

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET

DIVISION OF PERSONNEL

B. S. A.

DATE August 26, 1969

Full Name Richard Clark  
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address 371 1/2 Exchange Street

City Rochester State New York Zip 14608

Age 47 (This is important and should be exact) Born January 1922

Approximate age (To be used ONLY when exact age is not known)

Religion Protestant Nationality

Occupation Janitor - Y.M.C.A. Rochester, N. Y.

Education

Weight 140 Color white Height 5 ft. 8 inc.

Color of hair Bald - Brown Color of eyes

Outstanding characteristics or interests

Married or single Single Children  
(Number, ages, and names if possible)

Wife's name

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

Unit #	City	State	Office	Date Registered	Date Resigned
Tr. 249	Rochester	N.Y.	A.S.M.	May 1969	still regg. 5/70
Pk. 249	"	"	Chairman	May 1969	still reg. 5/70

Special recognition None

Recommended for Confidential File for following reasons:  
Child molestation complaints - no arrest  
Endangering morals of juvenile - (warrant for arrest may be issued)

Signed: *M. S. Case*  
Scout Executive

Howard P. Boyd

Earl Krall

*This is a supplemental clipping for the C.F. Am and we have this now on the file.*

*Best regards,*

*Howard*

NOTED  
DEC 1 1963  
EARL KRALL

CLARK PRINTING HOUSE, INC.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. U.S.A.

### Scout Leader Sentenced In Camp Incident

CANTON, N.Y. (AP) — A former Rochester Boy Scout Leader was sentenced in St. Lawrence County Court Friday to one year's probation on his guilty plea to attempted endangerment of the welfare of a child.

Richard Clark, 47, was charged in connection with the beating of an unidentified scout at a camp run by the Otetiana Council of the Boy Scouts in Rochester near this Adirondack village.

State Police said a 12-year-old boy was attacked over a four-day period by four fellow scouts in August because the victim had caused them to lose in olympic-type competition during their camp stay.

They said more than 40 welts and whip marks were counted on the boy's body when he was examined.

The case first came to light, police said, when the youngster returned home from camp. They said the boy told them he had reported the beatings to Clark while at the camp, but the leader had taken no action.

County Judge Edmund L. Shay ordered Clark to see psychiatric care and cooperate in treatment recommended by a doctor. He also ordered Clark not to work in or frequent places where young people under 21 congregate.

Six charges against the Otetiana Council were dismissed by Shay. Dist. Atty. William H. Power Jr. was given 10 days to submit a brief on his motion that he be allowed to resubmit evidence against the Boy Scout council to the grand jury to seek new indictments.

The council was charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

Court action remained pending against one of the scouts charged with the actual beating, James M. Petrelli, 16, of Rochester. The other three scouts involved in the case, aged 12, 13, and 14 were petitioned to Monroe County Family Court.

TS/MS/KS v. BSA et al. Cause No. 190  
Produced Pursuant to Protective Order

190

September 5, 1969

Mr. M. Gene Cruse  
Scout Executive  
Otetiana Council, No. 397

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
Re: Richard T. Clark and  
Charles R. Clark

Dear Gene:

Thank you for your letter of August 25 and the enclosed confidential record sheet, concerning Richard Clark. Apparently, you also sent a record sheet on his brother, Charles, to our Personnel Division which they have forwarded to us. We have placed information on both of these men in our files and have taken steps to have their names deleted from both the Troop and the Pack rosters.

In addition, Don Higgins has shared with me copies of all his material related to this situation.

This information will enable us to identify both Richard and Charles Clark should they ever again attempt to register in the Scouting program.

Sincerely, \*

Howard Boyd, Director  
Registration and Fulfillment Service

mh

TSBSA006757

DYKES\_I\_007872



397

August 25, 1969

Registration & Fulfillment Service  
National Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
New Brunswick, N. J. 08903

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you to delete Mr. Richard Clark, 371 $\frac{1}{2}$  Exchange Street, Rochester, N. Y. 14608, who is registered as a Committeeman in Troop 249 and Pack 249, from our records.

Please put Mr. Clark on our Confidential List, as he was involved in a morale case at our camp this past week. We are enclosing the proper forms for your information.

Sincerely,

M. Gene Cruse  
Scout Executive

MGC:ed  
Encl.

TS/MS/KS v. BSA  
Produced Pursuant to Protective Order No. 03-23721-9

Member of the Community Chest of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc.

TSBSA006758

DYKES\_I\_007873

*Howard Boyd*

August 28, 1969

Dismissal of Scout Official Follows Abuse of Campsite  
ROCHESTER, Aug. 27 (AP) — An assistant scoutmaster has been dismissed and Scout activities suspended after a 12-year-old boy was beaten and sexually abused by four other boys at a campsite in a wooded area near a lake in St. Lawrence County, N.Y. The police said the hearing allegedly occurred at Camp Masseyville, the Monroe County Boy Scout Council Camp near Upper Lake in St. Lawrence County.  
Parents of the 12-year-old boy said they found 40 white marks on their son when he returned from the camp. The police said the boy told them that during four days last week he had been forced at knife point to commit sexual offenses. He added that he had complained to the assistant scoutmaster but that nothing had been done.  
The police said their investigation indicated the boy had been abused because team mates thought his poor performance had hampered the team.

TO: MR. GERALD A. SPEEDY

SUBJECT: Visit to Rochester, N. Y. related to camp incident.  
(Serious delinquency problem at one campsite)

The purpose of my visit was to express our concern and interest, and to do anything possible to be helpful.

The action of sending a representative from the national office was well received by officers of the council, the Scout executive, and the deputy regional executive, all of whom expressed their appreciation.

Two things have been quite definitely confirmed. First, the 12-year-old boy who was beaten and abused by four other boys, ages 12, 13, 14, and 16, will not suffer any permanent physical damage, and there probably will be no other serious after effects for him as a result of this incident. Second, the adult leader did not take part in the hazing and physical activities which took place. He must have known something was going on because he complained about the boys misbehaving and his inability to control them, but the investigating police officer was satisfied that there were no physical contacts between him and the boys.

Attached are:

- A. A narrative statement summarizing the information I received about the incident.
- B. A copy of the statement prepared by the executive committee of the council at the meeting which I attended on August 26 for August 27 release.
- C. A concluding summary to this report which includes what the council did prior to and during my visit.

*DMH*  
Donald M. Higgins - w

Copies sent to Ammerman, Evenson, Turner, Paulson, Early, Cruse

TS/MS/MS  
Produced Pursuant to Court Order No. 03-237-001

TSBSA006759

DYKES\_I\_007874

NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Delinquency problem Rochester, N. Y., Council Camp

Troop #249, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, Holy Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Rochester, New York, attended the Massawepie Scout Camp, operated by the Rochester, New York, council for two weeks ending August 23, 1969.

During the first week, Scoutmaster Miller was in charge. During the second week, Richard Clarke, Assistant Scoutmaster, age 47, was in charge. Five Scouts comprised the troop.

During the second week of camp, the camp commissioner was asked by the Assistant Scoutmaster to help deal with a problem concerning the improper use of knives by the Scouts.

After the troop returned home, [REDACTED], one of the Scouts, was taken to his doctor who diagnosed that the boy had been the victim of sodomy. The doctor informed the police, who in turn reported the incident to local papers. The story appeared in the Rochester morning paper on August 25. The United Press picked up the story and it was published in many papers Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

The police investigation disclosed that the [REDACTED] boy was beaten and hazed including some sexual abuses by the other four boys in the troop. The welts and bruises which showed on his body were evidence of the beating part of the hazing. The boy says he told Mr. Clarke about this. The leader did not report it to anyone and apparently made no effort to stop what was going on or was not able to do so if he tried.

The serious and abnormal behavior problems which developed started on an overnight hike which the troop took Monday night. Then they seemed to have gotten progressively worse during the week after they returned to camp. Camp commissioners visited the troop during their hiking trip and several times each day in camp. They knew about lack of program and poor discipline but say they were not aware of the more serious problems which were going on.

The State Police officer indicated that certain legal actions would be taken by county officials: against the adult leader for his failure to control, a morals charge against the 16-year-old boy, and the other three boys would be turned over to the Family Court for juvenile delinquency.

August 28, 1969

Donald M. Higgins

TSBSA006760

DYKES\_I\_007875

STATEMENT OF OTETIANA COUNCIL, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

(Prepared by Executive Committee, August 26, 1969)

Mr. Louis A. Langie, Jr., President, Otetiana Council, Boy Scouts of America, announced today that the investigation by the Council of the alleged beating of a Scout at Massawepie Camps has been completed. Five Scouts and one leader from an individual troop in Monroe County were involved.

Langie stated that the Boy Scout Council is in complete accord and agreement with the findings of the investigations made by Mr. Earl Blesser of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, State Police, Canton, N. Y. In Mr. Blesser's investigation he interviewed all the participants as well as members of the Camp staff. Blesser and the Council are completely satisfied that this was an isolated incident involving this one individual troop. The findings disclosed that the alleged beatings took place over a four-day period and started when the troop of five boys were out of camp on their overnight trip. Four boys of the troop were involved in the alleged beating. Mr. Blesser will make a report and recommendations to his superior in St. Lawrence County and Mr. Langie stated that the Otetiana Council will support and cooperate in any legal action taken by the State of New York.

Langie continued by expressing his deep concern over the incident and stated that the Council is taking the following action: (1) That the Assistant Scoutmaster's registration in the Boy Scouts of America be terminated immediately, and that he is informed he is no longer a member of the movement; (2) Extend and broaden the already existing screening procedure of all adult volunteers; (3) The Camping Committee has been directed by the Executive Committee to provide a plan for additional leadership and supervision for all individual troops at camp.

Massawepie Camps are made available to all troops in Monroe County, where over 35,000 Scouts under the leadership of 4,500 adult leaders have camped during its 17-year history. In 1969, over 3,000 Scouts from 190 troops under the direction of 400 adult volunteers participated in the camping program.

TSBSA006761

DYKES\_I\_007876

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN

On August 24, 1969, the Scout executive and officers of the council heard for the first time about the incident of a serious delinquency problem at one campsite of Camp Massawepie during the last week of the season. This was after the camp had closed. They kept in contact with police officials and others, including news media, cooperating in every way possible while trying to assemble factual information. The executive committee met on August 25 and issued a preliminary statement.

That evening the council president and Scout executive visited and interviewed the victim, [REDACTED], and his parents, also the Monsignor who is pastor of the Catholic parish which sponsors the troop. They made no contacts with those who had been interviewed by police officials. Richard Clarke, the adult leader in charge at the time of the incident, nor the four boys who caused the trouble, nor their parents. The elements of legal procedures against them was the basis for this decision.

Mr. Langie, Council President, reported that [REDACTED] appeared to be well and normal in every way and that the attitude of the parents was very good, their only question being why such a weak leader was left in charge when the Scoutmaster went home. They want their son to continue in Scouting and go back to camp and he wants to do so.

Mr. James Early, Deputy Regional Executive, came to Rochester August 26 and sat in on the conference held that morning with police officials. The council president, Scout executive, State Police investigating officer, and others participated. In the afternoon D. M. Higgins, Director of Health and Safety Service, arrived from the national office. He and Mr. Early participated in the second meeting of the executive committee at 5:00 p.m. at which time a more complete statement was prepared for release (see item "B" attached).

Other steps taken included contacting all camp staff members connected with this troop and interviewing the adult leader who served as Scoutmaster of the troop during their first week in camp. He said they had a good program, no problems, and no indication that any might develop during that week prior to the trouble.

### Comments:

1. Scout Executive Cruse, President Langie, and all those in the council related to this problem handled it well. Mr. Early and I expressed the concern and interest of the national council and offered our help if it was needed.

2. The question the parents asked needs attention in future planning. The council decided to "extend and broaden screening procedures for adult volunteers". Advising against the assignment of a weak leader and developing a way to solve the problem created if he is not used: Here are two areas of concern which this incident points out.



3. Another lesson to be learned is related to training of camp commissioners. No program or poor response to activity opportunities are trouble signals. These become serious when discipline problems are added.

Camp staff members, especially commissioners, should be taught to look for behavior problems of all varieties from harmless pranks to malicious and more serious ones which require more than brief casual observation to discover. When suspected or found, counselling with volunteer leaders, bringing in the camp director when needed, and similar actions should be suggested as solutions in training and orientation sessions.

August 28, 1969

Ronald M. Higgins

Produced Pursuant to Court Order in Case No. 03-10-00000-0

# Scout Aide Dismissed In Incident

Democrat and Chronicle

ROCHESTER, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1969

By DAN LOVELY

The governing council of Monroe County Boy Scouts last night dismissed an assistant scoutmaster and moved to tighten screening procedures following its investigation into the alleged sexual abuse of a 12-year-old scout at Massawepie summer camp.

But after the investigation and talking with state police the council "is completely satisfied that this was an isolated incident" involving one troop of five boys, said Otetiana Council President, Louis A. Langie.

No legal action has been taken in the case, which was reported Saturday after the boy returned from the St. Lawrence County camp, west of Tupper Lake. He told police he had been beaten and forced to commit sexual perversions at knifepoint during four days last week. The doctor who treated him said it was the worst case of torture and abuse he had ever seen.

Further developments in the incident may come later this week when State Police Investigator Earl Blesser is to report to St. Lawrence County Dist. Atty. William H. Power Jr.

Power will then decide whether the evidence warrants presenting the case to a grand jury.

Langie said the scout council will "support and cooperate in any legal action" if it is taken by the St. Lawrence County authorities.

Both the council and Blesser, Langie said, found that only the four boys were involved in the alleged beating of the fifth, and that no leaders were involved.

However, the victim told police he reported the assaults several times to the assistant scoutmaster and that no action was taken.

Langie said the assistant scoutmaster's registration in the Boy Scouts will be terminated immediately and he will be informed he is no longer a member of the movement.

Expressing "deep concern" over the incident, Langie said the council will move to "extend and broaden" existing screening procedures for adult volunteers. Under present procedures scoutmasters and their assistants must be approved by both the troop commander and the head of the troop's sponsoring body. Specifics of how the procedures will be tightened are now being worked on, Scout Executive M. Gene Cruse said.

The council also directed the camping committee to provide a plan for "additional leadership and supervision for all individual troops at camp."

However, Cruse said the investigations had found commissioners at the camp had not acted improperly in the incident.

The commissioners, Cruse said, told investigators they had been informed only that there were discipline problems in the troop, not that there had allegedly been beatings. The commissioners talked with the boys involved and took away their knives, but took no further action, he said.

Cruse said scouting headquarters had received "very, very few" calls from parents disturbed about the incident.

TSBSA006764

DYKES\_I\_007879

# Probe Assault Charge By Boy at Scout Camp

NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1969

ROCHESTER (AP) — State and local police said today that they were investigating an alleged five days of beating and sexual abuse of a 12-year-old Boy Scout at Camp Massawepie in the Adirondacks last week.

The camp, near Tupper Lake, is owned and operated by the Tetiana Council, the governing body for Boy Scouts in Monroe County.

Officials at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, where the boy was examined, said they found welts and bruises on his back and lower body, especially around the buttocks and genitals.

Police said they had questioned four scouts, aged 12 to 16, and an assistant scoutmaster

in the case. No names were released.

They said the alleged assault lasted from Monday through Friday, with the boy being repeatedly beaten and sexually attacked, apparently because he had failed to perform well for his team.

Detectives quoted the boy as saying he reported the attacks to the assistant scoutmaster but that nothing was done. His parents took him to the hospital after they discovered his injuries upon his return home.

...to the world today."

## Alleged Torture and Abuse Of Scout Being Investigated

Special to The New York Times

ROCHESTER, Aug. 25—The state police have begun an investigation into the alleged torture and abuse of a 12-year-old Boy Scout last week at a scout camp near here at Tupper Lake.

The boy was examined at St. Mary's Hospital here after his return from a two-week stay at the camp. More than 40 welts and whip marks were found on his body.

The police said they are checking reports that the boy was beaten by four other scouts because they considered him responsible for losing in a camp athletic competition.

*New York Times Aug 26, 1969*

Produced by TS/MS

Statement - Camp Incident from Otetiana Council.

August 26, 1969

*(Prepared August 25, 1969)*

Louis A. Langie, Jr., President of Otetiana Council, Boy Scouts of America commented today on the unfortunate incident that was reported at Camp Massawepie last week. Langie said "the unfortunate incident that was reported at Massawepie during the final week of the camping season was an isolated case involving one troop of only five boys and one assistant leader. They were camped in their own individual troop site". He stated "the incident in question is now being fully investigated by Mr. Earl Blesser of the Borough of Criminal Investigation of the state of N.Y. In addition the Executive Committee of the Otetiana Council has directed Scout Executive Gene Cruse to conduct a thorough investigation. Said Langie, "we intend to talk with the parents of the boy who was assaulted, this evening. Tomorrow morning, Tuesday, members of the camp staff will return to Rochester. At that time we will investigate the circumstances with them. Following this we will cooperate fully with Mr. Blesser by sharing our information with him. The Otetiana Council through its volunteer and professional staff are continually on the alert and take all precautions for the safety and well being of all of the Scouts on all activities as well as summer camp."

TSBSA006766

DYKES\_I\_007881

Investigation of alleged beating and sexual assault of a Boy Scout at Massawepie Scout Reservation August 18 thru August 21, 1969.

Report prepared by James A. Earley, Deputy Regional Scout Executive.

On Tuesday, August 26 at 10:00 a.m. I participated in a conference with the following: Earl Blesser, Bureau of Criminal Investigation New York State Police, Robert Hanley, Assistant Camp Commissioner Massawepie Scout Reservation, Louis Langie, Jr., President, Otetiana Council, and M. Gene Cruse, Scout Executive, Otetiana Council.

This meeting was conducted at the offices of the New York State Police in Rochester. Officer Earl Blesser of the State Police reported that he had investigated the alleged beating and sexual assault of [REDACTED] after a report had been made by a local hospital to which [REDACTED] had been taken by his parents shortly after his return from summer camp. The bruises and welts on [REDACTED]'s body were such that the hospital reported treatment to the authorities. The police investigation indicated that [REDACTED] was physically beaten and sexually abused by the following Scouts of Troup 249: [REDACTED], age 14; [REDACTED], age 12; [REDACTED], age 13; and senior patrol leader [REDACTED] age 16. The physical torture and sexual abuse is a matter of record with the New York State Police.

Troup 249, which is sponsored by the Holy Name Society of the Holy Apostle Parish, 7 Austin Street, Rochester, went to camp under the leadership of John Miller, Scout Master. During the first week of camp it appears that all boys in the troupe had a successful and enjoyable week; but when Richard Clark, Assistant Scout Master, was left in charge for the second week of camp, problems developed. The beatings and sexual abuse of [REDACTED] started when the troupe was on an overnight hike away from the camp on August 18 and 19, and these actions continued for the next two days, August 20 and 21, after the troupe returned to Massawepie.

Robert Hanley, Assistant Camp Commissioner, stated that he and the Camp Commissioner, Anthony Willstone, an exchange counsellor from England, visited the campsites several times daily and every evening conducted a bed check. They recognized that there was a lack of discipline within the troupe and volunteered their assistance on several occasions to help develop a better activity program. On one occasion Hanley found that the troupe had been picking on [REDACTED] and had undressed him and put his clothes in a tree. This action did not provide adequate evidence to indicate any type of physical beating or sexual abuse to [REDACTED] but Hanley talked with him and walked to the dining hall with him and advised him that if he received treatment such as this, he should let him know and an effort would be made to stop such "horse play".

The Assistant Scout Master, Richard Clark, was in charge for the second week, and we learned from the Assistant Camp Commissioner, Robert Hanley, and also Mr. Blesser of the State Police, that in their contacts with other staff members that Clark was a very weak leader and also was considered queer in his actions by other camp staff members. Richard Clark had served as a volunteer leader for approximately 6 years at Massawepie.

The police investigation of Richard Clark did not show any convictions, but many years ago there had been a record of his molesting small children but without any conviction. It was apparent that Clark was a very weak leader, and the same boys that had assaulted young [REDACTED] had threatened Clark and demanded that he undress and he had complied with their demands.

Mr. Blesser advised the State would take the following action:

1. The younger boys, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], will be directed to appear in family court for disciplinary action.
2. [REDACTED] will be arrested and charged with sodomy, first degree.
3. The Assistant Scout Master, Richard Clark, will be arrested for a Class A Misdemeanor for endangering the morals of a child.

The Otetiana Council has taken the following action:

1. The President and Scout Executive have visited the parents of [REDACTED] and expressed regret and found the family to be very understanding and do not consider the incident as negligence on the part of the local Council.
2. Monsignor Murphy, head of the sponsoring institution, has been visited by the President and Scout Executive.
3. An interview was conducted with the Scout Master, John Miller, by M. Gene Cruse, the Scout Executive.
4. A statement was prepared for the press which covered the following items:
  - a. The Otetiana Council will support and cooperate with the State of New York in any legal action taken against the individuals that allegedly were involved in this action.
  - b. Richard Clark, Assistant Scout Master of Troup 249, is immediately being dropped as a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
  - c. The Council Camping Committee is being instructed to develop a method which will reinforce and broaden the methods of processing the selection of volunteer leaders to serve with scout troupes while in summer camp.

In the afternoon there was a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council Executive Board at which time the findings from the earlier meeting with the State Police and Assistant Camp Commissioner were reviewed and the officers endorsed and approved the action of the Scout Executive and President. The National Council was represented in this meeting by Donald Higgins, Director of Health and Safety, and I represented the Region.

JAE:mrn  
August 28, 1969  
cc: Donald Higgins

TS/MS/KS v. BSA et al Cause No. 03-2727-1-19  
Produced Pursuant to Protective Order