

GREAT WESTERN COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

M E M O

TO: Schiller A. Colberg, Scout Executive  
FROM: Don Pittenger, Field Director  
SUBJECT: Mike Ross, Scoutmaster, Troop 222, Santa Monica

May 4, 1977

Further information:

May 2, 1977 - 11:15 AM

Received a call from Officer Worth of the Los Angeles Police Department requesting me to check the Confidential File on

Allan Pagnation

Officer Worth informed me that Mike Ross had served two years at Rikers Island Prison in New York for child molestation. He had teaching credentials at one time but they had been revoked because of child molestation charges. Officer Worth also stated that Mike had jumped bail and fled New York prior to sentencing on one or more convictions of child molestation.

May 2, 1977 - 11:30 AM

Called Paul Ernst at National Personnel and asked him to run a check on Allan Pagnation. His report was negative.

May 2, 1977 - 11:40 AM

I called Officer Worth and reported these negative findings. He was very critical of the Boy Scouts of America and this council for permitting individuals like Mike Ross to become Scout leaders. He stated that he felt the Scouting organization had a responsibility to insure that the Scouts maintained the "American flag, apple pie, all the good impressions that the public has of Scouting". Worth stated that in view of the fact that we knew about Mike two years ago and did nothing about it left us open to criticism. I told him that I was not aware of any such notification.

He said that Mr. [REDACTED] had told us of a problem with Mike Ross and that a Santa Monica school principal, [REDACTED], had also discussed the problem with Maury Fulkerson of our staff. I confirmed that Maury had talked with Mr. [REDACTED] concerning Mr. [REDACTED] and that we had ~~discussed~~ with Mr. [REDACTED] to secure a signed complaint giving details of any charges being made. This verbal request was followed by a letter confirming the request. No such complaint has been received to date. Therefore, no action could be taken.

Officer Worth stated that the police report was going to be very critical of the Boy Scouts concerning the apparent laxness in the control over the type of leadership we have. He said he felt that we might go so far as to request a fingerprint

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check on leaders before they become active.

I explained the Boy Scouts procedure of registration to Officer Worth, as well as the selection process of securing a Scoutmaster. I also explained the procedure involved in the Confidential File maintained by National. He did not seem satisfied with our methods.

I closed our conversation with a request for any pattern or mold that he could provide that would enable us to use a satisfactory measure to check our leaders.

May 2, 1977 - 2:00 PM

Talked to Mr. Fulkerson about the school principal report concerning Mike Ross. He confirmed the facts I had given Officer Worth were correct. He further stated that at no time did he have any communication concerning Mike from Mr. [REDACTED], and did not feel that Mr. [REDACTED] was aware of his discussions with Principal [REDACTED].

Mr. Fulkerson told me that Brian Campbell and a Mr. Flascher had visited Mike at the Los Angeles County jail sometime during the previous weekend. The purpose of this visit is not known.

May 3, 1977 - 3:30 PM

I called Don Emmer regarding Wood Badge. During our conversation, he said that in all probability, he would not be representing Mr. Ross but that he had talked with him and was of the opinion that Mike was not going to fight any of the current child molestation charges against him. Emmer further told me that the pictures that the police showed me are police prints of colored slides Mike had taken five years ago. Emmer also stated that Mr. Ross had given his power of attorney to a Mr. [REDACTED] (so far as I know, it is not the school principal) who would dispose of his personal property. Don Emmer also told me that Mike's brother, who is a well known New York photographer and a singer with the Metropolitan Opera, had no plans for posting bail for Mike since he had forfeited the last bond he had posted in New York when Mike fled to avoid sentencing. Mr. Emmer said he feels that Mike would probably be defended by a public defender and that he would probably plead guilty to some of the current charges; following this, he would be extradited to New York to face the outstanding warrant for him there.

If New York sentences him to prison<sup>and</sup> or treatment, then California probably would not sentence him here.

Don Emmer said Mike's real name (changed legally following a conviction in New York) is Alan David Peter Bagration. Don and Mr. [REDACTED], who is a close personal friend of Mike's brother, are going to meet with Mike tonight. I told Emmer to have Mr. [REDACTED] contact me for help in cleaning up Scouting records and securing the Scout material Mike has in his apartment.

May 3, 1977 - 4:15 PM

Talked to Mr. Fulkerson. He said Mike had Scout-O-Rama tickets for two units in addition to several uniforms which belong to the district uniform exchange, and all of the records and supplies of Troop 222. I will try to secure this material from Mr. [REDACTED] as soon as possible.

DP:h1  
5/14/77

DON PITTINGER  
Field Director