

Scout leader sees good future

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON—If you're one who's still talking about Boy Scouts, then you're about five years behind the times.

The change to just plain Scouts was one of a dozen or so undertaken as a result of Congressional action in 1960.

The Scout movement is chartered by Congress, and the charter was renewed with the understanding changes would be enacted.

Tom Schneider, professional Scout executive of the Ottawa District, Clinton Valley Council which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills) can see many good things that have come as a result of the challenge to provide programs for a broader cross section of American youngsters.

Scouting had an opportunity to look at itself through a study commissioned by the national scout council.

"THEY WANTED to find out if Scouting was really in time, with the times—to find if the programs provided were really relevant," Schneider said. "And they found some real interesting things."

The kids wanted more say in the programming, they wanted more adultlike activities and the older ones wanted co-ed programs.

Response was quickly implemented. The former Explorer group for boys from 14-21 was renamed "Exploring." It became co-ed, and the focus broadened to include vocational exploration, sessions and situations for building personal identity and judgment—many things which are important to youngsters on the threshold of adulthood.



TOM SCHNEIDER

"We've come up with some special interest areas from the ward to the adult: law enforcement, health, careers, auto mechanics, computers, scuba diving, aviation. We're exposing kids to what these careers are really like. They'll actually be working with law enforcement people, riding in the squad cars, getting a taste of the action."

As a result of these changes, Exploring has really "taken off" in this country," Schneider said. While the program hasn't reached this area yet, it will soon, because the council is adding an "Exploring" executive.

This is an optimistic turn of events because Scouting has suffered from the same problems as the country in general.

For the first time in its history, the Clinton Valley Council operated at a deficit in 1973 and again last year. Several of the paid staff resigned and were not replaced. Membership dropped, Schneider believes, as a direct result of staff cuts.

That history membership drop has been made up through recruitment, but Schneider is certain there is a tremendous untapped potential in the district which includes Macomb and a large portion of Oakland County.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, the Farmington school finances had a direct effect on the Scout programs. Up until last year, Scouts used the schools free for meetings. When the schools were no longer available rent-free, several troops disbanded, and others had to find new places to meet.

The Orchard United Methodist Church opened its doors and took in four troops. The church was really responsible for the continued existence of these four troops with a combined membership of about 300.

While the Scouts continue to receive funding from the United Way and several other community groups, their expenses, like everyone else, have shot up.

SCHNEIDER said the goal for the Ottawa Council for this year is \$27,500 from individuals and community groups. Some of this will doubtless come through the \$25 sustaining membership.

He has a guarded hope that as Scouting moves into new areas and adopts a new look, maintaining the basic principals in the code, that it will have wider appeal for both Scouts and donors.

A new project which Schneider and Fred Parker, director of the Cloverdale School for handicapped young-

sters in Farmington, is a troop for handicapped.

"We're trying to organize an Exploring group for handicapped kids. We want to meet a couple of nights a month, and I hope we can get some youngsters in the regular troops who are considering careers in this area to join with us. We'll be playing records, dancing, going to movies—doing lots of the things that all young kids like to do."

THE FARMINGTON OPTIMIST CLUB already has volunteered support for the project, and as soon as a few more sign up for membership, things will start to roll.

Six weeks ago, a new troop started at Boys Republic in Farmington, and the response from both volunteers and Scouts has been "fantastic," Schneider said.

"There are 25 boys in the troop. They took over an old loft and turned it into a meeting room. Since they don't have money for uniforms, they wear white tee shirts."

"A Walled Lake troop gave them a trailer full of tents and camping gear, and we are making Camp Ageron available to them for a summer program."

These are the kinds of programs and the kind of response that make Schneider believe Scouting is truly relevant. He speaks of the troop he once had in Pontiac and the way programs are being tailored to meet the needs of inner city kids.

"Our basic promise is to reach the boy, give him a basic set of values and moral standards. It really doesn't matter as long as we're doing it—giving him something to go on."

GOLFERS CLOSEOUT

We're Overstocked

- PALMER
- MCGREGOR
- BEN HOGAN
- DUNLOP
- 1ST FLIGHT
- WILSON X31
- SHAKESPEARE
- ELITE
- SPALDING EXEC. ALUM.

BELOW WHOLESALE

COST 8 IRONS \$89.95

OTHER COMPLETE SETS FROM \$75.95

NORTHWOOD

OOLF SHOP & DRIVING RANGE

HEATED DRIVING RANGE NOW OPEN!

MAPLE RD.

EAST OF CROOKS

TROY 362-0450

Try a Ouija board for fun

Almost everyone is familiar with the Ouija board, a flat board about 12 by 18 inches with the alphabet and the words "yes," "no," and "good-bye" printed on it. The name "Ouija" comes from the French and German words "oui" and "ja" meaning yes.

A planchette is a small wooden instrument, usually triangular or heart-shaped, mounted on ball-bearing casters and very much like the pointer used with the Ouija board. The pointer itself is sometimes called a planchette. The major difference is that a pencil or ballpoint pen is inserted in the planchette so that it writes messages instead of just pointing out letters.

I PREFER the planchette over the Ouija board for two reasons. An Ouija board is made to be used by two players. I've never been able to be sure the other player wasn't pushing the board and influencing the message, and I'm sure that at times they must have had the same doubts about me.

Then, too, the pointer often moves very fast, and human memory being what it is, the message may not



Witch Watch by GARDEN

always be recalled accurately later when you are trying to analyze it.

The planchette is used by only one person. If it moves, either you or some outside force is pushing it; with it, you have a written record of the message.

WHETHER OR NOT you believe the messages, there is no disputing the fact that they are received. The questions are: Received from whom? or from where? or from where?

Are you subconsciously controlling the planchette without knowing it? Are these messages really from deep within your mind, perhaps made up of knowledge gleaned by your clairvoyance and revealed to you through automatic writing?

Or is the instrument being pushed by other forces, and the messages the words of other entities, spirits dwelling on another plane?

One of my students, a gentle old man in his 70s, insisted that the writing his planchette produced was the work of a ghost. When I asked him how he could be so certain, he answered, "All it ever writes is dirty words, and I don't talk that way!"

I really don't believe that particular old man ever did say a dirty word in his whole life, but I'm sure he knew what he meant, and had at least thought them a few times. This was a way for his subconscious to express these thoughts and blame it on some lecherous old ghost.

One lady misplaced a set of valuable rings, and her neighbor was able to find them for her through the use of her planchette. Did this come to her through clairvoyance, or with the aid of a spirit guide? Who can be sure?

I DON'T BELIEVE in paging ghosts, but if you feel a spirit has been trying to contact you, perhaps you can help it by sitting in the haunted area with a planchette.

Some people claim to receive such inspired writing with nothing more than a pen held in the hand they do not ordinarily write with. Others have typed out whole manuscripts.

One woman writes scores for musical compositions which she believes are given to her by Liszt, Mozart and other composers long dead.

Many things people write in this way are pure fantasy, much like dreams. They should be accepted as such and be interpreted in the same

way as dreams your mind creates while you are sleeping.

In any case, if you decide to try your hand at automatic or spirit writing, do it with an open mind and analyze your writings carefully.

Do not be discouraged if at first you receive only illegible scribbles. It often takes many writings before you receive easily deciphered messages. The handwriting will not resemble your own. If you are using a planchette, your 'I's will not be dotted and your 't's seldom crossed.

(You may write Gaudella at Box 64, Garden City, Mich. 48126. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

RESERVE NOW FOR MEMORIAL DAY & SUMMER

No More Expensive Motels
Eliminate Costly Restaurants
Save Money—Have More Fun

Shower — Free for 2 ladies — Save and
Dinner — \$5.95 — Total — \$10.95 — All
Full Bath — 7 1/2 ft. Bath/Freezer — Hot
Air Conditioning — Easy to Drive — 40 gal. gas
Tank — Smooth Ride — Lots of Storage

Special Rates To May 17 Only
For Rental Information Call 645-2050
Hospital at 777 Brown, Birmingham • Planned Auto Management

It's more than a patio ...it's a Suntura

SUN and FUN ROOM

beautiful patio and use the definitely the best kind for outdoor use. They are made of aluminum and are very durable. They are available in many colors. Price of a Suntura is \$697.

Other features:
• Sun Control
• Aluminum Suntura
• Windows and Doors
• Aluminum Siding and Trim
• Aluminum Gutters and Downspouts
• Aluminum Shutters

SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.
DAILY 9:00 A.M.

LONG, EASY TERMS

25400 W. 9 MILE RD.
Southfield, Mich. 48075

Sun Control
Estimates • Installation

West 444-1212 Local 357-2700 North 335-9452 East 771-8810

Serving Michigan Home Owners for Over 20 Years

DANISH INN

32305 GRAND RIVER
in FARMINGTON • 476-5320

Open 7 days a week
Reservations recommended

PAT FLOWERS
AT THE PIANO—Nightly Tune, thru Sat.

LUNCHEONS • DINNERS
COCKTAILS

YOU DON'T NEED A GREEN THUMB TO GROW IN ONE OF MY GREEN HOUSES

INDOOR & OUTDOOR GREEN HOUSES ON DISPLAY

For The Amateur Or Professional Grower
• Complete Service
• Installation
• Maintenance
• Repairs & Replacements

Brody-Belt 354-8200

SYSTEMATIC BOOKKEEPING L & J ACCOUNTING

Merging For Better Service
• Complete Bookkeeping & Accounting • Pick-up & Delivery

Garden City • Troy
666-2225 • 666-0710

PUT SOME CONFIDENCE IN YOUR TENNIS GAME

JOIN THE GROUP LESSONS AT THE RACQUET CLUBS STARTING APRIL 21ST

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

CALL NOW!

Centour Farms Racquet Club
5700 Drake Road
West Bloomfield
851-6010

Franklin Racquet Club
29633 Franklin Road
Southfield
352-5633

Square Lake Racquet Club
799 Denison Court
Bloomfield Hills
332-9221