

Personally Speaking

40-Year Men

During the coming twelve months a small handful of Scouters will achieve a unique record. They will complete forty years of membership and service in the Boy Scouts of America.

Who will be the first Scouter to achieve this distinction during 1950? We feel that active membership throughout the entire life-span of our Movement is so unique that we will publish the names of these men as the 40-Year Veteran Award is made to them, month by month, throughout this year.

What a story these men could tell! They have seen so much happen in Scouting since those days when word of the new program first reached America and spread like wildfire across the land.

They have seen Scouting become more than a program available to a lucky few. They have seen cities, towns and rural communities band themselves together in Local Councils so the same opportunity could be extended to boys in every nook and far-distant corner in America.

They also have seen Scouting extend its age limits so that where in 1910 there were only Boy Scouts, there are now, in almost equal proportions, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers. Scouting's influence felt all the way from eight years of age to manhood.

And they have seen a most unbelievable development in the adult leader ranks. Where there were 9,000 men registered as leaders at the end of 1912 (the first year adult records were kept). There were more than 625,000 at the end of 1949!

Most important of all, they have been a part of a Movement which was not only received enthusiastically by the boys of America in 1910, but which has attracted increasingly great numbers of boys to its ranks.

This is really remarkable when you pause to think how the boy's world has changed. No longer are his interests limited to what happens in his neighborhood. The automobile makes it easy for him to "get up and go places." The movies, television and radio take him around the world. Yet in spite of all these and many other activities now open to him, he still wants Scouting. The net membership figures at the end of each of the four decades prove it: On December 31, 1919 there were 360,000 active Scouts, at the end of 1929, 606,000, by 1939, 1,043,000, and the December 31, 1949 figure will probably be in the neighborhood of 1,910,000 boys registered!

And a few of our Scouters saw it all happen. What a satisfaction it must be to them to know that the simple, outdoor-centered, man-building program to which they have given so much, is playing such an increasingly important part in the life of America.

Yes, SCOUTING will take real pride during the coming months in publishing the names of the 40-Year Veterans who started their long mission of service to youth back in 1910.

Rex T. Lucas
Managing Editor

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THE COVER

The Philadelphia Scouts on the cover photo are forerunners of 40,000 who will swarm over Valley Forge at the Jamboree, come July.

—Photo by John D. Champlin

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JANUARY

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