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CONTENTS

They Risked Their Lives 2
Mom, Pop and the Kids 4
Worth Retelling 6
Treaty Camporee 8
Two Prospects a Minute 10
Scout Shorts 11
Who Pays for Scouting? 12
Unaccustomed as They Were 14
All Kidding Aside 16
Parents Are Necessary 18
My Rules Are the Boss 20
Boys' Life Program Helps 21
Insignia and Uniform 22

THIS MONTH'S COVER Johnny's parents think, "Why do they have to make bugles so loud?" The neighbors think, "Thank heaven they keep the windows closed." But Johnny thinks, "Bet I'll be the best bugler in town."



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Personally Speaking

The Scouts Have Three Words For It

T'S INTERESTING THAT THE THREE key words that measure a Scout's success as he advances from Tenderfoot to Eagle, also measure our success as adult leaders.

These three words are:

SPIRIT • PARTICIPATION • SKILLS

Was a time when a Scout's skills (signaling, first aid, cooking, etc.) were the principal measurement of his readiness to advance a rank. Now skills are rated third; evidence of living up to the spirit of Scouting and of doing his part as a working member of the group is of first importance.

Doesn't the same sequence fit us, whether we be board members, committeemen or leaders of boys?

Let's check ourselves against the boys' Scouting standards:

Scout Spirit stems out of the Scout Oath. A Scout says, "On my honor, I will do my best." When we adults pledge ourselves to do our best, we are literally guaranteeing the success of Scouting.

Participation, to a boy, means being a working member of his group. At first it's enough for him not to drag his feet, but soon he is expected to carry responsibilities, then to lead others.

That certainly fits us, doesn't it? The ability to carry out responsibilities and to lead others is a prime measure of effectiveness.

While Scouting has put *skill* third in the boy's list, we do not minimize its importance, but say that without the right spirit and without a boy's being a working part of the group, the skills he acquires haven't much purpose.

This goes for us, too. When we're looking for a Scoutmaster, for example, we too often look for men who are experts in the skills of Scouting, rather than for those who have proven their maturity in terms of the other values. Of course, a knowledge of the skills helps. It helps a lot. But it can be acquired on the job much more easily than the other two qualities.

So it's three words, full of meaning to us as well as to boys. Three words that measure our success in Scouting, as well as everything else.

> Pex Plucas Editor

SCOUTTING DECEMBER 1953

In This Issue — THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES

— WHO PAYS FOR SCOUTING?

PAGE 2 PAGE 12

