

2nd National Senior Scout Adventure 1974

MORE than 200 Boy Scouts are facing a challenge to test the veldcraft of even the most skilled backwoodsman on a demanding adventure course covering 600 square miles of rugged terrain in the heart of the Cedarberg.



The 10-day National Senior Scout Adventure began a week ago when four railway buses left Cape Town with 200 scouts from South Africa and Rhodesia. Only 150 km later the scouts had a taste of what was in store when the winding, narrow mountain truck proved too much for the buses.

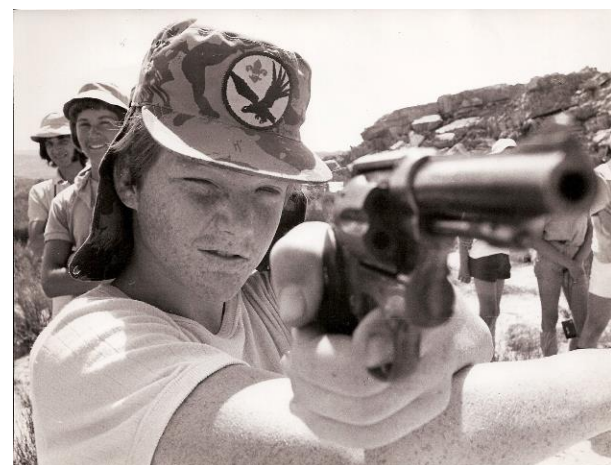
Late that evening the last dusty scout tramped into the base camp after several hours of unscheduled hiking.

Their trip had brought them north-west of Citrusdal and more than 1000 metres above sea-level to the wilderness area of the Cedarberg where the original inhabitants, the Bushmen, have left their records painted on the walls of the sandstone caves.

This part of the Cedarberg is occupied now by leopards and buck and a handful of farmers.

One of the farmers, Mr, P. L. du Toit, owner of 'Driehoek,' agreed to have the scouts' base camp on his farm.

He was somewhat apprehensive at having nearly 300 people on his farm. 'But,' he says in a broad Boland brogue, 'if nobody bothers me, I don't bother anyone.'



The 200 scouts have been divided into 22 patrols that are operating from 10 bases in the 600 square mile area.

The activities include sailing, survival training, archery, a commando course, bridge building, rock climbing and shooting.

The camp chief, Scoutmaster Mr Esmond (Fatty) Rutter said: 'The adventure course is an extension of Scout training for senior boys. It gives them opportunities to learn more skills and of course there is the physical challenge.'

Now that we are in a wilderness area, the scouts can learn to appreciate nature.

The Scouts ages range from 14 to 18 and for some of the younger ones there is much veldcraft to be learned. Two of them were drawing water from a stream. One was scooping with his scout hat 'These hats are supposed to hold water,' he said. 'No they're not,' replied the other, 'they're made in London.'

At the heart of the organisation sits Scoutmaster Cyril Hardy in an army tent with R15000 worth of radio equipment loaned by the Cape Town City Council. He uses it to co-ordinate the whole operation.



Things come a bit unstuck when teams push too hard and overlap. This coordination can only be done by radio,' he says.

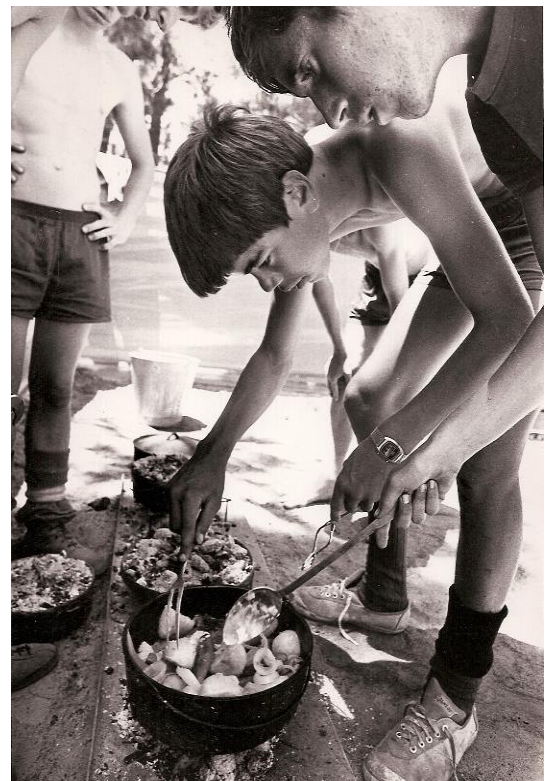
The scouts got New Year greetings and matric results by radio. Mr Hardy mans the base from 5:30 am to midnight.

One of the most popular men is Pinelands scout Graham Boschard, the chief cook. 'Cooking for more than 200 people every day in the middle of nowhere is certainly a job. They say it's the only job here that's no fun, but it's not so bad really,' he said.

Another job that didn't seem much fun was running the first, aid station, the lot of Mr Norman Osburn, a Cape Town attorney.

Those in charge of the various departments of the 1974 Adventure were:-

Camp Chief	Fatty Rutter
Registrar /Trading Post	Impie Bryant
Trips Planner	Colin Inglis
Grubmaster	Richard Goldschmidt
HQ Cooking	Graham Boshard
Radio	Cyril Hardy
CT hospitality	Peter Barnard
Publicity	Norman Osburn
Treasurer	Richard Day
Transport	Jimmy Slater
Admin	Alan Shinton
Archery/Karate	Greg Gordon
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Trevor van Rensburg
Commando Course	Paul Cabu
Conservation / Ecology	Hugh Dent
Dutch Oven Cooking	Errol Kotze
Orienteering	Kevin Wall
Pioneering	Hugh (Buzz) Macey
Rock Climbing	Bob Reinecke, Gabriel Athiros (MCSA)



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