

Points of the Compass

Boy Scouts are interested in points of the compass. They seek to know where they are and whither they are tending. In Iowa, four of the Boy Scout Councils have been named to indicate points of the compass, direction, or location within the state.

Southeast Iowa Council

Historic Old Zion Church was one of the first capitols of Iowa. Many years later the First Methodist Church of Burlington — the successor of Old Zion — sponsored one of the first Boy Scout troops in Southeastern Iowa, with Jesse Johnson as Scoutmaster and Frank Beard attaining the rank of First Class Scout in 1912.

The original charter legalizing the "Burlington Council" was issued on June 15, 1916. The Council now embraces four Iowa counties — Henry, Louisa, Des Moines, and Lee — also part of two counties in Illinois, and is known as the Southeast Iowa Council. One of the earliest Boy Scout Camps organized in this area was held near Oquawka, Illinois, in 1918. The following year, camp was held at Gulfport in East Burlington. Other early camps were "Nawakwa" and "Snake Den," both near Augusta on the Skunk River. In

1926 members of the Rotary Club of Burlington located a permanent camp site for the Scouts near Nauvoo, Illinois. Subsequently, with funds supplied by Mrs. E. P. Eastman, a substantial and modern stone lodge — "Eastman Lodge" — was erected. Camp Eastman, now fully equipped and beautified, serves very adequately the camping needs of the Southeast Iowa Council.

Meanwhile, Scouting in this area has carried forward its character-building program with steady advancement. In 1920 an enthusiastic Boy Scout and later a noted historian, Philip D. Jordan, represented the Southeast Iowa Council at the International Jamboree in London. Young Jordan "cut his teeth" as a writer when he prepared a review of Scout activities which appeared in a series of letters published in the Burlington *Hawk-Eye*.

It was also in 1920 that the first Eagle Scout badge issued by this Council was presented to Russell Swearington of Burlington Troop No. 17. By 1930 some forty Eagle Scout badges had been awarded, and by 1940 the number was increased to more than one hundred.

Membership as well as camping interests and merit badges has increased steadily in recent years. In 1948 there was an enrollment of a little more than fifteen hundred. By 1950, this number had increased to 2,189, with more than 100 Cub, Scout, and Explorer units operating within the

Council. In 1950 twenty-six Scouts and their leaders attended the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to associate with 47,000 other Scouts in a great brotherhood movement.

Among the Scout Executives who have served in this area are Ray L. Short, Harry Winn, Kenneth G. Bentz, Ralph D. Childs, Roy A. Coonfield, George D. Hedrick, Robert Glen, Jack E. Brittain, B. L. Hall, Lloyd S. Eberhart, and Edwin C. Mammon. More than a dozen men have served as president of the Council. Those of recent years include Sterling Lord and T. L. Dyer, of Burlington, C. G. Dresser and E. H. Fries, both of Keokuk. More than thirty volunteer workers have been awarded the Silver Beaver.

There are now almost 2,300 Scouts registered in the Southeast Iowa Council, and more than 240 Eagle Scout badges have been awarded. Throughout the Council area Scouting presents an attractive and valuable character-building program.

Northeast Iowa Council

Scouting in Northeast Iowa presents a story of early beginnings and many years of almost continuous growth and development. Soon after the Boy Scouts of America was organized two local Scout troops were formed in Dubuque, and the boys were registered with the New York office. After a time these two troops were discontinued, but "coals of enthusiasm still glowed." In 1916 a group of Dubuque businessmen revived interest

and met to organize Scouting upon a permanent basis. They elected N. C. Gindorff president of the Council and named Walter H. Gunn, Scout Executive. Under the guidance of these men five local Scout troops were soon organized.

By 1922, with E. B. Moore as Scout Executive, Scouting was recognized as a highly-desirable community asset. On the first day of that year the Dubuque *Telegraph-Herald* devoted more than a full page to a review of Boy Scout activities of the previous year. There were at that time nine active, aggressive Scout troops operating in Dubuque. Among the many Scout activities was the maintenance of the Dubuque 24-piece Boy Scout band, under the leadership of W. J. Keller. A Scout camp was also maintained, and winter week-end camping and hiking expeditions were becoming popular among the Scouts.

Meanwhile interest in Scouting was developing at Elkader, McGregor, Manchester, Waukon, and other communities of northeast Iowa. This at length culminated in the organization of the Northeast Iowa Council, with the Scout headquarters office at Dubuque. This Council now serves four counties in Iowa — Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, and Dubuque. It also serves the town of East Dubuque, Illinois.

Between the years 1924 and 1935 R. V. Evans, Harold Baker, and Orrin W. Babcock served as Scout Executives. Meanwhile growth and inter-

est in Scout activities may be shown by the continuing increase in membership. In 1928 there were 202 Scouts under the jurisdiction of the Council. In 1937 there were 473 Scouts and 32 Cubs. Five years later, in 1942, Scout Executive Glen G. Fordyce reported 987 Scouts and 163 Cubs. Mr. Fordyce continued to serve as Scout Executive until 1949.

For many years there had been a faithful searching for an adequate and desirable camp site. At length, in 1950 — presto “Acres of Diamonds” — the desired treasure was found to be close at hand. In the main channel of the Mississippi River near Guttenberg is a large island, seven miles long, containing more than 13,000 acres — a virgin wilderness, a “treasure island” indeed. A large area of this island has been set aside as a United States Fish and Wild Life Reservation. Here the Northeast Iowa Boy Scout Council has obtained a long-term lease to 100 acres of virgin soil and has established “Adventure Island Boy Scout Camp.” Accessible by boat, ten minutes from Guttenberg, the camp may also be reached on foot by walking across the dam from the Iowa side or across the causeway from the Wisconsin shore. Thus Adventure Island may well become one of the most unique and attractive Boy Scout camps in America.

Meanwhile, Scouting in Northeast Iowa continues to grow. In 1950 under the leadership of

Scout Executive Robert E. Dorr, Scout registration advanced more than 35 per cent for a total enrollment of 1,330. In 1952 membership reached a total of 1,850. The finance budget for the year 1953 calls for an expenditure of \$25,827 in the interest of the Scouting program. This fund is raised through the Community Chest and "Friends of Scouting," who know that money invested in the Boy Scout program pays a high dividend.

Southern Iowa Area Council

Prior to the date of Council organization in Southern Iowa two Boy Scout troops were operating in Ottumwa, and receiving direct service from the New York office. One of these troops held its meetings at the Willard Street Methodist Church, and the other at the Methodist Church on Main Street — now known as the Wesley Methodist Church.

On October 17, 1919, a Council organization meeting was held, and the Ottumwa Council was organized. From that time forth Scouting was recognized in Ottumwa as a forthright, aggressive community enterprise. On the first charter of the Ottumwa Council appear the names of J. P. Cummings, president; H. H. Harris, W. H. McElroy, and E. H. Emery, vice-presidents; and L. A. Andrews, treasurer. Charles Hallberg was the first Scout Commissioner. The first Scout Executive employed by the Council was Albert B. Burgess.

In October, 1921, a group of five boys became Eagle Scouts. In 1926, under the leadership of Carl T. Haw, president of the Council, and Rex Gary, Scout Executive, four local Scouts were invested with Eagle Scout badges by the founder of the Boy Scout movement, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, at a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. By 1928 the Ottumwa Council had awarded 45 Eagle badges, and the names of the boys who had become Eagles were displayed on a large buckskin scroll in the Scout Executive's office.

During the years 1927-1929 Walter H. McElroy served as president of the Ottumwa Council. Mr. McElroy was one of the organizers of the Scout movement in Ottumwa in February, 1919, and he has continued to serve in the Scouting program until the present — a period of 34 years. He was one of the first two persons in Iowa to be presented with the Silver Beaver Award. In later years he was one of the leaders in the development of Boy Scout camp Wapello located at Lake Wapello.

In 1929 the Council was enlarged to include adjacent counties, and summer camp was attended by Scout troops from Ottumwa, Fairfield, Centerville, Cincinnati, Hedrick, Moulton, and Albia, and the name Southern Iowa Council was adopted. At the annual meeting in December, George M. Foster was named president of the Council.

In 1931 Russell Buss of Centerville was president of the Council, and interest centered in Sea Scouting. In 1932 a Ship of Sea Scouts previously organized by Stanley A. Haw, its Skipper, was awarded first place among the Sea Scouts of the six states composing the Eighth Region, and third place in the national contest for all Scout Ships in the United States. Also in 1932 an 88-acre woodland tract of land was acquired for a permanent camp site near Lake Wapello. This has come to be one of the leading Boy Scout camps of Iowa.

From 1933 to 1935 T. J. Madden served as president of the Council. During these depression years, substantial advancements were made. In 1935 C. H. Mikesch, another able and continuous worker in the Scout movement, served as president of the Council.

Among those who have served as president of the Council in more recent years are M. G. Hall of Centerville; A. M. Kough, Frank Raney, A. R. Carlson, Clyde C. Coupland, all of Ottumwa; L. E. Corlett of Oskaloosa; and Jo. S. Stong of Keosauqua. Other Scout Executives who have served the Council are E. H. Binger, Jean R. Bader, Hugh Rader, C. Kenneth Swink, Hugh T. Lake, and G. W. Putnam.

The progress which has been made in the twelve counties now embraced in Southern Iowa Council in recent years is well illustrated in a

series of charts and diagrams prepared recently in the Council office under the direction of Scout Executive G. W. Putnam. These illustrations show that in 1947 the membership in the Council was 1,510. By the year 1950 this number had increased to 2,101 and on July 1, 1952, it was 2,639. During the first half of the year 1952 there was a net increase in membership of 432. Thirty new units of Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers were organized.

A special training course and activities program held recently at Boy Scout camp Wapello was attended by more than 350 Boy Scouts and their leaders from various parts of the area. The Council's financial budget for the year 1953 is \$39,800.

This money is raised by Friends of Scouting campaigns, sustaining memberships, One Hundred Club membership, and Community Chests in Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Fairfield, Centerville, and Leon.

Southwest Iowa Council

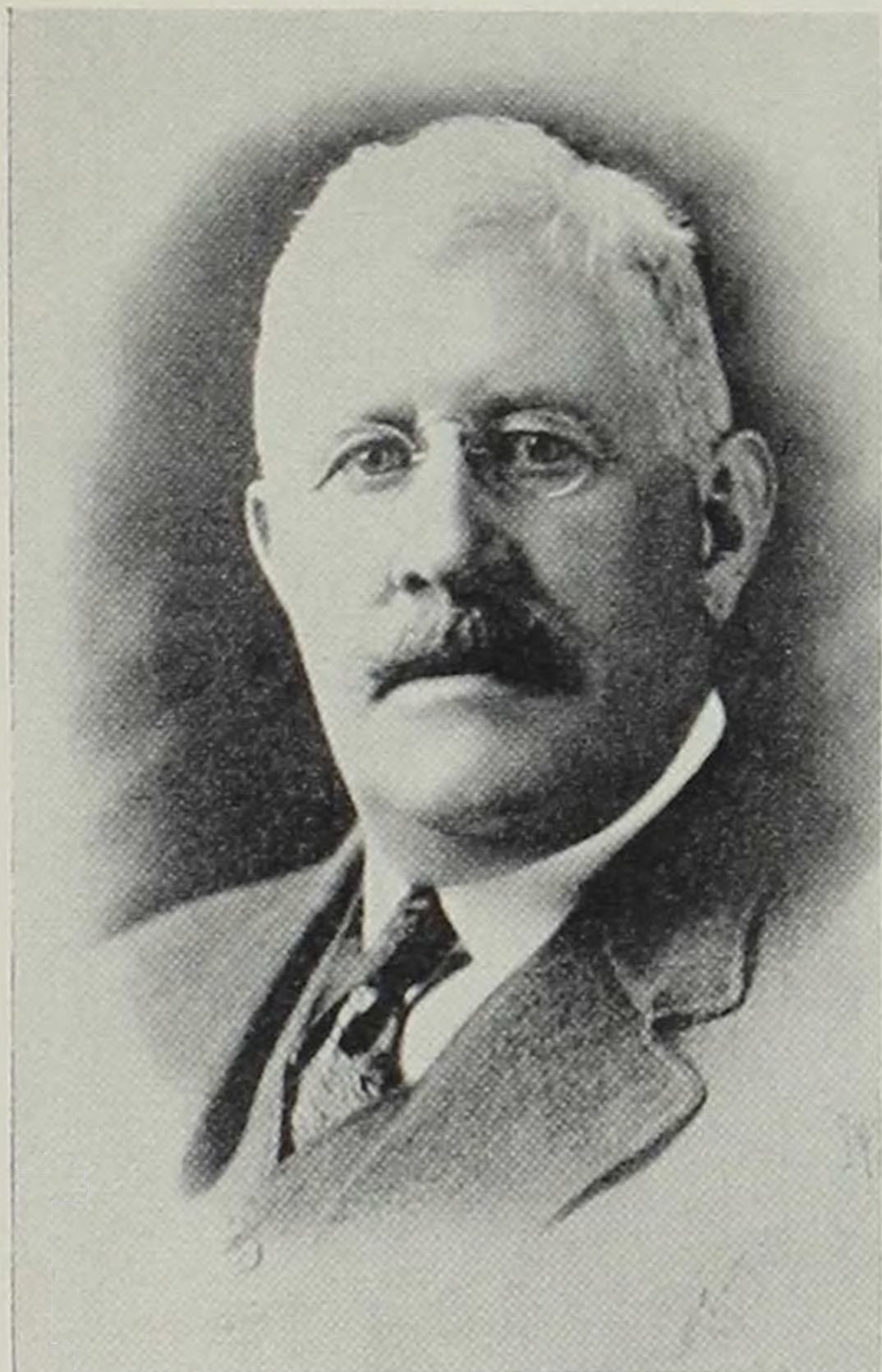
Scouting became a widespread community activity in Council Bluffs in 1918. During the early years of its operation the Council expanded to embrace Scouting activities in nine counties: Harrison, Pottawattamie, Cass, Audubon, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Page, and Shelby. It was then known as the "Waubonsie-Boyer Area Council" — Waubonsie having been the name of one of the principal chiefs of the Potawatomi Indians, while

Boyer is the name of one of the area's chief rivers.

In 1930 Laverne C. Haugness became Boy Scout Executive for this Council — serving until 1935, when he was succeeded by Melvin Tudor. During these early years the Council grew in membership and in strength, and during Mr. Tudor's tenure of service five more counties — Adams, Adair, Union, Ringgold, and Taylor — were added to the Council area. The name was then changed to "Southwest Iowa Council" a truly representative name for this arrangement of counties. In the year 1940 Mr. Tudor became Scout Executive of the Cedar Rapids Area Council, and Earl F. Hegeman, a former field executive of the Pony Express Council of St. Joseph, Missouri, became Scout Executive of the Southwest Iowa Council. Further Scouting developments soon brought three additional counties — Carroll, Crawford, and Monona — making a total of seventeen counties in this area.

That boys became real men in the Southwestern Iowa area is witnessed by the example of Frank Phillips — philanthropist and benefactor of mankind. At age fourteen Phillips began working in a barber shop in Creston. A few years later he owned nearly all the barber shops in town. Then he became a bond salesman. Presently "liquid gold" in the form of oil was discovered in Oklahoma Territory. Phillips entered the new field. There he became a banker, an oil magnate, and a

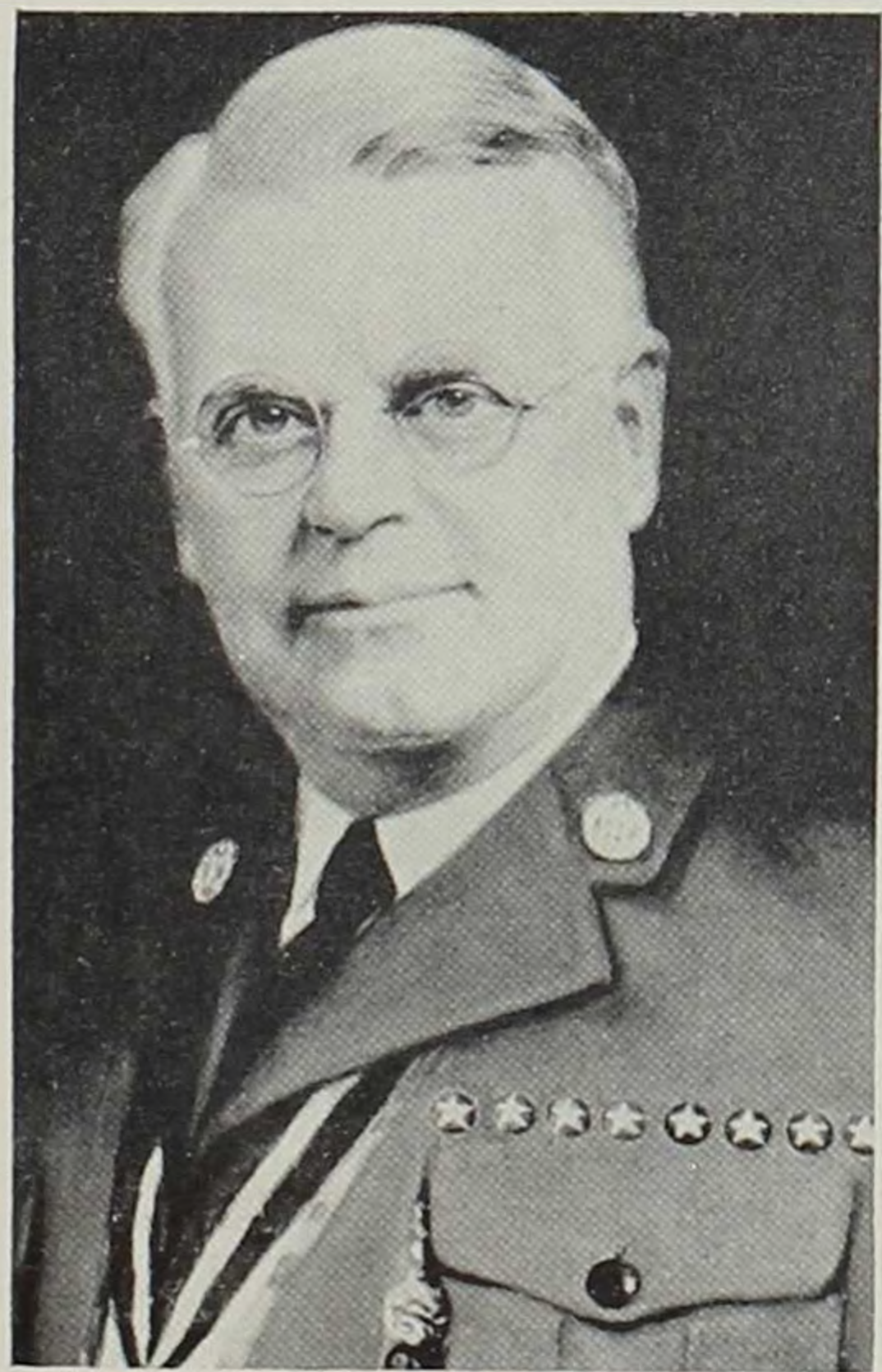
BOY SCOUT LEADERS



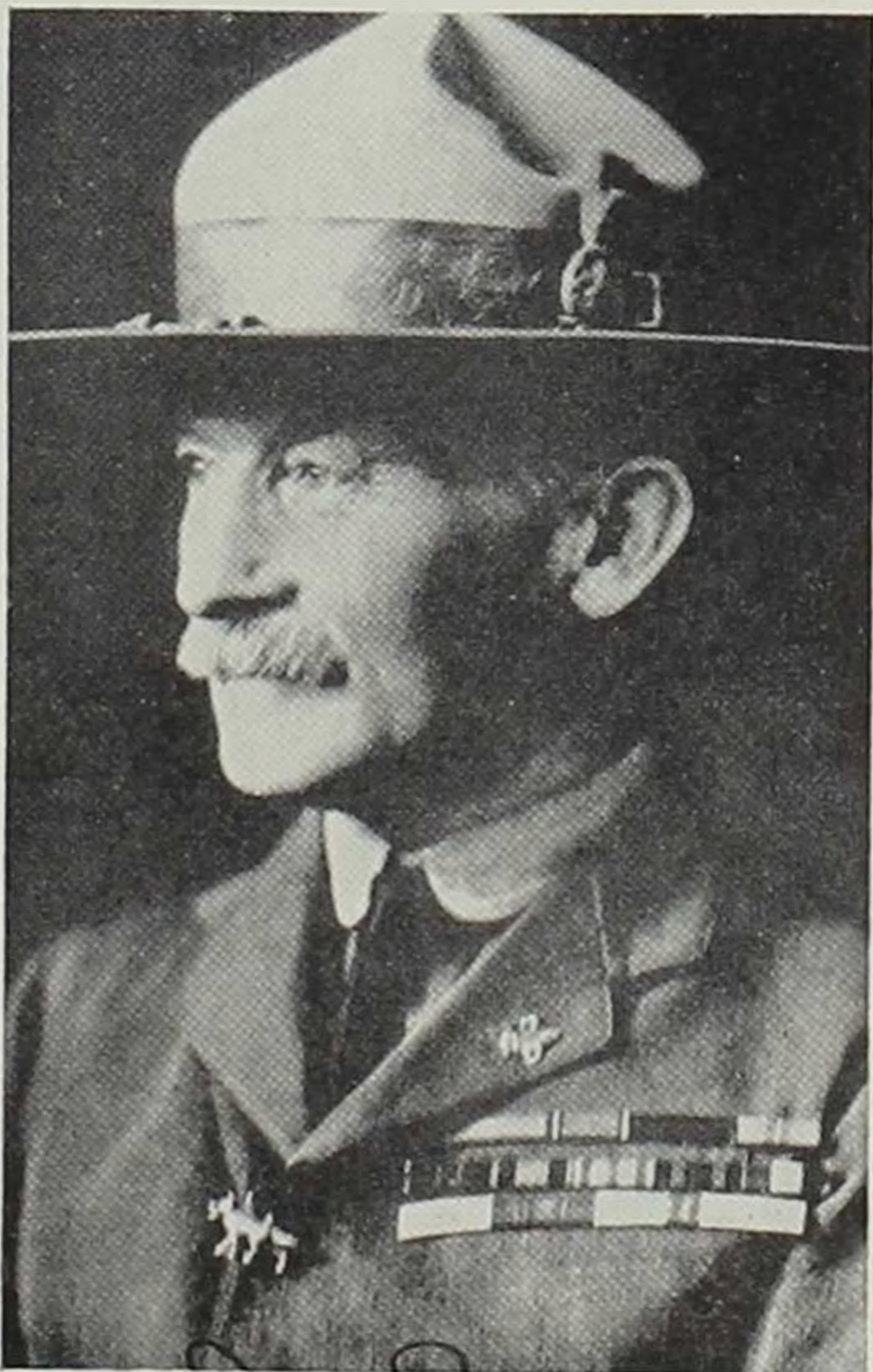
WILLIAM D. BOYCE
Founder of American Scouting



DANIEL C. BEARD
Pioneer in American Scouting



JAMES E. WEST
Late Chief Scout in U.S.A.



LORD ROBERT BADEN-POWELL
Founder of Scouting Movement



Buffalo Bill Council Scouts on Parade



Marksmanship Practice at Ingawanis

millionaire. In 1938 he established the far-reaching Frank Phillips Foundations, and the Boy Scouts of America became one of his philanthropies. He distributed not charity, but incentive. Grants were made upon condition that those receiving funds do their share in making advancement. The Boy Scouts of America could obtain financial aid through the Phillips Foundation if they moved forward aggressively and used the money wisely in the hiring of additional personnel in expanding their program.

In 1941, under the leadership of Boy Scout Executive Hegeman, the Southwest Iowa Council became a participant in the Phillips Foundation program, and received a grant of \$5,000 for the advancement of Scouting in the very area in which Frank Phillips himself had lived and worked as a boy. With these funds two additional field executives were employed for the expansion and development of the Scouting program in Southwest Iowa.

In 1942 a permanent camp site was located, and steps were taken to purchase an 80-acre tract of land two and one-half miles northwest of Griswold along the Nishnabotna River, near the boundary line between Pottawattamie and Cass counties. Since that time additional lands, totaling 175 acres, have been purchased, and a definite camp development program has been established.

In the summer of 1948 Camp Wakonda was

first opened to Scouts of the area, and further developments have provided facilities to accommodate 200 Scouts per week — a 30 by 82½-foot swimming pool, abundant water supply, beautiful unit camp sites, central lodge and modern kitchen, making possible an excellent summer program. In the years prior to the opening of Camp Wakonda, from 1934 to 1948, the Council conducted mobile camps, using various park areas both within and outside the boundaries of the Council.

The Council has not only expanded widely in area, but its membership and activities have grown with the years. There are now five professional staff employees and an office force sufficient to handle the services. Membership has grown from 1,365 Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers in 1940, to a present enrollment of about 4,700 boys and 1,800 adult volunteer workers. The Council budget, during these years, has increased from \$4,000 to \$43,613. Scouting in the Southwest Iowa Area Council is definitely on the march.

JACOB A. SWISHER