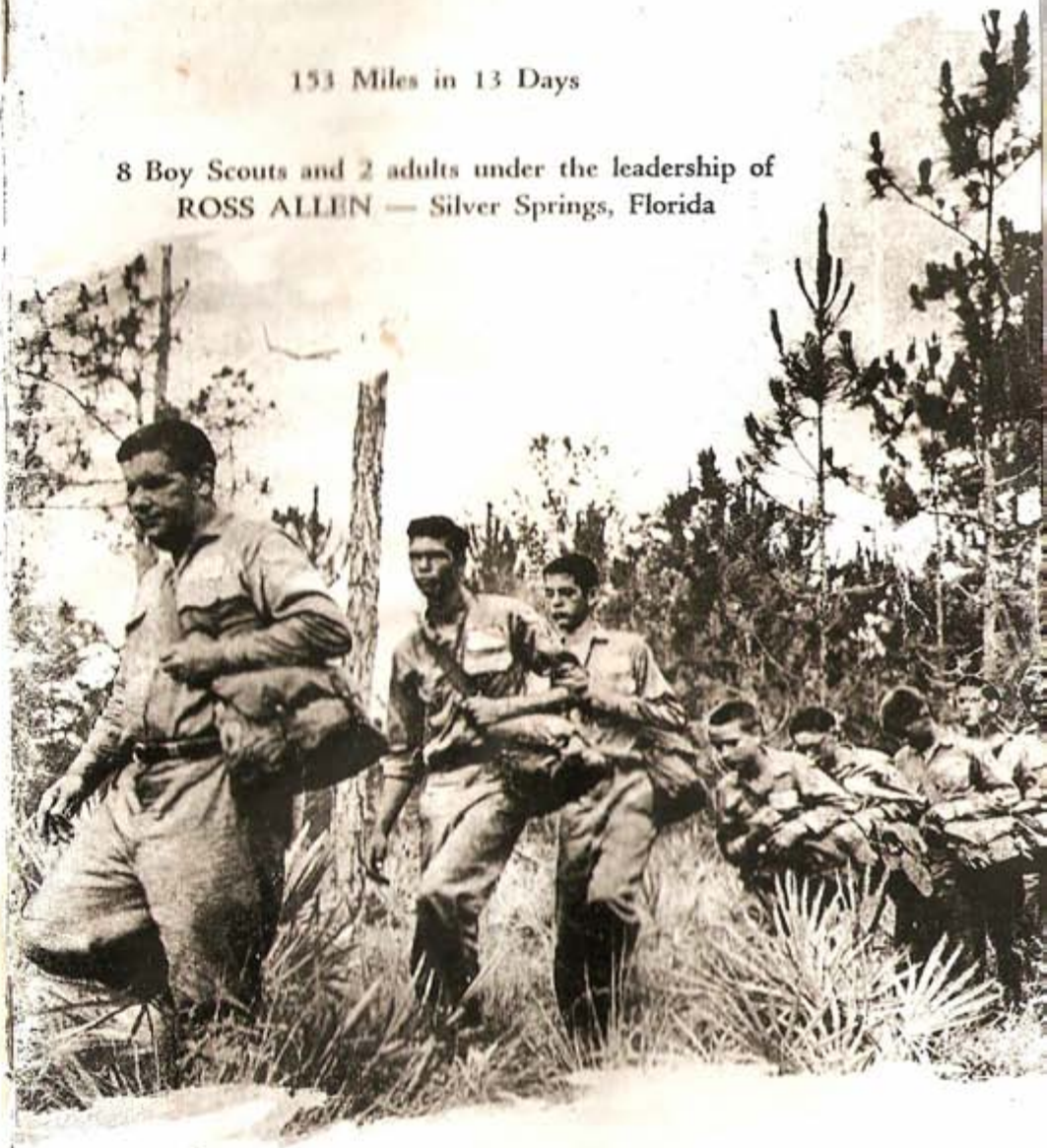


SURVIVAL SAFARI

Cross-country from the Atlantic to Gulf of Mexico

153 Miles in 13 Days

8 Boy Scouts and 2 adults under the leadership of
ROSS ALLEN — Silver Springs, Florida



Published By
Ross Allen's Reptile Institute, Inc.
Silver Springs, Florida

S - it down and think

U - se faith and determination

R - evert to "Frontier Living"

V - alue life and nature

I - nvent ways to do things

V - ary your diet

A - bolish fear

L - earn by doing

Written and Edited
by
William F. Robichaud

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Silver Springs, Florida

Photography
by
John Ming — Silver Springs

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Front Cover — The Group
Back Cover — The Safari Route

This cross-country Safari was taken to expressly prove that,

- 1. Survival by living off the land is possible, should such an occasion become necessary in our modern world.*
- 2. The physical fitness of our youth (boy scouts in particular) can measure up to any in the world.*
- 3. Many personal adjustments and requirements are necessary, in order to survive any eventuality.*

Ross Allen has been a naturalist all of his life - spent most of his youth as a boy scout - earned the award of eagle scout at an early age - was a scout master for many years. With a keen interest in wild animals, he founded the Ross Allen Reptile Institute in 1929, at the world famous Silver Springs, Florida. His many jungle expeditions and business responsibilities, limited his activities in this regard until 1957, when he established the annual boy scout encampment at Silver Springs. This rapidly grew in popularity until 1958 when a 50 acre site was cleared, equipped, and set-up as a permanent campsite, which now can accommodate up to 4000 scouts during the encampment.

To disprove the claim that our American youth is soft, he planned this Survival hike. No shelter or foodstuffs of any kind were taken along on the trek. All were obtained in the wilderness. The route was a direct one over Florida's roughest terrain. The group was selected for their attitude and determination, and ranged in age from 13 to 34.

The Secrets of Survival are pointed out herein - that all the necessities of life are free for those who would survive - the importance of teamwork which is the key to survival - mental attitude - faith - confidence - in fact the entire scout code was put to test during this trip.

A daily diary is included pointing out experiences - foods eaten - health record - weather - attitudes and other pertinent facts.

For those interested in knowing the actual experiences, equipment used, what to eat, discoveries, and the Secrets of Survival, this booklet will serve a useful purpose.



LEADER

Ross Allen — Silver Springs, Florida — Age 54 — Former Scoutmaster — Founder of Ross Allen's Reptile Institute — World famous Herpetologist — Jungle hunter — Naturalist — Rugged pacer — Doctors all ailments, Mental and Physical.



ASSISTANT LEADER

John Street — Belleview, Florida — Age 21 — Pathfinder — Excellent Hunter & Fisherman — Lecturer — Nature Lover — Agile and fast as a tiger on the hunt.



Compass Man

Buddy Nye Ocala, Fla.
Age — 17 Explorer Scout
Trail breaker — campsite locator —
3rd in command — serious hiker



Scribe

Bob McKichan Ocala, Fla.
Age — 16 Life Scout
Good butcher — rear safety man —
snare trapper — cook and clam eater



Eagle Eye

Robert Rile Ocala, Fla.
Age — 15 Eagle Scout
Plant food finder — loves warm hog
blood — biology student



Hunter

Richard Fowler Eau Gallie, Fla.
Age — 14 Life Scout
Trapper — fisherman — climber of
trees — fast as a deer in chase

Prior to the safari, the group gathered on Friday's, and participated in over-night camping in the woods. The following is what was learned and practiced.

How to determine direction by day, night, under cloudy skies.

How to walk in a straight line.

How to use a map and record direction.

How to build a fire with glass, flint & steel, friction and in the rain.

How to construct a rain-proof shelter with netting, palmetto leaves and other.

How to build a bed on a cold night with netting, moss & leaves.

How to cook in the woods.

How to cook with aluminum foil.

How to locate water.

How to track, capture, skin, prepare and cook wild animals.

How to recognize edible plants, useful plants and poisonous plants.

How to avoid dangerous snakes.

How to preserve foodstuffs.

How to make rope and twine out of stems and vines.

How to fish with improvised hook and line.

How to swim fully clothed and with boots on.

How to make weapons out of flint and stones.

How to cross swamps and bogs.

How to care for feet & body.

How to use first aid in the wilderness.

The importance of cooperation and teamwork in all these activities cannot be overstressed. This is the Key to Survival. Every member must know what is to be done at a given time and automatically do his part without orders.



Asst. Pathfinder

Pat Manderfield Ormond Beach, Fla.
Age — 15 Explorer Scout
Quiet — good looking — no girls —
got most fan-mail — watermelon hog



Medical Aid

John Winter Ocala, Fla.
Age — 13 Star Scout
Fisherman — fire builder — dreamer
talks in sleep — blister treator



Water Scout

Dave Slonim Ocala, Fla.
Age — 13 Scout
Excellent fire builder — checker —
fisherman — loves grasshoppers



Morale Booster

Ronnie Grant Ocala, Fla.
Age — 14 Scout
Song writer and leader — corn hog —
hunter — fisherman — loves skunk

Procedure Followed

- Keep constant eye out for food of all types.
- Eat at any time - whenever available. Share equally with all members.
- In rough country we did not hike over 2 mi. per hour.
- On trail we did not hike over 3 to 3½ mi. per hour.
- Rest 15 minutes each hour - elevate legs against tree when resting.
- Carry all equipment in field bag, so that it can be thrown off at any time in case of emergency - when hunting signal is given - on climbing fences.
- Bathe at every opportunity - change socks whenever wet.
- Eat lightly of bitter foods - maximum consumption of grasshoppers, grub worms, animals, vegetation, berries and fruits.
- Anyone lost should stop, blow whistle using distress call for 15 min., then proceed to nearest East/West roadway.
- Obtain fresh water at every opportunity - one quart per day is insufficient in warm climate. Use salt in all water.
- Such pebbles to satisfy thirst when water is scarce.
- Cross-country route all the way - stay on compass - avoid highways and towns.
- Every man is to do his duty without orders or question.
- We travelled at night as much as possible to avoid heat and conserve water.
- We used crushed rosemary plant leaves for insect repellent.
- All responsibilities were assigned to groups of 3 - ie; Gathering firewood - Digging cook trench - Building fire - Skinning & preparing animals - Cooking - Making beds - Setting up mosquito nets - Policing area before departure.

Signal code used (whistle)

- 1 blast - attention & stop.
- 2 blasts - alert & quiet - animals nearby - release packs and form circle draw knives to capture animal.
- 3 blasts - distress call - come here and help.

Aircraft signals used

- Standard arm and leg - mirror reflection - flag



Departing from the Atlantic Ocean at Daytona Beach, Fla. — June 18, 1962



Crossing the Halifax River (3000 feet wide), our largest water crossing



Hiking at night with head-lamps



Crossing creek covered with water hyacinths



End of the trail, Gulf of Mexico at Yankeetown, Fla. — June 30, 1962



Normal bunk set-up — moss and palmetto mattress — covered with netting.
On wet nights netting was covered with moss & palmetto



Administering First Aid to most common ailments — Blisters



Although our meals were meager, we always gave thanks

Foodstuff Found & Eaten

Berries, Fruits & Vegetation:

Blackberries	raw	Huckleberries	raw
Blueberries	raw	Elderberry blossoms	cooked
Cabbage palm heart	raw	Saw palmetto heart	raw
Yucca seed pods	roasted	Yucca stock	roasted
Cat-tail heart	raw	Saw-grass heart	raw
Morning glory root	cooked	Stinging nettle root	raw
Nettle leaf greens	boiled	Dandelion greens	cooked
Poke weed greens	cooked	Smilax tendrils	raw
Grapevine tendrils	raw	Bamboo shoots	raw
Fern fiddleheads	raw	Pine bark	raw
Cactus plant & pear	raw	Sunflower seeds	raw
Haw apples	raw	Wild cherries	raw
Wild plums	raw	Melons	raw
Citrus	raw	Carrots	raw
Corn	cooked & raw	Tomatoes	raw
Onions	raw	Squash	cooked

Animals, Snakes & Seafoods:

Armadillo	cooked	Skunk	cooked
Frogs	cooked	Rabbits	cooked
Pond Snails	cooked	Fresh water clams	cooked
Mussels	cooked	Fish (many types)	cooked
Squirrels	cooked	Crabs	cooked
Grass-hoppers	cooked	Cooter turtle	cooked
Gopher tortoise	cooked	Soft shell turtle	cooked
Fresh water eel	cooked	Wild pig	cooked
Fresh hog blood	raw	Water snakes	cooked
Rattlesnakes	cooked	Cottmouth moccasins	cooked
Coral snakes	cooked	Black snakes	cooked

Beverages:

Water	Pine needle tea	Gall berry coffee
Honey water	Citrus juice	Dandelion tea



Skinning a wild hog prior to feast



Eating cooked fish — head and all



Capturing an armadillo — our favorite food



Skinning frog legs — a real treat



Skinning Skunk after being squirted with musk — smelly task but food was scarce



Swamp Cabbage — most common source of vegetation in Florida



Preparing Pine needle tea — our most common beverage



Cooking wild pig in anticipation of feast

List Of Equipment

Clothing:

Western Khaki Pants
Long Sleeved Khaki Shirt
Reducing Irish Setter Boots, with grip soles, laced, no heel, 8 in. high.
2 extra pair heavy wool content socks.
2 handkerchiefs.
1 extra suit underwear, boxer type.

Equipment:

Norm Thompson field tote bag.
Mosquito netting.
Canteen & cup, quart or larger.
Sheath knife, 6" blade or longer.
Small pocket knife.
Compass - Navy wrist - scout pathfinder - with mirror attached.
Police whistle.
Snake bite suction kit.
2 muslin sacks 18" x 36" for toting animals - stuffed for pillows.

Ever-ready headlight & battery.
Boyscout waterproof match case.
Plastic bag to cover pack in rain.
6 small plastic bags for storing food.
Salt container with 2 ozs. salt.
Halazone tablets for purifying all water.
Spoon.
Aluminum foil (Alcoa Sponteman Pack)
Notebook & pencil - insert air signals - direction finding notes.

This equipment when packed should not weigh over 10 pounds.

Group Equipment:

Shovel Maps Machete

First Aid Kit containing,

Septisol soap
Adhesive tape
Anti-biotic salve for cuts
Pre-digestant tablets
Gauze & compresses
Aspirin tablets

Band-aids
Salve for skin irritations
Anti-acid tablets
Anti-venom pack
Cotton
Deserex foot powder



Salt As A Medicine

- Antiseptic** - Apply directly to wound in crystal or solution.
- Anesthetic** - Mix 2 ozs. salt with $\frac{1}{4}$ pound ice - place in thin bag and lay on skin area - local area will become anesthetized in 15 min.
- Bruises** - 1 tablespoon to 3 quarts of water - soak or bathe sore area.
- Cleaning** - Wet finger and sprinkle with salt - massage teeth to clean.
- Cholera** - 1 teaspoonful to quart of water - administer by mouth & purge.
- Dysentery** - $\frac{1}{2}$ gram salt to tablespoonful lemon juice - by mouth every two hours until condition relieved.
- Fainting** - Rub crystals on the chest area - acts as stimulant.
- Heat Exhaustion** - Do not use cold treatment - place victim in shade - gradually administer $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt in glass water - keep warm - do not allow to perspire - give liquid nourishment only.
- Heartburn** - Dissolve few grains in mouth - repeat until relieved.
- Hemorrhage** - Mouth bleeding or vomiting - suck one teaspoonful in mouth.
- Hives** - Bathe in warm solution of 2 ozs. salt to 30 gallons warm water.
- Infection** - 3 heaping teaspoonfuls to quart of warm water - bathe area or apply frequent compresses.
- Laxative** - 1 to 2 tablespoonfuls in pint of water - half strength for morning purge.
- Malaria** - When quinine cannot be obtained - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz taken orally - Caution - vomiting may result if taken too often.
- Sore Eyes** - 3 grains salt to one ounce of boiled water - wash & do not rub.
- Sore Throat** - Gargle with warm solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful to glass water.
- Sprains** - Same as for bruises.
- Stomach pain** - 1 teaspoonful taken dry - if pain persists examine for appendicitis - see doctor immediately.
- Toothache** - Pulverize alum & salt in equal parts - wet small piece cotton, dab in mixture and insert in hollow cavity of tooth.
- Worms** - Large dose eaten quickly as possible.

Safari Song

1: Written by Ronnie Grant, especially for this hike and led most of the time by him.

Sung frequently as a morale booster to the tune of Yankee Doodle.

We're on our way to Yankeetown,
We're walking all the way.
We popped some gopher in our mouths,
And hiked another day.

Left, right - left, right
Come on hikers, do'er right

Everytime we take a step,
We get a little closer,
But everytime we stop to rest,
We wish the thing was over.

1st. day - Monday - June 18, 1962

Up - 6:30AM - Down - 8:30PM Temp. Low - 68 High - 91 Clear

AM - Departed on compass West, cross-country, from the Atlantic Ocean at Daytona Beach at 8:45AM, with many well wishers, press and family on hand - arrived at the Halifax river at 9:45 - constructed raft for transporting packs - river was 3000 feet wide at this point - swam 3 deep channels - waded rest of distance over shallow oyster bars - pushed raft ahead of us and landed on west bank at 11:00 - changed socks and continued on thru Port Orange area.

Foods eaten - Small amounts of cat-tails - saw grass - wild cherries - roasted yucca pods - yucca stems - palmetto hearts - cabbage palm heart - boiled poke weed leaves - pine needle tea. I personally experimented with some elderberry blossoms with my poke weed, this was a mistake as it gave me diarrhea soon after.

PM - Started around swamp and thru heavy wilderness until 6:30 - too tired to eat, so we made up our bunks with moss & fronds - covered with our nets and turned in for the night. I did not sleep well because of my diarrhea.

Distance Covered - 11½ land miles - 9½ map miles Compass - West

Interesting Experiences - River crossing was largest to be encountered - caught first water snake - saw small shark while swimming river.

Campsite - Lakeshore near U. S. 92 - Volusia county game reserve.

Ailments - Many blisters doctored - 2 suffered from chafe - few cuts bandaged - and many ticks removed.

Conclusions: For the first day out all fared quite well - swimming with all our clothing & boots on is not the easiest way to cross water, but with all the sharp shells etc. on the bottom, thought it best to play safe. Optimism/high - Moral/excellent - Food/adequate - Water/plentiful - Appetite/fair - Excretion/good - Condition/tired with slight hunger.

2nd. Day - Tuesday - June 19, 1962

Up - 5:15AM - Down 2:30AM Temp. Low - 61 High - 89 Clear

AM - Without breakfast, we started off over difficult terrain thru the Tomoko river area - heavy dry swamp covered with long wire grass made footing difficult - inquired at fire tower for trails west - none in vicinity, so continued on west course thru more dry cypress swamps - water hard to find, only shallow muddy & dirty pools - skirted one big swamp and went off course - tired, hungry, thirsty and sweaty by noon.

Foods eaten - swamp cabbage - poke weed - snake - dried oranges - wild pig

PM - Rested long while after lunch - about 2:30 someone hollered Pigs - much excitement was caused, as all jumped up and joined in the chase until exhausted - we captured 2 wild pigs weighing a total of about 55# - mother sow upon hearing her young holler when caught, charged on of the group from the rear - managed to ward her off before contact - all gathered firewood for the feast - roasted the pigs, drank some blood and ate our fill until 4:00 - with renewed strength we tackled the Tiger Bay Swamp - where we had to cut our way thru with machete - we kept going until 2:00AM looking for campsite and water - then bedded down pooped.

Distance Covered - 17 land miles - 11 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Wild pig roundup and feast - cutting thru Tiger Bay

Campsite - Oak hammock on edge of lake

Ailments - Many new blisters - rebandaged old - few scratches from pig hunt.

Conclusions: Long hard day, hiked late to avoid heat. Optimism/high - Moral/good - Food/scarcely - Water/scarcely until late in day. Appetite/good - Excretion/fair - Condition/ tired in AM, strong after pig feast.

Diary

3rd. Day - Wednesday - June 20, 1962

Up - 7:30AM - Down - 9:00PM Temp. Low - 71 High - 92 Clear

AM - Discovered upon awakening that our camp was near an old orange grove - ate our fill of citrus and cooked pig - bathed in lake - started hiking 5 mi. around lake towards Ponce de Leon springs - stopped there for picture taking by the Fox Movietone News in hammock area - skirted Tick Island swamp - got back on course - plane flew over, and we exchanged messages - 2 of the boys tried exchanging shoes for more comfort - this did not work out.

Foods eaten - Rattlesnake - Cottonmouth moccasin - Flour & water dough baked on a stick - the flour was found under an old abandoned hunting shack - drank some pine needle tea.

PM - Picture taking delayed our schedule - followed woods trail northward until we came across another west trail, and got back on course - headed towards the St. John's river - group saw and chased a wild-cat but could not catch him - we called it a day alongside a small swamp creek.

Distance Covered - 15 land miles - 9 1/2 map miles Compass - West

Interesting Experiences - Action pictures for Fox Movietone News - Communicating with airplane from the ground - making edible dough from found flour - finding and eating snakes for the first time.

Campsite - Old hunting camp on swamp creek near old route #17.

Ailments - Acid building up in stomach - more blisters.

Conclusions: All enjoyed posing for pictures - proper fitting shoes are important. Optimism/high - Morale/excellent - Food/scarcely - Water/scarcely until late in day - Appetite/beginning to wane - Excretion/poor - Condition/tired & hungry.

Diary

4th. Day - Thursday - June 21, 1962

Up - 6:00AM - Down - 5:00PM Temp. Low - 70 High - 90 Clear

AM - Mosquitoes destroyed most of our nights sleep - they bit right thru the netting if one bumped up against it - dry oranges for breakfast - started off course for the St. John's river - went thru a river swamp - detoured deep water stream covered with water lettuce - saw a 5 day old baby calf abandoned by mother, did not take it - arrived after rough trek at the St. John's river bank on course.

Foods eaten - 16 small fish - black snake - few oranges - chased a wild pig but he got away - boiled pokeberry leaves & greens.

PM - Built a raft amongst the water hyacinths and in the mud - crossed river with clothes and shoes on - had to swim most of the way pushing raft ahead of us - the river was 1500 feet wide at this point - changed socks and rested - some fished - group very hungry and acidosis building up - this destroys appetite - decided to make camp early and rest - stopped at 2:30PM.

Distance Covered - 7 1/2 land miles - 5 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Crossing the St. John's river - wild pig chase.

Campsite - St. John's river bank, near Lake Dexter.

Ailments - Extreme fatigue - strong stomach acid - few more blisters.

Conclusions: Diet beginning to show effect of imbalance - pace slowed down to permit maximum resting. Optimism/waning - Morale/poor - Food/scarcely - Water/all we need - Appetite/poor - Excretion/poor - Condition/hungry & fatigued.

Diary

5th Day - Friday - June 22, 1962

Up - 9:00AM - Down - 7:00PM Temp. Low - 68 High - 89 Cloudy

AM - Fatigue from food shortage caused me to delay hike for more rest - fished for food - half of the group has stomach sickness - remainder have no appetite - fed fish to ailing ones under duress - this was most crucial part of the entire trip - thought it all might end here - Dr. Winter father of one of the boys met us, and gave us some anti-acid pills - this was a god-send which greatly helped and put us back on our feet.

Foods eaten - Fish, fish and more fish - sable palm - morning glory potatoes - huckleberries - coral snake - frogs - honey & honey-comb.

PM - Started hiking again in mid-afternoon - set slow pace through Ocala National Forest - passed by a bee colony on private property - stopped and asked owner for some - this helped build up our strength and neutralize stomach - went on to Sellers Lake where we had planned to camp - found an abundance of huckleberries - ate these until they came out our ears - set-up camp at lakeside and bathed - turned in early.

Distance Covered - 8 land miles - 6 1/2 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Dr. Winters arrival at psychological period - finding bee hives.

Campsite - Sellers Lake shore in the Ocala National Forest

Ailments - Stomach acid - no appetite - fatigue - some old blisters - bee stings

Conclusions: Dr. Winters arrived at the exact right time enabled us to continue - finding honey and huckleberries greatly added to the acid stomach condition. Optimism/very low - Morale/lowest - Food/scarcie - Water/plentiful - Appetite/very poor - Excretion/little - Condition/many sick before taking stomach pills.

Diary

6th Day - Saturday - June 23, 1962

Up - 7:00AM - Down - 3:30AM Temp. Low - 67 High - 90 Rain

AM - Spent most of morning gathering huckleberries - this helped our stomach - requested and received permission from the naval bombing range officer - to cross the range at night - skirted Lake Sellers thru bog & hammock to edge of range.

Foods eaten - Huckleberries - wild pig - gopher tortoise - armadillo.

PM - While resting at edge of range the whistle blew - all rushed in direction of whistle and found one of the men had captured 2 wild pigs - this is just what we needed for the big hike later in the day - it started to rain, so had to cook pig in the rain - it was 12 miles to next water - ate our fill and took off about 4:30 - spread out 100 yd. interval in order to hunt as we went - saw many wild animals and fresh tracks on the wet ground - caught 2 tortoises which had eggs inside - these along with the cooked livers were delicious - nature here was the most beautiful at dusk - we made good time to Moon Lake where we arrived around midnight - filled our canteens and moved on to Reynolds farm where we set-up camp around 3:00AM.

Distance Covered - 17 1/2 land miles - 15 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Seeing all the wild animals in the Ocala National Forest - doing all chores in the rain - capturing and eating more wild pig.

Campsite - Reynolds Farm near the Oklawaha river.

Ailments - Acid condition still bad, but under control - blisters better & fewer.

Conclusions: The National Forest was a beautiful sight - we should have more such areas - good experience was obtained by operating in the rain. Optimism/better - Morale/improved - Food/plentiful - Water/sparse - Appetite/better - Excretion/fair - Condition/vastly improved with better terrain & food.

Diary

7th Day - Sunday - June 24, 1962

Up - 8:00AM - Down - 8:00PM Temp. Low - 60 High - 81 Rain

AM - Planned to rest most of the day after long and late hike yesterday - moved campsite to better location - bathed and washed socks - hunted and fished - all did their share of lounging around - last night one of the men dreamed his boots were on fire and awoke me to rescue them - upon close observation discovered that what he thought was his boots in the fire turned out to be a boot shaped piece of wood - pushed this out of the fire and convinced him - whereupon he went back to bed with his boots tucked under his arm.

Foods eaten - Armadillo - citrus - mud snake - rabbit - wild pig.

PM - Late in the afternoon we were getting tired of lounging, so we pushed off at slow pace, hunting as we went - the terrain was ideal - found and caught a rabbit, armadillo and mud snake - carried these until we decided to stop for the night on the Oklawaha river shore - cooked and ate these animals and turned in early.

Distance Covered - 3 land miles - 2 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Boot dream

Campsite - East bank of the Oklawaha river north of moss bluff.

Ailments - Few blisters and some chafe

Conclusions: Sunday is for resting and we rested - had a fine location which was ideal for bathing and washing - cleaned up as best we could. Optimism/high - Morale/ some - Food/sufficient - Water/plentiful - Appetite/good - Excretion/fair - Condition/much better after rest, food and bath.

Diary

8th Day - Monday - June 25, 1962

Up - 6:00AM - Down - 8:30PM Temp. Low - 63 High - 90 Clear

AM - Last night a bear roamed thru the camp - two of us saw it and wished - waded across the Oklawaha river - photographers took pictures of our crossing - crossed another smaller canal - hiked thru hammock, and passed a corn field - owner came by and offered taking our fill - this we did - stuffed ourselves and loaded up all we could carry - crossed large much farm near Heather Island - corn too heavy so stopped and stripped all from husk and stored kernels in plastic bag.

Foods eaten - Corn, corn and more corn - citrus

PM - Headed west across Heather Island - skirted another much farm which is hard walking thru - stopped at beautiful lake and bathed - filled canteens - hiked on to the Godfrey ranch - stopped here and cooked corn - decided to stay the night after owner offered us his hay barn - photographers came by and took more pictures. I look like Mitch with my long itching beard.

Distance Covered - 14½ land miles - 7 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Corn feast - posing for the press

Campsite - Godfrey ranch near state route #464

Ailments - Corn pressure in stomach - some gas - indigestion

Conclusions: We are now in Marion county which is agricultural land - this is also one of the highest areas in the state - if all the corn we ate was turned into you know what, we would be feeling no pain about this time. Optimism/high - Morale/good - Food/excellent - Water/good & plentiful - Appetite/par excellence - Excretion/good - Condition/stuffed & stronger.

Diary9th Day - Tuesday - June 26, 1962

Up - 5:30AM - Down - 6:00PM Temp. Low - 68 High 90 Clear

AM - Slept very well on hay - took off early towards Rock Springs, bypassing all the civilization we could - stopped and ate some corn - terrain level, pasture & hammock makes for easy walking - passed an abandoned watermelon field which meant another stuffing - ate all we could, even on the march - also found some figs and nice fat grass-hoppers - hiked until noon and rested.

Foods eaten - Watermelon - Cantaloupe - figs - blackberries - squash - citrus - grass-hoppers.

PM - Continued on over good country with plenty of fences to jump - here is where keeping all things in a tote bag really makes it easy to maneuver - when-ever we approach an obstacle, we just throw off our bag and pitch it over or under - this way we never get hung up by dangling articles - moved on to Circle Square ranch where we stayed for the night.

Distance Covered - 14 land miles - 13 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Plenty of Food

Campsite - Circle Square ranch southwest of Ocala

Ailments - overeating - indigestion - acidosis much better

Conclusions: Hopped a million fences today - all looking forward to destination. Optimism/high - Morale/high - Food/excellent - Water/excellent - Appetite/excels all others - Excretion/good - Condition/very good, most all are getting used to this rugged way of life.

Diary10th Day - Wednesday - June 27, 1962

Up - 5:30AM - Down 9:00PM Temp. Low - 63 High - 89 Cloudy

AM - After watermelon breakfast we headed out towards Rock Springs - shortly after someone hollered out Skunk - all stopped and entered chase - here was my opportunity to show all how a skunk should be handled without being sprayed - I picked the stinker up by the tail, held him up to show the boys when he climbed his body and squirted me right in the face - the pain was fierce and I was blinded - laid down on the ground and washed eyes and face with water - after 15 min. felt much better - two other boys suffered similar experience - we killed the stinker, skinned him for later consumption - by now you could smell our group a mile off - this was just another task in our life at this point - reporter and photographer from Boy's Life was on hand to record these activities.

Foods eaten - Roast skunk - blackberries - gopher tortoises - 13 frogs - 5 water snakes - Corn was fermenting, so we ate up rest of our stocks.

PM - At Rock Springs we stopped to rest and eat - found 2 more tortoises en route - skunk odor made us feel sick - continued on over good terrain to U. S. #41 - met by large group at check point to plan entry into Yankeetown - planned arrival for 10AM Sat. morning - this meant to slow pace so stopped for the day at 16th. lake.

Distance Covered - 16 land miles - 14 1/2 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - Skunk episode - Planning arrival

Campsite - 16th. Lake shore near Withlacoochee river

Ailments - Skunk aroma - sore eyes - few blisters

Conclusions: Extreme care must be used with all kinds of wild or dangerous animals. - all looking forward to Sat. arrival - Optimism/excellent - Morale/high - Food/plentiful - Water/plentiful - Appetite/good - Excretion/better - Condition/stronger by the day.

Diary

11th Day - Thursday - June 28, 1962

Up - 8:00AM - Down 9:00PM Temp. Low - 68 High - 92 Clear

AM - Started hiking in wide spread formation hunting food - slowed down pace - had to cross many cypress swamps as we were starting into the lowlands again - this is hard walking after central state farms and pastures - little shade and quite warm but kept heading towards Inglis on changed compass.

Foods eaten - Blackberries - soft shell turtle - snake - fish - vegetables - never saw so many blackberries.

PM - Entering swamp area of the Withlacoochee river basin - walking difficult - located good nest site on Hester property - owner offered us his garden for food so stocked up on onions, carrots & tomatoes which sure hit the spot - started to fish - made spear with which one of the men caught 7 Gar fish - also caught some brim and 3 crabs - this provided an excellent meal so decided to stay here for the night - later this night a windstorm blew in - we all made new bunkers out of moss and palmetto fronds over and under our bodies - this cuts off the air so that body warmth makes it quite comfortable even though wet - however, it does help to be good and tired as well.

Distance Covered - 10 1/2 land miles - 6 1/2 map miles Compass-southwest

Interesting Experiences - Spearfishing - sleeping in the rain

Campsite - Withlacoochee river basin east of Inglis

Ailments - Stiffness from sleeping in wet beds - few blisters

Conclusions: Sleeping unprotected in the rain - makeshift fishing equipment, show what man can do without conveniences. Optimism/high - Morale/excellent - Food/very good - Water/plentiful - Appetite/good - Excretion/good - Condition/damp & dirty.

Diary

12th Day - Friday - June 29, 1962

Up - 7:00AM - Down - 8:00PM Temp. Low - 60 High - 88 Clear

AM - After a wet night thru which most slept fairly well we breakfasted on more blackberries - these are plentiful, but getting very tiresome - followed the Withlacoochee river basin for a while on southwest course - stopped at a fish camp to fish and caught another gar-fish - also found many fresh water clams - these we cooked and ate, but the clams were not too tasty - took another bath, but we still looked and smelled like pole-cats.

Foods eaten - Garfish - brim - fresh water clams

PM - Continued on at slow pace towards Yankeetown - all spirits high in spite of poor food - clams only filled a gap - walking not too difficult - stopped for a swim when another local scout came by feeling sorry for us and offered us a large panfull of catfish - this we had to refuse because of our plan - bedded down for the night around campfire in the woods outside of Yankeetown.

Distance Covered - 10 1/2 land miles - 6 1/2 map miles Compass - west

Interesting Experiences - First time no mosquitos - slept this night without netting around fire - refusing good food.

Campsite - In woods west of Yankeetown

Ailments - Anticipation

Conclusions: All are in good spirits, which shows the importance of proper mental attitude on a trek such as this - what looked hopeless on the 5th day now is joked about - believe we could go another month without fear or difficulty. Optimism/highest - Morale/best - Food/fair - Water/plentiful - Appetite/good - Excretion/better - Condition/good, dirty, not too tired.

13th. & Last Day - June 30, 1962

Up - 6:00AM - Down - At home Temp. Low - 61 High - 90 Clear

AM - Did not sleep very well last night due to anticipation - all looking forward to arrival and feast at end of hike - more blackberries for breakfast - dont know what we would have done without them - proceeded thru woods east of town - stopped and rested up to arrival time at 10:00AM - moved on into Yankeetown exactly as scheduled - large crowd was on hand to greet us - family, friends, officials like Senator Hodges, mayor Knotts of Yankeetown & mayor Cumming of Ocala, photographers and TV cameramen which made us feel like hero's - we were elated to say the least - after much posing we went on to the gulf where we jumped in, stripped off our clothes and weighed out - we had covered 153 miles in 13 days while living entirely off of the land - we then were driven back to the Isaac Walton lodge hall in Yankeetown where we were invited to a banquet in our honor - steak and all the trimmings - we ate all we could but our stomachs had shrunk on the trip so we had to limit our intake at the point of discomfort.

Here we dispersed for our homes - feeling proud of our accomplishment & proving that youth with knowledge, proper mental attitude, faith & determination, can do anything they set out to do equal to or better than the pioneers of many years ago - Lets hope we never have to actually survive in this manner in our modern world - But, if necessary, we will BE PREPARED.

Ross Allen

<u>Name</u>	<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Packload</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Ross Allen	210	195	15	12	First Aid pack 6# extra
John Street	177	170	7	10	
Buddy Nye	114	108	6	12	
John Winter	92	82	10	7	
Ronnie Grant	119	111	8	7	
Robert Rile	122	114	8	7	
David Slonim	92	89	3	9	
Robert McKichan	154	141	13	8	
Richard Fowler	104½	105	½	9	Gained ½ pound
Pat Manderfield	140	128	12	7	

Believe weight loss would not have been so great if appetite was not lessened by Acidosis. This could be overcome with stomach aids or neutralizers of various types.

Seminole Survival Tips
Florida

Hunting & Fishing

- Arrows - Bamboo, Ashwood, Hickory.
Bow - Lemonwood, Ash, Hickory.
Fish-hooks - Amadillo leg bones -
carved fork branch.
Knife - Flint on heavy sea shell.
Spear - Sharpen hickory shaft on
deer horn.
Rope or twine - Hickory bark, inner bark
of White Oak, Mulberry,
Red Cedar, split fine &
woven Wire Grass, Bear
Grass split and braided.
Cork - Fish float - upper twigs
of the Sweetgum tree.
Poison - Fish can be paralyzed by
spreading mixture of sand
& Boxtree sap on the water.

Utensils

- Bedding - Spanish moss - Pine needles
- Palmetto leaves
Bowls - Hollowed turtle shell - sea
shells - gourds.
Baskets - Woven pine needles - wire
grass.
Spoon - Carve from wood or bone.
Needle - Point of Yucca or Bear
grass plant.
Brush - Carved dry palmetto root -
(tooth) Dogwood & Sweetgum.

Shelter

- Leanto - Bend over young tree - tie to
ground, thatch sides.
Thatch - Pine boughs, Saw palmetto,
Banana & Cabbage palm leaves.
Fire - Flint & steel - Bow & drill
(tinder must be dry)
Match - Keep in waterproof container
if wet, rub in hair and strike.
Torch - Pine knot
Glass - Magnifying - watch crystal and
plain glass held together.

Water

- Boil all water - treat with 1 drop of
1% solution of Iodine - salt
for taste - Halazone tablets.
Cut Monkey vine - Air Plants - Cactus -
Thistle plant - Grape vine.
Drive stake in ground, pull out, suck
water thru hollow need.

Miscellaneous

- Insect repellent - rub skin with fresh
leaves of Rosemary bush -
Keep away from eyes.
Soap - Yucca plant root crushed and
mixed with water.
Lye - For making soap - Bracken fern.
Caulking - Pine sap.
Cloth - Inner fibers of the Sabal palm
tree - Saw Palmetto leaves.
Shovel - Shoulder blade of large animal.

Seminole Survival Tips
Florida

Direction Finding

- Sight big dipper, follow line from two
pointers to next star is North star.
Sight along straight stick to a star,
wait 5 min. sight again, star will
have moved west.
Point stick at sun, wait a bit and
ascertain direction of move.
When cloudy - place thin grass blade
on fingernail, observe faint re-
flection or shadow.

Medical Aids

- Upset stomach - Boil Catnip leaves
as tea & drink - also Goldenrod
leaves & Blackberry root.
Upset Liver - Boil Dandelion root
stock and drink.
Gargle - Boil fresh Selfheal plant
leaves. Do not swallow.
Antiseptic - External use, make brew
of boiled Gentian leaves, soak or
bathe area.
Cold - Drink brew made from boil-
ed Yarrow root - Wild Honey.
Tonic - Rheumatism, liver, hindneys,
drink brew from Boneset tops &
leaves, or fresh Beebalm leaves.
Infection - Poultice made of fresh
Sorelwood leaves applied exter-
nally.

Signaling

- Whistle - Carve out from bamboo, willow
stem - alligator tooth.
Horn - Hollow out cow horn - sea
shell - gourd.
Drum - Dry animal skin pulled tight
over hollow lod.
Smoke - Light 3 fires of Pine boughs
- moss or palmetto leaves.
Flag - Light colored fabric on pole
waved in big arc.

Weather Aids

- Approaching storm - when birds are
perching.
Fair weather - When birds are flying
high - when dew is on the grass.
Stormy - Distant sounds are loud &
hollow - smoke hangs close to ground.
Rain - High visibility over salt
water - low clouds.
Good weather - when smoke rises with
the wind.
Prevailing winds - Leaves grow in the
direction of same - sudden change
will make them turn over.
Temperature - Chirps of a cricket per
minute minus 40, divided by 4, plus
50 equals Fahrenheit.

Conclusions

The basic traits of a scout were exhibited at all times - such things as common sense - being prepared - obedient - cooperative - cheerful - determined and brave shaped the attitude that made this hike such a success. Every American youth should be a boy-scout, because they can survive if and when, the need arises.

Anyone going into the wilderness should have basic knowledge of survival - know as much as possible about the surrounding terrain - develop proper mental attitude - use whatever faith you have to its fullest.

First concern must be Water - Food is secondary - plenty of both exists in the wilderness if we only use our God-given common sense and proceed cautiously. Frequent rest is also important, when properly taken builds endurance.

Food should be eaten as soon as discovered - only carry surplus if necessary, and then only for a short time - all animals should be quickly killed, skinned, cooked and eaten as soon after capture as possible - wrap remainder in some kind of protective cover when keeping for later consumption.

The most troublesome ailment was blisters on the feet - good first aid care - with frequent change of socks - proper fitting field shoes can overcome most of these difficulties.

The most dangerous moment was swimming the St. John's river fully clothed - also the charge of a wild mother pig protecting her brood caused some fear - only quick thinking and action scared the animal off before contact with one of our unsuspecting members.

The most painful moment was when I and some of the boys were sprayed in the face with skunk musk - this blinded us temporarily and was very painful - again immediate intelligent attention limited this period of discomfort.

Conclusions

Animals are man's best friend was proven one night when all were sleeping, a bear walked through our camp without disturbing any of us or our equipment - no animals attacked us at any time without cause.

We made maximum use of hiking at night - this was to avoid the heat and to conserve our water supply.

The tastiest wild meats were - Armadillos, which tasted like pork - gopher tortoise meat, livers, and eggs were delicious - wild pig was in greatest supply - gar fish was a choice meal when cooked.

The most beautiful terrain was in the Ocala National Forest - one cannot truly appreciate nature until you get out and really commune with her - our true respect for all types of wildlife has greatly been enhanced.

Hats off to the shortest ones of the group - they had to walk almost twice as many paces in order to keep up with the tall ones.

In spite of our many detours around difficult terrain, we managed to keep on our western course - fortunately we came out on our planned check points at every junction.

The press, newsreel men, magazine reporters and photographers who met us and accompanied us on parts of our journey were most kind - we were given very excellent coverage - I hope that every youth (boy & girl) in the nation has an opportunity to learn of our findings.

The secrets of Survival contained herein were gathered from the best Indian scouting data we could find - this is their technique developed after many hundreds of years of survival off of the land.

Always carry your hunting and fishing licenses when on a practice survival hike.

Acknowledgments

To those whose sincere interest and kind assistance helped make this venture a real success. We are most thankful.

Ray, Davidson & Ray, who were our sponsors.
Allan Staggs Jr., William R. Diehl, Bud Boyette, Jack Mc Eanchem, of the Silver Springs public relations staff.
John Ming, and his assistant Mike Moutz, who shared our miseries in order to photograph our activities.
Bruce Mozart, for taking the aerial photographs.
Gilbert E. (Red) Turner, for research & instruction.
Mrs. Jeanette Allen, for meeting the checkpoints.
Miss Evanna Phillips, for secretarial assistance.
Mrs. Alice Rogers, for supplies and shopping assistance.
Dr. Wallace Winter, for medical assistance.
Wilfred T. Neill, for Seminole Secret research.
Red Wing Shoe Company, for supplying Irish Setter Boots.
Norm Thompson, for supplying Field Tote Musette Bags.
Guarantee Clothing & Shoe Company, for supplying uniforms.
Bo Randall, for supplying Randall Knives.
John Henderson, for airplane transportation and dropping messages.
Doyle Tyndale, of the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, for advising us and accompanying us for a bit.
All the land-owners who gave us permission to trespass and to camp.
United States Navy, for granting us permission to cross their bombing range in the Ocala National Forest.
The Isaac Walton Lodge, for privileges and wonderful dinner after the hike in Yankeetown.
Marion Engineering Company, for the generous supply of maps.
Senator Randolph Hodges, Chairman of the state Board of Conservation, for meeting us and presenting awards.
Florida's Governor Farris Bryant, & Simon A McVeely, Director, of the Federal/State relations, for President Kennedy's Physical Fitness council, for telegrams.
Mayor Gene Knotts of Yankeetown, & R. C. Cumming, mayor of Ocala, and all the many friends who met us at the end of the hike.
My staff who "kept the wheels turning" at the Reptile Institute while I was on the Safari.

Snakebite Prevention

Care and common sense will go a long way toward preventing snakebite. Most victims are struck on the ankle or lower leg; so one should use care in going through brushy places where the ground cannot be seen. A person who often walks through brushy places should wear leggings or boots. Pantslegs should be worn outside of the boots, where they may help to deflect the aim of a striking snake.

Don't step down over a fallen log; there may be a snake lurking on the other side. Step on the log, glance down to make sure the way is clear, then step down. Be careful about putting hands into brushy places, and careful when sitting or squatting down in such places.

The capture of venomous snakes should be left to the experts. Many boys keep collections of living snakes; it is not recommended that venomous species be among them.

The only sure way to prevent snakes from entering a yard is to put up snake proof fencing. It is also well to clean up any trash, weeds, lumber piles, palmetto clumps, rock-piles, etc., that may be in your yard. Burrows of the gopher tortoise should be caved in, for they provide places of refuge for the diamond-back rattlesnake.

An ordinary mosquito bar, well tucked in under the bedding, assures protection from inquisitive snakes when one camps out and spends the night on the ground. Anyone who is often in the woods should provide himself with a snake-bite first aid kit, and should familiarize himself with its use.

The dangerous snakes of the United States include Coral snakes; Copperhead or highland Moccasin; Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin; and various kinds of Rattlesnakes, large and small. All other snakes of this country are harmless to man, and there is no reason to fear them. Indeed, many of the harmless snakes prey upon the venomous ones, or compete with them for food. Harmless snakes should not be killed, for they help to keep down the population of the dangerous ones.