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Mounted Scouts

Cast: Scouter; Scouts Tom, Dick and Harry; other Scouts

(Camp scene with tent, backpacks, etc. Troop is gathered around Scouter.)

Scouter: Okay guy. Rest day. You're on your own to go fishing, exploring, whatever. But I'm sick and tired of you guys being late all the time and coming up with wild excuses, so I'm making just one rule. Everybody - and that means every Tom, Dick and Harry of you - must be back in camp by 5 p.m. Got it?

Scouts: Right, Scouter ... Gotcha, Scouter, etc.

(Scouts scatter and move off-stage. When they're gone, Scouter looks around, props a backpack against a chair "tree", stretches out and pulls down his cap over his eyes to have a snooze. Noise of returning Scouts off-stage. Scouter jerks awake, looks at watch. First pair of Scouts comes in.)

Scouter: Good work, men. Only 4:55 (Scouts go to fire circle, start messing with pots and pans, ect. Other Scouts come in, and Scouter greets them, checking the time against his watch - 4:56; 4:58 etc.)

Scouter: Time's up! 5 o'clock! (Silently Scouts gathered)
Where's Tom? Where's Dick? And Harry?

(Scouts shrug, move off to do different things. Scouter paces, looking at watch. Finally, Tom staggers on stage, all tattered and torn.)

Scouter: You're late! What happened?

Tom: (gasping) I went canoeing. The boat sank. I swam to shore, found a horse, and rode it a couple of miles. But it collapsed! I hiked the last 20 miles! (Tom collapses. Dick staggers in, tattered and torn.)

The Train Track Skit

Old Man, Old Woman, and Trainman with a lamp.

OW: Go ask the trainman if there's a train from the east tonight.

OM: (trundles on over, asks him, and returns) No, No train from the east.

OW: Ask him if there's a train from the West tonight.

OM: (trundles on over, asks him, and returns) No, No train from the West.

OW: Ask him if there's a train from the North tonight.

OM: (trundles on over, asks him, and returns) No, No train from the North.

OW: Ask him if there's a train from the South tonight.

OM: (resists, get's hit with purse, trundles on over, asks him, and returns) No,
No train from the South.

OW: Ok, I guess we can cross the tracks ok.

Scouter: What on earth happened to you?

Dick: I went canoeing. The boat sank. I swam to shore, found a horse, and rode it a couple of miles. But it collapsed! I hiked the last 20 miles! (Dick collapses. Harry crawls into camp, tattered and torn.)

Scouter: No, don't tell me. I know, I know. You went canoeing; your boat sank; you found a horse and rode it until it collapsed...

Harry: No, no, no! You've got it all wrong! My horse couldn't get through! There were two collapsed horses blocking the trail!

Ghost Story

Boys lined up in file tiptoe onto the stage and suddenly stop. The message is passed in a mock whisper from the head of the line to the foot and vice versa.

Head: (pointing) That's where I saw the ghost!

Foot: Where?!

Head: About six meters away!

Foot: How big was he?

Head: About three meters tall!

Foot: How long ago?

Head: About two weeks ago!

Foot: Then why are we whispering?

Head: Cause I've got a cold!

At the Movies

Director, cameraman, clapper board man, a couple of lighting men (with flashlights) and mother are on stage as action begins. Son, doctor and undertaker wait in wings.

Director: Lights, camera, action!

Clapper Board Man: Scene One, Take One!

(The actors play the scene without the least sign of emotion as lighting people follow and cameraman films. Mother is flipping pancakes at the stove when someone walks in.)

Son: Mom, I don't feel too well. (He collapses)

Mom: (Goes over, looks at son.) Oh, I'd better call the doctor. (goes to phone, dials making click, click sounds) Doctor, come quick. My son's collapsed.

Doctor: (Enters, checks pulse and breathing.) He's dead, I'd better call the undertaker. (Goes to phone dials making dialling sounds like Mom did.) Undertaker, you'd better come. I have a dead body hear.

Undertaker: (Enters and begins to measure the body.)

Director: (Jumps up) Cut! Cut! That was terrible. You had no emotion at ALL. Let's to it again. This time, give me more emotion.

Cast: (Exiting) Right. More emotion.

Director: Lights, camera, action!

Clapper Board Man: Scene One, Take Two!

(The actors re-do the scene, using exactly the same words, but with great hammy histrionics. Mother weeps uncontrollably throughout, son dies very dramatically, etc. At the same point as in Take One, the director cuts in)

The Reindeer Game

Announcer (bursting with enthusiasm):

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to our program. Tonight, some lucky member of our audience will win \$10,000 - if he correctly answers our skill testing question! (Scans audience and picks out his planted helper). You, sir, would you like a chance at this great prize?

Helper:

Oh yes, sir! (leaves audience and joins announcer on stage)

Announcer:

Tonight, your question is: "Name two of Santa's reindeer!" You have 10 seconds to think about it. No help from the audience, please. (Buzzer sounds) Time's up! Now, give me one of the two reindeer names.

Helper:

Would one be Rudolph?

Announcer (jumping with joy):

Yes! That's absolutely correct! You are half way to \$10,000! Now, can you give me one more name?

Helper (thinks, scratches his head):

Well, how about Olive?

Announcer (groans):

Olive! Whoever heard of a reindeer named Olive?

Helper:

Well, they sing about here in the song about Rudolph. You know! We've all heard them. They sing, "Olive the other reindeer!"

(by Jo Brygider, Maple Ridge, B.C.)

Just Like Tonight

(Group of boys sitting around an imaginary campfire)

Boy One: It was a dark night

All: Just like tonight

Boy One: We just finished dinner

All: Just like tonight

Boy One: We were sitting around the campfire

All: Just like tonight

Boy one: The stars (or moon) were out

All: Just like tonight

Boy One: When the big monster came into the camp

(out of the back comes a monster and chases all the boys off)

Director: Cut! Cut! That was better, but too fast. Let's try again. This time, slow it down. Lights, Camera, Action!

Clapper Board Man: Scene One, Take Three.

(The actors re-do the scene in slow motion - talking slowly, moving slowly. For example, when the telephone is dialled, it goes "click...click...click", and after the doctor checks the son's pulse, the son's hand falls slowly back to the floor, etc. Then the director cuts in at the same place)

Director: Cut! Cut! That was far too slow. One more time. Let's speed it up!

(This time the actors to the scene so quickly that the son throws himself to the ground, the doctor is there before Mom can hang up the phone, and so on)

Director: (At the same place) Cut! That was absolutely terrible! Actors? Do you call yourself actors!???

Cast: Actors? Who said anything about actors? We're the cleaners! (All pick up brooms and exit.)

-thanks to "Scout" magazine, Australia

Sound Effects for Skits

Sound effect people working at hidden microphones can add a whole lot of realistic fun to your skits. Try these ideas.

Hoof beats: Beat coconut shell halves on a pillow (distant), or a wooden board.

Bubbling water: Several people blow through straws into glasses of water.

Rain: Slowly drop sand on tightly drawn cellophane.

Hail: Pour grains of rice onto an overturned baking tin or a piece of wood.

Wind: Cut a narrow slit in a sheet of paper. Hold the paper about 12mm from lips and blow.

Airplane: Hold heavy paper so that it strikes the blades of an electric fan.

Fire: Crumple cellophane into a ball and release for crackling sound.

Thunder: Shake a 30cm * 90cm piece of tin suspended from a bar frame.

Breaking glass: Put an old piece of window glass in a sack; drop it on the floor.

Crashes: Fill a wooden box with broken glass and some stones, then nail down top. Tip box or drop, depending on the type of crash you want.

Train: Put small nails or BB shot inside a tin and shake back and forth. Or try sandpaper or wire brushes on metal.

Shot: Slap a yardstick on a hard, flat surface.

Screeching Breaks: Slide the open end of a drinking glass over a pane of glass.

Chewing Gum

Boy 1: "I'm tied of this chewing gum." (throws in on the ground)

Boy 2: (walks in, steps on gum. Takes gum from shoe) "Ooh, gum." (throws it)

Boy 3: (puts his hand up like he is going to lean on a wall) "Ooh, gum." (removes it from his hand and throws it)

Boy 4: (sits on gum) "Uech" (removes the gum and throws it at the 5th boy)

Boy 5: (pulls it off his shirt) "Oooh yeck" (throws it on the ground)

Boy 1: (returns) "I miss my gum" (picks it up and pops it into his mouth)

The News Family

Announcer: "Now back to the news....We've just had a flash bulletin about the News Family in the desert.

(Rest of the patrol staggers in singly)

Father: "I'm father News, I'm so thirsty, we've been days lost here in the desert" (grabs his throat, falls down dead.)

Mother: "I'm Mother News, we'll never get out of the desert." (staggers, trips over father, falls dead)

Boys: (one after the other) "I'm John News," "I'm Tom News," "I'm Bill News" (each crying for water grabbing throats, falling over dead.

Announcer: "That's it for the News, now onto weather and sports."

The Reporter

A full patrol is involved. First boy speaks to audience saying I have come to the top of this high building to jump and end it all. I haven't any news. He climbs up on a chair and swings arms to jump. Suddenly another person yells stop, don't jump. I am an unemployed painter. I'll jump with you. Next follows 3 more dejected fellows: salesmen (who can't sell), a surgeon (Can't operate any more), teacher (Can't stand the kids any more). They all agree to jump on the count of 3. Reporter counts. All jump but him. He yells "What a scoop, 3 people jump of building"

The Ugliest Person in the World

Narrator invites his patrol to lift jacket or towel off mystery person named by the Narrator as "The Ugliest Person in the World." One by one they scream and faint and are dragged off the stage. Narrator invites a leader to view the "Ugliest Person." The Ugliest Person screams and faints dead away.

The Empty Boxes Skit

Manager: (to new guard): I'm giving you the very responsible position of gate guard at this factory. Because of the lack of vigilance by your predecessors, the workers have stolen so many finished articles that the firm is heading for bankruptcy. Your duty is to ensure this is brought to an end. Do you understand?

Guard: Yes sir. I am to stop stealing.

Manager: That's right. You can search people if necessary. Now it's up to you, and let's see some results.

Guard: Very good, sir. (manager leaves; guard takes post; first workman enters carrying a cloth-draped box.)

Guard: Just a moment. What have you got in that box?

Workman 1: What do you mean?

Guard: What have you got in that box? It's my duty to see that no one takes stuff out of the factory.

Workman 1: Why didn't you say? There's nothing in the box. Look! (He shows everyone the box is empty).

Guard: Oh, well that's all right then. (Workman 1 leaves and second workman enters, box draped as before. Guard and workman go through routine of looking in box. Repeat with the third workman. After the third man has left, manager races in enraged).

Manager: You idiot. I hired you to stop this pilfering. You've only been here half an hour and already we're losing things!

Guard: But the only people who went out were three men with boxes. I stopped them all and they had nothing in them.

Manager: You fool! We make boxes!

Another Ghost Story

Boy stands alone on dimmed stage whistling and darting glances here and there. Second boy enters.

Boy2: What are you doing?

Boy1: Whistling.

Boy2: Why?

Boy1: To keep ghosts away.

Boy2: But there aren't any ghosts around here.

Boy1 See! It's working!

Candy Store

Boy walks into a candy store, goes up to the counter where a storekeeper is standing.

Storekeeper: "What would you like?"

Boy: "I want a dime's worth of jelly beans" (puts dime on the counter.)

Storekeeper: (Climbs up a high ladder to get the jelly beans. Counts them out. Takes the dime and then returns the jar, as the boy exits)

3 more boys come into the store and ask for 10 cents of jelly beans.

Last boy comes in and puts 10 cents on the counter.

Storekeeper: "I know what you want" (and he goes and gets the jelly beans) "You want 10 cents of jelly beans"

Boy: "No I don't"

Storekeeper: (Returns jar) "What did you want"

Boy: "5 cents of jelly beans."

Wee Wee

(Passengers and bus driver, boy and mother)

Announcer: "A boy and his mother are on a bus trip."

Boy: "Mom, I have to go wee wee"

Mother: "We'll be there in 20 minutes."

Boy: "Mom I have to go wee wee."

Mother: "We'll be there in 15 minutes."

Boy: (jumping up and down off his seat) "Mom, please, I really have to go wee wee."

Mother: "Just wait ten more minutes."

Boy: (squirming) "I can't wait any longer I have to go wee wee."

Mother: "Only three more minutes."

Boy: "Squirming even more) "I have to go wee wee now!"

Mother: "Alright"

Boy: (Hollers) "Wee, wee!"

Fishing

Two boys stand far apart, telephone receivers in their hands.

Boy 1: "Hey Bill, I went fishing today and caught some really big fish."

Boy 2: "What did you say, I can't hear you."

Boy 1: "The line must be down." (asks someone to come up and hold up the line) "Hey Bill, can you hear me now?"

Boy 2: "I can't hear you speak up."

Boy 1: (yelling) "I went fishing today and caught some big ones."

Boy 2: "I still can't hear you.

Boy 1: (get another boy to hold up the line)

Cycle repeats until 3 or 4 people are holding the line

Boy 1: "Bill, can you hear me now."

Boy 2: "Yep, everything is fine now. What were you saying before?"

Boy 1: "I caught some big fish today."

Boy 2: "What kind?"

Boy 1: "I've got four suckers hanging on the line."

The One Dollar Coin

A group of boys walk up to another looking around on the ground for something.

Boy in group: "What are you doing"

Boy looking: "I'm looking for a dollar coin I lost"

Boy in group: "Where did you loose it?"

Boy looking: "Over there" (Pointing to a dark area of the campfire circle)

Boy in group: "Then why are you looking over here?"

Boy looking: "The lights better."

Peanuts

Minister comes up to a group of boys. (one boy smaller than the rest)

Minister: "I'm Reverend Smith, I didn't see any of you in church yesterday."

First boy: "I was throwing peanuts in the river."

Second boy: "I helped him throw peanuts into the river."

Third boy: "I help them throw peanuts as well."

Forth boy: "I helped too."

Fifth boy: (softly) "I'm peanuts."

Repairing The Car

Announcer selects a boy who bends over, hands and feet on the ground, back in the air.

Announcer "We have a car here with 4 loose wheels."

Announcer selects 4 more boys from the campfire circle and instructs them to squat at each wheel of the car.

Announcer: "Everyone lift the car up"

Boy who is the car: "Vroom, vroom."

Announcer: "See, all we needed was 4 nuts."

The King's Papers

King on his throne, the rest of the patrol is his court.

King: "Where are my papers."

Boy: (Running up with some kind of paper in his hand) "Here your majesty."

King: "Not these papers, my royal papers."

The cycle repeats. Each time the king gets more and more aggravated. Until the final boy who brings toilet paper:

King: "Ah, my Royal Paper at last!" (Smiles with relief)

The Outhouse

Boys line up in a row.

Father: (Walks up to the first boy) "Jake did you push over the outhouse? Tell me the truth, I won't spank you."

Jack: (shaking) "No daddy, I didn't do it."

Father: (goes to the second boy) "Willy, did you push the outhouse over? I won't hurt you, if you tell the truth."

Willy: (shaking) "Not me, daddy."

Father: (goes to the third boy) "Billy-Joe did you push the outhouse over? Tell me the truth, I won't whip you."

Billy-Joe: (shaking) "Not me daddy, I wouldn't do that, you know I wouldn't."

Father: (goes back to Jake and Willy hollering at them) "Did one of you do it!?"

Boys: "Not me, honest!"

Father: (goes to Billy-Joe) "I won't whip you if you confess right now. (As he shacks him by the shoulders)

Billy-Joe: "If you promise you won't whoop me, I'll tell the truth...(father nods) I did it."

Father: (knocks Billy-Joe around and hits him with his hat)

Billy-Joe: "You said you wouldn't hit me if I told the truth."

Father: "I was sitting in it when it went over the cliff."