



Troop 5,
Providence, R. I.,
entertains patients
in the hospital ward

The Boy Scouts Recruit Radio

By Ward Seeley

“**D**O a Good Turn Daily.” Such is one of the mottoes of the Boy Scouts. Radio is helping them to make the motto alive and real for themselves and for the people they aid and befriend.

It is nothing new for the Boy Scouts to use radio apparatus. Various troops long ago made and purchased receiving instruments, and even before the advent of broadcasting the Scouts numbered among them some well-known radio amateurs.

Now that broadcasting is here, however, they are finding new fields for the use of radio. Instead of using it only for their own instruction and recreation, as they virtually were compelled to do in the days when only code could be heard, now they are placing it before others who need to enjoy the radio telephone, but for one reason or another are unable to do so.

Thereby good turns are done daily by the Scouts using radio receiving apparatus. Concerts and lectures are given in hospitals and similar institutions; invalids, the bed-ridden and the shut-in are cheered up, and in some cases funds are raised and receiving instruments purchased or constructed by troops to be given to those who may need them.

This is taking place everywhere. The Boy Scouts comprise the picked youth of the country—it is no wonder that in every state they have been quick to realize the advantages of radio broadcasting not only for themselves but for others, and have acted on their understanding!

Only a few typical instances can be

given in these pages. One is that of Troop 5, Providence, R. I., which began its radio work nearly a year ago and has been consistent ever since in doing good turns by radio. It managed to secure a Westinghouse tuner and amplifier, and a loud speaker, which enabled large audiences to listen. After the outfit had been installed at troop headquarters and a radio expert had explained radio principles and operation in a series of lectures, the boys became familiar enough with the set to operate it. Promptly thereafter the troop offered to give concerts in the Rhode Island Hospital. The offer was accepted, the apparatus moved

to the hospital where a temporary installation was made, and the first concert given in the hospital's largest ward, this being chosen as it afforded a large audience. Many patients from other wards were wheeled into the main ward for the concert.

Some of them had never heard a radio concert before, and were not only delighted with the program, but amazed with the fact that music could be gotten without wires from such distant cities as Detroit, Pittsburgh and Newark. After the possibility of hearing distant broadcasters was demonstrated, a special concert was received from IAMD, a well-known amateur operator, Mr. Howard Thornley, Pawtucket, R. I., a few miles to the north of Providence. This concert, given especially for the hospital patients, included selections by a trio, and vocal and instrumental solos.

In succeeding evenings, the receiving set and loud speaker were installed in other wards, until everyone in the hospital had been entertained. The doctors, who at first were indifferent, became enthusiastic as they saw the beneficial effect on their patients. Dr. John M. Peters, superintendent of the hospital, not content with expressing his appreciation verbally, wrote to the Scoutmaster of the troop as follows: “Please let us thank you, and the members of Boy Scout Troop No. 5, for your kindness in coming here and giving radio concerts to the patients under our care. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving these concerts, and want to assure you that our

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Troy Boy Scouts who made a act for an invalid: standing, Henry Nyhoff, Stewart Jones, William P. Stanton and Grant Thompson; seated, W. Lewis Burk, scoutmaster, and Spencer Neemes

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patients certainly enjoy them very much. Thank you again in their behalf."

Since then, this troop has used its radio outfit on its hikes, has given other concerts to those needing cheer, and has taken considerable interest in the boys of the local reform school, using radio with them in an educational way. So good has been the work with the reform school boys, in fact, that a number of them, stimulated by interest in radio, have shown such marked improvement as to win their releases on probation, while others have been given ten-day leaves of absence in charge of the Scoutmaster.

Troy, New York, furnishes another example of the many humanitarian deeds performed by the Scouts with the aid of the radio telephone. Troop 16 of Troy, of the First Presbyterian Church, decided that a receiving set was needed by an old lady whom they knew. She was an invalid, and after a painful fall had been confined to her bed for two years, held in a plaster cast. The boys knew that nothing

would be of greater service to her than the broadcast lectures, news and concerts, and after an enthusiastic meeting decided to raise funds to buy the necessary parts and materials, and make a set for her. Spencer Neemes and Grant Thompson, who were best fitted by experience to construct the set, were selected to do the work, and the entire troop hustled to raise the necessary money, about \$16, for a simple crystal tuner and headphones.

When the set was complete, other boys aided in installing the antenna and ground. Henry Nyhoff, Stewart Jones and William P. Stanton assisted the two who had constructed the receiver, placing the instrument where it was most convenient to the invalid, and erecting the antenna in such a way that the loudest possible signals were received.

The set has been in constant use since then by the invalid, to her great joy and delight, and the boys, seeing her days brightened by it, feel repaid many times over for the week they spent in working to make it for her.