

Scouting

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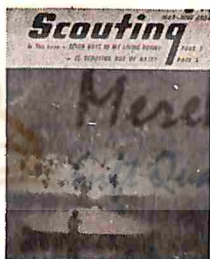
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Hard to imagine this lad becoming a juvenile delinquent. Boys need, and crave, a closeness to nature which brings inner peace and steadiness of purpose. Scouting is the open door to such adventure.



Cover photo by Paul W. Moore

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Personally Speaking

A Letter You Can't Forget

A LETTER RECENTLY QUOTED by Raymond Camp in his N. Y. Times column, "Wood, Field and Stream," should be read by every father in America.

"Many years ago you wrote of the pleasant father-son relationships that had their origin in the hunting field, and urged every hunting father to take his youngster out at least once during the season. Perhaps this advice has remained in my mind all this time because of a guilt complex, for I didn't follow it.

"Like most youngsters, my son had a Daniel Boone phase that lasted several years, and from the time he was 8 or 9 he tried to coax me into taking him along. Each time I found some excuse, which was rather feeble when you consider that this was the only activity we might have shared. A good friend with whom I once did a lot of hunting dropped from our group in order to take his son with him, as the rest of us felt a youngster was in the way. At the time, I could have joined him with my own son, but I didn't.

"Two years ago my son was called into the Army and sent to Korea. When he left I realized that while we had a bond of affection, we had little in common, and had never been what people term 'close.' That fall I hunted with my friend and his son, and awakened to the opportunity I had missed. I determined to change this situation when my son returned, and in preparation, I spent more than I could afford on a fine shotgun, to be a welcome-home present.

"My son will never hunt with me, for he is not coming home from Korea.

"Your advice was excellent. I wish I had taken it."

Such a letter makes a father stop and think. "What about me and my son? Maybe I'm no hunter, but there are other things. What interests do I share with my son?"

It should make Scout leaders think, too. What part do we play in this all-important dad and son relationship? Sometimes we do dads a disservice by taking their sons completely off their hands.

Why not include the dads in some of our adventures, such as a cook-out or even an overnight camp? It's harder, sure. But it pays big dividends.

Editor


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