

**Dear friends,**

Hey friends! For #16 in our series of activity pages to help with the isolation and boredom imposed by the quarantines, my reminiscences take me back again to the days of my somewhat misspent youth. Indeed, this time around I'll tell you about my oh-so-brief tenure in the Boy Scouts in a little piece I've entitled...

**The Panther Patrol's Last Mission  
(or Confessions of A Boy Scout Dropout)**

The first outing of the season for Troop 448 took us up into the Colorado mountains to learn some outdoorsman skills, play a wide-ranging game of Capture the Flag, and cook our own dinner. One of our simple duties was to get our water from the stream at the foot of the hill. Always on the lookout for an easier way of doing things, I opted to open the spigot on a water tank near the Forest Ranger tower to fill my canteen. Fortunately, I decided to test the quality of the water with just a sip. Yipes! It wasn't water at all – it was gasoline! And for that one hesitant slip, for a couple of weeks, everything that I ate, drank, or even smelled seemed like it came from a refinery. Yuck.

The other disasters happened on our very next outing a few weeks later. My troop visited a place we called “Paradise Valley” where we planned to spend a whole weekend camping out. My group of 5 the Panther Patrol. Cool name. I must confess, however, that several members of the Panther Patrol would eventually represent a kind of “rogues gallery” in our neighborhood. True, one of these Panthers would spend a successful career in law enforcement, but three of us would end up traveling on the other side of the law for awhile. Looking back, one wonders if the way the weekend turned out wasn't some kind of foreshadowing of things to come.

First of all, the Panthers were denied their choice spot of a campsite because the Beaver Patrol (our troop's elite corps, comprised of older and more serious Boy Scouts) was given rights to the spot by our adult leaders. Feeling wronged, we decided on revenge and so that night we used our little shovels to dig a trench from the stream straight into the Beaver Patrol's tent. The results were pretty satisfying at first (to the Panthers, not the Beavers) but we were quickly discovered to be the culprits and we were scolded, shamed, properly punished, and warned that we had only one more chance.

But, like I hinted earlier, there are some boneheads that just aren't cut out for the Scouting life. We behaved ourselves well enough the next day but with the evening, things took a turn for the worse for the Panther Patrol. First of all, they

tried to teach us how to make something from small logs that would reflect a campfire's heat back into one's tent. It was a nifty idea, all right, but instead of reflecting the fire's heat, ours simply caught on fire itself. Three times.

Next, we got to cutting up a little while making dinner and somehow I managed to brand Jimmy D. with a hot wiener. Now it was only an accident. Scout's honor. After all, Jimmy lived across the street from me and was my friend. In fact, he was so good a friend that I wasn't even bothered that he used to wear a nylon hose over his head (weighted with a bar of soap in the toe, no less) in order to train his curly hair to lay down a bit. Anyhow, Jimmy played the good Scout about the whole business and didn't snitch me out. Thanks, J.D. What's a smoldering hot dog scar between pals anyhow?

I'm afraid that the comedic complications of the camping trip were not yet over for the troubled Panther Patrol. For that Saturday night, it rained. And I mean, a hard and abundant rain. The other patrols (bless their hearts) stayed dry and warm in their tents. The Panther Patrol didn't. We were sloppy in pegging our tent down; we didn't pile dirt over the tent edges; and we had erected the tent on a pretty steep-angled slope. So, when the rain came down, the water ran into our tent, and even beneath the polyethylene sheets we had placed under our sleeping bags. Two of us woke up in the middle of the night thoroughly drenched – and brother, I mean thoroughly. Because not only were we being rained on, the water beneath those plastic sheets had carried us downhill and into the stream just as easy as being on a Slip n' Slide.

That was the last straw for our Scout leaders and, the way I remember it, the entire Panther Patrol was dismissed from Scout duty -- permanently. In fact, what I heard later may be true; namely, that our names and photos were distributed to the Boy Scouts of America with the warning, "Under no circumstances should a troop undertake to make Scouts out of these rascals. They are a serious danger, both to others and to themselves."

There you have it – a candid, first-person testimonial that not even the Boy Scouts can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Or, more to the point here, they can't make a Paragon out of a Panther. But, thanks be to God, His mercy CAN accomplish such a miracle. And I'm pleased to say as a postscript to this story that at least two of those problematic Panthers would discover God's love and forgiveness later on in their lives. And one of them is sending along his heartfelt greetings and prayers with this latest "Anti-Boredom" packet. We miss you and hope we get back to presenting "When Swing Was King" shows very soon.

*Denny (for Claire too)*

## Multiple Choice Questions

1) What legislation (signed by FDR) provided financial aid to veterans returning from World War II?

- A) The Great Society
- B) Works Project Administration
- C) The G.I. Bill
- D) The Marshall Plan

2) “Be happy, go Lucky” was part of an ad slogan for what kind of product?

- A) Cigarette
- B) Laundry detergent
- C) Children’s cereal
- D) Frozen dinner

3) Which of these was **NOT** a big hit for Glenn Miller?

- A) “Tuxedo Junction”
- B) “Little Brown Jug”
- C) “In the Mood”
- D) “White Cliffs of Dover”

4) The Irving Berlin song “Cheek to Cheek” was introduced in the movie *Top Hat*. Who sang it?

- A) Bing Crosby
- B) Fred Astaire
- C) Red Skelton
- D) Dick Powell

5) What German-Dutch child kept a diary while she hid from the Nazis, a diary that eventually became a best-selling book after World War II?

- A) Lois Zeitgeist
- B) Anne Frank
- C) Mollie Mertz
- D) Judith DeGrasse

6) Name the two stars from the movie, *The African Queen*?

- A) Clark Gable & Carole Lombard
- B) Spencer Tracy & Joan Blondell
- C) Humphrey Bogart & Katherine Hepburn
- D) Robert Ryan & Sophia Loren

7) The beautiful ballad “Unforgettable” became the signature tune for:

- A) Nat “King” Cole
- B) Perry Como
- C) Al Martino
- D) Jerry Vale

8) WAC, an acronym used during World War II stood for:

- A) Westinghouse Artillery Corporation
- B) Western Arms Carrier
- C) Wartime Allowance Collective
- D) Women’s Army Corps

9) *Bosco*, *Ovaltine*, *Yoo-Hoo*, and *Quik* were all brands of:

- A) Salad dressings
- B) Candy bars
- C) Chocolate drinks
- D) Snack crackers

10) The 1947 Walt Disney movie *The Song of the South* introduced this Academy-Award winning song:

- A) “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah”
- B) “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”
- C) “Whistle While You Work”
- D) “Someday My Prince Will Come”

11) A picture of a young girl with an umbrella and the caption "When it rains, it pours" was an ad for:

- A) Bayer Children's Aspirin
- B) Montgomery Ward
- C) Sanka Instant Coffee
- D) Morton Salt

12) After Frank Sinatra left Harry James' band in 1940, whose orchestra hired him and made a lot of hit records?

- A) Freddy Martin
- B) Tommy Dorsey
- C) Count Basie
- D) Russ Morgan

13) The youngsters who were part of *The Mickey Mouse Club* (Annette Funicello was one) were called:

- A) Star Captains
- B) The Disney Kids
- C) Mickey's Mates
- D) Mouseketeers

14) What is the name of that Patti Page song that begins, "I was dancing with my darling to the...?"

- A) "Dipsy Doodle"
- B) "Tennessee Waltz"
- C) "Beer Barrel Polka"
- D) "Continental"

15) The Dalton Gang was:

- A) Al Capone's Chicago mob
- B) A 1960's rock group
- C) Old West outlaws
- D) A chain of luxury hotels

16) What country singer was known as the "Coal Miner's Daughter?"

- A) Loretta Lynn
- B) Tammy Wynette
- C) Brenda Lee
- D) Dolly Parton

17) The butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker are collectively known as:

- A) "Three Men in a Tub"
- B) "The Baker Street Irregulars"
- C) "Brothers Three"
- D) "The Three Travelers"

18) Woody Herman's band (and later his crowds of fans) was nicknamed:

- A) The Wild Bunch
- B) The Thundering Herd
- C) Herman's Hermits
- D) The Woodpeckers

19) What fictional Old West character used silver bullets in his gun?

- A) Zorro
- B) The Cisco Kid
- C) Paladin
- D) The Lone Ranger

20) From the comic books and cartoons, what was the name of "the friendly ghost?"

- A) Wanda
- B) Reggie
- C) Caspar
- D) Herman

21) Mary Livingstone was a member of one of radio's most popular comedy series. She played the patient girlfriend to a fellow who was, in real life, her husband. That fellow was:

- A) Sid Caesar
- B) Jack Benny
- C) Edgar Bergen
- D) Milton Berle

22) In 1898 the rallying cry for American involvement in the Spanish-American War was:

- A) Remember the Alamo
- B) Remember Bunker Hill
- C) Remember the Maine
- D) Remember Pearl Harbor

23) Country singer Bill Anderson's nickname was:

- A) "Whisperin' Bill"
- B) "Smiling Bill"
- C) "Ambling Anderson"
- D) "Bronco Billy"

24) Finish the title of this song from the Broadway musical, *Kismet*: "Baubles, Bangles and \_\_\_\_\_."

- A) "Bright Eyes"
- B) "Jewels for her Hair"
- C) "Beautiful Bows"
- D) "Beads"

25) Who said "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away?"

- A) Gen. Douglas MacArthur
- B) Gen. Ulysses S. Grant
- C) Gen. Omar Bradley
- D) Gen. John J. Pershing

26) What President was known for radio broadcasts that were called "fireside chats?"

- A) Woodrow Wilson
- B) Harry Truman
- C) Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- D) John F. Kennedy

27) Hedda Hopper, Walter Winchell, Lowell Thomas, and Louella Parsons were all involved in what general field?

- A) Politics
- B) Journalism/media
- C) Early aviation
- D) Arts/education

28) The theme music for *The Lone Ranger* (both radio & TV) comes from what famous piece of music?

- A) "Flight of the Bumblebee" by Rimsky-Korsakov
- B) "Bolero" by Ravel
- C) "Alexander's Ragtime Band" by Irving Berlin
- D) "The William Tell Overture" by Rossini

29) Which of these countries is **NOT** in Africa?

- A) Kenya
- B) Egypt
- C) Mongolia
- D) South Africa

30) What was unusual about the TV horse named "Mr. Ed" and the movie mule named "Francis?"

- A) They came from outer space
- B) They could talk
- C) They were ghosts
- D) They could fly

## Can You Identify These Famous Movies?



1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

8) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_

10) Which of the actors shown above eventually became a brigadier general?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Can You Identify These Famous Movies?



1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

6) \_\_\_\_\_

7) \_\_\_\_\_

8) \_\_\_\_\_

9) \_\_\_\_\_

10) In #7, who played the male lead in this cowboy classic?

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Proverbs to Ponder**

“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.”  
(Albert Schweitzer)

“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.”  
(Proverbs 17:22, NASB)

“All music is folk music. I ain’t never heard a horse sing a song.”  
(Louis Armstrong)

“Some people come into our lives, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never the same.” (Franz Schubert)

“The truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away.” (Elvis Presley)

“But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day.”  
(Proverbs 4:18, NASB)

“If I take care of my character,  
my reputation will take care of itself.” (D.L. Moody)

“Better is a dish of vegetables where love is  
than a fattened ox served with hatred.” (Proverbs 15:17)

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”  
(Ronald Reagan)

“The wise in heart will be called understanding and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.” (Proverbs 16:21, NASB)



## **What Comes Next in This Song Lyric?**

- 1) “You are my sunshine, my only sunshine...
- 2) “Many dreams have been brought to your doorstep. They just lie there and they die there. Are you warm, are you real, Mona Lisa?...
- 3) “O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain...
- 4) “I'm singin' in the rain, just singin' in the rain...
- 5) “They say for every boy and girl, there's just one love in this whole world and I know I've found mine...
- 6) “Just a spoonful of sugar...
- 7) “Once you told me long ago to the prom with me you'd go...
- 8) “You give your hand to me and then you say hello...
- 9) “Strangers in the night, two lonely people; we were strangers in the night. Up to the moment when we said our first hello...
- 10) “There were bells on a hill but I never heard them ringing...

## The Answers!

### Multiple Choice Questions

- 1) C
- 2) A
- 3) D
- 4) B
- 5) B
- 6) C
- 7) A
- 8) D
- 9) C
- 10) A
- 11) D
- 12) B
- 13) D
- 14) B
- 15) C
- 16) A
- 17) A
- 18) B
- 19) D
- 20) C
- 21) B
- 22) C
- 23) A
- 24) D
- 25) A
- 26) C
- 27) B
- 28) D
- 29) C
- 30) B

### Can You Identify These Famous Movies? (Quiz 1)

- 1) *It's A Wonderful life*
- 2) *True Grit*
- 3) *Oklahoma*
- 4) *Singin' in the Rain*
- 5) *Gone with the Wind*
- 6) *Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid*
- 7) *Citizen Kane*
- 8) *South Pacific*
- 9) *Casablanca*
- 10) Jimmy Stewart

### Can You Identify These Famous Movies? (Quiz 2)

- 1) *Jaws*
- 2) *North by Northwest*
- 3) *Maltese Falcon*
- 4) *The Sound of Music*
- 5) *Frankenstein*
- 6) *The Bridge on the River Kwai*
- 7) *Shane*
- 8) *Rocky*
- 9) *Mary Poppins*
- 10) Alan Ladd

### What Comes Next in This Song Lyric?

- 1) "...You make me happy when skies are gray."
- 2) "...Or just a cold and lonely, lovely work of art."

3) "...For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain."

4) "...What a glorious feeling; I'm happy again."

5) "...The heavenly touch of your embrace tells me no one could take your place -- ever in my heart."

6) "...helps the medicine go down."

7) "...Now you've changed your mind, it seems. Someone else will hold my dreams."

8) "And I can hardly speak, my heart is beating so."

9) "...Little did we know love was just a glance away, a warm embracing dance away."

10) "...No, I never heard them at all till there was you."