

Personally Speaking

"My Father Does Not Want a Boy Along"

A NEW YORK TIMES columnist recently wrote a story that should make good ammunition for every Explorer Advisor and Scoutmaster. (And perhaps hit home personally with a lot of the rest of us!)

"The season brings to us a lot of inquiries on fishing areas and prospects" wrote Raymond Camp, in his "Wood, Field and Stream" column, "but one that arrived last week was out of the routine.

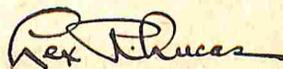
"Would you tell me where I could find a place to fish that is not more than five or six miles from my home in Queens?" the letter ran. I am 14 years old and have saved up enough money to buy a rod, reel and line, but do not know where to go fishing. My father goes almost every week-end, but he fishes with older men who do not want a boy along, so I will have to find some place I can reach on my bicycle or the subway."

"By resorting to the telephone directory we were able to obtain the father's name, so we sent him his son's letter with a brief note. On Friday we had a reply, which read in part: 'You handed me quite a wallop in your letter, but I am sorry you did not hit me harder, and sooner. When I think of the opportunity I might have lost, it frightens me. I do not need to point out that I now have a new fishing companion, and we have already planned a busy spring and summer. I wonder how many other fathers are passing up similar opportunities. Why don't you find out?'"

"Twenty years from now your son probably will not remember just what you did in a business or professional capacity, and he may not even be able to recall whether you were successful or just getting by. But he will never forget that you took him hunting and fishing, and the memories of the days you shared in the field or on the stream will be sharp enough to be related in detail to his own son. We can testify to these things from our own experience, so it is not a matter of conjecture.

"You may be called upon to make a small investment in time, or even in money, but the extent of the dividend is unlimited. And you cannot be taxed for these profits."

The idea can be broadened to include more than fishing, and it's worth passing on to the dads of your Scouts or Explorers. Why not share it with them and then show them how they can use Scouting to keep close to their sons?


Editor

SCOUTING is published monthly except August and bi-monthly June-July, and copyrighted 1952, 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 is edited in the Division of Program; C. M. Heistand, Director.

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JUNE-JULY, 1952, VOL. 40, No. 6

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THIS MONTH'S COVER



Aspiration, gratitude, devotion, and high resolve shine in the earnest faces of these young Americans as they lift their eyes to that bright symbol of freedom, justice

and opportunity, our Flag.

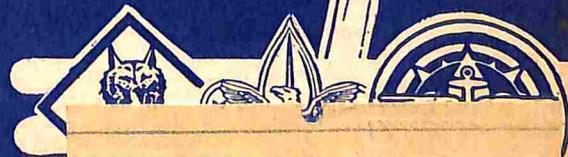


JUNE-JULY

"WHAT SO PROUDLY WE HAILED"

1952

Scouting



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