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Stover, John F 72

CONF004414

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CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE AUGUST 4, 1972

FULL NAME JOHN F. GOWER (MIDDLE NAME FRANKLIN)  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS 313 8TH STREET

CITY GLENDALE STATE WEST VIRGINIA ZIP CODE 26038

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE 44 (To be used ONLY when exact age is not known)

RELIGION PROTESTANT NATIONALITY \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION CLERK - SHOE DEPT. - CLOTHING STORE

EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_

WEIGHT 225 ? COLOR WHITE HEIGHT 6-2' r ?

COLOR OF HAIR SANDY - THIN IN FRONT COLOR OF EYES -

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

MARRIED OR SINGLE SINGLE CHILDREN NONE  
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

WIFE'S NAME -

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	OFFICE	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
<u>Tr. 82</u>	<u>GLENDALE</u>	<u>W. VA.</u>	<u>WHEELING</u>	<u>3/72 - 3/73</u>	<u>7/21/72</u>

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FORMER PROFESSIONAL SCOUTER WHO RESIGNED 12/15/70

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVITY.

Signed John E. Richmond  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council National Trail #619  
Wheeling W. Va. 26003

CONF004415

DYKES\_I\_004384

August 11, 1972

Mr. John W. Richmond  
Scout Executive  
National Trail Council, No. 619

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
RE: John T. Gower

Dear Mr. Richmond:

Thank you for the confidential record sheet concerning Mr. Gower.

We have added this information to our file. This will be most helpful for identification purposes in the future, should he again try to register in Scouting.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Supervisor  
Registration and Membership

sf

CONF004416

DYKES\_I\_004385

August 2, 1972

Mr. John E. Richmond  
Scout Executive  
National Trail Council, No. 619

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
RE: John G. Gower

Dear Mr. Richmond:

Thank you for your letter of July 26th and the enclosed correspondence, concerning Mr. Gower. We have placed this information in our file and have taken steps to have his name deleted from our records. This is exactly the type of material we require for our Confidential File and we appreciate your efforts in getting it for us.

Enclosed is a confidential record sheet which we would appreciate your completing and returning to us as soon as possible. This information will enable us to identify Mr. Gower, should he ever again attempt to register in the Scouting program.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Supervisor  
Registration and Membership

sf  
Encl: record sheet

CONF004417

DYKES\_I\_004386



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Trail Council #119 • 4115th Street • Washington, D.C. 20007 • (202) 544-1000

July 26, 1972

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Supervisor Registration and Membership  
Boy Scouts of America  
North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

Dear Mr. Ernst:

This is a follow-up letter related to our telephone conversation Thursday, July 20, 1972 concerning a sex perversion act at Camp Sandcrest on Wednesday, July 19, 1972.

The person involved is John C. Gower, Scoutmaster of Troop 82 sponsored by the P. T. A., Glen Dale Elementary School in Glen Dale, West Virginia. Mr. Gower, a former professional scouter, was assisting with the summer campfire programs at camp on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Two hours after the campfire program his car was observed parked on the camp road near a campsite. The Camp Director [REDACTED] and Program Director [REDACTED] were contacted and went directly to the campsite to observe any irregularities. They detected a noise from one tent and [REDACTED] shining a flashlight into the tent, opened the front flap and observed Gower on his knees with his head in a boy's crotch. [REDACTED] told Gower to stand still; however, he ran out of the rear of the tent and into the wooded area. He was followed by flashlight by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They then removed the rotor from his car distributor so the car would be unmovable, put a note on the windshield to report to the camp office and called me at 1:30 a.m. to inform me of the above events.

I contacted Wayne Julian, Area Representative from East Central Region and former Scout Executive of the National Trail Council who was on vacation in Wheeling and we went directly to camp. Mr. Gower was waiting on the porch of the lodge. [REDACTED] and I personally talked to Gower who was quite belligerent; however, after the facts were presented to him, he cried. I gave him two alternatives: (1) to resign immediately as a member of the Boy Scouts of America and to seek psychiatric assistance or (2) to report him to the local police authorities. He agreed to the first proposal.

CONF004418

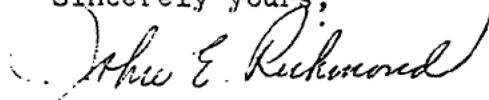
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Enclosed are the following signed statements:

- (1) Mr. Gower's resignation (unable to obtain additional statement)
- (2) [REDACTED], Camp Director and District Executive's observations
- (3) [REDACTED], Program Director's comments
- (4) Statement of homosexual activity on July 1st with description of possible person involved

Please let me know if additional information is needed and if you feel the above situation was handled in the proper manner.

Sincerely yours,

  
John E. Richmond  
Scout Executive

JER:e

CONF004419

DYKES\_I\_004388

July 21, 1972

Dear Scout Parents:

Your Scout sons may have told you by now that I will not be going on the Canadian trip with them - an announcement I made at the close of yesterday's troop meeting. I have been putting off some needed surgery but it should not be prolonged any further. So I've decided to spend my 1972 vacation in surgery and in recuperation.

This will not affect, in any way, the boys' Canadian trip. Assistant Scoutmasters Louis Campbell and Bob Gross will be going, as will former Glen Dale Scoutmaster Tom Brannan and former McMechen Scoutmaster Bob Bartlett - along with the other dads. The kids will have more than adequate experienced leadership. I intend to continue preparing the equipment and finalizing other details, necessary for the success of the trip, before the gang leaves Glen Dale on August 4th. Once on the road, Mr. Campbell will be in charge.

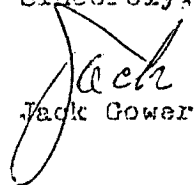
And if that is not enough let me make one additional announcement. An announcement that I had hoped to put off until after the trip to Haliburton, but may as well get off my chest at this time. It took me about one month after signing on as Scoutmaster of Troop 82 to realize I'd made a big mistake. Just too many boys for me to handle, even with the two good assistants. And the situation has been compounded by other factors.

In the interest of time let me just say that for personal reasons I am resigning, as of this writing, as Scoutmaster of Troop 82. Please! This is hard enough for me as it is. Don't make it any harder. Do not telephone or send a committee to try to get me to change my mind. It is a hard decision for me but one that is irreversible. Let it go at that - please!

I know this leaves <sup>things</sup> very much up in the air but you'll have time to find my replacement before the fall meetings are scheduled to begin. I want to thank all of you for your interest, assistance and cooperation. Much appreciated.

Hoping to remain friends,

Sincerely,

  
Jack Gower

CONF004420

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Trail Council #619 • 3115th Street • Wheeling, W. Va. • Phone: 724-333-6790

July 22, 1972

Report of apprehending a homosexual at Sandscrest Scout reservation at Coon Holler campsite between 12:00 and 1:00AM, July 20, 1972.

Due to recent reports of homosexual activities and certain methods of operation of the homosexual, the Camp Director and Program Director at Sandscrest had reason to suspect Jack Gower as a possible offender.

When Gower left camp after helping with the Wednesday night (July 19, 1972) campfire program, close attention was paid to his departure. It was observed that he was the last non-camper to drive out of the entrance road at approximately 12:00PM.

Because of the recent homosexual reports and their suspicions, the Camp Director, [REDACTED] and the Program Director, [REDACTED] thought it prudent to walk to the mouth of the entrance road to check for parked vehicles.

Rounding a bend in the road an orange V.W. was observed parked on the right side of the road near a break in the fence directly above the Coon Holler campsite. Closer investigation proved the car to be unoccupied.

We then quietly approached the Coon Holler campsite. After silently observing the camp for several minutes we approached the western most tent. While approaching [REDACTED] thought he heard sounds and both men stopped. After a pause of about 1 minute [REDACTED] approached the front of the tent and drew the flap back flashing a flashlight inside. Jack Gower was observed squatting beside a boy in the right side cot ([REDACTED] T-155) with his back to [REDACTED] at approximately the middle of the cot. On observing Gower, [REDACTED] said "Jack, don't run." Jack rose and without turning ran out of the rear of the tent. [REDACTED] standing by the left side of the tent observed him run out of the back and [REDACTED] flashed the light on him as he ran into the woods.

CONF004421

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Report of action taken on the evening of July 20, 1972 by the staff  
and Crest Scout Reservation concerning homosexual activity in the  
camp.

At approximately 11:30 P.M. the camp director, [REDACTED] informed  
the program director [REDACTED] of a report of homosexual activity as  
reported by a scoutmaster from the preceding week. The camp director told  
the program director that he <sup>had</sup> reason to suspect Jack Gower as the offender.

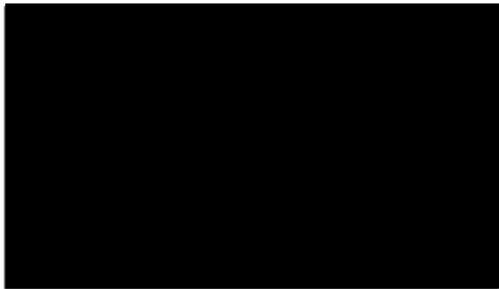
After observing Gower leaving from the area of the lodge, the camp  
director and the program director decided to walk out the camp road to  
investigate. Approximately one half the distance to G C & P road from the  
lodge, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] observed an unoccupied orange Volkswagen with  
West Virginia plates parked alongside the road. They proceeded to walk  
through Buckskin site and into Coon Hollersite. [REDACTED] then stated that he  
thought that he observed a light coming from one of the tents. The two  
approached to within 30 feet of this tent. [REDACTED] stated that he thought  
he heard movement within the tent. He took a flashlight, threw back the  
flap of the tent, and shined the light into the tent. At that time [REDACTED]  
was approximately 30 feet to side of the tent. Immediately after [REDACTED]  
had shone the light into the tent, a large man who distinctly resembled  
Jack Gower ran out the back of the tent. [REDACTED] spotted him with the light  
and shouted " Jack don't run." The man ran off into the woods. [REDACTED] and  
[REDACTED] then returned to the parked Volkswagen, removed the distributor  
rotor, and returned to the lodge. The two then asked two adult staff  
members to come to the lodge. These were Bill Price and George Morse.

CONF004423

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Approximately 15 minutes later, Jack Gower returned to the lodge.

*followed*  
here, a minimum of discourse while those at the lodge awaited the  
the arrival of the scout executive, Jack Richmond, who had been telephoned  
by [REDACTED] Gower, Richmond and [REDACTED] then engaged in a conversation  
in which [REDACTED] was not involved.



CONF004424

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# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Trail Council #619 • 81-15th Street • Washington, West Virginia 26003 • Tel: 232 6780

Report of homosexual activity at Indian Ridge camp-site July 1, 1972.

During the morning of July 1, 1972 reports were made to the camp staff by members of T-266 and several Scouts staying with that unit that they were molested by a homosexual at approximately 12:00AM the morning of July 1.

The following are from personal interviews with [redacted] Camp Director.

[redacted]

GENERAL DISCREPTION: white shirt, dark slacks, male

- D.L. A male entered my tent and played with my penis for 10 to 15 minutes.
- D..V. Asked, "did it feel good," covered my eyes...big man I think.
- E.C. A big guy unzipped my sleeping bag and touched my crotch.
- M.R. A male put his hand in my pants. Said his name was Bob and he lived down the road. Either a big boy or a small man.
- I.C. Curly black hair....big man touched my crothh for 15 minutes. He repeated "how do you feel, how do you feel." He wore a white shirt, dark pants and stuffed the sleeping bag in my mouth.
- M.D. He covered my eyes, touched my penis, kind of tall not small.

THE GENERAL METHOD OF OPERATION SEEMED TO BE TO ENTER THE TENT, COVER THE BOYS EYES WITH ONE HAND OR FLASH A LIGHT IN THEIR EYES. THERE APPARENTLY WAS NO ORAL CONTACT, JUST HAND PENIS CONTACT. NO ONE CAN IDENTIFY.

[redacted]  
Camp Director

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