

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE 7/28/87

FULL NAME Vernon J. Hawks (V.J.) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

CITY Cameron STATE Missouri ZIP CODE 64429

DATE OF BIRTH 12/23/68 (This is important and should be exact)

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

RELIGION Methodist NATIONALITY American

OCCUPATION None (was to enter Job Corps in September 1987)

EDUCATION High School Drop Out

WEIGHT 150 HEIGHT 5'8" RACE white

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

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

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

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

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	POSITION	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
T 69	Osborn	MO	ASM (86)	Not registered	(87)

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

SUSPENDED OR DENIED REGISTRATION FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

Released from Camp Staff for alledged sexual abuse of campers.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

MAILED

AUG 4 1987

MAY 13 '88

F. STARON  
RS-509

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

AUG 5 1987

Signed [Signature]  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE  
Council Pony Express Council #311

May 16, 1988

John C. Young  
Scout Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Vernon J. ~~SMITH~~ *HAWKS*

Dear John:

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

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

PE/eko

cc: North Central Region

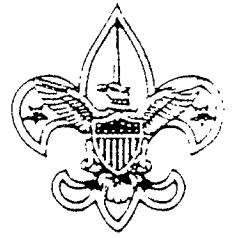
READY TO FILE  
MAY 16 1988  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF014619



# PONY EXPRESS COUNCIL

Boy Scouts of America



April 25, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director, Registration Service  
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
P. O. Box 152079  
Irving, Texas 75015-2079  
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Ernst;

The enclosed court reports are in reference to Vernon J. Hawks. As you can see Hawks pleaded guilty to all charges stemming from accusations that arose on July 8, 1987 and several days following. The incidents occurred at our Camp Geiger. Hawks' registration was suspended and you had asked for the final reports as soon as they were available.

In reference to Joe T. Dwyer, according to the Gower Chief of Police, no charges were filed although an investigation was made. For this reason, no information on this case can be made available to me. I understand that Joe has now moved to Texas but no one seems to know where.

I am sorry I cannot produce any further information. I hope this has been helpful.

Sincerely,

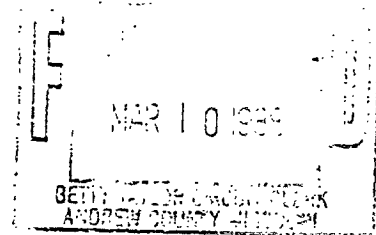
David Israel  
District Executive

DI/njc  
enc

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY, MISSOURI  
DIVISION NO. 1

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
VERNON J. HAWKS, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. CR287-152MX



JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Upon an Information charging the Defendant with the Class A Misdemeanor of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, now on this day, the 9th day of March, 1988, comes the Defendant herein, in person, and by his attorney, George M. Ely; comes also the State of Missouri, by and through the Prosecuting Attorney of Andrew County, Missouri, Ronald R. Holliday.

And thereafter viz: The Defendant being fully advised of his rights and with advice and assistance of counsel, the Defendant enters a plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, as charge in the Information, the nature of said charge and the range of punishment therefor having been fully explained to the Defendant. Defendant is examined by the Court and the Court finds that Defendant's plea of guilty is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with full understanding of his rights; the Court also finds that there is a factual basis for the plea; that the Defendant fully understands his alternatives herein and believes his plea to be in his best interest; the Court, therefore, accepts the plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree. On Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant is found guilty of the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree.

Thereafter, on the 9th day of March, 1988, Defendant appears in person and by attorney. State appears by Prosecuting Attorney. Pre-sentence investigation report having been waived by Defendant and counsel and the Court;

3-10-88 BAF

thereafter, a sentencing hearing is held.

Thereafter, the Defendant is accorded allocution.

And the Court, having considered the report and the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the premises, now sentences the defendant to imprisonment in the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for a term of Twelve (12) months for the offense of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree and pronounces sentence in accordance therewith, said sentences to run concurrent to the sentence in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX, CR288-67FX, CR287-153MX and CR287-154MX.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by this Court that the said defendant herein, Vernon J. Hawks be committed to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for the period of twelve months for the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree concurrent to the Penitentiary sentences in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX and CR288-67FX, as alleged in the information, and the Sheriff of this county shall, without delay remove and safely convey the said defendant to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for confinement and treatment in the manner required by law, and the Andrew County Sheriff is required to receive and safely keep the defendant until the sentence of the Court herein is complied with or until the defendant shall otherwise be discharged by due course of law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the State of Missouri recover of and from the defendant its costs herein expended and have therefor execution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that judgment is entered against the defendant on behalf of the State of Missouri in the amount of Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

3-10-88 *GAZ*

Defendant is given credit for 93 days already spent in jail.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE



Date: 3-10-98

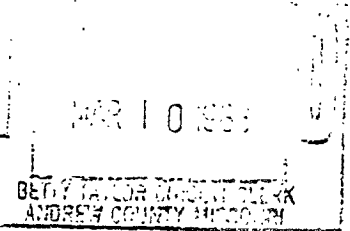
Crime Victims Compensation Fund is still due and owing.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY, MISSOURI  
DIVISION NO. 1

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
VERNON J. HAWKS, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. CR288-153MX

JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE



Upon an Information charging the Defendant with the Class B Misdemeanor of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, now on this day, the 9th day of March, 1988, comes the Defendant herein, in person, and by his attorney, George M. Ely; comes also the State of Missouri, by and through the Prosecuting Attorney of Andrew County, Ronald R. Holliday.

And thereafter viz: The Defendant being fully advised of his rights and with advice and assistance of counsel, the Defendant enters a plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, as charged in the Information, the nature of said charge and the range of punishment therefor having been fully explained to the Defendant. Defendant is examined by the Court and the Court finds that Defendant's plea of guilty is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with full understanding of his rights; the Court also finds that there is a factual basis for the plea; that the Defendant fully understands his alternatives herein and believes his plea to be in his best interest; the Court, therefore, accepts the plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree. On Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant is found guilty of the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree.

Thereafter, on the 9th day of March, 1988, Defendant appears in person and by attorney. State appears by Prosecuting Attorney. Pre-sentence investigation report having been waived by Defendant and counsel and the Court; thereafter, a sentencing hearing is held.

3-10-88 GAF

Thereafter, the Defendant is accorded allocution.

And the Court, having considered the report and the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the premises, now sentences the defendant to imprisonment in the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for a term of Six (6) months for the offense of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree and pronounces sentence in accordance therewith, said sentences to run concurrent to the sentence in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX, CR288-67FX, CR287-152MX and CR287-154MY.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by this Court that the said defendant herein, Vernon J. Hawks be committed to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for the period of six months for the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree concurrent to the Penitentiary sentences in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX and CR288-67FX, as alleged in the information, and the Sheriff of this county shall, without delay remove and safely convey the said defendant to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for confinement and treatment in the manner required by law, and the Andrew County Sheriff is required to receive and safely keep the defendant until the sentence of the Court herein is complied with or until the defendant shall otherwise be discharged by due course of law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the State of Missouri recover of and from the defendant its costs herein expended and have therefor execution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that judgment is entered against the defendant on behalf of the State of Missouri in the amount of Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

3-10-88 GAR



Defendant is given credit for 93 days already spent in jail.

W. D. Turner  
JUDGE

Date: 3-10-80

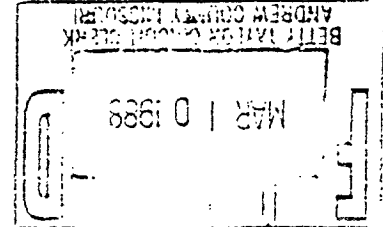
Crime Victims Compensation Fund is still due and owing.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY, MISSOURI  
DIVISION NO. 1

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
vs. )  
)  
VERNON J. HAWKS, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. CR288-154MX



JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Upon an Information charging the Defendant with the Class B Misdemeanor of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, now on this day, the 9th day of March, 1988, comes the Defendant herein, in person, and by his attorney, George M. Ely; comes also the State of Missouri, by and through the Prosecuting Attorney of Andrew County, Ronald R. Holliday.

And thereafter viz: The Defendant being fully advised of his rights and with advice and assistance of counsel, the Defendant enters a plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, as charged in the Information, the nature of said charge and the range of punishment therefor having been fully explained to the Defendant. Defendant is examined by the Court and the Court finds that Defendant's plea of guilty of freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with full understanding of his rights; the Court also finds that there is a factual basis for the plea; that the Defendant fully understands his alternatives herein and believes his plea to be in his best interest; the Court, therefore, accepts the plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree. On Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant is found guilty of the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree.

Thereafter, on the 9th day of March, 1988, Defendant appears in person and by attorney. State appears by Prosecuting Attorney. Pre-sentence investigation report having been waived by Defendant and counsel and the Court; thereafter, a sentencing hearing is held.

3-10-88 OAK

CONF014627

Thereafter, the Defendant is accorded allocution.

And the Court, having considered the report and the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the premises, now sentences the defendant to imprisonment in the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for a term of Six (6) months for the offense of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree and pronounces sentence in accordance therewith, said sentences to run concurrent to the sentence in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX, CR288-67FX, CR287-152MX and CR287-153MX.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by this Court that the said defendant herein, Vernon J. Hawks be committed to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for the period of six months for the crime of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree concurrent to the Penitentiary sentences in Andrew County case numbers CR287-161FX and CR288-67FX, as alleged in the information, and the Sheriff of this county shall, without delay remove and safely convey the said defendant to the Andrew County, Missouri, jail for confinement and treatment in the manner required by law, and the Andrew County Sheriff is required to receive and safely keep the defendant until the sentence of the Court herein is complied with or until the defendant shall otherwise be discharged by due course of law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the State of Missouri recover of and from the defendant its costs herein expended and have therefor execution.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that judgment is entered against the defendant on behalf of the State of Missouri in the amount of Thirty-six Dollars (\$36.00) for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.

3-10-88 GAR

Defendant is given credit for 93 days already spent in jail.

*Mary H. F. Zimmerman*  
\_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE

Date: 3-10-88

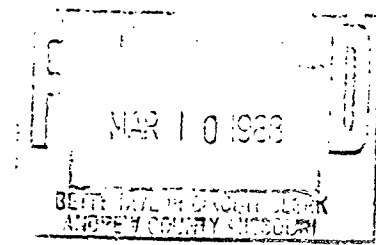


Crime Victims Compensation Fund is still due and owing.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY, MISSOURI  
DIVISION NO. 1

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
VERNON J. HAWKS, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. CR288-161FX



JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Upon an Information charging the Defendant with the Two (2) Counts of the Class D Felony of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, now on this day, the 9th day of March, 1988, comes the Defendant herein, in person, and by his attorney, George M. Ely; comes also the State of Missouri, by and through the Prosecuting Attorney of Andrew County, Missouri, Ronald R. Holliday.

And thereafter viz: The Defendant being fully advised of his rights and with advice and assistance of counsel, the Defendant enters a plea of guilty to the charges of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, as charged in the Information, the nature of said charge and the range of punishment therefor having been fully explained to the Defendant. Defendant is examined by the Court, and the Court finds that Defendant's plea of guilty is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with full understanding of his rights attending a jury trial and the effect of a plea of guilty on those rights; the Court also finds that there is a factual basis for the plea; that the Defendant fully understands his alternatives herein and believes his plea to be in his best interest; the Court, therefore, accepts the plea of guilty to the charge of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. On Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant is found guilty of the crime of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree.

Thereafter, on the 9th day of March, 1988, Defendant appears in

GRF 3-10-88

person and by attorney. State appears by Prosecuting Attorney. Pre-sentence investigation report having been waived by Defendant and counsel and the Court; thereafter a sentencing hearing is held.

Thereafter the Defendant is accorded allocution.

And the Court, having considered the report and the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the premises, now sentences Defendant to imprisonment in the Division of Adult Institutions of the Department of Corrections and Human Resources of this State for a term of Five (5) years on each count, and pronounces sentence in accordance therewith, said sentences to run concurrent to each other and consecutive to the sentence in Andrew county case number CR287-67FX.

WHEREFORE, it is by the Court ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Defendant shall be confined in the custody of the Division of Adult Institutions of the Department of Corrections and Human Resources of this State in accordance with law for a period of Five (5) years on each count to commence immediately. Defendant is remanded to the custody of the Sheriff of Andrew County to be by him delivered to the reception center of the Division of Adult Institutions and a certified copy of this judgment is to be delivered by said sheriff to the Division of Adult Institutions in accordance with law. The said Division of Adult Institutions shall receive and safely keep the said Defendant until judgment of the Court be herein complied with or when the said defendant shall be otherwise discharged in accordance with law.

It is further ordered that said Five (5) year sentence shall be served consecutively with a Three (3) year sentence Defendant is to

GAR

3-10-88

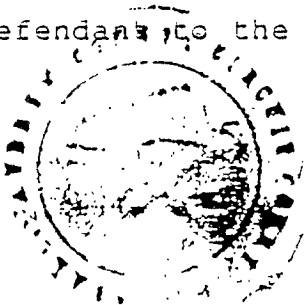
serve in Andrew County case number CR287-67FX.

It is the FURTHER ORDER OF THIS COURT that judgment against the defendant in favor of the State of Missouri be had in the amount of \$36.00 for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, said judgment is still due and owing.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant have credit for 93 days spent in jail.

It is FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the State of Missouri recover of and from the defendant its costs herein expended and have therefor execution.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that one guard be employed to deliver defendant to the custody of the Division of Adult Institutions.



Maura Turner  
JUDGE

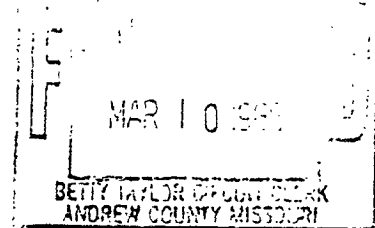
Date: 3-10-98

Crime Victims Compensation Fund still due and owing.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ANDREW COUNTY, MISSOURI  
DIVISION NO. 1

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. )  
VERNON J. HAWKS, )  
Defendant. )

Case No. CR288-67FX



JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE

Upon an Information charging the Defendant with the Class C Felony of Deviate Sexual Assault in the First Degree, now on this day, the 9th day of March, 1988, comes the Defendant herein, in person, and by his attorney, George M. Ely; comes also the State of Missouri, by and through the Prosecuting Attorney of Andrew County, Missouri, Ronald R. Holliday.

And thereafter viz: The Defendant being fully advised of his rights and with advice and assistance of counsel, the Defendant enters a plea of guilty to the charge of Deviate Sexual Assault in the First Degree, as charged in the Information, the nature of said charge and the range of punishment therefor having been fully explained to the Defendant. Defendant is examined by the Court, and the Court finds that Defendant's plea of guilty is freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with full understanding of his rights attending a jury trial and the effect of a plea of guilty on those rights; the Court also finds that there is a factual basis for the plea; that the Defendant fully understands his alternatives herein and believes his plea to be in his best interest; the Court, therefore, accepts the plea of guilty to the charge of Deviate Sexual Assault in the First Degree. On Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant is found guilty of the crime of Deviate Sexual Assault in the First Degree.

Thereafter, on the 9th day of March, 1988, Defendant appears in

004F  
3-10-88



person and by attorney. State appears by Prosecuting Attorney. Pre-sentence investigation report having been waived by Defendant and counsel and the Court; thereafter a sentencing hearing is held.

Thereafter the Defendant is accorded allocution.

And the Court, having considered the report and the arguments of counsel, and being fully advised in the premises, now sentences Defendant to imprisonment in the Division of Adult Institutions of the Department of Corrections and Human Resources of this State for a term of Three (3) years on each count, and pronounces sentence in accordance therewith, said sentences to run consecutive to the sentence in Andrew county case number CR287-161FX.

WHEREFORE, it is by the Court ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Defendant shall be confined in the custody of the Division of Adult Institutions of the Department of Corrections and Human Resources of this State in accordance with law for a period of Three (3) years on each count to commence immediately. Defendant is remanded to the custody of the Sheriff of Andrew County to be by him delivered to the reception center of the Division of Adult Institutions and a certified copy of this judgment is to be delivered by said sheriff to the Division of Adult Institutions in accordance with law. The said Division of Adult Institutions shall receive and safely keep the said Defendant until judgment of the Court be herein complied with or when the said defendant shall be otherwise discharged in accordance with law.

It is further ordered that said Three (3) year sentence shall be served consecutively with a Five (5) year sentence Defendant is to serve in Andrew County case number CR287-161FX.

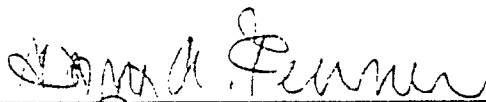
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3-10-88

It is the FURTHER ORDER OF THIS COURT that judgment against the defendant in favor of the State of Missouri be had in the amount of \$36.00 for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, said judgment is still due and owing.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant have credit for 93 days spent in jail.

It is FURTHER ORDERED by the Court that the State of Missouri recover of and from the defendant its costs herein expended and have therefor execution.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that one guard be employed to deliver defendant to the custody of the Division of Adult Institutions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE



Date: 3 - 10 - 88

Crime Victims Compensation Fund is still due and owing.

April 19, 1988

Mr. David Isreal  
District Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Vernon J. Hawks

Dear David:

I am following up on our previous communication concerning the above named individual. Your letter of January 8 indicated that the trial would take place March 7, 8, and 9. Has this occurred or has it been postponed to a later date?

I would like the outcome of any legal action and the sentencing which may have been imposed.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

mdw

cc: North Central Region  
John C. Young, Scout Executive, Pony Express Council, No. 311

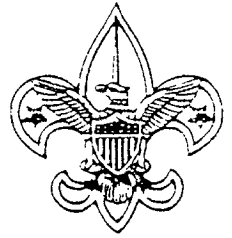
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APR 20 1988  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF014636



# PONY EXPRESS COUNCIL

Boy Scouts of America



January 8, 1988

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director, Registration Service  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038-3096

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Vernon J. Hawks

Dear Paul:

The letter to John Young requesting information on the Vernon Hawks case was forwarded to me. I was Camp Director at the time of the alleged incidences.

Mr. Hawks was arraigned December 21st, 1987, on 2 counts of sexual abuse in the 1st degree (felony in Missouri) and 3 counts of sexual abuse in the 2nd degree (misdemeanor in Missouri).

The trial date is set for March 7th, 8th and 9th, at which time I will send you the verdict. If he is found guilty I will send you a copy on the sentence when it is handed down.

Sincerely,

David Israel  
District Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

cc: North Central Region

ds

December 22, 1987

Mr. John C. Young  
Scout Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Vernon Hawks

Dear John:

We received information earlier this year concerning the above named individual. At that time, it was indicated that the trial and legal action would start sometime in September. We would like to know if this has been completed and what was the outcome.

We need any conviction or sentencing which may have taken place. This will help us to close the file and have a complete case for future refusal of registration attempts.

Thanks for your help in protecting the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

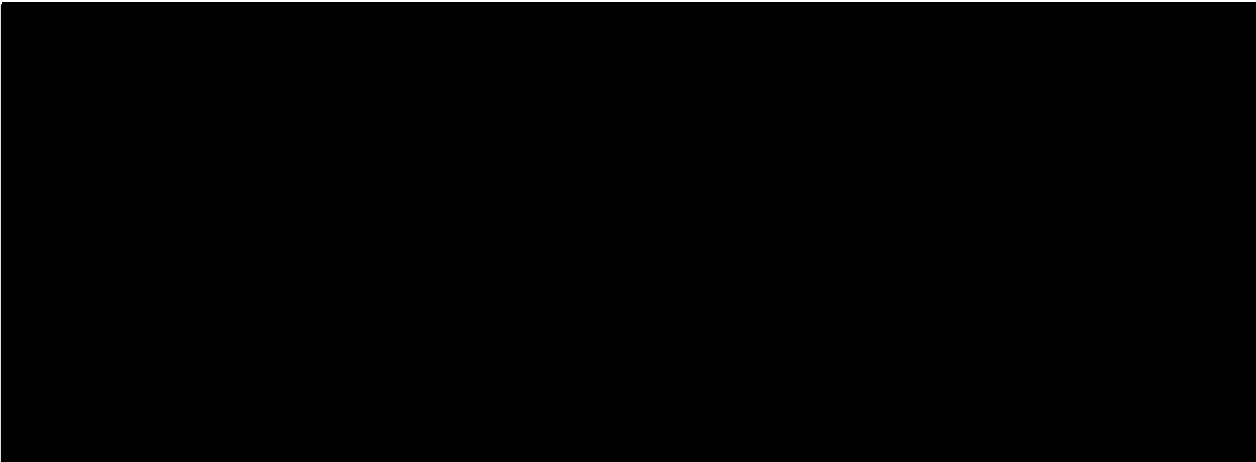
mdw

cc: North Central Region

READY TO FILE  
DEC 23 1987  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF014638

August 25, 1987



and

Ben J. Loya  
Chief Scout Executive

nr

4062c

August 6, 1987

Mr. John C. Young  
Scout Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Vernon Hawks

Dear John:

Thank you for the Confidential Record Sheet and the articles you have sent us from the newspaper concerning the above-named individual. These are most helpful to us and will certainly give us substantiation for refusing registration attempts in the future.

Please keep us informed as this case progresses. We will want to know the final outcome and any sentencing which may take place.

Thank you for your help in protecting the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration Service

eak

cc: North Central Region

READY TO FILE  
AUG 06 1987  
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF014640

August 8, 1987

Mr. Ben Love  
Scout Executive  
National Boy Scout Council  
1324 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75038

Re: HAWKS, Vernon James  
Boy Scout of America  
Andrew County Jail  
Savannah, Mo. 64485  
Home Address: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Love:

Cameron, Mo. 64429

I would like to call attention to a grave, unjust, and terribly unpleasant situation involving the above mentioned Boy Scout of America.

It is alleged that this young man is involved in sexual harrasment crime, while employed as a counselor at Camp Geiger in St. Joseph, Mo. Vernon James (V.J. to his family) denies this completely. He states that a boy had put a balloon in his trousers and was making jestures and bragging. V.J. told him to remove it or he would be in trouble.. When he did not, V.J. reached for it and removed it himself. The boy then went to the Camp Director and told him he had been molested by V.J. During the dinner hour the Camp Director went to the dinning hall where V. J. was eating and said "you are finished", thinking he meant eathing, V.J. replied "no I'm not". V.J. was then told to come to his office, where he was told that he was fired. The Director at this time said "I never want to see you again, and I'm going to see to it that your scouting record is burned". My sister was called and went to Camp Geiger to pick him up, not understanding the full accusation. Within a few days V.J. was arrested and put under a \$60,000 bail. At this point it was noted that two other boys had later accused V.J. of handling their private parts. V.J. says the other incident involved shooting of rubber bands, when he reached in a boys lap to retrieve the rubber bands.

We as a family have a strong feeling that V. J. has been framed or definately believe this situation has been totally blown out of the correct portions. It is very possible that this scout is being confined in jail as a result of some very over-active imaginations of some fellow Boy Scouts and adults. It is evident that it has not been properly handled by the Director.

The most appauling situation is the attitude of the Director of Camp Geiger and the way he has handled the whole situation. He seems to have placed himself in the position of Judge and Juror. Why did he release such a scandalise account to the media. He not only damaged V.J., but brought needless negative attention to scouting in general. We would like to know if he actually has the rights to "burn" V.J.'s records. Acutally V.J. has other scout leaders that might have some very valuable input in his case. This young man has not yet had the privilege of a fair trial. Even if he were guilty as alledged, it seems he is being treated excessively. And is it a scouting attitude to totally give up on a youngster? We have worked with scouts for years and this certainly the very opposite of what I have invisioned as the goal of the Boy Scouts of America. I know scouting has had many changes, but I pray time has not brought it down to this. It simply seems that the Camp Director has already decided and acted on his decision that Vernon James is guilty.

CONF014641



Other questions that need to be addressed are: Was V.J. given adequate training in handling disciplinary approaches? With Child Abuse being such a center focus now days, employees really need to be prepared for their responsibilities. We very seriously question the total lack of legal support from your Mo. Council to this scout employee. Are scout employees not bondable, nor protected by their employer? V. J. was even told by the Public Defender that he would not take the case because V.J. was considered to be an indigent. This simply blows my mind, I really thought that is what a Public Defender's role is.

V. J. is not blessed with great wealth. His family has made the decision to go into total financial bankruptcy to fight for him, because they believe him to be innocent. He is however blessed with an immediate family that loves him very much. They have worked very hard and taught him honorably, and this nightmare just is not believeable. He is also blessed with a large relative family that will unite and fight to see that he gets a fair trial. We are not ignorant of laws, legal responsibilities and cannot believe this deplorable situation. We all do subscribe to the great American theory that "A person is innocent, until proven guilty, by the legal system."

V. J. worked last year as a scout counselor and there does not seem to be any indication of any difficulty with his character. He was rehired this year with a higher rank and a raise in pay, which indicates that someone must have had some confidence in his ability. He has always been a loving and thoughtful youngster and has certainly been raised with high standards. In view of his past record, why was he not released on his own recognizance?

There is some indication of a person in Cameron standing in the way of V. J. getting his Eagle Scout rank and when V. J. challenged why he was being denied, this person threatened to "get even". Now the family has the fear that this situation is directly connected to that threat. We have a real concern for a fair trial in Mo.

We urge you to look into the entire situation, hoping that your great interest in every Boy Scout will require you to be totally fair. Please answer each and every question that has been posed to you and try not to let any political or prejudice creep into your findings. Please check to see if there is not the possibility that this is the results of over reaction and great prejudice. We would greatly appreciate your response to your findings in this case and we pray that you will remember that this is a very special human being, a Boy Scout, and that there might exist a very wrongful decision in his guilt.

Scouting in America is a very important heritage and it would be heart-breaking to think it has dropped to the position of not caring for all boys. Even if V. J. is found guilty, he will not be the only person that should have stood trial, it seems evident that another is guilty of very poor leadership.

Thank you for your time and attention to this case. We pray for a quick and fair reaction and response from you.

Sincerely,

  
Betty J. Brown

CO  
311

# Counselor accused of sex abuse

By Fred Mares  
Of the Mid-America Staff

A rural Cameron, Mo., archery counselor has been charged with sexually abusing three Boy Scouts attending Camp Geiger, about five miles northwest of St. Joseph.

Andrew County Prosecutor Ron Holliday on Monday charged Vernon Hawks, 18, with two counts of third-degree sexual assault on two 14-year-old northwest Missouri boys and one count of second-degree sexual assault on a 12-year-old northeast Kansas boy, Andrew County Sheriff Loren Kier said.

Hawks spent the night at the Andrew County Jail and was released on Tuesday after posting a \$25,000 bond, Kier said.

The incident, which allegedly took place on July 8, marks the second time in four years that the camp has been rocked by charges of sexual abuse.

In November 1983, James Ogan, a former Chillicothe assistant police chief and Scoutmaster, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree sexual abuse and three counts of second-degree attempted sexual abuse of five Scouts inside tents at the camp.

Kier said his office was notified on July 9 by Missouri Division of Family Services officials in St.

Joseph that they had received a hot line report of alleged sexual abuse at the camp the day before.

Kier said the investigation led to Hawks, who Kier said was a camp archery instructor. Hawks was called into the office of camp director David Israel, where he denied the charges, Kier said.

Israel could not be reached for comment late Wednesday.

Camp Geiger each year attracts about 1,200 Boy Scouts and an additional 1,200 to 1,300 Cub Scouts, according to John C. Young, Scout executive for the Pony Express Council of Boy Scouts of America, which has its headquarters in St. Joseph. At the time of the alleged incidents there were 270 Boy Scouts and about 50 adults at the camp.

This latest incident marks the first time in the 60-year history of the camp that an employee hired by Scout officials has been charged with sexual abuse of Scouts, Young said.

The council serves 15 northwest Missouri counties and three northeast Kansas counties.

Young said Hawks was hired as a summer archery counselor and, like most of the adult leaders, had come up through the Scouting ranks.

Kier said, "He worked very closely with the kids as the archery instructor, and most of the kids said only good things about the archery class."

Young said Hawks had been fired from his job.

He said the camp planned to continue a normal schedule this week and next week. He did not know of any Scouts who had left the camp because of the incident, he said.

When reached at Hawks' rural Cameron home, a woman who answered the telephone said: "We don't have anything to say. He's innocent." When asked whether she was Hawk's mother she replied: "Proud to be his mother," but declined further comment.

Kier, who said he was an investigator for Andrew County Prosecutor Ron Holliday during the 1983 incident, said the charges had hurt all the boys and the reputation of the camp.

"We hate to ever think about something like this happening around the Boy Scouts," Kier said.

Young said that he did not foresee any changes in policy but that the charges "tend to make you a little more careful who you hire."

# Camp Geiger counselor charged with molesting Scouts

Compiled from staff and wire reports

A teen-age archery counselor from Cameron, Mo., has been charged with sexually abusing three Boy Scouts attending Camp Geiger about five miles northwest of St. Joseph.

Andrew County Prosecutor Ron Holliday charged Vernon Hawks, 18, of rural Cameron, with two counts of third-degree sexual assault of two 14-year-old Missouri boys and one count of second-degree sexual assault of a 12-year-old Kansas boy, Sheriff Loren Kier said.

Hawks spent Monday night at the Andrew County Jail in Sayannah, Mo., and was released Tuesday after posting a \$25,000 bond, Kier said.

The incident, which allegedly took place July 8, marks the second time in four years that the camp has been rocked by charges of sexual abuse.

In November 1983, James Ogan, a former Chillicothe assistant police chief and Scoutmaster, pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree sexual abuse and three counts of second-

degree attempted sexual abuse of five Scouts. "It came as a complete surprise to us," said Pony Express Council executive John G. Young, in a telephone interview with The Gazette Wednesday night.

"Most young men who make it to the camp-staff level have been involved in our program since age 8 or so. This particular individual (Hawks) had been a long-time Scout, and had served as archery instructor since camp opened June 15. We thought we knew him," Young said.

"We assume what (informant) we have from the kids is factual. The individual never exhibited an inclination toward such behavior," he said.

The Scout executive said the alleged incidents occurred last Wednesday, July 8. "As soon as statements were given, and I had the information, the Division of Family Service hot-line was called. Then the sheriff's department got involved in the investigation."

Young said "the individual was dismissed from the staff immediately."

diately after statements were given. . . there was suspected activity so we dismissed him from the camp." He said the investigation led authorities to believe this was the first incident at the camp in which Hawks allegedly was involved.

"Looking back on the situation a week later, I guess I could say I am happy the kids came forward and that the suspected activity was caught so quickly.

"I wasn't around four years ago. Please see Counselor/P page 3A

## Counselor

when the other incident occurred, but from what I understand in that case the youngsters were a lot more hesitant to report it to adults.

"One main reason for the contrast, I think, lies in the education process. In the elementary schools, teachers are now getting the message through to the kids that if they suspect something like what allegedly happened they should let someone know immediately. That's what happened in this case," he said.

Young stressed that the Boy Scouts have a very stringent screening process to try to pro-

tect youngsters from such alleged incidents. "As I mentioned previously, this particular individual never had exhibited such behavior."

Camp Geiger each year attracts about 1,200 Boy Scouts and an additional 1,200 to 1,300 Cub Scouts, according to Young.

Hawks' arrest marks the first time in the 60-year history of the camp that an employee hired by Scout officials has been charged with sexual abuse of Scouts, Young said. Ogan, who was charged in 1983, was a volunteer Scoutmaster and was not a paid employee of the Boy Scouts.

The council serves 15 Northwest Missouri counties and three northeast Kansas counties.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1987, ST. JOSEPH, MO., GAZETTE

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## On the record

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### Scout molestation case hearing set for Sept. 9

SAVANNAH, Mo. — An early September preliminary hearing has been set here for a teen-age archery counselor from Cameron, Mo., charged with sexually abusing three Boy Scouts.

The hearing is scheduled for Sept. 9, according to court officials Friday.

Vernon Hawks, 18, of rural Cameron, has been charged by Prosecuting Attorney Ron Holliday with two counts of third-degree sexual assault of two 14-year-old Missouri boys. He also

has been charged with one count of second-degree assault of a 12-year-old Kansas boy.

Hawks is free on a \$25,000 bond, according to Andrew County Sheriff Loren Kier.

The incidents allegedly took place on July 8, at Camp Geiger, about five miles northwest of St. Joseph in Andrew County.

John C. Young, Pony Express Council executive, said Hawks was dismissed from the staff immediately after the charges were made.

# More charges filed in sexual abuse case

7-22-87  
NP Gazette

SAVANNAH, Mo. — Additional sexual abuse charges have been filed against a Cameron, Mo., teen-ager who worked as a Boy Scout summer camp counselor at Camp Geiger.

And, the investigation is continuing, according to Andrew County Prosecuting Attorney Ron Holliday.

The prosecutor reported Tuesday afternoon that Vernon Hawks, 18, of rural Cameron had been rearrested by the Andrew County Sheriff's Department.

The prosecutor said he had filed a two-count felony complaint charging Hawks with first-degree sexual assault. The alleged assault involves a Missouri boy under the age of 12.

Hawks had bond on the new charge set at \$20,000, and remains in the county jail here, Holliday said. He has not yet been arraigned on the new charge.

Earlier this month, the former archery counselor had been charged by Holliday with two counts of third-degree sexual assault of two 14-year-old Missouri boys. The prosecutor also had charged Hawks with one count of second-degree assault of a 12-year-old Kansas boy.

Hawks was free on the initial charges after posting a \$25,000 bond.

Holliday said the case continues to be investigated.

"We are still checking on new information being received, mostly from parents of Scout members. If anyone, parent or Scouter, thinks they might have any additional information which could be related to our investigation, I urge them to contact me, my office staff, or Sheriff Loren Kier as soon as possible," the prosecutor said.

The initial charges were filed as a result of incidents which allegedly took place on July 8 at Camp Geiger, about five miles northwest of St. Joseph.

July 16, 1987

Mr. Joan C. Young  
Scout Executive  
Pony Express Council, No. 311

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Vernon J. Hawks

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of July 10 concerning the above-named individual. This is most helpful to us and will enable us to start a file for refusal of future registration attempts should they come to our office.

If this individual should try to register as a youth member, we would not catch his registration since we only check adults against their confidential file. You, therefore, would have to be most careful in your office that he did not get registered as an Explorer in a post.

At the present time, we have him registered in Post 32087, Troop S0087, and Troop S0069. All of these registrations have been deleted. Some of these may have been in a lapsed state at this point in time.

We are enclosing a Confidential Record Sheet so that we may receive personal information concerning Mr. Hawks so he can be identified should he try to register in some other location. Please complete this form as carefully as possible so that we have all the information necessary.

We would also like to know the outcome of any legal action which takes place. This will be most important if we are to have a file strong enough for refusal of registration attempts.

Let me know if we may be of any help to you as this case progresses. -

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director  
Registration & Subscription Service

eak

Encl.

cc: North Central Region

RECEIVED  
JUL 20 1987  
REGISTRATION SERVICE

CONF014647



# PONY EXPRESS COUNCIL

Boy Scouts of America

July 10, 1987



CO  
311

Paul Ernst  
Director of Registration  
Subscription and Statistical Service  
National Council B.S.A.  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, TX 75038-3096

Dear Paul:

We have had an allegation of sexual assault from three young men at camp against a camp staff member who until this spring was registered as a Scout in Troop 69 in Osborn, Missouri.

The individual who is being investigated now by the Andrew County Sheriff's Department and the Division of Family Services, is Vernon J. Hawks. While involved as a camp staff archery range director at Camp Geiger, Mr. Hawks allegedly fondled three 14 year old campers. Taped statements from those campers have been taken, their parents have been visited with, Division of Family Services Hotline has been called, and the Sheriff's Department is investigating. A preliminary search of our records here indicates that the troop in Osborn failed to register Mr. Hawks at their time of recharter. He has just turned 18 within the last 6 months and would need to be registered as an adult. I am writing you about this because we are sending a letter to Mr. Hawks asking him to suspend all activities with Scouting and would suggest as the charges progress and the file builds, that we give serious consideration to withholding any further registration ever. Mr. Hawks has proved to be both a liar and a cheat in the past and had been refused his Eagle award by a District Board of Review owing to his conduct.

Paul, I will keep you informed as things develop, but following item no. 1 in the procedures for maintaining standards of leadership, I thought I had better contact you immediately.

Thank you so much for your attention in this matter.

Yours truly,

John C. Young  
Scout Executive  
Pony Express Council  
Boy Scouts of America

CO Unit IS =  
311 - E 2087 # 010872  
50087 # 010755  
50069 # 010755

12/68 - 13/4

*Added to CF file. Nicked out of registration file.*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

JUL 15 1987

F. STARON

JCY:pb