

This Week's Guest Writer
May 1951

Lawrence Titus, Alpine Scout committeeman since 1949, has been active in the promotion of boys' activities all his life, and as our guest writer this week gives an outline of the hopes and plans of the Alpine Scouts. Entering its 6th year, the Scouts have grown from approximately a membership of 25 boys to more than twice that number. The organization, sponsored by the Alpine Community church, under direction of the late Rev. Fred Line, received its first charter in April, 1946, and there have been many capable men acting on the committee since then. There have been three Scoutmasters, beginning with Carl McCall, who served three years, then Erwin Longfellow, and now S. P. Archer. The group is now sponsored by the Alpine Kiwanis.

In considering the phenomenal interest shown in the boys of Alpine by the adults of the community, it is impossible to ignore the remarkable growth and development of the Alpine Troop of Boy Scouts.

In spite of innumerable difficulties, not the least of which were finances, lack of equipment, difficulties of transportation, and a scarcity of trained leadership, the troop has fulfilled the pledge of Erwin Longfellow to become one of the best in Southern California.

In the short space of a few years it has become known as an aggressive, loyal, and self-supporting group of which a much larger community could well be proud.

And the greatest of all these attributes is loyalty which these fine boys have given in full measure.

It is extremely doubtful if any other troop could have survived, let alone continue to grow, when faced with the sudden departure of their Scoutmaster, as did the Alpine troop.

Only through the loyal cooperation of these boys with L. K. Anderson, who assumed charge after Erwin Longfellow left for Seattle, could the troop look confidently to their future. Their loyalty and confidence have been well justified.

In line with their determination to progress, the Scouts are preparing to build their own Scout house, on a site allotted to them by the Youth Center Corporation. Here, in a beautiful meadow, on a hill overlooking the site for the new school, they will build an adobe building that will be a credit to the community.

The building will contain a large central auditorium, with fireplace of native stone, four patrol meeting rooms, kitchen, restrooms and showers and troop office.

The grounds will be bordered by trees from every state and possession and province of Canada, similar to the International Grove in the Youth Center, also a Scout project.

On the grounds is a group of boulders, which will be re-arranged to form an amphitheater for council fires.

The entire project will be self-contained, with its own water system and sanitary facilities.

It will be financed by the troop and its sponsors, the Alpine Kiwanis club, and in no way conflict with the financing of Youth Center.

Lawrence Titus