

## " A FABLE" for Recruiting

To recruit den and pack leaders for Pack 46, Egg harbor City, NJ, Committee Chairman Patricia Cavender wrote "A Fable" which was read by the Cubmaster at the Pack's September meeting. While the story was being read, she passed out notes asking specific people to volunteer for specific jobs. The response was very good.

At the end of the program year, Ms. Cavender created the "Order of the Canoe" to honor the volunteers. The award was a paddle shape cut from a tongue depressor craft stick, which was lacquered and mounted on a velvet backboard. On it was stamped "Cub Scout Pack 46" and "Order of the Canoe 1985-86". The leaders also received a regular appreciation certificate.

*< Note: This could be turned into a skit by making "name signs" to hang around people's necks. Make a canoe from a long roll of brown wrapping paper, approximately 10-20 feet long. Have the announcer read the story and participants "act it out" pantomime style. >*

### "A Fable"

Once upon a time there was a tribe of Indians who decided, for reasons we don't need to go into here, that it would be a good idea to have a canoe big enough to carry the entire tribe. So they built a very large canoe. The trouble began when they tried to take it out to test it. Everybody climbed into the canoe, but nobody wanted to paddle.

One group, led by Otiose (O'-she-os) Otter, thought it should be the duty of the chief and council to paddle the canoe. The chief and council were naturally indignant at this suggestion. They felt that their job was to direct the activities of the tribe, and therefore, everybody other than the chief and council should paddle the canoe. Most of the men felt that the women should paddle the canoe. Most of the women thought the men should paddle the canoe. This bickering continued for quite a while, and all the time the canoe didn't move an inch.

Finally, in exasperation, Beneficent Badger volunteered to paddle if some others would also volunteer to help him. After much coughing and throat clearing and shuffling of feet, Meritorious Mouse and Felicitous Fox agreed to help. So the three began paddling for all they were worth.

Very slowly the huge canoe began to move. After a while, though, Felicitous Fox put down his paddle and jumped out of the canoe and began swimming. He'd decided it wasn't worth riding in the canoe if he had to paddle all that dead weight.

Then Meritorious Mouse keeled over, exhausted. Finally Beneficent Badger gave up, too. He couldn't keep the big canoe moving by himself no matter how hard he tried. So once again the canoe sat still.

The tribe members all sat glaring at each other, each hoping someone else would volunteer to help Beneficent Badger paddle the canoe. But no one did.

Finally, Perspicacious Porcupine pointed out that the canoe would move everyone in it when it moved. Therefore, everyone in the canoe should help make it move. Everybody should paddle. The tribe thought they might as well try it. Nobody had come up with anything better.

And to their surprise, it worked very well. The canoe moved along swiftly and steadily, and nobody had to paddle very hard at all as long as everybody paddled.