

THE COBBLER SHOEMAKER, INDEED

COBBLER

"Tap, Tap" (Quickly & abruptly)

BLACKSMITH

"Bang, Bang!" (Slowly with ringing effect)

CARPENTER

"Sa-a-aw, sa-a-aw" (Drawn out)

WAGON TRAIN

"Move along" (Spoken quickly)

Back in the days of the trailblazers, each WAGON TRAIN had to make everything it needed by hand. Those men who set up a trade making shoes were known as COBBLERS. Other men of the WAGON TRAIN who were good at working with iron were called BLACKSMITHS. Still others were good at making things from wood, and were called CARPENTERS. All of the things that were needed on the WAGON TRAIN, were made by all the talents of the men put together.

They traded their services back and forth, helping each other and their families. The COBBLER would keep all the families in shoes. Trailblazers in the old west were very hard on their shoes -- just as Cub Scout Trailblazers are today. The BLACKSMITH would make useful items from iron and the CARPENTER would get the services from these men on the WAGON TRAIN by making wooden items of great use to them.

They had to work hard to make all of the things needed by the families on the WAGON TRAIN. One day, however, it was noted that some of the families were badly in need of shoes and the COBBLER wasn't making the shoes as fast as he was before.

The CARPENTER was still turning out his work and the BLACKSMITH was keeping his work done. So some of the men in the WAGON TRAIN decided it was time to pay a visit to the COBBLER and find out what his problem could be. As they entered his place of work, outside his wagon, they saw him busily working on something -- but it didn't look like a shoe! When they inquired why he had not been keeping up with his work like the CARPENTER and the BLACKSMITH had been doing, he replied, "Is a COBBLER not a shoemaker?" When they agreed he was indeed a shoemaker, he held up an object, which looked like a flat square of leather nailed onto a stick. "What kind of shoe could this be?" they all thought.

Then the COBBLER replied, "Since I've been having trouble with flies bothering me while I am working, I took time out to make something to shoo the flies away with. Is that not being a "shoe-maker?" While the other men of the WAGON TRAIN held their sides in laughter, the little old COBBLER happily swatted at the flies with his newly made contraption. The COBBLER then offered to make one of his new inventions for the BLACKSMITH and CARPENTER and others on the WAGON TRAIN. Of course, he first promised them that he would catch up on his other work and get the shoes made for the families that needed new shoes. Thus was the beginning of the fly swatter by none other than a shoe-maker.