



Scouting at SXI began in 1932

All through our college a voice is resounding,
Promptly respond to your duty's sweet call,
Hearken you all for the trumpet is sounding,
Your mater's proclaiming her watchwords to all

Forward her children dear,
Ever with hearts sincere,
Render with joy to your mater her due,
All that is vile reject,
Heaven will ever protect,
Sons of St Xavier's valiant and true,

Labour will conquer your motto still bearing,
Forward with courage in ways that are just,
True to your standard, be doing and daring,
As faithful Xaverians in Heaven your trust

Forward her children dear,
Ever with hearts sincere,
Render with joy to your mater her due,
All that is vile reject,
Heaven will ever protect,
Sons of St Xavier's valiant and true!



The beginning of The Scouts in Penang

How Scouting started and grew at SXI and among Lasallian schools in the State

The first Scout Troop in the country was formed in Penang in 1908 – about one year after the world’s first Scout camp held at the Brownsea Island in England which is widely regarded as the start of the worldwide Scout Movement. The “experimental” Troop was based at the Penang YMCA. Soon afterwards Harold Ambrose Robinson Cheeseman founded the Penang Free School Scout Troop on 27 March 1915. It comprised two patrols with Mr Cheeseman as the Scouter-in-charge. He would form another Troop in Johor at the English College Johore Bahru in 1928. Activities in those early days ranged from carpentry to *ju-jitsu*. The Scouts toured the Malay Peninsula in 1918 and stirred up great interest in Scouting among boys. Around 1934, the Scouts of Penang put on a grand display to celebrate Lord Baden-Powell’s visit to the island. Not long afterwards, during the Japanese occupation of Malaya, Scouting was prohibited. Several Penang Scouts proved their bravery during this time and were awarded the Gilt Cross after The War.

The “golden years” of The Movement at St Xavier’s took off in the early 1960s. Scouting became the most popular choice of an optional extra-curricula activity for the students in the School. In addition to The Seventh, First and Sixth George Town (North) had been formed and there were close to 500 Scouts and Cubs enrolled with the three Groups at SXI and SXI Primary School (which in those days was housed in the same school buildings at Farquhar Street.)

There were three other Primary Schools associated with SXI which ran their own Scout Troops and Cub Packs. They were St Xavier’s Branch School (Ninth George Town [North],) Assumption School, Butterworth (25th Butterworth Group) and La Salle School, Ayer Itam (Thirteenth George Town [South].)

One of the highlights of the Scouting Year in 1960s was The Christian Brothers Schools Camporee – which all the Scouts referred to as the “CBS Camp.” Scouts from Troops of other Lasallian Schools would travel to Jubilee Camp, Teluk Bahang, Penang for a few days and nights of competition and fellowship.

The year 1966 saw Jubilee Camp hosting the First Malaysian Scout Jamboree. Forty Xaverians joined 2,000 other Scouts from 12 countries and from across Malaysia at the Jamboree. The Camp Chief for the Jamboree was former Xaverian, (then) Datuk Wong Pow Nee, Chief Minister of Penang.

The Seventies soon arrived and a major reorganization of The Movement took place at SXI. The three Scout Groups of the School were merged into one in 1971 as 7GT(N.) The First and Sixth Groups were disbanded that year. As a result the history of Xaverian Scouting you will read in this section of the ebook is largely about 7GT(N.)

The first ten years of Scouting at SXI following the founding of 7GT(N) in 1932 is largely undocumented in this ebook as very little remains from these important formative years of the Scout Movement in the School. The outbreak of the Second World War caused records from this first decade of Xaverian Scouting to be destroyed. Penang was occupied from December 1941 until September 1945 bringing about a hiatus in all Scouting activities during this time and immediately afterwards when SXI focused its efforts on rebuilding after the School was bombed and razed to the ground during the closing months of The War.

Memories of Coronation and Jubilee Camps



The troop hall and store rooms at Coronation Camp. The tall tree in front of it was climbed by many Scouts as a test for various badges and awards.

ADAPTED FROM BENNYT

<http://bennyworld.blogspot.my/2008/>

Many fond memories of half-a-century of Scouting in Penang, beginning in the 1950s, centred on two now closed campsites – the Coronation and Jubilee Camps. Coronation Camp was located at the periphery of the Botanical Gardens, Penang; in a valley at the end of the Waterfall Road. Its was six acres in area, bordering on Waterfall River in the south and the hills in the north.

All sorts of gatherings and events had taken place in Coronation Camp during its 50 years of operation – Family Camps (where families participated as a unit,) Nature Camps (for nature and botany studies), King Scout Camps, Adventure Camps, Penang Jamborettes, a Jamboree, Patrol Leader Camps, Campfire Leadership Courses and Wood Badge Courses for Scouters.

The campsite was identified in 1951 by the First Penang Rover Scout Crew, under the leadership of the late Mr Oon Hoot Ewe, during a hiking activity. Mr Oon immediately selected it as the second campsite for Scouters in Penang to conduct their Wood Badge Courses.

The other once-popular campsite which had closed and reclaimed by the State Government upon the expiration of its lease in the mid-1970s was Jubilee Camp in Teluk Bahang. The First Malaysian Jamboree held in December 1966 took place at this campsite.

As early as 1952, even though there were no buildings, bathrooms, and piped water, Wood Badge Courses were organized by the Penang State Scout Training Team at Coronation Camp. During those early days, temporary bathrooms were built, and piped water was obtained from nearby houses.

Mr Ho Wai Foon managed Coronation Camp from 1952–53, in addition to his duties as the Camp Warden of Jubilee Camp in Teluk Bahang. Mr Ho was the person who gave the name “Coronation Camp” to the campsite as 1953 marked the year of Queen Elizabeth II’s Coronation.

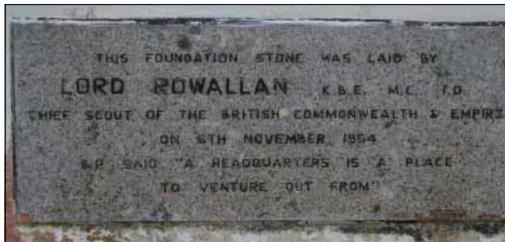


Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of The British Commonwealth arriving at the site of Coronation Camp to lay the cornerstone of the new troop hall.





In 1954, a troop hall and storerooms were constructed at Coronation Camp. The start of construction was officiated by Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of The British Commonwealth on 6 November 1954. A big rally was organized at the campsite during which Lord Rowallan was ferried across Waterfall River by Sea Scouts to lay the cornerstone of the new troop hall. Two years later, four bathrooms and four toilets were constructed and added to these campsite facilities.



Above: Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of The British Commonwealth laying the cornerstone for the Coronation Camp troop hall.

The first Camp Warden was Mr Yeoh Cheng Wah, followed by Mr Jamboo Rajah, Mr Paul Kandasamy, Mr Lim Eng Ghee, Mr Ho Wai Foon, Hj Hussain bin Che Mat, Mr Wong Soon Lee, Mr Benny Toolseram and Mr Tan Chooi Poh.

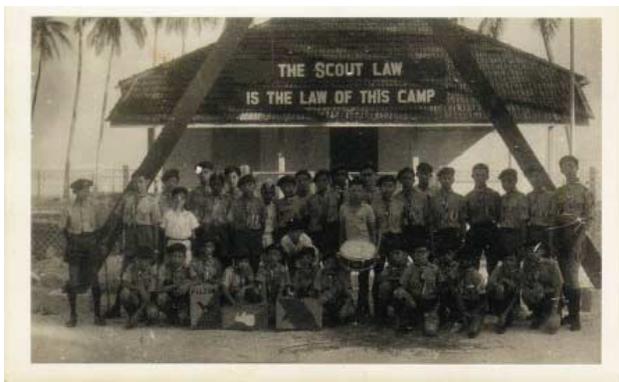
In 1967, Mr Yeoh Phee Tin, Penang State Scout Commissioner at that time, directed 10 hutments from the first Malaysian Jamboree in Teluk Bahang be transferred to Coronation Camp. From that year onwards, the Scouts were spared the chores of lugging heavy canvas tents to the Camp, digging trenches and being invariably soaked by the monsoons in poorly pitched tents!



A gathering at Jubilee Camp on 4 December 1953

The camp's fixed kitchen was donated by the King Scout Council in 1975. As several jamborettes were held in conjunction with the World Jamboree, more bathrooms and toilets were built to accommodate the large number of Scouts in 1971 and 1975.

In 1985, the Malaysian Girl Guide Jamboree was held at Coronation Camp and 30 portable bathrooms, together with a network of two-inch water pipes costing RM5,000.00 were installed on the site. Subsequently several thousand Ringgit was spent in the installation of spotlights throughout the campsite for children's one-night camps, campfires and night games. Fluorescent-tube lights were also installed in the troop hall and in the hutments.



The headquarters building of Jubilee Camp with 7GT(N) Falcon, Rhino and Heron Patrols standing before it for a group photograph after a weekend camp in the mid-1960s.

In 1998, Camp Warden Benny Toolseram and his campsite management team managed to raise funds to renovate the whole campsite, including the bathrooms and hutments.

The Penang Scouts withdrew from Coronation Camp in 2006 as its inclusion in the Special Area Plan of the Penang Botanic Gardens did not permit its continued usage as a campsite.

On the other side of the hills, Jubilee Camp is now a quiet stretch of beach. All that remains of its Scouting past is its name – Jubilee Camp Beach. The Scouts of 7GT(N) currently hold all their camps in the heart of George Town – upon the school field.

Scouting at SXI

Eight decades of memorable history

Scouting began in St. Xavier's Institution (SXI) in the early 1930s. The man who made it possible was the first Scout Master at SXI, the late Mr Sham Sui Kam, well known as one of the prominent pioneers of Scouting in Penang. He had been involved in the Scout Movement since 1917. In 1932, he initiated efforts to organize a new troop in the school, thus writing a new chapter in the history of SXI with the founding of the distinctive Seventh George Town (North) Scout Group. Over the years its initials "7GT(N)" became well known throughout the school and the state.

SXI Scouting during the prewar years was very much the same as it is today. Activities and weekly meetings were held, with occasional outings, participation in parades, and frequent rendering of public service to George Town.

In less than a decade after the founding of The Group, the Second World War broke out, bringing all Scouting activities to a sudden halt. The War saw bombs dropped on the magnificent, classically designed school buildings. SXI was razed to the ground. Students returning to school after The War were housed in classrooms sheltered by roofs made from *attap* leaves.

However, the aftermath of The War did not curtail Xaverian Scouting for long. The Seventh was immediately revived. By 1960 the rising number of Scouts led to the formation of First and Sixth George Towns' (North). St. Xavier's Branch School and La Salle School also established their own troops. The Xaverian B-P Guild was eventually formed by past members to stay in touch with SXI and Scouting.

Scouting became such a major activity among the Lasallian Schools in the 1960s that a Majlis Perkumpulan Pengakap (Scouts Council) comprising the Scouters, Brother Director and Headmasters of the Schools was formed to oversee activities of The Movement.

Seated, left to right:
Mr A.J. Williams,
Mr Lim Gim Boon (Treasurer,
Brother Director (Chairman/Sponsoring
Authority),
Mr Ong Keng Thoe (Auditor),
Mr Gan Eng Guan (Secretary),

Standing, left to right:
GSM 7GT(N) Lim Bian Tee,
Bro Rupert Kunzelmann (District
Commissioner),
GSM 6GT(N) Kok Weng Fai

Absent:
GSM 1GT(N) Ambrose Michael,
Dr Soon Cheng Hoe



Majlis Perkumpulan Pengakap in 1963

First George Town (North)



In spite of its preminent number, First George Town (North) was the youngest. The Troop was founded in 1960; almost three decades after 7GT(N), the oldest Xaverian Troop. By 1963, Group Scout Master Ambrose Michael, Scout Master Peter Yong and Assistant Scout Master Teh Peng Hooi were leading 20 Seniors and 20 Boys Scouts. The 1GT(N) Cub Pack was also doing well under the leadership of Ms Mah Kit Cheng. She had 18 Cubs under her charge.

1GT(N) was faring very well within three years of its establishment. Its Drake Patrol won second prize at the Christian Brothers' Schools Camporee. There were 11 First Class Scouts in the Troop. Two other Scouts had gained the Bushman's Thong and were well on their way to earning the Pengakap Raja. A year later saw four 1GT(N) Scouts being conferred the Pengakap Raja. They were: Allelyne Boudville, Chow Tak Sim, Wong Kam Hoong and Wong Kam Tuat.

However, the size of the Troop was reduced afterwards. In 1968 it had a total of 30 Scouts. Choong Kian Leong was the Troop Leader of the Senior while Chin Cheow Kong was the Troop Leader of the Boy Scouts.



1GT(N) Troop photograph taken in 1963.



Drake Patrol, the Runner-Up at the CBS Camp.



1GT(N) Cub Pack in 1964.

The early years of 1GT(N)

BY JOHN TAN HONG KUAN

1961 According to the *Xaverian Magazine* 1960/61: “18 scouts from the 1GT(N) formed the nucleus of the new troop established on 1 March 1961” under the charge of SM Ambrose Michael. The new 1GT(N) Boy Scout Troop had four Patrols led by PLs Lim Kar Seang, Alleyne Boudville, Phang Yoon Lum, and Loh Kok Yin. Weekly meetings were held on Friday afternoons in the school field so as not to clash with the 6GT(N) and 7GT(N) Troops which had their’s on Saturday mornings. Patrol competitions were organized, knot - tying skills were practised, yells and songs were taught during the meetings. Tests for the Tenderfoot and Second Class badges were taken by SM Ambrose Michael. A troop weekend camp was held in Coronation Camp – on the first night it was raining so heavily that all the tents were flooded and the campers were forced to take shelter and sleep in the HQ hall. It was a cold and miserable night-experience for those 1GT(N) first-timer campers. But every one “passed the test”.

1962 A Patrol Leader’s Training Camp was specially organized for the Patrol Leaders, Seconds and Quarter Masters. A few 7GT(N) Rovers were invited as trainers with the Camp Chief being SM Ambrose Michael assisted by ASM PL Narayanan. The participants were divided into just two patrols.

A lot of “station-training” took place, with patrol members being appointed as PL in rotation to gain practical experience in leading a Patrol. Knots and rope skills, Backwoodsman cooking and tent pitching skills were taught. “The Scout pace” was introduced in our morning exercise of running cum walking around the Botanic Garden led by SM Ambrose Michael. On one occasion at the small swimming pool in Coronation Camp, SM Ambrose Michael threw a challenge to the Scouts, to see who can do the most number of push-ups. He won handily beating out the rest by quite a big margin in spite of his big waist size!

ASM Narayanan led 17 Scouts from the Troop on a hike around Penang Island. It lasted three days and two nights. We started from SXI and took the road heading south to Bayan Lepas Airport; then continued on to Balik Pulau, resting the night in St George’s School hall. We were visited by SM Ambose Michael who arrived on his “postman” motorbike. The second day’s journey was from Balik Pulau to Teluk Bahang. We were walking on blistered feet which had developed from the first day’s walk on the hot asphalt surfaces of roads. The terrain were hilly and winding and a few Scouts took the chance while heading down a valley, to take a short-cut to the next stop in Teluk Bahang! We spent the night at the Girl Guide’s Campground in Teluk Bahang. The third day’s walk was along the winding coastal road transversing Teluk Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjung Bungah to Pulau Tikus, then all the way down Kelawai and Northam Roads arriving home at SXI. It was quite a feat as we were then Second Formers and Junior Scouts of 1GT(N.)

Another memorable event was a Troop hike to Muka Head, led also by ASM Narayanan and ASM Chok Yaw Siong. From Teluk Bahang we hiked across the headland to Muka Head. Then we proceeded to climb the steps leading right up to the lighthouse. We were shown the workings of the lighthouse by its keeper and found it all worthwhile despite the tiring journey up the hill. A group photo was taken at the lighthouse before we left.

We attended the Founder’s day rally at the Wellesley Primary School along Northam Road and was on duty at a painting exhibition at the same school a few months later. Afterwards, we had to pay several

visits to see a teacher, Mr Lim Hun Kung, who was the North District Badge Secretary, to collect our free proficiency badges with our proficiency badge certificate claim-slips.

A few Scouts proudly wore their Green Cords during Troop meetings towards the later half of this year. They had passed their 1st Class Badge and obtained a sufficient number of proficiency badges before their 15th birthday to qualify for the Green Cord award. Going for proficiency badge tests was another form of training for us but a few became so engrossed in it that they became known as “badgehunters”.

We were always looking up the Scout’s notice board for notices of meeting, duties, and proficiency badge applications. We even copied a western-country song “I’m going to leave Old Texas now” which was then been taught during one of the Troop meetings by SM Ambrose Michael. 1GT(N) Senior Troop was soon formed as many who joined when they were in Form 1, had reached the age of 14 and were eligible to be promoted. These were eager to start earning their Senior badges, leading to the *Pengakap Raja* Award.

1963 Junior and Senior Troop meetings were held as usual on Friday afternoons. The only unusual event was when SM Ambrose Michael told us that 1GT(N) Troop would be doing the route march for the Youth Day parade. So we began a month of training in marching skills as a squad (getting into squad position by taking dressing from the left, marching in steps and stopping in unison, rounding a corner, reversal of direction, and doing the “slow march”) under the watchful eyes of our trainer, SM Ambrose Michael. It was much later that we found out that he was a RMNR volunteer!

1964 The 1GT(N) Senior Troop came under the leadership of TL Lim Kar Seang. There were a good number of fresh recruits from Form 4 Science Class and some Form 5 members who were experienced scouts. Meetings were held fortnightly now instead of weekly. The earlier batch of Senior scouts were concentrating on taking the Senior Proficiency badges and the Venturer Badge (Parts I/II/III), aiming for the *Pengakap Raja* Award. The King Scout standardization camp was held towards the end of this year at Coronation Camp.

1965 Four 1GT(N) Senior Scouts, namely: Wong Kam Fuat, Wong Kam Hoong, Alleyne Boudville and Gerard Chow Tak Sim obtained the *Pengakap Raja* Award while Loh Kok Yin got the Bushman Thong Award.

The Senior Troop was now made up of three Patrols with Drake Patrol under PL John Tan, Stevenson Patrol under PL Loh Kok Yin, Cook Patrol under PL Ooi Ping Hong while the TL and four King Scouts formed the HQ Patrol.

SM Chee Khay Huat (an ex-Xaverian and King Scout) conducted one of the Senior Troop meetings at the Coronation Camp. We had one-to-one wrestling matches and were taught how to release an opponent’s stranglehold on our neck and head region. We also took part in tree-climbing and rope-climbing involving tying a highwayman’s hitch over a high tree branch. It was a very unforgettable experience of “real life situations.”

1GT(N) was ungraded to a Scout Group in 1962 with the formation of the 1GT(N) Cub Pack at the Primary School under Miss Mah Kit Cheng and a Boy Scout and Senior Scout Troop and GSM Ambrose Michael became the GSM of the 1GT(N) Scout Group. The Scout’s Roll of Honour Board at the Lasallian Xaverian Centre lists “GSL Ambrose Michael (1962–1967).” The life-span of the Troop was unfortunately a short one; ending in 1968/69 when 1GT(N) faded away.

Sixth George Town (North)

This was the second largest Troop in SXI. It competed with 7GT(N) in popularity among boys enrolling in The Movement. There were 46 Boy Scouts and nine Senior Scouts signed-on with 6GT(N) in 1964.

The Boy Scouts were led by SM Kok Weng Fai, ASM Devinder Singh, ASM Alan de Silva and ASM Chang Sheng Hwa. Senior Scouts were under the leadership of SM Ahmad Faud and ASM Hooi Seam Hean. The Boy Scouts comprised seven Green Corders, 18 Second Class, 17 Tenderfoots and four new recruits. The Senior Scout Troop consisted of seven First Class Scouts and two Second Class Scouts.



6 GT(N) Troop group photograph in 1964.

6GT(N) kept an active programme through the 1960s. Weekly meetings were held on Saturday mornings. In addition to this there were also swimming sessions to prepare the boys for the Swimming Badge as well as the Swimming Test which was part of the First Class Badge cluster of tests. Camps were held through all three school terms at the Jubilee and Coronation campsites. The Troop was also a regular participant in the CBS Camps.

The Troop also rendered community services throughout the year. The Scouts helped out at the SXI School Sports as well as the Convent (Pulau Tikus) Sports. They were also on duty at the annual Corpus Christie Procession of then Assumption Cathedral.

6GT(N) was still going strong in 1968 when it enjoyed an enrolment of 90 among its Scout Troops and Cub Pack. In that year, Lye Tuck Weng was the Troop Leader of the Senior Scouts while Ang Yue Leong was Troop Leader of the Boy Scouts.



Ms Khoo Paik Liew with the 6GT(N) Cub Pack

Seventh George Town (North)

Seventh George Town (North) was a well established 30-year old Troop by the Sixties. It had grown to be the largest Troop in the North District in 1965 when 7GT(N) had a total enrolment of 155 – comprising 10 Scouters, 15 Rovers, 34 Senior Scouts, 76 Boy Scouts and 20 Cubs. The weekly Patrol and Troop Meetings were fiercely competitive. The winners received much treasured plastic shields. DSP Dershan Singh donated 100 of these shields in 1963 to the Troop.

Rhino Patrol won the prestigious Challenge Shield of the Boy Scout Section of the CBS Camp held on 20–23 April 1965. Competitors in this Section were tested on leadership, Scoutcraft, cooking, pioneering and general knowledge. Heron Patrol had won the same Challenge Shield the year before when Fox Patrol ranked Second.

The Senior Scouts played an active role in activities organized for the Boy Scout Troop. The Seniors also helped in running the three training camps held throughout 1968 for the Boy Scouts when Dominic Boudville was the Troop Leader for the Senior Scouts He worked closely in these activities with Patrick Chin who was the Boy Scout Troop Leader.

The Senior Scouts held their own forthrightly meetings. Some of these were held after sunset at the Coronation Camp when night-stunts were conducted. The Seniors also ran life-saving training sessions at Miami Beach.

The Rover Crew was led by Rover Mate Teh Kim Kow in 1968. They were busy assisting in the running of 1GT(N) and 6GT(N) Senior Scout Troops in addition to their own programme of activities.



7GT(N) Rovers I in 1968



7GT(N) Senior Scout Troop in 1964



7GT(N) Boy Scout Troop in 1964



7GT(N) GSM Khoo Heng San was awarded the Malaysian Chief Scout's Commendation or Kepujian Pengakap Agung in 1964. He received the award from the Malaysian Chief Commissioner YB Tuan Syed Esa bin Alwee. The Commendation recognised the many years of active service on George Town (North) District. He was later appointed Assistant State Commissioner from 1984–2001 and State Scout Commissioner from 2001–03



7GT(N) Cub Pack in 1968 with Ms Khoo Poh Sen.



Boy Scouts helping themselves to breakfast at a training camp held at Coronation Camp.

For many members of 7GT(N) the Troop was their home away from home. Many of the boys would head directly to the Troop noticeboard during recess to check for the latest notices pinned up by their Patrol and Troop Leaders about meetings and planned activities. This was also the place to hang-out with their friends. Many lifelong friendships were forged there.

A fun chore after school was to be rostered by GSM Khoo to help in duplicating song-books and newsletters for the Troop. These were published in GSM Khoo's house at Macalister Road on a spirit duplicator cranked by the boys while GSM Khoo would type away at his Remington typewriter. All ancient technologies unknown to Scouts of 7GT(N) today!

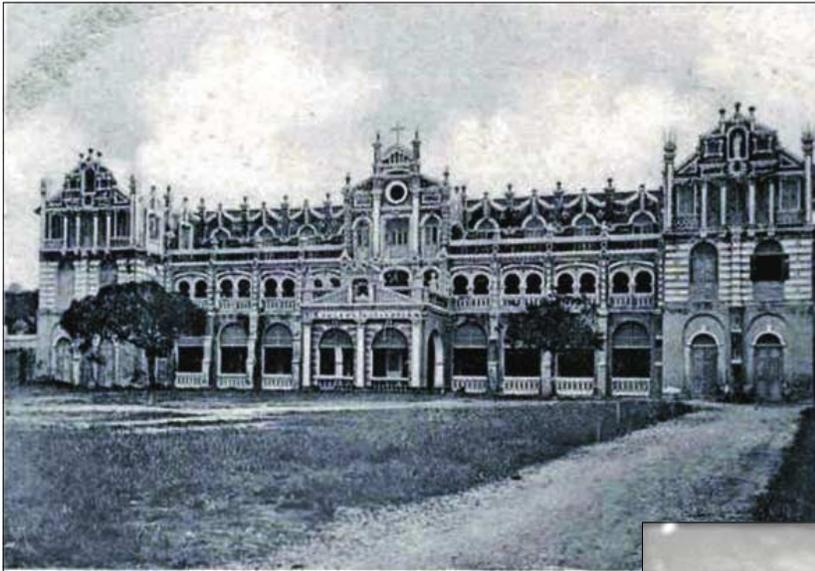
Seventh George Town (North) Founder

SHAM SUI KAM was a student of St Xavier's Institution. He began working for his alma mater as a clerk in 1924 upon completion of his schooling. He then switched to teaching in the School in 1926 and became a qualified teacher in 1929.

He launched Scouting at SXI three years later in 1932 when he established 7GT(N) Troop.

His pioneering contributions to The Movement were acknowledged via his appointment as Assistant Settlement Scout Commissioner. He was also Penang's first Queen Scout standardiser.

Sui Kam taught at SXI until he was appointed Headmaster of Assumption School in Butterworth. He retired in 1957 due to ill health and passed away decade later. Besides Scouting Sui Kam was also an enthusiastic supporter of the SXI School Orchestra. He is remembered as a very popular teacher, headmaster and Scouter.



Left: This 1857 photograph of an early building that housed St Xavier's Institution was built in baroque architectural style with an elaborate facade.

Bottom right: A close-up of the facade where the name of the school is visible below the statue of Saint Jean-Baptiste de La Salle.

Bottom left: A 1940 photograph of the renovated school building where Sui Kam first studied and later taught. The renovation had removed the elaborate baroque facade. During the Second World War, the Japanese Navy occupied this school building as its headquarters. Towards the end of The War; in 1944, the British Royal Air Force and the United States Army Air Force bombed various targets in George Town, including St. Xavier's Institution.



Centenary Honours

Scouters and SXI alumni who had supported The Movement were presented with the *Peringatan 100 Tahun Pingat* to acknowledge their contributions in December 2009. The ceremony held at the Hotel Seri Malaysia ballroom in Kepala Batas, Penang was presided over by Dato' Seri Dr Shafie bin Mohd Salleh, Chief Scout of Malaysia on 20 December 2009. The ceremony was part of the worldwide celebrations of The Centenary of Scouting. Among the Xaverian Scouters who received the commemorative medal were Messrs Khoo Heng San, Lim Eng Ghee and Neoh Dian Bin.

GSM Neoh Dian Bin was also one of a dozen Scouters who was awarded the *Pingat Perkidmatan Lama* for his many years of service for The Movement at the same ceremony.

Right: Recipients of the *Peringatan 100 Tahun Pingat* from left to right: Former Xaverian Khoo Beng Huat; former GSM Khoo Heng San and former Xaverian Tan Chong Eu.



Right: Dato' Seri Dr Shafie bin Mohd Salleh, Chief Scout of Malaysia (third from left) congratulating former GSM Khoo Heng San as Scouters from Penang look on.



History of Seventh George Town (North)

ADAPTED FROM *The Seventh*, 1992

1932

MR SHAM SUI KAM, well known as one of the prominent pioneers of Scouting in Penang founded Seventh George Town (North) Scout Group in 1932.

In less than a decade after the founding of the Troop, World War II broke out, bringing all Scouting activities to a sudden halt. Penang was captured by Japanese forces on 19 December 1941. Occupation of Penang would last nearly four years. The Japanese finally surrendered to British forces on 6 September 1945 thereby bringing an end to the War in Penang. The Seventh George Town (North) was quickly revived. The Troop resumed fulfilling its “Duty to God, King, Country and the Community.” Our Scouts of 1932 through today have always retained a keen sense of adventure and responsibility.

This chapter highlights some milestones in the 80 years of history of 7GT(N). Do let us know if we missed significant events so that we can complete this chronicle. Most of the earliest markers have been lost with the passage of time; we begin chronicling our history here about two decades after the founding of the Group:

The Missing Milestones

We have two large gaps in our history which we are trying to fill. Please email us at XaverianScouts@gmail.com if you have information about key events connected to Scouting at SXI that occurred from **1932–1950** and from **1992–2014**.

Please also email us if you notice **corrections that need to be made** in the current version of this ebook

1951

- TL Tan Ban Teik represented SXI at the Malayan Jamborette in August.

1953

- On 26–27 October, we staged two plays entitled *Atomic Water* and *Musical Robots* as items in the Scout Concert held to raise funds for the building of the Kuala Lumpur Scout Headquarters. Our “stars” shone through their lively performances.
- 7GT(N) participated in the First Penang Scouts Combined Route March.

1955

- At the official opening of the new SXI building on 5 August, our Scouts had the privilege to form the Guard-of-Honour which was inspected by Mr J.S.H. Cunygham Brown OBE, MCS, Municipal President of Penang.
- 7GT(N) staged *It's Great Great Game*, the first Scouts Gang Show in Penang, with the help of our sister Troop, 9GT(N) and 26GT(N) on 21–22 January. Scoutmaster Mr D.M. Scott did most of the spade work. He was ably assisted by Scoutmaster Mr Ng Kum Cheong. The Gang Show proved to be a successful and memorable event. A total of \$1,275 was collected from the show; 40 percent of which went to the SXI Building Fund, 40 percent to our own Scout Group and the remaining 20 percent to the Penang Scout Council.

1957

- The formation of the Rover Crew made 7GT(N) a complete Group, comprising the four units of Boy

Scouts, Venture Scouts, Cub Scouts and Rover Scouts.

- Our Scouts participated in the parade to welcome His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh during his brief visit to Penang.

1959

- PL Thomas Chee Kay Huat was selected to represent the George Town (North) District at the 10th World Scout Jamboree, held in Philippines from 17–26 July.

1960

- Francis Lim Hock Hye represented the George Town (North) District at the Golden Anniversary Jamboree in Singapore.

1961

- Fox Patrol from the Boy Scout Unit emerged the Federal Champion in the National Patrol Log Book Competition.
- Thomas Loh, Chuah Gim Seng and Paul Wong represented 7GT(N) at Camporee in Kem Semangat, Kuala Lumpur.

1962

- Heron and Wood Pigeon Patrols from the Boy Scout Unit were the Penang State Champions in the Scoutcraft Competition

1963

- Three out of the four Scouts who represented the Federation of Malaya at the 11th World Jamboree in Greece were from 7GT(N).
- The first Christian Brothers' Schools (CBS) Camporee was organized in Teluk Bahang. The brainchild of Bro Rupert Kunzelmann, the camp aimed to promote friendship, understanding and brotherhood among the Scouts of Christian Brothers' Schools throughout Malaysia (including Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore) in addition to upgrading the standard of Scouting.

1964

- 7GT(N) represented the State of Penang in the National Scoutcraft Competition.
- We won the Second Prize for the Best Decorated Stall at the Scout Carnival.
- The Rover Crew once again organized the CBS Camporee. Heron Patrol from the Boy Scout Unit won the Rev Brother Visitor's Challenge Shield as Overall Champion. The patrol was also First in the Boy Scout Section while Second placing went to Fox Patrol, also from 7GT(N). In the Senior Section, Drake Patrol from our Venture Unit was First.
- The GSM Bro Rupert Kunzelmann was awarded the Medal of Merit by Chief Minister Dato' Wong Pow Nee PMN, an ex-Xaverian himself.

1965

- The 3rd CBS Camporee was organized by the 7GT(N) Rover Crew. Rhino Patrol from our Boy Scout Unit won the Rev Bro Director's Challenge Shield at the Camporee which was declared open by the Rev Bro Visitor.
- Scoutmaster Khoo Heng San was awarded the Malaysian Chief Scouts' Commendation (*Kepujian Pengakap Agong*) on 27 March, by the Malaysian Chief Commissioner, YB Tuan Syed Esa Bin Alwee, for his many years of active service in the Scout Movement in George Town (North) District.

1966

- The First Malaysian Scout Jamboree was held in December in Teluk Bahang. More than 40 Scouts from 7GT(N) attended this Jamboree. Our GSM Khoo Heng San was appointed the Aide-de-Camp to the YB Tan Sri Sardon Bin Haji Jubir, Chief Scout of Malaysia.
- Grenfell Patrol from the Venture Unit won the Rev Bro Visitor's Challenge Shield, while Rhino Patrol from the Boy Scout Unit won the Rev Bro Director's Challenge Shield at the Fourth CBS Camporee.

1967

- Boy Scout Ong Jin Leong was chosen to represent George Town (North) District at the 8th Australian Jamboree in December.
- The 5th CBS Camporee was organized by the Rover Crew from 8–11 April. Rhino Patrol emerged Champion in the Boy Scout Section for the third consecutive year. In the Senior Section, our Gino Watkins Patrol was Second.

1968

- PL Lim Hea Leong was a member of the Patrol representing Penang at the National Scoutcraft Competition in Taiping.
- A camp, similar in objectives with the CBS Camporee, the First Malaysian LaSallian Scout Camp, was organized by the Scouts of St. Paul's Institution, Negeri Sembilan at Port Dickson.

1969

- The 6th CBS Camporee was held.

1970

- 7GT(N) organized *Countdown '70*, a variety show on 14 August.
- Rhino Patrol (Boy Scout Troop) and Gino Patrol (Venture Troop) from 7GT(N) were the Champions in the Boy Scout and Senior Sections, respectively, of the 7th CBS Camporee.
- In the Scout Canoe Regatta held on 9 August, 7GT(N) managed to bag 5 gold medals, 3 silvers and 3 bronzes in nine finals to become the overall champion.

1971

- The 8th CBS Camporee was held from 13–16 April. In the Senior Section, Gino Watkins Patrol was the Champion and Darwin Patrol the Runner-up, while Panther Patrol was the Champion for the Boy Scout Section.

- 6GT(N) and 7GT(N) Scout Groups of SXI were merged to form the Seventh George Town (North).
- 7GT(N) Venture Scouts won the first prize in the Founder's Day Campfire, organized by George Town (North) District.
- The Rover Crew chalked up its first major success by emerging joint champions with the 11GT(S) Rover Crew in the First Penang Rovers-Rangers Games Gala.

1972

- A grand dinner was organized in conjunction with the Group's 40th Anniversary celebrations. The Rover Crew organized the 9th CBS Camporee.

1973

- The 10th CBS Camporee was held from 5–6 April at Coronation Camp. The Rover Crew was champion, while the Venture Unit first and second runners-up of the Sedan Chair Race. In the same competition for the Best Decorated Chair, our Venture Scouts came out the champs.
- In the Scout Car Grandprix, we won four golds and one silver out of the six competitions held.

1974

- Tan Moh Kim became the first Scout in Penang to be awarded the Lion's Award for the Most Outstanding Scout of the Year.
- We emerged Champion in the Pioneering Project during the Founder's Day celebration.
- We also emerged Champion in the Soap Box Derby '74.
- The Rovers organized the 11th CBS Camporee.
- 7GT(N) won five prizes in the Scout Car Grandprix.
- In a Camping Exposition competition organized by the State, we managed to win two prizes.

1975

- Rovers organized the 12th CBS Camporee at Coronation Camp. 7GT(N) was Champion in both the Senior and Boy Scout Sections as well as the First Runner-up in the Senior Section.
- Group Scoutmaster Khoo Heng San was appointed District Commissioner of George Town (North) District. He was also awarded the *Pingat Perkhidmatan Baik*.
- We successfully raised the highest sum in Scoutwalk '75.

1976

- 7GT(N) gets a new Scoutmaster from “the land down under”. Royal Australian Air Force Sergeant Rob Gee trains our Scouts in marching, commando techniques, water-sports, and archery.
- We were the Champions in both the Model Bridge and Model Tower competitions, and the Runner-up in the Model Campsite competition, at State level. During Founder’s Day celebration, we won the third prize in the overall competition and we were champions in the Project Competition.
- We finished third at the Flag Display during the Scout Rally.
- 7GT(N) earned the highest amount during Odd Job Week.

1977

- 7GT(N) received the coveted George Davidson’s Memorial Award for being the Most Outstanding Troop in Penang. The award, presented once every five years is given in memory of the late Mr George Davidson, a keen Scouter and an Assistant State Scout Commissioner (1955–60), who met with a tragic air accident in 1969.
- The 14th CBS Camporee was organized by the Rover Crew.

- In conjunction with the 45th Anniversary of 7GT(N), a commemorative magazine was published and a variety show, *Festival of Joy* was organized.

1978

- The Rover Crew organized the 15th CBS Camporee. Four Scouts from 7GT(N) became the first group of Scouts in Penang to obtain their Lencana Jaya.
- Our Venture Scouts won three first prizes at the telematch organized by the 2nd Penang Company.
- Our Boy Scouts won the first prize in the Sketch contest at the MBS Scouts’ Talentime.
- Ng Khai Min won the Lion’s Award for the Most Outstanding Scout in Penang.

1979

- Neoh Beng Hock won the Lion’s Award for the Most Outstanding Scout in Penang.
- The Scout Car Grandprix saw us win 3rd in the Individual event (Chew Chang Huat with “Iron Horse 11”); 3rd in the Relay event (Khoo Kah Jin, Cheah Jin Boon, Kevin Yap and Lim Wooi Beng with “Iron Horse III”).
- The Venture Unit won the Founder’s Day trophy by giving a dazzling performance in a sketch entitled “The Time Explosion”. The Venture Scouts also received the Best Commemorative Badge Design trophy.
- We secured second placing at the Youth Day Parade.
- A group library containing books and magazines on Scouting was set up.
- 7GT(N) was the Badminton champion in the Silver Jubilee Games Carnival of George Town (North).
- The Rover Crew organized the 16th CBS Camporee.

1980

- GSM Khoo Heng San was awarded the *Timbal Pingat Perkhidmatan Baik*.
- Our teams, Sea Horse IV and Sea Horse III, emerged champion and runner-up respectively in the Penning Boat Festival.
- At the 17th CBS Compare, our Venture Unit finished runner-up.
- 7GT(N) won several prizes in the Soap Box Derby.
- Chew Cheng Haut was this year's Lion's Award recipient.

1981

- 7GT(N) earned the highest amount for the Odd Job Week in George Town (North) District. The Group's total collection was \$1,039.45
- The Rover Crew organized the 18th CBS Camporee.

1982

- The Rover Crew organized the 19th CBS Camporee and the George Town (North) District Camp.
- 7GT(N) was the only Troop from Penang to participate in the *Lagu Pengakap Kebangsaan Malaysia* competition.
- We published the widely used Scout handbook, *Gateway to "Lencana Usaha."*
- 7GT(N) became the Champion for the Vocal/Instrumental Section in *Sound 'N' Expression '85*.
- The Rover Crew organized the 20th CBS Camporee.

1984

- 7GT(N) organized for the first time ever, our own Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) station with the call sign 9M2 SXI.
- GSM Khoo Heng San was appointed Assistant State Scout Commissioner of Penang.
- The Venture Scouts won third placing in the 21st CBS Camporee.

1985

- 7GT(N) were Champions in the *Two-Trio Nite* comedy event and the *Pameran Pengakap Sempena IYY*.

1986

- Sea Horse V and Sea Horse IV, the two 7GT(N) teams, did remarkably well in the International Boat Festival. Sea Horse V was the Champion while Sea Horse IV got third placing. The latter also won the Runner-up's title in the UFO Race.
- The 22nd CBS Camporee was held.
- 7GT(N) was the Runner-up in the PLC's Telematch

1987

- The National Scout Council directed that the name "Christian Brothers' Schools Camporee" be changed to "La Salle Combined Schools (LSCS) Camporee". In spite of the change in name, the objectives and spirit of this national-level Camporee were preserved. At this year's 23rd LSCS Camporee, the Venture Unit won the Champion Patrol trophy, the Best Campfire Item and Best Backwoodsman's Cooking prizes, and the "Strong Man" trophy.
- Our exhibits at the *80 Years of Scouting Exhibition* won us the first prize.
- Group Scoutmaster Khoo Heng San was awarded the *Pingat Perkhidmatan Lama*.
- At the *Cook-A-Rama '87*, organized by the 21st Rover Crew, 7GT(N) finished Second Runner-up. We also managed to win the Best Campfire Item Award, the Best Campsite Award and the Best Patrol Leader Award.

1988

- GSM Khoo Heng San was awarded the *Pingat Semangat Rimba*. He also retired from the teaching staff of SXI after 50 years of outstanding leadership of the 7GT(N).

- The Rover Crew organized the 24th LSCS Camporee at the new Teluk Bahang Scout Campsite, and the George Town (North) District Camp. 7GT(N) were Champions in the District Camp.
- 7GT(N) operated its own JOTA station (9M2MW) for the last time prior to the retirement of SXI teacher Mr Malcolm Westwood, who had been its ham-radio operator over the past five years.

1989

- Six Scouts represented 7GT(N) at the Seventh Malaysian Jamboree in Lumut, Perak. Two of them: TL Paxton Loke and PL Philip Lim were awarded the *Anugerah Aktiviti Panglima*.
- The Venture Unit emerged First Runner-up in the Founder's Day Rally.
- All the Venture Scouts who attended the Fifth Penang Jamborette received the Activities Award.
- The Venture Unit won the Best Performance trophy at the 21st Rover Crew's Campfire.

1990

- After a lapse of six years, SXI witnessed the confirmation of five King Scouts. 7GT(N) was most grateful to Mr. Raymond Capel, an ex-ASM of our Troop, for his guidance to these five Scouts.
- The La Salle Combined Schools Camporee celebrated its Silver Jubilee this year. It was held at Coronation Camp from 22–24 May. The Camporee was, for the first time, organized by the Venture Unit.
- A new *La Sallian Patrol of the Year Trophy* was awarded to the Patrol which demonstrated the truest spirit of friendship and participation so as to foster a sense of comradeship and eliminate excessive competitiveness during the camp. A grand dinner was also held at the SXI Heah Joo Seang Hall on the night of 25 May to celebrate the Camporee's 25th Anniversary. State Scout Commissioner Mr Khoo-Yeoh Gan Hong, was the

Guest-of-Honour. 7GT(N) Venture Unit won the *Best Cooks Award* at the Camporee.

- The First Xaverian Scout Family Day, under ARSLs Sean Baptist and Matthew Wong, was organized for members of all the four units of 7GT(N) as well as those from 9GT(N).
- The two Patrols from the Boy Scout Unit were the First and Second Runners-up in the Backwoodsman Cooking Competition.

1991

- Once again, under the notable guidance of Mr Raymond Capel, 7GT(N) set a record when 12 of its Scouts (the highest number ever) passed the King Scout Standardization test.
- 7GT(N) was the first Scout Troop in the State to respond to Chief Minister, Dr Koh Tsu Koon's call to clean up Penang. About 40 Boy Scouts, cheerfully cleared the whole stretch of Gurney Drive as part of their programme during the Troop Training Camp.
- Our Venture Unit was second in both the Backwoodsman Cooking and Orienteering competition while our Boy Scout Unit was third in the Backwoodsman Cooking competition held during JOTA '91 at the Coronation Camp station.
- 7GT(N) was honoured to have been chosen to build the Model Campsite on the occasion of the presentation of King Scout Certificates by His Excellency the Governor of Penang at the Scout Headquarters.
- The Venture Unit emerged Second Runner-up at the Founder's Day Rally.
- We won the Best Item prize at the 7th Ranger Unit's New Year Gathering.
- The Cub Scout Unit and the Venture Unit jointly published *The Seventh*, the diamond jubilee magazine of the Group.

The Missing Milestones

Please email us at XaverianScouts@gmail.com if you know of key events concerning Scouting at SXI that occurred from **1992–2014**.

Khoo Heng San's 30 years leading 7GT(N)

Most Xaverian Scouts from the 1960s identify Mr Khoo Heng San as the rock of Seventh Georgetown (North). He was the reason many of us picked 7GT(N) rather than the “First” or the “Sixth”. However, he has a secret to share: “I was never a Scout in school; I was a bookworm!”

Heng San is from the hardy generation whose childhood was severely disrupted by the Second World War. He was born in Taiping in 1933. He enrolled in Dato Keramat Convent Primary School when his family moved to Penang. Heng San's first attempt at education was in Chinese; and then in Japanese when Penang fell to Japan at the onset of World War II. The Convent was renamed Dato Keramat Gako during the Japanese occupation. He had completed his sixth year of schooling by the time the war ended. But it was a mish-mesh of Malayan and Japanese education that was not acceptable to post-war Malaya. He had to start all over again.

That was how Heng San found himself back in Standard One in SXI in 1946 as an “over-aged boy.” “There were many of us. My classroom was an attap shed in what is now the school field” he recalls. “St Xaviers had the distinction of being bombed twice, once when the Japanese attacked Penang, and the second time when the Allied Forces returned to defeat the Japanese... there wasn't much left of the school after that, hence our attap-shed classrooms.”

“We were too poor after The War for me to join the Scouts or anything as we couldn't afford to pay the subscription, so I happily became a bookworm!” But he was a very active bookworm by all accounts. Heng San was soon handpicked by Bro Basil to be a member of the Fun Fair Committee that was tasked with raising funds to rebuild SXI. “Our attap sheds became food stalls during the fun fairs, we just had to stack all our tables and chairs in one corner.” He was a very active committee member for two years. The rebuilding of the school was completed in 1952, the year he finished his schooling at SXI. He never had the chance to enjoy the new classrooms he had worked hard at raising funds to build. His time in the new school building would come later.

Heng San's affinity with teaching and teachers is revealed in how easily he recalls the names of his teachers at SXI: “Mr Chua Eng Ean Standard 1; Mr Tan Kin Lum Standard 2; Mr Khoo Eng Cheang Standard 3 – who was also the Mathematics teacher; Mr Tan Teik Kooi from Standards 4 to 6; Brother Anthony Standard 7; and Brother Ulrick Standard 8 when we sat for the Cambridge School Certificate.”

Heng San found that he had to get a job after the School Certificate examinations rather than continue on to Higher School Certificate. “I approached Bro Fintan for a teaching post with the school and he immediately posted me to Assumption School in Butterworth; I taught Standard 5 there in 1953. I had to leave my home in Penang every morning at 6:00 am on my bicycle, sailed across to Butterworth on the ferry, and then cycled to the school in time for classes which started at 8.00 am.”



Dato' Seri Dr Shafie bin Mohd Salleh, Chief Scout of Malaysia and GSM Khoo Heng San

Heng San was transferred to SXI Primary School the following year. He could now stop taking his daily ferry trips at sunrise. He found himself happily nominated for “Normal Class” the quirky name given to a teacher-training course. Trainee teachers undergoing the course were allowed only to teach in primary schools. That’s how Heng San found himself back in Standard One for a third time in his life, but this time as a teacher! He taught Standard One for three years from Mondays to Fridays; then attended Normal Class on all his Saturdays. The teacher-training course took three years to complete. He passed his course with flying colours and was presented with the “Normal Class Certificate”. He was finally a full-fledged and trained teacher.

Soon after graduation, Heng San found himself at the start of what would become his life-long career – teaching Science. Mr Ng Kam Cheong, who was teaching Science in Form 5, fell ill and had to be hospitalized. Bro Rupert suggested that Heng San be assigned to replace him.

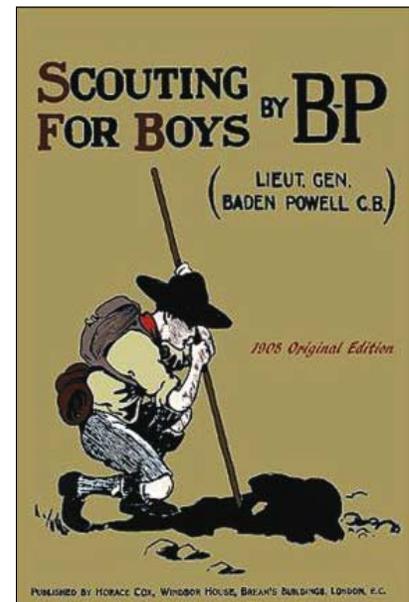
Heng San’s parallel life-long career in Scouting began three years before that. He was made Assistant Scout Master (ASM) as soon as he started teaching in SXI after his transfer from Assumption School. His Scout Master (SM) then was Mr Khoo Eng Cheang. He saw in Heng San the promise of a good SM and within a year stepped aside for Heng San to take over the running of 7GT(N). This was the beginning of nearly three decades of his leadership of the Troop.

Heng San started Scouting at the deep end. He was never a Scout and had to quickly teach himself Scouting. “I bought a copy of *Scouting for Boys* from the now closed News and Periodicals bookstore and read it cover-to-cover” he recalled. That got him started as ASM. In the meanwhile he signed up for the Woodbadge course for Scouters. The course got its name from the tiny pieces of wood chips strung on a leather strap that trainees received when they successfully completed their training.

The course was rigorous and time consuming. First, Heng San had to attend a 14-day training camp held at Coronation Camp (now unfortunately closed and forms an extension to the Botanical Gardens). He then had to write a 1,000-word thesis on Scouting. Then finally, he had to prove that he could run a troop effectively over a three-month period. He received his Two-Bit Woodbadge after he passed all three components of his training. He would soon receive the Third-Bit to his Woodbadge when he began training other Scouters.

Under Heng San’s leadership, Scouting quickly became very popular among the boys in SXI. The membership of 7GT(N) swelled. There was a rule then that each Scout troop should not exceed 32 boys. New troops were formed as membership exceeded the set limit. This led to the formation of First and Sixth Georgetown (North.) For a while Penang was not segmented into the “North” and “South” and 6GT(N) was known as 26GT.

The presence of three troops in SXI inevitably led to “troop-hopping.” Heng San recalls in particular Mr John Chin Nyet Fook’s episode of hopping. He had joined 1GT(N) but soon afterwards wanted to switch to The Seventh. Bro Rupert, the Group Scout Master, got wind of John’s hopping and disallowed him from changing troops. John resisted and elected to go “into the cold” and stayed away from both Troops during the remaining years of his time in School as a pupil. He would return some years after School as an



outstanding volunteer ASM at 7GT(N) and eventually as a very popular SM of 9GT(N), the Troop at St Xavier's Primary School, Pulau Tikus; many of whose members would go on to 7GT(N) when they furthered their secondary education at SXI "Town School."

Ex-Scouts of 7GT(N) remember Heng San's leadership for its firm discipline which made possible safe, healthy fun throughout all our Saturday-morning Troop meetings, and camps during weekends and school holidays. Also fondly remembered were the charming publications Heng San skilfully produced for the different activities. There was *Seventh's Own*, our own Troop bulletin, song sheets, activity booklets, and the neat consent forms which our parents had to sign before we could attend camp or Troop outings.

The publications were printed on Heng San's private printing press – a spirit duplicator which could make about 150 copies from a master that could be prepared in multiple colours. Heng San was very creative in this medium. "I bought the spirit duplicator from one of the shops along Carnarvon Street. It cost about \$150, a very big sum of money then" recalls Heng San. He did nearly all the hand-cranking of the machine in his neat study located on the ground floor of his old house along Macalister Road, now a coffeeshop located directly opposite the Church of Seven Sorrows. The study was lined with floor to ceiling book shelves upon which were systematically arranged different school and Scout project papers, supplies and tools. The priest from across the church was a regular visitor to his study.

The Scouts all considered it a special honour to be invited into Heng San's study after school to help with a necessary and urgent chore. Most of the time it was to help with the collation of printed pages of campfire song books, and occasionally Science and Mathematics class notes. And very rarely to help crank the fascinating spirit duplicator with its faintly alcoholic smell.

Heng San taught Science and Mathematics very successfully for decades to many generations of students. His teaching of Science came to an end by his own choice when the medium of instruction was switched to Bahasa Malaysia. "I had never been taught Bahasa Malaysia in my whole life and now I suddenly find myself having to teach in Bahasa" recalled Heng San, "so I decided to focus on just Maths as it involved fewer Bahasa words – I just had to learn how to say *tambah* and *tolak!*"

At this stage he was already promoted to Supervisor of SXI Secondary School. The School was run by a tribunal comprising Bro Michael (*Lau Hor*), Heng San and Mr Collin Rozelles. "We shared the same office on the ground floor facing a small garden. Master Rozelles and I had to face the irate parents who came to complain about this and that. One of my duties was to prepare the school timetable. So when the switch to Bahasa Malaysia came, I made myself teach all the Maths classes!"

Heng San recalled fondly two episodes of his Scouting career. The first was the start of the Christian Brothers' Schools Camporees (eventually referred to as "CBS Camps" by everyone) in which he played a central part. "The School was finding it difficult to raise the money to send the Scouts to jamborees abroad, so a few of us thought why not hold our own jamborettes among the Brothers' Schools to share Scoutcraft and fellowship? Bro Rupert liked the idea, so that's how CBS Camps started. It continued for years until we were told we had to rename the jamborettes as the LaSalle School Camps. We also formed our Christian Schools Scout Council; Mr James Saw, who was in-charge of St George's Taiping, and I started it."

The second highlight of Heng San's career was when he was appointed as the *aide-de-camp* to Tun Sardon Haji Jubir, the Governor of Penang, during the First Malaysian Jamboree held at Jubilee Camp in Teluk Bahang. "Everyone had a job to do on the organizing committee for the Jamboree except me" Heng San explained in his usual self-effacing fashion, "then the Governor requested for an ADC to guide him around the Jamboree, so they picked me to give me something to do!" The "something" he did gave him a



The 4th CBS Camp was held from 18–21 April 1966. Heng San is standing third from the left wearing his trademark all white shirt and pants instead of a Scouter's uniform. In also his trademark modesty he chose to stand with "his boys" rather than sit with the VIPs in the centre.

front-seat view of Scouting history in the making. It also gave rise to a yarn he enjoys telling. "The sky was dark and threatened to pour just before the official opening ceremony by The Agung. We were all worried. Suddenly Toh Puan Hajjah Saadiah, the Governor's wife, called me over and suggested 'Mr Khoo, the rain will not fall if you stick four onions in the corners of the parade ground.' So off I went to find four onions which I pierced at the end of four satay sticks which I dutifully planted into the four corners of the parade ground. And you know what? Toh Puan Saadiah was right, it did not rain, it only drizzled a little bit!"

Heng San has many happy memories of all the years he devoted to 7GT(N). "I think the mid-1970s were the best years of the Troop. But all the other years were also very good. However, I nearly had heart attacks on more than a few occasions. Once was when I was watching the boys do a rope crossing when one of them suddenly fell from the rope. I was so relieved he only suffered a minor fracture of his arm. Another time, another Scout disappeared from the surface of the sea off Gurney Drive while taking his swimming test. Luckily, one of the Scouts taking the test, Peter Boudville, dived into the sea and rescued him. Then there was this other Scout who was helping us prepare the masters to be used in printing an edition of *Seventh's Own*, however, when the masters were all done, he got into an argument with one of his friends and in a fit of anger tore up all the masters for printing the newsletter that he had spent so much time preparing!"

Heng San led 7GT(N) from 1954 to 1988. Thirty years counting just his tenure as SM, and 35 if you include his year as ASM. He remained active in Scouting until 2007 after retiring from teaching. He was at various times the District Commissioner, Assistant State Commissioner, and State Commissioner. Taken all together, Heng San contributed 55 years to Scouting. He shaped the Scout Moment not only in SXI but also within the State and nationally.

Happy times with the Venture and Boy Scouts

MICHAEL QUAH BAN GIM,
SCOUTMASTER, VENTURE UNIT, 1963-78



I remember the happy times spent with the Boy Scouts and the Venture Scouts for almost 15 years. Mr Khoo Heng San was then the Scouter and I was the Assistant Scouter with Mr Lee Chee Nam and Mr Cosmas Chong.

Time was plentiful then. Life was leisurely. We were keen. The boys were adventurous. The hills, rivers, roads and seas were all around... all inviting... all clean. Every alternate Saturday were therefore outdoors days. We climbed trees, rocks and hills; followed rivers, cooked, camped and swam; fished, rowed and talked delightful nonsense. We had a really great time!

The other Saturdays were always reserved for formal training in Scout craft and Scouting knowledge. From this system of station games, core skills, basic knowledge, attitudes; values and outlook were nurtured. Great Scouts sprang up. Effective leaders developed. Men of calibre were formed. The Scouting system I experienced was *Kurikulum Bersepadu Sekolah Menengah* (KBSM) in action with the mechanisms, spirit and input in smooth running condition!

I remember Mr Khoo Heng San with fondness and reverence. Under his self-effacing guidance, I learnt organization skills and the value of delegation and trust. I appreciated the opportunities that he opened up for me to enable me to develop a problem-solving outlook and the ability to create the tools to solve problems. Perhaps most treasured is the chance to relate with him and many fully alive and caring human beings.

So, I too, have very special memories to celebrate with you. I am confident that you will know how to sieve the truly fine learning opportunities from the rest and be enlightened and enriched in the Scouting system.

If you have the chance, watch the eagles fly in the valley from the Brothers' Bungalow.

Have a vibrant celebration. Congratulations for coming this far.

Refections of a Scouter at 7GT(N)

PAUL HOE-KIN ANG
ASSISTANT SCOUT MASTER

The 7th George Town (North) Scout Group, since its formation in 1932, has always been a Group that is united, dedicated and disciplined. The Group, comprising Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rovers, is one of the most outstanding Scout Group in Penang. Members of the troop have excelled in their careers, and we are proud to put on record that one of them was Penang State's first Chief Minister while another was the Minister of Finance II. Still another is the founder of the famous Buddhist sanctuary in Taiping. Its Scouts and Scouters have organized countless projects and activities throughout the years and maintained a high standard of Scouting in the group over more than seven decades.

The Group has been led by GSM Mr Lim Eng Gee since 1997. The group accomplished many achievements under his guidance. He left the Group and the School in December 2004, The Group has since been led by GSM Mr Neoh Dian Bin until today.

The office bearers of the Group consists of the Third Formers who run the Boy Scouts Troop, and the Fifth Formers who take charge of the Venture Scout Troop and also assist in the running the Boy Scout Troop. The Sixth Formers run the Rover Section and also help oversee the running of the Scout Group as a whole. A number of Scouts of the Group and have completed their schooling have returned to serve the Group as Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters.



Scouters who led 7GT(N) over the decades.

The Group hosts a number of events each year for its members. The Investiture is a ceremony during which the Group admits the new Scouts who have passed their Tenderfoot test. The Group Training Camp (formerly known as the Troop Training Camp) is another annual event of the Group. The Xaverian Scout Day is a day camp that facilitates bonding among SXI Scouts from both the Xaverian primary and secondary schools. SXI's campfires regularly see a coming together of fellow scouts and guides from schools all over Penang and neighbouring states when friendship among the schools is strengthened. The Green Hike is held annually without fail by the Group. In 2002, the Group had the honour to be the host of the 34th La Salle Combined Schools Camporee (formerly known as Christian Brothers' Schools Camporee). The Group also organized the George Town (North) District Camp on behalf of the District in 2004 and, in the same year, we also helped in the running of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society Island Chapter's Campcraft Camp.

The Group has also made its mark in numerous events outside school. We were the Overall Champion of the Join-In 20th World Scouts Jamboree in 2003 and also emerged as the Overall Champion in the 36th La Salle Combined Schools Camporee held in Singapore in 2004. The Group has also participated in the Jamboree-on-the-Air/Jamboree-on-the-Internet (Jota/Joti) which is held annually by the State in conjunction with the world celebration of the event during the third weekend of October. In 2005, ten Scouts from the 7th Georgetown (North) Scout Troop joined 11 other participants from the State to represent Penang at the 25th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree held in Sattahip, Thailand.

The Group has also attended many other Scouting and Guiding gatherings and campfires organized by other schools, including the Convent Light Street's Gathering, St. George's Girls School's Gathering and Westland High School's Campfire.

7th George Town (North) is also active in exchanging ideas and skills with other schools. That is why the group attends events such as the Methodist Boys School's Annual Cooking Competition. This event enables Scouts and Guides from different schools to exchange tips and skills in cooking and gadgetry, while enjoying a little competition at the same time.

The Group has invested much effort in training our Scouts in the requirements for qualifying as a King Scout. We also train our Scouters in obtaining their Woodbadge. Test-taking sessions are conducted during Scout Meetings by Senior Scouts. We also organize the First-Aid Course, Fire-Fighting Course and Life-Saving Course each year with the help of various trainers. The Scouts also attend training camps organized by the State Training Team. These include the Adventure Camp, Patrol Leaders' Course and Woodbadge Courses.

The Scouts of the 7th Georgetown (North) Scout Group hold firmly to their promise, to help those in need. Members of the Group carry out duties during school events such as the Annual Sports Day and Cross-Country Run in this spirit. They also help out with events outside of the school such as Starwalk, Penang Bridge Run and the Wesak Day Procession. The Scouts were also active in helping the victims of the tsunami that hit the shores of Penang in 2004.

With might and pain, the 7th Georgetown (North) Scout Group will strive in pursuit of the laurels of victory. Though the long road to success may be tiresome and endless, the Scouts are blessed with zest and strength and will march on till the end. The fellowship amongst brother Xaverian Scouts never died and will never die – it shall live on in our hearts. It is hoped that with this immortal fellowship, and the strong determination of the young Scouts, the future of Scouting at SXI will attain greater heights.

We Salute Leaders of The Seventh

REPRINTED FROM *1932–1992:
SIX DECADES OF FUN, ADVENTURE AND PROGRESS*

Message from Ng Hum Cheong GSM (1955-60)



I joined the Seventh George Town (North) Group as a young Assistant Scoutmaster way back in 1948. My superior Scouters at that time were Group Scoutmaster (GSM) Mohammed Khan bin Ghouse Khan, Senior Scoutmaster Khoo Eng Cheang and Scoutmaster Lee Ah Bah, all of whom have since been called to “Higher Service.” I took over as GSM in 1955.

Among the many activities of the SXI and SXBS Scout Groups, I look back with fond nostalgia on three outstanding events. They were the Combined Route March of the Penang Scouts in 1953, the SXI and SXBS Scouts’ Gang Show in 1955, and the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Penang in 1957.

The Combined Route March was held to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. Each school had to despatch a contingent of 42 Scouts and two Scouters. In our case, selection was made from three Scout Groups, namely the 7GT(N) and 26GT(N) (N) Groups of SXI and the 9GT(N) Group of SXBS. Scoutmaster Yap Boon Chuan of the SXBS was my second-in-command. After months of intense practice we marched smartly and proudly through the heart of the City, paralyzing all traffic! Crowds lined both sides of the road to see us. Some of the policemen on duty even saluted us! As far as I know, this was the only Route March of Scouts held in Penang after World War II.

The old SXI building was bombed out during The War. We moved into the new building in January 1954, but the new school hall was not ready for use until January 1955. The SXI and SXBS Scout Groups had the rare honour of being the first to put up our Gang Show in this new hall. It netted more than \$2,500 which was a princely sum in those days. Forty percent of this money went to the SXI School Building Fund, 20 percent to the Penang State Scout Council and 40 percent to our own Group Funds.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh paid a visit to Penang in 1957. To welcome him, we put up a Scout Rally at the Residency. Our Scouts built a pontoon bridge and a monkey bridge across the river. We invited HRH to walk across our two bridges but he politely declined. The 7GT(N) Group is now 60 years old. It has always taken the lead in Scouting activities in the state. It is my earnest hope that you will keep our old Scout flag flying high!

Message from Lim Bian Tee GSM (1961-63)



Scouting is my life. I have spent a great part of my youth in Scouting; starting as a Cub until I ended up as a Rover. I am proud of being associated with the 7GT(N) Scout Group not only as a Scout but as one of the GSM's at St Xavier's Institution. My former Scouters were the late Mr Mohammed Khan and Mr Ng Kum Cheong under whom I learned a great deal about Scouting. I was a Troop Leader under Mr Ng Kum Cheong.

My former Scouts are doing very well in the private sector e.g. Mr Thomas Chee Khay Huat, Dr Leonard Chan, Dr Khoo Khay Huat and many others. My fellow colleagues in Scouting were Mr Khoo-Yeoh Gan Hong, Mr S. Kandasamy, Mr Khoo Heng San, Mr Tan Ah Bah and the late ex-State Commissioner Mr Ho Wai Foon.

Though other uniform units may be attractive and challenging, I chose Scouting because it is service-oriented. The various functions in the school, state and country have seen Scouts on duty e.g. funfairs, processions, marathons, school sports etc. They are the first to report for duty and the very last to go home, always with the Scout Promise in mind: "I promise to do my best—to help others at all times."

There is great fun in Scouting such as the time spent under canvas, at campfires, chasing after Scout badges, hiking, and working for the King Scout Badge of Honour.

St Xavier's Institution has produced many great Scouts and Scouters under the banner of the 7GT(N) Scout Group such as Dato' Mohamed Sophie and the late Mr Jimmy Boyle to name a few.

I end by wishing the present Scouts of the 7GT(N) all the very best in Scouting. Never shirk or be afraid of service to others and most of all honour the uniform you are wearing. It means a lot to your being a part of the World Brotherhood of Scouting, serving your community and Malaysia. Carry on the good work.

Message from Khoo Heng Sane GSM (1964-88)



Today, you are a Boy Scout. By 2020 you are already a man, perhaps a prominent leader in society. It all depends on how you prepare yourself for it.

Scouting does play its part in giving the necessary push you need in your journey to adulthood.

Every boy believes that it is fun to be a Scout. It is lovely to go hiking and camping. It is nice to make new friends through the Scout smiles and community service. It is heavenly to sing and act in campfires.

But Scouting is much, much more than just having fun through living a healthy life, physically and morally.

Your life as a Scout will keep you alert and make you self-reliant. It is a fact that Scouting skills never fail to develop a boy into a complete man as long as he continues to follow the rules faithfully and systematically.

I take this opportunity to wish all leaders and Scouts of SXI every happiness and success in the future.

9GT(N) of St Xavier's Branch School

Branch School in Pulau Tikus enjoyed active Scouting programmes quite isolated from the “Town School” at Farquahar Street. The 9GT(N) Group had a Boy Scout Troop and a Cub Pack. As the only uniformed group in the School in the 1960's, 9GT(N) Scouts were busy mounting honour guards in addition to regular activities such as learning to tie knots, yells and even Backwoodsman cooking in the hills above Mount Erskine.



Above 9GT(N) Scout Troop in 1964 led by ASM Looi Tuck Lim, ASM Hor Kok Meng and ASM Lim Eng Ghee.



Left 9GT(N) Cub Pack in 1964 led by CM Lee Lai Hee and ACM Yap Boon Lee.

Right: The Scouts and Cubs mounting a Guard of Honour to welcome the visit of Brother Superior General Nicet-Joseph to St Xavier's Branch School on 29 June 1962.

On the right of Brother Superior is SM Dudley Rozells and on his left ASM Looi Tuck Lim. The Scouts had made themselves a new staff each from branches of trees for the occasion.



The Branch School in the 1960s and '70s

BY LOOI TUCK LIM



9GT(N) Troop photograph in 1968.

St Xavier's Branch School, affectionately nicknamed "Branch School" by everyone, operated from two locations in Pulau Tikus until the early 1960s. Standards 1 to 3 were based in the old Teoh Mansion (also called Poh Tay House) which still stands on the opposite side of Burmah Road to the Pulau Tikus Convent. The older boys from Standards 4 to 6 studied in the school block built along the Kelawei Road end of the large compound that also housed The Seminary. This block has been torn down and the site build-over as a part of the Paragon shopping mall. It housed St Xavier's Private School in later years, and then DISTED College before the grounds were sold to the developer of the mall and supercondos that now occupy the Seminary's compound. The top floor of the Kelawei block had collapsing doors separating classrooms, when these doors were opened up the whole floor became one big hall that hosted many happy, cheap movie matinees for the boys during the weekends. The "new" school building on Jalan Brother James was completed in the early '60s when all the classes were brought back together under "one roof".

Branch School was, and still is, home to a very active Scout Troop. There was also a lively Cub Pack for the younger boys from Standards 1 to 3. The Scouts all belonged to the Ninth George Town (North) – or 9GT(N) in short. The Troop was led by GSM Mr Dudley Rozells in the late 1950s and early '60s. He had succeeded in building a large troop of about 30 to 40 Scouts by the time I joined as an ASM in the early 1960s. I had taken up Scouting when I trained as a teacher at the "DTC" (Day Training Centre) and was assigned to assist Mr Rozells as soon as I joined Branch School. Mr Rozells eventually migrated to Australia and I took over from him as GSM.

Mr Ong Keng Thoe was the strict but very fair and caring Headmaster during those years. He was very supportive of the Troop and kept an eye on our activities, often standing at the door of his office – we had moved into to our new school building along Jalan Brother James by this time – watching the patrols go about their activities on the school field. Mr Ong, although respected as a disciplinarian, is also

remembered fondly by many old boys for his impish sense of humour, he used to tell the boys in school that he “lived on the Moon”. This was during the time of the Apollo Moonshots so his strange claim to out-of-the-world domicile captured the imagination of his pupils. His claim was not untrue – he lived in a house in Fettes Park located on Jalan Bulan!

Scouting remained popular with the boys right through the ‘70s. Mr Hor Kok Meng became the ASM for the Troop and was a very able colleague who was a tremendous help in leading 9th GT(N). During most years we had enough Scouts in the Troop to form four to five patrols. The boys were free to choose the names for their patrols – which were all named after animals and birds – as long as they were able to mimic the cries or calls of their patrol mascot which they used in mustering their fellow patrol members during activities and assemblies.

The Scouts met every Saturday for meetings when school was in session. A typical troop meeting would begin at 8.30 am and usually lasted until 12 noon, and often later if the boys were engrossed in their activities. The meetings followed the prescribed programme published in the Scouting handbook. The first part of each Saturday morning was spent on learning about the ‘theory” of Scouting. This included the Scout Law, first-aid, tying knots, making gadgets, updating log-books, taking tests for badges, and so on.

The second part of the meetings was probably what the Scouts relished the most. The boys would assemble as patrols under the leadership of their Patrol Leaders and Patrol Seconds. They would then compete in activities I had organized, or play a game. I would spend my Friday nights planning these activities. During the monsoon season when I expected rain to washout outdoor activities, I would make backup plans for indoor activities that could be held in the classrooms, canteen or along the corridors of the School.

Some of the 9GT(N) favourite activities were tracking, cooking and treasure-hunts. Patrols were awarded points for how well they performed in the activities and their points totalled up at the end of the year to pick the winning Patrol-of-The-Year, and the Patrol-Leader-of-The-Year. All the boys knew the stakes were high and worked hard at these activities. I remember the competition was very keen and enthusiastic during most of the years. The competition was splendid leadership training for the Patrol Leaders and Seconds. Similarly, the other members of the patrols learnt how to work with their peers and leaders on tasks to advance the shared interests of the group.

We also picked the Scout-of-The-Year from these activities. He would usually receive a very handsome hard-cover book about Scouting imported from the United Kingdom as his prize. This lucky Scout would also be the only prize winner to turn up in school wearing his Scout uniform to receive his prize from The Rev Bro Director, who was the frequent guest-of-honour during Speech Days. The Scout-of-The-Year would also salute and shake the hands of Bro Director with his left-hand – in Scouting tradition – it was good publicity for the Troop to recruit new Scouts when the new School-year opened after the long December holidays that followed Speech Days! The winning patrols would receive food items at the end of the year. It would be some sweet treat most years. The Scouts loved to eat!

The boys were also very fond of our annual outings. These one-day trips alternated between hikes up Penang Hill, and picnics by the sea, usually on Miami Beach. The Scouts were not allowed to go into the sea when we went to the beach as there were not enough lifeguards to keep everyone safe. The patrols would cook and play games on the beach and returned home with sea-sand sticking to and falling from their clothes and knapsacks! We also organized annual camps on the school-field. For some of the boys, the camps were the first occasions when they spent a night under the stars and away from their family and home.

It was great to see the boys having fun during the Scout meetings and outings. The teachers of those days maintained very strict discipline in the classes and the boys were rarely permitted to play or run around the school compound. Scout meetings not only permitted them to do so, but encouraged it! The '60s and the '70s was when the youth relished “the smell of the jungle and the roar of the tigers,” and found thrill in engaging with the outdoors. Society has changed significantly during the three decades that followed and the youth of today may not share this enthusiasm for Nature.

I stepped down as GSM for 9th GT(N) in 1974 to focus on my work as the Secretary of the Penang State Scout Council. During those years teachers from the LaSalle Schools played very active roles in leading Scouting activities across the State. The State Scout Commissioners and main office bearers of the Council were nearly always appointed from among staff of the LaSalle Schools. The Branch School Troop continued to thrive in the '80s, '90s and in the New Millenium under GSMs that included Mr Hor Kok Meng, Mr John Chin Nyet Fook,

St. Xavier's Branch School Cub Pack 1963-73

BY YEAP BOON LEE

I was posted to St Xavier's Branch School, Pulau Tikus in 1963 to teach Standard 1B after my graduation. The School was managed at that time by Headmaster, Mr Ong Keng Thoe. The Cub Pack (Pengakap Kanan Kanak) was open to boys from Standards 1 to 3 while the Scout Troop was for boys from Standards 4 to 6.

My Scout Master was Mr Teh Lai Hee and I was his Assistant. Every Saturday, we had our Cub meetings from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the School compound. Attendance was good; even on rainy days when we held our meetings in one of the classrooms. My Cub Pack had an average of 50 members. Our uniforms were all brown and the Cubs wore green caps while Scout Masters donned green berets.

Our weekly meetings started with the grand howl in the field. Then the subs broke into sixes and the teachers would take their attendances and briefed them on the day's activities.

In the course of our meetings, we taught the Cubs knotting, first aid, Scout Laws and played a game or two. I taught them a Scout songs which the boys were happy to sing. Then free drinks were served to all present.

Before we called it a day, Akela would talk briefly about the next meeting future programmes – which could be a hike, a picnic, an outing, a visit or just a regular meeting.

I had the pleasure of taking the Cubs for picnics, hikes up Penang Hill and visits to the Botanical Gardens and to Coronation Camp.

I was the Assistant Cub Master from 1963 to 1973. Then I was transferred to Kepala Batas when the Education Department found out that I was “one of the lucky 13” to be retained in Penang after my graduation and not posted away from my hometown.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my Headmaster, Mr Ong Keng Thoe (who was my science teacher in Form 3), Mr Teh Lai Hee, my Scout Master for all that he taught me, his inspirations and advice on how to be a good Cub Master. I like to also thank all the teachers and pupils of my Alma Mater, I was very sad to leave all of you good and wonderful people who had made my teaching days in SXBS a happy and memorable one.

13GT(S) of La Salle School

La Salle School opened to 623 students and 18 teachers on 15 January 1962 at its newly built premises located in Kampung Baru, Air Itam, Penang. Very soon afterwards a new Scout Group – 13GT(S) – was formed on 3 March of the same year. Fourteen Scouts and 15 Cubs led by three Scouters made-up the founding members of this young Group. The number had swelled to 21 Scouts and 22 Cubs by the end of 1962. During the short months of their first year, 18 Cubs had qualified for their Tender Pad Badges and all the Scouts had passed their Tenderfoot. Nine of the Scouts took their Second Class Badge tests in September 1962. Mr Peter Singam was the GSM; he was assisted by SM Khoo Beng Poh and CM Gwee Saw Tin.

La Salle School was short-lived. Major construction problems in the school buildings became apparent within a decade and students and teachers were forced to relocate to borrowed premises at a couple of schools in the Air Itam area. The problems with the buildings proved insurmountable and La Salle School was forced to close soon afterwards.

The former site of the School now houses St Xavier's Primary School which moved there after new buildings were constructed. The street name "Jalan Sekolah La Salle" is all that remains.



Above: The founding 13GT(S) Cub Pack in 1962 led by CM Gwee Saw Tin.



Left: 13GT(S) Scout Troop with its founding Scouts. Brother Supervisor Brendan is flanked on his left by GSM Peter Singam and on his right by SM Khoo Beng Poh.

25th Butterworth Group of Assumption School

Assumption Primary School, located at Bagan Dalam in Butterworth, was probably the most remote of schools associated with SXI. It is not clear why Mr Sham Sui Kam who founded 7GT(N) in 1932 and was later promoted to be Headmaster of Assumption School until 1957 did not form a Scout Group there earlier. Mr Tan Kim Lum, the Headmaster of the School reported in 1964 that “Our Cub Pack under Akela Mr Lee Ah Bah, who is also our Senior Assistant, is now officially recognised as the 25th Butterworth Group.” The photograph taken below in 1962 shows there was already an active Pack in the School two years earlier.



Right: Akela Lee Ah Bah with the Cub Pack in 1962.

Below: A 1964 photograph of the 25th Butterworth Group and their five Scouters.

