

Personally Speaking

Picture Of A Scoutmaster

IN THE *Times Herald* of Middletown, New York, there recently appeared a very nice description. As you read it, you will recognize some of your Scouting friends (and perhaps yourself?)

"This is for persons" wrote C. Boehm Rosa "who never prowled the dark alone, eying a dim row of shadowy tents under a clouded moon and listening for the stealth of a small, pajama-clad boy creeping mischief-bent into the dewy night. This is not for such a prowler because he already has yawned too many times over similar episodes. He's a Scoutmaster and he knows that sleep comes very late to a bunch of kids on a camping expedition.

"This is for persons who never knew the friendly greetings of boys of all sizes as they walked down the street, or who never sat on their porch at the end of the day with half a dozen chattering youngsters, or whose telephone never jangled with boyish questions during dinner hour. You're right — Scoutmasters already know the joy and the nuisance of it all.

"No, this is not for Scoutmasters — it's about them. They're the fellows who sleep on the ground in the rain rather than disappoint the boys by breaking camp before the Camporee is over. They're the chaps who give up a week-end to tramp the fields with somebody else's sons. They're the men who take the Troop on a community good turn and wind up doing half the work themselves.

"Yes, and they're the citizens whose enthusiasm and energy and personal example help boys grow into citizens, themselves.

"Stradivari, the great violin builder, is supposed to have said 'If my hands slack, I would rob God — for God cannot make Stradivarian violins without Stradivari.' So, by way of a parallel, a Scoutmaster gives his best — for otherwise he would rob his boys of opportunities to grow.

"But Scoutmasters as a rule are modest guys. They're not crowding the front row when one of their boys steps up for his Eagle badge, and they're frequently out checking the coffee while the visiting brass is saying kind words about them at a parents' night party . . ."

After tying this description in with local activities, Mr. Rosa finished with this word picture:

"Your unassuming neighbor, huddled out in the hills tonight beside a fading campfire along with a score of kids — the hero and accepted pal of tomorrow's Americans."

A mighty nice description, and one to which many millions of folks subscribe!


Editor

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THIS MONTH'S COVER



The Cub Scout theme for April is "Things that Grow." But this picture tells a bigger story. For boys grow, too, under the wise cultivation of friendly "gardeners" who lead our Units.



FORTE

MARCH

THINGS THAT GROW

1952

Sowing

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RUSSELL WEBSTER
LAFAYETTE MINN