

Appendix 110 to  
***THE HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN SOUTH GEORGIA***

*(Appendix Updated on: June 25, 2013)*

Article from  
**The March 21, 1968**  
*The News-Examiner* (Tifton)

**1968 Chehaw Council  
Okefenokee Swamp Expedition**

(Article provided by Sam Thompson)

# Local Boy Scouts join Council group in camping trip to Okefenokee swamp



The first task upon arrival at the island is setting up camp. The boys pitch tents in record time, utilizing trees available in the park.



Grady Shadburn and Jerry Nesmith join in the task of preparing the evening meal.

Some 200 Boy Scouts, many of them from Tift county, have returned from a camping expedition at Okefenokee Swamp and, as one official put it, "What a time was had!"

Okefenokee Swamp — Land of the Trembling Earth, as the Indians say it:

You'd normally think of a swamp as a low area, full of stagnant water, acting as a drain for the surrounding area. This is not true of Okefenokee. It is higher than most of the surrounding terrain and is alive with springs that feed water and constantly keeps it moving.

Chehaw Council's annual expedition began when three of the scout executives went ahead to make arrangements for 150-200 scouts who would participate in the event. Ronald Tyson, Assistant Scout Executive, Bill Graff, East District Scout Executive, along with Dr. T. Bonner Stewart, East District Camping and activities chairman, departed Tifton one day before the boys to confirm previous arrangements. Although the temperature dropped to freezing the first night, this did not dampen the high hopes and anticipation of the scout leaders.

Scoutmaster Jim Champion and his boys of Troop 62, Tifton, were the first to arrive followed closely by other units from Tifton, Leesburg, Americus, Albany, Pelham, Cordele and Fort Gaines. The following day more scouts



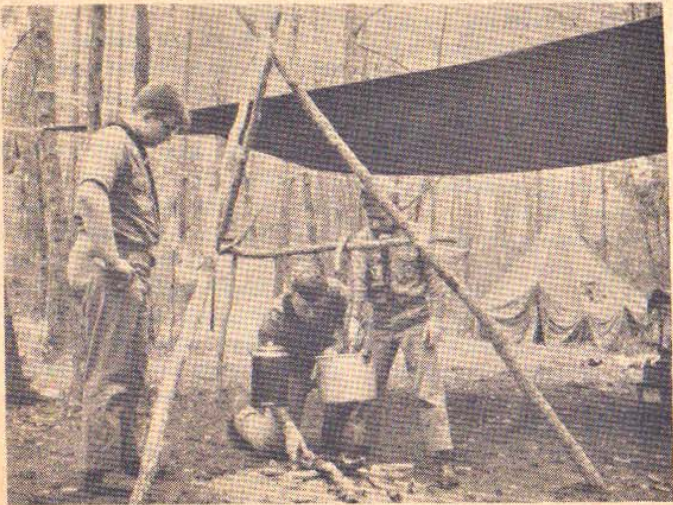
Waiting for the warmth of the evening campfire.



Using flint and steel, two young men start the cooking fire. A tasty blue-berry pie was cooked in a reflector oven, which the camp staff enjoyed!



Scouts of troop 62 and 64, loading their boats for the trip into the swamp and Billy's Island.



Scouts of Troop 62, Tifton, preparing their evening meal over an open fire with a tripod.

following day more scouts arrived on the scene from Sylvester, Ashburn and Camilla. This brought a total of 181 boys to the swamp and a stay on "Billy's Island".

Some of the boys explored the far reaches of the swamp with motorboats, while others just sat in the shade and tried to do a little fishing to add to the evening menu. The day did not pass without a few mishaps: motors out of gas, tangled fish lines and a few other small problems but, as ever, the always willing and helpful Boy Scout was near to lend a helping hand.

The third day, Jerry Nesmith and Grady Shadburn, two of WALB-TV's personalities, joined the group to film a 30-minute program to be presented on WALB-TV in April.

East district had 65 Scouts, 16 leaders, and three staff members for a total of 84 which was 47 percent of the participants.

The final day was brought to a close with a campfire that included some tall tales, skits and singing. A fitting closing for such a great trip.

The best is cheapest. — Benjamin Franklin

Calves born on Georgia farms during 1967 are estimated at 743,000 head, according to the State Crop Reporting Service. This is one percent above the 1966 calf crop and eight percent above the 1961-65 average.



Rayford Royal, Scoutmaster of troop 54 from Camilla, takes this time to have a class in bird watching, this is a most opportune time as many birds make their home in the swamp.



Bill Graff, District Scout Executive and Ronald Tyson, Assistant Scout Executive, Chehaw Council prepare some firewood to keep the everprevalent coffee pot perking.