

Here is an idea for a handicraft which can later be used as part of the camp programme during a mock battle. A ballista is a device for projecting 'missiles', sometimes at high speed, towards an opponent.

**Equipment needed:** seven long canes, ten medium-sized elastic bands, 24 thick strong elastic bands, strong circular receptacle (margarine tub or similar), ammunition (newspaper balls held together with adhesive tape).

Construct the frame, as shown in

together with the medium-sized elastic bands.

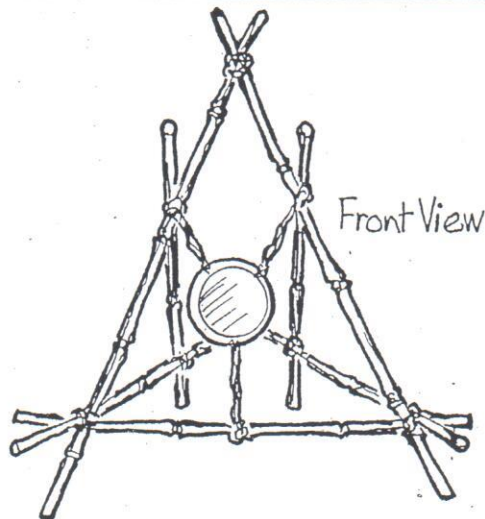
The frame should be made as sturdy as possible and this can be helped by anchoring the two uprights at the rear into soft ground (providing you are outdoors!).

Loop together the large elastic bands to form three long lengths, all of equal length. Make three holes, equally spaced, close to the rim of the margarine tub. One end of each of the long lengths of elastic bands may then be attached to the tub. The

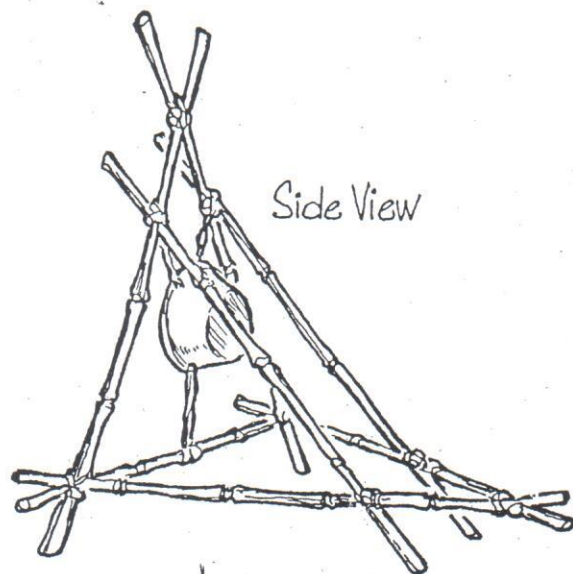
other end of each band is fastened

the frame as shown in the diagram. To fire the ballista, the operator sits in the lower triangle, inserts a ball of newspaper in to the tub, pulls back the tub to stretch the elastic and then lets go!

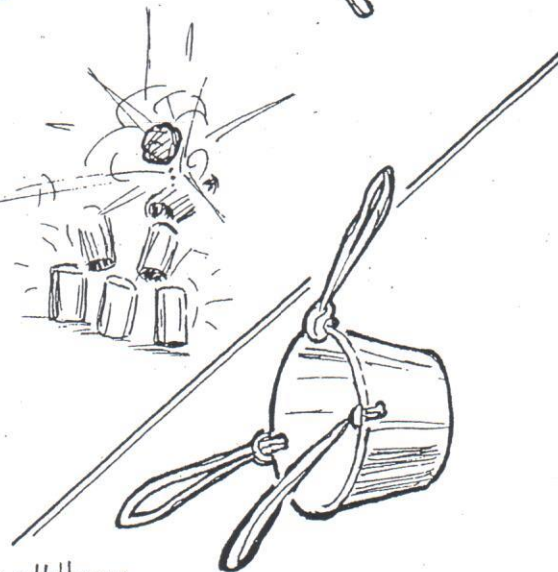
If you are going on camp this year why not build a cardboard castle, an Indian village or a cowboy stockade and have a battle? Make sure that you have plenty of newspaper balls, spare margarine tubs, spare elastic bands — and some cover for the Leaders!



Front View



Side View



Fasten all three elastic bands around the margarine pot.

This month's contributors: Anne Bagshaw, Fr. Roger Barralet O.F.M., Anne Unsdell, Terry Meakin and the sub-Editor.  
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