

the story of
B.-P.'s HOUSE

Twenty five years ago Baden-Powell House was opened by H.M. The Queen having been paid for almost exclusively by donations of the Scouts themselves.

It fulfilled the ambitions of the Movement that a suitable building should be acquired or built as a fitting memorial to our Founder.

All this and more is described in the attached brochure. Now 25 years later, what can we say about the project. In the first place I think we can say it has fulfilled its intended role as an International Hostel.

Scouts from over 100 different Countries have stayed in the House. During a year many hundreds of Cubs and Scouts visit the House whilst making a visit to London. It is also pleasing that Schools use our facilities when organising "School Journey" to London.

One thing we have found, however, is that whilst at week-ends it was full it was almost empty during the week because the accommodation was mainly of dormitory type which was not suitable for either single people or families.

Accordingly we set out dividing the dormitories into several smaller units which could be used by couples with or without family. Two floors have been reconstructed to meet this situation the cost of which was largely paid for by donations from the Bernard Sunley

Charitable Foundation to whom we are most grateful for their generosity.

We have in Baden-Powell House an outstanding example of a functional building which has met the requirements of its sponsors and at the same time occupying one of the finest sites in London.

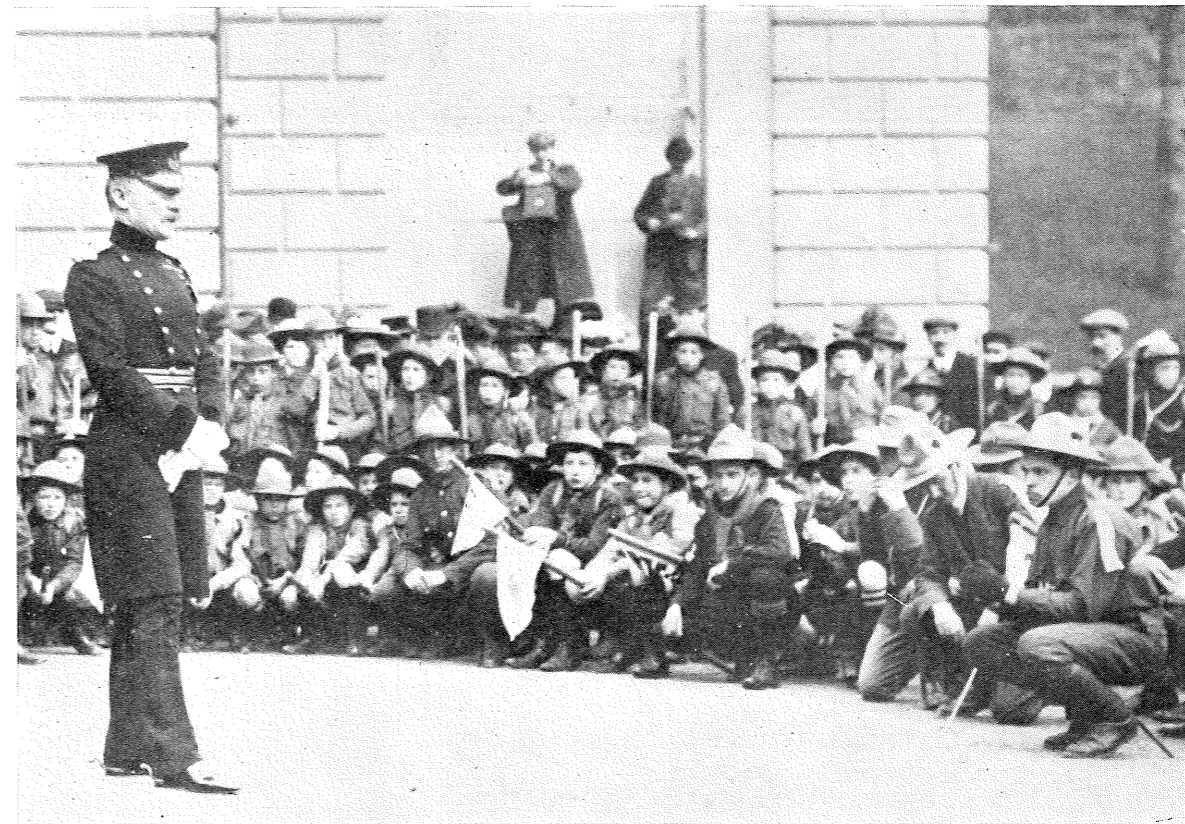
A tribute must be paid to the Wardens who have been in charge of the House since its opening – for it is they who have created by their own dedication to the job, the right atmosphere and assured that the Scout spirit prevades the House. They are John Rapley, the first Warden (1961-1968) who set the standard that has been kept up since.

Reg Flower (1968-1976), Bill Butler (1976-1978), Alan Purdie (1978 to date).

They and all those who have worked in the House during the 25 years of its existence must be thanked for their individual and collective support in making Baden-Powell House what it is today.

With your kind support, I am confident that we will be able to provide a further 25 years of Service to the Movement and thus ensure that Baden-Powell House continues to ring to the happy sound of young people.

W.C.W.



B.-P. in undress military uniform addresses Scouts.

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B.-P.'s HOUSE


Edward Wood, M.I.P.R.

Designed by Brian Gough

The Scout Association,
25 Buckingham Palace Road,
London, S.W.1.

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The Vision

It all began back in the dark days of World War II. The never-to-be-forgotten Battle of Britain had been fought out in the skies over London and the South-East of England but the threat of invasion from across the Channel still persisted. Against this background in January 1941 came the sad news that Lord Baden-Powell, Founder of Scouting, Chief Scout of the World, had died. His passing was mourned by millions of his followers all over the globe.

About a year after his appointment as Chief Scout of the British Empire in 1941, Lord Somers launched an appeal to the Scouts of Britain the purpose of which was to raise a fitting memorial to Baden-Powell. In making his announcement the new Chief Scout expressed his strong desire to see the fulfilment of one of B.-P.'s most earnest dreams, that there should be a Scout home in London, the city where the Founder was born, and the capital of the country where Scouting started. *'This will be a great centre, dedicated to the B.-P. way of life,'* said Lord Somers, *'a house where Scouts from all parts of the world will be welcome and feel at home; a common meeting ground where the Scout Law can be seen in actual practice.'*

To utter such a hope at a time when the nation was facing its gravest hour is proof indeed that, like his predecessor, Lord Somers was a man of vision and determination.

Much has already been written about the life and work of the man known to countless people by his magical initials. To many of the older generation he is remembered as a renowned soldier and a national hero who turned his back on further advancement in his military career to become a man of peace. To others of his day he was looked upon as a Pied Piper of Youth whose happy and ceaseless journeyings on behalf of Scouting left in their wake a tremendous surge of affection and adoration in the hearts of all whom he met.

To his mighty army of young followers of today (beginning with twenty members at that first Scout camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 there are now twelve million Scouts and six million Guides in the world) he has become, inevitably, a great legendary figure, not merely another romantic name recorded in history books but one whose ideals and principles of world brotherhood will be pursued and, we trust, maintained by generations of Scouts and Guides to come.



B.-P. was born on 22nd February, 1857, and christened in the name of Robert Stephenson Smyth Powell (Baden was added to the family surname in 1869). His birth-place was at Number 6, Stanhope Street (later renamed Stanhope Terrace) situated close to the northern perimeter of London's famous Hyde Park. No trace of this house now remains for it was demolished along with its neighbours in the late 1950's to make way for modern development.

A little more than a century after B.-P.'s birth, and not far from the south side of the same Park, plans were afoot to build another but much larger house dedicated to his name.

What follows is the interesting story of Baden-Powell House, the house of concord which arose, phoenix like, from the ruins created by enmity. It is an example of what can be achieved by patience and determination backed by the united efforts, single-mindedness and love of many, both young and old.

*"I often wish that I had clear, for life, . . .
a handsome house to lodge a friend"*
—Jonathan Swift

Initial Efforts

Appropriately, the day on which Lord Somers initiated the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund was St. George's Day, 1942. Saint George is the Patron Saint of the Scouts of Britain and the date set aside to his memory (23rd April) has always been the most important day in the Scouting calendar. The occasion is marked by the holding of Services of Dedication throughout the land when every Scout reaffirms his Promise.

Outlining the proposed plan Lord Somers said, *'This is a great idea. A house must always be worthy of its objective; it must be commodious and beautiful. I count upon you all to do your best to make Baden-Powell House a grand reminder of B.-P. for all time.'* Thus he clearly set the pattern to be followed. Nothing but the best should be considered.

It was realised that the House could not be built until after the war and contributors were assured that all monies raised would be invested. Times were indeed hard and despite the never-ending calls upon the pockets of the population towards the cost of the war effort this appeal resulted, with accrued interest, in a sum of £191,439. A truly fine response from a Movement much reduced in size and depleted of Leaders as a consequence of prolonged hostilities.

Regrettably, Lord Somers did not live to see the end result of his appeal. A little over two years later and after

a long and painful struggle against a malignant disease, he died in his fifty-eighth year on 14th July, 1944. Within a short space of four years the Movement had suffered the loss of two wonderful Chief Scouts and this time there was no named successor. It was not until 22nd February 1945, on the anniversary of B.-P.'s birth, that the Council of the Boy Scouts Association, with the approval of King George VI, appointed Lord Rowallan as Chief Scout.

Came the end of the war and the Movement embarked upon a period of consolidation and eventual expansion when the demobilisation of the Armed Forces began to take effect. But the return to normality was slow. Not only did food and clothes rationing continue, severe building restrictions were imposed except for essential bomb damage repairs, and it was quite clear that no concrete plans for the much desired House could be entertained for some time to come. Moreover, money values had dropped alarmingly and it became all too obvious that the sum available, healthy though it seemed at the time, would be totally inadequate to embark on such a project.

It was not until 1951 that tentative steps towards the desired goal began to be taken and in November of that year the Committee of the Council appointed an *ad hoc* Committee *'to review the acquisition of a Scout House*



Site of Baden-Powell House prior to the demolition of bomb damaged buildings in 1959.

in London to be called Baden-Powell House as a memorial to the Founder.' But its work could be little more than speculative.

In 1953 a Baden-Powell House Committee was established under the Chairmanship of Sir Harold Gillett, Bt., M.C. In the early stages its main duties were to consider the facilities to be provided by the House and to search for a suitable site possibly within easy reach of Scout Headquarters. The task of exploration was undertaken by Mr. Charles Williams, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S., Vice-Chairman of the House Committee, District Commissioner for Willesden and an Estate Agent of high reputation in the West End of London, with the assistance of Mr. Cyril C. Goodhind, M.B.E., the Secretary of the Association and also Secretary to the House Committee. Thanks to their joint efforts a site at the intersection of Cromwell Road and Queen's Gate, S.W.7., in the Royal Borough of Kensington was recommended, and in March 1956 the Committee of the Council decided to acquire this site at the net cost of £39,000. At long last a bold and definite move had been made which proved to the Movement that the powers-that-be meant business! Almost overnight an acquisition notice-board was added to the hoardings which, for close on ten years, had partly hidden the old bombed property from the gaze of passers-by.

*"Had I but plenty of money,
money enough to spare,
The house for me no doubt
were a house in the city square."
—Robert Browning.*

Second Wind

Eager to take up the task of his predecessor, Lord Rowallan called for an all out effort to raise the required additional funds 'if the House was ever to leave the drawing board stage.' On 21st February, 1957, the eve of B.-P.'s birthday centenary, a second appeal, this time a public one, was launched at a meeting, in the fabulous Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, attended by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Association who addressed a large company of commercial, business and professional representatives. Lord Rowallan explained the position to the gathering and stated that a further sum of a quarter of a million pounds was needed to build, equip and endow the House and expressed the hope that the figure realised from the public appeal would reach a minimum target of £200,000. A model of the proposed House together with floor plans produced by Mr. Ralph Tubbs, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., were on display for all to see. Considerable interest was aroused by these for it was remembered that Mr. Tubbs was the designer of the remarkable Dome of Discovery, centrepiece of the Festival of Britain Exhibition on London's South Bank in 1951.

Running concurrently with the Mansion House drive was a further appeal to the Movement itself to give existing members an opportunity to add their contributions to the magnificent response from the Scouts of

the war years. By the summer it was noted with some disappointment that the public appeal had lost its initial impact and it was quite evident that it would not reach the hoped-for target. Notwithstanding this set-back, but sensing the determination of the Movement to finish the job alone, the Committee of the Council at its meeting in November, 1958, resolutely decided to proceed with the building operations. Following the submission of several tenders the firm of Harry Neal Ltd., was awarded the contract.

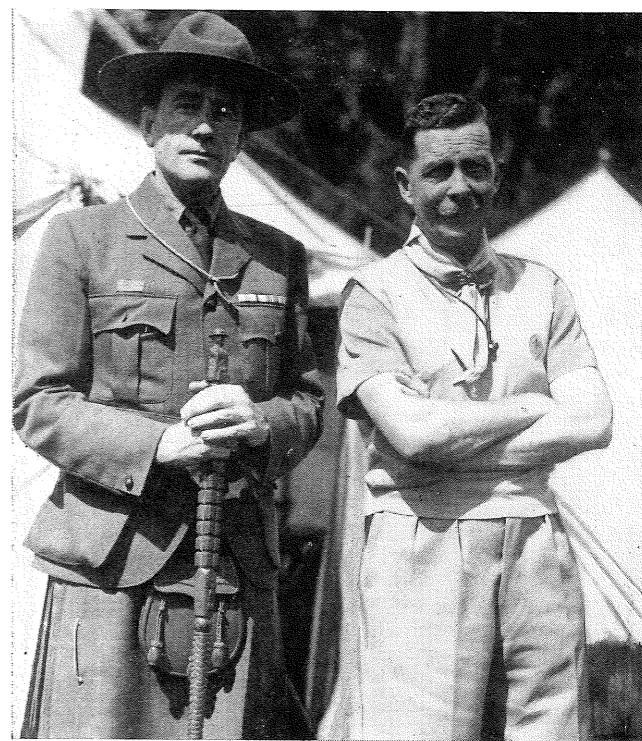
Meanwhile a small Appeal Department, headed by Mr. Roy Shapley, was set up at Scout Headquarters whose task it was to carry out the day-to-day requirements of the House Committee. Various devices were introduced to keep the interest of the Movement alive, one of the most successful being a scheme whereby Groups and individuals were encouraged to collect in brick-shaped boxes donations from Scouts, parents and supporters. Close on 15,000 of these 'bricks' were taken up. A considerable amount of literature was printed and distributed and regular notices from a fictitious character called 'Troop Leader Trowel,' depicted as a bricklayer's implement topped by a Scout hat, appeared in the Movement's publications THE SCOUT and THE SCOUTER informing the readers of the progress being maintained.



A call to every Scout District was sounded by the Chief Scout who personally signed five thousand appeal letters to local business firms and industries. Later, in June 1959, Groups were invited to enrol as House Founders which met with an almost immediate response from two hundred Scout Groups. Within a year no less than two thousand House Founder Groups signed on the dotted line.

Enthusiasm ran high. By the autumn the half million Scouts of Britain became aware they could, and would, beat the seemingly insurmountably financial barrier!

*"The star of their house is constant through many years."
—Virgil*



Lord Somers (right) and his successor, Lord Rowallan, photographed together in 1939.

The House Well Founded

The first task confronting the builders was the clearance of the site. The half-demolished old building was quickly felled to the ground and many tons of rubble removed down to basement level. But before actual erection work commenced a brief halt was called for a happy celebration.

Saturday, 17th October, 1959, was a delightful autumn day with the elegant plane trees in the grounds of the Natural History Museum opposite the site and those ringing the roads of the neighbourhood laying down their golden brown carpet of leaves to welcome those invited to witness the laying of the Foundation Stone.

An hour or so before the appointed time there appeared unexpectedly the faint but unmistakable letters "B.-P." written by a high flying aircraft against the cloudless blue sky. Subsequent enquiries to a well-known petrol company trading under that title did nothing to clear up the mystery. How did it come about? Sign-writing as a form of advertising had long since ceased to be permitted. But what a splendid gesture on the part of the unknown pilot! The strange thing is that few people appear to have noticed the incident but the

writer of this book was fortunate enough to record the 'apparition' with his camera before it finally disappeared.

The Foundation Stone was sited ten feet below ground level within a marquee to accommodate four hundred guests. At three o'clock the principal guests were received, a procession was formed and, descending a specially constructed stairway between a Guard of Honour of Queen's Scouts and Ranger Guides, entered the marquee . . . the Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington followed by Sir Harold Gillett (Chairman of the Baden-Powell House Committee and the then Lord Mayor of London) and Lady Gillett accompanying Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide. Then came Sir Charles Maclean, who had become Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth a month earlier (on the retirement of his predecessor Lord Rowallan) and Lady Maclean; A. W. Hurl, C.B.E., Chief Executive Commissioner, and Mrs. Hurl; W. Charles Williams, Vice-Chairman of the House Committee, and Mrs. Williams; and the Right Rev. Michael Gresford Jones, Lord Bishop of St. Albans, a Scout Leader of long standing.



V.I.P. guests arrive for the stone laying ceremony.



Opening the proceedings Sir Harold Gillett called upon the Chief Scout to outline the progress that had so far been made. Sir Charles revealed that following the public appeal launched in 1957 the Memorial Fund had accumulated a sum of close on £300,000 all but one fifth of which had come from within the Movement. He went on: *'This left us with about £100,000 to find so last year Lord Rowallan issued a challenge to every Scout in the United Kingdom to raise three shillings a head by February 1960. Every Scout is doing his best to meet this challenge. Now today, almost eighteen years to the day since Lord Somers made his original suggestion, we are at a milestone in the history of Baden-Powell House. In a few minutes the Foundation Stone will be laid by the World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell. We are all delighted that she has been able to accept our invitation. There is no one we would rather have here for this historic task. (Turning to the World Chief Guide) May I add that your presence makes this a truly family affair.'*

There followed the Service conducted by the Bishop of St. Albans. Prayers of thanksgiving for the life and

work of B.-P. preceded the reading of Psalm 84 by a Queen's Scout and Prayers of Dedication.

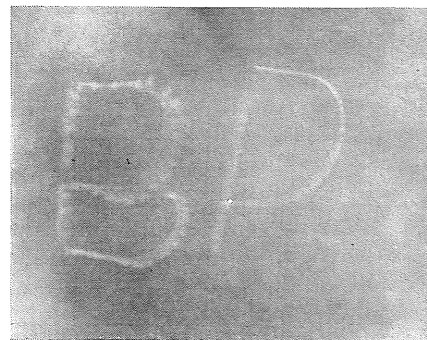
The foreman mason then spread the mortar while a Patrol Leader placed beneath the poised stone a casket containing 1959 Scout mementoes, stamps, coins, photographs, etc., together with a programme of the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony.

Sir Harold Gillett then invited the World Chief Guide to lay the stone, which she did with the aid of a handsome silver trowel presented by Charles Williams. Closing her speech which followed, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell reminded the company of the neighbourhood's special associations with B.-P.'s boyhood of long ago. She was certain that, as now a dream was materialising in bricks and mortar, so the fellowship engendered in Scouting would be further cemented and inspired by the use to which Baden-Powell House was dedicated.

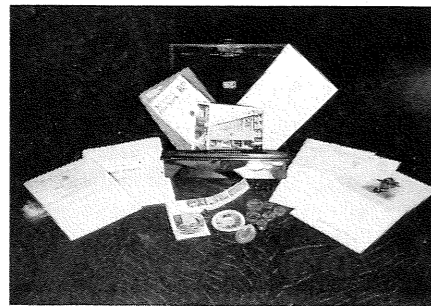
The afternoon closed when invited guests from all parts of the country and from overseas were entertained to tea in the grounds of the Natural History Museum across the road. It was indeed a day to remember.

*"Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that built it."
—Psalm 127, Verse 1*

Sky tribute.



Casket and contents buried in the House foundations.



The House Goes Up

With the Foundation Stone well and truly laid, interest in the House project gained momentum. Groups and Districts explored all possible ways and means to overcome the final obstacle—the elusive £100,000. Coffee mornings, whist and beetle drives, bring-and-buy sales, rummage sales, Christmas fairs, waste-paper round-ups, pen and pencil sales and many other fund raising efforts were organised by Scout Groups throughout the country. Some Districts laid on appeal luncheons for local industries and commerce, while others organised fetes, miles-of-pennies, car rallies and entertainment shows. All was grist to the mill in the mounting drive to ensure that the House opened free of debt.

Meanwhile Messrs. Harry Neal Ltd. forged ahead with the building operations. The sound of pile-driving machinery vied with the noise of passing traffic, joined later by the rhythm of concrete mixers and their accompanying army of workmen spreading the solid foundations. By the middle of April, 1960, the basement and ground floor were completed. Soon a miniature forest of reinforced concrete pillars commenced to appear above the surrounding screens. Then the floor levels mushroomed upwards as spring gave way to summer and by the end of August passers-by began to visualise the eventual profiles of the building-to-be.

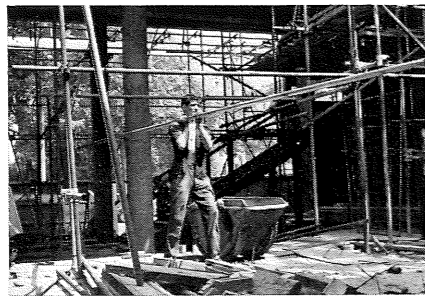
Before the winter had arrived the whole of the outside shell was finished. So far the constructors had handled 4,000 tons of concrete, 200,000 bricks and 200 tons of steel. All floors were made of solid concrete reinforced with steel mesh.

During the long winter months work on the interior went ahead unimpeded by the adverse weather conditions. Plasterers, carpenters, glaziers, electricians, plumbers and heating engineers rotated in turn throughout each floor and by the late Spring of 1961 the decorators had moved in.

The date of the official opening of the House, 12th July, 1961, had been announced and from then on it was a race against time. Much remained to be done. The installation of the boilers and the kitchen equipment, the fitting out of the assembly hall, the finishing off of floor surfaces, carpet laying, curtain hanging, lighting and toilet fittings, telephones and much more besides had to be finished before the delivery date of the numerous items of furniture already on order.

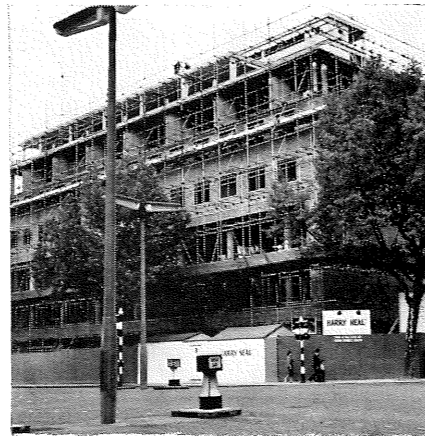
For many years an exhibition of B.-P. mementoes had proved a popular feature at Scout Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road. With the erection of Baden-Powell House it was considered fitting that these should be transferred to a new home.





June 1960

May 1960



August 1960

Sculptor Don Potter working on the granite figure of the Founder.



There being no existing public statue raised to B.-P. the Scouts of London commissioned Mr. Donald Potter, a well-known sculptor, to model a nine-foot figure of the Founder in Cornish granite, to be erected by the main entrance to the House. A one-time member of the Training Staff at Gilwell Park, Don had known B.-P. well as a result of the Old Chief's many visits to Gilwell, the name he had insisted on being included in his title, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

As a finishing touch to the Queen's Gate facade a specially-cast eight foot high fleur de lys motif with rear illumination was placed in position. This closely resembled the design of the arm badge introduced by B.-P. and presented to selected men of the 5th Dragoon Guards he commanded when serving in India. And, lastly, a 'medal of honour' in the form of a modest round plaque was fixed to the outer wall by the doors which gave much pleasure to all who had in any way played a part in the creation of the building, particularly the craftsmen of the building contractors. The wording thereon told the world that Baden-Powell House had been awarded the coveted 1961 Gold Medal of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers!

*"I will hold my house in the highwood
Within a walk from the sea,
And the men that were boys when I was a boy
Shall sit and drink with me."
—Hilaire Belloc.*

The House is Opened

Wednesday, 12th July, 1961, the day of the Opening by The Queen, dawned with grey overcast skies. Light rain sweetened the air and added a glitter to the broad sweep of Queen's Gate as those of us with a job to do made our way to the place which had been the centre of our dreams for so many years. And now those dreams were all but fulfilled. There still remained the task of gathering in a substantial sum towards the House Endowment Fund. But sufficient unto the day. Nothing was going to mar this moment of rejoicing.

By 11 o'clock one hundred and forty-two Queen's Scouts, who also held the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, had assembled to be briefed and to rehearse their role as Guard of Honour. Stewards were acquainted with their respective duties. The B.B.C. technicians hustled around with their usual thoroughness testing their mountain of equipment for the live television broadcast in the afternoon. Producer Anthony Craxton and star commentator Richard Dumbleby, both of whom

had worked together on several earlier T.V. broadcasts of Royal Scouting occasions, conferred in the control trailer parked outside, making their final adjustments to the programme's treatment.

One hour to go before the great moment. Excitement mounted as the Band of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, took up its position in the foyer and soon commenced filling the House with joyful sound. The rain had all but ceased. Crowds began to gather. The scene was set.

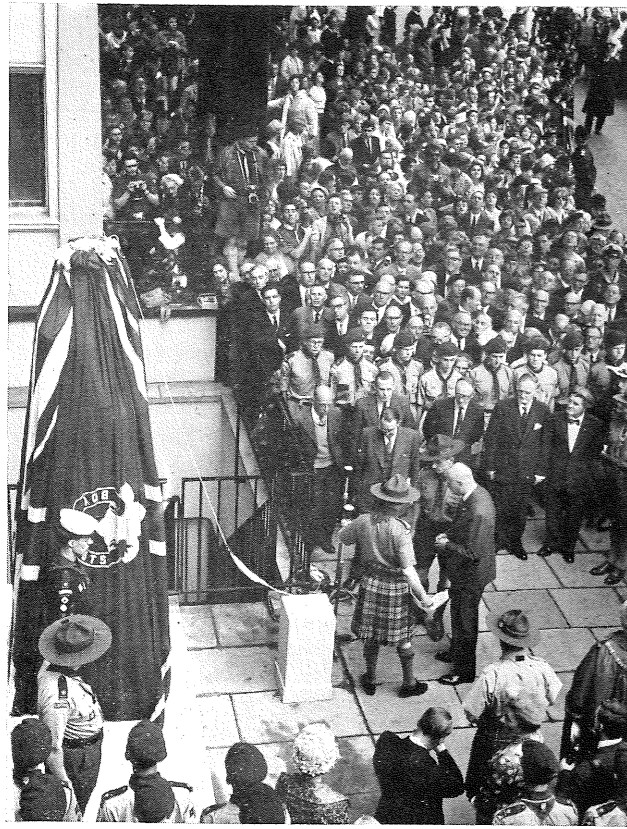
Preceding the Opening Ceremony there was the unveiling of the Statue by the President of the Association, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. At a quarter-to-three, with the promptness that marks all Royal visits, the Duke arrived and was received by the Mayor of Kensington, resplendent in scarlet robes, the Mayoress, Mrs. Waring Sainsbury, the Member of Parliament for Kensington South, the Chief Scout and Lady Maclean and other important persons. Mr. Murray



Napier, O.B.E., County Commissioner for London, having been presented to His Royal Highness, in turn presented Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide, Lord Ranfurly, Chairman of the London Scout Council, and other County Officials, and Donald Potter, sculptor of the figure to be unveiled. Queen's Scout John Palmer of the 4th Lewisham South Group then stepped forward and invited the Duke to unveil the statue which he duly did. Thanking the Duke the County Commissioner then turned and asked the Chief Scout to accept the statue, the cost of which had been met by the Scouts of London in addition to their substantial contributions to the House itself.

At three o'clock the elusive sun broke through, as the reception party, this time headed by His Royal Highness, reassembled on the pavement to receive Her Majesty The Queen. The Royal car drew up by the kerbside to the cheers of the crowd now packing Queen's Gate, the Guard of Honour came to the alert and the Trumpeters from Kneller Hall signalled Her Majesty's arrival with Sir Arthur Bliss' fanfare 'Jubilant'. The Queen entered the House where the Chief Scout presented to Her Majesty the World Chief Guide, Sir Rob Lockhart, K.C.B., C.I.E., M.C., Deputy Chief Scout, the Lord Bishop of St. Albans, Sir Harold Gillett, W. Charles Williams, A. W. Hurl, and John Rapley who had been appointed Warden of Baden-Powell House.

The Queen, together with her uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, passed through the small Inner Court Garden and into the Assembly Hall filled to capacity with invited guests. The procession mounted the flower-



B.-P.'s statue about to be unveiled by the President.

bedecked stage brilliantly illuminated by the television lights and over which hung a giant cutout portrait of B.-P. superimposed against the world globe. Another ringing fanfare which dissolved into a roll of drums leading to the National Anthem. Surely it had never sounded so gloriously stirring to the assembled throng since the day of The Queen's Coronation in 1953.

Chairing the proceedings, the Duke welcomed The Queen and then called upon the Chief Scout to speak. Expressing the assembly's concern over the Duke of Edinburgh's absence due to an unfortunate polo accident and a hope for his speedy recovery, and having reviewed the long history of the House project, the Chief Scout paid a deserved compliment to Charles Williams, generous physical and material contributions to the House. The Chief went on, *'Only eighteen months ago the foundation of this fine building was laid. Upon it has been built a house into which will come the boys and men of today and tomorrow who are building their life upon the foundations which B.-P. laid so well. And now, Your Majesty—so that the doors may soon be open to the millions of members of the Scout Movement throughout the world, regardless of their colour, class or creed—I humbly invite Your Majesty to declare Baden-Powell House open.'*

Then came the Queen's address which is given here in full:

Her Majesty, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester and the Chief Scout, touring the House.

The Queen with overseas visitors.



'I need not tell you how glad I am to be here or how sorry my husband is that he cannot be with me. As you know, he is suffering from one of the hazards which may happen to anyone who takes part in energetic sports and games. He wishes me to tell you how much his thoughts and good wishes are with you this afternoon.

'I would like to add my personal welcome to all the representatives of The Boy Scouts Association from every part of the United Kingdom and from many Commonwealth and foreign Associations, assembled here for the inauguration of this House, which has been built as a memorial to the Founder of the Scout Movement.

'It gives me particular pleasure to be invited to perform this ceremony today, because, while everyone here knows about Lord Baden-Powell, I share with a small number the privilege of having met him personally on several occasions. I was very young at the time, but I remember him vividly. I also remember that my father took a keen personal interest in this project from the moment it was first discussed; and I know that its successful outcome would have given him much satisfaction.

'It does not often happen that a man is able to see in his life-time an idea burgeon from small beginnings to a world-wide Movement. I sometimes wonder if, when he took twenty British boys to Brownsea Island in 1907 to try out

his idea of Scouting for Boys, B.-P. had any conception that within half a century this experiment could become a Movement comprising nine million boys and five million girls in over 100 different parts of the world. Even by 1941 its growth had been phenomenal and who can say what may happen in the future? This imaginative project—conceived in the general interest and carried forward with enthusiasm and devotion—can achieve undreamed-of results.

'One has only to read the chapter headings of "Scouting for Boys" to see the principles on which the Movement was based—Observation and Tracking, Pioneering and Resourcefulness, Endurance and Health, Chivalry and Brave Deeds, Discipline, Life Saving, Patriotism and Loyalty—these were qualities, which General Baden-Powell had recognised as the merits of the good soldier in war, and which he had the vision to see were also the foundation of good citizenship in peace. There have been other Movements and Organisations whose object has been to continue, into the more self-seeking days of peace, the comradeship, discipline and sense of common endeavour which sustain troops in battle. But none of them has achieved quite the same world-wide success as this idea of Baden-Powell's, based on his own observation and experience at Mafeking in 1900. In his own words, it aims to teach boys how to live, not merely how

to make a living. In times of increasing competition between nations and individuals, it is encouraging that millions of boys and girls all over the world are learning in this Movement to replace Self with Service and to use their efficiency for the benefit of the community.

'During the last ten years, my husband and I have travelled to many parts of the world. In almost all of them we have seen Scouts and Guides, Brownies and Cubs. Earlier this year I attended Rallies of Scouts and Guides in India and Pakistan, and saw how the Scout Movement is helping to develop initiative, loyalty and a sense of service in the young people of these great Asian countries, and to make them good citizens both of their country and of the world.

'Ever since its earliest beginnings my family has been interested in, and associated with, the Movement. My sister and I experienced the fun and satisfaction of being members of it and accepted the Promise and Law which bind together the countless numbers from many nations, who have had their first introduction to Service and Citizenship as Scouts or Guides. Only yesterday my daughter was enrolled as a Girl Guide. I was interested as I entered this building today, to pass a group of Queen's Scouts, all of whom have achieved the Gold Standard of my husband's Award Scheme, which is based on the same principles as Scouting itself.

'Baden-Powell himself has gone, but his

Movement remains and grows—a memorial more enduring than stone or steel. It is, however, fitting that, here in England, where he started it, there should be a house, bearing his name and serving the needs of the Movement, which can express our gratitude to him in a practical way. I am sure that everyone here is delighted that we are able to celebrate the completion of this splendid building in the presence of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell. Her own untiring work for Scouting, and for Girl Guides in particular, is well known to you all. It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to declare Baden-Powell House open to the Scouts of the World.'

The entire proceedings up to this point had been televised live to the nation.

After unveiling a commemorative plaque Her Majesty, accompanied by the Chief Scout, made an unhurried and informal tour of the entire building during which she talked in her usual happy and relaxed manner to many of those guests who had been ushered to various rooms throughout the House. Particularly pleased were the numerous Scout representatives from abroad and overseas who counted themselves fortunate that their period of stay in the United Kingdom permitted them to be present.

And so another memorable event was added to the annals of Scouting's long history.

"Their inward thought is, that their house (s) shall continue for ever, and their dwelling place (s) to all generations."

—Psalm 49, Verse 11

The House Described

A visitor's first, and sustained, impression of Baden-Powell House is its feeling of spaciousness and brightness, two ingredients clearly in the forefront of the architect's planning. From the moment one passes into the Entrance Hall, rising majestically to the height of two floors, this feeling is established and one obtains pleasing vistas on three sides made possible by the use of wide expanses of plate glass. Running almost the full width of the overlooking balcony is a black marble panel with words picked out in gold, reading:

THIS HOUSE WAS OPENED BY HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND
ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF JULY, ONE
THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE.

Before proceeding further through the ground floor let us first inspect the basement area. The stairway in a corner of the Entrance Hall leads down to a coffee bar adjacent to which will be a discotheque mantled in a modern decor. Here young enthusiasts will be able to enjoy listening to the current popular recordings without disturbing the rest of the house. Immediately adjacent, but shut off from the public area, are the spacious kitchens completely fitted out with stainless steel equipment. Other parts of the basement are given over

to a large area housing the oil-fired boilers supplying the central heating system, food stores, baggage room, drying room and garage capable of holding fifteen cars which has a separate exit to the adjoining mews and main thoroughfare.

Returning to the Entrance Hall with its reception desk manned throughout the night, as well as the daytime, a number of glass topped showcases can be examined containing Scouting and B.-P. mementoes. Installed in an alcove by the lift is a permanent amateur radio station manned by the licensed Scout operators of the Baden-Powell House Amateur Radio Group formed in 1963. It is frequently on the air and its call sign 'GB3BPH' has been picked up by numerous 'Hams' all over the world, and during the International Jamboree-on-the-Air each October the station keeps up a continuous day and night exercise over a period of forty-eight hours. Fixed to the wall above the radio station is a six-foot wide aluminium and glass world clock. This handsome item was generously donated by the British Bottlers of Coca-Cola in 1962.

Adjacent to the Entrance Hall is the glass flanked Foyer with its souvenir counter. At the far end behind a screen wall covered in green leather and bearing the



Glass lined entrance hall and reception.

legend 'The B.-P. Story' is what is described as 'a permanent exhibition in words, sound and pictures' tracing the life of the Founder from cradle to grave. Skilfully executed by Mr. W. M. de Majo, M.B.E., F.S.I.A., a former Scout and designer of international repute, and financed through the great generosity of Charles Williams, this extremely interesting feature is open to the general public. To every visiting Scout it is a 'must' on no account to be overlooked.

By the side of this exhibition are swing doors giving access to the splendid Assembly Hall which, to many of those who were privileged to be present at the great event in July 1961, will always be regarded as the heart of the House. Especially so to the members of the B.-P. Scout Guild who raised the magnificent sum of £25,000 to meet the cost of the Hall. A plaque fixed to its south wall reads:

THIS ASSEMBLY HALL WAS DONATED BY
THE B.-P. SCOUT GUILD IN FULFILMENT OF
A PROMISE GIVEN BY THE FIRST
GUILDMASTER
ARTHUR ROBERT PETER
SECOND BARON BADEN-POWELL OF
GILWELL 1913 - 1962
IN WHOSE MEMORY THIS PLAQUE WAS
UNVEILED BY THE CHIEF SCOUT
SIR CHARLES MACLEAN, BT., J.P.
22nd OCTOBER 1966

A corner of 'The Story of B.-P. Exhibition'.



The Hall is capable of seating over three hundred people and has a spacious stage fitted out with the necessary lighting and scenery mechanism to allow for the presentation of stage productions and public address equipment for conferences. Above the auditorium at the opposite end is a fully equipped projection room.

Back to the Entrance Hall. Over by a glass screened garden court containing a bronze bust of B.-P. gifted by the Scouts of Mexico, a broad open-sided stairway takes one up to the first floor on which are the administration offices of the House. Here, too, is the bright and airy self-service Restaurant where visitors are able to view the busy scene below in Cromwell Road while enjoying an excellently cooked meal in pleasant company.

Then up to the second floor and to the Common Room where residents may relax in comfort and, should they wish it, watch a television programme. A corridor, containing more showcases housing many items of interest and on the walls a number of water-colours painted by B.-P. shortly before he died, leads to the Quiet Room, the Library, and at the far end a tastefully furnished Committee Room which at short notice can be transformed to serve as a Chapel, for set into a bay screened by sliding curtains is a small, softly illuminated, altar furnished with a beautifully bound Bible and an oak cross. Note should be taken of the tables and the accompanying blue leather chairs embellished in gold with the Scout Badge. All these furnishings were donated by well-wishers.

The next two floors contain comfortable dormitories

of varying sizes for Scouts, the larger of them capable of sleeping thirteen. Each resident guest is provided with a single bed and a personal bedside locker-type wardrobe, also a specially designed overhead netted rack to accommodate awkward shaped rucsacs and duffle-bags. Separate smaller multi-bedded rooms are reserved for adults and along the side wing are attractively appointed twin-bedded rooms. Adequate toilet facilities, including bathrooms and showers, are installed on these two levels.

The fifth floor contains bedrooms mostly for Leaders and one of these is laid out with B.-P.'s personal bedroom furniture previously used at his last English home at Pax Hill, Bentley, Hampshire. Occupiers of this room have observed how simple must have been the Old Chief's tastes for, as his wife will testify, he frequently slept out on an open-sided verandah both in summer and winter!

Throughout the tour so far it will have been noticed that outside all the doors leading to the many rooms are one or more small plaques bearing the emblems of those Districts, Counties and National Associations who met the initial adoption cost of each room. For example, the large Common Room on the second floor was adopted by Scotland and this is marked by an interesting and colourful display of almost every Scottish Shire and County badge on one of its end walls. In addition many of the beds are individually endowed.

And so eventually to the uppermost floor. Here are to be found the private apartments of the Warden and the House Engineer, both of whom are likely to be called upon at any hour of the day or night. The two flats are

An imposing view of the Assembly Hall.



pleasantly appointed and on a clear day a view of the Surrey Downs to the south can be seen through their wide picture windows.

Stepping out on the roof-walk one obtains a commanding panoramic survey of many of the pinnacles and domes of West London as yet not obscured by the ever-rising tower blocks of offices and hotels. Immediately below to the east and dominating the scene is the tree-surrounded Natural History Museum, a striking example of Victorian architecture, affectionately referred to by Londoners as the 'Dead Zoo' by virtue of its fine collection of animal skeletons and fossils dating back to prehistoric times, magnificent specimens of the taxidermists' art and much more besides. Beyond stands the even larger Victoria and Albert Museum packed with art treasures, costumes and furniture of bygone ages, and the dome-capped Brompton Oratory. Screened from view but still close by is the unique Science Museum, a never-ending attraction for many thousands of visitors all the year round.

Glancing to the north-east one picks out the extensive Imperial College, much of which has been completely rebuilt in modern style since Baden-Powell House was erected. In the immediate vicinity of the Imperial College and off Exhibition Road is Prince's Gardens where the Baden-Powell family was in residence around the time of the Siege of Mafeking. Further on in the same direction is the Royal College of Music standing close to the world famous Royal Albert Hall whose wide dome gazes over Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park to its immediate

north.

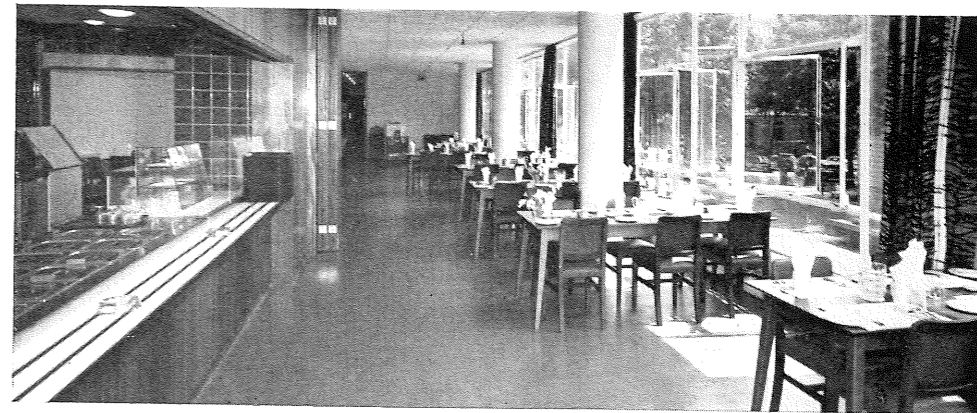
Looking in a westerly direction there stands less than half-a-mile away the West London Air Terminal, so conveniently situated for House visitors arriving in London from all parts of the world. A mile away to the south-west stands the famous Earls Court Exhibition Hall, quickly discernible by its distinctively shaped roof. Within short walking distance from Earls Court but unfortunately unseen from the House is Olympia, another renowned exhibition centre, scene of the very first World Scout Jamboree way back in 1920.

Fifteen minutes' walk due south is the Chelsea Reach of the River Thames. It is close by here that one finds Wren's 17th century Royal Hospital, home of the Chelsea Pensioners. Credit for the inception of this noble charity belongs by unsupported tradition to Nell Gwynne who is for ever romantically linked with King Charles II.

Baden-Powell House is situated midway between South Kensington and Gloucester Road Underground Stations, which provide easy access to all main line rail termini and, indeed, to many other parts of tourist London.

What more suitable spot could have been chosen for the siting of the House?

*"Wiv a ladder and some glasses
You could see to 'Ackney Marshes
If it wasn't for the 'ouses in between."
—Edgar Bateman.*



The House Breathes Life

'Houses are built to live in and not to look on.'
—Francis Bacon.

It has already been recorded that the first appointed Warden was John Rapley, on whose shoulders rested the responsibility of implementing the decisions of the managing body now known as Baden-Powell House Board. As with any new and unprecedented project* many teething troubles had to be faced and it speaks well of the untiring efforts of John Rapley and his small full and part-time staff that they were steadfastly and successfully resolved in an unobtrusive yet masterly manner.

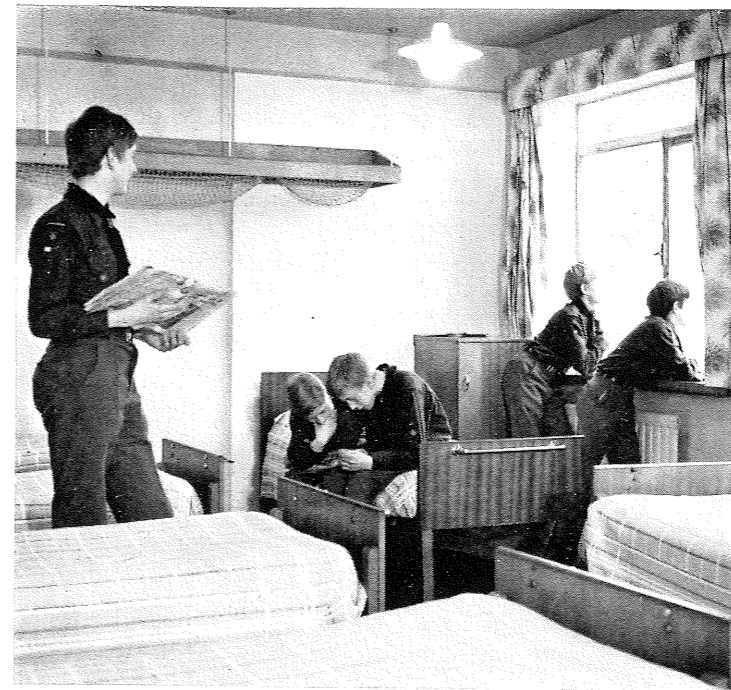
The arrival of paying guests and transitory visitors was immediate and as the use of the house rapidly increased the staff had to be strengthened, although not to any appreciable extent. That the full-time and part-time work force has always been held at a comparatively modest level is largely due to the generous assistance given by Scout and Guide members of the Baden-Powell House Service Teams and other willing volunteers, especially during the summer months and the invariably busy week-ends when the residential bookings naturally tend to be at their highest.

In the autumn of 1968 the office of Warden was taken over by Reg Flower, Deputy to John Rapley. At the time of writing he continues to attend to its many needs with the same devotion, loyalty and efficiency as was given by his predecessor.

**Roland House, the East London Scout Centre on Stepney Green, was opened in 1916 and although its functions are to some extent parallel with those of Baden-Powell House, its initial problems were by no means comparable or as complex.*

The first important event to be held at the House after its inauguration was the Annual General Meeting of the Council of The Boy Scouts Association, with the President, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester in the chair. This took place on Wednesday, 13th July, 1961, the day immediately following the unforgettable Opening Ceremony. At this meeting the Chief Scout presented the Silver Wolf to the Chairman of the House Board, Sir Harold Gillett, whose name will always be closely associated with Baden-Powell House.

* * *



In one of the dormitories.

Restaurant scene.



B.B.C. Songs of Praise broadcast.



In its first year the House received as paying guests representatives from no less than twenty-four different countries, thus establishing at once that B.-P.'s vision of a house where Scouts of the world could meet was certainly no pipe dream. To date individual persons or parties from practically every one of the hundred and more Scout Associations recognised by the World Conference (and a few as yet not so recognised) have been received and made welcome. The number of 'bed nights' recorded over the first full calendar year, based on a unit of one person staying one night, was approximately 18,000, twenty-five per cent of which were accommodated over a nine weeks' period in the summer of 1962.

But this was just the beginning. As news of the House and what it had to offer percolated around the world, Scouts from far and wide began to make it their Mecca. In 1967, the year of the World Jamboree in Idaho, U.S.A., many contingents journeying to that event included a stay at the House in their itinerary. The voices of no less than forty nationalities, as far removed from one another as the islands of Tonga and Iceland, rang merrily through its corridors.

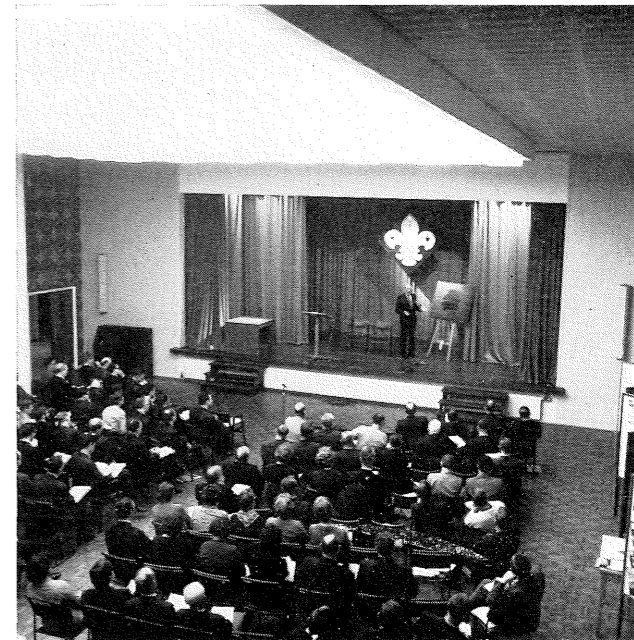
This hitherto record year was quickly surpassed. During the twelve months ending 30th September, 1970, no less than sixty-three different nationalities were represented, involving 25,430 bed nights, with the Restaurant marking up a score of 102,736 main meals! The maintenance of such a fine service was made possible through the continuous co-operation of the growing army of volunteers (by then the number had

topped the hundred mark) who helped to take a great deal of the load from the shoulders of the small permanent staff.

Countless tales can be told of the incidents that have occurred within the House. Many have been amusing, such as the time some Cub Scouts enquired where B.-P. slept when he lived in the House; when a couple arrived at the reception desk and presented their airline tickets. They had followed a Troop of heavily laden Scouts from Gloucester Road Underground Station thinking they were making for the Air Terminal. A party of immaculately attired American Scouts arrived one day and within an hour had their Scouter reduced to tears when he discovered that a number of them had swapped almost every item of their uniforms with parties of U.K. Scouts also staying at the House. On another day a crowd of boys and girls from one of the Scandinavian countries caused confusion because a number of the boys looked like girls and vice versa. The House staff have long since become accustomed to this trend and not only on the part of Scandinavians!

One could fill many pages with similarly agreeable episodes, like the Pack of thirty Cub Scouts all of whom insisted on thanking the staff personally and individually before leaving; young Girl Scouts from the U.S.A. who brought all the diners in the restaurant to their feet while they sang grace; Japanese Scouts who upheld their country's traditional courtesy by their attitude towards the domestic staff; the departing gesture of Dutch, German and Jamaican Scouts who made their farewells in song. Many are the charming little gifts

Public Relations Conference.



presented to the House by those who have enjoyed their stay.

From its inception the House became much sought after as a venue for important national and, indeed, international Scouting events. Counties and Districts, too, commenced to make bookings for their major occasions and a wide variety of public and private functions added considerably to the list of reservations. Its excellent residential and assembly amenities soon established the House as an ideal focal point for weekend conferences, training courses and the like.

Prior to the opening of the House the cast of the London Gang Show had to make do with a variety of rather impersonal halls around London for the holding of its rehearsals. But now Ralph Reader and his enthusiastic and talented players were able to take full advantage of the facilities the House had to offer. Once a week during the autumn months of every successive year lively voices singing catchy Ralph Reader numbers and the sound of dancing feet can be heard emerging from the Assembly Hall.

So, too, was the International Scout and Guide Club able to transfer its meeting place from the confines of a church crypt to the more spacious areas of Baden-Powell House. Formed a few years earlier, this project of International Scout Commissioner Robin Gold was quickly off the mark in establishing a new home for its members. Scout and Guide students from abroad temporarily residing in the U.K., others on extended visits, and immigrants, along with a strong nucleus of British 'regulars', forgather every Monday evening through-

out the year to cement the bonds of the B.-P. Brotherhood and are ever ready when called upon to render service to the House.

It was not long before applications began to arrive from non-Scouting bodies anxious to make reservations for their annual general meetings, conferences, seminars and council meetings. It was eventually decided by the Board that, providing Scout bookings always received priority and circumstances permitted, the House would be pleased to offer facilities to kindred Associations. Among the earlier applications accepted were those from such widely diverse interests as the British Council of Churches, the Boys' Brigade, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Office, St. John Ambulance and British Red Cross, National Association of Boys' Clubs, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Kennet and Avon Canal Trust, Girls Venture Corps and the Salvation Army.

That this kind of co-operation should be extended is something which B.-P. himself would have encouraged. There is no doubt that the efforts of the House staff are keenly appreciated as is borne out by the following letter picked out at random from the hundreds which have been received over the years, *'My thanks for the very excellent facilities afforded . . . Everyone who has the opportunity of staying there must take away with them a deep and lasting impression of the Scout Movement.'*

The importance of projecting a good image of Scouting to the public is the duty of everyone connected with it. This applies especially to the Publicity Depart-



Top right: Mr. C. Dymoke Green with Commonwealth guests.

Bottom right: Danish visitors in the Garden Court.

Below: Shire badges adorn a wall in the common room gifted by Scotland.



ment at Headquarters whose prime role is the continuance of this essential process. Fully alive to the value of Baden-Powell House as a 'shop window' of the Movement the publicity staff has from the start always worked in close collaboration with the Warden in the promotion of the House and its services. Included among the special events it has undertaken, the Department has organised premières of Scout films, exhibitions, conferences, etc. In February 1964 the Publicity Department interested the B.B.C. in televising one of its popular *'Songs of Praise'* programmes from the House to mark the 107th birthday anniversary of B.-P.

The International and the Commonwealth Departments, too, are in no doubt as to the value of the House for there are many times when it is necessary for them to plan welcoming receptions to important individuals and parties arriving in London from abroad. Early every year the Commonwealth Department organises a New Year's Party, a happy occasion for many Overseas visitors to these shores.

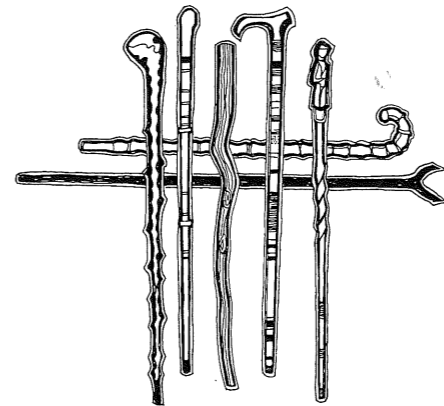
The Programme and Training Department is also a consistent user. Responsible for the organisation of several big national events during the course of a year, some of which involve Scouts coming to the capital from all parts of the country, this Department naturally turns to the House for help and it goes without saying that the required co-operation is always readily given. A Chief Scout's Reception of Queen's Scouts, when the holders of this high award come to London to receive their Royal Certificates, is a case in point. Then there

was the occasion during the Diamond Jubilee Year, 1967, when the organisers turned the House into an Air Terminal for the purpose of assembling the 1,300 strong British Party bound for the 12th World Jamboree in Idaho, U.S.A. The checking in of so many passengers and the weighing of large quantities of baggage before moving on to the Airport for embarkation was of considerable relief to the airport personnel during one of their heaviest traffic periods. That the moment coincided with the House's own busiest spell was neither here nor there. The exercise went off without a hitch.

The Secretary of the Association is yet another who automatically selects the House as the venue for the important events he is called upon to arrange such as the Annual General Meeting of the Council of the Association, Conferences of County Commissioners and the regular monthly meetings of the Committee of the Council.

Scarcely a week goes by without there being at least one meeting at Headquarters' level taking place at the House. One has only to learn that in addition to the Committee of the Council there are some thirty Headquarters Sub-Committees and Boards called together at varying intervals, to realise the extent to which the Committee Room is used, even though several of them continue to be accommodated in the old library at 25 Buckingham Palace Road. One is tempted to ask how the people at Scout Headquarters managed to operate before the advent of Baden-Powell House!

Reference has already been made to the heavy



demands for accommodation during the Diamond Jubilee Year but an extra-special event which took place during 1967 must be mentioned. This was the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh in October of that year. Since his unfortunate accident, which prevented him from accompanying The Queen at the Opening Ceremony in 1961, His Royal Highness had frequently expressed a wish to visit the House. This was his first opportunity to do so. He toured the entire building from basement to roof and delighted the Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and others in residence with his easy manner and obvious interest. Especially thrilled were Cub Scouts from Sussex who participated in handicraft activities, many of whom he engaged in merry conversation. Just three months later the Duke's son, Prince Andrew, was enrolled as a Cub Scout in the 1st St. Marylebone Pack which, until the young Prince went to a boarding school, was privileged to hold its weekly meetings in the private cinema of Buckingham Palace.

Another member of the Royal Family was seen at the House in 1967 when Princess Margaret attended the Annual General Meeting of the Girl Guides Association, of which she is President. Two years later Princess Alexandra, as Patron of the Girls Venture Corps, visited that organisation's National Conference in the Assembly Hall. Thus the House had been honoured by Royal presence on no less than five occasions during its first seven years!

Two events in 1968 were of particular interest to the increasing number of young folk-music fans. The success achieved by the Scouts of Chesham, Buckinghamshire,



The band of the 1st Warlingham B.-P. Guild Branch.

Philatelic exhibition in the Assembly Hall.



who had pioneered this growing interest within the Movement, moved two members of the Publicity Department at Headquarters to explore the possibility of staging a concert of this type of music at the House. Encouraged by the Warden and the Editor of THE SCOUTER an evening's entertainment, billed as a 'National Folk Fest', took place in May with such enthusiastic support that 'Folk Fest 2' followed six months later. So heavy were the demands on the Assembly Hall's seating capacity that it was necessary to give two performances in one day. Quite clearly another venue had to be found for future shows of this kind and so in 1970 and 1971 'Folk Fest' shifted to the more spacious setting of Croydon's two-thousand seater Fairfield Hall—with all tickets sold on both occasions.

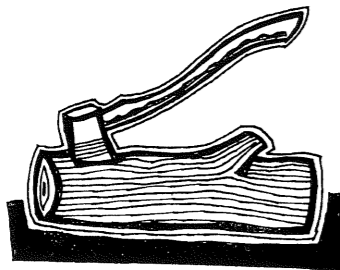
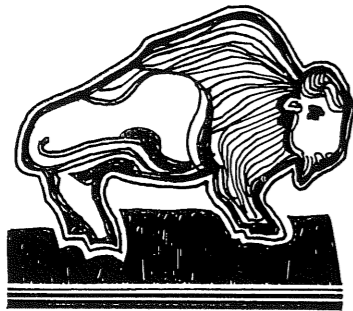
Any keen philatelist will confirm that more postage stamps have been issued with a Scouting theme than for any other world organisation or cause. It is probably equally true to say that few private collectors possess a more comprehensive library of Scout (and Guide) postage and poster stamps than Norman Rowe, Deputy Warden of Baden-Powell House. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that with his accumulated knowledge of this long established and popular hobby, and with the co-operation of other members of the Scout Stamps Collectors Club, Norman played a major part in mounting a Scout and Guide Philatelic Exhibition at the House in February 1969 to mark the Founder's anniversary. Through the means of this unique collection, brought together from many countries, visitors were able to trace

Scouting history from the days of the Siege of Mafeking at the beginning of this century up to modern times. The interest this exhibition created led to another but much larger one being staged at the House in February of the following year.

As is to be expected of a place which attracts members of both the Scout and Guide Movements there have already been a number of cases where "boy meeting girl" friendships have blossomed into romance and eventual marriage. Having enjoyed a happy marital life himself, how delighted B.-P. would have been to see young people of his two great families linked by common ties, come together in this fashion. That the House which bears his name is taking a hand in creating lasting friendships between the sexes would have given him added pleasure.

And talking of romance, there is an interesting story about a young husband and wife who will always have cause to be amused when the name of the House crops up. A Cub Scout Leader from Manchester brought his bride to London for their honeymoon . . . accompanied by forty-two boys from the bridegroom's Pack! By coincidence their honeymoon fell on the same week-end as a pre-arranged Pack visit to the Metropolis and the understanding bride agreed with her husband that the lads should not be disappointed. The Cubs were accommodated at Baden-Powell House the couple at an hotel close by. Surely THAT marriage deserves to endure!

* * *



It will readily be appreciated that with such constant usage the inevitable problem of normal wear and tear continually occupies the thoughts of the ever vigilant House Board. Replacements of heavily taxed furniture, crockery, carpets and bedding have to be repeatedly considered. The redecorating of the many rooms, the periodical repainting of the exterior, minor repairs to the building fabric, the refurbishing of the kitchen equipment and all those other concerns attendant upon the maintenance of any well-run establishment have to be faced.

To meet the demands of such a programme of upkeep, as well as to keep pace with ever-rising costs of material and labour, it has become necessary from time to time to review accommodation and hire charges. These latter, however, have always been kept at a very reasonable level in order not to impose a strain on the pockets of the many young frequenters. That the Board has managed to do this is, in no small measure, due to its foresight and businesslike approach to the problem. Early in the first decade of the life of the House part of the Endowment Fund was used for the purchase of the two immediately adjoining freehold properties in Queen's Gate. Let off into flats these began to show a good return on investment and ultimately to a substantial increase to the Fund's income. A more recent acquisition has been the neighbouring 52a, Cromwell Road.

The setting up of another revenue-producing project also helped to ease the financial situation. Under the title of 'Friends of Baden-Powell House' this fund continues to provide well-wishers with an opportunity to assist in the valuable work of the centre. Good as it is

the circle of 'Friends' needs to be considerably extended. One excellent way of achieving this would be to mark the Founder's anniversary on 22nd February each year by sending a subscription to this fund, preferably under covenant. Good husbandry must be a constant factor in the running of any household.

By happy chance Baden-Powell House was the first international residential centre for Scouts to be specifically planned and built anywhere in the world. Had it been otherwise it would have caused keen disappointment to the Scouts of the country where Scouting was born. It was not until six years later that the next home-from-home opened its doors to the followers of B.-P. This was the Ellsworth H. Augustus International Scout House at New Brunswick in the State of New Jersey, U.S.A. Of single floor construction it stands in the spacious grounds of the fabulous National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America. Although smaller in size and lacking some of the amenities pro-





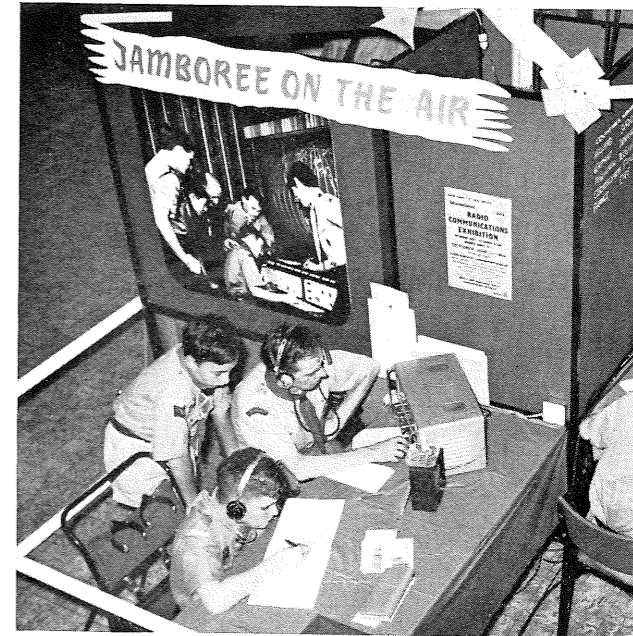
Folk Fest 2

vided at B.-P.'s House, Ellsworth Augustus Scout House is splendidly furnished, extremely comfortable and exudes that same air of friendship which is always in evidence at Baden-Powell House. Between them Britain and the United States have thus established a pattern which, in the fulness of time, will assuredly be copied by the creators of other Scout homes elsewhere.

Resounding with the cheerful voices of boys (and girls) of many lands Baden-Powell House is a lively house, a happy house. B.-P. repeatedly wrote and spoke about the pursuit of personal happiness and the giving of it to others. 'Happifying' is the term he used. Two items permanently on view in the B.-P. Story Exhibition on the ground floor give clear proof of his lifelong wish for young people.

On one panel is displayed a message penned in the somewhat laboured but already determined handwriting of his childhood. Under the heading '*Laws for me when I am old*' and written three days after his

Scout radio operators in action.



Ralph Reader rehearsing a number for the London Gang Show.



eighth birthday, B.-P. recorded these words:

'I will have the poor people to be as rich as we are, (they were not) and they ought by rights to be as happy as we are (by which all accounts they were) and all who go across the crossings shall give the poor crossing sweepers some money and you ought to thank God for what he has given us . . . You must pray to God whenever you can but you cannot be good with only praying but you must also try very hard to be good.'

Also on display is another message, the last he wrote to his Scouts before he died. The following are extracts from it:

'I want to send you a parting word of goodbye. Remember it is the last you will ever hear from me. I have had a most happy life, and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too.'

'I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your



career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful, and so can enjoy life when you are a man . . . the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people.

'Try and leave this world a little better than you found it . . . Be Prepared in this way, to live happy and to die happy; stick to your Boy Scout Promise always—even after you have ceased to be a boy—and God help you to do it.'

On a modest tablet in the great cathedral of St. Paul's, London, is an inscribed epitaph to Sir Christopher Wren, its inspired architect . . . 'SI MONUMENTUM REQUIRIS, CIRCUMSPICE' ('If you seek a monument look about you'). Surely this applies equally to B.-P. Baden-Powell House is not a man-made edifice there just to be admired. It is a living memorial, built out of love for a great and inspiring Leader.

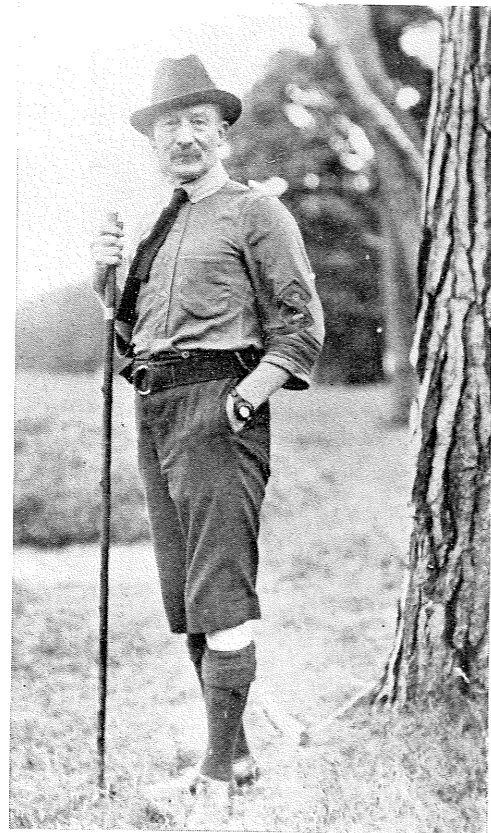
Long may it be said that through its portals enter the Youth of all Nations, there to stay in harmony and, on their adieus, go their various ways with a deeper understanding of and an abiding faith in Baden-Powell's remarkable and proven concept—the World-wide Brotherhood of Scouts.

*"Baden-Powell himself has gone, but his Movement remains and grows—a memorial more enduring than stone or steel."
—Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II*

Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the House.



B.-P., Brownsea Island 1907.



The profits from the sale of this book will assist the development of Baden-Powell House.

Additional copies may be purchased from the Warden, Baden-Powell House, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

We acknowledge our gratitude to the following photographers whose work has been reproduced in this book:

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