

THURSTASTON SCOUTS GET OWN H.Q.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3, 1964

President opens new hut behind Irby Village Hall

AN idea which was initiated about eight years ago reached fruition on Saturday afternoon when a new headquarters for the 1st Thurstaston Boy Scout Group was opened at the rear of Irby Village Hall by Mr. A. J. Kentish Barnes, president of the West Wirral Local Boy Scouts' Association.

A well equipped wooden building, measuring 60ft. by 30ft. and containing seven "dens"—for the Scouters, Rovers and Senior Scouts, Cubs and the four patrols—as well as a commodious main hall, kitchen and toilets, the cost has been kept down to about £2,000 due to the many hours of voluntary labour put in by members of the Group and the Group Committee.

Outlining the long process by which they had obtained their own headquarters, Mr. W. Franklin, chairman of the Group Committee, said that the Group, which was founded in 1933 and had been active ever since except for the war years, had met in various places, including, more recently, Irby Methodist Church Hall, where they had been very happy but restricted because they could only have it once a week.

After about eight years of raising money and looking for a site, they obtained the site from the Village Hall Committee a year ago, and the building arrived on the site, which had been prepared the previous month, in February. The shell was erected in a week-end and since then they had been working on the interior and making the road.

They still had to line the road.

TREMENDOUS INTEREST

Opening the building, Mr. Kentish Barnes paid tribute to tremendous interest taken by a number of helpers since the Group was reformed in 1948; those who had helped and brought the Group up to the present high standard included Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Martin, Mr. Walter Effingham, Mr. J. W. Ratcliffe, the present Group Scoutmaster, Mr. Fred Wakeham, Mr. E. Roberts and the late Mr. Harry Horsefield.

Today the strength consisted of 10 Clubs, 26 Scouts and 8 Rovers and the Cubs had a waiting list; in the near future a Senior Scout section was to be started. Those who helped and taught them included Mr. Horn, Messrs. Tony and Peter Martin, Mr. Eric Jones, Mr. Frank Holland, Mr. Arthur Mews, Mr. Colin Ratcliffe and Mr. John McLeod.

After Sister Rhoda of the Irby Mission had said a prayer, Mrs. Kentish Barnes was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums by one of the Cubs.

Thanking Mr. and Mrs. Kentish Barnes, Mr. Ratcliffe also paid tribute to former workers for the Group, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to be present; they included Mr. E. Turner from Scotland, Mr. and Mrs. Scott, a former treasurer and Group committee member respectively, who had come from London, and Mr. Pollard from Henfield.

acquiring its own headquarters. Now they had got it, he hoped they would use it: every boy spending his time there was one boy less doing mischief somewhere else but, even more, it would give the boys something on which they would look back with pride.

THANKS BADGES

Mr. Ratcliffe then presented Scouts thanks badges to Mr. Franklin, chairman; Mr. K. R. Morton, hon. secretary; and Mr. R. B. Smith, hon. treasurer of the Group Committee; and boxes of chocolates to Mrs. Stephenson and Mrs. L. Meadows, representing the ladies' committee. A presentation was also made by Scout David Gardner on behalf of the Group to Mr. Pollard in appreciation of his help in providing transport to camp.

On view following the opening were thirty-five colour transparencies taken by Mr. Colin Ratcliffe showing progress on the erection of the headquarters.

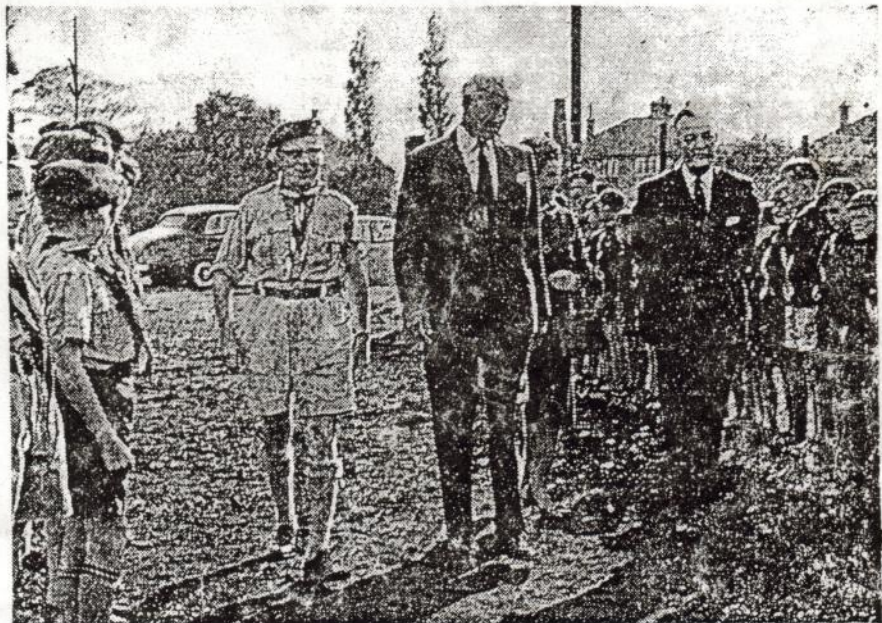
STILL WORK TO DO

They were still faced with lining the roof and installing wire guards on the windows and wall seating to protect the walls. To finance these and the maintenance of the headquarters they planned to hold a jumble sale, an autumn fair and monthly barn dances and coffee mornings.

Mr. Ratcliffe appealed for a Scoutmaster to take over the Senior Scouts when they are reformed and went on to pay tribute to the support given by the Rev. Gerald Tedcastle, minister of Irby Methodist Church.

Only other speaker was the District Commissioner, Mr. R. O. Freeman, who said the District was proud to have any group that would tackle such a job as

AT OPENING OF SCOUT H.Q.



A guard of honour of Scouts and Cubs greets Mr. A. J. Kentish Barnes, president of West Wirral Local Boy Scouts' Association, as he arrives to open the new headquarters of the 1st Thurstaston Scout Group at the rear of Irby Village Hall on Saturday. Left to right are Mr. J. W. Ratcliffe, Group Scoutmaster, Mr. and Mrs. Kentish Barnes and Mr. W. Franklin, chairman of the Group Committee. —Photo. by Guysie Williams