

SCOUT POST CARDS – THE HUMOROUS SIDE

Scouting was founded in England in 1907. Scout post cards started appearing almost immediately. Most of these depict leaders, camp scenes, and activities such as camping, games, knot tying, first aid, etc.

Scouts quickly became known for doing good turns, being good citizens, performing Scout activities, etc. and for their distinctive uniform and sharp appearance. But not everyone took the Scouts as seriously as some of their leaders did. Post cards with a sense of humor and poking fun at the Scouts soon came on the scene.

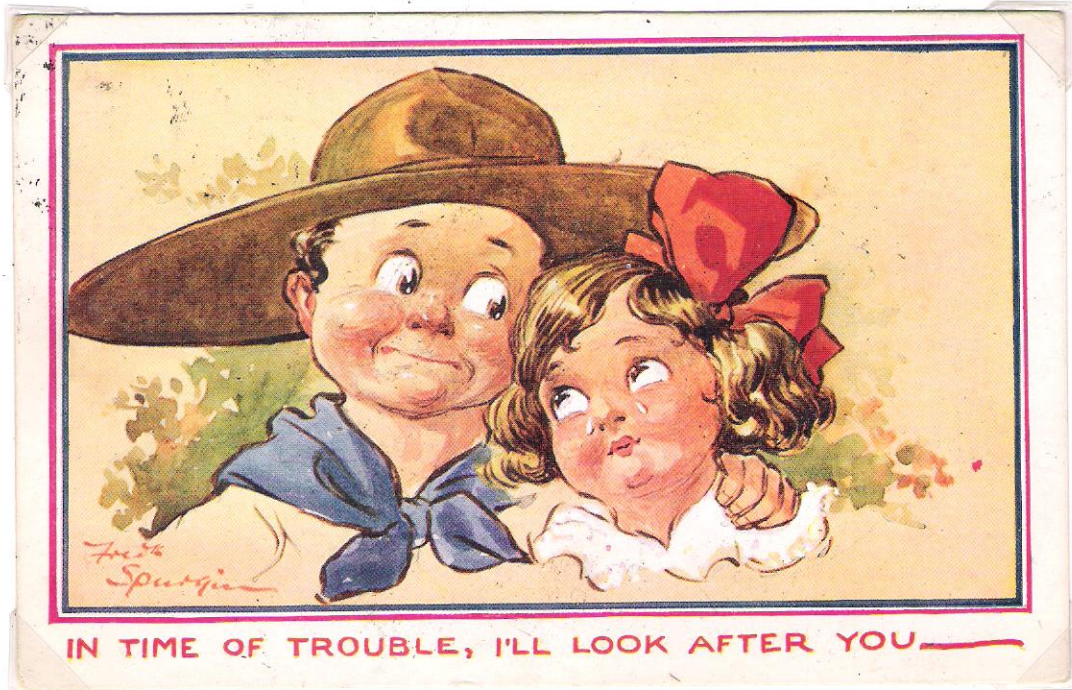
This is a “fun” exhibit displaying examples of the various post cards that appeared. Shown are selected early English post cards showing their subtle sense of humor, a cute US “good deed” post card, a variety of colorful post cards from Belgium and Czechoslovakia, US Boy and Girl Scout camp post cards, and even a couple of “naughty” post cards – one US and one French.



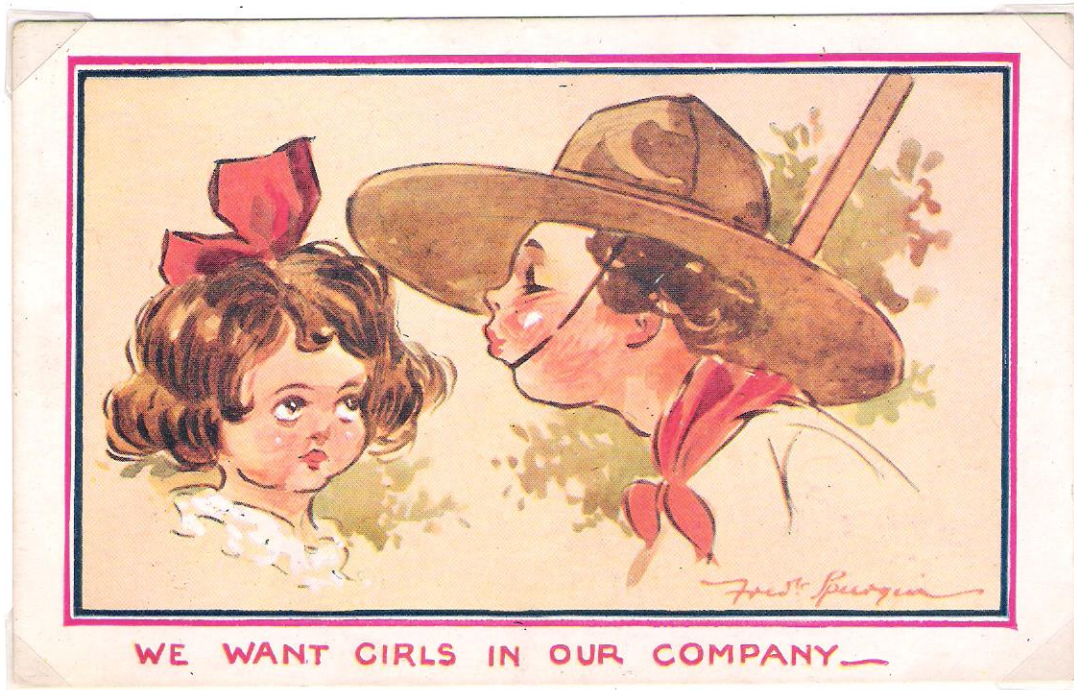
Part of a 1910 series of Scout post cards printed in England.

The English are already making fun of the neat, clean image of the Scouts. This is typical of the humorous post cards that followed through the years.

The English published a number of post cards titled the "Scout" Series about 1914-1915. Many of these cards had fun with the boy/girl theme.



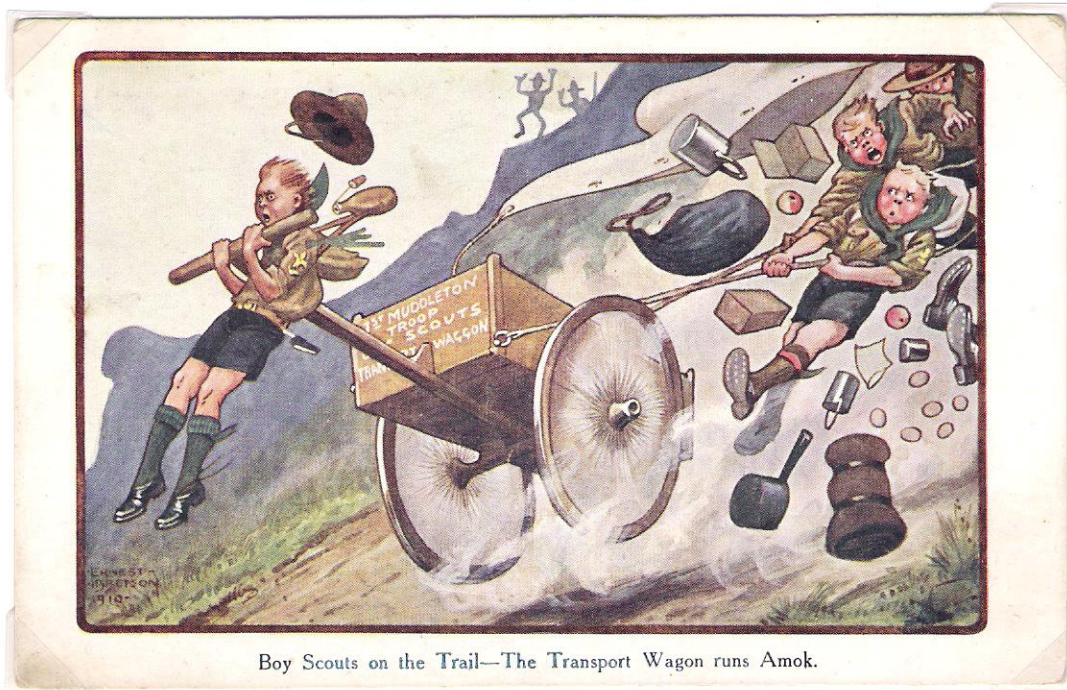
Typically, most boys of this age would rather be doing outdoor activities instead of spending time with girls.



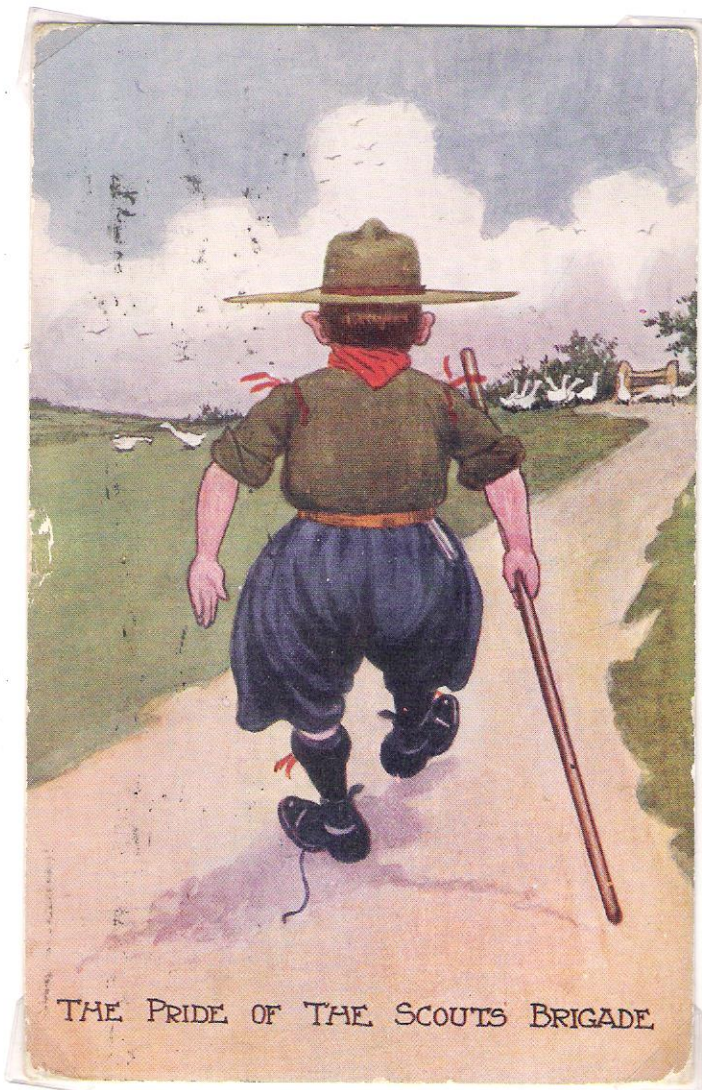
Surely a Boy Scout
wouldn't be so
ornery as to
deliberately cause
a problem for an
old man!



Things don't always go as planned!



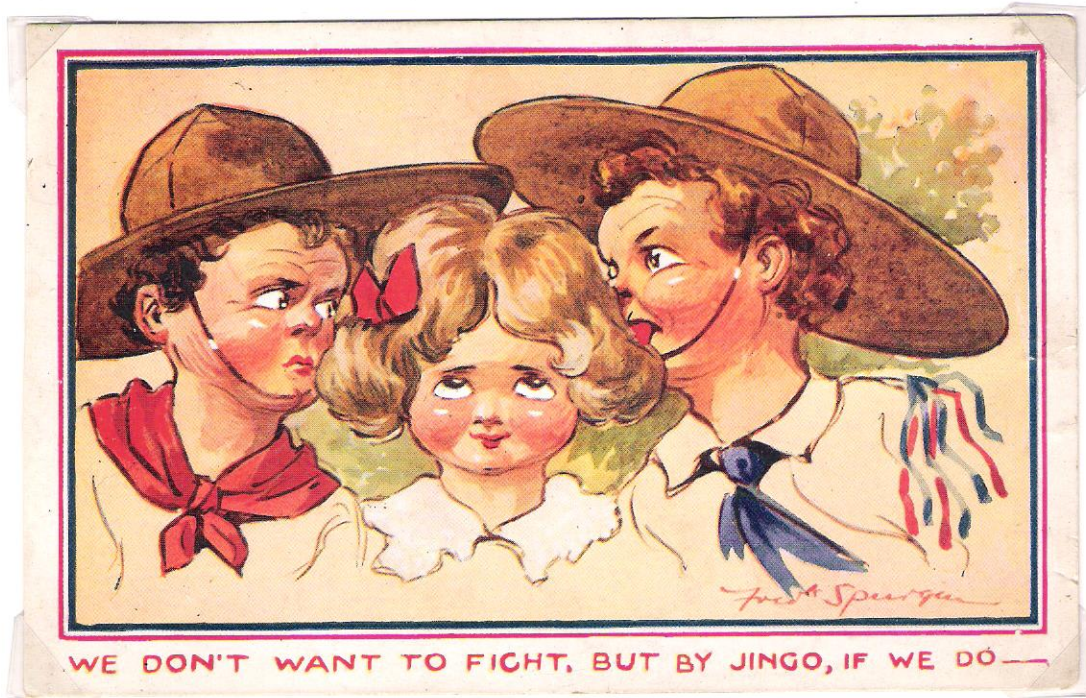
Boy Scouts on the Trail—The Transport Wagon runs Amok.



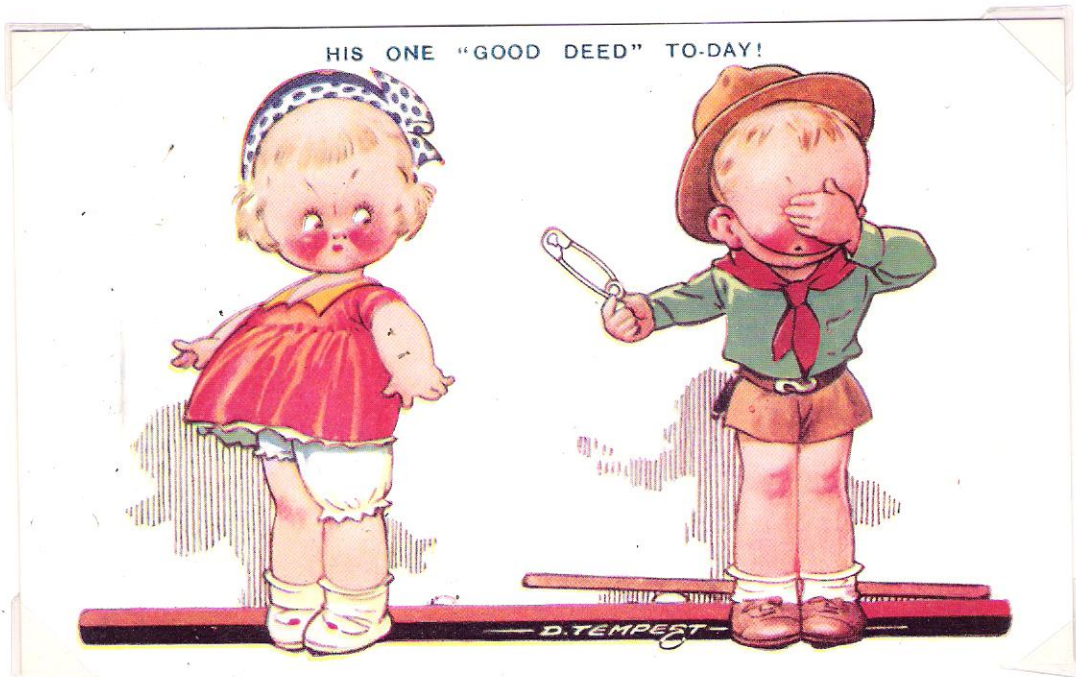
A 1914 English post card. Already, people were having fun with the image wanted for Scout leaders -- instead of the neat, slim, trim leader we often have the overweight, sloppy leader shown here. Note the untied shoelace.

Actually, the Boy Scouts' Motto is "Be Prepared" while the Scout Slogan is "Do a Good Turn Daily." I never ran into an opportunity like this when I was a Scout!



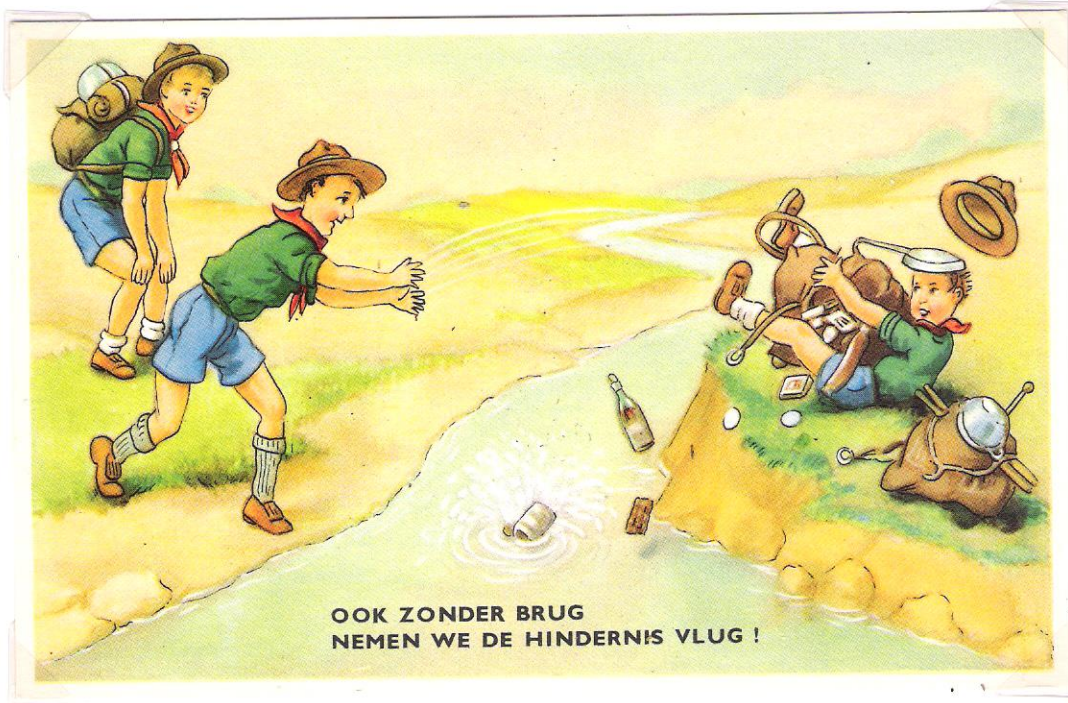


It looks like a little "angel" has two young Scouts all stirred up.

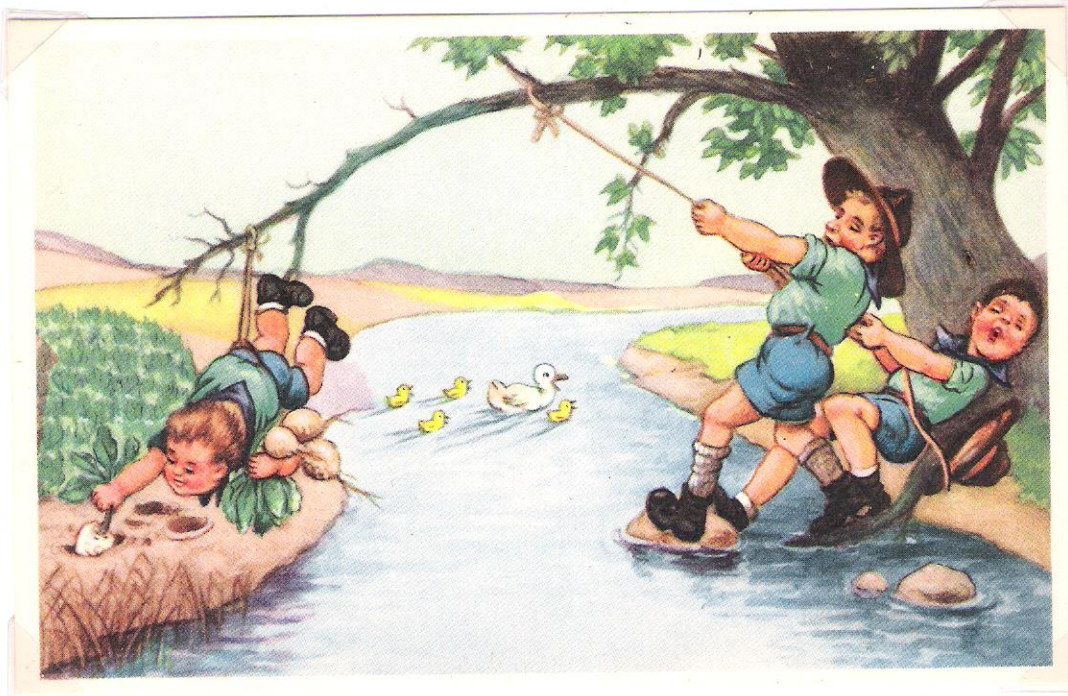


Part of USA Kid Comics series. Making fun of what a Scout has to do to perform his daily Good Turn or "Good Deed."

About 1950, a large number of colorful, comic Boy Scout post cards were published in Belgium and used throughout much of Western Europe.



The "13th Scout Law" is *A Scout is Hungry*. Here, Scouts use a little ingenuity in finding food. Disaster!

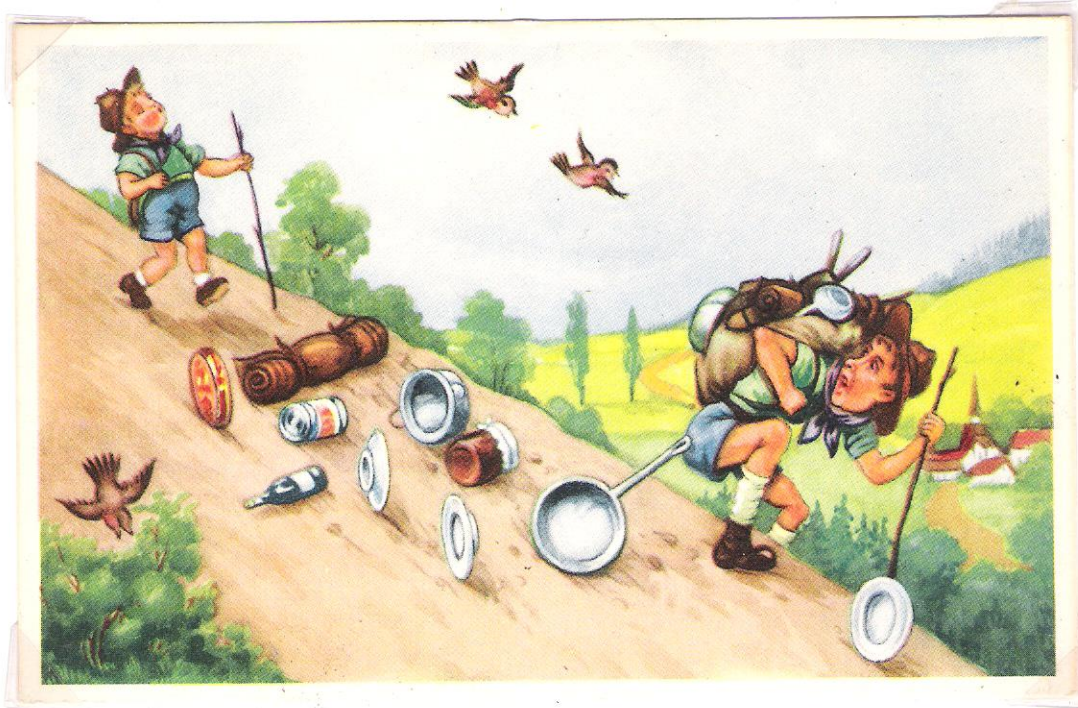




Look who got caught sneaking a bite out of the hot dog.

What a revolting chain of events!





A thinking Scout -- using gravity to get his gear down the hill.

The mice will play



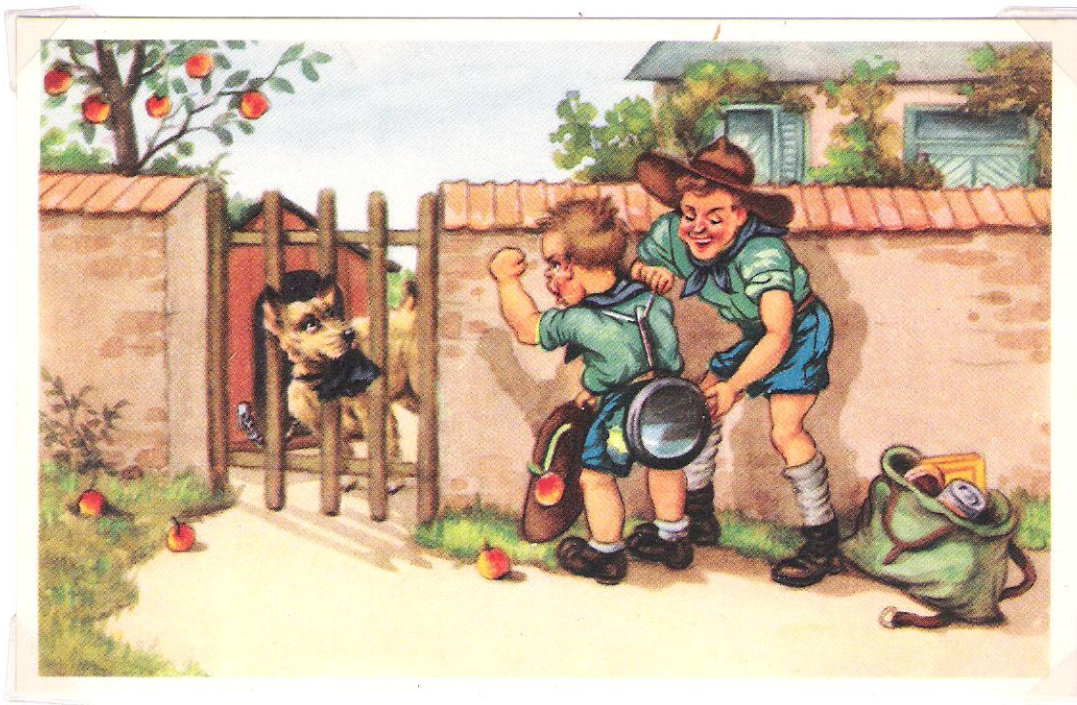
De veldmuizen bijten beter dan de vissen.



Surprise désagréable.
Vieze verassing.

They weren't expecting "frog legs" in this stew!

Picking forbidden fruit results in losing part of his britches to the watch dog.

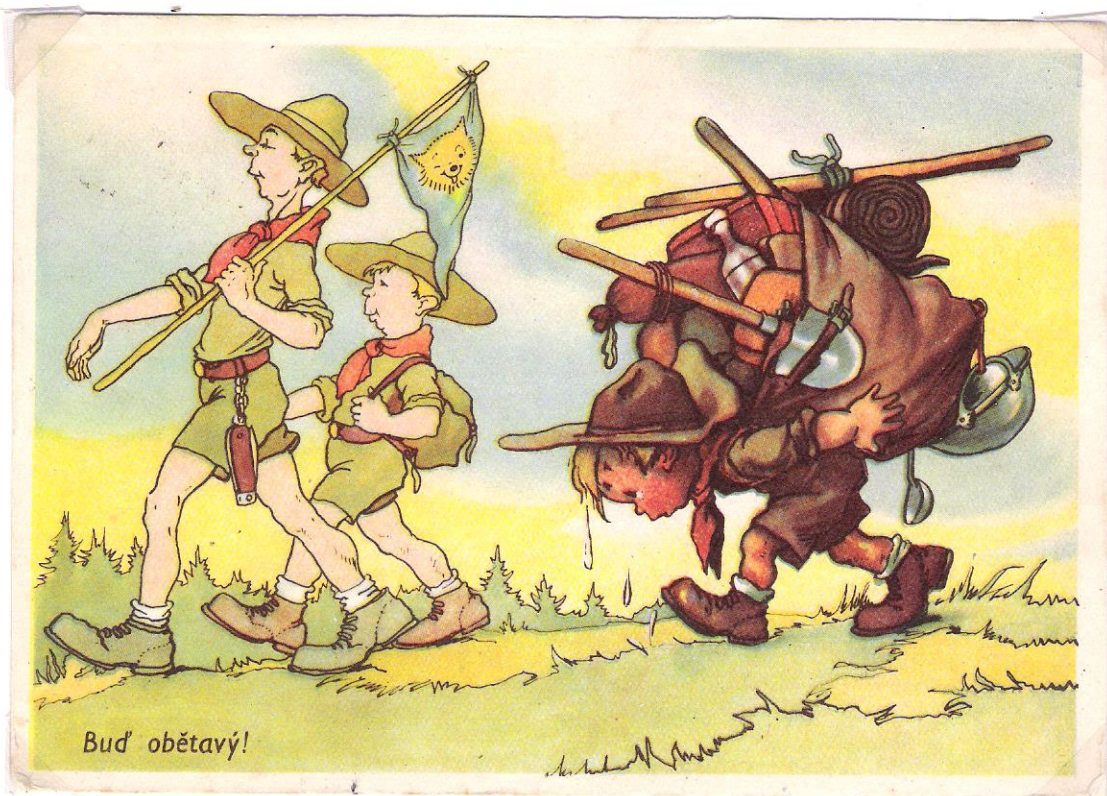


Czechoslovakian Scouting published a number of funny post cards in the late 1940's just before Scouting was abolished by the Communists. Two examples are shown here.

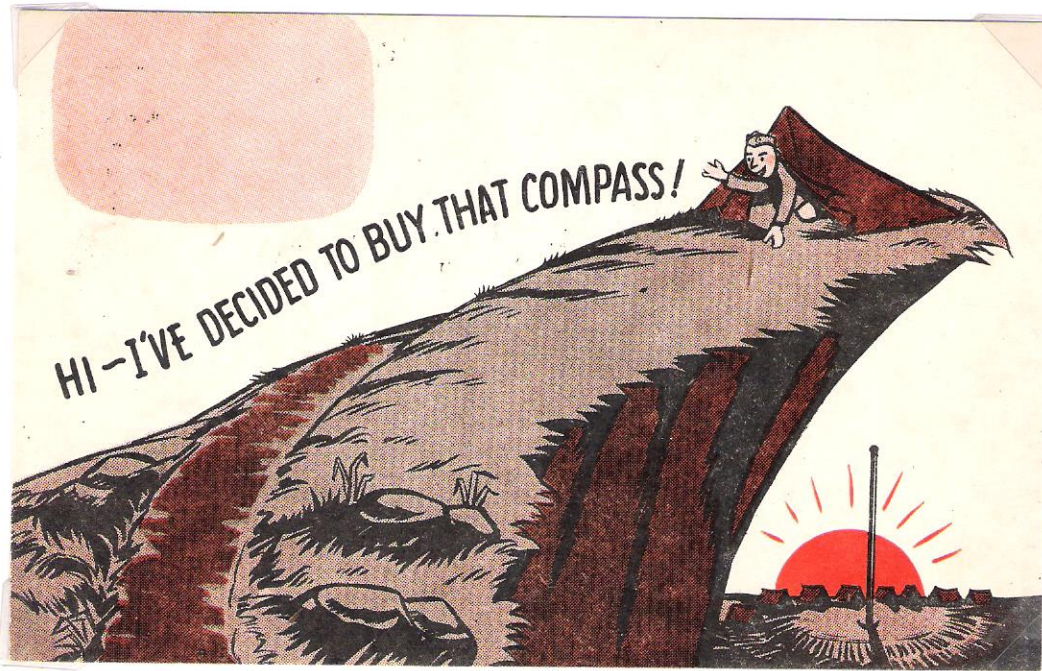
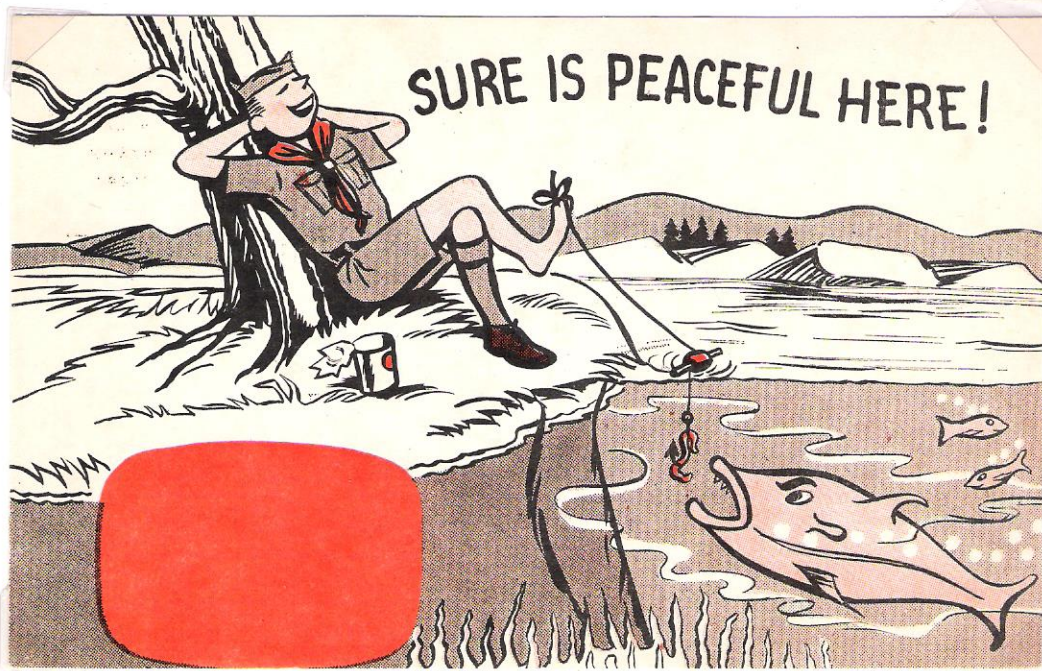


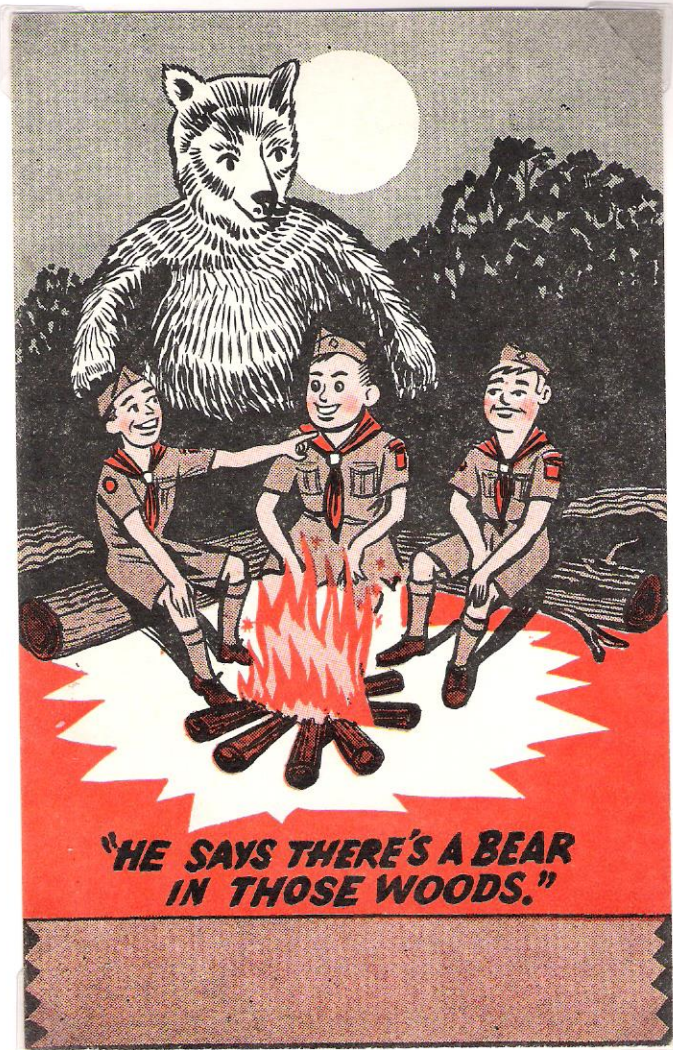
Don't ever mess with a bees' nest!

As usual, the Tenderfoot gets stuck with all the work.



The Boy Scouts of America published a series of post cards in 1947, 1956, and 1958 for use at Scout camps throughout the country. Many were humorous as the following six cards indicate.





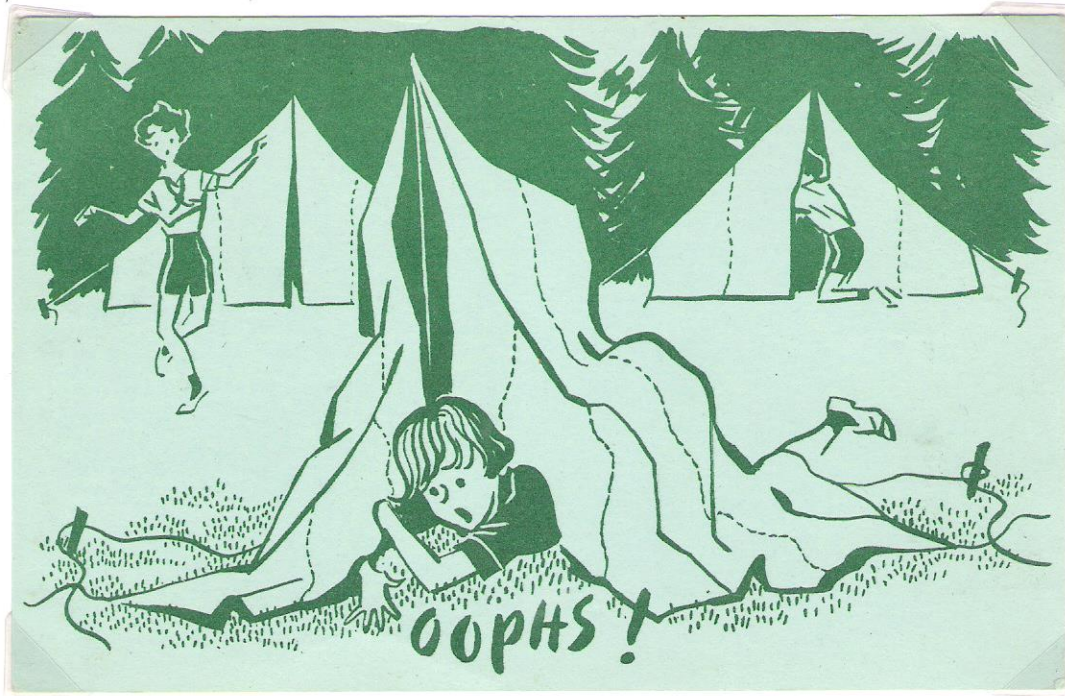
**"HE SAYS THERE'S A BEAR
IN THOSE WOODS."**

Kids love to tell about
their animal stories.
What great stories
these Scouts will have
to tell!



"O.K. FRED, HERE'S THE LAKE!"

Of course, we can't leave out the Girl Scouts. They do funny things and get in unusual predicaments like the Boy Scouts do.



Her tent wasn't set up properly.



Sweet music to the ears!



There are always
pranksters in every
group!



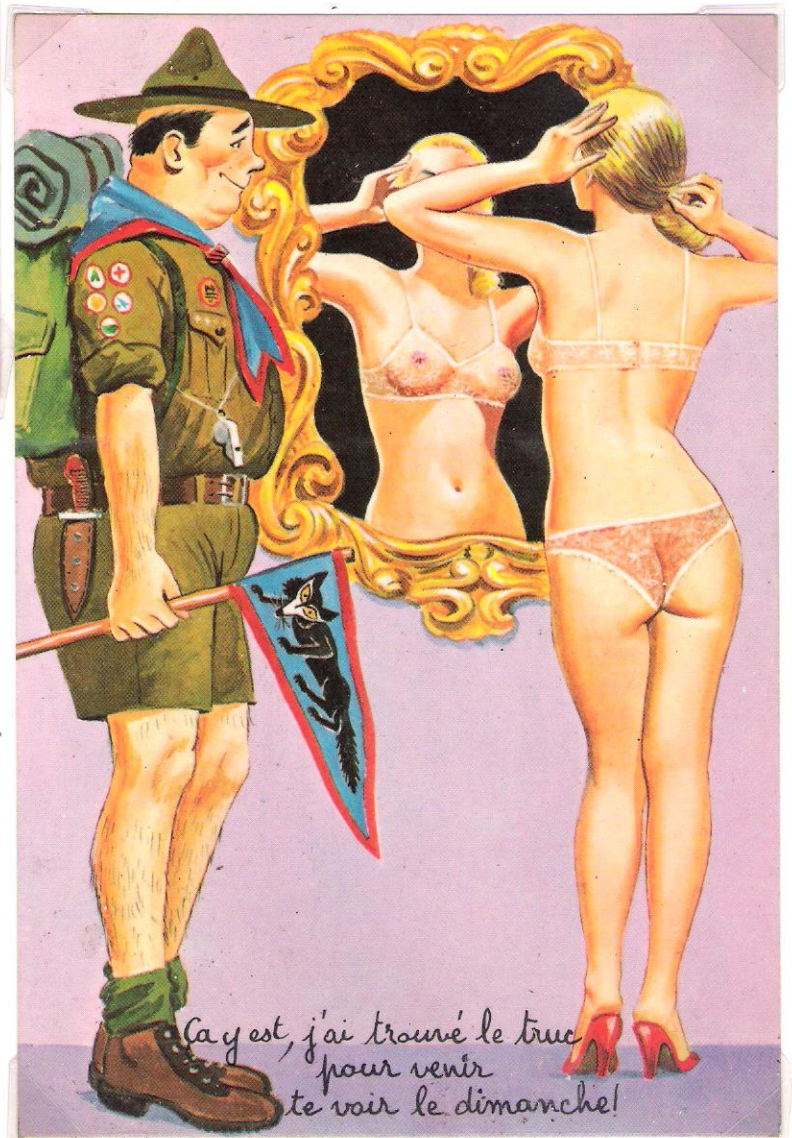
What sort of good turn can you do for me



Finally, a few risqué post cards exist.

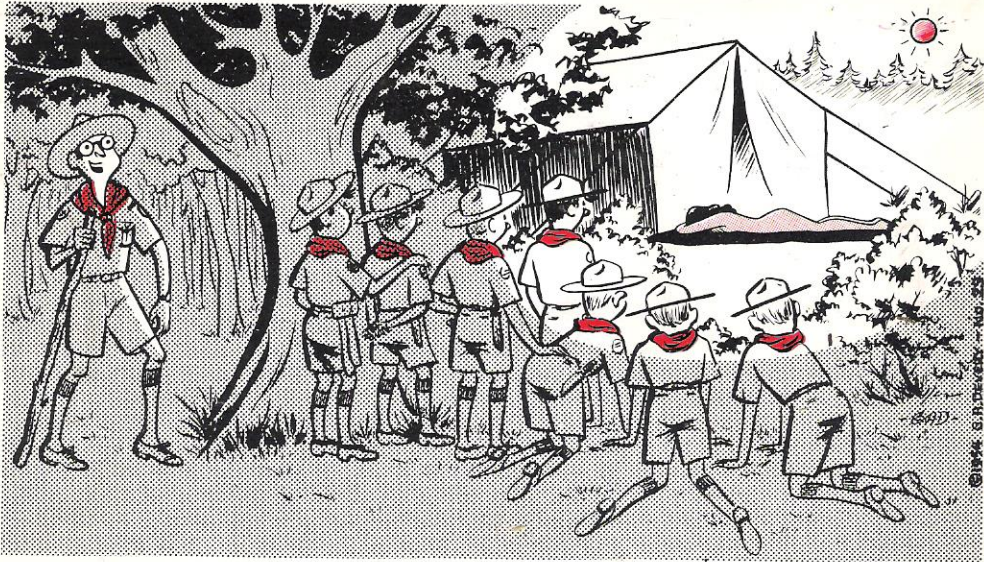
In the English post card, they are poking fun at the Scout good turn.

A "naughty" French post card. Pity the poor Scout leader who has to spend time with the boys away from home.



*Ca y est, j'ai trouvé le truc
pour venir
te voir le dimanche!*

THE END OF THE TRAIL



WELL! WELL! DID WE TRACK THAT OL' POSSUM TO HIS LAIR, MEN?

As usual, the Scoutmaster is the last one to find out what is happening.