

# Personally Speaking

## Boy On Your Conscience

REGIONAL Executive Clarence Shriner tells the story of a man visiting a Scout Troop at a home for juvenile delinquents.

"Son, you're a mighty fine looking fellow," said the man to one boy. "Do you like Scouting?"

"Yes, sir, it's wonderful! I'm sure glad I'm in it, and I never had a chance to join 'til I came here."

At first you smile when you read that story, because it seems so extreme. Then your smile turns a little troubled and you start thinking to yourself, "I wonder how much there is to that? Are there kids in our neighborhood who could be saying that a year from now? Kids who need to have something like Scouting filling their time?"

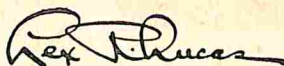
You go over the names of the boys you know who aren't Scouts, and perhaps you start mentally crossing them off the eligible list, thinking to yourself, "Harry Mason and George Brown, and the rest of that gang that hangs out around the corner store all the time wouldn't be interested in what our Troop does."

Then you think of that boy at the reform school and start wondering. Maybe Harry and George would go for it. The camping your Troop does is probably more rugged than anything they do, and the swimming and life saving, the cross-country stalking games — yes, sir, when you come to think about it, belonging to that Troop of yours ought to appeal to those kids. Maybe no one has ever told them what a he-man program your Troop runs. In fact, as far as you can remember, no one has ever mentioned inviting any of that gang in.

But now that that boy in the story got loose in your conscience, you're going to have to do something about those boys you know. You're going to talk it over with the Troop and do some special getting acquainted, and some carefully planned inviting.

Our responsibility does not end with the good leadership of the boys in our Pack or Troop or Explorer Unit. It includes the boys on the outside. We are the leaders of a program that has what they need. If we don't invite them in, no one will. Let's not say too quickly that we have all the boys we can handle now. Let's pull in another dad as Assistant, and go after some more boys. If Scouting is good for our Scouts (and we know it is) it's just as good for, and perhaps even more needed by, the boys who aren't Scouts.

Those boys live near you and me. Let's do something about making them Scouts. In fact, let's do it now; they're growing up fast!

  
Editor

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