

HEADWATERS AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



1122 $\frac{1}{2}$  Minnesota Ave.  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
January 23, 1943

Dr. E. H. Ryneearson  
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Ryneearson:

I don't know why it is but every time I get in a tough spot or a brain storm of some sort, I write to you.--No, not every time or you would be hearing from me much more often than you do.

How can you help?--Honestly I don't know but do you mind if I write anyway? *how you can*

I'm enclosing a letter I wrote to Mr. Pote some time ago and also his reply.

I was never cut out for carrying on with this sort of work. Since I wrote Mr. Pote I feel that I have accomplished quit a lot here and I realize I'm getting some good experience here that I could get nowhere else. Sometimes I think I have a pretty good job afterall and that I should hold on to it and at other times it's much the opposite. Sometimes I look to the future of the canoe base but it's practical chances are pretty slim. Then, I've been told that I'm "being kept on the shelf" so that I might be available at the canoe base for three months out of the year. Maybe I should be satisfied with this? Perhaps in normal times I would be better satisfied.

I'm 30 years old this month, have a wife and two children and am expecting another next summer. (We have told nobody as yet.) I'm making \$1800 with no outlook of getting any more for some time.

I've had a chance to go to Alaska at nearly \$400 a month, to Brazil as a Jr. Forester in surch for Rubber Trees at \$300 per month and all expenses. If I'd have been single I'd have gone.

Then I've wondered if I really tried, if I couldn't get a much better job in Scouting--if they thought they'd lose me--or else. When I was at the national training school for Scout Executives MacDonald, former Nat'l Director of Camping, told me I should have a job right at the Schiff Reservation or under Capt. Mills in the Health and Safety Division or at Philmont and didn't see why I couldn't get it. I don't know that I am prepared for any of those jobs however but I'd surely be willing to take special training.

I guess there's no job I'm really prepared for. I can paddle a canoe but that that doesn't cut any ice under Hitler. I could take a factory job but where would I be after the war?

I don't know just why I'm troubling you again with all of my troubles, you no doubt have enough of your own. I most certainly don't expect you to have a solution to them. I feel more like distroying this than mailing it to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Hol*

*An answer is welcome but not  
necessary.*

HEADWATERS AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



1122 $\frac{1}{2}$  Minnesota Ave.  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
February 10, 1943

Dr. E.H. Ryneearson  
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Ryneearson:

I have a letter here to you sealed up and all stamped which I wrote you some time ago. I've neglected to mail it purposely because of it's contents. Now I've forgotten most of the details of it except for it's general substance. I think the biggest reason that I didn't mail it was because it had no spicific purpose. I wondered why you should want to be bothered with more of my troubles. Things haven't changed but now I'm going to mail it to you because I have a lot of confidence in you and am wondering if you could give me any advice.

Last week I was offered a job as a special Camping Executive at Berkly, Calif. at \$2100 and \$300 a year expenses. I turned it down because I make equal to that here considering living expenses.

In professional Scout work I always dreaded the day when the financial drives come and I now am experiencing my first. We are half way through our drive here and to my suprise I have enjoyed it more than any of my work as an executive--something happens, things are actually acomplished, work is prepared and spific things are done that can be seen on black and white.

The other work we have has little measurement as to accomplishment or failure except that of more or less Scouts or troops and even that doesn't mean that any real good is coming out of it. One can start many new troops IN NAME and get many new Scouts IN NAME but that doesn't mean that they are doing real Scouting. Many Scoutmasters get over some real Scouting to many many boys with just 8 signed up ~~on~~ registered. He may do some real Scouting with those boys but still on the records they show no advancement. Again another Scoutmaster can have a full troop with plenty ~~of~~ advancement on the records but still his boys are not getting Scouting.

I can certainly enjoy most any work when I can see things being accomplished but it is certainly hard to in this game.

Tomorrow I go to Grand Rapids--I was there last month, spent two days there which cost the Council pretty close to \$30.00.(my salary for two days plus my traveling expenses) When I left there I tried so sum up what I had accomplished and couldn't. I saw many men, worked out plans with them, complimented some of them on their work, --but what did I accomplish? Many times I think things would have been better off in some places if I hadn't have come there. Sometimes I can't sell myself, sometimes men loose confidence and I'm unable to do anything about it. Tomorrow I go back there and what will I accomplish? A bad enough way to start a trip.

I was never cut out for this. I still feel that I could stick by it and accomplish just as much as many other executives I know, draw a salary, and stick by it for life as a fair way of making a living but I doubt if I want to do that.

No telling, I'm liable not to mail this letter too.

How's the family? Think I'll enclose a shot of Martha and Mary which you can send back sometime when you write.

Sincerely yours,

*Hod*



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



## NATIONAL OFFICERS

INCORPORATED  
FEBRUARY 8, 1910

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS  
JUNE 15, 1916

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MINNESOTA NORTH DAKOTA SOUTH DAKOTA  
EASTERN MONTANA NORTHWEST WISCONSIN  
NORTHEAST WYOMING

OFFICE  
1112 MINNESOTA BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINN.

TELEPHONE CEDAR 0659

FEBRUARY 17TH  
1 9 4 3

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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DR. WILLIAM GINSBERG, CHAIRMAN HEALTH & SAFETY  
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D. W. RAUDENBUSH, CHAIRMAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
ANDREW B. DYGERT  
E. J. KAHLER  
DR. A. D. MCCANNEL  
WALTER M. MC LAUGHLIN  
R. E. ANDERSON  
DEAN E. M. FREEMAN

THE ENTIRE REGION TEN COMMITTEE IS MADE UP  
OF ALL NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COUNCIL  
PRESIDENTS WITHIN THE REGION.

KENNETH G. BENTZ, REGIONAL EXECUTIVE  
BEN F. CONGER, DEPUTY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE  
HARRALD S. ALVORD, DEPUTY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

DR. E. H. RYNEARSON  
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

DEAR EDDIE:-

WE CONTINUE TO HAVE ADVICE FROM NEW YORK THAT THE NEW MANUAL ON CAMPOREES WOULD BE READY FOR USE LATE IN FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. FOR THAT REASON IT HAS SEEMED ILLOGICAL FOR US TO GO AHEAD WITH THE VOLUMINOUS REPRODUCTION OF A CAMPOREE MANUAL OF OUR OWN. IF THEY MAKE GOOD ON THE MARCH 1ST DATE, I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT. IF IT GOES AFTER THAT TIME, I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN AFFORD TO WAIT BECAUSE PLANS FOR A CAMPOREE MUST BE DEVELOPED LONG TIME AHEAD TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE. DO YOU APPROVE?

WE NOW HAVE MR. DUNNING'S PAINTING OF THE CANOE BASE, AND IT IS A SPLENDID JOB. WE EXPECT TO HAVE MR. DUNNING WITH US FOR THE MEETING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, AND WILL HAVE HIM MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO MR. SOMMERS. I WOULD SURE LIKE TO HAVE YOU WITH US, BUT I REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT THAT WOULD BE.

AT THAT SAME MEETING WE ALSO EXPECT TO GET APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CANOE BASE OPERATION THIS SUMMER AND PLAN TO EMPLOY LUDLOW AS DIRECTOR FOR THREE MONTHS. I THINK IT WOULD BE WELL FOR YOU TO WRITE A LETTER WHICH COULD BE READ TO THE COMMITTEE INCLUDING YOUR SUGGESTIONS IN THE CAMPING FIELD WHICH YOU FEEL THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER.

CORDIALLY YOURS,  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

KENNETH G. BENTZ  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

NEW CANOE BASE PRESENTATION  
FRIDAY NIGHT

1. MOVIES OF DEDICATION AND 1942 TRIPS - R. J. HAGMAN
2. SLIDES OF CANOE BASE CONSTRUCTION, DEDICATION, AND SCENES OF TRIPS -  
K. G. BENTZ
3. DR. RYNEARSON REPORT:

A) FINANCE -

INCOME. MENTION ESPECIALLY THOSE MARKED RED.

SALE OF STEAMBOAT FARM TO START THE FUND BUT WE RETAINED  
22 ACRES OF WOODS AND SHORE LINE AS A PERMANENT "CAMP  
BOYSEN"

EXPENDITURES. MENTION ESPECIALLY WORK OF HOD LUDLOW.

B) CARE FOR WINTER:

NEW GATE (ALREADY IN). COMPLETE COVERAGE INSURANCE. CARETAKER  
PROBLEM. THE EQUIPMENT IS IN GOOD SHAPE, LARGEST FLEET OF FINE  
CANOES, OVER \$1000 SPENT ON EQUIPMENT THIS YEAR WITH TEN NEW  
CANOES ADDED.

C) FUTURE PLANS:

1. SECURE AUTHORIZATION FOR PURCHASE OF THE NEIGHBORING FORTY ACRES  
NEAR THE CAMP AS PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE NEIGHBORS, TO BE  
USED AS CAMPING SITES.
2. FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF PARKING AREA AND ROAD GRAVELING.  
NEED TO PAY DEFICIT OF \$410. (THIS COVERS GATE CONSTRUCTION, ETC.)
3. PUBLIC THANK BROWN & BIGELOW. "BROCHURES" CONTRIBUTED AT A COST  
TO THEM OF AROUND \$800.00.
4. PRESENT EACH MAN WITH A NEW PICTURE OF THE BASE.

February 17, 1943

Mr. Herace J. Ludlow  
1122½ Minnesota Avenue  
Bemidji, Minnesota

Dear Hod:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have written to Hal Pete. Let me know what you think of it. Please do not leave Scouting until some of us have a chance to see if we can't find the right spot for you and your fine family.

I am returning to you your picture, and I can't tell you how much pleasure it has given your many friends here to see this. I don't blame you and your wife for being proud of these two kids, and I am quite delighted to know that a third baby is on the way.

Dr. Howard Gray spoke to me the other night and said that his great ambition for this year was to come up to the canoe base, and we will have to get to work and see if we can't plan some such event when things open up.

I hope that you know that I am behind you and most anxious to do anything that I can.

Cordially yours,

E. H. Rynearson, M.D.

EHR:dms  
Enclosure

February 17, 1943

Mr. Harold F. Pete  
Director, Division of Personnel  
Boy Scouts of America  
2 Park Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Hal:

As you probably know, Mr. Freeman was hospitalized, and, as he may have told you, with over two hundred doctors in the service it keeps me humping in the Clinic building. Therefore, the only time I could see him was on Sunday morning visits. He and Mrs. Freeman seemed quite happy, however, and I hope things go well with them.

For some years now I have been troubled about Red Ludlow. In this organization when we find a man who has special aptitudes we try to see that he has opportunities to work along this line. For example, when Doctor Mulbullen, a dentist, showed marked aptitude in making wax models he was made head of the museum, and his contributions in this field have been outstanding. Red, as you know, is an exceptional individual. He has lived his life in the North woods, and knows more about living in the out-of-doors and paddling a canoe than any other man whom I have ever met. It was he who, as a volunteer Scouter, helped in so many ways in obtaining the location for our canoe base. As you know, it was he alone who was responsible for the construction of this building. At this time I spoke to K. Bents and said that if I had my way about it I would approach the Dayton family of Minneapolis or some other individual or group of individuals and see whether we could not have Red Ludlow appointed as a full-time director of that base, and in those months when his duties did not require him to be there I would have him visit the different councils, putting on outdoor camping demonstrations with the boys and their leaders.

To make a long story short, you know what has happened, and that is that we are trying to make him an executive. My idea of an executive is a man who, in addition to knowing Scouting, knows how to talk in public and who on occasion can be quite garrulous.

You met Red, and you saw the work he was capable of doing. I cannot help but wonder whether a place cannot be found for him either regionally or nationally where he can do the things for which he is best suited. I have not spoken to K. Bents about this, but I shall



Mr. Harold F. Fets

Page 2

February 17, 1943

save a copy of this letter, and if you think we ought to approach this regionally I shall be glad to discuss it with him. In any event, I shall be interested to know your reaction to these thoughts of mine. I am certain of one thing, and that is that he has too many talents to permit him to drift away from Scouting.

Most cordially yours,

E. H. Rynerson, M. D.

EHR:dms

# G. SOMMERS & COMPANY

(ESTABLISHED IN 1882)

**WHOLESALE GENERAL MERCHANDISE**

SIXTH AND WACOUTA STREETS

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

February 18, 1943

Dr. E. H. Rynerson,  
Mayo Clinic,  
Rochester, Minnesota

Friend E. H:

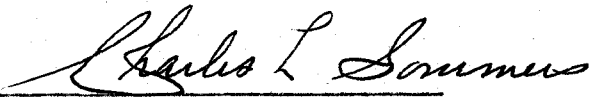
The 80th Birthday Party for Dad Drew yesterday evening, was really a very nice affair and we missed you. About 125 letters were received. These were nicely bound and presented to Dad. A few of these were read aloud, one of them being yours. A "pot of gold" containing eighty silver dollars was also presented, including one extra one beautifully packaged with a cellophane front, as we kids used to say, "to grow on".

I hope you are planning on attending the next Executive Committee Meeting a week from tomorrow. We will need you there, as we want to make our plans for the summer projects.

Do you know Howard Evans, and what do you think of this proposition of officially recognizing his work as Chairman of Hospital Visiting Committee, Mayo Clinic? - (I question it).

Sincerely and cordially yours,

1/

  
Charles L. Sommers, Chairman  
Region Ten - B. S. A.

Forward  
Please  
return to C.L.S.  
For C.L. Sommers  
St Paul Minn

HOWARD S. EVANS

POST OFFICE BOX NO. 153

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

Feb 13 - 48

Dear Friend and Fellow Scouter .

Find inclosed find note and dollar for  
dad brews Birth day . also I would like  
to make a suggestion in reference to  
my service in Scouting as you know  
Rochester is a health center and as we  
have people from all states and  
around the globe I feel that it should  
be a regional apointment as to my  
service . insted of our council  
think it over Yours as Ever

Howard. Seymour Evans  
Hospital S Master

Mr Sommers:

You might want this considered at  
the Reg. Comm. meeting . We might concienably  
make this man Chr of a Reg. Comm. or  
"Hospital Visitation at Mayo Clinic"

R

February 19, 1943

Mr. Charles L. Sommers  
76 East Fifth Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Sommers:

Thank you very much for your nice letter of February 18. I am quite happy that Dad Drew's birthday party went off so well.

As far as "Dad" Evans is concerned, I am not sure that you remember him. He has been very active in Scouting for 150 years and takes a great deal of pride in his visitations. He is doing a grand job of this but I doubt whether he should have a Regional appointment as the Mayo Clinic is not anxious to have publicity of this or any other sort. What you might do is to write him a nice note of congratulations and tell him that National regulations prevent making appointments which so directly concern one Council but that you would like to have the pleasure of recognizing him publicly at the next Regional meeting. He would be delighted to come and I think merits a little attention of this sort.

I am sorry I cannot get up on Friday, but I am sending K. a letter which outlines some of my views.

Most cordially yours,

E. H. Rynearson, M. D.

chr:bjt

February 19, 1943

Region Ten Executive Committee

Dear Sirs:

I am sorry that circumstances are going to force a lot of us to forego the pleasure of these monthly meetings but as long as there are as many thugs and out-throats living locally as there are you are assured a fair turn-out.

K. Bentz knows pretty well how I feel about the camping situation, which is that with the changes which the War is producing we are going to have to revolutionize our thoughts on camping. No longer are we going to be able to have Council Camps set up in just one spot in a large Council and expect the boys and their leaders to come great distances to attend. Some Council Camps are so situated that they can be used; others may have to be closed. In many ways I think this will be a good thing, for it is going to decentralize camping and the individual Districts are going to have to set up their own plans in terms of the individual Troops. This is going to do more for Troop Camping than we have been able to accomplish under ordinary peacetime conditions. K. can show you the type of letter and the type of literature which we are going to send out. Dr. Ray Keating, the new Council Chairman here, is making plans to have camps in all of our Districts and, as a matter of fact, they may be held in several parts of each District, using a mobile field range and our camp truck. The program is going to be aimed not only at giving the boys a few days' camping but in training both the boys and their leaders in the principles of twelve-months' camping.

Finally, a word about the Charles L. Sommers' Wilderness Canoe Base Camp. I am very much in favor of opening this as soon as possible with Red Ludlow as the director. Halfway from Ely to the Camp we will set up an overnight camp and boys will be encouraged to hike from Ely to the Base Camp. All of the activities from the Camp will be more informal but we'll give the boys just as much of adventure and probably teach them more self-reliance than in our past type of program.

Finally, I should like to ask all of you to think about Red Ludlow without making any decision. It is my opinion that he has character traits and North Woods' knowledge which we are not likely to find in another man in many years. I seriously doubt whether he ever will make an Executive but there are those who will disagree with me and you may be right. In any event, what I would like to see would be some interested individual who would be willing to create "Dayton's Regional Camping Director" or "The Charles Ward Regional Camping Director" and give Red the responsibility of pushing twelve-months' camping in our Region. During the summer months he would be at the Canoe Base and during much of the rest of the year he would be in different Councils actually camping with the boys and their leaders and teaching camping by demonstration rather than by didactic lectures. Maybe the idea's all wet but it's one that I have talked over informally with some of you and would like to have all of you consider.

February 19, 1942

And now, if Bill Brown will quit shaking the ice in his glass of water, I'll quit.

Cordially yours,

E. H. Ryncarson, M. D.

chr:bjt



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



## NATIONAL OFFICERS

INCORPORATED  
FEBRUARY 8, 1910

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS  
JUNE 15, 1916

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EASTERN MONTANA NORTHWEST WISCONSIN  
NORTHEAST WYOMING

OFFICE

1112 MINNESOTA BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINN.

TELEPHONE CEDAR 0659

OCTOBER 15, 1943

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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DR. E. H. RYNEARSON, CHAIRMAN CAMPING  
DR. WILLIAM GINSBERG, CHAIRMAN HEALTH & SAFETY  
W. N. BROWN, CHAIRMAN SPEAKERS BUREAU  
D. W. RAUDENBUSH, CHAIRMAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING  
ANDREW B. DYGERT  
E. J. KAHLER  
DR. A. D. MCCANNEL  
WALTER M. MC LAUGHLIN  
R. E. ANDERSON  
DEAN E. M. FREEMAN

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HARRALD S. ALVORD, DEPUTY REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

DR. E. H. RYNEARSON  
MAYO CLINIC  
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

DEAR DOCTOR EDDIE:-

SURE PLEASED TO HAVE YOUR NOTE.

DUDLEY FITZ WAS HERE AND WE HAD LUNCH WITH R. J. HAGMAN. FITZ WAS ALSO TO SEE ART LARKIN, PRESIDENT OF THE MINNEAPOLIS COUNCIL YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. HE CERTAINLY TAKES HIS JOB SERIOUSLY AND HAS RAISED \$328.00 MOSTLY IN HIS OWN COUNCIL FOR THE CANOE BASE DEVELOPMENT FUND. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE HIM WORK ON MR. HAGMAN YESTERDAY.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I REPORTED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BUY THE FORTY ACRE TRACT OF LAND OR NOT, BUT WE DID BUY IT A \$1.00 AN ACRE. DUDLEY FITZ PERSONALLY GAVE US THE MONEY TO PAY FOR IT. THE NEXT MOVE I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO TRY TO TRADE THIS NEW FORTY OF OURS FOR THE FORTY ACRE TRACT ON WHICH OUR CABIN IS LOCATED. I DON'T KNOW HOW TICKLISH A JOB LIKE THAT IS GOING TO BE, BUT I AM CERTAIN IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY HANDLED. PERHAPS WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT AT THE REGIONAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

PAUL HESSER SEEMS TO BE RECOVERING NICELY FROM HIS SERIOUS ILLNESS. IT SEEMS THAT HE COLLAPSED AT HOME WITH ULCER HEMORRHAGES, WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL, AND RECEIVED SOME BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS WHICH HELPED TO PUDL HIM THROUGH. I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS A LONG GRIND OF SEVERAL WEEKS AND PERHAPS MONTHS TO GET HIM BACK ENTIRELY ON THE JOB. HE WAS TAKEN HOME EARLY THIS WEEK IN AN AMBULANCE BUT STILL DOES NOT WANT VISITORS. YOU COULD DROP HIM A NOTE AT 1395 W. IDAHL, ST. PAUL 4.

WILL MISS YOU AT THE REGIONAL MEETING THE LAST FRIDAY NOON OF THIS MONTH BUT WOULD OF COURSE RATHER HAVE YOU COME FOR THE TWO-DAY SESSION IN NOVEMBER.

CORDIALLY,  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

KENNETH G. BENTZ  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

*Camping*  
*B.S.*

November 1, 1943

Mr. H. J. Ludlow  
1213 Dewey Avenue  
Bemidji, Minnesota

Dear Hod,

I have delayed answering your nice long letter until I could go over to Fairmont and discuss the whole thing with Dud Fitz. I shall also discuss this with you at the Regional meeting, although with Doctor Haines out of town, I can be there only for Friday night. I know what I have done is the right thing to do and that is I have asked Mr. Sommers to appoint Dud Fitz as Chairman of the Camping Committee. Dud is older, much more experienced, and is resigning several other jobs to give more time to the development of camping in scouting. This does not mean that I am dropping out; it simply means that you will have two of us in there battling for the ideals and principles which you have so clearly elucidated.

I am also honest in saying that I am asking them to make this change because of Hod Ludlow. In other words, I thought that with this new setup, Dud can throw his weight around better and can arrange things for your satisfaction and advancement.

This note cannot be long enough to go into detail, but when I see you we shall have a good pow-wow.

Cordially yours,

E. H. Rynearson, M.D.

EHR:hs



HEADWATERS AREA COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



1213 Dewey Ave.  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
October 3, 1943

Dear Dr. Rynearson:

Back on the job in Bemidji again after a fairly successful season at the canoe base. We were pretty busy there all at once and it was a lot of fun. As the Scouts came in most any day of the week this year of course they had to be taken back to town most every day of the week so the only trip I got to go out on myself was the first one of the season but I was busy there anyway and that's what counts.

I got a chance to do a much better job on closing up the place this year. Everything in the line of equipment is in the front room this year. The canoes are all on racks instead of being piled up like cord wood like before which wasn't any too good for them. The kitchen, Store room, and upstairs are completely free of junk and there are no shutters nailed on this time so if it is your intention to visit up there this fall everything will be in better shape. One can deer hunt 5 miles on each side of the Furnberg road this year you know and this includes the canoe base and property around. It should make a good place for that. There is a fair amount of wood on hand too though it might be well to throw in a sack of coal for the kitchen stove should you decide to go up. I realize you couldn't drive very easily but I'm sure Sig Olson of Ely would take you or anyone out.

Hope I can get up to Vermilion deer season. You had better come up there. I'll guarentee you get one.

Shortly after you wrote Mr. Pote (you sent me a copy of the letter) last winter I got an offer from Berkley Calif. I think it came through the Regional office and forwarded to my Hibbing office and Matty read the telegram over the phone to me. Offered me a job as special camp executive at \$2000 a year.

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I am getting \$1800 and thought that a job out there at \$2000 would be less than I'm getting here considering the higher living cost out there. And after thinking it over I turned the job down.

This last month when I was down to the Executives conference in Minneapolis Harradd Alvord mentioned the job and kind of wondered why I didn't accept it and went on to explain what opportunities I would have had there and that I would have been making much more etc. by now and mentioned that he knew the men out there being as he came from that part of the country and that it would have really been something for me.

I don't beleive Harradd was trying to make me wish I had gone out there. It was just talked of in a conversation I had with him. I do sort of wish however that I'D have known those particulars at the time however because I probably would have accepted.

This much came out of your letter anyway. Thanks for writing.

On talking to the Regional men and National men down there about my future most of them advise me, if I want to advance or go any place in Scouting that I should drop this canoe base idea, forget the camping end, and stick to streight executive work. They point out that I've had my day at the canoe base, made a good thing of it and that it might be well to drop it now that they can get a man easily to take my place there. That there will never be any future to a camping job in Scouting, never a chance to make anything of myself in Scouting.

This is a bone I have to pick with Scouting in general. All the time Scouting shouts "~~S~~couting is three-fourths of Scouting" "Camping is Scouting" "Ask any man what he remembers of his Scouting experience and he says it is the camping he did" etc. Yet Scouting has been going down hill in camping for ten years and here is what I lay it to: Every time they get a man who is interested in camping or is a good camp man they either make an office exegetive in streight Scout work out of him or they don't pay their camp men enough to keep him and the YMCA gets him or he is in an office in Scouting with no contact with the work he is most interested in. Look at George Wyckoff, H.B.Rouzer, Carl Chase, and many others--all camp men. If money was raised so that these men could do camping and earn a living doing it, Scouting would be three-fourths camping in this Region and I'd bet that membership and all the rest would take care of itself.

3

Back in the old days of Scouting the Executives were campers and the Executives ran the camps in those days and all will admit that camping was accomplished in those days and that boys had a better experience in Scouting. Perhaps the Executives aren't the ones who should be away from their jobs doing camping but they should have made up for it there in some way. I think Scouting has to begin to realize this and do something about it because you know as well as I that kids aren't getting much of a camp experience in their Scouting experience in most councils these days and isn't this the reason?

Orland Thornsjo, in the service now, but on the Minneapolis camp staff this summer and a peach if there ever was one thinks about the same way as I do about this--thinks that Scouting is going to go to the dogs if they don't do something about their camping. He wants me to go in with him and run a private boy's camp after the war. Start with a peice of land in the woods and an old sewing machine and some tools and canvass. Let the boys come and make their own tents, packs, sleeping bags, put up their own lean-to's and really CAMP.

We were discussing the canoe base itself. I don't want to belittle it believe me but one can realize that big money was spent there for something which is certainly grand and all of us older folks marvel at a log building like that but it's a fact that a 12 or 14 year old boy comes there and he doesn't marvel at anything. He takes it for granted. He wants to get out on the canoe trips where he can camp, where he can meet a challenge, have an experience.

We were wondering a little if the same money had been put into lots of good leadership, equipment, etc. and none into a building, just what the difference might be in actual camping gotten over to the boy.

I'm certainly not trying to run down the canoe base and I still have the same feeling towards it that I always had but I do think that there is now all the more reason to back up that building with as good leadership and this takes money. We're still plenty short of equipment. The guides were fairly good, probably as good as could be had in these times but when times are so that men with camping ability and the ability to put it over in the right Scouting way, can be had, the canoe base should have them.

We had a group from Chicago this summer. Four men leaders and six Scouts. The men said, "we can't stand these long trips now we want a short one. We're on our vacation. We want to go to Newfoundland lake (the first lake north of Moose) and camp for the week." We gave them the usual campfire program at the base and discribed and told about the country and Voyageurs of old thinking they might still change their minds and at least go out one days' paddle from the base into Canada. But no. They went to Newfoundland--a two hour paddle and sat there all week. They insisted on cooking on gas stoves which they had brought along and on having more fresh veg. etc. than we provided.

I noticed that these men packed the boys' packs for them, told them what to do every minute etc. besides planning their trip for them. The kids would have gone on a good trip if it weren't for the men.

This is just a sample of how lots of troops are run. How lots of camping is done. The men enjoyed themselves said the guide ~~bnt~~ the kids got along. They didn't have any challenge.

I could write a book on what I've seen in a few of the Scouts who have come up to the base and went out by themselves--no leader and no guide for three or four weeks. They've come back with tears in their eyes because they had to go home. They had a lifetime experience. They got out where there were no trails to follow, where few if anyone had been, had gotten lost--not lost but turned around, they had been completely played out to the point where they couldn't portage another step and had to stay there on the trail over night. They had had a challenge. They've said they actually cried when mired in a swamp and couldn't go any farther--cried like a kid in a football game does when he's taken out in the middle of the game.

Camping doesn't have to be tough but it does have to have that which nobody is giving it these days.

I'm afraid I've written you another one of "those letters". I hardly ment to when I started.

I feel as though I'm doing a little something here in Bemidji only because there is nobody at present to take my place. If there were ~~any~~ men to take my place right now I'd step out and let them have it. I believe it's doing me good however because I find it easier all the time to do more talking and meet more people.

The family is getting along fine and Martha is in the first grade now. Hope yours are all okay.

5

Don't take me too seriously in this letter. I'll probably wish I'd never have written it. I only feel like doing something like this once in a blue moon. I'm really enjoying it here though sometimes I do think I could do ~~somewhat~~ better in supporting my family if I made a change but this can wait.

Sincerely yours,

*Hod*

*H. J. Sudlow  
1213 Denby  
Berridge, Minn*

Fairmont, Minnesota  
October 16, 1943

Dr. Rynearson:

Our district Boy Scout meeting will be at the Methodist Church here in Fairmont on the evening of October 22nd.

Your letter from Hod is returned attached. Hod brings up several points that have a long time been bothering me and they cannot be covered completely by letter and require considerable conversation to cover.

For years in scouting they have been looking more for numbers than quality, and I believe that is the difficulty. We have it in our churches and through it we are lowering our spirituality.

Then too, we are operating too much by charts and graphs instead of by equipment, and our treatment of scout executives if we were to apply it to the boys would mean that no boy would get to be an Eagle until after all of the boys who entered scouting before him had attained that rank and that fundamentally is wrong. Each one of our scout executives has or should have his own particular strong points. Hod's is camping and particularly activities connected with the north country; Carl Chase's place is in the north country and their talents should be used there.

Here in this council we have a mighty fine young fellow as a field executive. Leo McCarthy is his name. When Carl Chase was taken from us a year or so ago we were not permitted to promote him and had another executive jammed down our throats. I will admit that Peter Paulson, the executive we took under protest, did a good job. Now he is called into service and because of the notion that a field executive should not be promoted to scout executive in the area where he is working, we are not permitted to promote him. However, we have increased his salary, he is doing the scout executive's work, and we will not care much here in this council whether we hire a scout executive or not, but I maintain that if a fellow has the stuff he should be kept in the work he is best fitted for and have the knowledge and the incentive that his efforts will determine his advancement.

This is a point that I have quarreled with the regional office on and to me is the cause and what is fundamentally behind Hod's letter of October 3rd.

Knowing what I do about what scouting will do for the individual boy, I am, in spite of these things, doing what I can for scouting, feeling that ultimately things like this will be ironed out. A couple of years

Dr. Rynearson

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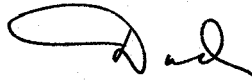
October 16, 1943

ago the "Jeep", Ed Wolverton and Dick Levine were having what they called a "bull session". All three of them had been asked to consider scouting as a profession but in this bull session they decided they wanted none of it for scouting was coming to be more for the executives and professionals than the individual boy. This is rather a severe indictment of the system under which scouting is now being operated but I believe that Hod Ludlon's letter of October 3rd is an indication of that very thing.

In industry we try and fit men into the places that they are best adapted for, we try and use their talents and we try and hold for them the incentive for advancement as they excel and I feel we are not doing that in scouting.

Perhaps when you are here next week we can touch on some of these things, and I assure you they are close to my heart.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. D. Fitz', with a stylized, cursive script.

H. D. Fitz

HDF:S

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

FAIRMONT RAILWAY MOTORS, Inc.

FAIRMONT, MINN.



Dr. E. H. Rynearson  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota