

Personally Speaking

IS IT "ALL-AMERICAN"?

Got a letter today from a Scoutmaster in California. "We're doggoned tired out here of all that Eastern States stuff in SCOUTING" said he. "There's more to America than just a few miles around New York City."

"Ouch!" said I to my California-born-and-raised self. "Are we really putting out an Eastern States edition of what should be a magazine of, by, and for the entire country? I'd better take a quick look!"

So I thumbed the pages of a number of recent issues. First I checked the authors to see if they were to blame. Were the men whose "bylines" say "Director of Camping," etc. fellows who had never explored west of the Hudson River?

Here's how they stacked up, these men who write for SCOUTING most regularly: Wes Klussmann comes from California, Guy Miller from Washington and Oregon, Frank Braden from Indiana, "Mac" MacMasters from Texas, Gerald Speedy (who is responsible for the Cub Scout section, though his name isn't in evidence) from Minnesota. The Explorer section is developed by "Bud" Bennett who comes from North Dakota, and by Ted Holstein, a Wisconsin man. Ted Pettit, who handles the Boy Scout section, is the only Easterner in the gang, and for my Western money, Ted's stuff would work anywhere in the country.

Well, that little check-up on the background of some of our writers was reassuring. But it doesn't satisfy us. We want to be able to feature more local bylines. *Your* bylines, in fact.

The trouble is, you're too modest. You take it for granted that the ideas you have found so successful are common knowledge. Of course lots of them are, but there are lots of new twists to old ideas, and every so often, a new idea, that should be passed around.

If you tell the gang at your District Round Table about it, a dozen or two Troops may be helped. If we can pass it on through SCOUTING, it will reach thousands.

That goes for pictures, too. We would like to be able to illustrate the magazine with photos from all parts of the country, but when we don't have 'em, we have to use what we do have. When you take, or see, a good Scouting picture, won't you keep us in mind?

Well, that's the answer to our Scouter friend's sincere criticism, it seems to me. We leaders are all working together to make Scouting better. The more we share our ideas, the better job we all can do. And SCOUTING Magazine is ready and eager to help with that sharing.

PS. If you are interested in writing about, or photographing some of your Scouting activities ask us for the two mimeographed sheets, "Writing for SCOUTING," and "Wanted — Good Photos for SCOUTING." They will help you.

Lex R. Lucas
Managing Editor

SCOUTING MAGAZINE is published monthly except August and bi-monthly June-July, and copyrighted 1949, by the Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Reentered as Second Class Matter, June 13, 1946, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. Scouting Magazine is edited in the Division of Program by the Editorial Service, Director of the Division of Program, E. Urner Goodman. Director of Publications, Editor, Lorne W. Barclay. Managing Editor, Lex R. Lucas. Asst. Managing Editor, Tom MacPherson. Art Director, Donald Ross. Production Director, Geo. W. Goddard, Jr. Associate Editors: Gerald Speedy, Cub Scouting; Ted Pettit, Boy Scouting; Ted Holstein, Exploring.

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SCOUTING

DECEMBER, 1949, VOL. 37, No. 10

CONTENTS

★ FOR ALL SCOUTERS

Jamboree 1950	2
District Committee	4
The Bear Went Over The Mountain	5
Scout Week	6
From Nothing	8
Changes In Requirements....	10
Just A Minute	36
Index For 1949 SCOUTING	39

◆ FOR CUB SCOUT LEADERS

"Midway in Crusade . . ."....	11
Pack Meeting Pattern.....	12
Uncle Charlie's Game Bag	13
Crusade — Theme for January	14
Crusade Pack Meeting.....	16
Den Stuff	18
Knighting Ceremony	19
Ideas, Ideas, Ideas	20

✿ FOR BOY SCOUT LEADERS

Patrol Contests	21
Making A Sleeping Bag	23
Camp When It's Cold.....	24
Making Troop Meeting Room Equipment	26
Planning for January.....	28
Johnny Appleseed Packsack	29
Game File	35

● FOR EXPLORER LEADERS

Winter Exploration	30
The Insignia of Exploring.....	32
Plans J-F-M; Top Secret.....	34

Follow the "Trail Signs" —



to find articles of special interest to you.



FOR
FROM
Mr. Scout Leader
The Boys - and
The Community -
with appreciation



DECEMBER
1949



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