

SCOUT CORNER

By E. L. KEARNEY
HOW YOU CAN HELP



E. L. KEARNEY

The Occaneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America has a budget this year of \$430,000. Roughly 80% of this will come from the United Fund of Durham and Raleigh.

The Council is composed of 9 Districts covering 12 counties. Each district has been asked to raise its fair share of this amount.

Beginning this week we are launching our family membership campaign, which gives everyone a chance to participate.

The question or the first question usually raised is what does the money go for? The Occaneechee Council operates camps, mountains staff the year round for Scouts and Explorers, covers through its budget such costs as repairs, replacement, maintenance and insurance not paid by Scout fees.

The Council also employs Camp Rangers for the protection of camp and convenience of units using camp facilities throughout the year, provides troop leaders manual, camp slides, folders and other aids.

In addition the council provides a service center

with Clerical Staff to keep leaders informed of state, local and national events and program ideas. To assist leaders, the Council employs a trained, full time staff of professional men who counsel and train volunteers and maintain liaison with groups sponsoring Scouting. The local council held responsible for the Boy Scouts of America for the administration of Scouting in its entire territory; for adherence to basic policy.

A number of our readers are already registered in Scouting as cubmaster, assistant cubmaster, den mother, asst. den mother, Scoutmaster, asst. Scoutmaster, Explorer advisor, associate advisor, committee members and members of the commissioner staff or district committee members. These people have not only given their time and talents to this community effort but are also paying as sustaining members to the financial efforts. Some of these people will be calling on you in a few days. Your supporting will bring more Scouting to more boys. Can boys count on you?

self so much, Miss Madie, you might have a heart attack."

Miss Madie shrugged at the intended balm and pointed a palsied index finger at the woman wedged between the doors. Her rasping voice chopped her words; "You had better make peace with God Almighty and leave off trying to be something you ain't. I work with Ben Pratt every day 'n I know, first hand, that you can't afford to play footsie with the grand folks."

The door behind Emma Lou opened and she disappeared suddenly.

Miss Madie stood nuffin 'n puffin 'n generally put out by the unforeseen chain of events that had come like a snake in the grass to ruin her entire day. What was a poor soul like herself to do? She could not possibly withstand another attack of anger. At the moment her legs were as seak as dish rasgs.

Writers Forum

By GEORGE B. RUSS

One cannot refrain from marveling at the enthusiasm; the stick-togetherness; the splendid performances of the Tiny Tots Choir — at Union Baptist Church. And, if one's curiosity prompts one to inquire of Mrs. Viola Thompson as to what makes her group click, she will turn on a sunny smile and answer with a show of extreme modesty: "I don't know — I am just fortunate to have a wonderful church group."

The reply is truthful, but inadequate. A great deal of other supporting reasons are left to the imagination. First

of all, Mrs. Thompson has the interest, talent and assistance of several lovely ladies: Mmes Margaret Reaves and Ethel Gratton; Misses Beverly and Jean Kee, and Ava D. Best. Secondly, the Tiny-Tots are over r protected by admiring parents. Lastly, Mrs. V. B. T. never breaks a promise she makes to her "Chirpers." However, one promise, a carry over from last summer's Anniversary Celebration, nearly back fired. At the mention of party in recent months, Mrs. Thompson observed derogatory smirks on the faces of her

singing angels. So, after a bit of soul-searching and much brain storming, the context of her dilemma unfolded before her eyes: she had not kept her promise to give the "tiny-tots" a dinner party. Alas! she had discovered the reason for the crooked smiles she had been the recipient of. Before jumping to a negative conclusion, Mrs. Thompson doesn't think that promises are like pie crusts—made to be broken; she takes her promise-making seriously. Therefore, she quickly called a "business of importance" meeting to set up plans for a dinner party for the Tiny-Tots, parents and friends—a Christmas—Valentine — Thank You Party.

Sunday, February 18th was a biting cold day and the church's furnace was on the blink or the limp; nevertheless, the party idea perked up the atmosphere. Immediately after the 11 o'clock worship service, the Tiny-Tots Choir parents, friends

and representatives from other Young People's choirs trooped into Fellowship Hall and sat down to a delicious menu of fried chicken, baked ham, green peas, potato salad, Harvard beets, hot rolls, coffee, pink lemonade, cake 'n pie.

One of the highlights of this festive, surprise "Bread-Basket" affair was giving recognition to persons with birthdays falling February 18. Mrs. Thompson was one of the recipients of gifts and special greetings. Grover Wilson, Jr., the poular church organist, was lauded, however, Monday 19th was his birthday date.

Another notable aspect of the Tiny-Tots party was the spirit of family togetherness: three generations of Kees; the Junior choir, the Junior Male Chorus; Mrs. Jake Sewell, Rev. Hamilton, Miss Roslyn Johnson, Mrs. Margaret Weathers, Gas Thompson,

Miss Annie M. Dungan (Toast Mistress), Mrs. Gertrude Stubbs and boys, George B. and Stattie H. Russ, Mrs. Naomi Price and the Almer Mason family.

After the party was over, Mrs. Thompson hugging a huge gift box, stood watching the children waving good byes, someone asked her how did she manage to do so many things so well. For a few seconds, she gave the impression that she hadn't heard; then, she began speaking slowly, softly, dramatically:

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the you have.
And the best will come back to you.
Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost
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Life Begins At 62½

By George B. Russ

Miss Madie framed the doorway of her obsolete abode clutching the scaly-bark music stand. There was no earthly reason, that is, one she could put her finger on, why she should not be in a happy mood therefore, she greeted her sister-in-law with genuine sparkle in her voice; "Well! How-do-you-do Misses Perkins. As the spider said to the fly, 'Come in to my house.'" Suddenly, the broad grin stretching her wide mouth from ear to ear froze in the middle of her face. Emma Lou's luminous brown eyes had narrowed to glossy slits and her lips oozed with sarcasm; "Please! Miss Madie, stop glating. It is too early in the day for one to be so jolly. I came out her to tell you that your friend, that Mrs. What-you-caller-woman from your church is on the phone."

Miss Madie snapped out of her stupor, still a bit unstrung from the impact of her sister-in-law's brusquerie manner; "I'll sashay right over and remove the good sister off your phone, honey."

"Please, do just that. And while we are talking about what's her name — why are you so friendly with a person like her?"

Miss Madie did with the iron music stand just what she wanted to do with Emma Lou, she threw the contraption across the room and listened to it crush against the wall. Then she returned her attention to Curt's wife; and said through clenched teeth; "Miss Mattie Beamon is a friend of mine. I need her the way a thirsty person needs a cool drink of water." Miss Madie disliked dressing down anyone, especially, folk who were suppose to be too intelligent to ask "fool questions."

"I meant no offense, Miss Madie. However, I do feel that you should begin shopping around for new friends. Your present social set will be uncomfortable here in your new home."

Miss Madie gasped from the outrage of the fat lady's pronouncement, but she held her fury in abeyance. She wanted to "scream 'n stomp" her feet, but she just stood still like a full moon on a cold night. Her lips parted and she started her own ears with a vague retort; "Hold it sweet potato, I'll have to dig you much latah."

Mrs. Perkins ignored the slurred words of the older woman and continued her investigation; she asked, "Why don't you join First Baptist Church?"

Miss Madie clicked her plates together while resetting them; "I have no bone to pick with the members of First Baptist; they come before me like a good vine runnid and stinking. I go to church where I can praise God and be thankful

that my soul is happy at ease, I don't recollect reading in my Bible where it is written that fish-guts airs 'n glad rasgs ever got-ah-soul saved."

Emma Lou knew when she had a bear by the tail, therefore she quickly sought a way out of her predicament. Humble pie wasn't her favorite dessert and she was at a lost as to how she was going to explain her wa y out of this pampero wind. She made an effort to dismiss the "sordid business" the quickest possible way. So, she said, "Forget I mentioned moving your membership. If you want to be with a lot of little people tha t's your cross to bear." Then she clasped her pudgy hands together in a gesture of triumphant, turned and waddled away from a pardocical hang-up.

"Hold it! Lady-bug. Just what do you mean by little people?"

"I mean people who have nothing to offer besides hard luck stories and add their miseries to yours." Mrs. Perkins' answer was piped over her meaty shoulders as she tip-toed across the grassy, dew drenched lawn.

Miss Madie slammed the door of the cabin then took off behind the proud, foolishly dyed in the wool, newly arrived person of affluence.

"You can run, Mrs. Perkins, but I'll catch up with you before you lose all of your sense of direction." Miss Madie called out to her assailant.

Mrs. Emma Lou Perkins, was reaching for the knob of the storm door; nevertheless, she waited for her harpy sister-in-law to catch up and have her say before they entered the house. Curtis made jokes about his added brain sister, but he loved her. She had no wish for him to accuse her of being unduly concerned over her sister's welfare.

Miss Madie dropped her skirts as she faced Emma Lou; her breathing was unstable and her words were jerky; "Miss Mattie is nothing to write home about when it comes to looks 'n sense, but she is a precious soul who asks very little of anybody — in your case — she isn't asking for anything. She knows you need all you can rake 'n scrape to be a bell-ringer in South Hill 'n First Baptist Church."

Emma Lou eased her bulk between the doors, using the storm door as a shield. In a quivering voice, she tried to abate the other woman's wrath; "You shouldn't agitate your-

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