

1276

MORR, JOHNNIE L. 195

CONF003265

DYKES\_I\_003243

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET

REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Appendix A

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE August 1, 1985

FULL NAME Johnnie L. Mohr (No initials if you can possibly give full name)

ADDRESS 7003 - 133rd. Avenue, West

CITY Taylor Ridge STATE Illinois ZIP CODE 61284

DATE OF BIRTH 3/35 (This is important and should be exact)

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

RELIGION Unknown NATIONALITY U.S. Citizen

OCCUPATION Display Advertising - Newspaper

EDUCATION Did not complete High School

WEIGHT @ 170 HEIGHT @ 6' RACE Caucasian

COLOR OF HAIR Brown COLOR OF EYES Unknown

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Camping/Outdoor Skills

MARRIED OR SINGLE Married CHILDREN 1 son, 1 daughter

WIFE'S NAME Shirley

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	OFFICE	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
430	Reynolds	Ill.	Scoutmaster	2/81 (as SM)	5/85

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

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

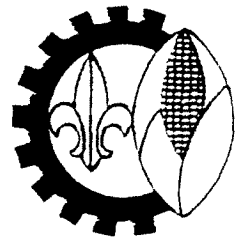
Signed [Signature] SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council [Signature]

SEARCHED

CONF003266

DYKES\_I\_003244



June 19, 1991

Johnnie L. Mohr  
Box 32  
Taylor Ridge, Illinois 61284

ILLOWA COUNCIL, INC.  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia. 52803  
(319) 322-5937  
#133

Mr. Mohr:

After careful review, we have decided that any future registration on your part with the Boy Scouts of America should be denied. We are, therefore, compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America. Your probationary membership, which was granted on March 24, 1986, is now rescinded.

You should understand that BSA membership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies, or reapplies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is concern that an individual may not meet the high standards of membership which the BSA seeks.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed by a BSA regional review committee, please write to the regional director within 60 days of the date of this letter, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA member should be granted. The procedures for a review of this decision are attached.

Sincerely,

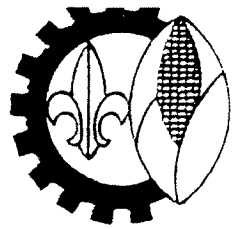
Andrew Leheny  
Field Director

copy to: Gene Cruse  
East Central Region Director  
  
Bob Wood  
Area Director  
  
Paul Ernst  
Director  
Registration and Statistical Service

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CONF003267

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ILLOWA COUNCIL, INC.  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia. 52803  
(319) 322-5937  
#133

The following information is provided should you desire a review by the East Central Region, BSA, of the decision to deny your registration.

1. Within 60 days, you must request in writing a review of this decision. Your request should be sent to: East Central Region, Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 3085, 230 W. Diehl Rd., Naperville, Il. 60566-7085. In your request you must include your version of what occurred in support of your claim that registration should not have been denied.
2. Upon the receipt of your written request, a committee will be appointed to review the situation.
3. If the regional committee determines that a review hearing is necessary, the committee will advise you whether or not you may attend. In some instances, no useful purpose would be served by having the applicant present. The hearing is not adversarial in nature and neither the committee nor you, if you attend, will be represented by legal counsel. If you wish, in the event you attend, you may be accompanied by no more than two other individuals if their testimony might assist the committee in discovering the truth and arriving at a correct decision.
4. The committee will review the facts as presented, and may interview any persons whose testimony might assist them in arriving at a correct decision.
5. You will receive a letter setting forth the decision of the committee.
6. If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the a regional review, you may request a further review by the National Council. The decision of the National Council will be final.

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CONF003268

DYKES\_I\_003246

JOHNNIE MOHR

Mr. Bruce Pisel  
Illowa Council, B.S.A.  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

22 May 85

Bruce,

As per your request, I'm writing this to help clarify and correct some of the statements made in the troop meeting reports sent to you by [REDACTED], chairman of the troop #430 committee.

Even though most of the accusations are untrue, I have tried not to alter other peoples statements in these reports. The first report was written from memory over ten days after the initial meeting because no notes were made at any time. This was because it was suggested that I quietly resign as scoutmaster and no charges would be filed. Everything would be handled quietly and quickly and over with as soon as possible. However, I had to do what I could to protect my reputation in the community and in scouting as much as possible. It was I who reported this to the sponsoring organization, it was I who reported it to the council office and it was I who called the Rock Island County Sheriff's office when I heard that they were asking many questions about the incident.

To make this letter as short as possible, I will just refer to the page number of the report and try not to repeat every statement in its entirety.

I have made copies of the original "minutes" and corrected three copies. One of these you have, one was given to [REDACTED] and I have the third. [REDACTED] and I have double checked his copy and he agrees with the corrections I have made. I hope he has been in contact with you since this meeting to confirm these corrections.

First report dated March 29, 1965. On pages 1, 2 and 3 you can see that the dates are incorrect. Also on page 2 -- The boys usually swam nude but not always. Many wore their trunks under their scout uniforms and some even swam in cut-offs or their undershorts. This included adults. No scout ever swam nude without their parents knowledge and every one had their parents pick them up at my house after swimming.

On page 4 -- When I was called about the committee meeting, I first asked if my wife could also attend. When I was told "no" than I refused to come to the meeting unless I was told the reason the meeting was being held.

Also starting at the bottom of page 4 -- I was the scoutmaster in Alledo in 1965 and 1966. Our son was born Feb. 16, 1966 and I believe I gave up the troop in the late summer of that year. I WAS NOT ASKED TO LEAVE THIS TROOP as stated later in these "minutes". I was transferred to the Rock Island office of the Argus and did not have the time to devote to the troop and to do a decent job. Continuing on page 5, I was approached by a member on that troop and we did touch each other. However this

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sitting with our daughter he did share a bed with me (our daughter was sleeping in the other bedroom) but there was NO sexual activity of any kind. This same boy later took a vacation and several short trips with my family, has been to our home many times and I have even worked with him for two summers. The touching incident only happened one time and was never mentioned again. The man is now over 35 and I believe he is gay. He does live in San Francisco but not in a gay community and he still visits (and is welcomed) our home almost every time he is in the area.

Continuing on page 5 -- I have inspected the boys at summer camp for ticks every year, however, I have only checked the parts of their bodies that they could not see, never their groins. The scouts were always told to check the rest of their bodies, including their groins, before getting into their sleeping bags.

My statement was, (and [REDACTED] agrees) "If I'm guilty of anything, I'm guilty of voyeurism." A form of voyeurism is looking at the sexual organs of other people, both male and female, but sexual arousal or sexual gratification is not necessarily a part of it. Even looking at pictures in Playboy, etc. is a form of voyeurism.

A hernia was most definitely discovered at the free physical for summer camp. The scout later attended TLI and spent a week at summer camp before he had corrective surgery. The leader at TLI, the camp director and the medics at summer camp and myself were all aware of this and the scout was watched very closely.

When I admitted touching the penis of a scout in troop #130, I was trying to prevent further embarrassment to a scout who has a history of bedwetting. I would check his sleeping bag and his underwear during the night and if he was dry, would wake him so he could go to the bathroom. If he was already wet, I let him sleep. His father was made aware of this as soon as we returned from summer camp and also knew that I checked his son on several other campouts since.

There were six boys (enough for two cars) and it was the Atomic Energy merit badge classes. This is the one that is held every spring.

As I said on page 8 -- I do not doubt that there are several discrepancies between my talks with [REDACTED] and Tom and my rebuttal. They will both agree that I was in a very emotional state during each conversation and my rebuttal was written almost two weeks after these meetings. Two weeks in which I had spent many hours finding out who made the accusations and trying to figure out why. (I still believe that the committee should have informed me as to who was making the accusations.) Now that I know who made the accusations I do believe I know why the scout was holding a grudge against me for so long. I have not seen any member of this family since the campout on March 16-17 and I have no intentions, what-so-ever, of seeing them in the future.

To clear up one statement in the report dated April 3, 1985, on page 2 -- As I mentioned earlier in this letter, I was not asked to leave the Alamo troop. My job transfer kept me away from home over eleven hours a day and I wasn't giving the troop the time it required. The last summer that I was the scoutmaster, all we

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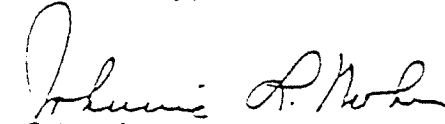
DYKES\_I\_003248

interest and quitting scouts. For the betterment of the troop, I DECIDED TO LEAVE, I WAS NOT ASKED TO LEAVE. In over fifty years, being scoutmaster of troop #430 was the first position of any kind that I have ever held that I was asked to give up.

I'm sorry to drag this out over so many weeks but I feel that I have been unjustly accused of some very serious offenses and want to do everything possible to clear my name and, if possible, to continue in other phases of the scouting program.

In closing, I would like to call your attention to the closing statements of the troop committee chairman beginning on page 6 of the first report. Please reread them. If the committee chairman indicates that I'm not guilty, the sheriff's office could find no evidence for charges and the parent of the scout refuses to put the charges in writing, I hope that the council office will find more than a reasonable doubt and not send this file to the national office. There has been other people, also unjustly accused who have continued to serve the youth in the scouting program and I hope that I can be considered to be one of these. If you insist, I would have no objections if you should want to set up some kind of a probationary period. The only thing I ask, if you should decide to do so, is that the conditions be put in writing so we both know exactly what is expected of me.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan L. Mohr  
Box 32  
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284

CONF003271

DYKES\_I\_003249

Everyone on the committee is still considered a friend and would be made welcome in my home. As a group (a group I insisted on forming a year ago) you had me condemned that night before I ever arrived at [redacted] home.

You were wrong in not giving me the names of my accusers.  
You were wrong in saying that no information would go outside that meeting.

I'll bet that there is not one of you here that didn't go home and immediately tell your wives what had happened.

It was also being discussed at great length at the bowling alley in Milan within a couple of days.

One of your sons was telling a neighbor that I was gay.

Two of the older boys were telling new boys to stay away from me because I was "Funny".

I have received at least one obscene phone call at home.

You were also wrong in not having the minister at that meeting.  
As far as the accusations against me are concerned...

Picture in latrine... There was never a picture taken of a boy in the latrines.

Pictures of boys going to the bathroom... Yes. There are of the back view only and did not show even the stream of water. I have three of these pictures, including my own son.

Pictures of boys in underwear... Yes. All taken either when they were changing clothes outside or when they were first getting up in the morning after sleeping under the stars.

Games at the church... I'm glad to hear [redacted] and [redacted] were concerned enough about what happens at the meetings. However, since the game came out of the Scout book, I'd do the same thing again. There was a purpose to the game.

Skinny dipping... Yes, Practically every boy in the troop and many adults have skinny dipped in my pool after the meetings. However, no boy ever swam without first getting permission from his parents and having his parents pick him up after swimming.

Boys snoring my sleeping bag... Yes. Because one mother sent her son to the cabin in the middle of February with a light bag with a broken zipper. On another occasion, at summer camp when a Scout came into my tent, after parent night, homesick and wanting to go home immediately. The boy was fully dressed including his shoes. This was the same night [redacted] was injured and spending the night in the other leaders bunk.

Tick Inspection... Yes. I've checked the boys head, arm pits, backs and butts. Never their testicles, they checked these themselves. I have found ticks and have either cut them out or sent the boy to first aid to have them removed. Have you ever seen an engorged tick or had an infection from one? I have!

Masturbation... [redacted] did what any mother had to do. I do not think it was handled correctly but I have no hard feelings toward her. As for the charges, [redacted] was on staff at summer camp of 1983 and all staff members sleep in their own beds in their own cabins in the staff area. Not in the campsites with the troops. I did give [redacted] every reason to be mad at me that summer and hold a grudge. For one thing, I reported him to the camp director for being in the mess hall and serving food with filthy hands, face and clothes. He had spent the evening with the troop around our campfire and showed up for work the next morning without showering or changing clothes. I was also accused of teaching a boy to masturbate. I doubt that there is a boy in the troop who hasn't masturbated before the age of ten - even infants do it. I was also accused of mutual masturbation. This I can only deny saying that it never happened. I am happily married and have been for almost 26 years and I am definitely not homosexual or even bisexual.

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I will not deny that I have touched several of the boys, both accidentally and on purpose. I have touched them accidentally while wrestling in the swimming pools, both mine and the public pools when the boys were trying to dunk all the adults present. I have also checked for ruptures, checked for wet beds, applied cold packs to a boy who was bruised on a campout and even picked thorns out of a boys privates. If this is to be considered as fondleing, yes, I'm guilty.

Were there any other accusations?

The accusations against me couldn't have been any more serious, yet why

...Was [redacted] the only person permitted to talk to the boy?

...Was the younger brother permitted to go on a camping trip with me the following weekend?

...After permitting the camping trip in the first place, was a meeting called that same night demanding my immediate resignation?

...Was I granted thirty days to resign and than have it denied at the last minute?

...Was I asked to write a letter of resignation, lying to the troop, after spending four years teaching them to be trustworthy?

...Wasn't the minister even notified? She should have been the first to know.

Let's look at some of the other things that have happened in the troop. Nothing has ever been mentioned about the time...

...I took a sick boy home at 1 a.m., put him to bed and sat with him until 3 a.m. when his drunken parents arrived home.

...Taking the hyperactive boy on a 3-day camping trip with out the parents telling me that he must take medication. And that he would not take it on his own.

...Breaking the snuff and cigarette habits of boys before their parents learned of it.

...How about the times I took the troop to activities and couldn't get enough cars to transport them.

...The time I had to take a boy to the hospital and did not have any adult leadership in camp.

...The many times I've reminded committee members of training sessions for the adult leaders and committeemen and Bill and I were the only ones who cared enough to attend.

...The hundreds of dollars the leaders have spent giving a program to your sons.

...The parents who sent their son on a hike to and from the cabin knowing that he had leg and foot problems and could not possibly make it.

One thing you have all probably wondered about is why I'm still in the troop even after Rick went away to college. The main reason is that I have always liked kids and have always worked with them and have had them around our home when our kids were younger. Also, I know that the position of Scoutmaster is not easy to fill. How many of you would do what I have done for the troop? I haven't seen a one of you at a roundtable or a committee training session. In the community you have a woman doing an excellent job as Cubmaster (a position she does not want) because there is not a man with enough interest to take the job. I also get much personal satisfaction from the position. Including...

...Going rappelling and watching the face of a boy as he touches the ground after being pulled back up several times because he was afraid to go over the edge.

...Seeing the smiling face of the boy, who was afraid of the dark the night before, coming out of cave #11 at Maquoketa.

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...Knowing the boy who helped save his family from fire because he had some Scout training.  
...Having our boys volunteer to be color guard because they want to.  
...Being asked to be color guard because of another job well done.  
...Having our troop number called out by other troops and staff members when they walk past our campsite at summercamp or district events.  
...Knowing that any event we enter, we'll finish in the top 25%.  
...Being told consistently that we have the best behaved troop attending different activities.  
...Being able to leave our boys unattended and know they will perform in the manner expected.  
...Having the boys tell me secrets that they will not even tell their parents.  
...Pinning an Eagle badge on a boys shirt.  
...Having six life Scouts in the troop knowing they will each become an Eagle.  
...Having two boys who will have the Eagle award before they reach their 14th birthday. Being among the youngest in the nation to attain that rank.  
...plus the many more smiles, grins and thank you's that I have received from the boys at almost every activity I have ever attended with them.

*Johnny Mohr*

CONF003274

DYKES\_I\_003252

May 17, 1991

Mr. Albert W Zenz  
Scout Executive  
Illowa Council, No. 133

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: JOHNNIE L. MOHR

Dear Al:

I am responding to our telephone conversation of May 15, concerning the above named individual.

I have carefully reviewed the entire file again. Based on today's world, I do not think we should allow Mr. Moore to register and, therefore, I am going to suspend the probation which he was placed on previously.

If a application comes to our office, we will refuse the registration based on the things he admitted doing, which was certainly not in keeping with leadership standards. I will not get involved in any discussion related to whether he was guilty or not of some of the charges which were never resolved.

Let me know if you have further questions. At this time, we are making this a permanent file, which will not allow registration with the Boy Scouts of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration and Statistical Service

bg

cc: Peter M. Barbernitz, East Central Region

READY FOR FILE

MAY 17 1991

ERIN O'RILEY

CONF003275

DYKES\_I\_003253

Put on Probation as  
per Mr. E. on 10/14/85-

V. STARON

OCT 14 1985

If he should register in  
another Council send out  
awareness letter. Allowed to  
register but, not in  
leader position.

CONF003276

DYKES\_I\_003254

## TROOP CHARTER RENEWAL

No 28 2010 100M11A1

PAGE 2

CITY	STATE	COUNTY, DISTRICT	LOCAL UNIT NO	CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE	NEW EXPIRATION DATE	TERM (MONTHS)	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
							DATE PAID	CHG NO	DATE
REYNOLDS	IL	ROCK ISLAND, CH BLACKHAV	490	2/28/85	2/28/86	12	0430	5	133

BOYS DATE	BOYS LIFE	POS.	LINE NO.	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE AND ZIP	SEX	PHONE
0843	MC		8	JOSEPH E DE HARLIE	<del>BOX 846</del> Box 25	REYNOLDS	IL 61279	M H	3724438
<del>0380</del>	<del>MC</del>		<del>10</del>	<del>JACK MILLER</del>	<del>RR BOX 78</del>	<del>REYNOLDS</del>	<del>IL 61279</del>	<del>M H</del>	<del>3724438</del>
0144	MC		19	TODD SCHOONMAKER	11113 RIDGEWOOD RD	MILAN	IL 61264	M H	7875423
1044	MC		23	THOMAS R WILLIAMS	2915 117TH AVE W	MILAN	IL 61264	M H	7874287
<del>05</del>	<del>X</del>		<del>15</del>	<del>JOHNNIE MOHR</del>	<del>BOX 32</del>	<del>TAYLOR RIDGE</del>	<del>IL 61284</del>	<del>M H</del>	<del>7982877</del>
	SA		12	TERRY MILLER	BOX 102	REYNOLDS	IL 61279	M H	3724438
<del>0442</del>	<del>SA</del>		<del>11</del>	<del>JACK MILLER</del>	<del>RR BOX 78</del>	<del>REYNOLDS</del>	<del>IL 61279</del>	<del>M H</del>	<del>3724438</del>
0246	SA		13	RECK H MOHR	BOX 32	TAYLOR RIDGE	IL 61284	M H	7982877
0847	SA		21	WILLIAM L SPENCE	RR 1 BOX 46	REYNOLDS	IL 61279	M H	3724437
0747	SA		25	DONALD E VAN MYCHEN	<del>13608 L 78 ST</del> 7026-134th Ave W.	TAYLOR RIDGE	IL 61284	M H	7985410

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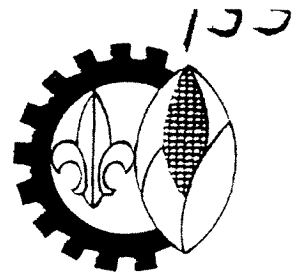
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PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK OF UNIT COPY

INFORMATION SERVICES REPORT NO. 8249

446

CONF003277



August 12, 1985

Mr. Paul Ernst  
National Council, Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062 - 1296

ILLOWA COUNCIL, INC.  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia. 52803  
(319) 322-5937  
#133

Dear Paul:

Enclosed you will find copies of various letters etc. related to Johnnie L. Mohr and the events that led to his resignation as Scoutmaster of Troop 430 in our council.


At this point, after the passage of some five months it appears that:

- Johnnie Mohr is resolved to no longer being the Scoutmaster of Troop 430, and he indicates that with a few exceptions, his standing remains high in his community.
- [REDACTED], Chairman of Troop Committee, believes the committee handled the situation in the best interest of all concerned: Mr. Mohr, Reynolds Methodist Church, complaining family, Troop 430 committee, and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The Rock Island County Sheriff's Department has concluded that since there is no evidence of any foundation to the accusations made, they have not recommended any legal action be taken against Johnnie Mohr.

The remaining issue at this point is Mr. Mohr's request to remain registered with the Boy Scouts of America either as a troop committee member, or serving in a position at the district level.

We would appreciate your review of this matter and welcome your recommendation for further handling.

Sincerely,

  
Albert W. Zenz  
Scout Executive

cc: Leonard Telleen, Legal Counsel  
Charles Washington, Council President

AUG 14 1985

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CONF003278

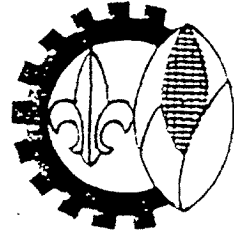
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Plaintiff's Exhibit 219

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June 24, 1985

Mr. Leonard Talleen  
124 West Exchange  
Cambridge, Illinois 61238



ILLOWA COUNCIL, INC.  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia. 52803  
(319) 322-5937  
#133

Dear Leonard:

Enclosed you will find some additional information related to recent incidents involving Johnnie Mohr.

- May 22, 1985 - Johnnie Mohr's rebuttal to the report developed by [REDACTED] Chairman of the Troop 430 committee
- June 12, 1985 - Note from Bruce Pisel indicating that Lt. Fischer of Rock Island County Sheriff's office had decided not to pursue any legal action against Johnnie Mohr because there was no evidence of any "foundation" to the accusation.
- June 20, 1985 - Memo from [REDACTED] Chairman of Troop 430 committee, indicating that he had met on May 16 with Mr. J. Mohr to discuss his rebuttal of the charges levied against him.

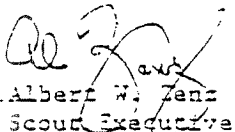
At this point in time, after the passage of three months it appears that:

- Johnnie Mohr is resolved to no longer being Scoutmaster of Troop 430, and he indicates that with a few exceptions, his standing remains high in his community.
- [REDACTED] believes that the troop committee handled the situation in the best interest of all concerned: Mr. Mohr, Reynolds Methodist Church, complaining families, Troop 430 committee, and the Boy Scouts of America.
- It appears that no legal action will be taken against Mr. Mohr.

The remaining issue at this point is Mr. Mohr's request to remain registered with the Boy Scouts of America either, as he indicates, as a troop committee member, or serving in a position at the district level. (see 4/19/85 letter to Al Zenz) He is hopeful that we will keep his file at the council level and not forward it to the national office.

What is your opinion about not sending/or sending Mr. Mohr's complete file to the National Director of Registration for his review and reactions?

Sincerely,

  
Albert W. Zenz  
Scout Executive

cc: Charles Washington

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CONF003279

DYKES\_I\_003257

TO: Al Zenz  
District Commissioner  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia 52803

6-24-85

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Committee Chairman  
Troop 430  
Reynolds, IL

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 20 June 1985

RE: Confirmation of meeting with former Scoutmaster.

This note confirms that I have met with Mr. J. Mohr, Troop 430's former Scoutmaster on 16 May, and we have discussed his rebuttal of the charges that were levied against him. Mr. Mohr obtained copies of my report from your office--and has provided me "corrected" copies, as well as the original draft of the rebuttal letter which was sent to Mr. B. Pisel, who was then our troop's district executive.

After I had drafted my original report of his dismissal (29 March), I became aware there were some erroneous dates. I had incorrectly looked at the calendar as I attempted to document the various happenings, and while I was correct on the days, I was off by one week on some of the dates. Therefore, I concur with his corrections of the dates.

Mr. Mohr did ask to bring his wife to the Committee meeting wherein the charges were levied against him. I felt it would be better if she did not attend (ref. page 4 of my 29 March report).

I agree that Mr. Mohr made the statement, "If I'm guilty of anything, I'm guilty of voyeurism" (ref. page 5 of my 29 March report). In light of the charges, and his admissions to other incidents, I do not feel this elaboration has any significant impact on the outcome.

With regard to Mr. Mohr's additional details of touching the penis of the sleeping Scout who has a reputation as a bed-wetter. When I asked him where he touched the Scout, he replied "on the pecker." I must point out that I did not know--nor did I ask--if the scout was wearing bedclothes. (Again, ref. page 5 of my 29 March report).

Since the dismissal, I have learned that there are two Scouts--not one--in Troop 430 who attend the same private school (ref. page 1 of the 3 April 1985 memo). I do not feel that elaboration alters anything.

As to Mr. Mohr being asked to leave the Aledo troop, I cannot judge the truth of the statement or the elaboration (ref. page 2 of my 3 April report). The other committee member in whom Mr. Mohr confided related to the committee that Mr. Mohr was asked to leave that troop.

CONF003280

DYKES\_I\_003258




I assume Mr. Mohr had given that information to the other Committee member.

Most of Mr. Mohr's rebuttal is further elaboration of incidents that he related to me in private discussion, or that led to the charges which resulted in the Committee's action. Those details were not related to me at the time, and I cannot judge their authenticity.

Based on the charges levied against Mr. Mohr in March, and his subsequent comments to myself and one other member of the Scout Committee, I still feel we handled the situation as delicately as possible and in the best interests of all concerned: Mr. Mohr, the Reynolds Methodist Church, the Troop 430 Committee, The Boy Scouts of America, and the complaining families.

Just one more point. I was informed it was necessary that I submit reports of the case to the Scout Office in the event there was legal action. I realize the former Scoutmaster could have obtained copies of my reports if the case had gone to court, but I feel your office was out of line in giving them to him. Even though I refrained from mentioning names in those memos, a person familiar with past and present troop rosters could easily identify many of the people to whom I referred by the simple process of deduction. And in the former Scoutmaster's highly emotional state after being dismissed, action could have been taken against those people. Responsibility in that case would rest directly with the Scout Office.

As per our telephone discussion, this letter will conclude my reports. There seems to me to be no advantage for anyone--the Boy Scouts of America, the Troop 430 Committee, the sponsoring organization, Mr. Mohr or the complaining families--to continue discussions and rebuttals of the incident.

85.06.20/ 

CONF003281

DYKES\_I\_003259

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*AAR*  
Adjusters Auto Rental

FEATURING LINCOLN-  
MERCURY AND OTHER  
FINE FORD PRODUCTS

6-12

AI:

Lt. Fisher of R- County Sheriff's office indicated that his office will not be pursuing any legal action against Johnnie Mohr as he has no evidence that there is any "foundation" to the accusation. He also said Johnnie does not seem to be the kind of person he normally runs into in cases like this.

I was unable to catch CC [REDACTED] before he left town for 2 weeks.

Bruce

---

CONF003282

DYKES\_I\_003260

Mr. Bruce Pisel  
Illowa Council, B.S.A.  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

22 May 85

Bruce,

As per your request, I'm writing this to help clarify and correct some of the statements made in the troop meeting reports sent to you by [REDACTED], chairman of the troop #430 committee.

Even though most of the accusations are untrue, I have tried not to alter other peoples statements in these reports. The first report was written from memory over ten days after the initial meeting because no notes were made at any time. This was because it was suggested that I quietly resign as scoutmaster and no charges would be filed. Everything would be handled quietly and quickly and over with as soon as possible. However, I had to do what I could to protect my reputation in the community and in scouting as much as possible. It was I who reported this to the sponsoring organization, it was I who reported it to the council office and it was I who called the Rock Island County Sheriff's office when I heard that they were asking many questions about the incident.

To make this letter as short as possible, I will just refer to the page number of the report and try not to repeat every statement in its entirety.

I have made copies of the original "minutes" and corrected three copies. One of these you have, one was given to [REDACTED] and I have the third. [REDACTED] and I have double checked his copy and he agrees with the corrections I have made. I hope he has been in contact with you since this meeting to confirm these corrections.

First report dated March 29, 1985. On pages 1, 2 and 3 you can see that the dates are incorrect. Also on page 2 -- The boys usually swam nude but not always. Many wore their trunks under their scout uniforms and some even swam in cut-offs or their undershorts. This included adults. No scout ever swam nude without their parents knowledge and every one had their parents pick them up at my house after swimming.

On page 4 -- When I was called about the committee meeting, I first asked if my wife could also attend. When I was told "no" than I refused to come to the meeting unless I was told the reason the meeting was being held.

Also starting at the bottom of page 4 -- I was the scoutmaster in Aledo in 1965 and 1966. Our son was born Feb. 16, 1966 and I believe I gave up the troop in the late summer of that year. I WAS NOT ASKED TO LEAVE THIS TROOP as stated later in these "minutes". I was transferred to the Rock Island office of the Argus and did not have the time to devote to the troop and to do a decent job. Continuing on page 5, I was approached by a member on that troop and we did touch each other. However this was not enjoyable and I was not aroused. This activity was ended by me very shortly after it began. When the boy was baby-

CONF003283

DYKES\_I\_003261

sitting with our daughter he did share a bed with me (our daughter was sleeping in the other bedroom) but there was NO sexual activity of any kind. This same boy later took a vacation and several short trips with my family, has been to our home many times and I have even worked with him for two summers. The touching incident only happened one time and was never mentioned again. The man is now over 35 and I believe he is gay. He does live in San Francisco but not in a gay community and he still visits (and is welcomed) our home almost every time he is in the area.

Continuing on page 5 -- I have inspected the boys at summer camp for ticks every year; however, I have only checked the parts of their bodies that they could not see, never their groins. The scouts were always told to check the rest of their bodies, including their groins, before getting into their sleeping bags.

My statement was, (and [redacted] agrees) "If I'm guilty of anything, I'm guilty of voyeurism." A form of voyeurism is looking at the sexual organs of other people, both male and female, but sexual arousal or sexual gratification is not necessarily a part of it. Even looking at pictures in Playboy, etc. is a form of voyeurism.

A hernia was most definitely discovered at the free physical for summer camp. The scout later attended TLI and spent a week at summer camp before he had corrective surgery. The leader at TLI, the camp director and the medics at summer camp and myself were all aware of this and the scout was watched very closely.

When I admitted touching the penis of a scout in troop #230, I was trying to prevent further embarrassment to a scout who has a history of bedwetting. I would check his sleeping bag and his underwear during the night and if he was dry, would wake him so he could go to the bathroom. If he was already wet, I let him sleep. His father was made aware of this as soon as we returned from summer camp and also knew that I checked his son on several other campouts since.

There were six boys (enough for two cars) and it was the Atomic Energy merit badge classes. This is the one that is held every spring.

As I said on page 8 -- I do not doubt that there are several discrepancies between my talks with [redacted] and Tom and my rebuttal. They will both agree that I was in a very emotional state during each conversation and my rebuttal was written almost two weeks after these meetings. Two weeks in which I had spent many hours finding out who made the accusations and trying to figure out why. (I still believe that the committee should have informed me as to who was making the accusations.) Now that I know who made the accusations I do believe I know why the scout was holding a grudge against me for so long. I have not seen any member of this family since the campout on March 16-17 and I have no intentions, what-so-ever, of seeing them in the future.

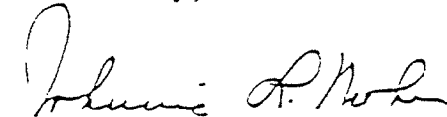
To clear up one statement in the report dated April 3, 1985, on page 2 -- As I mentioned earlier in this letter, I was not asked to leave the Aledo troop. My job transfer kept me away from home over eleven hours a day and I wasn't giving the troop the time it required. The last summer that I was the scoutmaster, all we did was play softball every meeting night and the boys were losing

interest and quitting scouts. For the betterment of the troop, I DECIDED TO LEAVE, I WAS NOT ASKED TO LEAVE. In over fifty years, being scoutmaster of troop #430 was the first position of any kind that I have ever held that I was asked to give up.

I'm sorry to drag this out over so many weeks but I feel that I have been unjustly accused of some very serious offenses and want to do everything possible to clear my name and, if possible, to continue in other phases of the scouting program.

In closing, I would like to call your attention to the closing statements of the troop committee chairman beginning on page 6 of the first report. Please reread them. If the committee chairman indicates that I'm not guilty, the sheriff's office could find no evidence for charges and the parent of the scout refuses to put the charges in writing, I hope that the council office will find more than a reasonable doubt and not send this file to the national office. There has been other people, also unjustly accused who have continued to serve the youth in the scouting program and I hope that I can be considered to be one of these. If you insist, I would have no objections if you should want to set up some kind of a probationary period. The only thing I ask, if you should decide to do so, is that the conditions be put in writing so we both know exactly what is expected of me.

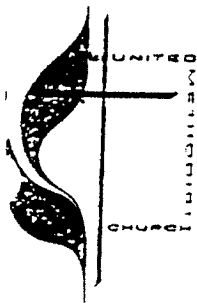
sincerely,



Joannie L. Hour  
Box 32  
Taylor Ridge, IL 61261

CONF003285

DYKES\_I\_003263



# Reynolds United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 217, Reynolds, Illinois 61279

Telephone 309-372-3831 Office

309-372-4450 Parsonage

April 23, 1985

Mr. Bruce Pisel  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

Dear Bruce,

Johnnie Mohr has indicated there is an office or two above the local level in Scouting for which he would like to be considered. He asked that I write a letter of recommendation for him, if I felt I could do so.

I have known Johnnie for almost four years, having come to the Reynolds United Methodist Church as pastor in June, 1981. He has been Scout Master of Troop 430, sponsored by this church, during that time.

I have seen him act in a leadership capacity with the boys in outdoor recreation and several functions in the church building, including honor courts and soup suppers. I have been greatly impressed with his organizational and leadership ability at such times. I believe Johnnie to be knowledgeable, hard-working, well-organized, and a fine communicator.

I have worked with him in planning four Scout Sunday services. He has proven a responsible person, and one who has been interested in really involving the boys in these services. I have been impressed with the numerous activities and involvement of the boys during the year. This is evident by their regular weekly meetings, weekend camping, and all of the extra awards earned. It is not difficult to see this is an outstanding Boy Scout troop.

I believe Johnnie's fine family says something in his favor also.

Having said all of this, I want to say I believe the local Scouting Committee has had a very difficult situation with which to deal, and I support them in their decision.

Sincerely,

*Caroline Hutchinson*

Caroline Hutchinson

CONF003286

DYKES\_I\_003264

C. A. Warner  
4002 - 13th Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
April 22, 1985

Mr. Bruce Pisel  
Senior District Executive  
ILLOWA Council, Inc. #133  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, IA 52803

Dear Bruce:

It has come to my attention that an accusation has been made against Mr. Johnnie Mohr, of Troop #430, that could be detrimental to his character.

I have known Mr. Mohr for about 4-1/2 years and consider him a gentleman of moral character and integrity.

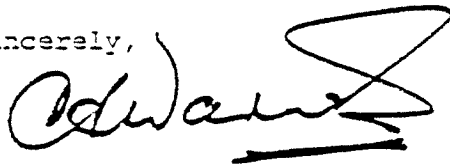
During the period I have known Mr. Mohr we have worked together on many Scout projects and workshops. He has always conducted himself in a professional way and I have never observed him to be familiar with any of the Scouts or act in a suspicious manner.

In my opinion Mr. Mohr is a dedicated Scoutmaster and above reproach. I'm sure that the accusation that has been made against him is false or caused by a misunderstanding.

I trust that you will thoroughly investigate the matter so that Mr. Mohr may be vindicated and his good name and honor returned to him.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



C. A. Warner

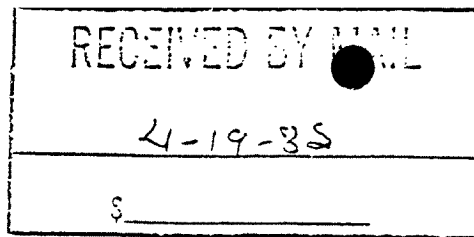
CAW/sg

cc: A. W. Zenz

CONF003287

DYKES\_I\_003265

Mr. Al Zenz  
Illowa Council, BSA  
2804 Eastern Ave.  
Davenport, IA 52803



Mr. Zenz,

Please honor this as my request to stay registered in the Boy Scout program. As both you and Mr. Pisel know, I had several accusations made against me in my former troop. For the exact details of these accusations and my answer to them, please see the rebuttal in my file. This rebuttal was read to the troop committee on Tuesday, April 2nd.

I was given no choice but to resign my position as scoutmaster by the troop committee on March 15th. The committee did not notify the minister of our church (the sponsoring organization) or the council office. These were both notified by myself about ten days later.

At the present time I have no desire to go back into scouting as the scoutmaster of a troop. However, with the training and experience I have had, I feel that I could be of service to the boys in the area either as a troop committee member or serving in a position at the district level.

Your records will show that I have earned both the Scouters Key and the Training Award. I have also taken a training course at Philmont. Other records will show that I have helped at many council and district events and several Order of the Arrow functions plus attending most roundtables and snow-and-do's.

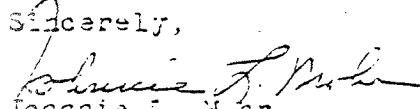
My past record will also show that troop #130 was one of the more active troops in the council the past four years. We have also had three Eagle Scouts in the same time period with another coming up during the month of May. There are also six more boys in the troop who have the Life rank and will become Eagle Scouts in the very near future. Among these six are two boys who will become Eagle Scouts before their 13th birthday in October.

I have had many visits and phone calls from parents of boys in the troop and other scouters in the area all encouraging me to see if it would be possible to stay registered. Mr. Zenz, I hope that you will see fit to keep my file at the local level and not forward it to the national offices. I also hope that it will be possible for me to stay registered in scouting and be of service to the organization in the future.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future with a favorable answer to this request.

Yours in scouting.

Sincerely,

  
Jonnie L. Moor  
Box 32  
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284

CONF003288

DYKES\_I\_003266



From the desk of -  
CARL W. PETERSON

Reynolds, IL  
April 15, 1985

Dear Scouters:

John Mohr is a dedicated Scouter and has served our Community and district for at least seven years. He has been our Scoutmaster for four years and has had a good outdoor program with advancement among the boys from Scout to Eagle Rank. I would like to see him continue in Scouting.

Sincerely



Scouting Coordinator

Reynolds United Meth. Church

CONF003289

DYKES\_I\_003267

[REDACTED] and Scott Committee

This is in regard to Johnnie Mohr's dismissal. I hope your committee investigated this allegation and not just taken the word of one mother and son. You have ruined Johnnie Mohr's reputation forever. I for one believe him innocent! What happened to the good old theory innocent till proved guilty.

I think the whole situation was handled very badly. In the first place a son of a committeeman went to school and started spreading rumors that Johnnie Mohr is gay. If it was handled correctly no one should ever have found out he was dismissed out alone why and especially who the family is doing the charging!

I hope the committee recommended to the family that the boy have professional help because neither

CONF003290

DYKES\_I\_003268

way he needs some help,  
especially if the event really  
happened.

Barbara O'Hearn

9920-77 St W

Taylor Ridge,

Ill. 61284

798-2913

CONF003291

DYKES\_I\_003269

Everyone on the committee is still considered friend and would be made welcome in my home. As a group (a group I insisted on forming a year ago) you had me condemned that night before I ever arrived at home.

You were wrong in not giving me the names of my accusers.

You were wrong in saying that no information would go outside that meeting.

I'll bet that there is not one of you here that didn't go home and immediately tell your wives what had happened.

It was also being discussed at great length at the bowling alley in Milan within a couple of days.

One of your sons was telling a neighbor that I was gay.

Two of the older boys were telling new boys to stay away from me because I was "Funny".

I have received at least one obscene phone call at home.

You were also wrong in not having the minister at that meeting.

As far as the accusations against me are concerned...

Picture in latrine... There was never a picture taken of a boy in the latrines.

Pictures of boys going to the bathroom... Yes. There are of the back view only and did not show even the stream of water. I have three of these pictures, including my own son.

Pictures of boys in underwear... Yes. All taken either when they were changing clothes outside or when they were first getting up in the morning after sleeping under the stars.

Games at the church... I'm glad to hear [redacted] and [redacted] were concerned enough about what happens at the meetings. However, since the game came out of the Scout book, I'd do the same thing again. There was a purpose to the game.

Skinny dipping... Yes. Practically every boy in the troop and many adults have skinny dipped in my pool after the meetings. However, no boy ever swam without first getting permission from his parents and having his parents pick him up after swimming.

Boys scaring my sleeping bag... Yes. Because one mother sent her son to the cabin in the middle of February with a light bag with a broken zipper. On another occasion, at summer camp when a Scout came into my tent, after parent night, homesick and wanting to go home immediately. The boy was fully dressed including his shoes. This was the same night [redacted] was injured and spending the night in the other leaders bunk.

Tick Inspection... Yes. I've checked the boys head, arm pits, backs and butts. Never their testicles, they checked these themselves. I have found ticks and have either cut them out or sent the boy to first aid to have them removed. Have you ever seen an engorged tick or had an infection from one? I have!

Masturbation... [redacted] did what any mother had to do. I do not think it was handled correctly but I have no hard feelings toward her. As for the charges, [redacted] was on staff at summer camp of 1983 and all staff members sleep in their own beds in their own cabins in the staff area. Not in the campsites with the troops. I did give [redacted] every reason to be mad at me that summer and hold a grudge. For one thing, I reported him to the camp director for being in the mess hall and serving food with filthy hands, face and clothes. He had spent the evening with the troop around our campfire and showed up for work the next morning without showering or changing clothes. I was also accused of teaching a boy to masturbate. I doubt that there is a boy in the troop who hasn't masturbated before the age of ten - even infants do it. I was also accused of mutual masturbation. This I can only deny saying that it never happened. I am happily married and have been for almost 26 years and I am definitely not homosexual or even bisexual.

CONF003292

DYKES\_I\_003270

I will not deny that I have touched several of the boys, both accidentally and on purpose. I have touched them accidentally while wrestling in the swimming pools, both mine and the public pools when the boys were trying to dunk all the adults present. I have also checked for ruptures, checked for wet beds, applied cold packs to a boy who was bruised on a campout and even picked thorns out of a boys privates. If this is to be considered as fondling, yes, I'm guilty.

Were there any other accusations?

The accusations against me couldn't have been any more serious, yet why

...Was [REDACTED] the only person permitted to talk to the boy?

...Was the younger brother permitted to go on a camping trip with me the following weekend?

...After permitting the camping trip in the first place, was a meeting called that same night demanding my immediate resignation?

...Was I granted thirty days to resign and then have it denied at the last minute?

...Was I asked to write a letter of resignation, lying to the troop, after spending four years teaching them to be trustworthy?

...Wasn't the minister even notified? She should have been the first to know.

Let's look at some of the other things that have happened in the troop. Nothing has ever been mentioned about the time...

...I took a sick boy home at 1 a.m., put him to bed and sat with him until 3 a.m. when his drunken parents arrived home.

...Taking the hyperactive boy on a 3-day camping trip with out the parentstelling me that he must take medication. And that he would not take it on his own.

...Breaking the snuff and cigarette habits of boys before their parents learned of it.

...How about the times I took the troop to activities and couldn't get enough cars to transport them.

...The time I had to take a boy to the hospital and did not have any adult leadership in camp.

...The many times I've reminded committee members of training sessions for the adult leaders and committeemen and Bill and I were the only ones who cared enough to attend.

...The hundreds of dollars the leaders have spent giving a program to your sons.

...The parents who sent their son on a hike to and from the cabin knowing that he had leg and foot problems and could not possibly make it.

One thing you have all probably wondered about is why I'm still in the troop even after Rick went away to college. The main reason is that I have always liked kids and have always worked with them and have had them around our home when our kids were younger. Also, I know that the position of Scoutmaster is not easy to fill. How many of you would do what I have done for the troop? I haven't seen a one of you at a roundtable or a committee training session. In the community you have a woman doing an excellent job as Cubmaster (a position she does not want) because there is not a man with enough interest to take the job. I also get much personal satisfaction from the position. Including...

...Going rappelling and watching the face of a boy as he touches the ground after being pulled back up several times because he was afraid to go over the edge.

...Seeing the smiling face of the boy, who was afraid of the dark the night before, coming out of cave #11 at Macquoketa.

CONF003293

DYKES\_I\_003271

...Knowing the boy who helped save his family from fire because he had some Scout training.  
...Having our boys volunteer to be color guard because they want to.  
...Being asked to be color guard because of another job well done.  
...Having our troop number called out by other troops and staff members when they walk past our campsite at summercamp or district events.  
...Knowing that any event we enter, we'll finish in the top 25%.  
...Being told consistently that we have the best behaved troop attending different activities.  
...Being able to leave our boys unattended and know they will perform in the manner expected.  
...Having the boys tell me secrets that they will not even tell their parents.  
...Pinning an Eagle badge on a boy's shirt.  
...Having six life Scouts in the troop knowing they will each become an Eagle.  
...Having two boys who will have the Eagle award before they reach their 18th birthday. Being among the youngest in the nation to attain that rank.  
...plus the many more smiles, grins and thank you's that I have received from the boys at almost every activity I have ever attended with them.

*Jennie Mohr*

CONF003294

DYKES\_I\_003272

6321 25th Avenue Court West  
Taylor Ridge, Illinois 61284  
April 15, 1985

Boy Scouts of America  
Illowa Council  
2604 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa

Re: Johnnie Mohr

Dear Mr. Israel:

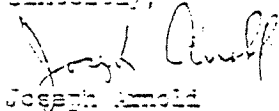
This letter is to let you know by written word that we fully support Johnnie Mohr in his attempt to clear his name.

We believe the troop committee acted without thought and professional guidance. How this committee could be allowed to ruin a man's life and dreams with one quick decision is beyond our comprehension.


Johnnie has been a wonderful influence and friend to our son, Daniel, and with all that has happened (with our son knowing all the details), he still disbelieves the accusations against Johnnie and still trusts him.

It is our hopes that Johnnie's name can be restored so that he may again guide Boy Scouts in the future.

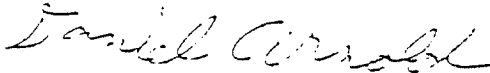
Sincerely,



Joseph Arnold

  
Crystal Arnold

Daniel Arnold



CONF003295

DYKES\_I\_003273

TO: Bruce Pisel  
FR: [REDACTED]  
RE: 2nd meeting on SM resignation  
DATE: 3 April 1985

Members of the Troop 430 Committee met at the Reynolds Church Basement at 7 p.m. last night.

Committee members attending:

[REDACTED]  
Joe DeMarlia  
Todd Schoonmaker  
Bill Spence  
Bill Hartman  
Tom Williams

The meeting was called as a courtesy to our former scoutmaster, who wished to address the troop committee. He attended with his wife, and Mrs. Linda Barber, mother of one of the Scouts in Troop 430.

The meeting started at 7:15 p.m. because two committee members were late in arriving.

The former scoutmaster read a three-page letter to the committee, denying the complaints against him. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

The former scoutmaster and his wife both indicated that the committee improperly handled the complaint session and the request for his resignation. They felt a committee composed of the committee chairman, scoutmaster, complaining mother and her son, and the minister of the church, should have heard the charges, giving the scoutmaster a chance to face the boy and his mother. I, as committee chairman, and one other committee member, indicated that would not have changed the end result; the committee couldn't risk taking a chance that the charges were valid. Our first responsibility was to protect the boys. Our answer did not appease the former scoutmaster and his wife.

The former scoutmaster's wife charged one of the committee members sons had gone to school and told people his scoutmaster was "gay." We have no way of knowing if that is true, although the son of the committee member charged is the only boy in the troop who attends a private school in an adjacent community. I can't figure out how his telling that at a private school--if, indeed, he did--would result in news leaking out in the Reynolds--Taylor Ridge communities.

Indicating that we could argue the issue all night, the former scoutmaster and his wife left the room. Mrs. Barber stayed long enough to indicate that she, and people in her neighborhood supported the former scoutmaster and that they felt we had not handled the situation properly. She then left, and joined the former scoutmaster and his wife, presumably to go home.

CONF003296

DYKES\_I\_003274



The committee briefly discussed the meeting. Tom Williams and I noted several inconsistencies between what the former scoutmaster said in his letter and what he had told us in his separate meetings with us. Because of those inconsistencies, I decided to read to the committee the summary I had drafted for you. As a check on the accuracy of my memory, I asked Tom to read it first. He said it was accurate, and elaborated further on one point. With that, the letter was read to committee members who were present. All were cautioned not to repeat any of the material contained therein.

The point Tom Williams elaborated upon concerned the Scout Troop in Alledo. He indicated the former scoutmaster had told him he had been asked to leave that troop.

I should point out that while I had refrained from repeating my conversation with the former scoutmaster to committee members, I had asked him on Monday, 18 March, if he wanted the committee told of the things we had discussed. He had said at that time he didn't care if the committee knew. I had kept our conversation confidential because I felt it did nothing but harm him, and could further damage his reputation. Because I felt his written denial was inconsistent with his conversation to me, however, I decided the other committee members should be aware of it.

One other item has come to my attention. Earlier this week, the former scoutmaster indicated to Tom Williams that he felt he could still serve--possibly as outdoor chairman--on the troop committee, a position that has been held for more than a year by Tom Williams. While he did not make that request to the committee, and we did not formally vote on it, all committee members present indicated that he should not serve in that or in any other troop capacity.

It is our hope that the meeting of 2 April, and turning these summaries, the former scoutmaster's letter to the committee, and his resignation to the scouts, will end this problem. Again this evening, I will contact the mother who made the original complaint, and ask her to write out a statement. Last week, she indicated she would not. However, since she and her sons are mentioned in the former scoutmaster's letter, I feel she should at least clarify the complaints.

85.04.03/ [REDACTED]

CONF003297

DYKES\_I\_003275

TO: Bruce Pisel  
District Executive  
Scout Office  
Davenport, Ia

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Committee Chairman  
Troop 430  
Reynolds, Il

DATE: 29 March 1985

RE: Committee's request for scoutmaster's resignation

As I returned home from a club meeting at approximately 11 p.m., Tuesday, 19 March, my wife stopped me at the front door, saying there had been some calls during the evening from one Scout's mother. This mother wanted to talk with me immediately about what she said was a critical problem within the troop. I immediately went to her house to see what the problem was.

When I arrived at the Scout's home, his mother proceeded to tell me that her oldest son, who had dropped out of the troop late last summer for no apparent reason, had now confided in her that the scoutmaster had shared a sleeping bag with him and had fondled or masturbated him.

About 15 minutes later, the boy arrived and I questioned him. He sat on the floor and kept his head down and his voice low during the entire conversation. He said he had quit the troop because of the overtures of the scoutmaster. He said that he had shared a sleeping bag with the scoutmaster, and pinpointed the incident as happening at Minneyata summer camp two years ago. He said that the sleeping bag had become torn. His mother recalled that the bag had been torn when he returned from camp. There was never an explanation of how the bag became torn, or why the two of them settled into one sleeping bag. The former Scout went on to say that the scoutmaster had discussed masturbation with him at the time of the incident, and had "touched" his penis. The former Scout did not use the word "masturbation." He said the scoutmaster told him he (the Scout) had instigated the action, and if he told anyone, people would believe the scoutmaster, not him. He said that the scoutmaster went on to imply that it was his (the Scout's) fault. The boy (who is approximately 17 years old) went on to say that if the scoutmaster did anything to his younger brother (who is 12 or 13 years old), that he would "get him."

The mother told me the issue had come to light when a father in the neighborhood overheard his son and another scout talking about the scoutmaster's actions. Their discussion was on a game he had the boys play at a troop meeting in the Reynolds United Methodist Church basement, approximately three weeks earlier. It involved dividing the boys into two teams, with one member scripping to his undershorts. The nearly-naked team member then ran to a plastic garbage lid at the far end of the Church basement. His teammates were to tie together several

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go camping with the boys. If I attended to keep my eye on things, someone would suspect something was up. The next day (Thursday, 21 March), I called one of the two assistant scoutmasters and related the entire story to him. Knowing he was planning to attending the weekend activity, I asked him to keep an eye on things, and to be ready to step in if there was anything out-of-order.

On Saturday and Sunday (23 and 24 March), I contacted the troop Committee members, the mother who had registered the initial complaint, and the two families to whom she said she had talked. One of those families included a father who was a troop Committee member. Committee members were not informed as to the reason for the meeting. Everyone gathered at my home at 6:30 Sunday evening.

Committee members present:

Carl Peterson, Scouting Co-Ordinator

[REDACTED]  
 Bill Hartman  
 Todd Schoonmaker  
 Joe DeMarlie  
 Tom Williams  
 Bill Spence

I opened the meeting by telling everyone present why it had been called. I then asked the parents present to list their complaints. The committee heard the mother's complaints as outlined above, then heard from the other two complaining families. One family simply stated their son would not be alone with the scoutmaster; the other family--the Committee member who overheard his son and another Scout youth talking--related several "gray area" incidents, including reports of the scoutmaster taking pictures of the boys in the latrine; throwing water on sleeping boys, then taking pictures as the boys bounded--in various states of undress--out of the bags, the game mentioned above, and tick checks of the Scout's genital areas during summer camp at Camp Minneyaca. Committee members agreed that only the complaints of the scoutmaster sharing a sleeping bag with a boy, and the reported placement of his hand in front of another Scouts' genitals were anything more than incidents which could be mis-interpreted.

I related to the Committee that I had questioned my sons about such behavior. One--one of the oldest Scouts in the troop--indicated he had never heard or seen sexual overtures of any kind between the scoutmaster and any of the boys. The other told me some of the Scouts said the scoutmaster was gay, but could or would not give me any names. He too, said he had not seen anything. I then related to the group that I had called one family whose sons had dropped out of the troop nearly 18 months ago. The father told me that his sons did not get along with the scoutmaster. One of the boys (in his mid-teens) said the scoutmaster was gay, and made a remark about the scoutmaster helping a 14-year old boy with his zipper. There was no elaboration of that comment.

The assistant scoutmaster reported he had seen nothing out-of-order on the weekend winter survival hike. He did, however, say that all of

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ropes, throw them to him, and pull him back across the basement floor to the finish line. Since there was only one garbage can lid, the teams were timed against a stopwatch.

I was present that night, and should not have allowed the game to be played. It was not popular with the scouts. Several of the older boys refused to be the one who undressed. Then, their knots did not hold. At best, the game was a complete fiasco. I later learned that the game idea had been taken from one of the scoutmaster's manuals. I must confess that I did not even think of the boy's embarrassment if the Church's female minister would have walked in.

The mother added that she had talked to another family in the troop, in addition to the family whose father had overheard the children's conversation about the "undressing" game. She brought up the subject of nude swimming. I was aware that during the summer months, the scoutmaster had usually invited the Scouts to swim at his family pool after the Wednesday night meetings. They always swam nude—in the dark. While she could pinpoint no incidents at these sessions, she did point out that the troop members would go willingly for a time, then refuse to go any more. She added that the family whose father had overheard the boys talking about the scoutmaster's game, would soon have a Cub Scout entering the troop. The older brother flatly said the young boy could not swim at the scoutmaster's—but he gave no explanation for his statement. He finally told his parents that on one occasion about four years earlier, he had been swimming with trunks on and the scoutmaster had told him to pull his trunks down so he could see him. When his mother asked what he did, he reportedly said "Mom, I was only 10". The boy is now either 14 or 15 years old. I do not know if this incident took place at the scoutmaster's pool or somewhere else.

The mother added that the son of the second family to whom she had talked, simply said he would not be alone with the scoutmaster.

The mother then proceeded to tell me of another "incident" that took place last summer at Minneyata Scout Camp, and involved her younger son. At this time, the scoutmaster supposedly put his arm around the boy during a campfire, and let his hand drop to the child's groin.

The mother wanted the incidents brought to the Committee's attention, indicated the scoutmaster should be removed from his post, and that if he were not removed, she would file charges. I assured her that I would look into the matter, and call a special troop Committee meeting, to which she would be invited to air her complaints.

The following night (Wednesday, 20 March), I attended the regular weekly Scout meeting. I observed the scoutmaster put his arm around one of the boys and talk briefly to him—it was the young son of the woman who had complained. I'd seen the scoutmaster do the same thing with other boys many times, but I hadn't thought anything about it. That night the scoutmaster reminded the boys that a weekend winter survival hike was planned to the Scout cabin a short distance outside the Village of Reynolds. Knowing that the mother was talking about possible charges against the scoutmaster, I was faced with a dilemma. I don't normally

go camping with the boys. If I attended to keep my eye on things, someone would suspect something was up. The next day (Thursday, 21 March), I called one of the two assistant scoutmasters and related the entire story to him. Knowing he was planning to attend the weekend activity, I asked him to keep an eye on things, and to be ready to step in if there was anything out-of-order.

On Saturday and Sunday (23 and 24 March), I contacted the troop Committee members, the mother who had registered the initial complaint, and the two families to whom she said she had talked. One of those families included a father who was a troop Committee member. Committee members were not informed as to the reason for the meeting. Everyone gathered at my home at 6:30 Sunday evening.

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I related to the Committee that I had questioned my sons about such behavior. One—one of the oldest Scouts in the troop—indicated he had never heard or seen sexual overtures of any kind between the scoutmaster and any of the boys. The other told me some of the Scouts said the scoutmaster was gay, but could or would not give me any names. He too, said he had not seen anything. I then related to the group that I had called one family whose sons had dropped out of the troop nearly 18 months ago. The father told me that his sons did not get along with the scoutmaster. One of the boys (in his mid-teens) said the scoutmaster was gay, and made a remark about the scoutmaster helping a 14-year old boy with his zipper. There was no elaboration of that comment.

The assistant scoutmaster reported he had seen nothing out-of-order on the weekend winter survival hike. He did, however, say that all of

the boys built their winter survival shelters very small, so there was no room for anyone else inside them.

After considerable discussion and a poll of the board members, it was agreed we should ask the scoutmaster to explain the complaints. Committee members also were polled on whether or not we should ask for his resignation. Keep in mind that the mother indicated she would press charges if he did not resign. It was the unanimous opinion of the troop Committee that we would have to ask for the scoutmaster's resignation to protect the boys; that we could not take a chance on whether or not the charges were valid. The parents left, with the exception of the one who was a troop committee member, and the committee decided we should not give out the complainants names. Committee members expressed concern that the scoutmaster should know who was making the complaints against him, but felt that it was their responsibility to protect the boys.

I called the scoutmaster at approximately 9 p.m., told him there was a special committee meeting at my house, that the committee had heard some complaints against him, and asked him to come over to discuss the complaints. He refused to come unless he knew what the complaints were. I simply told him there were charges that he had been "playing with the boys." He arrived in approximately 15 minutes.

I outlined the complaints against him, as detailed above. We asked him to explain them. He denied all the charges, saying he had never shared a sleeping bag with one of the boys. I told him that with the complaints that had been made, the Committee could not take a chance on their being true. I asked him to resign. "Do I have a choice?" he said. "Not really," I replied. He gave us his verbal resignation and left. The Committee members discussed how to manage the troop. It was agreed that one of the assistant scoutmasters should take over as acting scoutmaster until we could find a replacement. The meeting adjourned.

Early the following afternoon (Monday, 18 March), I received a call from the newly-resigned scoutmaster, asking me to meet him at his home at 5 p.m. At that time, I asked him if he would be willing to undergo an investigation--that he would initiate--to clear himself. He said yes, but then reconsidered, saying it would have a devastating effect on his family. He then related several incidents to me, and indicated he had also talked about them with another committee member, Tom Williams.

The scoutmaster told me that he had previously been investigated. He said that in the mid '50s, he had served as an assistant scoutmaster of a troop in the west end of Rock Island (troop number unknown), and that while on a campout the scoutmaster had molested two of the Scouts. He said the scoutmaster was charged and served time for the incident. Our newly-resigned scoutmaster claimed he had been cleared in the investigation, and had been allowed to keep the troop for approximately six months until a new scoutmaster could be found--even though he was actually too young to have the responsibility of a troop. He also told me that he had been scoutmaster of a troop in Aledo, Ill. I don't know when or how long he was associated with that troop, but he implied it was approximately 17 years ago; at the time his son was born. He went on to tell me he had been approached by one of the boys in the troop,

and indicated that they had fondled each other. Later, when his son was born, this same youth was baby-sitting the scoutmaster's daughter. The scoutmaster said the baby-sitter found his way to his (the scoutmaster's) bed. I do not recall if the scoutmaster said anything happened at that time, nor do I recall if he gave a date or a reason for leaving the Aledo troop. He did say that the boy is now a member of a gay community somewhere on the west coast, and that he has seen him since the incidents. He did not say if anything had occurred when he had seen him.

He went on to tell me that he has put his arm around many of the Scouts, but he denied dropping his hand to the child's groin. He admitted to conducting tick checks of the Scout's groins at summer camp, and justified it by saying that ticks can cause a fatal disease. He admitted to having the boys swim nude--at night--in his pool. He did not admit to fondling or touching any of them. He did say some could have been kicked in the groin during that activity, and, in fact, said he, himself, had been kicked in the groin during those swim sessions.

The scoutmaster also related some other incidents to me. He admitted to being guilty of voyeurism (obtaining sexual gratification from seeing sex organs and sex acts). But he continued to plead innocent to the sexual fondling referred to early in this summary. He admitted to touching a Scout's groin with his toe--and asking about a hernia that had supposedly been discovered during the Scout's summer camp physical (this was the same child who said the scoutmaster had fondled him). He admitted to having had another child in his sleeping bag--and stressed that the child was fully clothed. He said he was attempting to comfort the new Scout, who was homesick at summer camp. He stressed he did nothing to the child. He admitted to touching the penis of another Scout at summer camp. This, he explained, was because the child had a history of bed-wetting, and--when he discovered it--he checked the child nightly in an attempt to control the bed-wetting. He assured me the child's father was aware of the incident.

The scoutmaster asked me for 30 days to finish up his Scouting activities. I polled the troop Committee members by phone and got their consent, with the understanding that we always have someone with the scoutmaster and the boys, so that nothing could happen. This would include taking five boys to Energy Merit Badge classes on three up-coming Tuesday nights, as well as the regular Wednesday night meetings. The Wednesday night meetings would be no problem because two assistant scoutmasters are always present. The Committee decided we would take turns driving the scoutmaster and the boys to the meetings, or sharing driving responsibilities with the scoutmaster. Under no circumstances would we permit them to be alone except in a vehicle in transit to or from the Energy meetings, and then only when there was a Committee member's vehicle immediately behind. The scoutmaster readily agreed to our conditions.

But the mother of the two Scouts did not agree. She indicated that the scoutmaster could have only one night to handle his resignation and good-bye to the troop. Saying "we don't owe him anything," she threatened publicity and charges if he was involved in troop activities



beyond Wednesday night, 20 March. Reluctantly, I called the scoutmaster on the afternoon of 20 March, and told him he would have to wrap everything up that evening. He told me he would turn in his written resignation, and would not stay for the entire meeting. I contacted the assistant scoutmaster, and asked him to put together some activity for the boys.

The scoutmaster has repeatedly asked me for the name of the complaining family, and has suggested two or three names as people who might make such complaints to the committee. He has said on two occasions that he does not want to persecute an innocent boy. The scoutmaster has reportedly met with his attorney, with you, and with the pastor of the Reynolds United Methodist Church. He has requested another meeting between himself and the troop Committee. He wants to deny all of the charges in a written letter. I have slated another troop Committee meeting for Tuesday night, 2 April at 7 p.m. in the Reynolds United Methodist Church Basement. We will give him time on the agenda.

It was the intention of the troop Committee to keep this problem quiet, to prevent charges against the scoutmaster, and to save the scoutmaster's reputation. We have no way of proving or dis-proving the allegations. Unaware that we should have contacted the Church's minister, we were negligent in making the initial contact. I should point out, however, that the Scouting Co-Ordinator is a member of the Church Board, as well as the troop Committee, and was present at the meeting.

I have the following comments about things as they now stand.

1. I have personally known the scoutmaster for more than 10 years. I feel he has never lied to me. He denies the charges.
2. The former Scout who made the complaints about being fondled by the scoutmaster has reportedly been caught in lies in his neighborhood, according to one committee member.
3. The mother who was willing to publically press charges when the issue initially came to light, refuses to write out those charges for submission to the Scout office, nor does she want her name or her children's names given to the Scout office. Still, she contends she will publically confront the scoutmaster if the troop Committee deems it necessary. Her complaints were the ones the committee felt were "crucial" complaints. Because of her feelings, I have not used her name, nor the names of any of the other complaining families in this report.
4. The youngest son of the woman who made the original complaint, is approximately as high as my shoulder. I'm 6'1, approximately the same height as the scoutmaster. I can't envision how I could put my arm around the neck of someone who is as tall as my shoulder, and let my hand drop to his groin. I don't know how much this child has grown since

summer camp. I think he would have to have grown quite a bit to have been small enough then for the scoutmaster to accomplish such an act, and such familiarity for two people of that approximate size seems to be hard to accomplish, undetected—even if they were sitting down at a campfire.

5. The scoutmaster has repeatedly asked me and one other troop committee member, what family made the charges. We have refused to give him the name, reasoning that if the charges should be true, we must protect the boy. Still, if he is guilty, he certainly should know who made the charges. His attempts to find out the boys name could be a ruse, but if so, he is playing it very convincingly.
6. The scoutmaster has devoted four years and countless hours to making Troop 430 one of the outstanding troops in western Illinois. Over those years, our troop has participated in repelling, canoeing, balloning, troop and patrol weekend campouts, and Merit Badge classes, in addition to the normal council activities. We have an extremely active troop. The scoutmaster has been the driving force behind all of this activity. There is no logical reason why he would work so hard to make the troop so active, then risk it on activities like the charges outlined above. Still, we seem to have a fairly high dropout rate among the older boys. I don't know why they choose not to continue. The scoutmaster indicates the dropout rate is no higher than in other troops.
7. Although troop Committee members and complaining parents accounted for one-half of the troop members at the 17 March complaint meeting, other parents have reportedly called the Scout office and complained that the scoutmaster's resignation was mishandled. Parents have also called other parents, an assistant scoutmaster, and--unknowingly--some Committee members. They have reportedly asked for:
  - A. An investigation, including questioning of all the Scouts.
  - B. A petition to retain the scoutmaster.
8. At the 27 March troop meeting, several older Scouts were cautioned by the acting scoutmaster against loud and obnoxious behavior; something we had seen coming on in past weeks. They indicated to the assistant scoutmaster that they had acted in that manner in an attempt to get the scoutmaster to resign.
9. I can't help feeling something is wrong with this whole scenario. I have not related the details of my conversation with the scoutmaster to other committee members. We asked him to resign over one "crucial" complaint, one "less-crucial" complaint, and reports of several "grey area" incidents that could have been mis-interpretations. The original complaints

seems to me to carry some question of authenticity. Yet the scoutmaster's confession to other items related above, makes me feel that he should not lead our Scout troop. He may be innocent of the charges--and he may be guilty. But there is no question that he has become a victim--partially by his own confession.

85.03.20, [REDACTED]

20 March 84

To all the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 430.

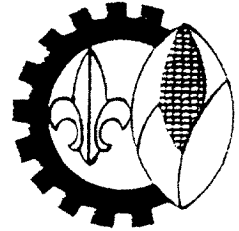
On Friday, March 15th, I received a telephone call informing me that the rangers job at Camp Minneyata was again going to be open. Some of you know that I applied for this position the last time it was available. Because of troop commitments, job commitments, etc., at that time I was passed over for this position. So in order to be available to take this job and the possible move to Camp Minneyata, the middle April, I am hereby turning in my resignation as Scoutmaster effective immediately. Bill Spence will be ~~my~~ acting scoutmaster until my replacement is found. I know that he will excel in this position and the troop can only improve.

I have enjoyed working with all of you and I do hope you will continue on the road to Eagle that has made me so proud of all of you in the past. You are the best troop in the council, please stay that way!

Joannie

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ILLOWA COUNCIL, INC.  
Boy Scouts of America  
2804 Eastern Avenue  
Davenport, Ia. 52803  
(319) 322-5937  
#133

October 4, 1985

Mr. Paul Ernst  
National Office, Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062 - 1296

Dear Paul:

In reply to your recent letter regarding Johnnie Mohr, you will find, as requested, a copy of Confidential Record Sheet which outlines information regarding Mr. Mohr's background.

Sincerely,

  
Albert W. Zenz  
Scout Executive

cc: Leonard Telleen, Legal Counsel  
Charles Washington, Council President

Supported Through The Efforts Of UNITED WAYS And SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS  
Serving Scott, Cedar, Muscatine, Clinton And Jackson Counties In Iowa, Rock Island, Henry And Mercer Counties In Illinois

P. STARR  
Oct 7 1985

CONF003309

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September 24, 1985

Mr. Albert W. Zenz  
Scout Executive  
Illowa Council, No. 133

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Johnnie Mohr

Dear Al:

Thank you for all the information which you recently sent us concerning Johnnie Mohr. This information is most helpful to us.

We would like to have a Confidential Record Sheet which would give us all the information necessary to recognize Mr. Mohr should he try to register in some other location. We would then tell the Scout Executive of the previous problems so that they could be alert to any concerns that might evolve in that particular council.

In discussion with our corporate attorney, we decided that we would leave Mr. Mohr registered at this time if you have no question concerning this, but that he should not serve in any leader position in direct relation with youth members.

If you have a concern about registering Mr. Mohr in your council we will certainly support you in any way possible to refuse registration attempts.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to discuss this.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration, Subscription &  
Statistical Service

spm

Enclosure

cc: East Central Region

READY TO FILE  
SEP 25 1985  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF003310

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COUNCIL # 133

319-722-5937

CALLER

CALL  
Clerk  
ON  
VACATION  
CALL  
8-26

UNIT #          DIST.#          EXP. DATE          TRANSMITTAL #          FILM #

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SONNIE MOHR CASE TO  
DAVE PARK

PROBLEM (S)

REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_ VETERANS \_\_\_\_\_ EXPLORING \_\_\_\_\_  
SCOUTING \_\_\_\_\_ BOYS' LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

Case Returned  
F. STARON  
AUG 19 1985

NAME PCinst  
DATE 8-15-85

R/S-433  
8/23/82-nah

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