

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE August 6, 1985

FULL NAME Donald A. Gowing SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 (No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY Eagle STATE Michigan ZIP CODE 48822

DATE OF BIRTH 06-08-38 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION PLT-METHODIST NATIONALITY AMERICAN

OCCUPATION Radio operator for State of MI. Dept of highways and transportation

EDUCATION High School Graduate

WEIGHT 145 HEIGHT 5'7" RACE White

COLOR OF HAIR Brown COLOR OF EYES Brown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED OR SINGLE Single CHILDREN 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

| UNIT # | CITY     | STATE | POSITION | DATE REGISTERED | DATE RESIGNED |
|--------|----------|-------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 3260   | Wacousta | Mich  | DL/WA    | 3/77            | 5/80          |
| "      | "        | "     | WA/WL    | 9/82            | 6/84          |
| 60     | "        | "     | SA       | 7/82            | 4/85          |

SPECIAL RECOGNITION \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

*Sentenced to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 13 year old Boy Scout*

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE OR SPECULATION):

**NOTED**  
**OCT 01 '85**  
**JOSEPH L. ANGLIM**

Signed [Signature]  
 SCOUT EXECUTIVE  
 Council [Signature]

67-80N  
 AUG 13 1985

October 2, 1985

Mr. David J. Boshea  
Scout Executive  
Chief Okemos Council, No. 271

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Donald Gowing

Dear Dave:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man permanently on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

bj

cc: East Central Region

10-2-85  
WWW

CONF024841

July 10, 1985

Mr. David Boshea  
Scout Executive  
Cheif Okemos Council, No. 271

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Dave:

I know that you would like to forget about some of the situations which have developed in your council related to the confidential file, but I really need more information from you at this time.

In order to complete our files I need to have Confidential Record Sheets completed for Donald Gowing, Delmar Gowing, Jeffrey Gowing and Donald Bushard. I am enclosing sheets for your use in putting together all the personal information which you can so that we can identify these individuals should they try to register at a future time.

Please let me know if I can be of any help to you.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

clf

cc: East Central Region

Enclosure

READY TO FILE

JUL 11 1985

ERIN O'HELY

CONF024842

# NEWS ALERT

Co-271

Date: May 14, 1985

Time: AM

The following information was received from the source indicated and may have possible news or other confidential implications. Details to follow, if required.

Information below: David Boshea, SE

Source: (Initial Source: [redacted] S402) Telephone: [redacted]

(Name and Title)

Address: Chief Okemos Council, Lansing, Mich.

The facts: SM Delmar Gowing, 47, Troop 60, Wacosta (Mich) United Methodist Church, and his twin brother, Donald, ASM, have pleaded guilty to counts of first degree criminal sexual assault involving one 13-year-old Scout on two instances. Their cousin, Donald Bushard, 20, ASM, and Delmar's [redacted], 18, an applicant for Eagle, have pleaded innocent to similar charges. Sentencing on the guilty pleas is set for June 10.

Allegedly one or more of the men were sexually involved with some 15 boys in the troop (and possibly some of their girl friends) over a two year period. Numerous photos of nude youngsters have been confiscated by police. None of the incidents apparently occurred during official Scout functions.

ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS: (CONTINUED BELOW)

Council in touch with Park and has own legal counsel. Region knowledgeable.

Ernst advised.

Signed: Barclay Bollas

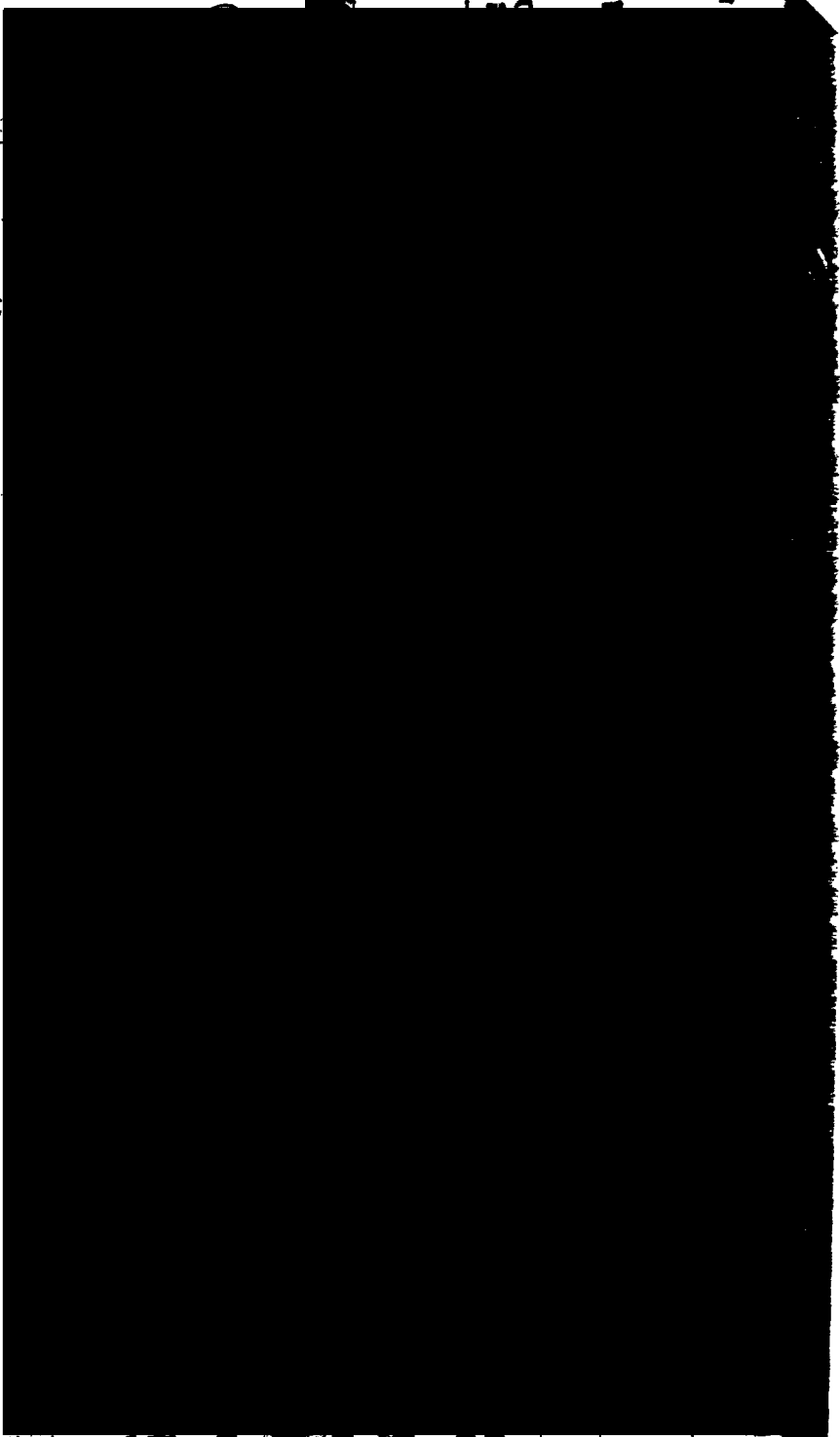
Ext: 2271

Boshea met with the Clinton County Sheriff's Office some two years ago in an investigation at that time when allegation were made. He says police uncovered nothing and no action was taken by the BSA council since the police investigation then proved inconclusive and no charges were filed. He says the entire family are pillars of the community, very active in the church involved, and long time leaders of the troop.

CALL SE

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- 2. CSE
- 3. Admin.
- 4. Ops.
- 5. Legal
- 6. Comm.
- 7. Pers.
- 8. PR

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6-25-85  
**2 leaders  
of Scouts  
sentenced**

Lansing State Journal

ST. JOHNS — The last two of four Boy Scout leaders from Eagle who admitted sexually molesting a member of their troop were sentenced Monday.

Jeffrey Gowing, 18, was sentenced by Clinton County Circuit Judge Randy Tahvonen to four to 15 years in jail, and Donald Bushard, 20, was sentenced to 8 to 15 years.



Two weeks ago, Jeffrey's father and uncle, both scoutmasters for Wacousta Troop 60, were sentenced to life in prison for sexual assaults.

"We hope this can now be put behind us, so the people of Wacousta can pick up the pieces and get on with their lives," Clinton County Prosecuting Attorney Jon Newman said after Monday's sentencing.

Bushard, of 9383 Cutler Road, and Jeffrey Gowing, of 9401 Cutler Road, will be sent to Riverside Correctional Facility in Ionia for young offenders.

They pleaded guilty last month to third-degree criminal sexual conduct for molesting a 13-year-old troop member in two separate incidents.

Newman said he understood Jeffrey Gowing received the lesser sentence because the prospects for his rehabilitation were greater.

The prosecutor said that after the judge noted the need to protect society against criminal behavior, Tahvonen told the youths their convictions did not "close the door" to changing their behavior, which would be up to them.



**Bushard**

Twin brothers Donald and Delmar Gowing, 46, were sentenced by Tahvonen to life terms after pleading guilty to first-degree

# Sentenced

From 1A

*Scott Gowing*

criminal sexual conduct involving the scout in two separate incidents.

The first-degree offense involves use of authority by adults to coerce a youngster to engage in sex.

Jeffrey Gowing is Donald Gowing's son. Bushard is a cousin of the twins. The family members were arrested in April after the victim's parents contacted police

about possible abuse.

Police reportedly found more than 100 photos of nude children, mostly boys, in Donald Gowing's house during a search.

An unrelated charge of third-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a 14-year-old girl is pending against the Gowing twins' older brother, Robert, 51. His preliminary examination is to be next month in St. Johns district court.

6-25-91 Detroit

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## Michigan news in brief

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# 2 more sentenced in Scout abuse case

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By David Szymanski  
News Lansing Bureau

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ST. JOHNS, Mich. — Two men active in Wacousta, Mich. Boy Scout Troop 60 were sentenced in Clinton County Circuit Court for sexually assaulting members of the troop.

Jeffrey Gowing, 18, son of former Scout leader Donald Gowing, received four to 15 years in prison yesterday. And Donald Bushard, 20, a friend raised by Jeffrey Gowing's uncle, Delmar, was sentenced to eight to 15 years.

Both had pleaded guilty to reduced charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. According to the State Department of Corrections, Gowing will be eligible for parole in September 1998 and Bushard in December 1991.

Two weeks ago in the same courtroom and as part of the same case, the twins Delmar and Donald Gowing, 47, both former Scout leaders, were sentenced to 50-to-75-year terms for first-degree criminal sexual assaults against Scouts from Troop 60.

"You befriended and betrayed these youngsters," Circuit Court Judge Randy L. Tahvonen told Jeffrey Gowing. "Two weeks ago your father wanted the court to forgive him and it couldn't ... I suspect he will die in prison. You won't and that's one price the court won't require you to pay."

Gowing responded that he wanted to say he was "sorry to the families of the victims" and "wanted to pay his debt to society and get on with his life."

Tahvonen noted that seven of Gowing's teachers and a school counselor wrote letters stressing Jeffrey's conscientious attitude, 3.25 high school average and college ambitions. One letter from the victim's family expressed hope that Gowing would receive therapy and not prison.

"I think there was a difference in the sentencing (between Bushard and Gowing) because of the judge's thoughts on rehabilitation (for Gowing)," said Gowing's attorney.

However, Clinton County Prosecutor Jon Newman said that both men deserved the same sentence and that Gowing has been denying a problem at home between himself and his father. "I'm convinced that (Gowing) was attacked by his father and uncle," Newman said. "I don't see that Jeff is any more salvageable ... than Donald Bushard. The damage has been done."

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## 2 Scout leaders enter guilty pleas

ST. JOHNS (UPI) — Two Boy Scout leaders pleaded guilty to sexual conduct involving a Scout under their direction Monday, while other charges against them were dropped.

Pleas were entered in Clinton County Circuit Court by Delmar Gowing, scoutmaster for six years of Wacousta Troop 60, and his twin brother, Donald, an assistant scoutmaster.

The charges carry possible life terms.

Two others still are awaiting preliminary examination in the case, which has sent shock waves through Wacousta, a rural community northwest of Lansing.

The Gowings — 47-year-old residents of Eagle — pleaded guilty in return for the prosecutor's agreement to drop a charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and two charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct against Donald Gowing.

Prosecutor Jon Newman said he agreed to the arrangement in order to wrap the case up as rapidly as possible for the sake of the youngsters involved.

But the prosecutor said there was no agreement on what sen-

tence he will recommend.

In entering their pleas, the Gowings said they too hoped to spare victims any further suffering. Later, they expressed regret over what happened.

The count to which the Gowings pleaded guilty relates to an April 17 incident involving a 13-year-old Scout.

The brothers' bond was revoked, and they were sent to the Clinton County Jail pending sentencing June 10.

The case involves alleged assaults on boys ages 11 to 15 over a period of years.

A number of photographs of the incidents were seized at the home of Donald Gowing.

Delmar Gowing was accused in 1981 of raping a 5-year-old boy, but the charge was dismissed at a preliminary examination. Assistant Prosecutor Mary Pino said she informed Boy Scout officials of the charge.

Still facing charges of criminal sexual conduct are Jeffrey Gowing, 18, son of Donald Gowing, and Donald Bushard, 20, who lived with Delmar Gowing.

The two are free on bond.

# Life in prison

## Scout leaders sentenced for abuse of teen

Staff and wire reports

ST. JOHNS — Boy Scout leader Donald Gowing sobbed Monday as he and his identical twin brother, Delmar Gowing, were sentenced to life in prison for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old Scout in their Wacousta troop.

The 47-year-old brothers were recommended for prison terms of 30 years to 60 years in presentence reports, but the recommendation was too lenient for the crime committed, Clinton County Circuit Judge Randy Tahvonen said in imposing the life penalties.

"If you're asking for mercy, you came to the wrong place," the judge told the crying Donald Gowing.

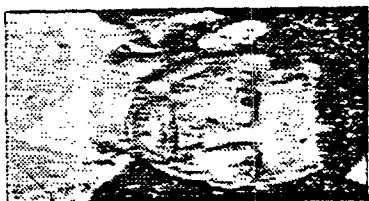
Delmar Gowing covered his face with his hands as the Gowing family, seated on one side of the crowded courtroom, also burst into tears.

"Mercy is unmerited favor — something you don't deserve," Tahvonen said.

The life sentence means they would be eligible for parole in 10 years. Following sentencing, both men were returned to the Clinton County Jail.

Donald Gowing told Tahvonen he wanted to "apologize to the court for this type of case... apologize deeply to the Scouts... to my family, my son and my mom and dad." Delmar Gowing's remarks were inaudible.

Delmar Gowing, of 9383 Cutler Road, Eagle, was scoutmaster of Troop 60, sponsored by the



Donald Gowing



Delmar Gowing

young Scout belonged. His twin brother Donald, of 9401 Cutler Road, Eagle, was an assistant scoutmaster.

Both pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal sexual conduct charges on May 13, admitting they had molested the Scout in two separate incidents.

"This conduct over a period of time involved the deliberate, planned, premeditated molesting of children. This wasn't just a spur of the moment thing," Tahvonen said.

"In this case, this crime is about as severe as any I can imagine. The effect of this crime will go on long after you and I are gone," he said. "Parents have to learn a new lesson: They can't trust nursery schools where they send their children, they can't trust scoutmasters, in some cases they can't even trust teachers."

Two other men who pleaded guilty to third-degree criminal sexual conduct charges for incidents involving the same youth still await sentencing. Sentencing has been set for June 24 for Donald Gowing's son Jeffrey, 18, and Donald Bushard, 20, who lived with Delmar Gowing.

Also the pair's elder brother, Gowing, was ar-

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Donald Hewins



Eagle, MI 48822

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AUG 14 1985

HARRY MEYERS

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| IN | NOV'S | LINE | NAME             |
|----|-------|------|------------------|
| 24 | MC    | 14   | STEVEN E WAY     |
| 25 | SM    | 4    | DELMAR GOVING    |
| 26 | SA    | 1    | DONALD E RUSHARD |
| 27 | SA    | 5    | DONALD GOVING    |
| 28 | SA    | 10   | MICHAEL L WALDO  |

| CITY        | STATE AND ZIP | SEX |
|-------------|---------------|-----|
| GRAND LEDGE | MI 48837      | M H |
| LANSING     | MI 48906      | M H |
| EAGLE       | MI 48822      | M H |
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