

Personally Speaking

Front Line Stuff

"Why do you write so little on the *real* problems that bother those of us who work on the front line of Scouting?"

"We need the program ideas you give us, but brother, that's not all! We need to know how to handle kids! What do we do to keep the wise guy from ruining our best-planned programs? How do we handle the bully without becoming one ourselves? How do we get good discipline without making our Troop seem military? How do we figure out what's in back of boys' actions? In other words, how do we learn what makes kids tick, and what we can do to make the best kind of Scouts out of them?"

That sort of letter has come to us time and again, and we've been looking for a way to be helpful. We haven't jumped into it, because it's not easy to do anything really helpful on this subject in the limits of a short article. And it's not easy to be really helpful without knowing the particular case.

However, it is just as important to be thinking together on this subject of "boys and how to lead them" as it is on rope work and first aid and campcraft—more important, as a matter of fact.

Before tackling the subject, we wanted to be ready to stay with it month by month, because we know that each article will contain different viewpoints on the subject discussed, and bring up a lot of other questions and problems for discussion. So we have been looking for a man who had the technical and practical background to lead such a discussion.

We found this man on the staff of the Manhattan, N. Y., Council. Field Executive James Moise has always been interested in this phase of Scouting. He majored in psychology at the University of Minnesota and has had a good opportunity to watch the principles of leadership in action in Scouting in Minneapolis, Minn., in Sacramento, California, and now in New York City.

"Front Line Stuff" (thus titled because it will tackle problems that occur only on the front line of Scouting, the place where the boys are) is your page. Mr. Moise will organize it and will have much to do with cramming a lot of thinking into a few inches of space, but he says he will do a minimum of the thinking himself. He will search for the answers wherever they can be found—from other Scouters on the front line, and from experts in the fields of education, psychology, and group work.

What leadership problems bother you? Describe them and we'll see what we can do to help. Your problems, and your suggested solutions for other Scouters' problems, are wanted. Just address them to SCOUTING Magazine, "Front Line Stuff" department. There's no way to tell at this stage of the game, but I suspect this will grow into quite a department.


Managing Editor

SCOUTING MAGAZINE is published monthly except August and bi-monthly June-July, and copyrighted 1950, by the Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Reentered as Second Class Matter, June 13, 1946, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Scouting Magazine is edited in the Division of Program by the Editorial Service, Director of the Division of Program, E. Urner Goodman. Director of Publications, Editor, Lorne W. Barclay. Managing Editor, Lex R. Lucas. Asst. Managing Editor, Tom MacPherson. Art Director, Donald Ross. Production Director, Geo. W. Goddard, Jr. Associate Editors: Gerald Speedy, Cub Scouting; Ted Pettit, Boy Scouting; Ted Holstein, Exploring.

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Scouting

APRIL, 1950, VOL. 38, No. 4

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Cover Photograph by
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