

TRAMPING THROUGH CALIFORNIA

The Columbia Park Boys' Club, Fifty Strong, Makes a Record for Summer Walking Trips—Suggestions for Coming Vacation Tours.

MAJOR SIDNEY S. PRIDGOTTO.

Exclusive Service Charities and The Commons Press.

Major Sidney S. Priddotto, of the Columbia Park Boys' Club, has made a record for summer walking trips in California. His party of fifty boys, accompanied by three boys for every ten, has spent every summer with growing parties of youngsters tramping through the Yosemite and along the Pacific coast. He has been the leader of the party for three years and from that organization he has recruited his marchers. Last year he led fifty boys north of the City of Eureka. His suggestions may help other boys' clubs to organize similar parties.

For the last ten years I have made walking trips to the different parts of California. My first summer was spent walking with three boys from Eureka to the Yosemite Valley and back. The following summer I retraced our steps back to the city. I then led a party of twelve boys to Yosemite and my experience on that trip caused me to consider it as an impossible future journey for such a large party of youngsters. It was, therefore, decided in the summer of 1907 to take a long overland journey to the North, the objective point to be the City of Eureka. This route would take us through the coast country, the Sierras, through the redwood forests and eventually home along the Pacific Ocean. It is a delightful and healthy journey. The roads are very steep and difficult for the horses. The first party that made this trip consisted of eighteen members. From this party I have recruited a more definite and organized character. The next summer I enlarged the group to twenty-four. I had from the first party a number of boys who had been in the country along the Southern Coast is through populous and well settled valleys, and the trip was made more attractive by the attention which we received from the numerous towns where we were often welcomed.

The next summer I enlarged the party to thirty-six persons and we retraced our steps to Eureka. These trips have developed the individual work became secondary when the number was increased to such a large group. The boys are now given more privileges of enjoying these summer outings and gain the most benefit which we so apparent in building up physical and moral character in every boy who had had a privilege of being a member of the walking party.

These summer trips were interrupted by the fire and catastrophe of 1906. The following year I led a party of boys to Los Angeles. Last year, 1908, we again went over the Sierras and not only did we make the journey in harmony and with the utmost order and good spirit in our camp, but we also made a number of camp fires, which makes the memory of this trip the banner year of the ten which I have spent with the boys.


The summer trips of the Columbia Park Boys' Club have certainly developed beyond my fondest dreams. It is a feature that I thought, at the last moment, of giving a little show as we passed through the various towns and cities along the line of our march. It was a hastily arranged evening's performance, but entertaining had been so much a part of our life in the past that we decided to put our best singers and our best comedians on the stage and let them, in a simple way, entertain with their songs and stories. We always had a costume closet as a part of our club equipment and from this we picked out some nice costumes, as simple as possible, and the starting off was a disappointment. The audiences were small and discouraging, but toward the end of the trip we were favored with success in our theatricals. The receipts taken in at the theatre doors more than paid for the summer outing for the party of eighteen members. During the summer time the audiences to the theatres, the boys gave a marching drill in the streets just before the theatre opened. It was a simple affair, but it was a novelty and with the Drum and Bugle Corps, made a very interesting impression as a prelude to our evening performance.

The next summer, on the Los Angeles trip, we again arranged a theatrical performance. The "show" was well thought out and well acted. It received praise and approbation everywhere and there was a hundred per cent increase in the receipts at the theatre doors. The following year band music began to be introduced into the club and when the summer time came, it was possible to form a band and drum corps in place of the military drill. This we found to be a greater help than any other feature that we had introduced, and the band of that year, though not considered a very ordinary affair, was a powerful addition to the summer trips and the success of our theatrical shows. The band has developed in these years to the grand musical organization which made the journey last year to the City of Eureka and down the coast. This crack band would be able to walk through the streets of any Metropolis and attract the highest praise. The band, consisting of every member of the party, fifty in all, whose music was above the ordinary and whose concert work was exceptional, made a deep impression all along the route and undoubtedly packed the houses to the doors in a matter of minutes. It was worthy of mention, for its drills and street work were of the highest character. It ought to be noted, in speaking of the theatre side of the life of the camp is of no more importance to the club than their baseball or their daily camp life. After the first two evening performances, little attention is given to further bettering the "show." There are no rehearsals, nor no tireless, tedious hours spent in keeping the "show" up to a standard. It all comes happily and naturally that the boys are not found by any unnecessary preparation, though during the day the conversation sometimes falls upon the bad breaks or the roughness of some of the horses on the previous evening. In the same time, it is not a theatrical performance, in the true sense of the word, and the publicity does not in any way affect or influence these boys' lives.

The routine of the camp life is done by the members of the party. It is a great training and as I look now upon the boys who have made these trips and analyze their present day lives, I can see the influence which the journey has had upon them. In the development of health and strength, I see that these trips have created sound boys, different along from the boys about them. They have made of iron and grand. The trips have, as a

rule, increased the size of the average camp two or three inches in the seven weeks outing. The cost of conducting these summer outings has gradually increased. The three boy outing cost about one hundred dollars for three weeks. The fifty boy outing cost all of \$2,000 for seven weeks. A large item of cost being the equipment, for it is absolutely necessary to furnish each boy with a sensible and hygienic costume for living in the open. I have designed a costume which seems to be every condition perfectly, costing about \$4.20. Care must be taken that the shoes are of good quality and have been "broken in" before the start is made. The expense of a party of fifty is between \$25 and \$30 a day. Then there are the horses and wagons, two difficult problems for the novice to handle, but if properly financed, and cared for during the summer, these items could be made to pay for themselves. We earned last year \$1,000 clear of all commissions and percentages charged at the theatre doors, the total money coming in at the box offices being \$2,725 for the party.

When one considers the benefits that have been derived by the boys on these summer travels, it is almost impossible to speak in words about them. We are day by day traveling onward, and we are seeing new sights at every hour of the day; we are among the Sierras, we are in the canyons, we are by the rushing waters, we are plunging into the depths of the mountains, leaving civilization on behind; we are making friends in the populous communities through which we pass; we are lying down at night with the stars above us; we are swimming in the great rivers, learning every day of nature and geography and infinitesimal things that go to make up this beautiful world to live in. The walking in the sunshine, and though it is at times a hardship, and though it teaches them a thousand lessons in bearing with each other's infirmities, in eating unappetizing foods, and trying to live together in harmony and peace, it has been a most profitable and noble, and filled with countless remembrances that take the place of idle gossip during the year to come.



May

We ask as a favor that you do your trading as early in the day Saturday as possible so as to avoid the afternoon and evening rush. For the past few Saturdays it has been quite impossible to keep up with the steady rush of customers, and we regret that unintentionally some have been kept waiting some little time. But you can help us by doing your trading early.

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Saturday Only, April 3d

Decorated Plate or Oatmeal Bowl

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5 lb. Boxes Crystal Domino 38c.



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CHANGE IN LOCAL TROLLEY SCHEDULE

The Connecticut Company, Bridgeport Division, desire to announce that effective April 1st, half-hour service will be provided on the Bridgeport-New Haven line on Saturdays and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. This affects the service to Milford and Woodmont, and to all beaches on the shore.

INVENTS SPARK PLUG PROTECTOR

Justin A. Wilson, the well known automobilist and rubber manufacturer, has invented a protector for spark plugs, which he has patented, and which is meeting with a ready sale to the wholesale trade. The protector consists of a rubber cylinder within which the spark plug is contained, and efficiently protected from injury in the tool box or elsewhere when not in use.

PURELY PERSONAL

"We were certainly treated royally in Washington."—W. H. Mariold.

"And we secured the speaker we wanted for our banquet."—D. E. B. Read.

"It is certainly great to be able to be here and greet my friends during Fair Week."—C. B. Read.

"When I was snowed hardest early Tuesday morning the robins were merrily singing their song of cheer. Who wouldn't be an optimist!"—M. A. Morriss.

"That chicken supper by the ladies of the People's Presbyterian Church, was a fine treat."—P. F. Taylor.

"Miss Margaret McFadden, the young artist, who has several meritorious pictures in the Art exhibit at the Library, is a sister of Sewer Inspector D. McFadden, and a popular young lady of the East Side. She is a pupil of Miss Myra Wooster and during the short period of her instruction has shown remarkable talent."

Mr. George Zumsteg was passing the church yesterday, in honor of his 53rd birthday. He reports that his "green little shamrocks" are still in bloom.

Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Whiting and Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Mills of this city have been heard from at Sopchoppy, Fla., where they are registered at the Parades.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Nettleton are at their home on Colorado avenue after a lengthy stay in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Many social functions are being planned for Easter week, and the fair sex are busily engaged preparing therefor.

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Stop falling hair in two weeks.

Cure dandruff in two weeks.

Stop splitting hair.

Stop itching scalp immediately.

Grow more hair.

Make harsh hair soft, silky and luxuriant.

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As a hair dressing it is without a peer. It contains nothing that can possibly harm the hair, it is not sticky, oily or greasy—it is used by thousands to keep the hair healthy—it prevents as well as cures disease.

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READ HARRIMAN'S INTERVIEW WITH MUCH INTEREST

Congressmen, However, do not Find a Great Deal of Light.

They Agree With Many of His Conclusions.

But Wish He Would Be More Explicit in Telling How to Carry Out His Ideas—What Congress is Doing to Make Revenue and Expenditure Balance.

(Special from United Press.)

Washington, April 2.—Public men here and in Congress have been reading with interest the various published interviews with E. H. Harriman, the railroad man, and marvelling at his sudden eloquence. They do not find, however, that he has thrown much light upon the subjects that he has discussed. His theory that the government should be run, like the railroads, on a cost-at-ton-per-mile basis, sounds interesting to Congressmen and others but even Mr. Harriman does not indicate just how this could be done and careful inquiry among officials here reveals an equal ignorance.

But, if Mr. Harriman meant by that, that there should be a more careful adjustment of the expenditures to the revenues of the government he is right in line with the present administration, just as he is in his suggestion that the Sherman Anti-Trust law should be amended. Both President Taft and former President Roosevelt have indicated in their public speeches and messages that the Sherman law should be amended to permit the railroads to make pooling agreements among themselves. Bills to effect this were introduced in the last Congress but never got beyond consideration in committee. They will be introduced again but it is evident that the great part of the sentiment which Mr. Harriman says that he has observed throughout the country on this subject, must make itself more clearly understood than has yet been done before such a measure can become a law.

PAULIST FATHERS TO GIVE MISSION AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The parishioners of St. Mary's church are looking forward with pleasure to the mission which is to be given at that church by the Paulist Fathers and which will begin the week following Easter. The Paulist Fathers in accordance with the noted teaching orders of the church and the fathers are noted for their learning and piety.

NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE

Statistics show that the Germans patronize the railroads almost twice as frequently as they did ten years ago, and average longer journeys.

The first lighthouse in this country to use acetylene as an illuminant will be erected by the Government as an experiment at Finn's Point, New Jersey.

A trough-shaped rubber shield, big enough for a lineman to sit upon, has been patented for the protection of men working among high voltage currents.

One of the new emergency devices for use in submarines is a helmet and coat containing enough air to lift the wearer to the surface of the water.

Attendance at the International Tuberculosis Exhibition, recently held at Philadelphia for four weeks, was within 2,000 of the half million mark.

During the world cruise of the Atlantic battleship fleet wireless telephony between ships was carried on successfully at distances up to 50 miles. An experiment of building a country road in Minnesota by mixing out yellow clay and rye straw with the sand has it said to have proven successful.

English is gradually becoming the language of commerce in China, nearly all of the Government and private schools in the coast provinces teaching it.

The railroads of Australia use five different gauges, ranging from two feet to five feet, three inches, and all attempts at standardization have failed.

The Japanese Diet is considering a bill authorizing the expenditure of \$25,000 on the Yokohama waterworks to be expended in allotments covering 13 years.

Though gas and petroleum engines were unknown in Japan ten years ago, they are now used by about 15 per cent of that country's manufacturers for motive power.

A British electro-metallurgist has brought out a system whereby it is possible to produce copper wires or sheets from the crude metal in but one operation.

The tie-treating plant of the Mexican Central Railroad is said to be the first to make a success of preserving timber by forcing oil into the wood under pressure.

A recent temporary shut-down of all the power plants utilizing the water of Niagara showed that they lower the level of the falls but two-fifths of an inch.

The most powerful searchlight in the world is carried by the American flag-ship Connecticut. It is of 180,000,000 candle-power and can throw a six foot beam for ten miles.

In the almost uninhabited Murman district of Russia, in the extreme north, along the Norwegian frontier, there have been discovered rich deposits of silver, copper and lead.

A steel company in New York State claims to have brought out a manganese rail which can be bent, twisted or otherwise distorted while cold without breaking or developing cracks.

The first academy of aviation in Germany has been founded at Munich by the Bavarian Automobile Club, which has purchased an extensive tract of land and will build a big aerodrome. This country's production of zinc in 1908 totalled 210,424 short tons, a decrease of more than 15 per cent, from the previous year. Missouri, Colorado and Wisconsin led, in the order named.

By way of experiment the British War Office recently transported an armed force of 1,000 men from London to Hastings to repel imaginary invaders by automobile at a rate of 20 miles an hour.

A peat gas plant is being erected at Svedala, Sweden, which will transform power won from the bogs into electricity and supply neighboring municipalities and factories with light and power.

A new submersible with which the Italian navy is experimenting is immersed solely by mechanical means and is so buoyant that, if the machinery be stopped, it will immediately rise to the surface.

Advocates of the conservation of forests in Canada are favoring the establishment of a large number of timber lands, the finest fur-bearing animals in the world being indigenous to that region.

All the cable used on Argentina's new Government building at Buenos Ayres, which will be the finest structure of the kind in South America, will be cut with carbonium wheels made in the United States.

For some time blotting paper has been used for bottle stoppers, to cover piano hammers, as an electric insulator and to polish precious stones. A German inventor recently patented a bathing costume made from it.

Scotch's largest waterpower plant, in course of construction, will utilize the rainfall of a tract of 55 square miles and will operate nine turbines, each of 2,200 brake horsepower, the largest in Great Britain.

A reconstruction by French scientists of the cave man whose skull was found at La Chapelle-Aux-Saints shows that the oldest human being of whom there is record was about five and a quarter feet tall, but could not stand erect.

At a cost of \$5,000 the Government will erect on the brink of Grand Canyon of the Colorado a monument in memory of John Wesley Powell, former Director of the Geological Survey, in recognition of his services as a soldier, explorer and scientist.

According to a noted London surgeon, who has accomplished some remarkable cures with radium, the secret of success lies in the discovery that a little of the strange material spread over a wide area, is more powerful than solid bread composed of it.

Within a circle of 60 miles in diameter, with its center in New York, there are more telephones than in all Great Britain.

FINANCIAL

INTEREST

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