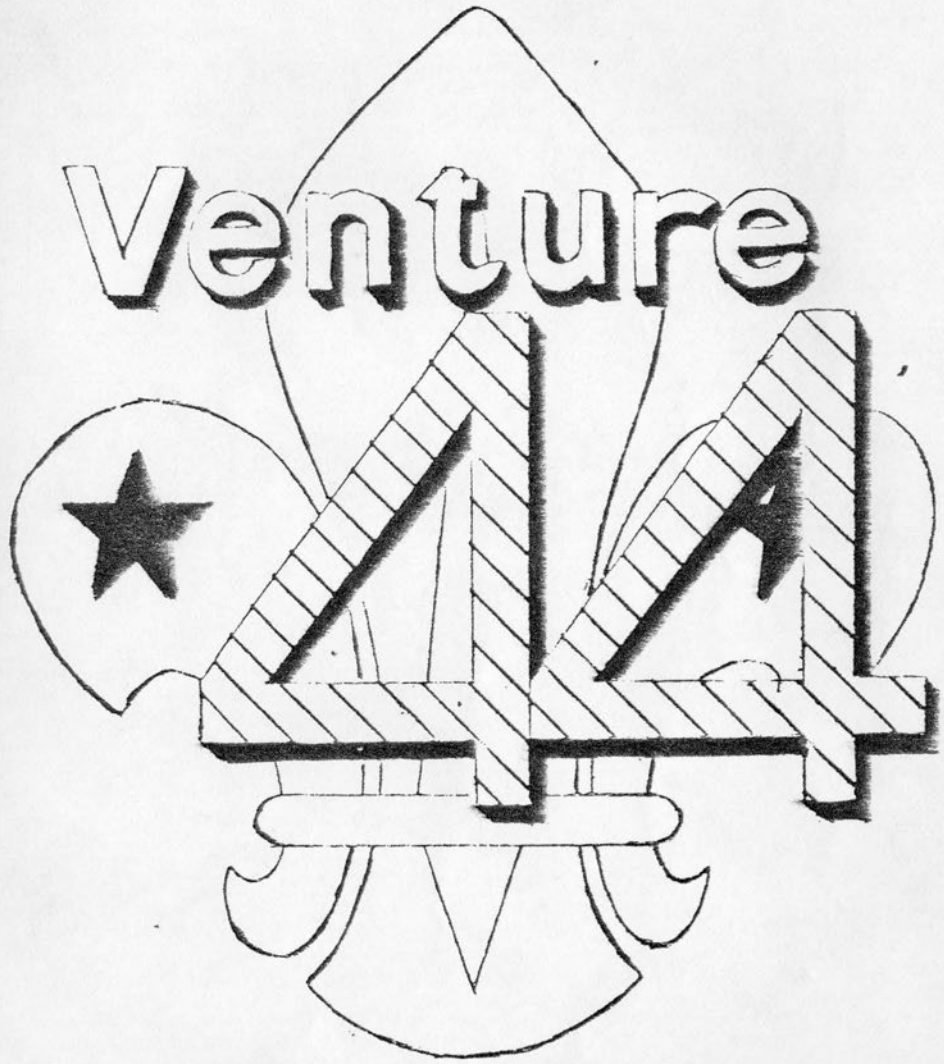


Venture



39	JUNE
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VENTURE 44. A sort of magazine, by, for, and about, the
44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's School)
Venture Scout Unit.

NUMBER THIRTY NINE

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Chairman	Pat Phillips
Secretary	Nigel Brewster
Treasurer	Iain Weir
Sports Sec	Stuart Bishop
Recorder	Dave Jerrard
Q.Master	Mike Barton
Exec member	Mark Simmons

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NOTES AND NEWS

This edition is slightly unbalanced in content as it lacks the usual articles from serving members. The cause of this, of course, is the dreaded G.C.E. exams which at present are claiming the attentions of nearly all of the Unit! It does seem a great pity that the best period of the year for outdoor activities should be overshadowed in this way, but there we are.

Congratulations to three more members of the Unit who have gained their Queen's Scout Award, Pat Phillips, Russ Watson and Stu Bishop. We now have 6 Queen's Scouts in the Unit - probably a record number for any one time, the other three are, of course, Iain Weir, Nige Brewster and Mark Simmons.

There will be at least one major change in the Unit next year in that we will be losing our long serving A.V. S.L., Bill Spear. Bill is moving over to the rival establishment on the other side of town as he becomes head of the Geography department at Crypt School.

Bill will be greatly missed, particularly when major expeditions are planned. Although his many commitments outside of scouting have sometimes restricted his activity with the Unit, he has usually been able to get away to help out in the various big ones over the years. Many ex-members will have cause to remember with affection his presence on visits to Norway or Iceland, and his definitive Bonny Prince Charlie striding across Gometra! No-one will forget his rather distinctive sense of humour, puns will always be compared to his standards, and his supply of Adge Cutler songs will be missed as we sit in the future around camp fires on distant shores.

I am sure that all those connected with the Unit present and past will join me in wishing Bill and Rebecca all the best, and will also be very pleased to know that Bill will remain an associate member of the Unit.

As many of our readers will already know the Unit has recently lost two old friends. After enjoying only a short period of retirement our ex caretaker Stanley Yates died in April. Mr Yates, Stan, as everyone called him was caretaker from the time the school moved out to Elmbridge until last december. Most of our readers will have memories of him, perhaps as he appeared with Sparkie to enquire what one was doing on the premises after hours, when he could be most formidable! However, he was always sympathetic to the Venture Scouts and often turned a blind eye to those who turned up at the hut at all hours. After leaving school many members got to know the other side of Stan, perhaps over a drink in the Bowls Club, and saw him as a friendly and generous man who always showed a interest in what they were doing after leaving school.

At the funeral the Unit was represented by the V.S.L. Pat Phillips, Stu Bishop, Dave and Phil Brown and Kevin Neely.

Only today I learned of the death after a long illness of one of our longstanding allies and supporters and the founder of the Bowls Club, Eddie Pritchard. Eddie was one of those people of real character who made a big impression on all those with whom he came into contact, and that meant a large number of people as Eddie always seemed to have useful contacts everywhere! He was a loyal and reliable friend and always a champion of the 44th. It was through him that the links between the Unit and the Bowls Club were forged nearly ten years ago when Eddie took me to Innsworth, pointed at a large wooden structure and asked if the Venture Scouts would dismantle it for £50. The answer was yes, as many of our readers will recall! It is a measure of the determination and resolve of Eddie that when the old pavilion was burned down several years later he ~~disdained~~ ~~despised~~ ~~despised~~ despised despair. Within days the plans for the present building were produced, and within months a bigger and better pavilion had arisen which will now stand as a permanent memorial to a remarkable man.

F.H.

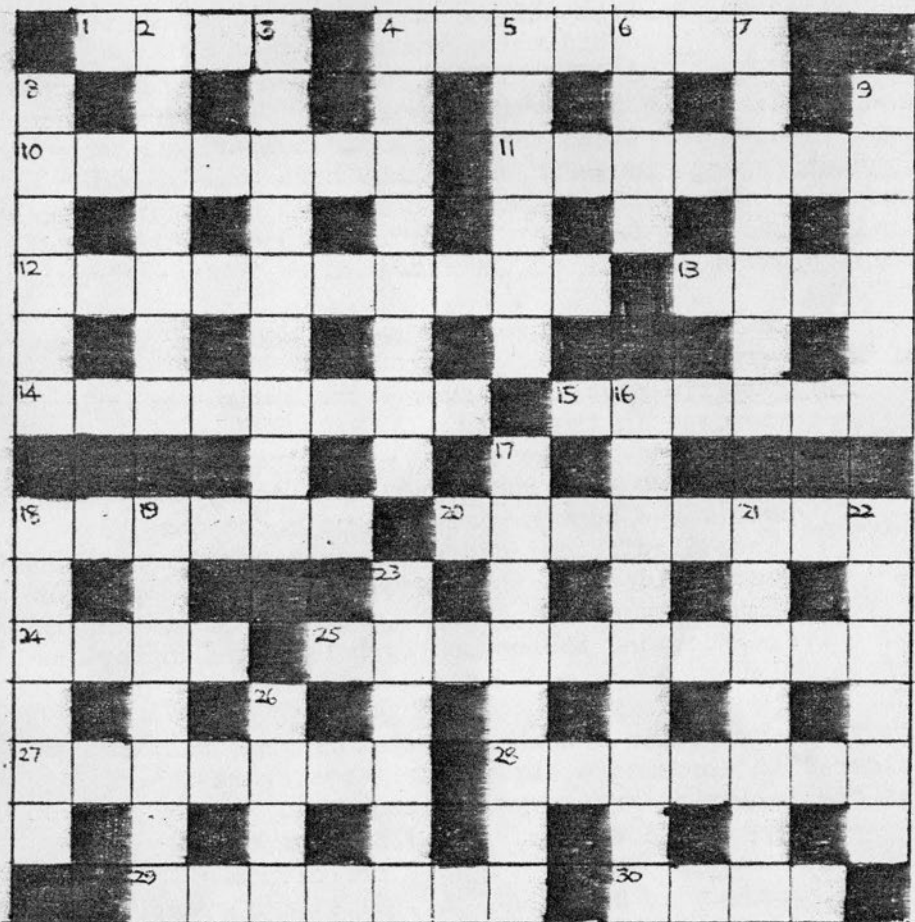
VENTURE 44 PRIZE CROSSWORDACROSS

1. Not false (4)
4. Pop group may be heard by its rivers (7)
10. ~~Exhausted~~, perhaps, by stretching a kilt? (7)
11. Member of 3 down (7)
12. Possible result of a blow on the head (10)
13. Member of 3 down (4)
14. Breathed out in despair (8)
15. Ships company in South Yeman? Slightly mad (6)
18. Ba! Jeer at variety of indian millet! (6)
20. Revolutionary preceeds foggy conditions to
make up prescriptions (8)
24. Unusual (4)
25. Proper disappointment (4,6)
27. Nothing for a friend in the orient like a semi-
precious stone. (7)
28. Anthem, may be sung by 13 and 17 (7)
29. 500 waterways may be behind the wheels (7)
30. This one is not difficult! (4)

DOWN

2. Gym lessons in tears produces regret (7)
- 3,16. The decision making body (9,9)
4. Member of 3 down (8)
5. As 4 down. (6)
6. Harry, stone or tree (4)
7. The later Tertiary periods in Geology (7)
8. Imperial proclamations (6)
9. H has gone this way from fag end holder (6)
16. See 3 down.
17. 18. 19. All members of 3 down. (8)(6)(7)
21. Sounds like we change places in 11, by demand(7)
22. If pigs fly, would they live in this? (3,3)
26. Her tiny hand was frozen (4).

23 down Hard out in one direction (7)



A small prize will be sent to the reader who first sends in a correct solution. Non-members may find information on page 1 which may help them with 3 down and related clues.

Which Stove ?

There is a bewildering variety of stoves on the market aimed at the lightweight camper. In order to try to find some way of deciding on the best type for the job, NIGEL BREWSTER and RUSS WATSON have been doing some research on some of the available kinds. They have produced a report based on experiments and comparisons between five different stoves in which they have come up with a number of interesting conclusions. It is hoped to publish their results in full in a "Venture 44 Special", but a brief preview of some of the findings is included here.

It was found that stoves in common use fall into one of three groups;

- 1.) Paraffin pressure stoves - the Optimus no.111 was used in the tests.
- 2.) Methylated spirit stoves - the Trangia 27K used
- 3.) Butane gas - various types available, the tests used three common varieties of about the same size. Significant differences in performance became evident in the tests, despite the apparent similarity of the designs. Figures quoted in the diagrams and tables mostly relate to Camping Gaz Bleuét S200S.

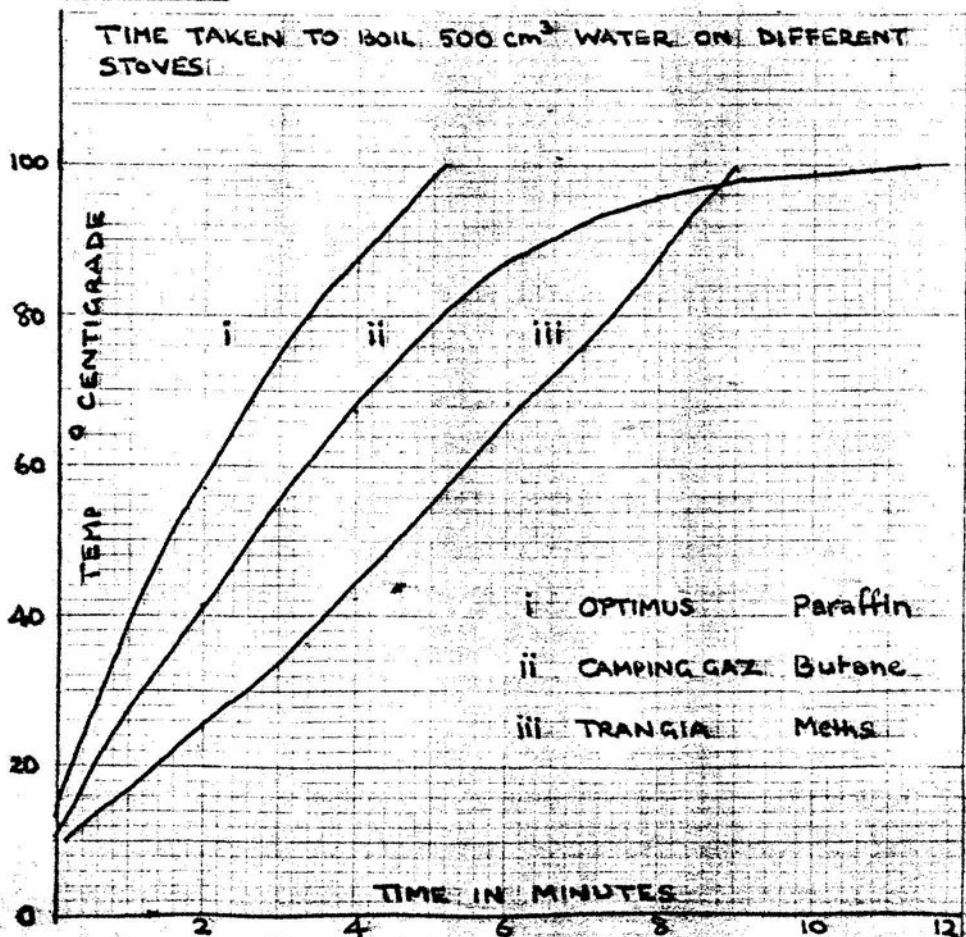
There are quite a number of factors that must be considered in choosing a stove. Our researchers suggest that the following are the most important.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.) Initial cost | 2.) Running cost |
| 3.) Ease of use | 4.) Efficiency |
| 5.) Safety in use | 6.) Safety in transit |
| 7.) Weight | 8.) Reliability |

Most of the tests were concerned with the time taken to boil specific quantities of water under similar conditions. This simple procedure was thought to be the most valuable in relation to use on hikes

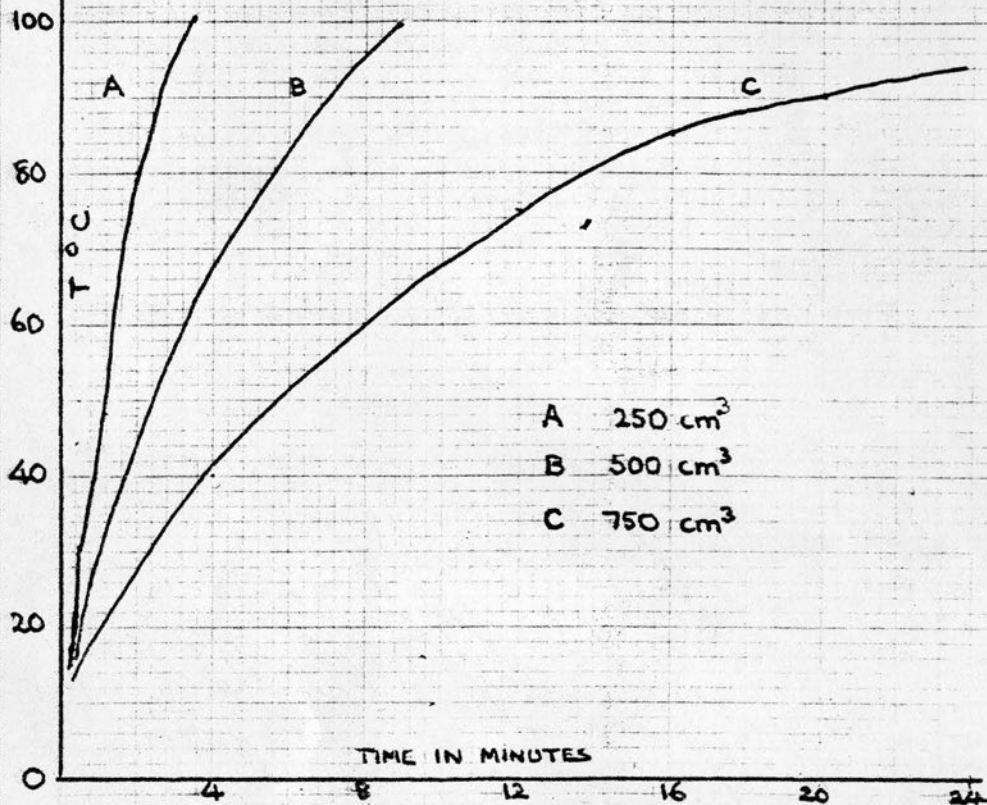
In all of the tests the Optimus stove proved to be the quickest and the meths stove usually second. The butane stoves were all fairly good with smaller volumes, but in general could not cope with larger volumes (see diag.2.) "Meths and paraffin stoves are more efficient than butane stoves, BUT, they need liquid fuels which are always difficult to transport on hikes." The butane stoves were much more convenient to use despite their comparative in-efficiency - a "swings and roundabouts" situation!

DIAG ONE



DIAG. TWO

TIME TAKEN TO BOIL DIFFERENT VOLUMES OF WATER
ON ONE GAS STOVE



Looking at the data and information assembled by our researchers it is obvious that all the stoves tested had definite pros and cons, making it difficult to decide on a best buy. Perhaps the meths stoves may be ruled out of consideration on the basis that the cost of fuel is high and it is not easy to obtain in remote areas. As for the other two types, any decision must be subject to personal preference. Paraffin stoves are expensive to buy, but cheap to run. Butane stoves are easy to carry and use, but not very efficient. The table on the next page is an attempt to summarise the results of the survey, and the reader must draw his or her own conclusions.

	Optimus paraffin	Trangia meths	Camping Gaz butane
General points	Has to be primed with meths & fuel pressure has to be maintained.	Unique design gives ventilation enough to get right quantity of air to fuel.	V. simple design.
Cost	approx £35	approx £18	approx £9
Running cost to boil 500 cm ³ water	approx 0.5p	approx 6.0p	approx 1.0p
Ease of use	see first comment	takes time to warm up.	Very easy except in cold.
Efficiency heating rate	Good	quite good	good for a SMALL vol.
Safety in use	If used by inexperienced person can flare up. Potential danger	Difficult to extinguish. Device built in for this DOES NOT WORK	Safe if cylinder properly attached. danger when changing over
In transit	fuel can leak	as Optimus	safest by far
Weight+fuel	2000 g	1400 g	800 g
Reliability	More parts to go wrong than in others. Jet can soot up if used on low heat	Quite good No moving parts	very good, but not in cold, when gas solid!

FROM ALL POINTSThe Fifty First State

After my second year at University the opportunity to do an industrial sandwich year in agriculture arose - the University are gradually introducing this choice into the curriculum in an attempt to encourage degree students to gain more practical experience. Frequently industry criticises higher educational institutes for too much theory and too little practice. How vocational a degree course should be is highly debatable. I chose to work abroad for a year, so my opinion is self-evident.

I escaped a cold English winter by travelling over to Israel. In terms of desert agriculture this is the best time to visit as the growing season is relatively short, between October and March. In summer it is simply too hot to justify irrigation and there is no lucrative European market for the produce. Crops must command high prices in the shops to pay the high air transport costs, when one considers the energy and manpower involved to deliver a tomato 2000 miles, it seems ridiculous but the European housewife is willing and able to pay, and that is the society we live in!

For young people Israel represents an easy opportunity to find employment. One can choose either a Kibbutz, or a Moshav settlement which regularly takes foreign youth hence acquiring cheap labour and advertising Israel at the same time. I opted for a Moshav because in general they concentrate more on agricultural production. The Kibbutz movement has diversified into light industry and food processing.

The Moshav was situated 60m below sea level in the Arava Wadi which links up with the Dead Sea to the north. The site had previously hosted a Beduoin Arab village, & then Israeli soldiers after the '67 war, who chose the site for permanent residence. The community has strategic importance situated on the Jordanian border overlook-

ing the road between Amman and Aqaba, Jordan's only port. Ironically the Moshav has the outward appearance of a concentration camp complete with watchtowers and bunkers. Despite the ominous exterior it is purely defensive - to keep undesirables out, and not the workers in!

Ideologically speaking the Moshav movement is rather interesting and unique. Each farmer or Haver receives 30 dunams (approximately 4 hectares) which he cultivates alone, or with a foreign "volunteer". The whole family usually help in busy periods of the season. For Jewish people working the land of Israel has special spiritual significance. However, I was surprised and slightly disappointed by the absence of practicing religious Jews. Many families no longer follow "kosher" dietary laws and the local synagogue is ill frequented.

The "Haverim" are not necessarily trained agriculturists but come from many walks of life. Each new member is assigned to an established farmer, who acts as a supervisor and mentor. The agricultural production is similar for all, following established guide-lines. The community achieves economy and efficiency with relative simplicity.

Several of the crops and all the husbandry techniques were beyond my experience; there is no soil as we know it, only sand, so all the plant nutrients must be delivered within the irrigation water. Our land was equally divided between aubergines, peppers, melons, onions and tomatoes. Green and red peppers are the biggest cash generators gaining increasing popularity in Northern Europe for winter salads. Contrary to popular belief, green and red peppers are identical, the latter being riper. There is a considerable rejection of produce for export on the basis of poor quality - the urban housewife demanding a blemish free vegetable, and in doing so pushes up the re-tail price.

With increasing freight costs just how long the Moshav production will be viable is questionable. Competit-

ion between Moshavs is lowering prices, and many settlements are not as wealthy as En Yahav. As for the future of the Jewish nation itself, it is not a closed book. The Arabic nations are using oil as a diplomatic weapon to dissuade the energy hungry industrialised nations from supporting Israel. The west offsets the oil trade deficit with sales of sophisticated arms. Israel must compete in the arms race or face annihilation! The price is high with an inflation rate in excess of 100% and 30% of the gross national product is spent on arms. It may come as a surprise to many people to learn that there are only 3 million Israeli Jews but more than 100 million Arabs. Could a nuclear option be Israel's only sure defence? It is widely acknowledged that Israel already has the bomb!

MARK EVANS.

(Mark is a third year student in agriculture at the University of Aberystwyth.)

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Not much room **this time** for news of many other past members, but next issue should contain more as we learn the results of examinations etc. However there is enough room to mention the recent progress of JOHN KEARSEY, who after a long period of waiting has set off this month to a V.S.C. engineering job in Nepal. Where exactly he will be working, and what he will be doing is still a mystery but he will be back in the relative civilisation of the capital, Katmandu, in August.

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To all associate members and ex members who read this issue, if you are just finishing a university course, or changing job, or moving house, please let us know. In particular let us know changes of address so that we can keep your VENTURE 44s getting to you!

