FILE NAME: Ford (FD)

DATE: 1971 Mar 23

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Girl Scouts from Dr. Selikoff advising of Inaccurate Advice in GS Newsletter RE Asbestos Use with Attached Newsletter

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
FD-102

March 23, 1971

Miss Charlotte Pollock, Editor
Girl Scout Leader
Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
830 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Miss Pollock:

On page 28 of "Girl Scout Leader" there is a comment concerning "Tips on asbestos powder." I have no way of knowing whether this was in any way related to my letter to the Girl Scouts of November 16, 1970 concerning my misgivings about advising the use of asbestos powder in the volume entitled "Moresbouts," since I received no reply to my letter.

I do not believe that the recommendation is suitable, since mixing the powder will cause it to be disseminated for considerable distances and girls "not standing by" will hardly be protected. Too, I fail to see why leaders should not also be protected.

The recommendation to work in a well-ventilated area when mixing the powder is much too indefinite to be effective.

If you plan to recommend the deletion of this use of asbestos powder in the next printing of "Moresbouts" and the "Junior Handbook," I am curious why such recommendation not be made now. I believe this omission disadvantageous, and one which could lead to serious consequences.

Sincerely yours,

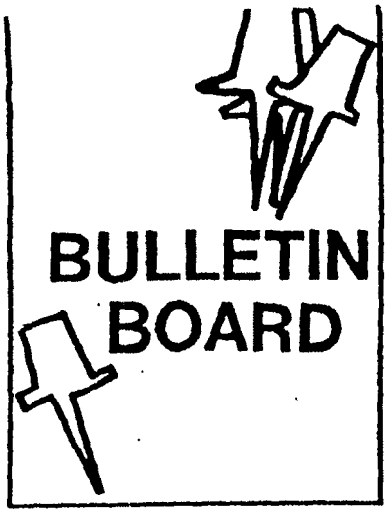
Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
Professor

IJS:jlr
cc: Dr. Roy E. Gosler

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Program Datelines: April-May

April 1-30—Cancer Control Month
April 2—International Children's Book Day
—Hans Christian Andersen's birthday
April 10-11—Passover begins (first two days)
April 11—Easter
April 11-17—Pan American Week
April 13—Thomas Jefferson's birthday
April 18-24—National Library Week
—National YWCA Week
April 17—Passover ends
April 18—Easter (Eastern Orthodox Church)
May 1—Law Day
—Loyalty Day
May 1-8—American Camping Week
May 2-8—National Be Kind to Animals Week
May 8—World Red Cross Day
May 9—Mother's Day
May 15—Armed Forces Day
May 20—Ascension Day
May 24-30—Drug Abuse Prevention Week
May 31—Memorial Day

Thought for the month

Ask any group of people, "What is a Girl Scout?" and you will get as many different answers as you have people. Some might say, "A little girl in a green uniform," or "A girl who belongs to a Girl Scout troop." Perhaps someone will say, "A girl who likes to do things for other people," or "A girl who likes to go camping."

True as these answers may be, they all miss one important point. None of these answers are nearly big enough. A green dress does not make a Girl Scout, nor do selling cookies and attending meetings.

Being a Girl Scout is something more.

Being a Girl Scout is being something special.

[illegible] in trying to live by the Girl Scout Promise and Laws. A Girl Scout really is honest, loyal, and helpful. She is kind and considerate to other people and to animals. She is human too, and of course, she doesn't always live up to all the laws all of the time. The important thing is that she tried..."On my honor, I will *try*."

How many of your girls are just "girls in green uniforms?" Why not spend some time at your next few meetings discussing the Promise and Laws with the girls. Ask what they mean and how they apply to day-to-day living. Help your girls to understand the Promise and Laws so you will have a troop of real Girl Scouts and not just girls in green uniforms.

— Mrs. Charles A. Berry, Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital

Project Heritage resource

"100 Books," a bibliography dealing with Chicano/Mexican and Mexican history, culture, and art is being made available to Girl Scout troops by the Mexican American Council on Education. A valuable resource for troops working on Project Heritage, or engaged in Action 70 activities. The bibliography may be reproduced, in whole or in part, providing the words courtesy of Mexican American Council on Education, Chicago, Illinois 60626 are used. Distribution is limited to one copy per troop. Include troop number in your request. (The Mexican American Council on Education, 1234 West Granville, Chicago, Ill. 60626)

Summer activities for teen-agers

Teen-agers can find ideas and activities for a worthwhile, interesting, and useful summer in *Summer Opportunities for Teen-Agers*, a vocational guide published by the Advancement and Placement Institute. Hundreds of organizations and individuals have contributed to this compilation. For a copy, write the Advancement and Placement Institute, 169 North Ninth Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11211; cost: $3.00.

Tips on asbestos powder

When using asbestos powder, listed as a modeling material in *Moreabouts for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders* (page 64) and the *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* (page 184), remember:

- Always work in a well-ventilated area when mixing the powder, allowing the dust to disperse.
- Leaders, only, should mix the powder, and girls should not stand nearby when this is being done. If inhaled, the dust may be harmful. Manufacturers of the powder state that it is harmful only when it is inhaled. There is no danger involved in girls' working with the moist asbestos modeling material.

With the next printing of *Moreabouts for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders* and the *Junior Handbook*, the use of asbestos powder will be deleted. You may wish to add this information in your copy of these two books.

Nature guide for leaders

Interested in your environment but worried because you don't know a thing about nature? Don't let this keep you from exploring your surroundings with the troop. A gem of a book will help you! Written nearly thirty years ago, Marie E. Gaudette's *Leader's Nature Guide* is still a most useful resource. It is one of the best confidence builders we know, covering a wide range of ideas and activities in down-to-earth language.

Order from National Equipment Service, Catalog No. 19-205, 50 cents.

Dive into summer—read

The Children's Book Council has launched its 1971 campaign to promote summer reading with a new theme: "Dive Into Summer—Read."

Promotional materials designed by William Pene Du Bois, a popular illustrator of children's books, include a poster, bookmarks, achievement certificates, and membership cards.

Information on how to order any of these materials may be obtained by writing to Children's Book Council, Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Movies by teen-agers

Movies by young film-makers, "out to communicate ideas...to make a personal statement...to examine a civic problem...to educate...or just to have a little fun" are showcased in a 28-minute movie, "Teen-age Movies in Competition," available free for group showings from Eastman Kodak Company.

Narrated by a young film-maker, the 16mm color film—with optical sound—excerpts twelve winning film productions entered in the annual Kodak Teen-age Movie Awards. These range from a satirical look at a well-known television series to what happens when a boy builds a sand castle.

To reserve a print of "Teen-age Movies in Competition" for a group showing, write Audio-Visual Distribution, Eastman Kodak Company, Department 396, 343 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14650.

For information on the Kodak Teen-age Movie Awards, including rules and entry blanks, write Kodak Teen-age Awards, Eastman Kodak Company, Department 840, 343 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14650. □

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Continued from page 6

Selecting a badge subject

My Girls are interested in developing a special Our Own Troop's badge. The badge subject they have selected is bowling, which is not, I am certain, the type of thing hoped for in suggesting such a badge.

I would like to know what kind of things other Junior troops have done for this badge, how the ages of the girls in the troop might have influenced the choice, and whether the choice stemmed from the girls' real interest or from what was locally available.

From Mrs. L. C. Jansen, leader, Joliet, Ill.: The subject must be something in which the girls are interested. Having moved to Illinois a few years ago, I tried to interest several troops (Junior and Cadette) in developing a heritage badge to make use of the sesquicentennial theme. No one was interested, it was too much like school. Some of these same girls, in their third year of Junior Scouting, found a subject they wished to explore—budgeting. Dismayed by the ever-rising costs of camping, they were ready to develop a badge on the subject.

Having received approval of our council's program committee, the girls are set to work. First they discussed in patrols the name, the badge symbol, and requirements they would like to include. Next the Court of Honor set everything down in exact wording (except the symbol), and the patrols again had an opportunity to make any changes they wished. As we worked on the requirements, girls drew pictures of the badge symbol until one submitted a design that was unanimously selected —a cash register on which rested a winged dollar bill, to show that our dollars would go *farther*, not *faster*. The girls pursued the badge with enthusiasm, and every girl finished it.

The important things to remember are:

1. Refer to the guidelines in the *Handbook*.
2. Local availability doesn't necessarily make it interesting to *your* girls.
3. Interest can be built in subtle ways, but if they resist your best efforts, forget it. The idea of writing their own badge appeals to most girls, and, sooner or later, together you will find a subject if you are alert to their interests.
4. Keep the badge symbol simple, remembering that it has a small badge space to fill, and young fingers aren't always agile. Our troop did their "Budge a Budget" badge with embroidery paint at the suggestion of one of our needleworking mothers.

From Elma M. Stipe, leader, Wellesley, Mass.: Our troop recently completed Our Own Troop's Going Places badge. This badge developed from replies to our usual start-of-the year question, "What special thing do you want to do this year?" All the replies seemed to include the word "go." Because the troop leaders do not consider aimless "going" valid or rewarding Girl Scout program, we worked with the girls to develop meaningful and purposeful requirements. The Court of Honor determined the statement of purpose of the badge, and the girls, working in patrols, created the requirements. The result was that the girls learned about many interesting places near home that they could visit on foot, by public transportation, in private cars, or by charter bus. They also learned how to go places both courteously and safely. Best of all, they went to many places they had suggested and had fun doing it.

From Mrs. Harold Sharpe, Senior adviser, Forth Worth, Tex.: When my girls were in the fourth grade, they also wanted to do a special Our Own Troop's badge. Many things were discussed, including bowling. But after a little soul-searching, the girls realized much of their desire for a bowling badge was based on a "fun thing" and not really something they could learn and then put to use. So, they reached an excellent compromise. They would learn to bowl and then practice their new-found skill all summer long at weekly scheduled Scout meetings. The only difference being that we met at the bowling alley instead of in a home. (This certainly was a boost to the leaders, who know summer meetings are what keep a troop active!)

Perhaps you can help this Cadette leader with her problem of—

Welcoming newcomers

Our problem concerns friction between new Cadettes coming into the troop and those already in. The older girls openly make nasty remarks about those "babies." They separate at meetings, and despite all our efforts, my co-leader and I have been unable to stop it. Any suggestions for a discouraged leader?

Address your letters to: Problem Clinic, GIRL SCOUT LEADER, 830 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Letters to this department cannot be individually acknowledged. □

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