

CHALLENGE. Kent Kane tells of having gone to visit a troop. As he watched the troop meeting unfold, a red-haired boy approached him quizzically and appraisingly and asked him if he was to be the new Scoutmaster. Kent told the boy that he was just visiting.

"Well, I just wanted to know," the boy told him. "We've had five or six Scoutmasters in the last few months and they all had to quit on account of us. Thought we might add you to the list."

The more Kent thought about it, the more interested he became. When the committee invited him to take over, an hour later, he said "Yes."

He has been Scoutmaster for more than two years and hasn't been added to the "list."

*D.E. Donald Riegel
Joplin, Missouri*



THE CHAMPION ROPE SPLICER. Breakfast was over and the camp director was making a short talk in front of the mess hall. He cleared his throat and launched into a new paragraph of his announcement.

"Scouts, there is a very brave camper among us. He was so brave that in the dark of the night he went down behind all the tents, last night, and cut the ropes that had been put there for airing blankets and clothes. This very brave camper, if he's as brave as I think he is, is going to come to me immediately after breakfast and he is going to have a busy day."

Throughout the dining hall you could have

heard a large-sized spike drop. It was a painful quietness.

"I'm afraid he isn't going to be trampled down by any boy coming up and telling him that he is the guilty one," I said to myself and stood back in an alcove and waited.

A moment later, a tously-haired youngster approached the camp director and, shuffling his feet, he flashed a guilty grin, indicating that he wasn't exactly comfortable in his present role. He looked the camp director in the eye and said, "Well, when do I begin splicing ropes?"

The boy who had made a mistake spliced rope all day and by nightfall he was the champion rope splicer of the whole camp! But of even more importance, he had won the full admiration of every man and boy in camp.

M.W.

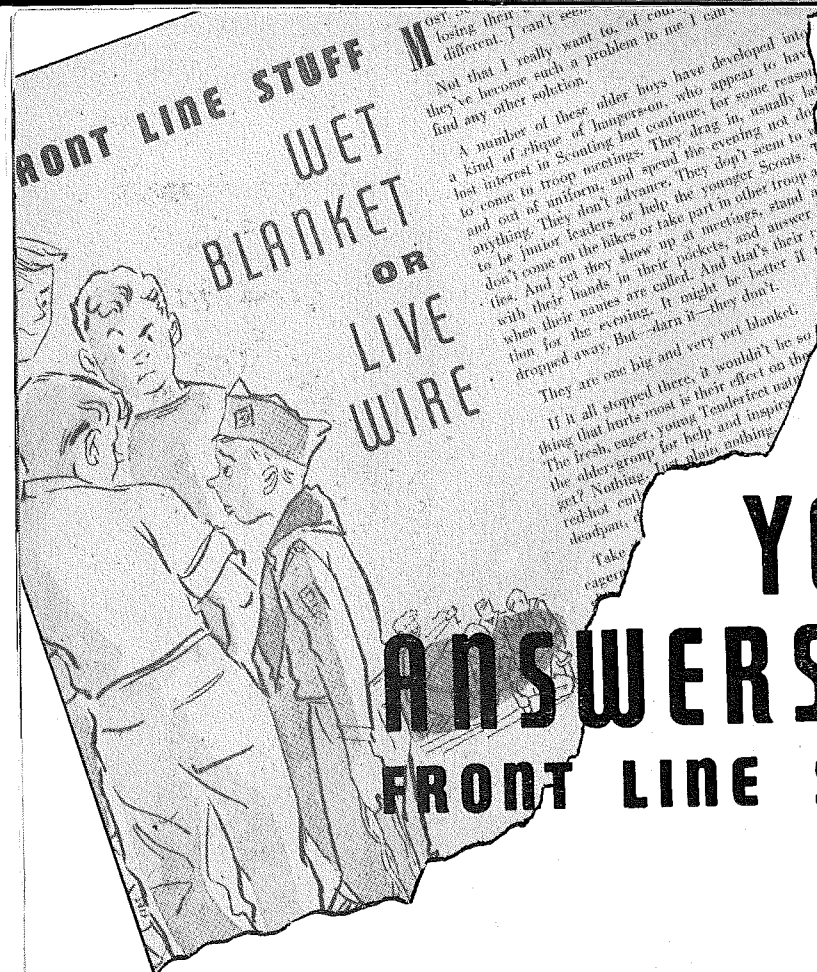


HELPFUL LIFT. Our Explorers weren't looking for the most pleasant kind of weather. They were hoping for, and prepared for, the worst kind of weather. But on our ninth day out, our twelve kayaks, headed for Matagorda Bay on our 215-mile cruise, began to experience a shortage of water in the river. We contacted the Lower Colorado River Authority and they released additional water into the river so that we could complete our trip!

*James W. Thomas, M.D., Ass't Post Advisor
Post 183, Smithville, Texas*



BOY SCOUT CALENDAR. *Paul W. Nordt, commenting on Norman Rockwell's painting on the Boy Scout calendar*—"This is not the first night of a trip. There is no running around. The kids have had it. Too little sleep the first night, activity all day. Now they could sleep on nails. All is quiet. The glorious night and its natural sounds can seep in to you. Sure, you're beat, too. For a few minutes before hitting the sack yourself it's great to stop, listen, feel, and worship. The moment is a fleeting one. Enjoy it now. It may be raining in the morning and these kids are going to get a lot of gear wet."



FRONT LINE STUFF
WET
BLANKET
OR
LIVE
WIRE

YOUR ANSWERS to FRONT LINE STUFF

losing their...
 different. I can't see...
 Not that I really want to...
 find any other solution.
 A number of these older boys have developed in...
 a kind of...
 interest in Scouting but continue for some reason...
 to come to troop meetings. They drag in, usually...
 and out of uniform, and spend the evening not do...
 anything. They don't advance. They don't seem to...
 to be junior leaders or help the younger Scouts...
 (ies. And yet they show up at meetings, stand...
 with their hands in their pockets, and answer...
 when their names are called. And that's their...
 tion for the evening. It might be better if...
 dropped away. But—damn it—they don't.
 They are too big and very wet blanket.
 If it all stopped there, it wouldn't be so...
 doing that hurts most is their effect on the...
 The fresh, eager, young Tenderfoot want...
 the older group for help and inspir...
 ger? Nothing, just plain nothing.
 red-hot call...
 deadpan...
 take...
 cap...

IN March, "Front Line Stuff" I ran a letter from a Scoutmaster with an "older boy" problem. These older boys came to troop meetings but did little except stand around with their hands in their pockets and answer "here" at roll call. Their "wet blanket" attitude was killing the enthusiasm of the younger Scouts. How to handle them? Your letters poured in. Here are some typical examples:

From J.A.B., Cleveland, Ohio:
 "It surprises me that a Scoutmaster should have to send such an elementary problem to SCOUTING. The solution to Fred's problem is the Explorer program."

From M.S.D., Ontario, California:
 "Perhaps a solution would be found in a 'big brother' sort of arrangement, where each of the older Scouts takes over a Tenderfoot and sort of keeps the youngster's enthusiasm up—rebuilding his own at the same time. I doubt if there is a boy living who doesn't

like to show off his accomplishments to younger boys."

From S.R.E., Brownwood, Texas:
 "Listen, man, you don't have a problem, you have an opportunity. Call in your troop committee and see if your sponsoring institution won't sponsor an Explorer post. If you can't organize a post, try an Explorer crew in the troop. You'll find that your membership will increase, your younger boys will be happier, your temper will improve, and your ulcers will stop bothering you."

From R.A.P., Longmeadow, Massachusetts:
 "What makes them leave their homes after dinner to attend a Scout meeting? Is it an unhappy family life, lack of companionship, or lack of spiritual leadership? They should be made to feel not only that they are wanted but that they are needed. Ask their advice. Turn the meeting over to them. Over the months the 'eleven blocks of ice' will melt."

From P.C., Utica, New York:
 "Eleven is a good number to start

an Explorer post with. Man, use your imagination! These boys must have some Scouting in their blood or they wouldn't say 'here' to roll call. Kick 'em out? Sure—right in to an Explorer post."

From J.I., Bronx, New York:
 "Assign a few Scouts to an older boy for instructions. Give these older boys the title of instructor and make them responsible for Scout advancement. Boys who have responsible jobs do not and can not be 'wet blankets.' They haven't got the time."

From M.J.C., Ypsilanti, Michigan:
 "Notify the parents of these boys to attend your next meeting. Have an assistant take the 'doers' to a local movie as a special treat for appearing on time and in uniform. Now the 'eleven blocks of ice' and their parents are still with you. At this time a good man-to-man talk with the boys and their parents may do a great deal of good."

From R.T., Seymour, Texas:
 "They think differently and so act differently from the boys just out of Cubs. They should have a program that taxes their ingenuity, which is, of course, the Explorer program."

From D.C.M., Madras, Oregon:
 "If we find a boy is losing interest, the advancement chairman calls him before the board of review and they discuss his problem with him and try to show him how he can be of help to the younger fellows. Sometimes the boy has, because of fast physical growth, become in his own mind a big shot. He might turn out to be the best junior leader in the troop if he is guided right. I think a group of men talking to him man-to-man can do a lot more good for him than a Scoutmaster who has been talking to him since he was eleven."

From L.M., Newport, North Carolina:
 "Your eleven blocks of ice are paying you a great compliment."
 (Continued on page 24)

SELL CHRISTMAS CARDS

For yourself, club or organization selling 100 boxes finest Robinson Christmas cards and gift wraps. Other fast money makers. Stationery, novelties, children's books. Write quick for samples on approval.

YOU MAKE \$50.00

FREE SAMPLE PERSONAL CARDS

ROBINSON CARDS, Dept. L-8, Clinton, Mass.

BIG BAG of STAMPS

WHAT TREASURES WILL YOU FIND? Only \$1.00

Big bag contains more than 1,000 foreign stamps from over 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, etc., mostly still on paper, unpicked, unposted, just as received from foreign missionaries, banks, etc. Nobody knows what's inside! Worth over \$10 at Catalog prices. Money-back guarantee.

H. E. HARRIS & CO.
2192 Transit, Boston 17, Mass.

UNITED NATIONS FIRST STAMP ISSUE

Considered to be among World's prettiest sets. Pictures U.N. Building, Emblem, and Peoples of World. Sample set—limits for use at only one post office in world—Only 10c with approval.

WELLES, Box 1246-TG, Church St. Sta., NYC 8.

135 ORIENTALS only 25¢

Brought to you from the farthest corners of the earth—this amazing collection of exotic valuable STAMPS of the mysterious Orient! 135 all different from Borneo, Siam, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaya, Sarawak, Singapore, etc. Scarce Airmails, flowers, beautiful girls, temples, mountains, birds, animals. Worth \$2.64 at Catalog prices! PLUS Big Bargain Catalog. All for 25¢—ACT NOW!

JAMESTOWN STAMPS, 7371, JAMESTOWN, N.Y.

JUST OFF THE PRESS!

1956 CATALOG OF OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

TENTS • RUBBER BOATS ONLY
TARPAULINS • CLOTHING 10¢!
HUNDREDS OF OTHER ITEMS

Send 10¢ for your copy—refundable with first order! Rockaway Sales is known from coast to coast as the bargain center for the outdoorsman!

ROCKAWAY SALES CO. ROUTE 46
ROCKAWAY 5, N. J.

WE PAY \$16 for only 59 Lincoln Pennies

Send \$1 for a Lincoln cent album (to hold your pennies). Fill the spaces with dates shown in album, return COMPLETE album and receive \$16 by return air mail PLUS \$1 back for album (total \$17). Save other sets worth hundreds of dollars! All information sent with 1st album. Send \$1 to: **BYMAIL, BOX 67, Dept. 62 Oakland Gardens Stat., Flushing, N. Y.**

FOR EASIEST EXTRA MONEY

Sell NEW EXCLUSIVE 25 for \$1.25
TALL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Quickest Way to Make \$75.00

EXCLUSIVE "GoldLuxury" Assortment pays you big 75c profit on every \$1.25 box—\$75.00 on 100. Make more with other Christmas EXCLUSIVES—big selection Name-Imprinted Cards; TALL Card, 21 in \$1 box; 4-in-1 "Simply Colossal" Box; Gift WRAPS BY-THE-YARD, 56 ft. roll; sensational new Gift Novelties; over 250 money-makers. You make highest profits plus EXTRA CASH BONUS. Money-back Guarantee assures you up to 20c more profit per box. EXTRA SAMPLES AT 10c, other surprises. Send coupon for Free Trial samples NOW.

CARDINAL CRAFTSMEN
1400 State Ave., Dept. H-103 Cincinnati 14, Ohio

Please send money-making kit of 5 boxes on approval, FREE Personalized Samples and FREE offers.

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

MAIL TODAY

FREE OFFER! POP-UP TOASTER Salt & Pepper Set for prompt action

Name _____
Address _____
City & State _____

FRONT LINE STUFF

(Continued from page 18)

Their lack of participation shows that they come not for the program but for you. You will not like this solution possibly, but I would have a separate meeting night for them. Work with them in interests for them."

From Cub Scout R.C., Springfield, Virginia: "Why don't you say to them, 'Boys, I'm going to give you a chance. You fellows are making the other guys uninterested. You can either stop Scouting or take interest in Scouting. It is up to you. Do either one. I will not have you acting like this!' If they don't listen to you, do whatever you like."

From R.M., North Attleboro, Massachusetts: "Why do you think these older boys continue to come to meetings? Because they still want to be Scouts. What are you doing to help them become Scouts? Try this: Form them into an Explorer crew, make a rule that every Scout must be in full uniform at every meeting, set up a program that will enable them to advance, and use them as instructors for small groups of the other Scouts."

From P.N.M., Naples, Italy: "Have you ever thought of organizing an Explorer crew in your troop for your older boys? Give them a program on their level. If they don't show interest in Exploring, just ask yourself this question: 'Should I run the risk of losing the Scouts who really want Scouting by letting a few boys remain in the troop who have no interest?' Your answer should be NO!"

From P.A.P., Key West, Florida: "Those boys have to be taught leadership. Somewhere along the trail they didn't get leadership and now they are lost. But with a little effort on your part and a camping trip just with those boys, I'm sure they can be brought back on the Scouting trail. Put the question to them point blank: 'This is your troop, fellows. Let's make it one of the best. I need your help.' I believe you'll get it."

Next month: When Scout meeting and basketball practice come on the same night, something's got to give. But what? END

