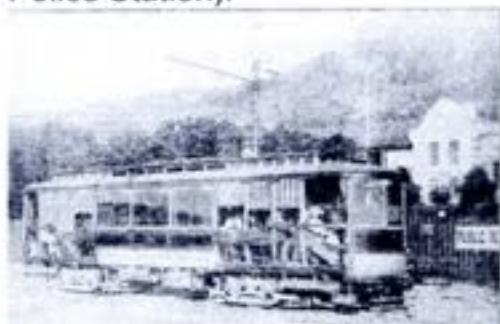


## 1<sup>st</sup> CAMPS BAY SCOUT GROUP - 1916-1999

At a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1916, it was decided to form a troop of boy scouts to be called 1<sup>st</sup> Camps Bay. Mr Ward-Cox was the first Scoutmaster. There were initially 13 scouts, which by November 1916 had risen to 72. Shortly thereafter another troop 2<sup>nd</sup> Camps Bay was started and operated until the mid 1930's.

It was agreed that the colours of the scarf worn by the troop would be chocolate and lemon. These colours were taken from the colours of the trams that ran from Cape Town to Camps over Kloofnek to the tram sheds (now The Bay Theatre) in Link Street. The heat generated from the trams was used to heat the water of the indoor swimming pool located opposite the tram sheds (now a grassed area next to the Police Station).



Mr Farquhar, secretary of the old Cape Marine Suburbs, allowed the troop to use the old butchery premises in Strathmore Lane as headquarters. These were their headquarters until the early thirties. Rental paid to the Cape

Marine Suburbs Company was 1/- per year. The troop then moved to two huts behind the hostel (Lower Tree Road), which they used for a few years before taking up the basement of the Sea Bath Pavilion. This had no ventilation and was most unsatisfactory.

Mr Ward-Cox resigned in November 1916 and Mr W A Way was appointed Scout Master. During the 1<sup>st</sup> World War years scouts from the troop were active in helping the war effort and assumed the duty of keeping watch on suspicious shipping movements between Camps Bay and Hout Bay.

In 1932 the group entered into a lease of Plot 1347 (where the Scout Hall and Guide headquarters are situated in the Little Glen) at 1/- per year during the Cape Marine Suburbs Company's pleasure. A building fund was started with the sum of £25.17.10. and a savings account was opened with the Cape of Good Hope Savings Bank in 1932. By September, 1933 it had swelled to £66.1.0. By September 1938 it had reached £100.0.0. Funds were raised by sports entertainment £10.0.10 and bioscope £15.17.0.

The architects Roberts & Small drew up plans for the Hall and these plans were passed by the

City Council in October 1936. It was not however, until 1939 that sufficient funds had been collected to build the hall. Mr Cyril Pearce was the builder and the total cost of materials and labour was £133.16.10, part of this being a donation from Mr Pearce, in memory of his son, who died in an accident, whilst on a Scout camp at Simondium.

The Hall was dedicated, named the Pearce Memorial Hall and was opened by the Mayor of Cape Town, Major Brinton, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1939. There was no electricity in the hall and initially a carbide lamp was used, but because of the smell it was replaced by a Coleman primus lamp, which was used for many years despite the fact that the mantle disintegrated quite often when the south easter blew too hard. The ablution section and kitchen was added in 1960 and further additions in the form of the pack scouter's den and storeroom were added in 1985.

The group was financed by levies of 1d per week paid by scouts and cubs, sports meetings, skating carnivals, and bioscope shows until the introduction of entertainment tax, which made it impossible to make a profit. For example a dance in St Peter's Hall raised £1.8.0 and a Carnival at the Pavilion £9.4.0 in 1934. Dingaan's Day was popular for carnivals, childrens fancy dress and sports gatherings.

## 1<sup>st</sup> CAMPS BAY/SEA POINT SCOUT GROUP



Little Glen provided an excellent venue for camp fires, hide and tracking games and many an evening was spent up the mountainside eating watermelon at the end of a trail. Much time was spent in keeping the bridges over the river in good repair as well as the access path to the hall, which could be quite a hazard on a dark night.

Great emphasis was laid on the outdoors, especially weekend camping – the favourite place being Van Breda's Beach, at Oudekraal, whilst Llandudno, Big Glen, Little Glen and Baines Kloof were also often used. Because of transport difficulties the troop had either to carry their needs or use the trek cart which was a favourite means of getting

the scouting equipment to the selected site.



The trek cart was somewhat like a hawker's barrow – the body a bit more elongated with large diameter wheels and a longer shaft. Rings were attached to the body for fastening ropes for the scouts to pull.

During the 1930's the troop also had soccer and cricket teams that played against other troops and at one time the soccer team had an unbeaten run of three years.

The inaugural meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Camps Bay Group Committee was held in the Bowling Club House on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 1931. Mr C Booth took the Chair and the committee elected consisted of Mr & Mrs Salmon; Mrs May; Mr W B Baker; Mr Wrench Mr J Farquhar; Mr Pentz; Mrs Morley; and Mrs Orchard. Mr Farquhar was appointed Chairman in October 1931 holding that position until his death in 1936.

In the 1940's Scout Peter Marshman (known to the troop as Bogman) was awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for Gallantry but it is unknown what the circumstances were.

In the 1930's there was a link with 1<sup>st</sup> Simonstown and the group became known as the "Group of the Setting Sun" whilst 1<sup>st</sup> Simonstown was known as the "Group of the Rising Sun". A painting depicting 1<sup>st</sup> Camps Bay scouts at camp overlooking the sea and the setting sun was painted and hangs at the end of the scout hall.

The Red Indian sign for setting sun into water was frequently used in codes and messages and in the late 1970's this sign was adopted as a logo sign for the group. It was used on letterheads, signboards, logbook covers and on the group's t-shirts.

The group reached its peak during the 1980's, when the group, pack and troop excelled in various Area and District Competitions either winning or being in the first three places of Tonkin Trophy, Rayner Trophy, Upton Shield, Edwards Shield, Goudie Shield, Jumbo Trophy, Rawson Cup, Area Athletics, Area Swimming, Berlinski Shield and the Lyons Cup.



The group magazine "Glen Echo" also featured well, winning both the National and the Area section of the H V Marsh Award for Journalism for 4 consecutive years.



Over the years World Jamborees have been attended by many of the group's scouts. John Chicken was the first to represent the group at the first World Jamboree in 1920. He was one of 300 scouts from South Africa who travelled to England in one of the

cargo holds of the Balmoral Castle, some sleeping in hammocks, as there were insufficient bunks. Amongst other activities, the South African contingent visited Buckingham Palace and was inspected by King George V and Queen Mary. They also had a trip over London in a Handley Page plane.



Throughout its history the group has had strong ties with a number of long standing Camps Bay families, and from the somewhat incomplete records available the following people all served as uniformed scouters.



## **Troop and Group Scouters**

A E Adamo	L Alsop	G Angus	P Bacon
D Binder	E Bowman	L Bracey	A Bredenkamp
M Chicken	G Coetzee	T Daulby	K Eberlein
D Ferguson	A Garnett	L Geater	Mr George
G Grobler	C Harvey	T Hawkridge	L Heyne
R Hosch	R Hosch (jnr)	A Jochheim	P Lague
R Leaver	A Lighton	P McNally	E Morley
I Morton	C Moyle	K Moyle	B Oberholzer
C Old	R Raaff	T Raaff	D Rose
R Roseman	R Rundle	A Scott	R Senogles
Rev.Smith	S Strange	E A Symmonds	G Symmonds
P Theron	W Ward	F E Ward-Cox	R Ward-Cox
T Ward-Cox	Mr Way	M Witt	D Young

## **Pack Scouters**

A Adamo	V Adamo	Mrs Angus	D Bacon
A Baker,	M Barends	W Bettersworth	E Boye-Thorsen
F Brink	L Brooks	J Chicken	D Coetzee
C Cowley	Mrs Fabian	H Ferguson	R Garde
K Hedges	A Hill	E Hosch	J James-Smith
P James-Smith	A Klerck	J Ledingham	S Lighton
Mr McKay	R McLaughlin	G McLeod	A Morton
S Morton	A New	I Oettle	C Old
C Peckham	M Raaff	E Reddington	D Stevens
C Swithenbank	E Symmonds	N Symmonds	N Tooze
A Ward-Cox	R Walker	T Williams	A Yates

In the 1990's it became more and more difficult to find scouters. The group had a strong pack and a strong committee but few scouts and no troop scouters. 1<sup>st</sup> Green & Sea Point had 6 cubs

but no pack scouter, a small troop and several troop scouters, so after many discussions in 1998 the decision was made to amalgamate the two groups.