Scouting

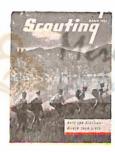
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CONTENTS

Success Begins at Home 2 Christmas Tree Ship 4 They Gave Good Will 6 Worth Retelling 8 Operation Building Bee 10 They Sparked Our Training Program 12 Front Line Stuff 14 Scout Shorts 15 All American Team 16 According to Webster 18 Our New Boy Scout Headquarters 19 Who's a Firebug 20 Boys' Life Helps 21 Scouter's Bookshelf 22

THIS MONTH'S COVER

Good hiking country in your section of America may look just like this. Or it may look quite different. But wherever you live, boys are dreaming of the open road, and hitting the trail at every opportunity.



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Personally Speaking

Men of Great Stature

As I READ MacKinley Kantor's new book God and My Country (and by the way, it's a wonderful story that you should be sure to read)—as I read his story of that fine Scoutmaster, Lem Siddons, I kept thinking of the unbelievable influence such men can have.

Sometime ago I received a letter that started out like this:

"The Boy Scouts of America have just lost one of their greatest figures. And perhaps you have never heard of him.

"On Jan. 22nd, died Charles N., beloved Scoutmaster to hundreds of men this country over....

"I first came into Troop 3 in 1912. Mr. N., its Scoutmaster, was 35 or 40 then. He was a man of such dynamic leadership and example that we all forged ahead rapidly....

"He was absolutely unflinching in his insistence on the living of the Oath and Law. And what he asked of us he was always willing to do himself....

"Troop 3 is alive today, large and active. Its alumni meet annually and keep in touch, around the country, because the ties of those years are stronger than steel....

"Mr. N's example stretched out to us, too, wherever we lived. Here it is, 35 years since I left Troop 3. I could not stop Scouting; I've served in almost every volunteer capacity.

"B. A., who until he died recently was the treasurer of one of America's great corporations, said 'Mr. N. was the greatest influence in my whole life. I have tried to raise my boy in the way that he tried to have me go'....

"Whenever white-haired men like me think of Scouting, we think of Mr. N. or of some man like him; men so strong, so good, so unflinching in their demands that 'good enough is not enough'....

"I hope that when my time comes to pass from this life, men can say half as much for me as they will for Mr. N."

How many of tomorrow's men will think back to your guidance with such genuine appreciation? What a challenge it is to give of one's best in a great cause!

Kex Thucas Editor

