



# Old Baldy Council PACK 730 SCOUT NEWS



February 2006 Issue

www.pack730.us

Diamond Bar, California

## *Cubs In The Future*

In our future are many changes and they will be coming faster and faster. New computers, new games, new vehicles (Have you seen the ads for the hybrids that are coming out now?), new efforts to save the environment, historical buildings and places, better knowledge of how to treat and care for the wonderful human bodies God has given us. What will a Blue and Gold Banquet be like 100 years from now? What kind of food will be served? Will our Cub Scout uniform be a one piece jumpsuit like the astronauts wear? How will our future be different from the world we now live in?

## *A Brief History of Cub Scouts*

A "YOUNGER BOY PROGRAM" FOR A "YOUNGER BOY PROBLEM"

The "Cubbing Program" was introduced by the Boy Scouts of America in 1930, but its roots go all the way back to the first days of Scouting. With the early success of the Boy Scouts for boys 12 and over, there was popular demand for a "younger boy program" for the siblings of Scouts. Because of concerns that a younger boy program might have a negative effect on the fledgling Boy Scouts program, the BSA was very careful in their dealings with this "younger boy problem." (See Scouting Magazine article on "Cubbing" June 1930) In 1916, Sir Robert Baden-Powell introduced the "Wolf Cub" program for younger boys. This program soon found its way to numerous communities in the Americas. There were also other 'younger boy' organizations such as the "Little Lodge" of the "Woodcraft Indians," the "Boy Pioneers," and the "Boy Rangers." Some BSA Boy Scout Troops were also sponsoring unofficial "Junior Troops" and "Cadet Corps."



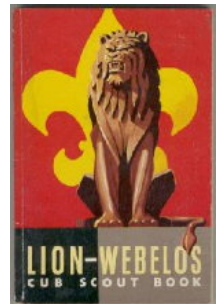
Finally, after 20 years of Boy Scouting in America, "Cubbing" was introduced! What has followed has been nothing short of phenomenal! Boasting over 50,000,000 members since its inception, no program in history has had the far ranging impact on American youth than Cubbing and Cub Scouting have!

Cub Scouting was finally introduced as Cubbing, an experimental program in 1930 with 9 year-olds in the Wolf Den, 10 year-olds in the Bear Den and 11 year-olds in the Lion Den. Cubbing was described as a pre-Scout program. 12 year-olds joined Boy Scouts. The den leaders were Boy Scouts called Den Chiefs, not adults. The Cubmaster was the leader of the Pack which was composed of the dens.

The **Bobcat** is the Americanized version of the Panther, Bagheera, found in Kipling's Jungle Book. He is the mighty hunter that teaches the cubs the skills of the jungle. A boy had to pass the Bobcat entrance exam in order to become a Cub and be eligible to wear the uniform.. Tradition was that it was worn upside down until the Cub did a good turn; after which it could be "turned" right side up.

According to the "History of Cub Scouting", the original Cubbing (as it was known before 1945) handbooks listed Akela as an Indian boy, son of the Chief of the Webelos Tribe. The chief of the tribe was know as Arrow of Light; a name adapted from the Arrow Park World jamboree in London in 1929. The term Akela was taken from the leader of the wolf pack in The Jungle Book.

The 1930, "The Boy's Cubbook, Part III - Lion Rank" states the tribal name "We-be-los" signifies "We'll Be Loyal," indicating that a Cub is loyal to his country, his home and his God, W-B-L being the first letters of the three ranks. The **Webelos** rank was created in 1941. The Webelos badge at this time was the familiar Arrow of Light Badge. The Webelos den idea encouraging the transition into Boy Scouts was put into effect in the spring of 1954. Webelos at this time was explained as " a word of inner meaning, signifying progress from Wolf through Bear and Lion ranks: W\_B\_L\_S.... We'll be loyal Scouts." Also, the first letters of Wolf, Bear, Lion, Scout. The latter definition was dropped when the Lion badge was eliminated. The symbol for the Webelos Rank was the Arrow of Light. Originally, the Arrow of Light was the chief of the Webelos tribe, and Akela was one of the braves.



The **Arrow of Light** had seven rays depicting the seven days of the week and a reminder to "do one's best" every

day. The arrow forever points upward and onward toward good citizenship, and also has the meaning of world friendship symbolized by the Golden Arrow.



### Where Did The Lion Go?

The first Director of Cub Scouting was a Dr. William Hurt. In developing the younger boy program for the Boy Scouts he wanted it to be distinctly American. However according to Dr. Hurt, "I deliberately added some things to tie in with the British. Wolf, Bear, Lion seemed a natural sequence. The lion was a courtesy to the British Lion".

A two year study in the early fifties recommended some changes to the program. This included the Webelos den for 10 1/2 year olds that earned the Lion rank. It was implemented in the spring of 1954 in order to keep the interest of the 10 year olds. The Lion-Webelos handbook was published that year for the first time.

In 1960, Cub Scouting lost 30 percent of the registered boys during the year. A survey was conducted through the University of Michigan (I wonder if it is in the school's archives?) to find out why. The report was presented in 1964. The result was a number of changes in 1967 including the creation of the Webelos rank which gave the older boys a unique set of achievements and experiences to better prepare them for Boy Scouting. It was also designed to help retain interest as they moved from Cub Scouting into Boy Scouting. Unfortunately, this is the time when Scouting loses many of the boys. Naturally, there was not room for the Lion rank anymore and it was eliminated.

### What's Going On?

Everyone is working hard on preparing for the upcoming Blue and Gold banquet along with continuing their progress towards rank.

### Welcome to Our Pack! Scouts Who Joined Our Pack

Diego Avila – Wolf



### Next Pack Meeting

#### Cubstruction

Boys love to build things. This month have the dens work with tools and wood. Learn about different kinds of wood and where it comes from. Make gifts for your family or bird or bat houses for the community. Work with your family to make repairs around your home. Visit the local hardware store or home-improvement store and see all the different tools. Get permission to visit a local construction site.

### Pack Calendar

- Feb 13** Pack Meeting  
7:30 PM Mt. Calvary
- Feb 15** Committee Meeting  
7:30 PM It's a Grind
- Feb 26** Blue & Gold Banquet  
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM Mt. Calvary
- Mar 3-5** Webeloree  
Firestone Scout Reservation Camp
- Mar 12** Raingutter Regatta  
12:30 PM – 3:00 PM Mt. Calvary
- Mar 20** Pack Meeting  
7:30 PM Mt. Calvary
- Mar 22** Committee Meeting  
7:30 PM It's a Grind

### Cubmaster Final Thought

The next time you're outside, pause a moment to look at the old oak trees. They have sheltered countless generations of mockingbirds and have withstood abuse from woodpeckers and man. They've seen native children tossing pebbles at their roots or playing games amongst their branches. They've heard the conversations of war and peace rising from the smoke of a pipe as it curled gently upwards through its branches.

Listen to the brook as it whispers of its secret travels, nurturing the earth along the way. The earth is calling me back to simple and natural things. It persistently calls me to leave the sidewalks and traffic lights and go back to nature. Good night scouts. Go in peace and remember to do your part in taking care of our environment because what you do, determines our future.