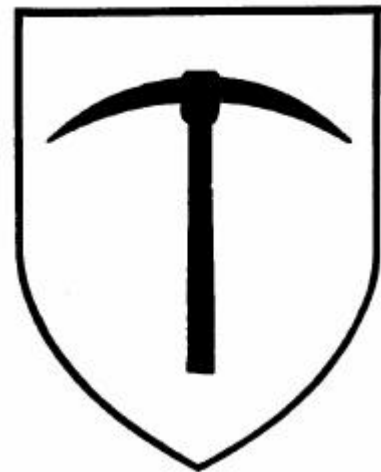


**May - Aug
2003**

**PIONEER
TRAIL**



**Meeting
Mabukuwene Nature Reserve
Fridays 19:00 - 21:00 hrs**

**Scout Leader
Norman Scott
P O Box 129, Bulawayo**

1st BULAWAYO (PIONEER) SCOUT GROUP

UNDER THE PSEUDOLACHNOSTYLIS MAPROUNEIFOLIA

Routine weekly Troop meetings incorporating skills training sessions; talks given by prominent personalities in society on topics pertinent to our everyday living; overnight hikes in the Matopo hills; competitions and a mini expedition, characterised our Scouting experiences during the past four months. A real treasure house of boyhood adventures lived out by our Scouts and captured in their own words in this edition of Pioneer Trail. It has been a busy period for our Scouts, even more so when one considers that they were preparing for and writing their mock “0” level examinations. I was pleased to be informed by each one at the end of the school term that they had done well in their examinations, although admitting that a little extra work in some subjects was necessary before writing the “real thing” in November. To them, I say do your best in those all important examinations and to this end our Troop activities for the next few months will be throttled back a notch or two so as not to interfere with your studying. Do I hear a sigh of agreement from the parents?

The Troop has proved its Scouting mettle by winning the 2003 William Arnold Carnegie Assegai Competition. My hearty congratulations to Patrol Leader Mark Perry and Scout Paul Carlsson on this outstanding effort. The Assegai patrol should have consisted of six Scouts, but owing to school commitments only Mark and Paul were available. By attaining 594 points out of a possible 750, I feel 79% was a commendable win. Well done.

On a different note Barry Knight, one of my former Scouts, very kindly agreed to publish Pioneer Trail for the Troop when the Dickinson family, who used to publish the magazine, left the country in 2001. Not only has he published our magazine in printed, paper form but also electronically, allowing our magazine to be sent by e-mail. Recently Hylton Garriock, a member of the Gordon Park Crew, took Pioneer Trail to new heights by making it available on the internet at www.anglefire.com/sc/matabeles/troops widening its accessibility to potentially many millions of readers. To these two gentlemen, I offer my sincere thanks for their services in promoting Scouting through our small, but vibrant Troop, to a worldwide readership. The positive aspects of the development of youth through the medium of the Scout programme, has for far too long been known to only those who have ventured to join the movement, either as Boy Scouts or Girl Guides. Hopefully, by enabling others to share in their joy, our Scouts of the 1st Bulawayo (Pioneer) Troop, may play a significant role in awakening individuals and corporations into supporting and fostering Scouting in their respective localities. Barry, Hylton and a few others are the exceptions in that they see the value of what Scouting can contribute to the development of youth. To them I say Thank You.

To all our new readers of Pioneer Trail, enjoy reading our magazine, for many new adventures are about to unfold and who knows you may become involved in one of them. Yes, even those of you who live at the “ends of the earth”.

In this edition I have included an article on Cecil John Rhodes, the founder of Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was known by up until 1980. The tomb of Mr. Rhodes’ is a few kilometres distant from Gordon Park, our Matabeland Provincial Scout Camping Ground and 5 July 2003 was the 150th anniversary of his birth. Unlike fifty years ago, this anniversary was not celebrated because of the political change that took place in 1980, yet Mr. Rhodes was the most influential figure in the history of modern day Zimbabwe, even world wide through the Rhodes Scholarship scheme. The address given at the centenary pilgrimage, is I feel, of great significance to us today, for now fifty years hence, when Sir Robert Tredgold gave his address, we are in the midst of his prediction: *“During the next two generations great movements will be set on foot and vast forces released in Africa, the end of which is beyond the mind of man to see. We cannot hope altogether to control these forces. We may perhaps give them a directive. If we are to do so it will require more than ordinary commonsense: it will require the longest vision and the most imaginative leadership.”*

Yes, we are certainly experiencing very tough and uncertain times, but so are other countries in some measure or another. It is incumbent upon us all to positively contribute to the changes, for the day will dawn when we will all reap the rewards for our steadfastness of will in attaining a just solution to our current upheaval and as Scouts schooled in leadership we can contribute. And now until the next time, it is back to my hammock beneath my favorite Pseudolachnostylis Maprouneifolia with a floppy hat pulled over my eyes as I dream and scheme of our Troop’s forthcoming African Adventure.

Norman Scott
Scout Leader

A TRIP TO SHUMBASHABA SAFARI LODGE

Mark, Norm and I set off at about 11:00 in the morning of 4 July 2003 heading for Shumbashaba lodge. It was a lovely sunny day and we were all in good spirits. Mark drove out (Mark has his learner driver's license) while Norm and I sat back and enjoyed the journey, until we got to the Fort Usher road which was not so enjoyable because of what seemed to be a continuous mining process along the whole stretch of the road, for Mark was continually dodging craters.

We finally arrived at the lodge. Phew what a trip! We decided to spend the rest of the day playing on the dam in inflatable canoes. I continually rammed Mark as he tried to collect weeds for his fish tank. Every effort was made to stop the annoying droplets coming into contact with the skin for the water was unbearably cold. When we had covered the whole area of the dam (which was not very much) we decided to carry our canoes to the other dam which was a little way up stream. We did so and there Mark and I continued to look for weeds. After a while when the sun was getting low, we abandoned our canoes and went to see an old dilapidated house which Norm has his eyes on. It is situated just above the dam on a little kopje. It is a nice place for a house but not a very nice house. We then went back down to the dam where we loaded the boats onto Norm's trailer and headed back to the lodge.

Back at the lodge I prepared supper which was spaghetti and sauce. We had to cook on an old wood burning stove which was nice for a change. On finishing our meal we cleared up and made coffee which we had round the fire. By now feeling quite tired we all went to bed in Dassie lodge, the front wall being one huge glass window permitting an amazing view across the valley from one's bed. We slept on loose mattresses on the floor as the beds had been prepared for guests coming the next day.

We woke up to a spectacular sun rise. The sun was a bright red as it rose, it then ascended into a cloud and reappeared on top of the cloud. It seemed as if the sun rose twice. We got up and packed our sleeping bags away. Norm and I headed off to have breakfast while Mark remained packing. When Mark eventually joined us, we had oats porridge. Dr Reeler who was also staying at the lodge joined us for breakfast. We decided that we would only go for a walk, not a proper hike. Well in the end our walk turned out to be more of a hike than a stroll. We went down to the stables where someone was going to meet us and take us to see some cave paintings. When we got there we found that the person wasn't there. We then found some one else who said he could take us to our missing guide's house. After quite a long walk we arrived at his house only to find that he was at his mother's house, so we headed off to his mother's house which fortunately was not too far away.



Joe and Mark playing with their dingies

calling us as he had found a number of broken grain bins which he wanted to show us. Unfortunately neither party heard the other calling.

We found him there and started on our journey to Kudali mountain where the cave was. This was quite a considerable distance away, but it was a pleasant walk. The cave which is used as a place to hold rain making ceremonies was blackened by fire, soot and graffiti from the war. The original paintings were hardly visible. While we were in the cave Mark disappeared into a narrow crevice to explore. After a while we called for him, but there was no answer. We continued to look at more cave paintings else where, thinking that he would return. Eventually he did. We told him that we had been calling for him, and he said that he had been

He told us that there were other caves on the other side of the rock and suggested that we all go and see them. I went the way Mark had gone through the crevice while the others went round the rock. On the other side there were grain bins and more paintings which we looked at. Then we decided that it was time to head back to the lodge. From where we were we could see Shumbashaba. It was a long way away. We took our friend back to his mother's home and from there we went on alone. When we got back we had lunch and a little snooze on the rock. Dr Reeler took our blood pressure which was fine. By now it was getting late and we had to hurry back to town because Norm had to be in church to read a lesson. We managed to do the journey in record time. We all had a great time. Thanks to Norm.

Joe

CONTRACEPTION - WHY NOT

On Friday 18 July, Paul, Mark, Joe, Jonathan, Norman & I went to hear Professor Janet Smith from the United States of America give a very interesting talk on "The sexual mess that we are in and how we got there." Professor Smith shocked us with details of the immorality in the States and spoke a lot about modern contraception. When the pill was introduced into society in the late 1950's and early 1960's it was projected that this oral contraceptive would reduce unwanted pregnancies, lower the divorce rate, reduce abortion but in all these matters the opposite had happened and the incidences of all of these has soared.

Professor Smith also emphasized the physical side effects of the pill such as increased blood pressure, increased incidence of various tumors, blood clots, etc., as well as other problems such as weight gain, irritability, depression, and loss of libido. It also causes early abortions. She strongly advocated the use of Natural Family Planning (otherwise known as the Billings Method or Ovulation Method). Surveys have shown that couples who use this method have happier marriages, hardly any divorce and have better sex lives.

The intra-uterine device also causes abortions and so it is unacceptable morally. After the lecture, questions were received from the people present and hand outs and a tape recording of her talk were given. We were all pleased that we had attended this meeting, which we found very informative. Our Scouts all saw the great benefit of the Billings Method and this made going to the presentation extremely worthwhile. We are also so pleased that our young men have chose chastity. May God help each one keep to that. Finally may I add that I fully endorse all that she taught and totally agree that the pill and IUD are wrong and that the only method of Family Planning that can be used with good conscience is the Billings Method. In Zimbabwe little is known about it and it is our prayer that knowledge of the Billings Method will become widely known here.

Paula de Jong.

WILLIAM ARNOLD CARNEGIE ASSEGAI COMPETITION 2003

It was a brilliant, fresh late winters morning of Saturday 9 August when the 1st Bulawayo Pioneers', two sole competitors, Paul Carlsson and Mark Perry set off to compete in our second Provincial Assegai Competition event. We left very reluctantly and with a burning feeling that we had left something behind, and as we traveled the long way round to the back of Hillside Dams we remembered various things we had overlooked.

We arrived to an almost empty Jamborally site, at about a quarter to ten, the only others being a young patrol from the 66th Bulawayo Troop. We had a bit of a dispute because we spotted a site which they fancied, but we got it and ended up with one of the best camp sites under a beautiful Peltophorum Africanum tree. We started clearing the thick grass before parade (Which was late as usual) where we received our spare time activities (STA's) and our timetable. After Opening Parade we started work on the camp site, only to realise that we had forgotten a whole host of critical things. So I soon ran home past the dams with a mammoth list of forgotten items which I hastily packed into the truck before leaving a second time with another truckload full of useful equipment.

When I returned I was pleased to see the campsite looking good, with a tent pitched and a nice gate in the neatly roped off area, and I joined in by raking all the hay out of the way. After a quick easy lunch, bases started. Our first one was pioneering with a block and tackle; others included first aid, entertainment, road safety rules, HIV awareness, etc., By the end of the afternoon we had completed all the bases except for two (one which never materialized). We then had supper and did a few more STA's before going to the campfire which was supposed to be a low noise one but it ended up a bit rowdy. One of the activities there was an impromptu speech which I did. After that we had an exhilarating run through the dark and dangerous dams to have a hot shower at home. We found no one at home and had to get into the house, but we surprised my parents when we arrived, and showered. Back in camp when we were quite sure that all our trunks were securely locked up, we went to bed in our tent and had a reasonable nights sleep, just a rather cold one.

We woke early the next morning and reluctantly crawled out of bed, bundling ourselves up warmly before setting about checking our ingenious security system (one of the STA's) which involved a trip - wire and a bell. Soon we tucked into a delicious breakfast of oats and coffee with our guest Bekezela (one of the examiners) before doing more STA's and developing the campsite, perfecting our security bell. The last base was backwoods cooking at lunch time, followed by uniform, campsite and STA inspection. We were convinced the 86th Troop was beating us.

After breaking camp, clearing our site and a final site inspection was parade, when we were sure 86th was going to win. As the results were read out, tension and expectations rose high, and we could not believe our ears when we heard that we had come first. I felt absolutely ecstatic as I received the Assegai trophy for the first time, two of us against full proficient patrols of six. We could not help feeling a little sorry because we had told 86th that they would win yet we beat them by about 150 points out of a total of 750 of which we gained roughly 590.

After our victory photos, we changed, packed up and waited for our lift. We were in a euphoric state when my Dad arrived and we showed him the glorious Assegai trophy.

The Assegai, we were told, was a genuine Matabele warrior stabbing Assegai, now the converted Provincial trophy for our major competition of the year.

I would like to say that I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by the organization of the Competition , as I had expected chaos. I am also glad we participated, as we not only enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot, but we even walked away with the prize. I would also like to thank and congratulate my gallant fellow victor Paul, and a special thanks to my Mum and Norm who constantly encouraged us as rightly so, to take part in this competition. Without them we would never had entered. Thank you Mom, Norm and Paul.

Mark Perry
Patrol Leader



Paul and Mark with the coveted Assegai Trophy

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

In undertaking their Advanced Scout Badge the Scouts are required to pass the Civics Proficiency Badge and for one of the sections they are required to write about their neighborhood. In doing this section, the Scouts found the project very informative and decided that it would make an interesting article for our magazine. Naturally their articles contained more or less the same information, so for the following article, a section from each Scout's research, has been used. Our Neighborhood includes all the suburbs on the east side of Bulawayo.



Ald. Colin Lumsden discusses national and local government structures with (l to r) Mark, Jonathan, Paul and Joe, dealing with their Civics badge requirements.

Mark starts our story some 100 000 years ago.

Evidence of habitation of our area exists of the Hope Fountain culture, early stone age, of about 100000 years ago and moving forward to the middle and late stone age, covering a large area around Hillside and out to where Hope Fountain is now located. Much more recently people of whom we are more familiar with, were the Bushmen or Khoisan people. Evidence of their presence are their rock art and artifacts in caves, one of which is in my yard. These are in the region of three to four thousand years old. After the Bushmen, King Lobengula the second King of the Ndebele had his kraal at what is now known as Old Bulawayo some twenty-five kilometers south of present day Bulawayo. This, his first capital was established in 1870 and he named it "Ko - Bulawayo" which means "the place of killing of the spirit" for there was division amongst the Ndebele people when he was chosen to succeed his father, King Mzilikazi. Lobengula had to move his capital, owing to insufficient water for his people. So he chose a place further North on the banks of the Matsheumhlope river, where present day State House is situated. His herb gardens were located in the present day suburb of Hillside on the banks of the Matsheumhlope river, close to my house.

Jonathan tells us about the establishment of modern day Bulawayo

Bulawayo was established as a modern settlement in 1893 with the arrival of the European settlers. A year later in 1894 Dr. Jameson declared Bulawayo a town. In 1896 during the first native rebellion the white settlers gathered for safety at the Market square and to supply water for the people laagered there a well was sunk, which is still in existence in front of the City Hall (which replaced the Market Square buildings) and now supplies water to the ornamental fountain in the City Hall gardens.

Water supplies for early Bulawayo town were obtained from private wells and the Matsheumhlope river which runs through the town. However as the Town grew in size a bigger supply was needed and so in 1897 a private water company was formed and the Hillside Dams were constructed on the Matshemumhlope River. The dams no longer supply water to the city but form part of a recreation park for residents.