

## Scouting Thrill—

# Bear Surprises

# Selawik Boy Scouts

(Editor's Note: the story was sent to Midnight Sun Council Boy Scouts of America, Fairbanks, by Lester Richesin, committee chairman, Troop 74 Selawik, Alaska.)

### "BEAR! BEAR! BOY SCOUTS CAMPOUT"

Troop 74 Boy Scouts Selawik, Alaska traveled by boats northeast of the village and set up their camp. The Scoutmaster, Lloyd Davis and the Scouts decided to go for a boat ride around the islands.

The two boats stopped at an island and everyone started looking around. Lloyd Davis sighted a bear while looking through his field glasses. The Scoutmaster and the Scouts got in the boats and started toward the bear.

A shear pin broke on one of the motors. The Scouts left the boat on an island and all got in one boat and continued toward the bear. The boat landed near a little hill and Lloyd told the Scouts to stay with the boat while he took his gun and looked for the bear.

Lloyd returned and told the boys it was just a little further on. They got back in the boat and continued toward the bear. Lloyd headed the boat up a little stream. The stream was not deep enough to use the motor. The Scouts paddled the boat upstream until they reached deeper water. The boys motored a little further up stream and then pulled to shore.

Several fir trees were growing near the water's edge. The boys got out of the boat and followed the Scoutmaster up the hill. He told the Scouts to wait as he went on toward the bear.

The Scouts started picking berries, Lloyd motioned for the scouts to follow. They followed and caught up with the Scoutmaster. He pointed out the bear for the boys. The Scoutmaster told the boys to listen for his shots.

If three shots were fired quickly some of the boys were to get the boat and go

around to where the bear was. The other Scouts were to follow Lloyd by foot. The Scoutmaster then told the Scouts to be very quiet.

As the boys watched the Scoutmaster disappear toward the bear they began eating blueberries and cranberries very quietly. Daniel Davis and Gilbert Jackson were sent back to get David Mitchell's gun.

They were just getting started back when Lawrence Larkin yelled, "There's another BEAR! Run! Run! Run! Bear!"

Randy Richesin watched the big black bear slowly get up, stretch, push his head and body through some bushes and start walking toward the Scouts. Everyone started running and yelling. One Scout said, "Sit down and be quiet."

Daniel Davis kicked off his boots and started running when he heard "Bear! Run! Dale Richesin had hip boots on but he passed Daniel anyway in his hurry to get away from the bear.

The bear was running away from the Scout now. He ran to the stream and swam across and disappeared over the hill. The Scouts breathed a sigh of relief as they watched the bear disappear. Now the boys' attention is centered on the Scoutmaster as he proceeded to kill the bear.

Junior Davis, Gilbert Jackson, and Dale Richesin got the boat and went to help Lloyd get the bear in the boat. The other Scouts walked to where the great big bear was killed.

The Scouts helped the Scoutmaster load the 3 year old black bear into the boat and returned to the other boat and loaded it with wood and pulled it back to camp.

Pieces of bear meat was cooked and each Scout had a nice piece of bear meat to take home to prove their Bear story.

Daniel Davis, Junior Davis, Gene Foster, Ben Foxglove, Jr., Gilbert Jackson, Lawrence Larkin, David

Mitchell, Johnnie Mitchell, Dale Richesin, Randy Richesin, Robert Davis, and Lloyd Davis, Scoutmaster Troop 74 Selawik, Alaska had a very successful campout. Congratulations Scouts and Scoutmaster.

This same Troop got a caribou on one of their campouts in July 1966. They earned the 40 below certificate last winter camping out in temperatures as low as -46 degrees one night.

The boys of Troop 74 are real Scouts.

Told by Dale Richesin, Randy Richesin, Gene Foster, and Lloyd Davis too.