

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Home Office: 2 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

FOR INTRA-ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATIONS

TO: Mr. O. D. Sharpe

DATE: November 12, 1940

From: Geo. W. Ehler

Hester
SUBJECT: THE FIRST TROOP ORGANIZED UNDER
THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Years ago, when I took charge of registrations, I had rather considerable inquiries about claims for the organization of the first Troop.

After several years of experience with these inquiries and claims, I came to the conclusion that it was not possible from any accepted record to determine which was the first Troop. My impression is that the Troop making the best showing towards this claim was the Troop in the Y.M.C.A. at Springfield, but there is no indication that there was not some other Troop organized back there whose tenure did not continue long enough for them to make a claim that would get into the picture, with which I had to deal, of Troops organized in 1921 or prior.

It was my conclusion that it was impossible to make a definite decision as to the first Troop. As a matter of fact, there are Troops still in existence that were organized as Troops before the Boy Scouts of America was organized. Stanley Harris was one of these. I would avoid all attempts to make this decision now, but I would make it clear in connection with Troops reaching their Thirtieth Anniversary in 1940 that no evidence in connection with them gives them any basis for claim of being organized before or after any other Troop in that year, as the records are not of sufficient weight or known accuracy to serve as final evidence.

accuracy
G. W. Ehler
GEO. W. EHLER - sr

Agreed
MS

READY FOR FILE
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M. YATER