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FRONT COVER

REV. ISAAC TOURO 1737-1783

From a photo of a portrait in oil on canvas (25 x 19 inches) attributed to Cosmo Alexander, a Scottish portrait painter who visited America from 1765 to 1771. The portrait is believed to have been painted in 1769-1770 during Alexander's sojourn in Newport, Rhode Island. Its present whereabouts is unknown. Alexander is best known in America as Gilbert Stuart's first teacher. (*Antiques Magazine*, November 1977, page 973 *et seq.*) *Photo courtesy of M. Knoedler & Co., New York, N.Y.*

For more on Isaac Touro see page 442.

# RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL NOTES

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RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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## JEWIS AND THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

by ELEANOR F. HORVITZ

Define Boy Scout: a Boy Scout is a polite young man who helps a little old lady cross the street. A cliché, of course, but the image is not far removed from the story of its origin. An anecdote is told of a boy in London, England (his name has never been discovered) who helped one William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher and world traveler, find his way through the foggy streets to keep an appointment. The boy refused a tip, saying that he was a Boy Scout. The American, curious about the term, was informed that the movement had been started about a year earlier—in 1908—by a Mr. Robert S. Baden-Powell, who was a great English hero of the Boer War. Boyce was so impressed that he set about to learn all he could about this scouting movement for youth. There was a need to be met for the youth of the 20th century living in overcrowded cities and slums, the result of industrialization. These boys must be shown the excitement of the out-of-doors, the wonders of nature. On February 8, 1910 Boyce and a group of associates sought to obtain a charter of incorporation in Washington, D.C. for a new organization to be called the Boy Scouts of America.<sup>1</sup>

The Boy Scouts of America was chartered in 1916 and is now protected by an Act of Congress. The President of the United States is honorary president of the organization. Nearly half of the 95,000 cub packs, scout troops, and explorer units have been sponsored by church groups—Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish.<sup>2</sup>

According to J. Harold Williams,<sup>3</sup> long-time Chief Scout Executive of the Narragansett Council (Rhode Island),\* scouting came to Rhode Island in 1910. It began with small groups such as one organized among the Eddy Street gangs of South Providence and another for a dozen boys in the Washington Park area. Williams refers to the scout troop formed by Doctor Max B. Gomberg on Benefit Street, and he recalls that Walter Adler was a charter member. Doctor Seibert J. Goldowsky in his paper on Doctor Gomberg<sup>4</sup> also refers to Gomberg as an early and active participant in the Boy Scout movement. In a recent telephone conversation, Walter Adler reminisced to this writer about his being one of the boys recruited by Gomberg. The doctor himself bought and paid for their Boy Scout uniforms, which he procured at the Outlet Company store. Another member of that 1910 pioneer scout troop was Herman Galkin.

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\*J. Harold Williams (1897-1976) became Chief Scout Executive in 1918 at the age of 21. He retired in 1962.

The troop, Galkin recalls, met in What Cheer Hall, which was at 643 North Main Street, corner of Flint Street.

Just as William Royce had been inspired by the work of Baden-Powell, so too were Charles E. Mulhearn and G. Edward Buxton, Jr., of Rhode Island, who were desirous of forming a local state organization of Boy Scouts. They had not been aware of the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America by Boyce; nor were they willing to join an organization already in existence in Boston called the American Boy Scouts, sponsored by the newspaper, the *Boston American*. Mulhearn and Buxton obtained their source material directly from England and supervised the formation of five troops in Providence, made up of small groups such as those mentioned above. The Rhode Island Boy Scouts was incorporated on April 13, 1911. In 1917 the Rhode Island Boy Scouts merged with the Boy Scouts of America. The active operating group became the Greater Providence Council, Boy Scouts of America, while Rhode Island Boy Scouts retained its corporate identity as the trustee organization to hold property and trust funds. In 1930 the Greater Providence Council merged with the Newport Council, the Pawtucket-Central Falls Council, and the Woonsocket Council to form the Narragansett Council. Narragansett Council embraces the whole state of Rhode Island, part of Massachusetts, and a small portion of Connecticut.<sup>5</sup>

The Outlet Company was the first distributor of uniforms and equipment. As J. Harold Williams wrote in his book, *Scout Trail*, "This is where I bought my first uniform in 1910—a little 'campaign' hat with a big tin Eagle and RIBS on the front, a little high-necked khaki jacket, khaki breeches and leggings attached, and a tiny haversack about big enough for a sandwich and a pickle."<sup>6</sup>

For a period of almost nine years there is no record of a troop consisting exclusively of Jewish boys such as that organized by Doctor Gomberg. It lasted for only some seven months.

#### TROOP 10

Harold C. Sydney has in his possession a snapshot album titled, *Greater Providence Council*, in which are listed the leaders of Troop 10. Sydney joined the troop at the age of 12. From the following list of leaders it would appear that this troop, which originally met in Peace Street School, began its existence in 1919: Maurice Goldsmith 1919-1921, Alfred Torgan 1921-1922, Abraham Woodoff 1922, Harry Seltzer 1922, Bradford Field 1922-23 (he filled in as a leader, having been ap-

pointed by Scout Headquarters), Albert Geffner 1924-1925, and Harold C. Sydney 1925. About 1923 Troop 10 came under the sponsorship of Temple Beth Israel. The troop moved to the Temple located on Niagara Street in a building which had originally been a German beer hall. The history of this active, spirited troop is recounted today by several of its original members.

Aaron Roitman said: "Troop 10 was so popular. Kids will always go where the best action is. We had boys come all across the city to join our troop. This was during the post-World War I years—1922-26. The troop got so big in numbers that, whereas a typical troop was four patrols—32 in all—we at one time had as many as 50 or 60, and when we went to camp we took over a whole campsite. We were very proud of that troop. We thought it was the greatest troop that ever existed. I was about 13 when I first joined. There were no Cub Scouts, and one had to be 12 to join." Their Sunday hikes, Roitman explained, started at the end of the street-car line on Douglas Avenue. Their destination was Twin Lakes, where even in the winter they could camp out, play games, brush the snow away, and build a fire. "Our troop always marched in the Memorial Day parades", Roitman recalled, "and when the various scout troops met in Roger Williams Park for Field Day, we were proud of our winning record in all categories—scouting skills, starting a fire, and competitive games. We were a very active, very enthusiastic group. We had our own newspaper."

Troop 10, according to Harold Sydney, had organized an orchestra, and also had a baseball team.

At Boy Scout Headquarters on Broad Street in Providence, Rhode Island are many scrapbooks which "Chief" J. Harold Williams, the Scout Executive, had assembled. The large number of clippings from the *Providence Journal* during the years 1920-1930 demonstrate that newspaper's generosity in giving the Boy Scouts publicity. This was due directly to the great interest of John R. Rathom, Editor of the *Providence Journal*, who had become Scout Commissioner in 1911. "He threw himself and the influence of the *Providence Journal* behind Scouting. . . ." The reports of the various troop activities often filled an entire page of the *Providence Sunday Journal*, and the sepia gravure section contained many pictures of Boy Scout activities. Each troop had a scout designated as scribe. It was his duty to send information about his troop's activities to the news column titled, "Activities of Boy Scouts", with the sub-heading, "Reports of the Scribes". This example of news from Troop 10 appeared in the *Providence Sunday Journal* of June 13, 1926:

Troop 10 held its annual Parents' Night. With over 50 parents and friends attending, under the direction of Acting Assistant Scoutmaster, H. Sydney. Awards: Sidney Goldstein, best inspection (his reward—a free week at Camp Yawgoog). Medals were presented to Philip Finkle and Maynard Bliss. Harold Sydney was presented with a silver loving cup in appreciation for his work with the troop during the past year.

The Max Rosen family, which was active in the founding of Temple Beth Israel, was also involved in supporting Troop 10 as a Temple activity. Max Rosen's name appears among the businessmen who acted as sponsors of the troop. (Sponsoring committees of troops were often businessmen who lent their names, assistance and money in starting a troop.) Benton H. and L. Herbert Rosen, his sons, were members of Troop 10. Benton Rosen remarked about this troop: "Beth Israel's Troop 10 was so popular we had eight patrols in 1925."

The *Jewish Review* (predecessor to the *Rhode Island Herald*) carried a column written by the late N. Russell Swartz. Swartz had become interested in boy scouting through the efforts of Herman Galkin. Although he had never been a boy scout himself, he recognized the value of the organization and acted as a kind of volunteer press agent for the various Jewish troops during the years 1922-1925. He lectured to boy scouts at troop meetings and wrote a column titled variously "Scouting Section", "Scout News", "Boy Scout Activities", or "Boy Scout Report". We are fortunate that some of these columns still survive. Writing in colorful and often flowery language, Swartz presents a vivid description of the activities of Troops 5, 10, 14, 20, 50, and 41 (the latter was made up in part of Jewish boys) during the early 1920s.

The following news items about Troop 10 are excerpted from Swartz's columns.

It should be interesting for all scouts and those interested in this movement to know something about the history of this troop. A new troop, organized only two months ago [article is undated] with a handful of boys, now boasts of three patrols, and new recruits are continuously joining. Though this is a small troop, it won't be long before it will rank beside those of longer existence. The three patrols now in existence are: The Wolf: H. Sharp, patrol leader; Flying Eagle: R. Gordon, patrol leader; and the Panther: O. Leach, patrol leader.

\* \* \*



Taken at Camp Yawgoog in the '20s. Standing left to right Doctor Albert C. Berger and Herman Galkin. Seated, Albert Geffner and Ralph Fishbein.



Camp Yawgoog in 1922.

During the anniversary celebration next week they will hold on Wednesday, February 11th [refers to 15th Anniversary of the Boy Scout movement in 1925] a Parents Night and a fine entertainment is promised. It will be of a surprising nature. We will only say that the troop symphony orchestra of 20 violinists, its pianist, cornetist and drummer, should make many friends for Troop Ten and leader Earle Goldenberg.

\* \* \*

Troop 10 of the Rhode Island Boy Scouts met last week at its rooms in the Niagara Street Temple under the leadership of Acting Scoutmaster Alfred Geffner. The recruiting which this patrol has been running lately will soon stop, because the quota is nearly filled. . . . Scoutmaster Galkin is to introduce the new game of volleyball on the game night.

\* \* \*

Troop 10, Providence Conservative Temple, is showing the real scout spirit these days. It now consists of 6 patrols, 40 scouts. Last evening there was a campfire held which consisted of a program of songs, stories and stunts. In these activities Mr. Galkin and a "Mr. Casey", which was not his real name, but who proved to be a popular Jewish gentleman, showed great pep and entertainment qualities in their stories and songs.

\* \* \*

In order to advance in Scout work Troop 10 is holding a meeting a week. . . . Every other Sunday the troop takes hikes. Last Sunday the scouts hiked to Woodville. Many tests were passed, and Scout games were played in the woods. A new outdoor sport which the troop is going in for is skiing. Members of the troop are buying skis, and it is hoped that we will have snow in order to allow for winter troop competition in skiing. Scoutmaster Geffner represented the troop at the Patrol Leaders' conference. His troop did its share in collecting toys and will also take part in the Haggai Lodge (of B'nai B'rith) chess and checker tournament as well as the 200 word patriotic essay contest.

\* \* \*

Troop Ten is establishing a library of appropriate books on scouting and other good reading appropriate to young boys.

The success of Troop 10 was undoubtedly due to its leadership. It was fortunate in the number of dedicated, enthusiastic young men who chose to join the troop. The *esprit de corps* which existed is reflected in

interviews with such former members as Aaron Roitman and Harold Sydney. In 1960 the troop held a reunion attended by some forty former Scouts at which Chief Scout Executive J. Harold Williams was the principal guest. That they have held reunions which were so well-attended reflects the impact which the years of scouting with this troop had on its members.

N. Russell Swartz illustrated the high quality of its leaders with these examples: "Three leaders were Scoutmaster Al Geffner, Assistant Scoutmaster Harold Sydney, and Senior Patrol Leader Sidney Kane. Scout folks who read their Bibles and prayer books properly realize how hard it is to measure up to Jewish and Scouting teachings. And those who have had the personal pleasure to meet and know Messrs. Geffner, Sydney, and Kane will feel personal pride when they realize that in these modern days of distractions from rather than attractions to what is best in Jewish life these three fellows—good Scouts all—are seeing to it that those who are members in Troop Ten shall—with their encouragement and teaching—grow up right in both individual, community and, of course, Jewish helpfulness and manliness. . . ." These three men, Swartz claimed, were responsible for demonstrating to those present at Parents Night what Scouting really meant and the result of discipline on the boys themselves. About Scoutmaster Geffner he wrote: "He took the troop from its start and made of it a unit of manliness, leading the Scouts by example to show the world what true Americans should be". About Harold Sydney: "Scout folks and other friends of his have watched his physical, moral, and mental growth. His every word and deed spell helpfulness, preparedness and good cheer." And regarding Sydney Kane: "He is not only wealthy in world's goods, his is a cheerful smile and he both disciplines and cheers his boys on to greater usefulness and manliness."

#### TROOP 5

Herman S. Galkin, who was with the Boy Scout movement since its inception in Rhode Island, felt that there was a great need for a troop of Boy Scouts composed entirely of Jewish boys. By organizing such a troop, not only would he interest these boys in routine scout work, but would be successful in arousing their interest in Jewish studies and activities. One of the troops which he established was chartered as Troop 5 and met at the Hebrew Educational Institute at 65 Benefit Street. It was formed about 1920, Galkin believes. Among the early leaders of this troop were Aaron Norman, Assistant Scoutmaster; Joseph Pulver and Edward Gertsacov, Acting Scoutmasters; and Sydney Rabinowitz, Senior Patrol Leader.

A prominent activity of Troop 5, undertaken in 1921, was their work in radio then in its infancy. Initial steps in the radio work were taken when Herman Galkin, then Assistant Scoutmaster, built a loose coupler set. The boys searched the air for newly organized broadcasting stations during the winter of 1921-1922. Their enthusiasm led to the purchase of a larger receiving set and amplifier, popularly called a loud speaker, which enabled them to bring in stations from greater distances and furnish their friends with more varied entertainment. Their work with radio was carried on in an area on the top floor of the Heberw Educational Institute which they called "The Wireless Den" (see picture page 349). Radio station KDKA at Pittsburgh was immensely popular at the time, although they were able to receive signals from many other stations at similar or greater distances.<sup>8</sup>

Soon radio was used not only for the entertainment of members of the troop, but also to provide music for the Sunday evening meetings of the YMHA and YWHA housed in the same building. The troop found other ways of utilizing their radio expertise to do "good turns". They installed a receiving set at the Jewish Orphanage. Assisted by Station 1-AMD, Pawtucket, Howard Thornley in charge, they sent a special program through the air to the orphanage. "Mr. Thornley had been given the names of some of the children at the orphanage, and he spoke to them during the course of the program. The whole event was so mystifying to the youngsters that they shouted answers to the announcer, most of them believing that he would be able to hear them over the wonder instrument which was entertaining them."<sup>9</sup>

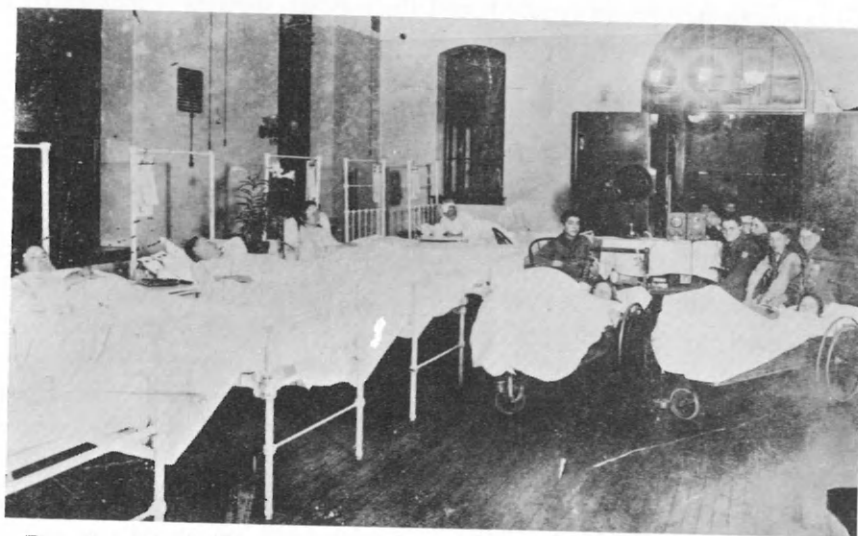
Further, Herman Galkin (see picture, page 349) convinced the directors and officers of the Rhode Island Hospital to allow his boys to install a set in one of the large wards. He had had a great deal of difficulty in overcoming their concern that there might be danger from fire induced through the receiving set. "You will never realize how much that meant to the poor sick people in that ward," recalled Galkin.

Swartz commented thus on the radio set-up in Rhode Island Hospital:

To those patients in Ward C at the Rhode Island Hospital, who were never offered the opportunity of acquainting themselves with the real spirit of Jewish idealism, were given that opportunity by the Troop Five Boy Scouts of America on Sunday evening, December 23. As the announcer at WJAR, the Outlet Company, said to his radio audience, "This concert has been supplied especially for Boy Scouts of Troop 5 who are giving concerts at the Rhode Island



Radio room at the YMHA building on Benefit Street. Herman Gal-kin at right.



Boy Scouts of Troop 5, Providence, entertaining patients at Rhode Island Hospital with radio on movable table. *Courtesy of the Boy Scout Foundation.*

Hospital. We hope they will enjoy it. These scouts are to be thanked for their thoughtfulness". Also, Roxy at the Capitol Theatre broadcasting station in New York made reference to Troop 5 and its good turns. "Roxy" is Mr. Rothofel\*, owner of the Capitol Theatre.

Because of the primitive state of radio at that time (1922) as Galkin recalled it, they could not always depend upon the reception by their sets of signals from the radio stations. They protected themselves when broadcasting to a home for the aged, a hospital, or other group by having a live program in progress simultaneously at Thornley's home on Belmont Street in Pawtucket. Their set could be tuned in to a transmitter at his home, which broadcast live music under the direction of Israel Lewis, a cellist and teacher; with Sidney B. Lewis, violinist; and Edith B. Lewis, pianist.

Other beneficiaries of the Troop 5 radio set-up were the residents of the Home for Aged Women on Tockwotten Street, who were entertained in the same manner as were the hospital patients. Regarding these programs Swartz commented in his column: "It is to be grieved that many of the old ladies there happen to be hard of hearing. In fact, some of them are deaf. Scoutmaster Galkin overcame many of these cases by supplying them with phones so that almost every lady was able to get the program which was given. It is amusing to observe how pleased these ladies are to be thus entertained, and their antics show how they marvel at the wonder of hearing from the outside world again."

"Further recognition of Troop Five's reputation in radio work was made when Joe Galkin was chosen to take charge of the radio booth at the Patrol Leaders' Conference held last week. He chose a committee to assist him comprised of other Scouts of Troop Five," wrote Swartz in another column.

During the winter season of 1922-1923 a Radio Club was formed within the troop with Aaron Norman as instructor. Norman was an experienced wireless operator. He made it a rule that each boy must build a set of his own, but that first he must master the code. These boys continued to set up radio receivers in various places—at the Providence City Hospital tuberculosis ward, in homes for the aged and infirm, and in the homes of shut-ins.

The remarkable work performed by these scouts was recognized in December 1923, when they won a contest run by *Radio Broadcast Magazine of New York*, in which they competed against all Boy Scout

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\*Samuel L. Rothafel, New York theater executive.

troops in America. The award honored the many achievements of Troop 5 in promoting radio technology among its members. Their activities were described in an article written by scouts Louis B. Rubinstein and Joseph Galkin, covering a period of almost two years up to the date of the contest. The award was acknowledged by National Scout Executive James E. West,\* who headed the Boy Scouts of America and was editor-in-chief of *Boy's Life*. Thus Troop 5 became known throughout the country for its remarkable work with radio. Galkin has in his files many letters of congratulation on the work done by his scouts. One such letter was written by Isaac Woolf, President of Hebrew Educational Institute, dated December 18, 1923: "At a meeting of the Executive Board of the Hebrew Educational Institute a unanimous vote of congratulations was extended to Troop Five for their excellent work with radio. The Board was very much pleased to hear that out of 15,000 troops in the United States Troop Five was the successful winner of the Radio Set."

The early radio program of Troop 5 provided many young persons an opportunity to hear historic broadcasts such as that reported by Swartz in his column:

On Monday evening Acting Scoutmaster Herman S. Galkin invited a number of friends as well as members of the Junior Society of the Institute and members of the Fifth Troop to the Wireless Den on the top floor of the Institute where all heard a remarkable and interesting radio program, the feature of which was an address by President Coolidge commemorative of the late President Harding. It was a wonderful impressive and sincere eulogy.

Although the radio aspect of the Troop 5 activities received much publicity, it was but a portion of the overall program of the troop. Troop 5 presented before the members of the Men's Club of Temple Beth-El a play written, directed, and acted solely by themselves. It was titled: "Scouting in our Community" (see program, page 352).

Troop 5 is one of the oldest in Providence. Its Scoutmaster is Joe Pulver. . . . this troop shows what Boy Scouts of America really is. Their cheering is wonderful. It rings true. It is so too in their various activities like boxing, test passing, business meetings, etc. Basketball especially against opposing teams is a favorite sport with them too, but best of all they demonstrate a wonderful spirit in thoughtfulness of others.<sup>10</sup>

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\*National Chief Scout Executive from 1911 to 1945.



BE PREPARED

## SCOUT NIGHT

*"Scouting in our Community"*Presented for the Members of the Men's Club of  
the Temple Beth-El and their friends by

TROOP FIVE, B. S. A. Providence

Tuesday, April 29, 1924

*Written, Directed, and acted solely by Scouts  
and Officers of Troop Five*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Given in Order of Their Appearance)

Announcer—A. S. M. PULVER

Peewee .....	Cub Scout Daniel Welsinger
Pip .....	S. P. L. Sidney Rabinowitz
Billy .....	Scout Mitchell Gertz
Patrol Leader .....	A. P. L. Norman Miller
Four Scouts .....	{ Scout Oken
	{ Scout Gomberg
	{ A. P. L. Brainson
	{ Scout Verman
Chubby.....	Scout Harold Rotman
The Sissy .....	Scout Joseph Levy
S. M. ....	S. M. H. S. Galkin
A. S. M. ....	A. S. M. Edward Gershkoff
The Mother .....	P. L. Joseph Galkin
The Father .....	Scout Norman Rand
The Troop .....	(See Back of Program)

## OUR TALENT

Violinist .....	Scout Abraham Ehrlich
Violinist .....	Scout Harold Rotman
Saxophone .....	Scribe A. Bander
Piano .....	Scribe A. Bander
Banjo.....	Aaron Norman, A. S. M.
Violin.....	Aaron Norman, A. S. M.

## Singers

A. P. L. Norman Miller	Scout Jacob Gordon
P. L. Joseph Galkin	S. P. L. S. Rabinowitz

Troop 5 had earned a reputation for "good turns". They gave food baskets to poor families. In 1923 they ranked third in toy collections, amassing a record 500 toys. The following year they distributed Thanksgiving dinners which they gathered from charitable people. They collected 100 toys, more than any other in the Greater Providence Council.

Their favorite sites for Sunday troop hikes were Sunset Point and Boulder Woods, both in the Lincoln Woods Reservation. They were introduced to the "new" game of volleyball, but had to use a rubber balloon on account of the low-hanging chandeliers and the lack of space.

#### TROOP 41

Troop 41, an all Jewish troop formed of boys from the Jewish Orphanage, also owed its existence to Herman Galkin. Although the Jewish Orphanage had begun its operations in 1909, it was not until about 1922 that Galkin organized a troop in their Orphanage home which was then located on North Main Street. The troop lasted until the official end of the Orphanage in 1942.

An undated newspaper clipping captioned "Scoutmaster Galkin Installs Troop 41", reported the following:

Most interesting exercises took place at the Jewish Orphanage when there was conducted the official opening and installations of officers of Troop No. 41, Boy Scouts of America.

The investiture ceremony of the troop was performed by Scoutmaster Herman S. Galkin, assisted by members of Troop No. 5. The duties of the various officers of the troop were explained by scouts from Troop No. 5, which formed the degree team. Senior Patrol Leader Joseph Pulver, Patrol Leader Joseph Galkin, Scribe Abraham Goldstein, and Patrol Leader Edward Gershkoff explained the duties of the officers. Two selected boy scouts of Troop No. 5 explained the meaning of the various scout laws while Scoutmaster Galkin also addressed the candidates explaining to them scouting in general and the meaning of the oath that they were taking on becoming invested as 'regular, full-fledged scouts'. The oath was then administered to the many candidates.

Several well known men addressed the assembly. Mr. Bradford H. Field, assistant scout executive, told the boys of the help he has always received from Troop No. 5. The most welcome news of the evening came from Mr. Archibald Silverman, President of the Orphanage. He announced that, when the new building which is to

house the activities of the Jewish Orphanage is completed, within it will be a big gymnasium which will be given over to the scouts to carry out their program more efficiently. Mr. C. Joseph Fox congratulated the boys upon being able to be boy scouts, stating that there was no such thing when he was a youngster, and concluded with the remark, "I am sorry not to be able to be a scout along with you boys". Mr. Woolf, Superintendent of the Orphanage, wished them the best of luck, promising wholehearted assistance to the youngsters over whom he acts in the capacity of a father.

Charles Eisenberg was appointed Scribe. Officers of the troop: Herman Galkin, Scoutmaster; Charles A. Gomberg, Assistant Scoutmaster; Max Simon, Senior Patrol Leader; Samuel Appleman, Patrol Leader; Charles Parson, Patrol Leader.

Among those present at the investiture ceremonies were: Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Silverman; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cohn; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goldowsky; Mr. and Miss Rothschild; Mr. Isaac Woolf, president of the Hebrew Educational Institute; and Miss Minnie Tatz, Scoutmistress of the Jewish Girl Scout Troop.

Further accounts of the troop's activities are taken from "Scout News" written by N. Russell Swartz, presumed to have occurred during the first three years of the troop's existence:

This troop was formed about nine months ago with twelve scouts. Now there are fourteen as well as three associate members. . . . Abie Rosenberg has been appointed instructor of games, and whenever he gets a spare moment from his regular occupation, he takes a run over to the public library where he reads up on everything he can find on games that boys can play. Then when he gets a chance he attends a meeting of Troop 41 and teaches the scouts the games he has read about. . . . In community work such as the recent toy drive, the troop was way up near the top of the list. Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner Herman S. Galkin, who is responsible for the existence and good showing of the Orphanage troop, will lead the boys on a hike next Sunday.

\* \* \*

These scouts are not only strong on physical good showing, they recently took part in a play written by one of their members entitled, 'The Country School House', and a dramatic recitation called, 'The Death of Benedict Arnold'. The troop has two patrols called the Fox and Tiger Patrols.

The Haggai Lodge of B'nai B'rith sponsored an evening reception which was called Scout Night. In anticipation of this affair the Jewish troops were invited to hold chess and checker tournaments. The winner would receive an award of a cup. Swartz gives an account of this tournament:

Evidently Troop 41 had no difficulty in winning the Haggai Lodge Checker Cup. Dr. Albert Berger, president of the Haggai Lodge, made an appropriate address, and one of the scouts of Troop 41 gave a speech of acceptance. It was here that we were informed that though Troop 41 had won the Haggai Lodge Chess Cup still they felt that they won it too easily because the other scouts did not understand the game as well as they. So they returned the cup to Mr. Galkin to be used as a reward for efficiency in sports instead.

"In a recent inspection of Troop No. 41 conducted by Assistant Scout Executive Field of the Greater Providence Council, a 'perfect score' was reported by this troop which consists of boys in the Home and others of the immediate neighborhood", according to Swartz. He added, "Though this troop has no scoutmaster, they are lucky in that Mr. Henry Woolf, Superintendent, takes an active interest in the troop and helps them in the scout work. Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner Galkin comes to every meeting." Swartz wrote further about this troop as follows:

Last Sunday evening Troop 41 presented Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner Herman Galkin with a silver loving cup bought out of funds saved by the members of this troop . . . this is a real loving cup and because of the thrift and zeal of these lads it speaks a language that only true love, loyalty, and the finest of scout ideals understands.

Troop 41 Boy Scouts celebrated its second anniversary at its quarters in the Jewish orphanage. Members of Troop 10 and 5 attended. Dr. Albert Berger told stories and sang camp songs while Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner Herman Galkin opened the exercises with an address. . . . The Goldstein medal for camp spirit was presented to Acting Senior Patrol Leader Louis Kramer.

That scouts are helpful and friendly is to be demonstrated by Troop 41 who are to play an important role in the official opening of Troop 50 at Temple Beth-El.

A condensed report of this troop would be simply this: they are real 100 per cent boy scouts . . . they can put many folks to shame by their physical and especially their mental ability.

Still preserved is a copy of the so-called semifinal edition of a newspaper written and published by the Eagle Patrol of Troop 41, *The Eagle Tribune*, "New News of Troop 41". Scouts of Troop 41 were listed as follows: The Scoutmaster was Herman Galkin and Assistant Scoutmaster Ralph Fishbein. The Eagle Patrol consisted of Patrol Leader Nathan Bromberg, Scribe Louis Kramer, Harold Ackerman, Carl Zundell and Max Simons. The Narragansett Patrol comprised Patrol Leader Charles Izenstein, Abraham Wolfe, one Seltzer, and one Krakowitz, not otherwise identified. The publication reported that on March 8, 1925 Bromberg and Kramer went on a 14 mile hike, while on the next week Simons and Wolfe would undertake the same test. It was also reported that Max Simons had received a medal for writing the best composition on the subject "The Contribution of the Jews to America."

It appears that Simons and Wolfe did complete the hike on March 15, 1925, for a composition describing that hike is still preserved by Herman Galkin, for whom it was written. The route followed by the hikers starting at the Orphanage, went south on North Main Street and then along Benefit, Waterman, and Canal Streets. They continued up Westminster Street to Plainfield Street, where they boarded a trolley car to King's Park,\* their ultimate destination. There they explored the woods and a log cabin. They saw what appeared to be a castle, but turned out to be King's observatory. Following the Indian Trail, they discovered a large stone erected in memory of the Kings' ancestors, dated 1757. These and other anecdotes about the hike were written by Simons in a clear descriptive manner in a handwriting reflecting hours of good penmanship training.

#### TROOP 50

While the files of the origins and applications for charter for all Boy Scout troops in Rhode Island are stored at Boy Scout Headquarters on Broad Street in Providence, information only for Troop 50 among the Jewish troops was available for review. This troop, which was to meet at Temple Beth-El on Broad Street, was given the number 50. Its charter was dated January 12, 1925, and its sponsor was the Men's Club of Temple Beth-El, J. L. Landauer, President. The first Scoutmaster was Abraham L. Abel with Walter M. Cobe and Lester Selonik as his assistants. The troop committee consisted of three businessmen, George J.

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\*Now Neutaconkanut Park, formerly in Johnston. Deeded to the City of Providence by the late Abbey A. King. The Observatory was erected about 1920 by Mrs. King atop the 299 foot hill as a memorial to the King family, one of the oldest in the area. The 60 foot tower, constructed of cement blocks and topped by an observation cupola, was burned to rubble by vandals in 1925. Ed.

Lederer, jewelry manufacturer; A. L. Abel, jewelry manufacturer; and David Gilman, dental laboratory owner. Fifteen boys made up the original troop, their ages ranging from 12 to 15 years. They were Isidore Ackerman, Jack Anhalt, Louis Blackman, Louis Bornstein, Albert Cohen, Bernard Cohen, David Cohen, Harry Feingold, Samuel Gorman, Isidore Kirschenbaum, Abraham Ponce, Lester Robinson, William Rosendale, Robert Sharp and Sidney Silverman. By the following year the membership had increased to 33. Among the new members were Elmer Sydney, Murray Trinkle, Albert Cohn, Nathan Chaiken, and Abraham and Julius Bloom.

In a Boy Scout column in the *Providence Sunday Journal* of February 15, 1925 appeared the following news item: "Troop 50—an enthusiastic audience gathered in the auditorium of Temple Beth-El to attend the inauguration of the troop last week. This troop is being backed by the Men's Club. The meeting opened with selections by Troop 10's orchestra. Boys from Troops 5, 10, 41, and 50 gave the pledge of allegiance. Herman Galkin invested the troop committee."

Swartz described the inauguration of the troop in more colorful language:

There was a gathering of the parents interested in the inauguration of Troop 50. Mr. Abe Abel, Chairman and Messrs. Daniel Gillman, George Lederer and H. I. Stirling were to be dubbed committeemen of the troop. Scribe Jack Anhalt, Junior Patrol Leaders: Al Cohen, Robert Sharp and William Rosenbaum and the Tenderfoot Scouts were also dubbed. . . . Scout Joseph Galkin gave a Scout oration. He told of its development in this manner. First there was the great Jewish Scout Abraham, then came the Knights of the Middle Ages, who by their chivalry to the old men and women and young children, in fact, to all who suffered, the way real Scouts should practice to do their daily Good Turns to others. And finally came the pioneers who bravely led on the Tenderfoots from the East and who handed to our modern Scouts their Oath and Laws. . . . Assistant Chief Executive Nelson A. Sly compared Troop 50's Tenderfoot Scouts to a ship going down the ways. The ship and the Tenderfoot Scouts themselves must be prepared to weather the storm. . . . One of the main things that contributed to this enjoyment was the Boy Scout Symphony Orchestra of Troop 10. It previously had only ten days of practice, but all played with such musical pathos that it was popularity at first sight—and sound. Its leader is Carl Goldenberg and in its membership are: Walter Nel-

son, pianist; Arthur Bander and Abe Lisker, Saxaphonists; Harold Sharp, drums; Sidney Liebe, Maurice Fox, Bernard Rosenthal, Myles Sydney, and Fred Summerfield, violinists.

As the organization of the Boy Scouts of America has been advancing along the road to constantly greater achievements, so the opening of Troop 50 is remarkable for another era in the advance of scouting. Whereas it is the 15th birthday of Scouting, it is, of course, the first one of Troop 50. The founding of this troop has the stamp of approval of Temple Beth-El—one of the first and a leading representative Jewish congregation in Providence, for it is the Temple's Men's Club who are the sponsors and are shouldering the task of the future progress of this troop. Then it is another Scouting achievement, as it was Assistant Deputy Commissioner Galkin who really deserves the credit for starting this troop and well may be called its "father".

The progress of this troop is recorded in the files at Boy Scout Headquarters. Twenty-eight scouts had purchased uniforms, but the remainder could not afford them. Under a category in the file designated "Good Turns", it is reported that this troop had collected and distributed toys at Christmas; they had helped the *Providence Journal* distribute Christmas dinners; and they had assisted at Parents' Night, Men's Club Night, and Synagogue services. Another news item indicated that in 1928 Joseph Pulver had applied for the position of Scoutmaster. On his application was the information that he had been Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 5 from 1921 to 1923.

#### TROOP 20

The Scouting News section of the *Providence Sunday Journal*, November 13, 1927 reported the origin of Troop 20 at Temple Emanuel. "The first official meeting of the troop was held Tuesday, November 1st, at Temple Emanuel. Goldsmith, Koppelman, and Brown were dubbed Tenderfoot Scouts. A talk was given by Herman Galkin. Rabbi Israel Goldman and Benjamin Novgrad were troop committeemen and William Hyman was installed as Scoutmaster. Myles Sydney was Senior Patrol Leader. Russell Brown, Jerome Cohen, Norman Alper, and Lester Bernstein were Patrol Leaders and William Woolf, Scribe."

There was further reference to the Emanuel troop in the *Providence Sunday Journal* of January 29, 1928: "Troop 20 went on a hike to Woodville under leadership of Al Geffner. The 'Hot Knishes' defeated the 'Bagle' boys in a game of hockey."

TROOP 14

Among the Jewish Boy Scout troops listed in columns written by Swartz was Troop 14 which met at Candace Street School. While it had some Jewish boys as members, Galkin recalls that it also had a number of non-Jewish boys and was not sponsored by a Jewish group. According to an article in the *Jewish Advocate* of Boston, Massachusetts, November 1, 1923 written by Russell Swartz, Troop No. 14 met at the Candace Street School. Morris Conn was Assistant Scoutmaster; Jacob Scup, Acting Assistant Scoutmaster; and Abraham Tubman Senior Patrol Leader. While the troop was non-sectarian, more than half of the membership was Jewish. Regarding this troop, Swartz wrote on another occasion: "Troop No. 14 is one of the few that takes boys of other creeds into its membership other than Jewish boys. . . . This troop is live in its activities and has 32 scouts in the troop. It also has three patrols: Flying Eagle, A. Tubman, Patrol Leader; Beaver, Benjamin Weiner, Patrol Leader; Lions, Abraham Goldstein, Patrol Leader. . . . The troop goes on hikes every Sunday, and at the last meeting Committeeman Swartz gave a report of the scout conference recently held in New York."

TROOP 1—"THE FIRST PROVIDENCE TROOP"\*

This troop met at Broad Street School in Washington Park and is included in this article on Jewish Boy Scouts, because it is an example of a non-sectarian troop in which the majority of the boys were Christian. Active in this troop were Seebert J. Goldowsky and Charles Potter,\*\* both later physicians in the community. Doctor Goldowsky joined in 1919 and was active in the troop for about 9 years. He regularly went to Camp Yawgoog with his troop. Although boys from Jewish troops would attend Jewish Sabbath services, he did not feel comfortable joining them since the boys in his own troop attended Protestant services on Sunday mornings. Goldowsky rose through the ranks—first class scout, patrol leader, senior patrol leader and assistant scoutmaster. Although the two boys were not with troops identified as Jewish, they were singled out by Swartz in his articles, in one of which he reported: "At a Scout reunion and conference held at the new Commercial High School (1924) another Jewish Scout was very prominent there. His name is Potter and as a

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\*This troop was a direct descendant of the first troop in Providence organized under the old Rhode Island Boy Scouts. It chose to be designated as "The First Providence Troop", which in fact it was, rather than Troop 1. It also called itself "The Pioneer Troop" and adopted a neckerchief with a pioneer scout as its motif. Ed.

\*\*Doctor Charles Potter was tragically killed by a homicide's bullet in 1970 in his 53rd year.

prominent member of Camp Tuocs (a division of Camp Yawgoog) he led in the cheering for that spot." In another story Swartz noted: "Jewish Boy Scouts receive merit badges at the Boy Scout Court of Honor which met in the Superior Court House". There was an address by Mayor Joseph Gainer, who awarded merit badges to 57 scouts, of whom nearly one fifth were Jewish. Among the recipients was Seebert Goldowsky of Troop 1.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICES

Scout participation in Memorial Day Parades and grave decoration went back to the start of the movement. And we paraded on Armistice Day when those processions were begun. Troops participated in their own communities. Then there were great parades when all the Council came to Providence—Scout Anniversary marches, WPA, Civil Defense and United Fund processions.<sup>21</sup>

Herman Galkin felt strongly that the Jewish Boy Scouts should be involved in more than just marching on special holidays. He instituted the practice of decorating Jewish soldiers' graves. As he said in a recent interview, "It isn't just a Jewish holiday (referring to Memorial Day), it's an American holiday and these boys are Americans." This practice, which Galkin encouraged became an annual feature of the observance of Memorial Day at the Jewish cemeteries. The announcement of the 1923 Memorial Day Services appears on page 361.

The *Jewish Review* of May 25, 1923 reports the plans for these Memorial Day services:

The solemn task of honoring the Jewish soldier dead will again occupy the attention of Troop 5, Young Men's Hebrew Association Boy Scouts, on Memorial Day when the entire organization will motor to the Lincoln Park Cemetery and thence to the Temple Beth-El Cemetery on Reservoir Avenue to conduct memorial services over the graves of the fallen heroes and decorate them with flowers and wreaths. . . . The Scouts will assemble at the gates of the cemetery under the leadership of Herman Galkin, Scoutmaster of the troop. Cantor Smith and Rabbi Israel S. Rubenstein will conduct the services. Following the prayer, taps will be sounded by the company's buglers. . . .

In 1924 an elaborate ceremony was planned to honor Colonel Harry Cutler. In past years the Colonel Harry Cutler Post No. 3 of the Jewish Veterans of the Wars of the Republic, Bronx, New York had sent a

# Memorial Day Services

In honor of the Jewish men who  
died in the World War

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## LINCOLN PARK CEMETERY

Wednesday, May 30, 1923

12 o'clock noon

Rabbi Israel S. Rubenstein and Cantor  
Meyer Smith will officiate.

The principal speakers will be Lieuten-  
ant D. Gus. Schneider, and Lieutenant  
Samuel I. Kenison, U. S. N. Med. Corps, Ret.

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You are cordially invited to honor the  
memory of the Jewish Men who gave  
their lives to insure us of Amer-  
ican freedom and prosperity

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These exercises will be conducted under the aus-  
pices of the Y. M. H. A. Boy Scouts

wreath for the decoration of the grave by Boy Scouts, but that year for the first time they visited Providence. It was fitting that Colonel Harry Cutler, nationally prominent as a Jewish leader, should also be honored by the Boy Scouts. Colonel Cutler was the first chief scout commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Rhode Island.<sup>12</sup>

Many letters were exchanged between the New York post and Galkin, evidence of the considerable effort involved in bringing them to Rhode Island for the two-day visit. "Archibald Silverman called me—I was only a young fellow at the time—'Mr. Galkin, I know you are working hard on this (bringing these men to Providence)—what can I do to help?' I told him what the program was. Mr. Silverman invited the men who were coming down from New York to a luncheon after the affair was over. He arranged a luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel and took care of all of their expenses. No one asked him to do that. He said Colonel Cutler was a friend of his. That was the type of person he (Archibald Silverman) was".<sup>13</sup>

The visit of the representatives of the Colonel Harry Cutler Post received much publicity in the newspapers:

Tribute to the memory of Colonel Harry Cutler, late of Providence, was paid yesterday afternoon by Providence Jews and a delegation from Colonel Harry Cutler Post No. 3 Jewish Veterans of the Wars of the Republic of New York. Memorial exercises were conducted at Mr. Cutler's grave in the Sons of Israel and David Cemetery on Reservoir Avenue at noon, following morning services at Lincoln Cemetery in memory of Jewish War Veterans. In past years Colonel Harry Cutler Post has sent a wreath for the decoration of the grave by Jewish Boy Scouts of this city. This year, for the first time, the post named in honor of the nationally known Jewish leader, visited this city. Exercises at Mr. Cutler's grave opened with prayer, led by Joseph Schlossberg. This was followed by addresses by Rabbi Morris Schussheim, Dr. Samuel I. Kennison, and Brig. General William F. Flanagan, retired. . . . Patriotic songs were sung by Jewish Girl Scouts. A firing squad from the New York delegation fired a salute over the grave and Taps was sounded by bugler, Harold Sydney. Following these exercises the visitors from New York were entertained by Archibald Silverman at a luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel. In the afternoon they participated in exercises at the grave of Roger Williams in Roger Williams Park. [See photo page 363]



First Memorial Day Exercises in Rhode Island in honor of Jewish soldiers who died in World War I under the auspices of Troops 5 and 10. Reservoir Avenue Cemetery of the Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David, May 30, 1922. Three large wreaths were placed on Colonel Harry Cutler's grave, one of which was the gift of the Cutler Post of New York, Jewish Veterans of Wars of the Republic. Cantor Joseph Schlossberg to the right (in sailor straw hat); behind him in campaign hat, Herman Galkin; in forefront in officer's uniform, Doctor William F. Flanagan, Colonel of the Rhode Island First Light Infantry; to the left of the grave, Samuel I. Kennison, M.D., Lt. U.S. Navy Medical Corps., ret. (in uniform) and Archibald Silverman (in morning dress). Also scouts of Troops 5 and 10 and ex-servicemen in uniform.

Dr. Samuel I. Kennison, Nathan Temkin, Manuel Bloom and Herman S. Galkin were the committee in charge of the affair.<sup>14</sup>

Swartz adds his colorful interpretation of the day's happenings under the heading, "A big day in Jewish Scout Life:"

At quarter past nine last Friday morning, four troops of the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Providence Council and two troops of local Girl Scouts were to be seen marching manfully and patriotically in the parade of remembrance in honor of the hero dead of three great wars of our glorious nation. If one were to look closely at their troop flags the numbers 5, 10, 14, and 41 would be seen fluttering in the breezes of a beautiful spring day. Just back of and bearing these colors were Boy and Girl Scouts of Jewish faith and American spirit. Then Troops 20 and 28 came along. The former were under the leadership of Miss Minnie Tatz. . . . Shortly after the arrival of the scouts, who formed a Guard of Honor and stood at attention at the gates of the cemetery, the Colonel Harry Cutler Post of New York arrived. They had come all the way from New York City to do honor to their friend and comrade, that lovable man who died in the service of his people and his nation.

#### THE RELIGIOUS QUESTION

"It is the brotherhood of scouting that lies at the very heart of the movement . . . locally and nationally and internationally . . . to build understanding."<sup>15</sup> "No matter what the boy may be—Catholic, Protestant or Jew—the fundamental need of good citizenship should be kept before him."<sup>16</sup> These comments are from Will Oursler. On this same subject he emphasized that the Boy Scouts of America, while recognizing the importance of religion to every boy, is itself non-sectarian. It is of the belief that each boy's religious education should be provided not through Scouting but through his own church or synagogue. Boys of the various faiths learn that those of other faiths are not so different from themselves.

Religion and belief in God—by whatever road the boy chooses—is the foundation rock on which scouting is built . . . nearly half of the units in America are church-sponsored; many others are sponsored by organizations closely affiliated with church such as Knights of Columbus, YMHA, B'nai B'rith, etc. There is more than cooperation actually between Scouting and the great religious faiths, there is partnership.<sup>17</sup>

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The attitude of a widening interfaith of all who worship God has been in large measure predominant also in the Jewish religious participation. There were by 1954 nearly 1500 scout units in Jewish synagogues, the YMHA, and Jewish community centers. These represented only a part of the Jewish boys in Scouting, however. Many Jewish families believe that their boys gain most—and other boys also—through non-sectarian units.<sup>18</sup>

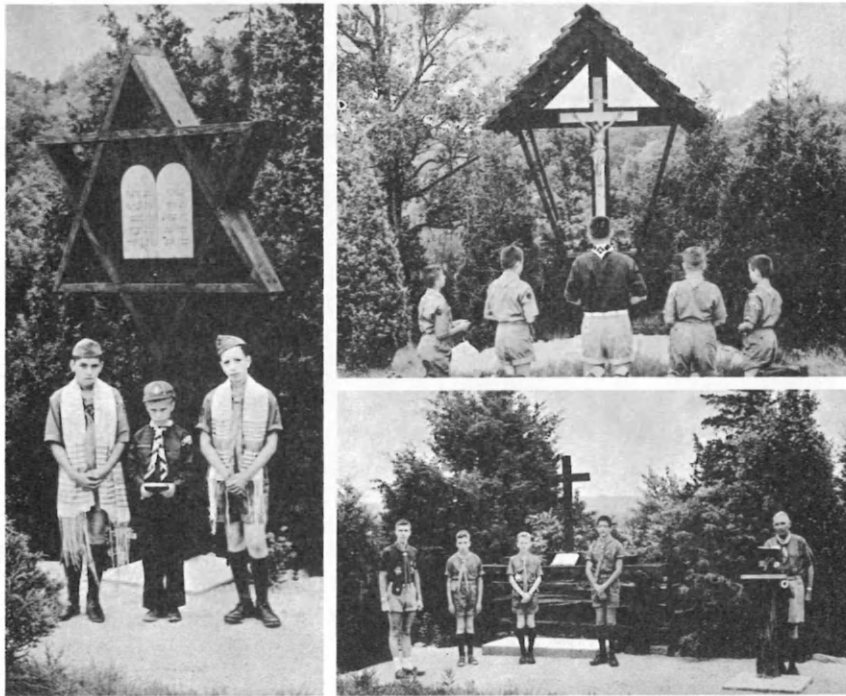
These views on religion and the boy scout movement are related to policy at the national level. On the local level the Boy Scout movement in Rhode Island started out as predominantly a Protestant dominated organization. Early names—G. Edward Buxton, Jr., Charles E. Mulhearn, T. Dawson Brown, Captain George Bucklin, John R. Rathom—all so-called WASPS (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). During the early years of the movement, Catholics were often discouraged by their church from joining the Boy Scouts. Aaran Roitman tells of a conversation which he had with the late Bishop McViney who told him that he himself had had to drop out of the Boy Scouts as it was considered a proselytizing Protestant organization by the Catholic Church when he was a young boy. Bishop Keough legitimized scouting in the 1920s so far as the local Catholic church was concerned.

A Jewish committee on scouting was formed under the leadership of Jacob S. Temkin and Joseph Jacobson, following splendid backing from Rabbis Schussheim, Braude, and Goldman. This growing interest of the religious faiths in Scouting resulted in the dedication in 1948 of tracts of land at Yawgoog for religious use. On three different sites Catholics, Protestants, and Jews have each erected centers for worship—and these three magnificent installations are famous throughout the country.<sup>19</sup> [See photo page 366]

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A "Scout is Reverent Sunday" was the theme of the program yesterday at Yawgoog Scout Camps in Rockville. More than 3,000 visitors attended the afternoon services held at the three religious centers. . . . The Temple of the 10 Commandments, the center for scouts of Jewish faith, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. Jacob S. Temkin, Chairman of the Jewish lay committee on scouting, presided. A new A-type structure now houses the Torah and is situated in a wooded area off the trail to Wincheck Pond. Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen gave the address of the day and led the gathering in the invocation and benediction. Joseph Jacobson,

## THREE FAITHS WORSHIP CENTER



### CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT and JEWISH STATIONS

Cover of *The Stalker* showing "Three Faith Worship Center. Catholic Protestant and Jewish Stations on Mount Reverence, Champlin Reservation form one of America's most distinctive and unique shrines. Dedicated, June, 1959." *Publication of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, vol. 39, no. 7, September 1959.*

a member of the committee on scouting, led the prayer of responsive reading<sup>20</sup>

Not only were there separate houses of worship at the camp, but awards were presented by the various faiths for participation and service in religious affairs, knowledge of the beliefs and practices of a boy's own faith, and effort toward spiritual excellence. The Jewish award is called the Ner Tamid\* medal.

Herman Galkin recalled his own boy scout experiences as a young boy and mentioned the short-lived all-Jewish troop formed by Doctor Gomberg. When this troop was disbanded he joined a troop at the First Baptist Meeting House. He has fond memories of that troop and particularly of Albert Thomas, a volunteer leader, who later became the minister of the church. Thomas always caused Galkin to feel proud that he was a Jew. Galkin also joined Troop 6, which met in the Old Arsenal on Benefit Street. Later Galkin volunteered to work with boys at the YMHA and the Hebrew Educational Institute. It was while he was so engaged that he saw the need for an all-Jewish troop and started a group in 1921 at the headquarters of the Hebrew Educational Institute at 65 Benefit Street. "Religion is very much part of scouting. If a boy is a good Jew, the scouts want him to be a good Jew and live up to his religion", said Galkin.

A record of Galkin's efforts on behalf of Jewish observances at Camp Yawgoog has been preserved in his collection of letters. J. Harold Williams on June 15, 1923 wrote to Galkin as follows:

Just a line before leaving for camp. Dr. Marvel\*\* and I have been having some serious talks about the matter of serving Kosher fowl and meat at camp and have reached a decision that we do not think it practicable to do it this year. We will of course look after the boys in the matter of serving eggs mornings and such matters which can be easily adjusted.

A letter from Isadore Abelson, Director of Army & Navy Service Department of the Jewish Welfare Board of New York City, dated May 5, 1927 further shows Galkin's continuing concern with the subject:

Your letter of May 4th requesting us to supply you with Prayer Books for Saturday morning Services held for the Jewish Boy Scouts

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\*"Eternal Lamp". (Hebrew) The ever-burning lamp, suspended in front of the Ark, symbolizing the eternal watchfulness and providence of God over his people.

\*\*Frederick W. Marvel, Professor of Physical Culture at Brown University.

of Rhode Island has been referred to me for reply. Will you kindly let us know how many copies you desire, and if it is possible for us to spare the quantity sought, we shall be glad to do so.

Swartz also commented on Galkin's efforts regarding Boy Scout religious observances:

Mr. Galkin supervises four troops, one of which is composed of Jewish and Gentile Boys (No. 14), because this troop was in existence before Mr. Galkin took charge of it. Another troop, No. 41, is composed of the boys of the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, also under Mr. Galkin's supervision. He is strict in the performance of the regular scout duties by his troops, but he is as much insistent that his troop carry out Jewish activities which he outlines for them. Thus it was for the first time in the history of local Scouting that his boys at Camp Yawgoog had kosher food, by special arrangement with Scout officials, and also accounts for the fact that his boys 'davened'\* each morning and conducted regular services while at camp.

Swartz reported that by arrangement with Joshua Lerner, principal of the Talmud Torah\*\* at the Hebrew Institute, Galkin was planning for Hebrew study classes among the scouts of his troops. Lerner would teach them to read and write Hebrew and also instruct them in Jewish history.

Writing further on the Jewish troop religious observances Swartz reported in his column:

It was on Friday, January 16 (1925) that Troop 10 did a very big thing, for though it was such a stormy night that anyone could be excused from attending a religious service, still as Troop 10 is not made up of weak-hearted Jews, the whole troop attended in a body. Their Jewishness is never dampened by any outside storm—whether it be rain, snow, or unjust criticism hurled at Jews by misguided ignorant people, who are not even aware of the real meaning of their faith. So the storm that swirled around the outside of Temple Beth Israel was more than offset by the fervor of the Boy Scouts as they zealously prayed. It gave all who attended a feeling that the Jewish religion is really an active force for good, for has it not outlived all the storms of pain and persecution. . . .

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\**Daven*, to pray. (Yiddish) Reputedly from the French *l'office divin*, "divine office."

\*\*Hebrew School.

All Jewish troops observed the Chanukah festival in a fitting manner. A Boy Scout is reverent. He must observe the teaching of religion faithfully. Otherwise, he is not a good scout.

Mr. Galkin's efforts on behalf of religious observances as documented by Swartz related largely to the 1920 decade. Referring to a somewhat later period, Doctor Melvin Hoffman commented:

There were services all the time at camp. We would on occasion have someone who was strictly kosher, and the camp would make some arrangement. They did it well enough so that is satisfied their parents. It is difficult and does tend to discourage strictly kosher kids from coming down to camp.

When Abbott Lieberman was chairman of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, he recalled, questions would be asked about kosher food. If headquarters were advised in advance, a frozen kosher dinner could be provided. "For breakfast they could manage with bread, butter, cereals—all dairy, but, of course, not on kosher dishes. There have been kids who went to Yawgoog and got along by not eating any meat. So it all depends on how strong the person is who wants to follow it through."

Lieberman continued:

The conflict in scouting always was the Friday night and Shabbot camping. Some rabbis have said if hiking and cooking are completed before sundown Friday and there is no building of fire on Saturdays, it is all right. But let us not kid ourselves. You cannot take 11 and 12 year old kids and not have them do what everybody else is doing. Jewish scouting is hard if you want to stay completely Orthodox. I remember we had a rabbi come in from New Jersey. He was the rabbi who was head of scouting throughout the country. Jack Temkin had all the rabbis at Turks Head Club. This rabbi tried to instill in the other rabbis a comprehension of what wonderful things the boys could get out of scouting as well as Jewishness. He was able to persuade some of them to permit the boys to go on overnight hikes Friday and Saturday. My own answer to all the rabbis is: "Where can you get closer to God but in the middle of God's country where you don't see a light, you don't see anything but true nature—the sun, the moon, the stars. What is it if it isn't God itself? God is in the Temple, but he is outside too."

A difference of opinion exists as to whether to establish and maintain all-Jewish troops which would incorporate religious observance along

with the boy scout activities or to recruit Jewish boys into non-sectarian troops. The present tendency is toward the latter. Various reasons for this view have been offered. There is less interest manifested among the Jewish rabbinate than within the Catholic diocese and among the Protestant ministry. At Camp Yawgoog it is difficult to provide a Jewish service because of lack of someone to officiate, whereas the Catholic mass and Protestant services are well attended and encouraged by their respective churches.

With many Jewish families now settled in Greater Providence, the tendency is for the boys to join troops in their neighborhoods or at their schools. This geographical change has led to a non-sectarian sponsorship of boy scout troops.

At present there is only one Jewish troop active in Providence. It is also the only such troop cited in this article that is still in existence, namely, Troop 20 at Temple Emanuel. Troop 20 is about to celebrate its 50th consecutive year. Doctor Norman Kahn is the current scoutmaster. He believes it to be the only Jewish sponsored troop still operating, not only in Providence, but in the entire state. Troop 50, which became Troop 40, of Temple Beth-El ceased to exist about two years ago. Fred Kelman, the last scoutmaster of Troop 10 of Temple Beth Israel, reports that it too had been phased out about two years ago. These formerly active troops had to be terminated because of lack of leadership and often lack of interest on the part of sponsors or potential sponsors.

#### THE CUB SCOUT MOVEMENT

A significant development of the 1930s was the initiation by the National Council of the Cub Scout movement for boys aged 9, 10 and 11. Later, when the minimum Boy Scout age was lowered to 11, the Cub Scout starting age was lowered to 8. Newport took to Cub Scouting at once, but in other parts of the state growth was slow. Eventually, this home-centered program became established as an important phase of scouting. Blue and gold uniforms identified the youngsters. Women entered the Scouting program for the first time as Den Mothers.<sup>21</sup> In the early 1920s a number of independent wolf cub units patterned after England's program had been set up in the United States, but the official Cub Scout program was introduced in 1933.<sup>22</sup>

Herman Galkin not only conceived the idea of a cub scout troop, but he formed such a group for the younger boys in the early 1920s. He expressed his ideas in a letter dated November 14, 1923 to the Executive Board of the Hebrew Educational Institute:

Due to the fact that there are so many boys under the age of twelve in this neighborhood who are seeking membership in our Scout troop constantly, and whereas a boy must have reached his twelfth birthday in order to become a Scout, this leaves the younger boys to solve their recreation and leisure periods to themselves.

Resulting from the numerous requests made by these boys, we are about to organize a Cub Scout Troop with the aim of giving these boys the correct sort of recreation and education program to keep them interested in Scout work until they are old enough to join our Boy Scout troops. Cub Scouts not being officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America, I wish to take this opportunity in asking the Executive Board to sanction such an organization, to be run in the Institute. No doubt there will be a little expense attached to this movement as a great many of the boys come from poor families. I feel that this movement will be of great advantage to our community at large, and especially our Talmud Torah as we will recruit many boys from there, which will have a tendency toward making the boys take a more active interest in their studies as they will be barred from all Scout activities if they do not pass in their studies. . . .

On May 22, 1925 Galkin described the Cub Scout Troop he had originated to Emerson Brooke of New York City:

Some two years ago I spoke to our Scout Executive, Mr. Williams, regarding a younger boy program, and he advised me that National Headquarters had a committee investigating the younger boy program. Having waited a considerable length of time, and not receiving a response I proceeded to organize a group of boys which we named Cub Scouts with the understanding that we would carry on with this name until National Headquarters would adopt a younger boy program. In no way whatever have the Cub Scouts been connected with our Scout troops. Their only relationship is that they are allowed the use of the Scout Room and Meeting Hall, and our leader is recruited from our Scout Troops. These boys at present meet Sunday afternoons. They have not used any of the Scout tests whatsoever and they have no uniforms.

Swartz commented on the Cub Scout movement as set up by Herman Galkin:

. . . it is vitally necessary that boys from 8 to 12 be kept out of mischief in their leisure hours. For many a young lad starts a

life of wrong doing out of his mis-directed thoughts of what fun really is. The Cub Scout idea is to make those young lads good boy scouts and good loyal citizens.

Swartz described the troop as comprising four patrols of ten boys each with names such as Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Harding, which were designed to inculcate in the boys a sense of patriotism.

#### EXPLORER UNITS

As the Boy Scout movement progressed, the need for special programs for other than the younger boys became evident. Programs designed for boys 14 to 17 years of age would be of greater value and interest to them. Originally the Explorers' program was low-keyed, designed mostly for senior scouts. It was little more than an adventure type of program where junior leaders could have an affiliation, and not always be associated with the younger boys, as Doctor Melvin Hoffman explained the Explorer program.

"Then," continued Doctor Hoffman, "I had an inspiration. Although I found out later that it had been done previously in California, I did not know it at the time. The inspiration was an idea to open doors to high school youngsters that ordinarily would not be open to them. I envisioned it as a career-orientated type of activity. By using some kind of topic in medicine, we would have doctors talk to youngsters about what they do, and be open for questioning and discussion. This would give students a chance to find out about health careers from people involved and to learn more in case they were interested. These youngsters would not ordinarily have had the chance to have contact with these individuals or to see the hospital areas of special activities. They would tour with someone responsible for what went on in that area—as, for example, a demonstration of an x-ray and a discussion about it."

The program which Doctor Hoffman envisioned became a reality in 1961 when he inaugurated it at the Rhode Island Hospital. He was assisted by Robert Hochberg, who served as coordinator of the Explorer program. This program ran for about ten years under Doctor Hoffman's direction. In its 9th year a questionnaire was sent to those Explorers who had been in the program. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain how the Explorer program affected the scouts' further study and careers. These scouts had been involved during their 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of senior high school, with most scouts staying in the program two years, or occasionally three years. "We made no attempt to select who would

go into the program. It was limited only in the number we could encompass, up to 25 at any one time. For seven years we were oversubscribed, but the last few years of the program were not as heavily subscribed", said Doctor Hoffman. "It was open to anyone interested in a health career in medicine, and by natural selection we seemed to get the better students. Some came, but then dropped out because we were not going to make junior doctors out of them. For some the program did not meet their needs." As for the results of the survey, Doctor Hoffman found them very gratifying. "We got back some 65 responses, and 22 were either in medical school or planning to continue a medical career. Of all the others who had graduated from the program, all but one had gone on to college, and that scout had gone into the military service. He returned to work at the Rhode Island Hospital as a technician. Of those who went to college about 20 went on to careers in business, music, philosophy, or others."

Now there are Explorer units in many other fields such as banking, merchandising, and law. Aaron Roitman, who praised the work undertaken in the Explorer program in medicine under Doctor Hoffman, observed, "I think this career idea is a great one if it does no more than to tell a boy that he may be going into a career that is not for him. He may otherwise spend money and years in pursuing a medical career only to find out he is not suited for it."

#### BOY SCOUT AWARDS

Narragansett Council has, from its earliest days, endeavored to maintain high standards of advancement, calling for reviews by Troop Committees before Scouts were granted Second and First Class Rank, reviews by Districts before Scouts were awarded Star and Life Rank, and reviews by a Council Board of Review before the highest rank of Eagle was granted. . . . The first Eagle Scout rank was granted in 1919. . . . In 1936 an Eagle Scout Book of Honor was established and each Eagle Scout has a page in this book. . . . The Eagle Court of Honor convened at the Providence County Court House and at Yawgoog, and a part of the distinguished ceremony was the placing by each boy of his page in the book. The increase of Scout membership and the large number of Eagle candidates to be reviewed caused the Council in 1961 to place the reviews and Courts of Honor in the Districts, bringing together all the Eagles of one year at which each boy is sponsored by some prominent citizen—usually a man with a vocation in which the boy is interested.<sup>23</sup>

According to Williams's book, *Scout Trail*, all Eagle Scout badges are now presented in the name of Captain George Bucklin (a philanthropist whose bequest to the Boy Scouts of Rhode Island made possible the beautiful Bucklin Memorial Lodge at Camp Yawgoog). There are also two special medals, the Captain George Bucklin "for merit" Medal and the Bucklin Marksmanship Medal.

Abbott Lieberman has commented that the boy of today upon attaining the Eagle Scout rank does not receive the recognition accorded Eagle Scouts in the past. Favorable newspaper publicity had always been given to honor these boys. However, when Lieberman questioned the policy of the newspapers for not affording space to an event that represented a boy's high achievement, he was told that it was "not news enough". Many Jewish boys over the years have attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Silver Beaver award is presented by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, to adult volunteer scouts for "distinguished Service to Boyhood." It was originated by Narragansett Council in 1943. Among the local recipients are: 1953—Walter Adler; 1957—Aaron Roitman; 1967—Abbott Lieberman; 1968—Doctor Melvin Hoffman; 1969—Joseph Pulver; 1970—Major General Leonard Holland; 1972—Stanley P. Turco; and 1976—Stanley J. Brier.

Walter Adler, as a board member of the Boy Scouts (title given to such men was "Scouter"), gave volunteer service in his capacity as legal consultant. He also revised the bylaws of the Girl Scouts, which had not been changed in more than thirty years. He arranged for purchase of the land on which the Pulver Lodge is located.

Aaron Roitman, although he had been a member of Troop 10 as a boy, had had little contact with the Boy Scouts as an adult. However, in 1951 he became active again as the father of a scout, a familiar pattern. Roitman's expertise and experience as a successful businessman was very valuable to the Boy Scouts. He was co-chairman with Rudolph F. ("Pete") Haffenreffer III of a project called the "Together Plan" of 1956, involving manufacturers, businesses, unions, and other organizations. They were brought together at a dinner, which resulted in the formation of 50 troops with the backing of union and management. There had been a need for troops in areas of low income. Roitman subsequently became involved in fund raising. He was chairman of the 1960 Golden Jubilee Year of Boy Scouting. Money was raised to refurbish Camp Yawgoog and raise the capacity from 1,000 to 1,200. They raised

funds in excess of their \$500,000 goal. In 1962 and 1963 Roitman served as President of the Narragansett Council of Boy Scouts and has continued to advise and serve in the Boy Scout movement.

Abbott Lieberman started his scouting career at Central Baptist Church, but after one year he joined Troop 20, which had been formed at Temple Emanuel. As a member of this troop he advanced through the various grades eventually becoming scoutmaster. Following service in World War II he became a neighborhood commissioner of the East Side of Providence and Fox Point. As neighborhood commissioner it was his role to see that the scoutmasters and headquarters had open lines of communication. He eventually advanced to Assistant District Commissioner, of whom there were four in Providence. Under his jurisdiction were 20 troops, 1 cub pack, and four or five neighborhood commissioners. Lieberman has also served as Chairman of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, which position he assumed after Jacob Temkin's death. For his extensive work in Scouting, Lieberman received many awards, among them the Shofar award and the Bucklin award. He has two sons who are Eagle Scouts.

Doctor Melvin Hoffman was 13 years old when he joined Troop 50 at Temple Beth-El on Broad Street. He rose through the ranks from patrol leader and senior patrol leader to junior assistant scoutmaster. He entered the military service in World War II and was wounded at Iwo Jima. In 1945 he was made an Eagle Scout by Chief Williams, who said he never before had bestowed this honor on a scout who had received the Purple Heart. Resuming his leadership in scouting after his service, Hoffman became affiliated with the troop at Temple Beth-El, which was now designated as Troop 40. His work with the Explorer units was cited earlier in this paper. Among other valuable contributions which Doctor Hoffman has made to Scouting was the establishment of a model medical setup at Camp Yawgoog, which setup is now in its 15th year. Hoffman remembered that when he was a camper, physician coverage was erratic, by an intern, a resident, or practicing physician who did not cover the entire season. When Hoffman became a camp physician, he made arrangements for a doctor to cover every week during the camp season. Each doctor would spend a week or more with his family in quarters provided for them. Doctor Hoffman still arranges for physician coverage, and he himself covers part of the summer together with his own family. The current medical setup for the approximately 750 campers accommodated comprises one physician, two orderlies, and a nurse. The infirmary, the Armington Memorial Health Lodge contains two treatment rooms and a seven bed ward.

Doctor Hoffman was responsible for organizing a successful two-day conference on camp health based on his camp experiences. It was held in Providence and attracted 90 to 100 camp directors, nurses, physicians, and others associated with summer camping. Doctor Hoffman is on the Board of Directors of the Narragansett Council and is Chairman of Health and Safety for the Narragansett Council.

The late Joseph Pulver had originally been recruited into Scouting by Herman Galkin. Galkin recalls that, when the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts asked Pulver to serve on the Board, Pulver assured Galkin that this was a duty that he felt obliged to accept. He appreciated greatly what the Scouts and Herman Galkin had done for him. Galkin also recalls giving the boys an assignment to draw pictures of their "dreams for the troop". Pulver drew a sketch of a log cabin. After his death Pulver's family erected a building at the Buck Hill Scout Camp in northern Rhode Island, designated as the Pulver Lodge. Pulver is remembered for many years of selfless devotion to Scouting.

Major General Leonard Holland was introduced to Scouting at Troop 14 at Candace Street School. He became the troop's junior patrol leader and remained active as an adult, serving as Cub Scout leader and also as vice president and director of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America. General Holland has received the Bucklin Award. For more than seven years he has conducted "School Night for Scouting" at which as many as 3,000 scouts may be recruited. It is an annual affair of the school year at which all schools are open. With the cooperation of parents, teachers, principals, and superintendents the story of the Boy Scout movement is presented. Coordination of personnel and publicity are under the supervision of General Holland. In another capacity, in his role as the Adjutant General of the National Guard he oversees the aid given by the National Guard in the seasonal chore of cleaning and setting up the various camps.

Stanley Turco, like the other recipients of the Silver Beaver award, has given years of service to the Boy Scout movement. He at one time served as scoutmaster of Troop 50 and later was chairman of a committee on publicity for the Boy Scouts. He is in agreement with Abbott Lieberman's contention that the communications media are currently little interested in promoting Scouting. He is at this writing a member of the Board of the Narragansett Council and is chairman of the sustaining family membership program of the Council.

Stanley Brier served as scoutmaster of Troop 40, and then became neighborhood commissioner. From this post he became assistant district

commissioner and then commissioner of all of the city of Providence. At this writing Brier is Assistant Commissioner of the Narragansett Council, which covers all of Rhode Island. He has also received the Bucklin award.

HERMAN S. GALKIN

It is appropriate to single out Herman Galkin who has devoted much of his life since 1910 to the Boy Scout movement. March 18, 1977 was designated Herman S. Galkin Day in a proclamation signed by Governor J. Joseph Garrahy. In part it read:

WHEREAS: Mr. Herman S. Galkin has long been an active member of the Boy Scouts since joining the American Boy Scouts in 1910. Through his many years of dedicated service to Scouting Mr. Galkin has shown his interest in the young people of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations;

WHEREAS: He has further shown his confidence in the young people of our state by interesting the Jewish sponsors of Boy Scout troops during the 1920s and by organizing the Scouting body for the boys at the Rhode Island Training School;

WHEREAS: Mr. Galkin has contributed to the enrichment of the Scouting program by serving on the Executive Board as Assistant Council Commissioner and as a Scoutmaster. . . .

In this proclamation were also mentioned Galkin's work with handicapped children as a member of the Providence Rotary Club.

On the same day Galkin also received the Shofar Award. This read: "WHEREAS: you singularly were responsible for the formation of those troops which were sponsored by Jewish institutions within the Narragansett Council."

In referring to the honor bestowed upon Galkin the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* of March 19, 1977 reported:

Herman S. Galkin, 80, a leader in Scouting for most of his life last night became the first\* Rhode Islander to receive the Shofar award of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

About 150 persons attended the ceremony at Temple Sinai marking the annual Scout Sabbath. Governor Garrahy was the main

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\*Further investigation proved that Galkin was fourth, not first to receive the Shofar award. As there had been no record at Boy Scout headquarters of previous Shofar awards, the committee arranging for the award did not realize that it had previously been received by Jacob Temkin, Abbott Lieberman, and Howard Snyder.

speaker. . . . Galkin at one time during the 1920s was scoutmaster of five troops at the same time, and he was responsible for organizing all seven troops in Providence that are sponsored by Jewish organizations.

Regarding Governor Garrahy's reference to Galkin's work in organization of a scout unit for the boys at the Rhode Island Training School, Galkin related in a recent interview: "There were six Jewish boys at Sockanossett (the Rhode Island Training School for Boys). I used to bring them to the area where I later built my home. When I started the Jewish Boy Scouts I noticed no one ever did anything for the Jewish boys at Sockanossett. In those days they did not have social workers, and each little wrong thing a boy would do, it was easier for the teacher to send him down there. The superintendent was a former Boy Scout leader at Camp Yawgoog. What I had in mind was that when these boys at Sockanosset were released, they would have friends on the outside. I used to visit their parents and find out more about them. I became acquainted with the boys at the training school and would take the scouts from my troop with me to help these unfortunate boys and make friends with them." Galkin was allowed to take the boys on camping expeditions. He spoke of how well some of these boys have done with their lives after their release from the Training School.

On September 11, 1923 Galkin received this letter from Chief Scout Executive J. Harold Williams: "It is with great pleasure that I notify you of your election yesterday by the Executive Committee of the Greater Providence Council as Assistant Deputy Scout Commissioner. This title has been given you in order that you may more readily carry on the work of scouting among the Jewish boys of Providence."

In the 1920s Galkin sent a number of letters to prominent men in the community asking for contributions for the boys of poor families who would be deprived of their week at Camp Yawgoog because of inability to pay the \$5 per week board. The responses indicate his considerable success in raising the money. In 1923 the YMHA and YWHA contributed \$50 to enable some of the boys who could not afford the fee the opportunity of attending camp. Among the 83 boys who went to Yawgoog that year, 13 were from the Jewish Orphanage.

Herman Galkin not only raised money, but also wrote letters, such as the following dated July 14, 1925:

Dear Parents: No doubt by this time you have consented to let your son go to Camp Yawgoog to mold deeper into the character

of your boy the high ideals of the Scout movement, "Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight".

We know that many mothers fear to send their boys away where they can go in bathing, but we wish to take this means of assuring you that *there is no danger whatever in camp*. The boys are well guarded at all times. They are taken in bathing at regular swim periods and at no other times are they permitted to go into the water. They are taught to swim and are protected at all times. In fact, some mothers claim that the boys are taken care of better at camp than they are at home.

While Galkin reassured most mothers that their boys would be safe, there is a story about one boy, later a well-known businessman in the community, whose mother was not convinced. A typical "Jewish Mother," she visited her dear son at Camp Yawgoog. Upon discovering that he was sleeping in a tent, she took him out of camp and brought him home—undoubtedly an exceptional case.

One of Galkin's problems was the recruiting of scout leaders for his troops. Through advertisements he solicited the enlistment of scoutmasters. The following typical news item addressed this problem: "He, as you know, is one of the best loved Jewish men of the city, because of his interest in the Jewish youths. . . . At the present time there are five Jewish troops and there are only one or two leaders for the whole mass of boys. Each troop has between 20 to 40 members, and they must have leaders. You can see that by holding meetings each week Mr. Galkin's spare time is not his own. And then there is the HEI (Hebrew Educational Institute) and the Cub Scout patrol which he has organized to take more of his time. He sends out a request that the older Jewish boys at the age of 21 and over should imbibe some of the Jewish spirit and come to his aid."<sup>24</sup>

Galkin continues to pursue the volunteer work he undertook early in his adult life, currently with handicapped children. While his devotion to teaching and serving the needs of others has benefited many, it obviously has resulted in his being a fulfilled and contented man.

#### THEY TOO WERE INVOLVED

Among the many Jews who were connected with the Boy Scout movement in some capacity, some made outstanding contributions. It is not possible to include everyone who has been involved in or who continues to serve the Boy Scout cause in some way. Those cited in this chapter merely are representative of the much larger number of whom it can be said "They also served".