

Scouting

February, 1954, Vol. 42, No. 2

C O N T E N T S

Holes in the Iron Curtain 2

Pow Wow 4

Worth Retelling 6

National Conservation

Good Turn 8

Scout Shorts 10

Birthday Reflections 11

Explorers Get Around 12

Once a Scout 14

A Day with a District

Executive 16

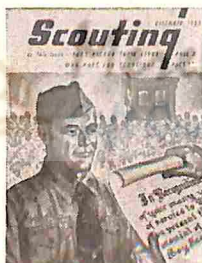
Hobby Show 18

Front Line Stuff 20

Boys' Life Helps 21

THIS MONTH'S COVER

"For long years of faithful service to boyhood—" A grateful America takes occasion this month to say a hearty "Thank You" to those indispensable Scouters, our Unit Leaders.



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Personally Speaking

No Cartoon Character

A LETTER WHICH CAME RECENTLY might help a lot of us understand that key man in Scouting—the Unit leader.

"I'm an Eagle Scout of a past year, but I've been away from the game for a good long time.

"Last night I was approached by our son's Troop Committee. I had assumed that they needed another member for their committee and was willing to serve, but when they mentioned Scoutmaster — well, to be frank with you, I laughed.

"They told me that they had already lined up an assistant and that they would meet with me regularly to assist in many ways.

"I let them go with very little encouragement. I said I would think it over, but they knew what my answer would be.

"After they left, I laughed and said to Jean 'Can you imagine that! Me a Scoutmaster! Can't you just see me now as I walk down the street with a dozen little kids behind me, heading for a hike?'

"But Jean wasn't laughing. There were tears in her eyes.

"You big ox!" she snapped, 'you've just missed a real opportunity to do something worthwhile. Those men weren't looking for a cartoon character like Mr. Johnson and his little Scouts. They were looking for an adult with the ability to be a Director of Scouting in our community. They want someone to help them organize and run a training program for our son and others.'

"You know that you have organized your own business into a smooth operation and have a group of men who enjoy working out problems together. Why can't you do the same thing for Scouting?'

"Well, it's three o'clock in the morning, and I'm still thinking about that Scoutmaster business.

"When I was a Scout the Scoutmaster did about everything—ran all the hikes, all the meetings, passed all the kids on their advancement. I don't want that kind of a job.

"But I have seen our Pack Committee do a good job. And I have seen older Scouts take responsibility. And I do believe in Scouting.

"And I guess Jean was right."

Looks like that middle-of-the-night decision is going to give another Troop good Scouting. And it gives all of us food for thought.

Lex R. Lucas
Editor

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FEBRUARY 1954

IN THIS ISSUE —

— HOLES IN THE IRON CURTAIN

PAGE 2

