

# Personally Speaking

## WHO'S TOO BIG?

In Dayton, Ohio, there died a few months ago a man who once gave a Scout Executive a lesson he has never forgotten. The man was Dr. F. G. Barr, Vice President of the National Cash Register Company. He had done much for the employees of his company, and had been largely responsible for many forward-looking employee-relations practices. He was a tremendously busy man, a moving power in many community projects. In Scouting his work as a member of the Council Executive Board and on the Regional Executive Committee had been recognized with the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards.

Here is the story as told by Perle Whitehead, now Deputy Regional Executive of Region IV:

When Whitehead was Scout Executive in Dayton some years ago, Dr. Barr came to his office one morning, and opened the conversation by asking if the Boy Scout Movement would possibly consider him for service as a Scoutmaster. This was a surprise, because Dr. Barr was identified with many causes in the city, and was currently giving much time to the County Tuberculosis League, of which he was president. Whitehead was certain that the doctor was confused with our terminology and explained to him that the Council officers had not approached him to serve on the Executive Board in the past because of his many responsibilities, but if there was the slightest chance of his serving, he was as good as elected.

Dr. Barr said, "Whitey, I understand your terminology, and I still want to be Scoutmaster! During the next two years the most important thing in my life is the welfare of my two sons, who are now members of our Oakwood Troop. The Troop is not doing so well at the moment. It would break my heart if anything happened to keep Bill and Fred from having a good experience in Scouting. You told us at our Men's Brotherhood meeting last week that no man is too big to be a Scoutmaster. I doubt whether I am big enough, but I would certainly like to do my best with that Troop for two years, and then we can train someone else to take over."

Dr. Barr became Scoutmaster and missed only three meetings in the two-year period. The Troop flourished, his sons becoming Eagle Scouts, along with a number of other fine Oakwood boys.

Perle Whitehead says it is a lesson he never forgot, and it's one we all need to be reminded of from time to time. No man is too big to be a leader of boys, and there is no greater satisfaction.

*Lex R. Lucas*  
Managing Editor

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# Snowing

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