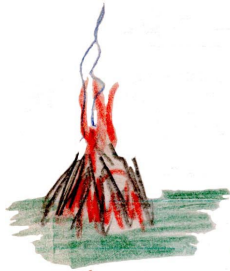
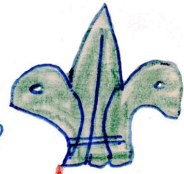


70th RENFREWSHIRE
ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP
AT



70th RENFREWSHIRE
ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP
AT



Pitlochry

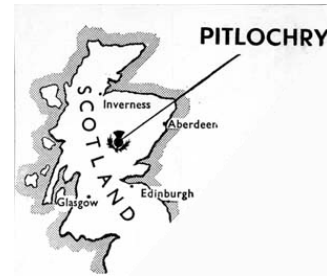
The Heart of the
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



Monday 6th August 1957



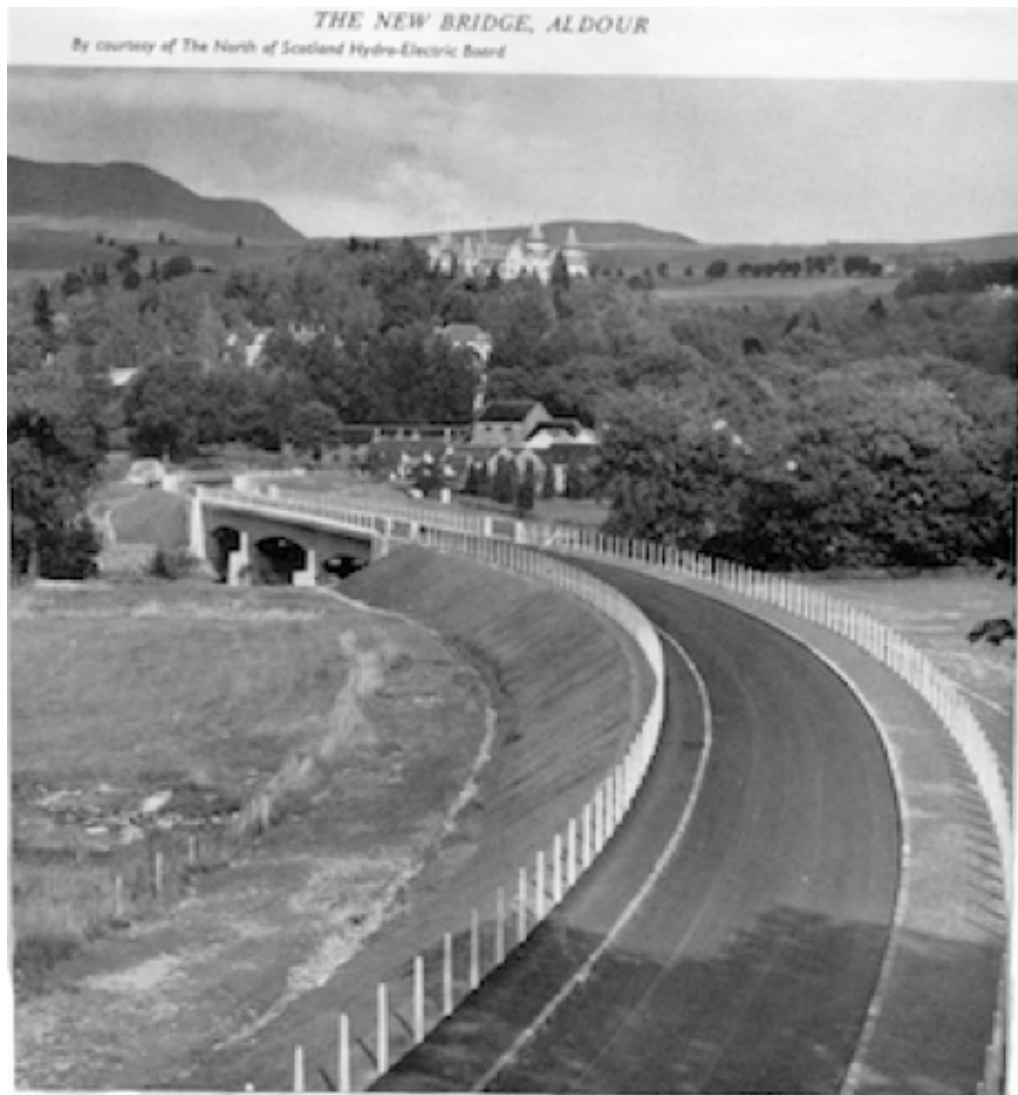
The Troop left for camp¹ at 9:30 AM by Doig's bus² for Pitlochry and as usual it was wet, until we got to Perth at about 12 noon where we had a pleasant hour viewing the sights and "munching" our pack lunches.



Arrived at Campsite at approximately 2 PM in glorious sunshine and, without much more ado, we settled in to pitching tents, making kitchens and all the things that are necessary on arrival at camp.³

The Patrols at Camp were as follows⁴:-

Panthers	PL	John Nisbet Robert Howison Robert Harvey Hugh Paterson
Leopards	PL	Trevor Jones Jim Blair Tommy Dow Alastair Cram
Woodpeckers	PL	Brian Elliot Ian Miller Stuart Scott
Scouters	GSM	Victor J. Clark ⁵
	SM	J.R. Blake
	QM	Robert (Bob) Miller Sandy Whiteford Jim Harvey Ian McFarlane (Long weekend only)



1 1/2 MILES "THAT-A-WAY"
TO CAMPSITE.

Figure 1 The New Bridge, Aldour⁵

Editorial notes for 6th August 1957

1. The summer camp to Pitlochry in 1957 was the first time that the 70th had camped close to Pitlochry, although the Troop had camped near Balinluig for the summer camps of in 1936 and 1937. Balinluig was about half a dozen miles south of Pitlochry and so the Pitlochry camp of 1957 was the furthest that the Troop had travelled to a summer camp up until that time. The campsite was on the west side of the River Tummel at Dunfallandy and the troop returned there for Easter camps in 1961 and 1964. The same campsite was used for a short week-long summer camp in 1977, which had been organized for Scouts who were unable to attend the longer summer camp to Denmark that year.

2. Doigs was a Greenock coal company that also ran coaches during the summer when coal sales were low.

3. The fact that kitchens were constructed (in the plural) indicates that the 70th was camping with each patrol self-sufficient in terms of camping and cooking its own meals. This would have been over wood fires.

4. Ken Conway, Hamish Rankin, Alastair Shearer and Ken Johnston would almost certainly have attended this camp if it had not been for the World Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield (1st-12th August). All four were at that camp

5. Victor Clark restarted the 70th in 1947 and was Scout Master for several years before becoming Group Scout Master. Victor was not particularly interested in practical Scouting and relied on his assistants to provide the Scouts with training in practical skills. His presence at Pitlochry was unusual and is the only camp that he is known to have attended as either Scout Master or Group Scout Master.

6. The 'new bridge, Aldour' connects Pitlochry to the south side of the River Tummel. The road splits on the south bank with the west-bound road leading to the Fish ladders and Loch Tummel, while the south east bound road follows the south side of the river Tummel to Dunfallandy Cottage. The campsite is situated in a narrow flat field between the road and a steep slope leading down to the river.

Tuesday 7th August



Someone actually got up at 7 AM and woke the rest of us. Breakfast at 8:15 AM. Inspection was held at 10 AM and points were awarded for the tidiest tent, kit, kitchen, and gadgets⁷ etc.

The afternoon was spent in making gadgets, plate racks, towel racks etc and after tea, Skipper announced that, as we had all worked hard and settled in quicker than he thought, free time was given for a look round Pitlochry.

Cocoa at 9 PM was enjoyed round a good fire in the Scouters' kitchen.

Bed at 10 PM. Lights out 10:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 7th August 1957

7. Camp gadgets were designed to be of use in a camp kitchen. They were made using natural materials and included items such as plate racks, mug trees, basin racks, dressers, tables, chairs, larders, camp ovens etc. Ian Blake was particularly keen to see the patrols produce gadgets when they were at camp.

Wednesday 8th August

Rise and shine at 8 AM.

Camp now well-established as far as patrol cooking was concerned.



After breakfast and inspection, which was at 10 AM, as usual, we "acquired" a flagpole which was duly erected with due and ancient ceremony.⁸

Then after dinner, Skipper decided that as the weather was still good, it would be a grand chance to visit the "Pass of Killiecrankie"⁹ (a "cranky" idea but we all went). The "walk" was quite enjoyable but somehow that "Last Mile" never seemed to come.

At the "pass", we met two Perth Scouts on their 1st Class journey.¹⁰

On returning to camp, Skipper offered free time, but there were no takers.¹¹ (Has anyone got a piece of 'Elastoplast'). Campfire and Cocoa at 9:30 PM and so to bed.



MASS OF KILLIECRANKIE

Photo: F. Henderson, Pitlochry

Editorial notes for 8th August 1957

8. The main flagpole at summer camp was usually acquired locally, and it was a matter of honour that it should be as tall as possible. It is not known whether the Scouts were allowed to cut down a tree for the purpose, or whether they purchased it locally.

9. In 1957, the A9 passed through the centre of Pitlochry and continued to Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl. During the 1950s, the traffic on the A9 was very light and it was feasible to hike along the A9 to Killiecrankie and back. The old A9 is still present but has been relabeled the B8079. The new A9 now bypasses Pitlochry and Killiecrankie.

10. The 1st Class journey was a two-day hike with an overnight camping, which involved 2 Scouts covering about 18-20 miles. It was one of the last tests completed before gaining the 1st Class Badge. Scouting had a progressive training scheme that involved four principal badges – Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout. In the 70th, PLs were expected to have their 1st Class Badge and were encouraged to gain their Queen's Scout Badge.

11. As the free time involved walking into Pitlochry, it is perhaps understandable why nobody took up the offer, considering the walk that everyone had completed to Killiecrankie and back.

Thursday 9th August

At last the weather has broken and it rained pretty constant all day, but like good Scouts the rain didn't worry us very much.

Breakfast at 8:45 AM. Inspection at 10 AM.

This morning, Hugh Patterson was taken to a doctor by the GSM¹² as he was not feeling well.¹³ Dinner was at 12.30 as usual and free time was allowed at 2:30 PM. Those who did not go out of camp enjoyed pancakes and syrup made by Bob Miller. They proved a great success, much to the annoyance of those who went into "town".

Tea at 5:30 PM and a short walk in the evening with cocoa at 9:30 PM finished an enjoyable day.

Editorial notes for 9th August 1957

12. Group Scout Master, Victor Clark

13. Scouts feeling unwell could often coincide with bad weather

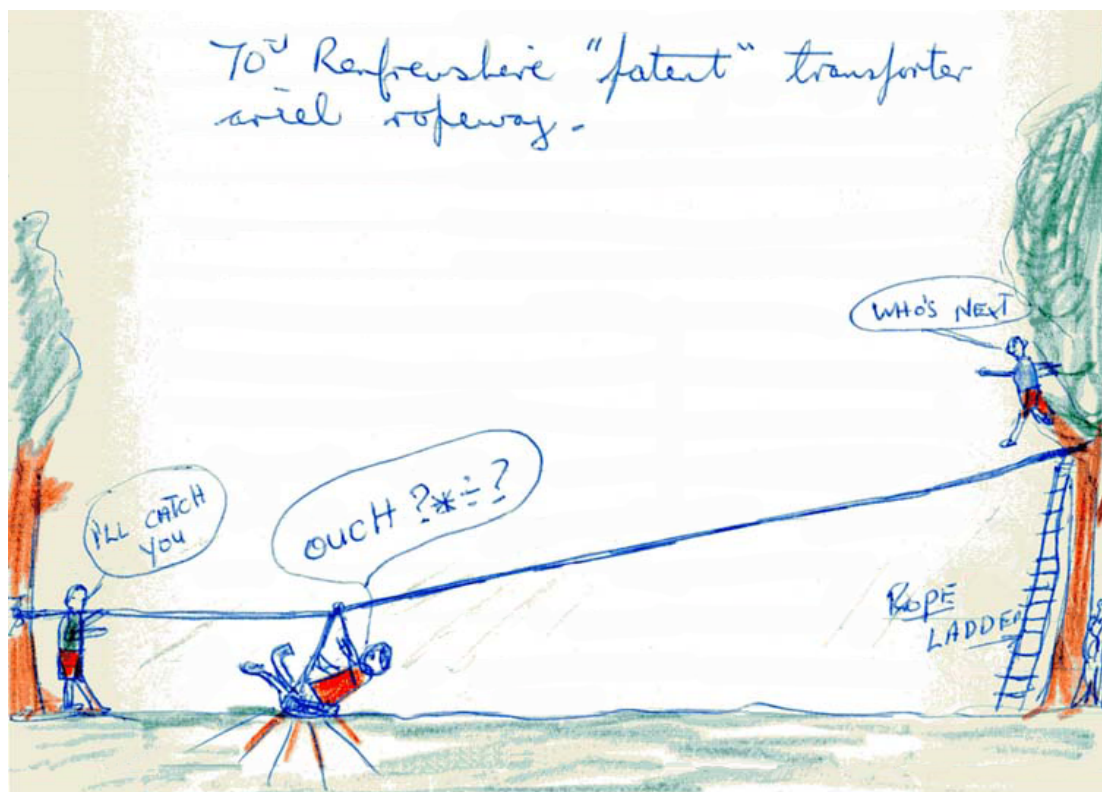
Friday 10th August

Reveille at 8 AM to another showery day with breakfast at 9 AM and inspection at 10 AM. The Panthers are now drawing ahead of the other patrols in points.

Stuart Scott *and* Jim Blair have started a tree-house and a "smooth"¹⁴ rope ladder was made by Skipper.

Dinner at 1 PM was later than usual as Skipper had to go to the post office with Hugh to 'phone his parents who decided he should come home.¹⁵

The afternoon was spent in making a "transporter ropeway"¹⁶ with a Bosun's chair and great fun was had by those who risked their necks, but I'm¹⁷ told it was better fun for the onlookers as the Bosun's chair hit the ground near the end of its run.



Tea followed at 5:30 PM and the evening was spent in a game of cricket¹⁸ which ended in a victory for the boys who managed to beat the Scouters.

Campfire and cocoa at 9:30 PM.

Lights out 10:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 10th August 1957

14. "Smooth" was probably a term used in the 1950s to reflect something really good.

15. In the modern era of mobile phones and instant communication, it might be hard to appreciate the difficulties in making contact with others when at camp. Moreover, it was no simple task getting Hugh back home if his parents did not own a car and were unable to collect him. The log book provides no information on this thugh.

16. Another name for an aerial runway. In the 1950s, there were very few regulations regarding the building of aerial runways, and they were perhaps all the more exciting because of that.

17. The identify of the author is not known.

18. Most Scouts in the 70th attended Greenock Academy where there was a heavy emphasis on school teams playing rugby and cricket. This continued well into the 1970s and possibly the 1980s.

Saturday, 11th August

Camp roused at 7:30 AM to a day of heavy showers (who cares!). Breakfast and inspection over by 10:30 AM. We go in search of good burning timber before having dinner at 12:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 11th August 1957

The Log ends rather abruptly here and it is not clear why that is. It is also not known how long the camp lasted. Photographs show that there was at least one hike that was not mentioned in the above account, and that was a hike to the Black Spout – a waterfall on the east side of Pitlochry.



*Ian Blake, Victor Clark and Bob Miller
Possibly a Kara tent in the background*



Bob Miller and Victor Clark



*Kit laid out for inspection on groundsheet with
Tents (thought to be Karas) fully brailled.
Plate rack and a 'whirlygig' for drying clothes
also visible*



Ian Blake



Visit to Black Spout Waterfall

Ian Miller?, Trevor Jones, Stuart Scott, Alistair. Cram, Jim Blair, Bobby Howison, Bob Miller, Ian Blake, Brian Elliot, Robert Harvey, Tommy Dow.