



## Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News--May 2014

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By Elizabeth Jolley

## Ship's Papers--Important Information for the crew



### View from the Helm

By Robin Marshall, TARSUS Coordinator  
210 18th Street NW Bradenton, FL 34205

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Once again, we are on the verge of summer with all that it offers us to get out and enjoy outdoor pursuits.

This summer looks set to be a setting for my own adventure. In June I will set off to England with my wife, son, daughter, and our two granddaughters Eden and Samantha, aged 10 and 11. It has been most rewarding at seeing their excitement at this planned trip. We will be spending three weeks in England, France and incredibly Iceland. Not much of Ransome related things will be involved, owing to the dates we will be there most activities are over or not on. The nearest possible thing would be a sailing day with TARS southern region. I was interested to read there was a slight Ransome connection with Iceland as W G Collingwood visited there in 1897. I will endeavor to write an article about my own travels this year. I am particularly interested in seeing how my granddaughters react to a different environment. It should be exciting.

Welcome to our new member, Zia Bell Plumb, Port Townsend, WA!

I am glad to report most 2014 subscriptions have now been paid and would like to thank all those who made an extra donation to TARS and in particular to TARSUS. There was a very generous one from Molly McGinnis, thank you Molly!

You will find I have listed those that so far have not sent their subscriptions in as a reminder in case they forgot, and mention again as in last year if your name is not on the list you are paid up to date; however if your name is there and you believe you have paid, please contact me asap.

Have a great and enjoyable summer,  
Robin



Jib Booms and Bobstays



You are standing into danger!

The TARS Membership Database is purged of non-renewals at the end of May - and you have not yet renewed:

Julie Bishop 4686  
Maggie Brandt 4016  
Robert Dean 1587  
Gordon Higbee 3492  
Edwin M. Kiser 2290  
John Kolars 4904  
Sofia Lyons 5009

Ben Matlick 2080  
Joyce Pettijohn 4813  
Jane Quinton 4697  
Anne Wachsman 4474  
Samuel Warner 5013  
Chris & Virginia White 4283  
Lewis Wolcott 4964

Send your renewal check quickly or your membership is likely to be go to Davey Jones!

Your membership type and renewal amount:

Junior \$17.50	Student \$35.00	Senior/Pensioner \$44.00
Adult \$52.50	Family \$67.25	Corporate \$105.00

To pay, or if you have already paid & need to tell me, contact me at:

[robin@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:robin@arthur-ransome.org)

Robin Marshall 210 N 18<sup>th</sup> St W Bradenton FL 34205

Phone: 941 896 9169



## **Greetings From the North**

By Ian Sacré, TARSCanada Coordinator

[gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

750 Donegal Place, North Vancouver, BC V7N 2X5

Winter has more or less slowly faded away in much of Canada and the longer spring days are upon us. Thank goodness! What a winter it has been for some. I had reports from members who were without power for Christmas and I am sure their camping skills stood them in good stead. It must have been a time to hunt for old kerosene primus stoves that had been stored away in dusty garages, unused these many years. It is amazing how reliable those old stoves were and are. I have an old two-burner model that must be forty-five years old and is still going strong. On a recent camping trip to California I had my old stove on the picnic table going full blast when two ladies walked by and looking at the stove one said in an amazed voice, "Look! A fully operational antique!" I wanted to ask if they were talking about me, or the stove!

I am delighted to report that all our Canadian TARS members have renewed their membership subscriptions for another year. With our Canadian dollar slightly lower in value in relation to the US dollar at the present time it may be necessary to make a minor adjustment to the subscription rate for next year. However, the year's end is still a long way off and we shall worry about that in October.

I also want to thank those that have moved or changed their email address for keeping me informed of such changes. As soon as I am advised, I inform headquarters so that the necessary changes can be entered into the master address lists. This ensures that your copies of *Signals*, *Mixed Moss* & *Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News* continue to be delivered on time and without interruption. All the publications we receive are filled with most interesting items generated both near and far.

On the recent camping trip to California I referred to earlier, I went searching for old windmills and watermills. In the valley just below the Mission Santa Ines, which lies in the little town of Solvang, California, I found the old restored remains of the mission grist-mill built in 1820 by Joseph Chapman, a Bostonian pirate with Bouchard. Chapman apparently deserted from Bouchard after he burnt Ortega Adobe. Nevertheless, Chapman was sentenced to be shot as pirate, but was paroled instead to the Spanish Mission Santa Ines to build the New England style grist-mill. He later married Guadalupe Ortega at the mission. Joseph must certainly have possessed the gift of the gab and I thought that the Swallows and Amazons would have enthusiastically approved of such a radical change of professions. It is amazing what happens to some people on the way to Damascus! (Or in this case, to the Mission Santa Ines!)

Once again I would love to get together with any of you that happen to be visiting Vancouver. Please do not be shy about contacting me.

Warmest best wishes,

Ian Sacré

### **IMPORTANT CONCERN FOR ALL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER:**

Our newsletter is posted on a public internet forum, All Things Ransome. This allows access easily for all of our members who use the internet, and we send copies by postal service to those who request it. However, there is a concern that we are showing photos & using names of our members. For most people, this may not be a problem, but we are especially concerned that we support privacy for our junior and youth members. If you have children, are a junior, or are at all concerned about privacy for our members, please e-mail one of us.

Elizabeth: [erjolley8@gmail.com](mailto:erjolley8@gmail.com)

Robin: [robin@arthur-ransome.org](mailto:robin@arthur-ransome.org)

Ian: [gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)

Tell us your concerns about publishing this newsletter on the internet. You may also contact us to tell us that website publishing is fine with you--we'd like to hear from as many of you as possible.

## Membership Information:

### **Member Benefits**

The descriptions below apply to **TARSUS** and **TARS Canada** only. Members in other countries receive the publications listed, with the exception of Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News, and pay their local equivalent of the UK prices.

**FAMILY Member: \$62.75** (Must register the names of all members of the family)

Family Members receive:

Mixed Moss, the yearly Literary Magazine.

Signals, the news from UK Regions and headquarters and some overseas groups, 3/year.

Outlaw, the newsletter for Junior members.

Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News, 3/year.

**ADULT Member: \$52.50**

Adult Members receive Mixed Moss, Signals and Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News.

**SENIOR Member: \$44.00 \*\*\*Please note this is a new rate for 2014\*\*\***

Over 65 years of age you are eligible for Senior Membership & receive the same publications as Adult Members.

**STUDENT Member: \$35.00**

Student members must be engaged in full-time study. They receive the same publications as Adult Members.

**JUNIOR Member: \$17.50**

Junior members, under 17 years, receive Signals and Signals from TARSUS/North Pole News, plus Outlaw.

**To apply for TARSUS or TARS Canada membership, please complete Application Form (next page)**

**TARS Website has a new address:** <http://www.arthur-ransome.org.uk>

**All Things Ransome**, a website devoted to keeping articles, artwork, and anything related to Ransome, is online at: <http://www.allthingsransome.net>

## Renewal of Membership

### THE ARTHUR RANSOME SOCIETY - TARS US & CANADA MEMBERS

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2014 fell due on **1 January 2014**

**Please pay now while you remember!** This will save the work of having to track you down to determine your subscription intentions and will ensure that you will not miss any publications in 2014!

#### **New Members Exempt**

If you joined TARS in October, November or December 2013 then your subscription covers calendar year 2014 as well, and there is no need for further payment until January 2015.

**Senior or Pensioner status:** If you are 65 or over then you are eligible for the Senior rate.

#### **Additional Voluntary Contribution:**

The subscription, payable by all members, covers the basic operation of the Society, including all the benefits that each member can expect to receive. Any additional donations will be reserved for spending on additional activities or projects. This may include: TARS Library; the Ship's Baby Fund; making donations to outside bodies (such as the Nancy Blackett Trust or Horstead Centre); or helping to increase funding for regional "Books for Schools" schemes. Donations to TARSUS/NORTH POLE NEWS are also welcome to help with the newsletter and prizes for competitions or promotions.

<b>Name:</b>				<b>Membership No:</b>		
<b>*Type of Membership:</b>						
Junior (overseas up to 16)	\$17.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		Family (overseas)	\$67.25	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student (any age in full-time education)	\$35.00	<input type="checkbox"/>		Senior (overseas 65+)	\$44.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult (overseas)	\$52.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		Corporate (overseas)	\$105.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional <u>Voluntary</u> Contribution \$ _____	Please use my contribution as follows: _____ (You may indicate more than one use; if you do please advise the proportion to go to each. If you leave this blank the Trustees will decide how to allocate your contribution.)					
<b>TOTAL Subscription + Voluntary Contribution \$</b>						

US MEMBERS: Please make cheques (in US Dollars) payable to "**The Arthur Ransome Society**" and send with this sheet to:

**Robin Marshall**      Phone (941) 896-9169      E-mail: [robin@arthur-ransome.org.uk](mailto:robin@arthur-ransome.org.uk)  
**210 - 18<sup>th</sup> St NW. Bradenton, FL 34205-6845**

CANADA MEMBERS: Please make cheques (in Canadian Dollars) payable to **Ian Sacré**, and send with this sheet to:

**Ian Sacré**      Phone (604) 984-2295      E-mail: [gallivanterthree@telus.net](mailto:gallivanterthree@telus.net)  
**750 Donegal Place, North Vancouver, BC V7N 2X5**

Or pay by **PayPal** with a **credit card** at: [www.tarseast.co.uk/TARS\\_Subscription\\_Renewals.html](http://www.tarseast.co.uk/TARS_Subscription_Renewals.html)  
 Be sure to have your **member number** ready, and click on the appropriate "**Overseas Member**" box.  
 If you have any questions please contact Robin Marshall for assistance.



## The Professor's Laboratory--ideas, instructions & fixes

### Sketch Mapping (as in *Secret Water*)

By Charles Preston

When you read *Secret Water* did it make you want to make a sketch map of your own? It's fun. In this article I will tell you, or at least give you tips, on how to do it. Distances, details and directions on your map will be reasonably accurate. The subject of your map could be a favorite camping area, a city park, the city block where you live, or some other area of interest.

It would be too lengthy to cover, in this article, all the information you need to know, so I will give you references to where you can obtain the information free, or at minimal cost. The materials you will need are: compass, protractor, ruler, pencil, eraser, and paper (lined graph paper is best, but not essential). The skills you will need to master are: how to use the compass and how to pace off distances. You should also have a general knowledge of: compass deviation, true and magnetic North, latitude and longitude, and topographic maps.

The main references are: *Stay Alive-Find Your Way Back*, by John McCann \$ 1.99 (A Kindle e-book --Covers compass, compass deviation, pacing, topographic maps, pace counter beads).

*Compass Dude*--a FREE website at [www.compassdude.com](http://www.compassdude.com) --(Covers compass, compass deviation, pacing, topographic maps, map symbols).

**THE COMPASS**--Almost any accurate compass (not a toy) can be used, but it is best to use a modern base-plate type compass (also called an "orienteeing compass"), which also doubles as a small ruler and, possibly, a protractor. The Suunto A-10, made in Finland (picture below), at \$11 plus shipping from [Cammor.com](http://Cammor.com), is a nice starter compass, and simple to use. Your new compass should include an instruction sheet which will tell you, very briefly, how to use it. For more comprehensive information and instructions, see either of the references above.

**PACING DISTANCES**--This is essential in order to estimate the distances to enter on your map. Do not confuse the terms "pace" and "step". A pace = 2 steps. Thus, if you are counting paces and start off with your left foot, count a pace every time your right foot strikes down. To establish the length of your pace, count your paces over a known distance (the longer the better) and divide the known distance by the number of paces. Repeat several times, and average the results. All reference sources noted above give more detailed instructions. Be aware that the pace-length you establish will be for level ground. Steep hills, sand, tall grass, and a heavy backpack will each shorten your pace, and you will have to guesstimate an adjustment.

It is easy to lose track of your pace count and have to start over, especially when measuring long distances. You can buy and use a pedometer instead of counting paces, but I have never had much luck with them, and you still have to establish the length of your pace. Another way is to use "pace counter beads".

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) sells a set (about \$7 plus about \$3 shipping) in which the sliding bead counters are tiny metal SKULLS. Very piratical; Nancy would love them! As shown in the picture below, there is a group of four sliding skulls at the top, and one of nine at the bottom. You may guess from the picture how to use them, but if not, see "Pace Count Beads" on [Wikipedia.com](http://Wikipedia.com), or the book by John McCann, above.

**MAKING YOUR SKETCH MAP**--Before you do anything else, you must decide on the scale of your map. This will depend on the size of your paper, and the size of the area to be mapped. 400 feet to the inch may work well. Also, I suggest that you re-read *Secret Water*, or at least the parts of it that relate to mapping, for ideas. For simplicity, you can orient your map to magnetic North, so long as you indicate that on the final map.

You will make a rough field survey by walking the area to be mapped, pacing distances, noting compass bearings of the route traveled, and marking in natural and man-made features (a clip board will come in handy). Later, at home, with a ruler and protractor, you will use your field notes to prepare a neat final map.

The first map shown below is just such a map, made "from scratch" by field survey. It is taken from a Boy Scout Handbook of 1931 (not coincidentally the year of the *Swallowdale* adventure). The maker needed a second person to stand as a target at intersections and curves of the roads, where there were no features upon which to take a bearing. He started his field survey at the intersection in the lower left, and ended up at the same

point. Notice the gap at that point called “error of closure”: it is inherent in this type of closed-circuit sketch map because there is bound to be some error in bearings and distances. If the gap is too large, it means that major errors have been made, and you should go over your work. Note that the maker of this map has shown: location and date, a North arrow, a distance scale, important compass bearings, and standard map symbols for natural and man-made features. All these things are important to include in a good sketch map. Also notice that one building was too far from the road to be placed by estimate, and was located by triangulation.

The second map shown was not done “from scratch”, but rather by the method the S&A’s used in *Secret Water*. The outline of the pond was copied and enlarged by sight from a topographic map, for the rough survey. Then the pond was circumnavigated on foot by a group (mostly Junior TARS), and features were entered by sight, compass and pacing. Rather wet going in places, as you can see. Wellies needed.



Map #1



Map #2



Compass & Pacing Beads

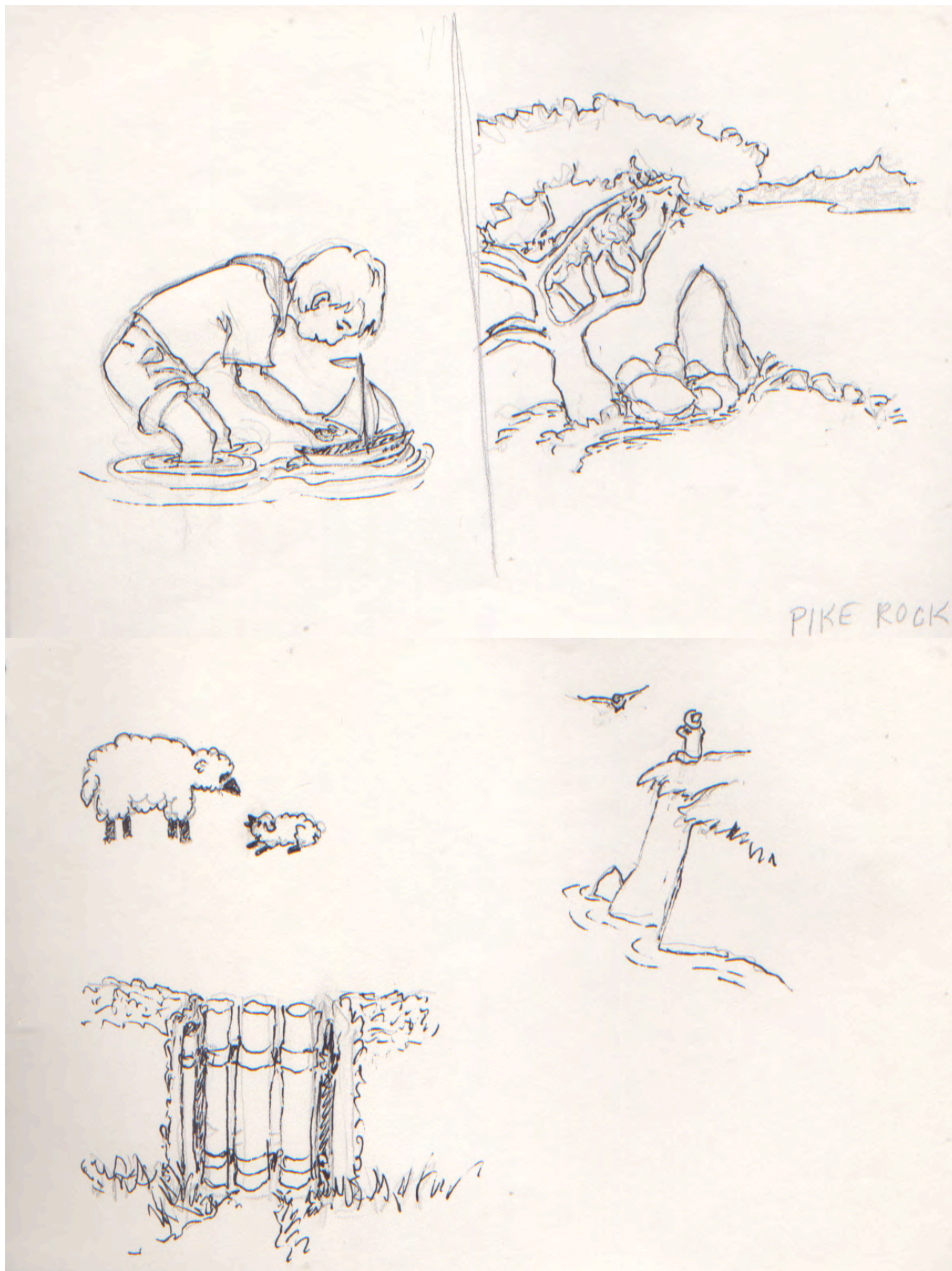
So that is a brief course on sketch mapping.  
Have fun--Karabadangbaraka!



**Mrs. Barrable's Gallery--artwork by members**

**Little Ransome-inspired Sketches**

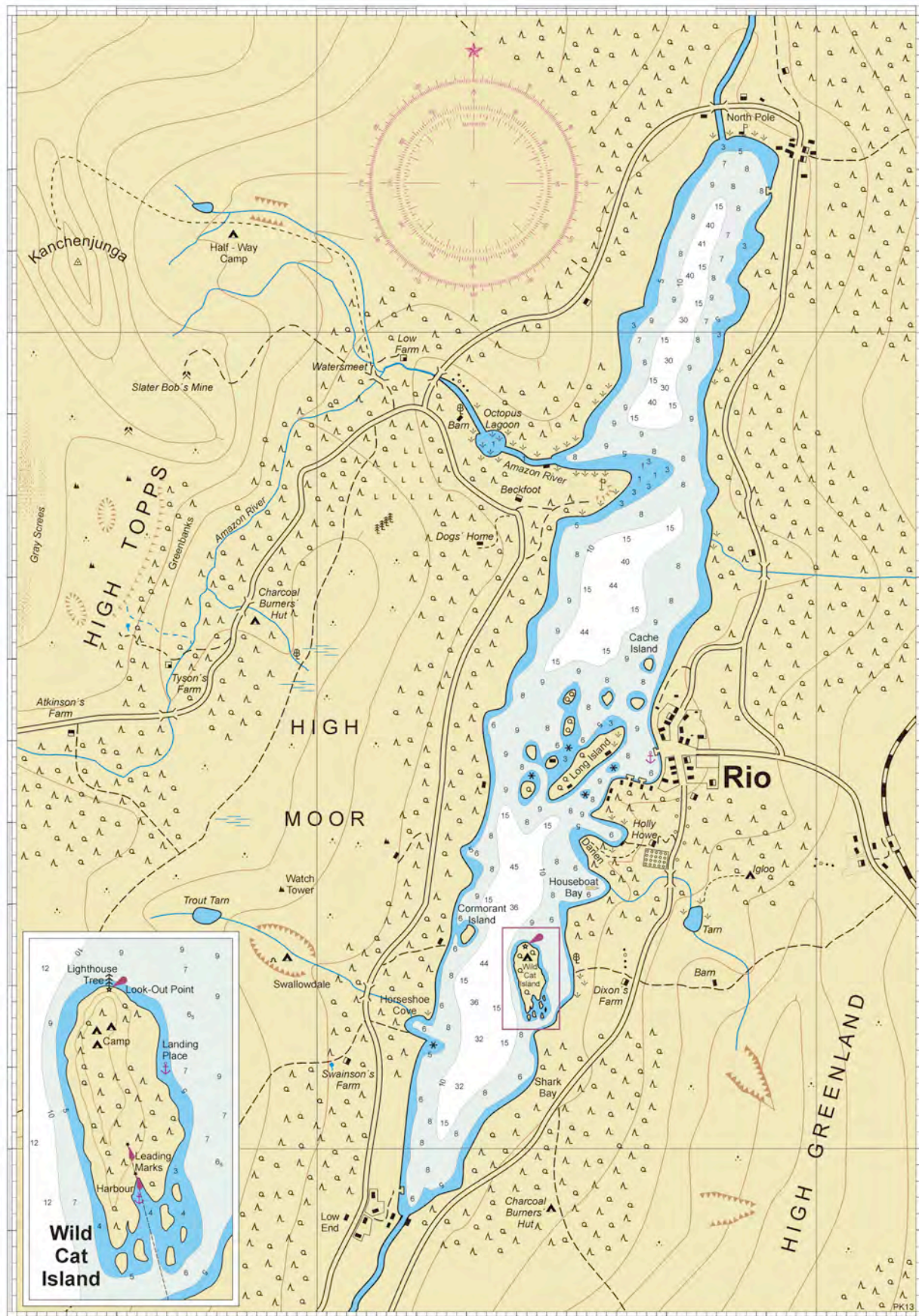
By Jane Rondthaler





# Map of The Lake

By Petr Krist, Czech Republic





## Native Post--Stuff you may want to know about

### **Restoration of The Dogs Home**

By Elizabeth Jolley

There was some discussion about the run-down condition of The Dogs Home, near Coniston Water, on [Tarboard](#) last fall. This spring, the good news is that restoration has occurred, and The Dogs Home will continue to be one of many sites you can visit when you take your Ransome vacation!

Here it is before the restoration:



And after--note the roof is straight & corners are solid:



From what I understand, the boards are gone from the window & door, and the old door was not replaced.

## Dipping our Hands—personal relationships with the books

### **Growing as a Leader--John Walker**

By Allan Smyth

John, Captain of the ‘Swallow’ and eldest child of the Walker family, grows in maturity throughout Ransome’s stories, as shown by several distinct instances. At age twelve, during the summer holidays in [Swallows and Amazons](#), John already shows firm traits of resourcefulness, responsibility, and courage which will serve him well throughout his life. He is a natural leader like his father, who commands a destroyer in the China Sea.

“Better drowned than duffers if not duffers won’t drown”

Captain Walker’s famous telegram authorizes John to lead his three younger siblings in sailing ‘Swallow’ and camping on Wildcat Island by themselves. John’s parents and siblings respect his serious sense of duty. But John has a lot to learn. “Very nearly a duffer” in the excitement of trying to capture ‘Amazon’, John’s night sailing easily could have had tragic consequences. John’s mother, Molly Walker, shows wisdom. As the story of the night sail comes out, she does not berate John or crush his adventurous spirit but rather

allows him to explain the events of the night and come to the obvious conclusion:

“We were up the Amazon river.... and then it got too dark and we had to stop by the islands until it was light enough to see.”

“Don’t you think that was very nearly like being duffers?”

“Yes,” said John, “it was rather.... and I promise we shall never do it again.”

Thus John humbly learns a lesson: Don’t let group excitement override your judgment.

Swallowdale becomes a land-based story because John makes a serious error in judgment. With Nancy and Peggy watching, John attempts to cross the lake in a strong wind from starboard, while keeping his sail out to port – the prescription for an involuntary jibe. John grimly hangs on. They almost reach safety.

“We ought to be able to do it”, John said aloud, and really because he was not quite sure.

“Remember the rock we saw yesterday,” Susan said.

A savage gust hurls the sail over to starboard and ‘Swallow’ lurches into Pike Rock. John calmly orders his crew over the side. As water fills the boat, he throws the anchor toward shore to aid in salvage. John swims out to the wreck and dives repeatedly, tying a line to the anchor rope and removing ballast. By the time Captain Flint arrives, ‘Swallow’ is careened on the beach. Like Molly Walker, Captain Flint shows wisdom in reassuring John, who is painfully aware of his serious blunder.

“Lost a mast? Holed her too? Well, these things will happen....Got her up? Where was she? You got her up from out there? Well done. Good work.”

Captain Flint takes the lead in explaining the episode to Molly Walker, who allows the crew to camp in Swallowdale with his help. John has not been humiliated or penalized except by his own conscience. But he learns a vital lesson: Never let pride over-rule judgment.

As Ransome’s stories continue, John matures. A climax comes in We Didn’t Mean to go to Sea, when the Swallows are guests on Jim Brading’s cutter ‘Goblin’. When Jim rows ashore for petrol, ‘Goblin’ drags anchor in the rising tide and drifts toward shoals and the open sea. Over-ruling Susan’s frantic plea to turn back, John navigates to safe North Sea waters. A storm engulfs them. John struggles to keep ‘Goblin’ running before a howling gale. Susan desperately begs for a return home, impossible in the teeth of the wind. Tied to a lifeline, John manages to crank reefs into the sail after nearly going overboard. Night comes. John is alone at the con, master of his vessel and of the seas. Here, through John, Ransome shares with us his own awe- inspiring experience of conning a boat through a stormy night.

“John was alone in the dark with his ship... He was the Master of the ‘Goblin’. He and the ‘Goblin’ together. On and on....On and on.... He would always and always remember this night when for the first time ship and crew were in his charge, his alone..... Good little ship. Good little ship. He put a hand over the edge of the coaming and patted the damp deck in the darkness.”

After morning comes, the crew reach Flushing Harbor in Holland. Captain Walker, returning on leave, incredibly sees them, and the whole story pours out from the crew. As they walk along the street in Flushing, Captain Walker gives his son a supreme affirmation:

“Suddenly, while they were walking along, Daddy brought his hand down on John’s shoulder and gave it a bit of a squeeze. ‘You’ll be a seaman yet, my son.’ And John, for one dreadful moment, felt that something was going wrong with his eyes. A sort of wetness....”

This powerful bonding between father and son touches readers deeply, but the unlikely meeting strains our credulity. Studying Ransome’s life, we find that this concept of an earned fatherly confirmation was the genesis of the book. Ransome never experienced such affirmation from his own father. As a youth Arthur was miserable at school, doing poorly in sports and in academics. His father died when Arthur was thirteen, long before the son achieved distinction as a journalist and then as a master storyteller. Throughout life Arthur struggled with the need for affirmation.

Ransome’s young friend Taqui Altounyan sparked his creation of John, but as his great stories continue, Ransome becomes John. The author breathes life into his creation, giving John and his other characters power to speak to our own inner selves. One of Ransome’s many gifts to us is his implicit admonition to encourage resourcefulness, respect, and courage in others, and to give affirmation when affirmation is earned.



## The End of Amallow

By David Elms

### The End of Amallow.

In the winter of 2011/2012 I wrote an article about Arthur Ransome's influence on my early life, the construction in the early 60's of my Pram boat Amallow and its conversion into a sailing vessel. Along with Mr. Ransome's lessons from the books and this beloved little boat, I learned to sail. The article was e-published in the Signals from TARSUS & North Pole News – May 2012.

Unfortunately time was not kind to Amallow. Sometime in the seventies we tried to help her by giving her an outer coating of fiberglass but she was relegated to being just a rowboat and never sailed again. I bought a Lazer racing sailboat in the eighties to continue my sailing enjoyment while poor Amallow sat rotting away under the family cottage.

In the spring of 2012, coincidentally with the e-publishing of the above mentioned article, I came to the conclusion that it was time to say "goodbye" to dear Amallow.



The evening campfire was built down on the beach and poor Amallow was pulled out from under the cottage; her transom falling apart as the wood was so soft with rot. Now, fifty years after her Christening, she was ceremonially cremated. More than one tear flowed as she went up in flames.

As there has been no evidence of her end, could that have been the original Swallow's fate too?



Dave Elms, Newmarket, Ontario CANADA.





# Pieces of Eight

## The Junior Pages

Edited by Deirdre Iams-McGuire



Hello everyone! Freedom at last for those who are already out of school, and three million cheers to those whose schools are still in session! My own is pretty much over which is very good - math questions asking about tides and bearings and things had begun to be answered with things like "It doesn't matter; the question is about a motor boat" or "There was an iceberg in the way."

Before we begin, I'd like to thank Ethan and Lewis Walcott for participating in the word search riddle contest from the last issue. They correctly answered the combination of a pirate and a zucchini - it's a squash-buckler! Well done you two!

As always, please send drawings, stories, jokes, photos, poems, songs, games, crafts, recipes, and everything else to [deirdre@oro.net](mailto:deirdre@oro.net) or [erjolley8@gmail.com](mailto:erjolley8@gmail.com).

### *How to Make a Hammock*

*"'But how do we make it into netting?' asked Titty. 'Peggy's a dab at it,' said Nancy. 'She'll show you. We made our own hammocks.'"*

In *Great Northern?* when Dick says he'll need a hide to photograph the eggs, Nancy mentions having made a hammock the same way. Here's how to make a net hammock for yourself or any visiting Picts!

#### **You will need:**

- Some strong, somewhat-thick rope that you don't mind cutting. This will be used for anchoring your netting and hanging the hammock. The kind I used was probably nearly half an inch thick and made of polyester. What really matters is its weight rating; mine is safe for loads up to 200 pounds which means only one person can sit on the hammock at once.
- LOTS of smaller rope/string. You'll need somewhere between 700 and 1000 feet of it (this might be labelled by weight - two pounds should do the trick). Generally speaking, hammock rope is about 7/32 inches thick, but I've seen it done with thicker (it looked uncomfortable!). You might be able to find specific hammock-making rope.
- A sort of spool for storing the netting string. Captain Flint cut apart bits of a cigar box and shaped it with a fire poker, but I used something similar to the spool found on a kite. Not all the string will fit on this at once. That's all right. This is just to keep the string tidy and out of your way.
- A mesh, used for keeping the netting's spacing even. I used an index card, but I would suggest using something slightly smaller and stiffer.

#### **Step One: The Anchor**

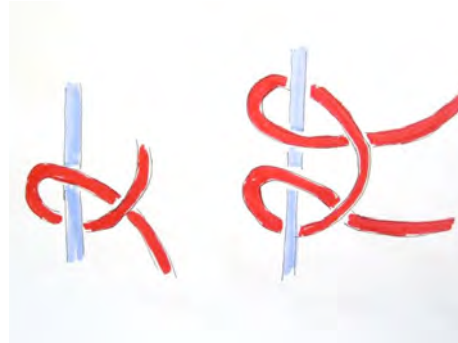
The Swallows, Amazons, and Ds set up their netting on *Sea Bear's* boom and shrouds - that's fine for ordinary netting, but how are you going to hang the hammock? For hammock-making purposes, string the thicker rope between two objects. I used bed posts (see diagram next page):

(Step One)



### Step Two: Casting On

Take the string and tie it to the left-hand side of the anchor rope. The working end goes over the anchor, then back around behind it and then finally over itself:

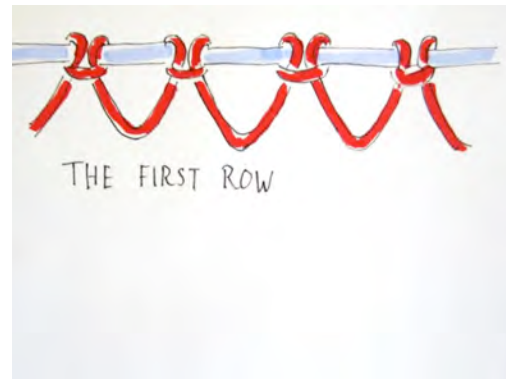
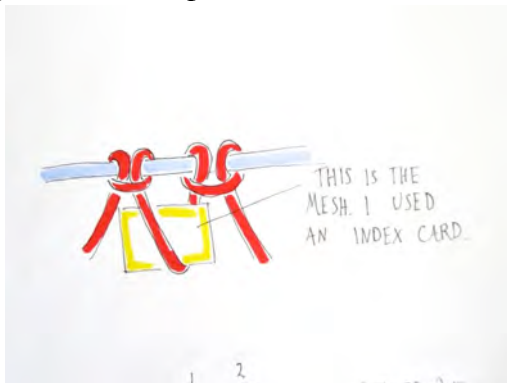


Then bring the needle end (the right one – I forgot to label this!) up and behind the anchor rope, then back over and under itself. Tug both ends very gently so as to secure it, and then set the tail out of the way so that you don't use it accidentally. I did.

Now do another! And another! And LOTS more! The number of knots depends on how far apart they are and how wide you want your hammock. Four feet wide at two/three inches between knots is about 24 knots. Because hammocks tend to wrap around you (meaning there's more surface area to cover), you should make it just a little bit wider – do about 30 knots. But less if the current is going the other way...

Actually, before you do another, use your mesh (Captain Flint's cigar box) to make sure that there is the right amount of space between each knot, like so:

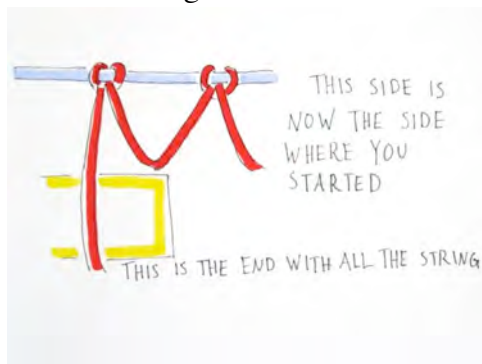
And here's what the first row should look like:



### Step Three: The Second Row

Untie the anchor ends from their posts and re-tie them to the other one – the tail should now be on the right and the working end on the left:

The netting will be made using lots of little knots – Arthur Ransome called them herring knots, but the version used here is slightly different. I think it might be reversed.



*Note: You might want to practice on separate pieces of string first. That said, I thought these were much easier than casting on.*

Here are the steps:

1. Take the needle end up through the loop:



2. Wrap it behind both parts of the loop:



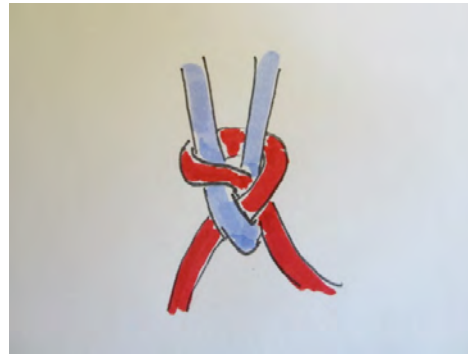
3. Now bring the needle in front of both parts of the loop but behind itself and pull snug. Try to keep your work flat here:



You did it! On to the next one!

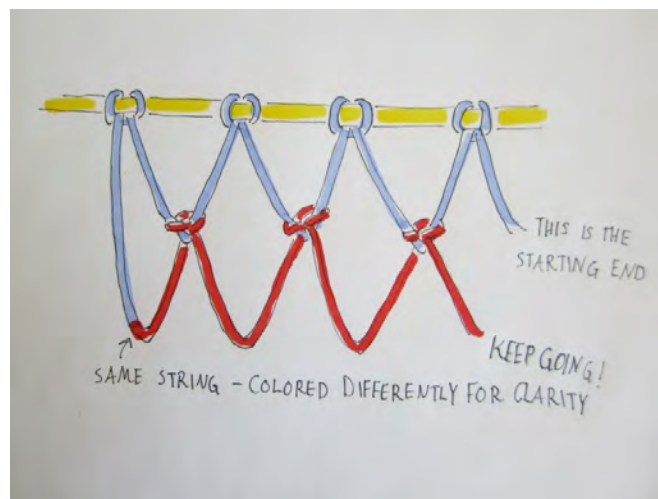
Remember to use the mesh in between knots.

When you get to the end of the row, re-tie the ends of the anchor rope the same way and repeat from the beginning of Step Three. And here's how it will look:



#### Step Four: Finishing and Hanging

If the string on the needle runs out, tie the end to the new string with a square knot. It's best to do this on an edge. If your netting gets too long, thread a new rope through somewhere in your netting and use it as an anchor rope, adjusting as necessary. I can't go more than a few rows without wanting to readjust.



Properly, there's a method for increasing numbers of loops per row for finishing. It's very complicated. Instead, string up a new anchor rope and turn all your netting upside down (the first anchor rope piled up on the floor), and alternate between netting knots and casting on knots. Tying upside down is tricky, so I just doubled the netting over and went normally. Be very careful to keep to same spacing. After that, all that's left to do is tie the anchor ropes around a tree and shout at missionaries who take too long to bring you chocolate. **-Pg. 15-**

## ***Roger-Approved Ice Cream***

Roger is always hungry and always in a hurry. If for some horrid reason you've run out of ice cream (or an AP refuses to get more), here are instructions for making your own. Of course, there *is* convincing said AP to buy the ingredients....!

### **You will need:**

- 1 gallon-sized ziplock bag (freezer thickness)
- 1 quart-sized ziplock bag (also freezer thickness)
- ½ cup half-and-half (milk will work but it's a bit watery in my opinion)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 5 tablespoons salt (most types will work; I understand the larger chunks are better)
- Ice (enough to fill the gallon-sized bag half-way)

**Step One:** Mix up the half-and-half/milk, sugar, and vanilla and put it into the quart bag. Ideally the sugar crystals will be mostly dissolved. Close the bag and try to squash out most of the air.

**Step Two:** Put the quart bag (double check the seal) into the gallon bag, and cover with ice. The bag should be mostly full of ice. Now, pour in the salt (more or less evenly distributed), and close the top.

**Step Three:** Shake vigorously for *at least* five minutes, the longer the better...but maybe I'm biased since I don't like soft ice cream! The point is to freeze the ice cream as much as possible before opening it as the salt somehow seems to find its way into the ice cream every time you open it. Once it's firm enough, you're done! Not so bad, is it?

## ***Spanish Ladies***

While you're waiting for the ice cream, you might try some shanty singing. There're the ordinary versions of songs (here's a good site if you're unfamiliar with any of them: [Sea Shanties](#)), but I found this parody and had to share it, though perhaps it's more enjoyed by older juniors and APs. If you have a favorite song parody (even better if it's at all nautical!) please do send it in!

This was found on Claudia Myatt's blog, which is very nice if you'd like to read it – she's even painted some familiar boats (*Nancy Blackett*, *Swallow*, and others): [www.claudiamyatt.co.uk/](http://www.claudiamyatt.co.uk/)

### The Great Explorers Song, sung to the tune of *Spanish Ladies*:

Verse 1:      When Columbus set sail, he didn't go to America  
                    No-one had said there was a continent there  
                    He sailed to Cuba and thought it was China  
                    And he only lost one ship but had two to spare

Chorus:        Let's give a loud cheer to all great explorers  
                    With no maps or charts they got there more or less  
                    If only they'd had satellite navigation  
                    They'd have given their soul for a good GPS

Verse 2:        Magellan was sure he could sail round America  
                    'Surely it can't be as big as all that!'  
                    After months in the channels of Tierra del Fuego  
                    He muttered, 'Oh b\*\*\*\*r, oh hell and oh drat!'

Chorus

*(Continued on next page)*





Verse 3: Brave Captain Cook sailed the wide Southern Ocean  
For thousands of miles there was nothing to hit  
Until he bumped into a bit of Australia  
Made a hole in Endeavour and muttered 'Oh s\*\*t!'

Chorus

Verse 4: A bold pirate sailed with a hold full of treasure  
From plundering ships on the wide Spanish main  
He buried the lot on a lone desert island  
And then damned if he ever could find it again

Chorus

Verse 5: An arrogant Admiral sailed home from battle  
Leading the fleet with its hundreds of troops  
Until he crashed into the rocks off the Scillies  
As he drowned with the others his last word was 'Oops!'

Final Note-- "Farewell and adieu to you fair Spanish ladies" --until next issue!



Ha-ha-ha! Still laughing at the parody of Spanish Ladiee! Do write your own parodies--we will all enjoy them tremendously :-). Although I am sure I could manage to follow instructions for Roger's Ice Cream, if you have a trouble making your hammock, please contact Deirdre, as I have two left thumbs!

Life has been very busy at the Jolley homestead--we moved back from our farm and may be just about ready to list the south lot, with farmhouse, barn, machine shed & old-style triple garage. We listed the buildable north lot, and sold it right away for cash at \$2,000 over our asking price! Cross fingers for a similar bit of luck on the south lot. Meanwhile, I have spent hours unpacking & deciding again just how I want us to use the rooms in our town house. New drapes and a few new furniture arrangements seem to look pretty nice!

All that was a roundabout way of getting to my apology--although this is called the "May" issue, I am finally getting it published in "June". Thank goodness world peace is not relying on me and my ability to do things in a timely fashion!

Please start thinking now of what you want to share in the September issue, and I will accept submissions anytime. I would like to ask that you send your articles in Times New Roman, size 12 font, in any format other than doc.x (my nemesis) or .pdf files (I want to be able to re-format what you send). Thanks for all the support out there--I have not yet been unable to gather a nice plenty of articles for each issue, and I am truly grateful for that :-).

Best wishes for a Ransome-ish summer! I hope you get to sail, hike, climb, camp, cook over an open fire, explore, and most of all, enjoy whatever holiday time you have!

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