

OPEN LETTER ON SCOUTING

Editors note: There has been a more or less open war between Scout enthusiast Mike Page, of Brookings, and the Scout organization, which operates on a national level.

We are printing a letter from Guy P. Miller, Scout executive to Mike Page in its entirety as an effort to explain the policies and philosophies of Scouting and to give the readers an explanation of the fight between Mike and the Scout program.

Mr. C. A. Page
Brookings, Oregon
Dear Mike:

Your letter of July 8 was awaiting me upon my return from the National Jamboree a day or two ago.

Mike, I've known ever since I became Scout Executive of this Council five years ago, of your keen interest in the boys and the Scouting program. Educators and people working with youngsters have agreed for years that the best way to train youth is to set a positive personal example. Therefore, if we're going to teach boys to play the game according to the rules, we as adults must follow the same pattern.

The Scouting program as in the case of all organizations and enterprises, has a set of rules to follow in the form of its constitution and by-laws. These apply universally to the program whether in Brookings or New York City, and all of us who are a part of the Scouting program must be governed by these rules, particularly if we are to set a positive example for the boys who come under our leadership.

Two of these rules or policies are involved in the situation now existent in Brookings:

1. It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that funds raised for the maintenance, promotion, and extension of the Scouting program shall be raised through the public subscription of individuals and business firms. Such subscriptions to be made because of a realization on the part of the donor of the value of the Scouting program to boys, to the community, and to the nation and not as a by-product from the sale of merchandise, recreation or other commodities.

2. It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that sponsoring institutions of local Scout units shall provide adequate meeting places for the units they sponsor. That no unit or local Council of the Boy Scouts of America shall own or maintain any building other than designated Council camps.

I'll not attempt to go into the reasons why these policies are so sound except to point out that the strength, virility, and constant growth of the Scouting program over the past 48 years bear testimony to the soundness of these policies.

Mr. Henry Kerr, District Scouting Chairman for the Curry District and Vice-president of the Oregon Trail Council, has had a thorough understanding of the second policy mentioned for a number of years and the first policy mentioned since April of this year when the matter was thoroughly discussed at a meeting of the Council Finance Committee. As has been pointed out on many occasions over the past few years, the creation of a Brookings Community Youth Center is a splendid project. Many Communities throughout America utilize such a Youth Center for many organizations and activities, including Scouting, but this is not a Scout building or used exclusively for Scouting activities. Such a building then becomes a community project and not a Scout project, with the raising of funds conflicting seriously with the funds so seriously needed for the personnel, services and facilities that form the foundation of a successful Scouting program.

The plan for the dinner and auction that you folks recently carried out was discussed as early as last April by the Finance Committee and Mr. Kerr and it was recognized by all concerned that such a project was in direct conflict with the above mentioned Scouting policy. Following a discussion with the local members of the District Finance Committee, it was Mr. Kerr's under-

standing that the plans were dropped in favor of the normal Scout Finance campaign.

It is my understanding that a week or ten days prior to the dinner Mr. Kerr discovered that the plans had been revived and at that time pointed out again that the Council could not participate in that type of a financing activity. We sincerely regret the misunderstanding that appears to have developed. Scouting has had a wonderful growth in the Curry District the past three or four years, despite the fact that the lack of funds and thus the necessary professional personnel has hindered the program materially.

I think you will be interested to know that during the past eight months one of the major points of discussion of the Council Executive Board has been ways and means of making it possible to put on an additional District Scout Executive to serve the Curry District on a full time basis. The adequate training of volunteer leaders, organization of new units, and the promotion of the Scouting program is dependent upon such an addition. In 1956 for the first time in many years, the Curry District carried its weight financially in the operation of the Council. If the district can continue to do so again this year, it is entirely possible that the board will authorize the employment of an additional District Executive in that area even though other areas of the Council will have to bear the financial burden

WELL CHILD CLINIC FRIDAY

A Brookings Well Child Clinic will be held on Friday, August 16, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Brookings Grade School. Dr. David Brown will give Physical Examinations and Immunizations for DPT, and Small Pox Vaccinations assisted by Dorothea Miller, Public Health Nurse.

SOCIAL SECURITY MAN TO VISIT HERE ON AUGUST 20

Carlos L. Hunsinger, manager of the Eureka District office of the Social Security Administration, announced today that a representative of that office will maintain office hours at the Brookings City Hall, August 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Individuals wishing information about the Federal old-age and survivors insurance program may contact the representative at that time.

of that man for a period of time.

I sincerely hope that this will give you a deeper insight into the functioning of the Boy Scouts of America and that you will channel your splendid enthusiasm and ability into the program as it has been designed and operated throughout America for the past 48 years.

Best Wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Guy P. Miller
Scout Executive

DR. SAMUELS MOVES OFFICE

Dr. Ed Samuels has moved his office to the rear of his building in North Brookings.

The front part of the building will be leased out. Also Sally Swanson is now working as a receptionist at the office.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rettke, and family attended the Elks picnic in Ashland on Sunday.



THUR. FRI SAT.
Aug. 15-16-17
"THE AFRICAN QUEEN"
also
Burt Lancaster in
"APACHE"

SUN. MON. TUES.
Aug. 18-19-20
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also
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Wednesday, Aug. 21
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