

# Personally Speaking

## "You Don't Know What You Missed"

HERE'S a column you'll enjoy. It was written by Frank Woodford in the Detroit Free Press about Cub Scouting's Theme of the Month, a year or more ago, but it's a good description of what happens in Cub Scouting families every day.

"Just in case there may be somebody on the North American continent who hasn't been dragged into the act, I rise to report that the Cub Scout theme for January is 'The Crusades.'

"As a result there are more suits of armor, coats of chain mail and assorted knightly harness, all made out of lath, cardboard and burlap, being manufactured in local basements than there are cars being produced by Ford, Chevrolet and Plymouth.

"Every little monster is being outfitted to resemble King Arthur or Richard the Lion-Hearted...

"Parents, kindly neighbors, and utter strangers have been dragooned to lend assistance in these knightly enterprises. Characters who look back with only mild regret upon their own careers as juvenile delinquents have now become vassals of the Cub Scouts, and are learning to their amazement that they're right handy when it comes to painting a lion rampant upon little Sir Elmer's shield.

"Cub Scouting, stranger, is something you never knew about in your misspent youth. And you don't know what you missed. Or do you?

"The idea is to get small lads and their close male relatives working together on some comradely undertaking which may be either educational, recreational or both.

"As a participant I have developed the suspicion that the real purpose of the Cub Scouts is not so much to do something for the kids as it is to keep their old men out of trouble...

"There's just no use fighting against it. Who can withstand the 'con' of a nine-year-old boy when he tells you that nobody can put together a model plane like you can? Even if you know darn well you can't.

"The strange thing is, all of a sudden you discover that you can.

"And it's kinda fun, too."

Columnist Woodford speaks for more than 925,000 dads who were similarly caught in the toils of Cub Scouting this past year. By the way, men who have had that kind of fun are mighty good prospects for Troop and Explorer jobs. 'Nuf sed?

*Rex R. Lucas*  
Editor

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## THIS MONTH'S COVER



The magic of the night and the magic of the fire are forces to conjure with as the story-teller weaves his spell.





MAY

"NOW IN THOSE DAYS . . ."

1952

# Scouting



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