



Water Balloon Volley Ball: Each team tries to fling a water balloon at the other team, and catch it in a bed sheet without the balloon breaking on their side.

## Troop Bus Catches Fire

We were right on schedule on Sunday afternoon. The bus ride back from Sugarloaf Mountain was calm and we were making good time. Then, about 10 miles west of Dillon, we smelled something burning, like rubber. The smell got stronger and very soon we started seeing smoke coming from the front of the bus. Lots of smoke. Pulling over on the shoulder of the road, the door was opened and everyone was told to exit the bus. That's when we found out about the flames under the front of the bus. Oil was leaking out, and the grass under the bus had caught fire! Everyone got out quickly—very quickly! The engine was turned off and the hood of the bus was opened. We all stood back at a very safe distance, and watched the flames under the bus and in the area of the engine. It would sure be good to put that fire out before things got worse, but our fire extinguisher was still in the bus, and we weren't about to let anyone get it for fear of an explosion! *At that second, a passing truck handed Mr. Lester a fire extinguisher, and we carefully sprayed out all the flames!* Now, with the flames out, and everybody safe, what were we going to do? It was 2:30, and we were still an hour and a half away from North Myrtle Beach, and with no bus! Dominick and Mr. Bezmen had left early, but that still left twenty-six Scouts and two adults. Were we going to be stranded here on the side of Hwy. 9, miles from anywhere, with only Mr. Lester's pickup truck? *At that second, a car pulled over and out stepped an adult in full "Class B" uniform!* It was Scouter Earl Dutton from Dillon, returning from a training session at Camp Coker. He offered his help which we happily accepted! Mr. Dutton quickly arranged for transportation, and soon twenty-six Scouts were driven to the First Presbyterian Church of Dillon. There, refreshments were served and, more importantly, we now had a place from where Scouts could be picked up and driven back home. While this was going on, Mr. Lester and Mr. Green took the troop's backpacks off the bus and loaded them on the pickup truck. A tow truck arrived and the bus was towed to Dillon for repairs. *(continued on next column)*

Now, since we were going to be late, how would we alert the parents of those Scouts present, so they would know not to wait for us at St. Stephen's at 4:00 p.m.? Let's thank **Cindy Willoughby**, who was contacted and given a list of families who needed to be called. She coordinated this operation so that everyone was notified of our situation. She also mobilized our rides back home. Responding to the calls were **Darlene Collins**, **Brad** and **Jo Dawson**, **Martha Fontana**, **Vicki Keibler**, **Nancy McDaid**, **Laura Spatholt**, **Jon Messich**, and **Jim Davidson**, who chauffeured all twenty-six Scouts back home in comfort and with room to spare! And thank you Mr. Davidson for staying at St. Stephens and calling individual parents when each Scout arrived. While on the subject of "thank you's," thanks also to:

- Scouter **Earl Dutton** for all his active assistance and help
- **Bryan McKenzie**, owner of McKenzie's Parts House and Auto Electric, who towed and repaired our bus giving us excellent service and attention, having the bus ready in time for our trip to summer camp
- Senior Patrol Leader **Daniel Sloope**, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader **Jeff Bialecki**, and Venture Crew Chief **Chris Jordan**, for keeping all the Scouts together, attentive, and cooperative while waiting for rides
- The Dillon County Sheriff's Dept. for posting a deputy behind our bus while we were waiting to be towed
- The Dillon City Fire Dept. for their quick response
- Dillon's Mayor Stephens for his concern that we had everything we needed
- The kind folks at the First Presbyterian Church for their warm hospitality
- The unknown trucker for lending us his fire extinguisher

You see, as members of the Boy Scouts, we got a lot of help from good citizens and friends. We also pulled together very well. But, there is something much more. This adventure shows us how we were (and still are) in very good Hands!



A bright, yellow fire truck arrived from the Dillon City Fire Department, just after the fire had been safely put out.