

“The Confession of a Wanna-be Eagle”

By Ernest Doclar, Troop 7 Committee Member

Scouting became a key part of my life in April 1943 and remains so today. In my Scout troop, No. 80, in the Mid-City section of New Orleans, I became senior patrol leader and then junior assistant Scoutmaster. Even through my college years, I was a faithful assistant Scoutmaster. After graduation I joined the Navy, became an officer, and was sent to Japan. While there I served as Scoutmaster of a group of U.S. Army and Navy boys.

When I returned, I rejoined my old Troop 80 as its Scoutmaster. But soon I realized that I wanted to make professional Scouting my life's work. I served as a district Scout executive for eight years. Then I got the chance of a lifetime and was offered and accepted a job as an associate editor of *Boys' Life* magazine. Though I prayed for some boys of my own, God gave me three girls. I became their troop leader and used my Boy Scouting techniques to lead them for three years.

Eventually I was asked to serve as editor of *Scouting* magazine, the publication of the BSA that goes to adult leaders. I acted in that capacity for four years and retired in 1994. After the BSA moved its offices to Texas in 1979 I helped reorganize Troop 7, and was its chartered organization representative for 20 years. My latest Scouting job is that of chairman of the Fort Worth Diocesan Catholic Scouting Committee.

Most of my Scouting friends know that I am not an Eagle Scout. Even though I have been in Scouting since I was 12 (68 years of continuous Scouting service,) I am ashamed to say that as a boy I did not push myself to complete the Eagle requirements. [So, I'd like to tell all other wanna-be Eagles, don't miss this opportunity. It will mean a lot in your adult life to say you are an Eagle. Reaching Eagle will help you grow into manhood and it might even help you get a good job someday. You will never regret all the work it takes to become an Eagle. But you WILL regret it if you miss this chance.](#)