

Personally Speaking

"Dollar a Year Man"

"I AM NOW IN MY 21ST YEAR AS SCOUTMASTER," an old friend of mine wrote recently, "and as I look back, I sometimes wonder what kept me at it during those first years.

"A letter I have just received helps tell why I've stayed in the game. It's from a young fellow who joined my Troop ten years ago, became an Eagle, and served faithfully as an Assistant Scoutmaster before going into the Army. Here it is; I think you will enjoy reading it."

"Dear D—:

"I imagine that this letter will come to you as a surprise, so I'll begin by explaining it.

"Next Monday will be a meaningful day to me. It will be the tenth anniversary of my birthday—the day that I was born into a world of Scouting. I've had more adventures than can be recorded in this wonderful organization—more than you will ever realize—and when I look back on them, I can see that they constitute the backbone of my life.

"I only wish that I could go back to the First Baptist Church basement next Monday night and be in the same room where dad pinned my Tenderfoot badge on in 1942. And I wish I could go back to the old Emerson School on Tuesday morning and put the pens and papers out for Miss C— again, my first Good Turn as a Scout. I wish I could live that whole ten years of Scouting over again with all its adventures. I have some wonderful memories.

"Well, I've been thinking about this anniversary as coming up and wondering how I could celebrate it out here so far from the Troop, and finally I decided to send the Troop a present. Since I have been in Scouting for ten years I am enclosing a dollar for each of them. I don't know what the Troop needs now, but perhaps this can help round out our Merit Badge library or get a piece of camp equipment.

"In closing I want to say how much I do appreciate all you and the Troop and Scouting have done for me. Nothing can ever balance my debt, but believe me, I'll keep on trying."

Yours, G. _____

A letter like that sure warms a man's heart. Then when you realize that for one who goes to the effort to tell how much Scouting has meant to him, there are a score who feel it just as deeply, it comes home to you how much you mean to boys. That makes it hard to quit. And that's good!


Editor.

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THIS MONTH'S COVER



The spirit of goodwill, everywhere, would cure most of this world's ills. The unselfish devotion of Scouters to the boys they serve is that spirit in action.



DECEMBER

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

1952

Scouting



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