Report on Camp for Children at Point Peron 1952

PURPOSE OF CAMP

In referring the constitution of the club last year, we stated that the aim of the club was to provide a happy holiday for the children in a family atmosphere. Thus to review the camp (1) "happy holiday" should be considered and (2) "family atmosphere" also.

The purpose put forward at the camp that, on arrival, the children should be taken to the mess hall, assembled in family groups and told a little as to why they went to the camp, it is a good one.

The situation is immediately structured for the children, they know how they came to be there, why the camp is held, and what they will be expected to do.

In introducing the children to the family situation as soon as they arrive, they gain some security, in that they know to whom they are responsible and do not have to spend the first few days at camp testing the limits of the leaders to find who is in authority.

After the introductory talk, the children are taken in their groups by their leaders to their sleeping quarters and their unpacking supervised.

This necessitates that all children arrive by the same means of transport at the same time.

HAPPY HOLIDAY

The Medical Examination and the Dental Check-up can be considered in the Prep's of "happy holiday" idea. The inspection that the Dental Clinic gave certainly did nothing to increase the happiness of the holiday. From the results made by the children I think the dentist did much to decrease the enjoyment of the camp, and disappoint with. Also, the Medical Clinic could be conducted before the camp began or at the beginning of the holiday. A few days at sea, the weather situation, the nature of the camp, and the healthiness of the child, are all the same held at the time during the camp, which last interferes with the normal camp routine, and alter, the judges and the group are well acquainted with one another. Preferably having group members together, with the leader at attention in front of the line when they have been ashore, and then taking the child back to the group leader who is with the remainder of the group engaged in some play activity.

Of course, they are responsible for their group but because of days off, kitchen duty, musical exam, and the introduction to the camp, it wasn't until the last few days that the leaders group was where their responsibility lay, since they did realise that the camp can vary very much.

Because of the landscape to getting to know open group such as kitchen duty, and days off especially at the beginning of the camp, some other arrangement should be made.

Days off would be give permission. I don't really think they are necessary, perhaps a night off from tea-time would be preferable, and then the leaders group was where their responsibility lay, since they did realise that the camp can vary very much.

Also roster systems should be compiled for taking charge of rest periods, and getting to bed, and getting up. During these times the leader not only one can relax. However, each leader would say good-night to his own specific group members even if it is only a quick good-night.

KITCHEN DUTY: If possible from the point of view of the camp and climate, it might be practicable for the leaders to alternate only one half-day at a time. Morning duty one day, and afternoon only some days later. This saves the big area of a whole day with the group.

USEFUL PERIOD: The children who had half-days during the camp and never saw, and generally, this was a very good note, not only the ones with bitterness, but the other children enjoyed it immensely. However, in view of the club's financial position, I do think that next year, more money could be found on such. This year the children received healthy food, but I do think that this was not given in the form of special treats, or food in greater quantities.

If we are providing for a "happy holiday" then we should give the children more that except two attention and fame.

SUMMARY

1. The Camp Director had too much of the overall responsibility.
2. Group structures should be first thought on arriving at camp, so that children and leaders know each other within the ship.