

Personally Speaking

Lost Campsite

ABOUT a month after the National Jamboree one of the men from this office was driving through Valley Forge and thought it would be interesting to see how it looked now from the spot where his headquarters had been located.

But he couldn't find the spot! He finally located the general area by a grouping of trees that he remembered, and he says it was a strange feeling to stand where there had been a city of tents, and not to be able to find any trace of their having been there at all. It did not seem possible that this quiet field had such a few weeks before been a center of activity for milling thousands of Scouts and visitors.

Of course, much of the reason for this quick return to the Park's original state was that the Scouts who camped there were so careful to protect this hallowed shrine.

Brigadier General Norman Randolph, Executive Secretary of the Valley Forge Commission, recently wrote to Mr. Schuck, our Chief Scout executive as follows:

"The Commission directed me to convey to you their commendation for the steps you took to insure the preservation of the Shrine, and through you, to commend the Scouts for their splendid manly behavior, which was inspiring to all. I am happy to report that a thorough survey . . . showed no damage attributable to the Jamboree."

Do we make as good a record when our Scouts go into the woods, or visit points of interest all over America, week after week, throughout the year?

Our boys are making Scouting's reputation with the owners of the woodlots, with the administrators of the public forests, with the public that turns to America's natural beauty spots for recreation and inspiration. Can these people tell, from our Scouts' action, that ours is one of America's great camping and conservation organizations?

It's up to us as leaders to teach our boys how to take care of the outdoors. We can help Scouts develop a spirit of protective pride that will do a lot to keep outdoor America unspoiled and attractive. It can be made fun to do the picking up necessary to leave a campsite neater than one found it. It can become a point of pride to finally place the crossed sticks which mean "a Scout Troop camped here and left this site ready for the next campers to enjoy."

The Scout leader knows that the crossed sticks, the clean camp site, mean a lot more than that — they mean boys with a more clear-cut understanding of the meaning of responsibility, of good citizenship. Yes, in more ways than one can it be said that it's in the outdoors that men — and good citizens — are made.

Lex R. Lucas
Managing Editor

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Skiing



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