Phelps, Osceola, Pa.; Gary Ratchford, Campbell, N. Y.; John G. Richtmyer, Hornell, N. Y.; Joseph W. Stratton, Nelson, Pa.; Ronald R. Wallace of Atlanta, N. Y.

Participating with Mr. Graff's crew are: Tom York of Andover, N. Y.; John A. Perry, Arkport, N. Y.; Charles Nilson, Canisteo, N. Y.; Bill Cahill and Calvin Swisher, Jr., Painted Post, N. Y.; Walter J. Harrison, Jr., Beaver Dams, N. Y.; Harold W. Elliott and Randy Morgan of Elkland, Pa.; Sam Goodell and Davin Stowell, Corning, N. Y.; and Denzel Moore of Osceola, Pa.

The group is expected to return Sunday, August 3rd.

Color Coded Balloons Used As Distress Signals

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles program for the use of color coded balloons as distress signals by stranded motorists has officially opened.

The balloon plan was announced by Motor Vehicle Commissioner Vincent L. Tofany, who said it is part of a program to explain practical procedures for highway emergencies.

The standardized balloon code calls for a stranded motorist to indicate his problem by using one of three colors: Red for emergency medical aid; Green for police assistance; and Blue for mechanical help or fuel.

"This same code could be employed by using banners or handkerchiefs," Commissioner Tofany said, "but these would not be as attention-getting as balloons."

Stressing that "this is not a gimmick," he said, "we purposely chose a novelty item because it would prompt curiosity and thus call attention to the over-all problem of highway safety."

He emphasized that the Department is not distributing balloons to motorists, but simply recommending a standardized color code for a form of voluntary cooperation between the motorist and the police.

Commissioner Tofany said an ordinary balloon displayed from a driver's window or radio aerial could be easily spotted by an airborne traffic monitor or by any bypasser, who could then report the nature of the emergency to proper authorities at the first opportunity.

"This represents a convenience for any traveler unable or unwilling to leave his vehicle," he said. "Balloons also have the advantage of being highly visible, simple to use, inexpensive, and readily available at neighborhood stores."

Commissioner Tofany said this plan could supplement the Federal Highway Administration's operational test of a New York State firm's electronic detection system for aiding stranded motorists.

Developed by the Airborne Instruments Laboratory of Deer Park, the system will be tested later this year along a 50-mile section of Interstate 4 in Florida.

The system, known as FLASH (Flash Lights and Send Help), depends on cooperating motorists flashing their headlights at electronic detection units when they see a driver who needs help. The units will be linked by telephone lines to a Florida Highway Patrol headquarters which will dispatch assistance.

Commissioner Tofany said color coded balloons could help alert the cooperating motorists and thus add to the effectiveness of such a system.

"Our main concern, however, is the majority of motorists who take to the road with limited knowledge of emergency procedures," he said. "By calling attention to breakdowns, the balloons will dramatize the need to learn safety techniques and to keep vehicles in proper operating condition."

The Motor Vehicle Department has included an explanation of the balloon program in more than one million leaflets, posters, newsletters, and wallet cards which list the steps to follow in case of a breakdown on the highway.

Discussing the response to this material, Commissioner Tofany said the Western New York Traffic Safety Council, which is planning to distribute balloon kits, already has received a request for 5,000 kits from the New York Telephone Company.

He also reported that the Police League of Indiana, Inc., is now considering sponsorship of the balloon program in that state.

"In all, we have received more than 1,000 favorable inquiries from individuals, organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies throughout the Northeast," Commissioner Tofany said. "These people feel the balloon plan is a practical method of expediting the proper type of assistance to a stranded motorist, whether in a remote rural area or on a crowded urban expressway"

Carp Have Become Prolific Pests In Many Areas

Carp, in the nearly 100 years they have been in American waters have become a casebook example of the hazards involved in importing and stocking species of wildlife not native to the area. In Europe and Asia, carp is one of the most used food fish and it was assumed that they would get similar use here, according to fish biologists in the State Conservation Department.

Instead of becoming the anticipated asset, in many waters they have become a prolific pest. At the same time, they have become a venial scapegoat to blame for other failures in our stewardship of aquatic resources.

On the positive side, however,

carp have at least two redeeming qualities. In some lakes they have proved of value in reducing weed growth and young carp are good food for predacious fish. In fact, carp are hatched at the State's Chautauqua Fish Hatchery from eggs collected from wild fish and fed as several-day-old fry to slightly larger muskie fry.

And, although fishermen are quick to condemn carp, rightfully or wrongly as despoilers of their sport, another group of sportsmen is affected by carp but does not seem aware of the fact. Waterfowl hunters should know that carp have a direct and serious effect on their sport.

When carp become overabundant in good waterfowl areas, they can so disrupt the vegetation that duck food is materially reduced. The roily water appears to scare the ducks, for they cannot see the underwater predators, like the big snappers which exist in all marshes unless they are carefully controlled. Ducks once all but deserted a Wisconsin waterfowl refuge when carp made the water too dirty. Following drawdown, reclamation and refilling of the marsh, waterfowl returned almost immediately.

Carp are often accused of eating the eggs of other fish and competing directly with them for food, and as a result spoiling the fishing. The basic assumption that carp are at the bottom of the trouble may be correct. More often than not the cause isn't so much what they eat, but the way that they eat it.

Studies throughout the country have failed to produce any evidence of the popular theory that carp are great consumers of the eggs of other fish. They are, however, very destructive to vegetation, though the amount they consume is relatively small. The damage comes from their acum cleaner type dredging operation which is their way of feeding.

Anyone wanting a good clear look at their feeding technique can watch the little catfish so commonly used as scavengers in tropical fish tanks. This little fish moves across the bottom of the tank like a vacuum cleaner picking up a mouthful of sand and spitting it out again. Similarly, the carp roots around in the muddy bottom, taking in a mouthful of mud, sorting out what is good to eat, and discharging the rest.

"It is this rooting around while getting his food that causes the destruction of plant life. Many plants are physically uprooted, while those that remain in such muddy water may eventually be killed by lack of sunlight or smothering. Further, the decomposition of vegetation releases its minerals which in turn may be utilized by less desirable free floating algae.

Animal life in the form of insects, plankton and mollusks play a surprisingly important part in the carp's diet. Insects are generally the immature stages of midges, mayflies, caddisflies, dragonflies and aquatic beetles. The more common the insect, the more important it is as a source of food. This often puts the midge larva,

which lives in the mud on the pond bottom, at the top of the list.

All young fish utilize plankton and small crustaceans as important foods. As the fish grow they seek larger food. Even large carp, however, continue to take vast quantities of the minute organisms.

Instead of having teeth in their jaws to hold prey, as do gamefish, carp have pharyngeal teeth in their throats which act like millstones to grind up the snails and mollusks which they suck up off the bottom.

Some enterprising flyfishermen have mastered the knack of taking carp with a wetfly and report it takes a LONG battle to land a 10 or 12 pounder. Most carp, however, are taken on bait — frequently on worms which fishing for another species.

Serious carp fishermen generally rely on dough baits, although some swear by potatoes, corn or other "natural" baits. There are probably many formulas for dough bait as there are carp fishermen. Most, however, use mainly corn meal, with some flour used as a binder. Sugar or corn syrup provides the sweetening, while flavoring is added by using vanilla extract, anise or whatever other exotic agent the maker chooses. Dough bait is toughened so that it will stay on the hook either by dipping in boiling water or by having cotton fibres worked into it.

Much of the carp problem can be eliminated by increased fishing pressure on this species. Do your share and have some fun.

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