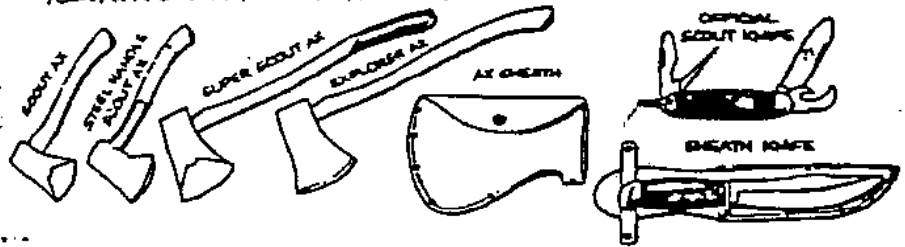


THE CARE and USE OF YOUR

AX and KNIFE

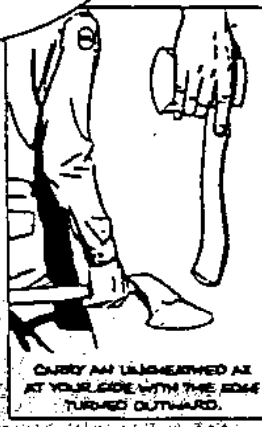
THE WAY YOU USE YOUR AX AND KNIFE AND THE WAY YOU TAKE CARE OF THEM SHOW HOW GOOD A WOODSMAN AND CRAFTSMAN YOU ARE. IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP THEM SHARP. A DULL TOOL IS ALWAYS DANGEROUS. KEEP YOUR AX HANDLE TIGHT... KEEP YOUR AX AND KNIFE OFF THE GROUND TO PREVENT RUSTING... DON'T USE YOUR AX FOR A HAMMER OR A WEDGE... KEEP YOUR KNIFE AWAY FROM FIRE (HEAT WILL SOFTEN THE STEEL) REMEMBER, YOUR AX AND KNIFE ARE TOOLS, NOT TOYS—DON'T PLAY WITH THEM—USE THEM!



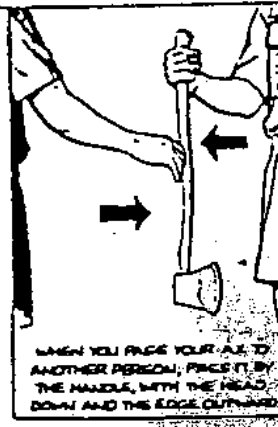
CARRYING YOUR AX



CARRY AN AX IN A BAG OR IN YOUR PACK OR LINED TO THE OUTSIDE.

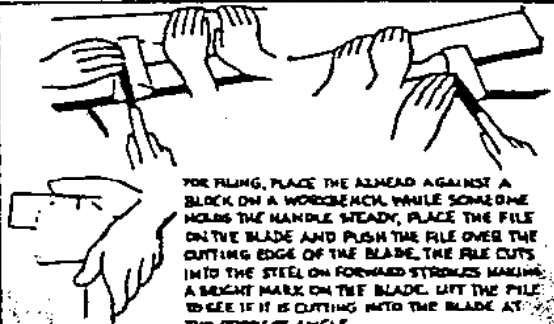


CARRY AN UNSHARPENED AX AT YOUR SIDE WITH THE HEAD TURNED OUTWARD.



WHEN YOU PASS YOUR AX TO ANOTHER PERSON, PASS IT BY THE HANDS, WITH THE HEAD DOWN AND THE EDGE OUTWARD.

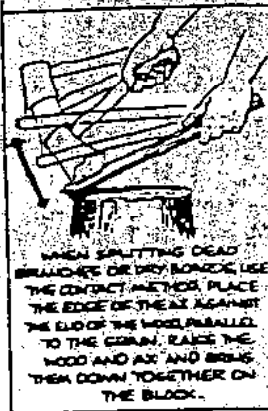
SHARPENING YOUR AX



FOR FILING, PLACE THE AX HEAD AGAINST A BLOCK ON A WOODBENCH, WHILE SOMEONE HOLDS THE HANDLE STEADY, PLACE THE FILE ON THE BLADE AND PUSH THE FILE OVER THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE BLADE, THE FILE CUTS INTO THE STEEL ON FORWARD STROKES MAKING A BRIGHT MARK ON THE BLADE. LIFT THE FILE EDGE IF IT IS CUTTING INTO THE BLADE AT THE PROPER ANGLE.

FOR HONING, HOLD THE HEAD OF THE AX IN ONE HAND IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE HANDLE POINTS UP AND AWAY FROM YOU AND RUB THE DRY STONE OVER THE BLADE FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER.

USING YOUR AX FOR FIRE MAKING



WHEN SPLITTING DEAD BRANDS OR DRY LOGS USE THE CONTACT METHOD. PLACE THE EDGE OF THE AX AGAINST THE END OF THE WOOD, BRING IT TO THE GRAIN, RAISE THE WOOD AND AX AND BRING THEM DOWN TOGETHER ON THE BLOCK.



IN CHOPPING ACROSS A STICK SET THE BLADE ON A SLANT TO THE GRAIN, RAISE STICK AND AX AND BRING THEM DOWN TOGETHER ON THE BLOCK.



HOLD THE AX WITH A FIRM BUT NOT A TENSE GRIP. CONTROLLED STROKES WILL DO THE JOB EASIER AND MORE SAFELY THAN BRUTE STRENGTH.



DO NOT CUT MORE WOOD THAN YOU NEED. DON'T CUT LIVE WOOD... USE ONLY DEAD WOOD OR DOWNED TREES. SQUAW WOOD (DEAD BRANCHES) MAKES A GOOD FIRE AND IS EASY TO COLLECT, REQUIRES LITTLE CHOPPING.

USING YOUR KNIFE



ALWAYS WHITTLE AWAY FROM YOURSELF TO PREVENT INJURY. THIS APPLIES TO HEAVY CUTTING. WHEN DOING INTRICATE WHITTLING YOU'LL USE A VARIETY OF CUTS.

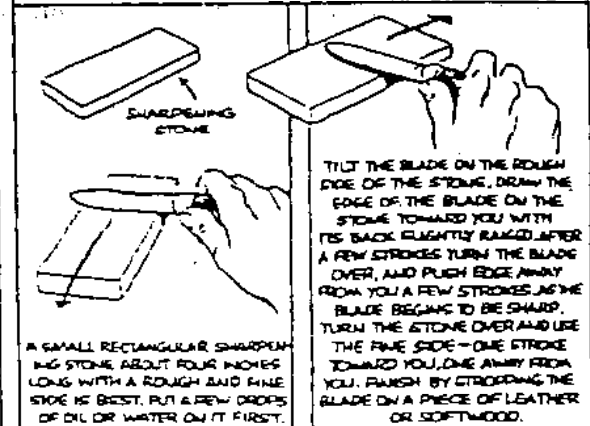


FURZ STICK CUTTING IS GOOD WHITTLING PRACTICE. LEAVE LONG, THIN SLIVERS ATTACHED TO THE STICK. FURZ STICKS ARE FINE FOR STARTING CAMPFIRES.



AS YOU ADVANCE IN WHITTLING SKILL YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FASHION MANY INTRICATE WOODEN THINGS.

SHARPENING YOUR KNIFE



TILT THE BLADE ON THE ROUGH SIDE OF THE STONE. DRAW THE EDGE OF THE BLADE ON THE STONE TOWARD YOU WITH ITS BACK SLIGHTLY RANDED. AFTER A FEW STROKES TURN THE BLADE OVER, AND PUSH EDGE AWAY FROM YOU A FEW STROKES AS THE BLADE BEGINS TO BE SHARP. TURN THE STONE OVER AND USE THE FINE SIDE—ONE STROKE TOWARD YOU, ONE AWAY FROM YOU. FINISH BY STROPPING THE BLADE ON A PIECE OF LEATHER OR SOFTWOOD.

A SMALL RECTANGULAR SHARPENING STONE ABOUT FOUR INCHES LONG WITH A ROUGH AND FINE SIDE IS BEST. PUT A FEW DROPS OF OIL OR WATER ON IT FIRST.