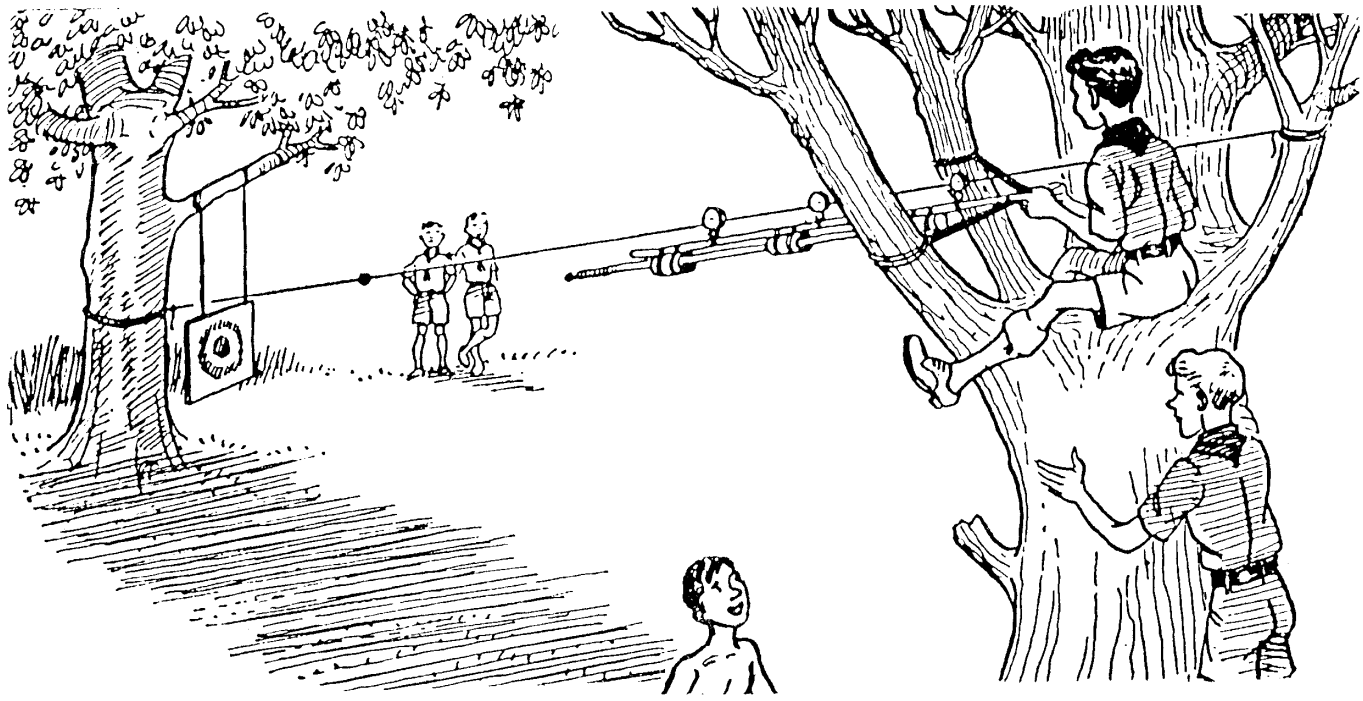
PIONEERING PROJECTS

GUIDED MISSILE

Try this great experiment!



Whether or not this crazy device will work is for you to discover. Certainly there will be plenty of interesting technical problems to solve.

The firepower is obtained from a strong rubber band cut from a car inner tube and secured catapult-fashion between two convenient branches. The 'carriage' (which is catapulted by this arrangement) is a Scout staff suspended from three small iron blocks with three small tins lashed on the underside. The first and second tins have their bottoms cut out to make tubes; the third is open at one end only.

The 'missile' is a Scout staff with a sharp spike at one end. This lies in the three tins. The carriage is catapulted down a steep, very taut line. (Wire would give a much better result, if you can get it). A short distance above the target, another rubber band is bound on to the line to make a stopper. The carriage is checked abruptly as it reaches the stopper, and the missile shoots onwards o embed itself in the target.

That's the theory of the thing – now see if you can make it work!