

Personally Speaking

On a Hot Texas Road

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY of how Major John Eisenhower passed his fourteen mile hike test?

This all happened a number of years ago, when our recently inaugurated President was serving in a military post in Texas.

Young Eisenhower needed the fourteen mile hike to complete his First Class rank and set out on the "long tour" on a blazing hot summer day.

The lady who is now our First Lady was then the concerned mother of a thirteen-year-old. She and her mother were both worried about John being out alone in the hot desert country. They were especially worried about his being out there without something cold and refreshing at hand when he got thirsty.

So they finally prevailed on John's dad to take a thermos of cold orange juice and drive after John in the station wagon.

Several miles along the road the father overtook his son, dust-covered and very weary. "John," said he, "your mother thought you would appreciate a good cold drink of orange juice just about now. What do you say?"

John looked at the thermos for a long moment before he said, "Can't do it, dad. The rules say I'm not 'sposed to accept help from anyone along the way. It seems to me that if I didn't bring the juice with me I ought'ta do without it!"

The President agreed with him. He climbed back into the station wagon, orange juice and all, and drove home.

"And do you know," he told a Scout audience recently, "I never did tell John's mother and grandmother what really happened to the orange juice." (As a matter of fact, I just realized that he didn't tell the audience, either. You don't suppose he drank it?)

I'm only retelling this story as an anecdote about the new Honorary President of our organization, but I wonder if it's occurred to you how fine it would be if the President could count on all of us having a sense of personal integrity as strong as that shown by a thirteen-year-old Scout on a hot Texas road?


Editor.

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THIS MONTH'S COVER



President Dwight D. Eisenhower, now Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America, is an enthusiastic Scouter of long standing, and a firm believer in Scout training for boys.



FEBRUARY

ALL ON LIBERTY'S TEAM

1953

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