**Expedition over the “Right of Way”.**

**5th March 1961**

The trip met at Ravenscraig School at 2:15 PM. After waiting for late arrivals and consulting the map to work out the route over the “Right-of-Way”3, we set off up Fla’’er’on2 (with three t’s) Road and hence along the track above the Kip Valley. Kipper (Iain Paterson) came out of his annual hibernation to act as guide since the T.L. and S.M. were examining an injured bod [Raymond Berry–knocked down by an \*\*\*\*4 native on his velocipede].

Weather conditions were ideal for beginning of March – something like what we don’t get in summer.

About 15.00 hours, we arrived at Leitchland Lochain.1 When we got there, the S.M., who had been rambling about great swimming expeditions changed his mind when he saw that he would have for company one or two or 19005 frogs8 and a similar number of reeds7. Here and there, large masses of frog spawn were to be seen. After getting rid of surplus uniform etc some pee-yu-plase4 [bods] started to try and light fires while others started signaling. While all this was going on, the S.M. wandered off, not as first thought, to to answer the call of nature, but to build a monkey bridge. J.A.S.M. Nisbet joining him, they built their bridge in 25.987 minutes. Meanwhile, the great frog races were taking place and the signaling was abandoned in favour of active participation in fire lighting and frog racing.

Everybody now either played on the bridge or ate the S.M.’s chocolate. The bridge was pronounced to be a seven man effort. An attempt at laying a trail was then made but this was not very successful.

About 5 o’clock, preparations were made to return home via Lunderston Bay e and Ashton. Arriving at Ashton bus stop, the S.M. had to dole out because several bods had no money with them - to the extent of 2/11 and 2 feet 2½ inches of bus ticket.

The expedition, on reflection, maybe said to be enjoyable, but as very few tests were passed, it is the opinion of the Log Writer that the object of the expedition was defeated.

Scribe A.B. Cram (Troop Leader)

**Additional note made by Bob Miller**

On further reflection, and then consulting the list of tests opposite, it is the opinion of the Scoutmaster of the expedition was both enjoyable and successful.

Author R.K. Miller (S.M.)

**Yet another additional note made by A.B. Cram on 8th Dec 1961.**

What list of tests opposite?9 – Author A. Cram

**Abbreviations**

T.L. = Troop Leader

S.M. = Scout Master

J.A.S.M = Junior Assistant Scout Master6

**Notes**

1. This is most likely the ‘Curling Pond’ that is identified on larger scale maps. The pond is no longer there and looks like it was filled in by vegetation over the years.

2. Presumably written this way to show how locals in the area dropped their ‘t’s when pronouncing the word.

3. The “Right of Way” hike was a popular hiking route in the Troop during the 1930s and 1940s. The start and finish were easily accessible by public transport – an important consideration at a time when relatively few people owned cars. To get to suitable areas for Scouting activities, Scouts usually had to walk, cycle or catch a bus, train or Clyde steamer.

4. The relevant word in the Log is difficult to make out

5 Seems a relatively common term used in the Troop log at the time

6 Not sure whether this was an official term or not. Possibly it referred to Cadet Scouters undergoing leader training.

7 Evidence of the Curling Pond becoming filled in by vegetation.

8 Finding frogs was also popular during the 1930s and 1940s

9. There is certainly no list present in the Troop Log. Either it became detached from the Troop Log or RK Miller was being ironic and suggesting that the lack of tests passed made the trip enjoyable. We will never know.