

BOY SCOUTS



BETSY ROSS HOUSE AND BOY SCOUT BORN THERE
Charles Vexillarius Weisgerber has the distinction of being the only child ever born in the house shown here, at 239 Arch street, where the first American flag was made.

A Boy Scout has the unique honor of being the only child born in the historic Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch street, where the first American flag was made. He is Charles Vexillarius Weisgerber, second-class Scout of Troop 7. On April 14, 1910, he was born in a room on the second floor, above the famous chamber where Betsy Ross, under the direction of General George Washington, sewed the stars and stars of Old Glory together. His father, Charles H. Weisgerber, painter of the well-known picture, "The Birth of Our Nation's Flag," christened him Vexillarius because he was born in the home of the man, Vexillarius is a contraction of the name for "home of the flag."

"Vex" as the Boy Scout is called by his companions, has spent his 12 years more in the historic atmosphere of the house where he first saw the light. His father, who is manager of the house and a founder and corresponding secretary of the American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association, an organization which is preserving the relics of the Flag and the history of the United States. Small wonder, then, that Vex early showed a strong desire for absorbing the history of this country. Today he is a veritable storehouse of patriotic and historic information, and is an excellent spokesman for his mother, for above all, a Boy Scout must be patriotic and loyal to his country. "A living history of the American boy and a shining example of patriotism" is what he has been called by H. Beckwith, director of boys of the Men's Christian Association, of which Vex is a member.

Vex joined Troop 7, Scoutmaster William B. Campbell, six months ago, and passed his second-class scout requirements. He is now studying and preparing himself to become a first-class scout, taking an active part in the life of the boy and despite the fact that he holds a position, is an enthusiastic and camper with his comrades. In fact, he is an all-around American boy, accepts with modesty the accident of birth in the Flag House. There is tradition that before the house became national, a girl was born there, and that she died soon after. Vex knows this tradition, and knows exactly how the colors of the flag symbolize the three virtues which it stands for.

He is a pupil in grade 6-B of the School of the Pioneers of the School of Pedagogy, and Race streets, and plays soccer football, besides running on the junior team of the Y. M. C. A. "Baseball is too tame," he says. Although he has other ambitions, he has other engagements. He plays the piano and takes dancing lessons, and is handy in the kitchen, especially in wood turning. He is a little boy at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 17th and Market streets, and has often appeared in public patriotic celebrations in Philadelphia and other cities.

He has one big worry—his size. He is really built to be sure, but the truth told—he's short. Four feet seven is all he can muster. And that is to worry a healthy boy whose ambition is to enter the military academy at West Point. Size counts, and Vex has another to grow before he can enter. His present ambition is a trip to the Panama and the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, which a publishing offering for next spring under the name of the Y. M. C. A. In his spare time he solicits subscriptions to a magazine as soon as he signs 300 persons begin packing his trunk for the trip.

A record for economic and yet substantial menus was established by the first patrol of Troop 20, 221 street and Cedar avenue, in a three days' stay at the Wayne Log Cabin, Delaware County, last week. Two-day Boy Scouts spent a total of five cents per meal for eight meals eaten at the camp—and wholesome meals they were except perhaps the next to last one, which is described as being "rather meager." But none of the campers lost weight and they assailed the "hunter's stew" with true campers' appetites on the night they broke camp.

The eight meals were calculated carefully by Scoutmaster Hubert L. Rutherford, who divided the provisions into 12 equal packages to be carried by the scouts. He also officiated as cook. Beginning with Thursday at noon the menus in detail were:

Lunch—Salmon, stewed corn, peas, bread, butter, cocoas.

Supper—Fried ham, baked beans, bread, butter, cocoas, coffee, cake, oranges.

Breakfast—Flapjacks, maple syrup, fried mush, bread, butter, milk, cocoas.

Lunch—Stewed beans, stewed corn, peas, bread, butter, cocoas, oranges.

Supper—Salmon, peas, fried mush, bread, butter, cocoas, coffee, marshmallows.

Breakfast—Bacon, flapjacks, maple syrup, bread, butter, milk, cocoas.

Lunch—Baked beans, bread, butter, bananas.

Supper—Hunter's stew, fried mush, bread, butter, cocoas.

This record has been commended at Boy Scout headquarters as a model one of economy and wholesomeness. The appearance of cocoas on the bill of fare was due to the appearance of Deputy Scout Commissioner Fatten, who, as guest was privileged to drink that beverage and who, incidentally, made a bold attack on the limited store of provisions. Besides the 30 cents for food, each boy was assessed 10 cents carriage, making a total expense of 70 cents each for the three days' camp.

Boy Scouts were enrolled classes of Dr. Hubert R.

Scouts behind the walls of the Eastern Penitentiary are watching with

the best wishes for success.

"Very truly yours,

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