

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION SERVICE  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE: 5/10/89

LAST NAME James O. Branscomb S.S. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY Willits STATE California ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ (This is important and should be exact)

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

RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_ NATIONALITY (Citizen of) \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_ RACE \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR OF HAIR \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR OF EYES \_\_\_\_\_

ANY DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS \_\_\_\_\_

HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_

MARRIED  SINGLE  NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, number, ages, if possible)

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
Tr-70	Willits	CA	SM Dist-4		

Chartered Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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

INCIDENT: TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF INCIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_  
Type Resolution

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1=Scout Related                            | 1. Internal (only Scouts Know) |
| 2=Non-scout related                        | 2. Criminal action             |
| 3=homosexual (not specifically with youth) | 3. Court action                |
|  | 4. Probationary status         |
|  | 5. Reported to state agency    |

Check off list of attached documentation

- Description of incident
- Victim(s) statement
- media reports
- Legal proceedings
- Offender's statement
- Official notification of termination
- Found guilty/innocent by court

NOTED  
OCT 18 1989  
JOSEPH L ANGLIM

CONFIDENTIAL

Council Sonoma-Mendocino Area-#41 Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Registration/National MAY 10 1989  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

3828--eko-11/3/88

F. STARON

READY FOR FILE

OCT 19 1989

A. GRAVES

October 19, 1989

Mr. Thomas C. Powell  
Scout Executive  
Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council, No. 41

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JAMES O. BRANSCOMB

Dear Tom:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

ag

cc: Western Region

CONF017681

May 11, 1989

Mr. Thomas C. Powell  
Scout Executive  
Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council, No. 41

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JAMES O. BRANSCOMB

Dear Tom:

We appreciate all the material you recently sent us concerning various individuals. The only case we still have a question about is this particular one on the above named individual.

We felt that the material was satisfactory, but we really couldn't come up with enough information to identify Mr. Branscomb, should he attempt registration in some other location.

If Mr. Branscomb still lives in your area, please have someone who has knowledge of him give us information related to his birth date, race, weight, height, occupation, and marital status. All of these items will help us in identifying him, should he move to another location.

Thanks for your help in completing this file.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eko

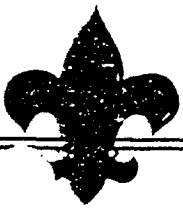
cc: Western Region

READY TO FILE

MAY 12 1989

ERIN O'RILEY

CONF017682



SONOMA-MENDOCINO AREA COUNCIL / BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

840 Western Avenue  
Petaluma, California 94952

Member Agency:  
United Way for North Bay  
Mendocino Coast Crusade

(707) 762-2405  
(707) 795-9413

LAIRER  
WHAT IS THIS?

October 6, 1989

Mr. Paul Ernst  
National Office  
Boy Scouts Of America  
P. O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079

Dear Paul:

I have inquired with several of our long time Scouters in the Sonoma Mendocino Area Council and they do not recall the name of James O. Branscomb. The individual is also not listed in our phone directories.

If I should find further information on the individual, I shall surely pass it along to you, but that prospect does look bleak.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Powell  
Scout Executive

TCP:cf  
enc.

CONF017683

READY FOR FILE

SEP 05 1989

JULE EATON

September 5, 1989

Mr. Thomas C. Powell  
Scout Executive  
Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council, No. 41

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JAMES O. BRANSCOMB

Dear Tom:

We had communication earlier in the year related to this individual. I really feel we have all we need for refusing registration and, therefore, don't need any other statements or legal papers.

I have difficulty in identifying Mr. Branscomb, since I don't know how old he is, his race, occupation, or other material. If you can supply any of this we would be much better able to identify Mr. Branscomb should he attempt registration in another location.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

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cc: Western Region

CONF017684

February 7, 1961

Mr. Basil F. Starkey  
Director of Registration  
Boy Scouts of America  
National Council  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Basil:

Enclosed, herewith, is a Police Department report on one of our Scouters, although the Unit has not re-registered. It was due in November.

Mr. Branscomb was registered as an Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 70, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willits, located in District #4. At the present time he is away at school in San Luis Obispo. He actually served as a Scoutmaster and was active in the Order of the Arrow. I do not know him personally.

I believe that there is enough in the report to place him on the undesirable list. Kindly give me your suggestions.

This matter has not been discussed with the Rotary Club nor with Branscomb, because he is not in the area now. Whether he will come back here is a matter of time. I am willing to talk to him, but because of the report I am not hopeful. The Police Sergeant was most cautious and asked that the report be kept confidential.

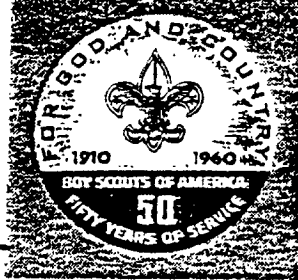
Personal regards.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Alexander  
Scout Executive

EJA:h  
Encl.

CONF017685



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL • NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

FOR INTRA-ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

February 15, 1961

Mr. Harold J. Alexander, Scout Executive  
Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council, No. 41  
840 Western Avenue  
Petaluma, California


PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
Re: James O. Branscomb

Dear Harold:

Thank you for the complete report on Mr. Branscomb. We are always appreciative of such complete police reports. You can assure the Police Sergeant that these reports are kept under lock and key and are shared with no one.

As you recommend we have placed this information in our file.

Sincerely yours,  
PERSONNEL DIVISION

  
Basil F. Starkey  
Director of Registration

BFS:mlh

CONF017686

April 4, 1961

Mr. James O. Branscomb  
[REDACTED]  
San Luis Obispo, California

Dear Mr. Branscomb:

I regretfully return your Money Order in the amount of \$6.00, as payment of the Order of the Arrow dues for a three year period.

Since you left this area certain developments have occurred regarding your actions as a Scout leader in the Willits area which made it necessary for me to investigate and eventually assure myself that these reports were either true or false. There was enough evidence given to me to justify withholding your registration as a Scouter. I cannot recall that I personally know you, and I am truly sorry to have to notify you of the results of this investigation. This does not preclude your having an opportunity to discuss these problems with me at a future date.

Accordingly you can now understand why I am sending back your Money Order.

Sincerely,

Harold J. Alexander  
Scout Executive

HJA:h  
Encl.

CONF017687



California State Polytechnic College

225 Seq.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

16 March 1961

Sonoma Mendocino Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
840 Western Avenue  
Petaluma  
California

Dear Sir:

I wish to pay Order of the  
Arrow dues for 1960, 1961, and  
1962.

Sincerely,

*James O. Branscomb*

James O. Branscomb

Alise

File w/  
rest of confidential  
corresp. on this.

October 24, 1960

Sergeant LeRoy Sullivan  
Willits Police Department  
Willits, California

Dear Sergeant:

To date I have not received a  
reply to my letter of October 10, 1960,  
asking for your cooperation in regard to  
James Branscomb.

Over the weekend I communicated  
with my District Executive Sam Withrow and  
asked him why we had not heard from you. He  
indicated that you had written a letter a  
week ago, but, if this is so, I have not  
received it. Perhaps we ought to put a tracer  
on the letter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Harold J. Alexander  
Scout Executive

HJA:h

October 10, 1960

Sergeant LeRoy Sullivan  
Willits Police Department  
Willits, California

Dear Sergeant:

District Executive Sam Withrow, a member of my staff who is responsible for serving the Scouting movement in the Fort Bragg-Willits area, sent a report to me about James Branscomb, who is an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop #70.

It is my understanding from Mr. Withrow that you have had Branscomb under observation as a possible homosexual for the past year.

As the Chief Administrator of the Scouting movement for Sonoma and Mendocino Counties, I would appreciate a confidential written report on Mr. Branscomb so that I can take action in removing him from Scouting. It will be a service to Scouting as well as the community.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Harold J. Alexander  
Scout Executive

HJA:ah

CONF017690

CONFIDENTIAL

September 30, 1960

Dear Harold:

Reference: Mr. James O. Branscomb.

In checking with the Police Department yesterday, September 29, 1960 I find that the information I had recieved has checked out to be affirmative. There is definite indications that Mr. James O. Branscomb, Assistant Samutmaster of Troop # 70 of Willits living at [REDACTED] one and the same party that has been under observation over a year ago for tendencies of Homosexual.

Sgt. Le Roy Sullivan - Willits Police Dept. is the investigation Officer that has the complete record on this man. He would be glad to send you more information on this man at your request. I must mention that their is no formal complaint or actually caught in the act, but, their has been a admittance by Mr. Branscomb to one of the Parents whose son has been involved with this man that he has these tendencies. The Police had informed Mr. Branscomb to leave town and were suprised that he was back in town.

Harold, there is quite a story about this man and I feel that a formal report from them would be more satisfactory. Enough was reported to me to know that this man should not be a member of the Boy Scouts of America. ....What are your instructions...

*Sh. Stinson*  
Dist. Scout Executive

CONF017691

Cal Poly  
Oct. 16, 1960

Dear Arrowman:

[REDACTED]  
Willits, Calif.

Star Scout

Age 13

GI 9-5015

Troop 70

Please tell me where to  
send C. A. dues.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

October 1, 1960

Dear Chief.....

Received the enclosed note from Mr. James Branscomb..... I have copied the information on the OA Candidate for our file but.....

What should I do about the Contact to him in respect to his dues in the Lodge.....Note: This is the man in question in relationship in [REDACTED] Which we are waiting for confirmation on.....

Await your instructions on this.....

As Ever  
[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

Per: HAROLD J. ALEXANDER  
Scout Executive  
Sonoma and Mendocino  
Counties, California

From: LeRoySullivan  
Sgt of Ploice  
Willits Police Department  
City of Willits, California

INVESTIGATION AND REPORT

Title: JAMES BRANSCOMB

STATUS: Open

Date of report: October 10, 1960 to October 26, 1960

Period of Investigation: October 28, 1959.

Report made by: LeRoy A. Sullivan, Sgt., W.P.D.

Offence: #23c of the Penal Code-(CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN: LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS ACT)

Any person who shall vitally and lewdly commit any lewd or lascivious act including any of the acts constituting other crimes provided for in part one of this code upon or with body, or any part or member thereof, or a child under the age of fourteen years, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust or passions or sexual desires of such person or of such child, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned in the State Prison for a term of from one year to life.



SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Whereas on the 28th day of October, 1939, a telephone call was made to my residence by one [REDACTED] Millits, California. She having read in the local newspaper about the arrest and conviction of a youth who had been charged with lewd and lascivious acts involving a certain amount of under aged boys in said city. She stated to me that she was a bit worried about her son, [REDACTED]. I asked her to explain. This she did.

2. [REDACTED] a high school teacher, had heard some rumors from other mothers who had boys in the local Scout troop, that the assistant Scoutmaster one James Branscomb, was possibly a sex pervert. [REDACTED] went into detail [REDACTED] the case of the said subject [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] was then asked if she [REDACTED] led to me that her son has never told her a lie before and she had reason to believe him that there had ~~no~~ been no lewd or lascivious acts involved. She requested that the Millits Police Department investigate to determine if this subject was a sex pervert. I assured Mrs. [REDACTED] that the police department would and most likely there would be a police officer at her home the very next evening.

3. October 29, 1939, This officer and the Chief of Police, Frank Lawrence held a conference concerning the subject, JAMES BRANSCOMB. All special reports and complaint forms were checked to see if any other complaints had been received from any other mothers or complainants in general. There were none

and Chief Lawrence suggested that this subject observed and reported.

4. On the evening of October 29, 1959, the first contact was made with [REDACTED]. She explained again the information given to me over the phone. October 30, 1959, Mr. George Newhardt and Mr. Kenneth Chambers were requested to come to the police station. Mr. Chambers filled the capacity of Scoutmaster and Mr. Newhardt was Mr. Chamber's assistant. Both men were asked if they had observed any outward acts towards the scouts or if there were a certain group surrounding the subject. They were then asked if JAMES BRANSCOMB was a possible homosexual. Both in part responded that they had not observed any attempts by the subject towards his group. I was then reassured by the two men that if at any time any of the mothers or if any complaints in general were received by the boys themselves to the two Scout masters, they would get in contact with me.

5. On November 3, 1959 Time: 10:45PM, While on routine patrol of the residential area west of Main Street, a Late Studebaker 4 door sedan was observed parked near the old Pine Street School. With the headlights trained on the vehicle, one subject was observed, sitting behind the steering wheel. While this officer emerged from the patrol car, my eyes did not leave the subject, thinking him an accomplice to another possibly occupied in a house burglary. Walking up to the vehicle, the subject did not move. With all of the windows rolled up, the door was opened by this officer and the subject then turned his head facing me. I asked him what he was up to and if he was armed. He replied that he was not armed and that he was in the process of starting his car when the patrol approached the area and he just sat there. He (the) subject was then asked what had he been doing. He stated to this <sup>armed</sup> by stating

that he had been to a scout meeting and had brought to the residence of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] son, [REDACTED] Checking the subject out further, His operator license and other important papers were examined. The car then was checked. The license plate numbers were then noted down. The subject was JAMES BRANSCOMB. Mr. Branscomb was requested to remove himself and to this he left.

6. Whereas on the 10th day of July, 1960, at 4:15PM, a complaint was telephoned by a synonymous caller. This person stated that there was a car parked on the [REDACTED]. In the car was an adult and a young boy. The caller also stated that there was something going on. The officer in the patrol car was then preoccupied with another complaint, I told the clerk that I would take the complaint and investigate the complaint. A

[REDACTED] both police patrol cars came upon the scene in regular tour of duty, pulled his car behind the [REDACTED] police car to a stop in front of the subject's car. In general, the subject was behind the steering wheel and at his side was a youth about the age of 11 years. Both officers converged upon the car. The subject did not even move. His hands were on the steering wheel. The youth had both of his hands crossed over his lower region. As in to protect himself from a blow. I asked the youth to remove his hands as I wanted to see if the fly to his blue jeans were open. The fly to the pants were buttoned up, but the youth seemed nervous. I asked the youth to remove himself from the car, a 1955 Pazard 4 door sedan. With this he stepped out of the car. He was closely observed to see if he had an erection. He had none! I then at once asked the youth his name. [REDACTED] was his name and he was 13 years of age. I questioned him about the actions that had been going on in

He stated that there was nothing wrong going on inside the car. Mr. JAMES BRANSCOMB were just wrestling! Mr. JAMES BRANSCOMB who remove himself and waked over to the police car-away from him. BRANSCOMB was asked why he had the youth-who was known to him add what his intentions were. JAMES BRANSCOMB stated to me try [REDACTED] in the car wayley to converse with him add try to get intentions towards Scouting. I explained to Mr. BRANSCOMB responsibilities of having an uncarolaged youth his car. He saw no harm in this. I then came out and brought to mind that a boy for any homosexual activities, he would be prosecuted extent of the law. To this Mr. BRANSCOMB became alarmed. I to avoid any other occasions such as the scene we had been at. BRANSCOMB then asked how we knew he and the boy were in the area. I told him some person in the neighborhood had been watching them. I then called to the police station. I told JAMES BRANSCOMB to contact the next day by the city police. With that they left the scene.

11th day of July, 1960, Time: 8:45AM. [REDACTED] me to the [REDACTED] and asked to see this officer [REDACTED] asked if I or the [REDACTED] determined if there had been any lewd or lascivious acts committed at the day before. I stated to her that we as police officers do not arrest a person of a crime with out having enough information. She stated that JAMES BRANSCOMB had been to her house and both she and [REDACTED] quite a long talk. He stated to her that there had been no contact between her son at any time.

9. It was at that time that one James Branscomb admitted to [REDACTED] that he was a homosexual-ge termed it as a malicy-and that he thought that he could help himself in ridding himself of this malicy. [REDACTED] stated to me that she had talked to her boy, and he stated to her that there had been no acts committed. [REDACTED] thought that if someone could talk to him he might open up and tell the person the events. I disqualified myself at that point. I suggested that a close friend to Mrs. [REDACTED] and a clerk on the night shift for the police department, would [REDACTED] Willits, California. This was [REDACTED] who is a medical laboratory technician as well as a registered nurse, had a long talk with Willey [REDACTED]. She explained to Willey the pattern that the various homosexuals as [REDACTED] explained at that time that that was the exact pattern that the subject was taking.

10. With the information given to me [REDACTED] conference was had with the Chief of Police, Chief Frank Lawrence and myself. Both agreed that the subject with out doubt, had not touched the youth, but was working towards that achievement. In other words, that had not been a crime. And we the police had not enough information to prosecute the subject. Also, taken into consideration was the fact that JAMES BRANSCOMB stated to Mrs. Holman, that he was going back to Calpoly and finish his engineer course and he was going to live in area near the college and not in Willits.

11. On the 28th day of September, 1960 at 3:00PM., [REDACTED] came to the Willits Police station and spoke with me. I explained the situation to him, and he inturn requested that a special report be made up and sent to the officers of [REDACTED] Scout Executive

for the Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. This then is the purpose of this special report.

12. In order to complete this report, a conference was held between the Chief of police and myself. It was thought that it would be best for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to submit a statement to the police department on two fold reasons:


# 1- [REDACTED] was the one to first bring the attention to the police that there were possibilities that crimes of lewd and lascivious acts were going on between James Branscomb and some of the other youthful scouts.

#2 - [REDACTED], not only being a high school teacher, but also a psychologist and with her having talked with JAMES BRANSCOMB, for about two hours, did have enough time to study the subject.

13. On the 16th day of October, 1960, this officer talked with [REDACTED] and asked if she would submit a statement to this effect, as we felt that she could throw some light on the actions and intentions of JAMES BRANSCOMB.

At the end of this special report will be the statement of [REDACTED]

FRANK LAWRENCE  
Chief of Police  
City of Willits, Calif.

  
By: Leroy A. Sullivan  
Sgt. of Police  
City of Willits, Calif.

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

14. When we first moved to Willits, [REDACTED] was not yet 11 but he met a member of the troop of Scouts to which Jim had unofficially affiliated himself. [REDACTED] was invited into the meetings and there he met Mr. Branscomb. Jim took an interest in [REDACTED] and was able to convince him that he could work for his meetings before his 11th birthday. Jim saw [REDACTED] frequently, here at home and at the Scout functions. By Thanksgiving, [REDACTED] had passed three ranks of Scouting with Jim's help and received the badge as a function right after his 11th birthday. It was Jim's wish that [REDACTED] try to attain the rank of Explorer Scout soon after his 12th birthday, which would make him the youngest Scout in the Country. I, as his mother, objected to this because I felt that undue pressure was being put on the boy and that Scouts were created to serve the purpose of maturation, not forced achievement. I had heard meanwhile that a companion of Jim's had been convicted of homosexual activities with some boys who were in the same troop and, being worried, I phoned Roy Sullivan of the Police Department. He assured me that in the course of his investigation Jim had not been involved and so I continued to let [REDACTED] see Jim but stressed to both of them that no more pressure should be put on [REDACTED] to achieve these far-reaching goals. One evening during Thanksgiving week days I had a long talk with Jim, culminating in [REDACTED] him quite frankly if he had been involved in any homosexual activities. He gave me a long history of his life, his unpopularity at school because of stuttering and obesity. He said that the best thing that had happened to him was his meeting a Chaplain in Japan who helped him overcome his speech defect. While in Japan he had a Scout troop he worked closely with and even showed me films of it. He also has films of his activities with the boys here in [REDACTED] and it looked healthy. I felt that he really was good to the boys and did not show any overt signs of being irregular in his behavior. But, when

he came back from college last summer, he had an opportunity to see a great deal of [REDACTED] who was living with a housekeeper here as I was in College in San Francisco. When I came home one weekend in July, I found [REDACTED] had been with Jim in his car that Sunday afternoon apparently with the purpose of getting new members of the troop. But there was some roughhousing in the car and some observer reported it. Wiley told me and I called Jim in who explained it in detail. He said that the police were going to call him the next day and so I went to the station and explained my feelings about the situation. I also persuaded [REDACTED] to sit in the car with Jim to talk to him anymore. Jim introduced [REDACTED] to the Baptist Church and was, they both say, talking religion to him. Sometimes until midnight sitting right out in front of my house. On a subsequent weekend I walked out one evening and when I came home at 11PM there they were in there again. I happened to talk to [REDACTED] with whose daughter Wiley spends much time (we had known each other in Mill Valley) and she is who very willingly talk to [REDACTED] about the implications of this older man seeing so much of him. He went down immediately, apparently had very successful talk and as far as she and I know, he said Jim never made advances to him. But qualifications as a former doctor's office nurse and having experience in the courts with this sort of thing made me feel that she could better point out to him why he should break off his relationship with Jim. This he did, willingly. He does not seem to be disturbed by the association and its termination. His only request is that the community give the scouts an able Scout Master. I have heard nothing further from Jim.

[REDACTED]  
Witnessed By: Lancy A. Sullivan  
Sgt W. P. D.