

**THE INK NEVER DRIES
RESTORING A FAILED CUB SCOUT PACK**

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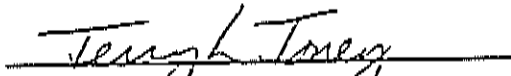
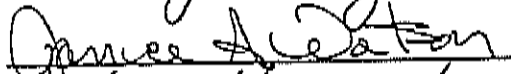
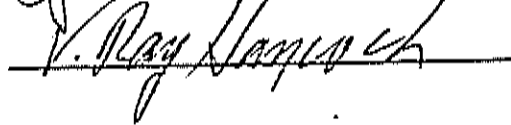
Jack Devich, Advisor

To the Doctoral Candidate Review Board:

I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Donald Van Deusen, entitled "The Ink Never Dries, Restoring a Failed Cub Scout Pack". I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science


Jack Devich
Advisor's Name

We have read this Dissertation
And recommend its acceptance:

Accepted for the Piedmont-Appalachian
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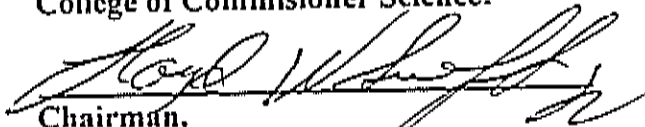

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I deeply appreciate the incredible support and understanding of my loving spouse through numerous days, nights, and weekends while I worked on this report. My most beloved thanks Carol.

Thanks to God for granting me the abilities and perseverance to complete this dissertation.

I would at this time like to thank my wife of forty years for sharing me with The Boy Scouts of America all of these years, and the effort she has put into it to make me comfortable.


Donald Van Deusen

INTRODUCTION

While at Banner Elk, North Carolina in May of 1999, attending the Piedmont Appalachian College of Commissioners Science. To attain my Doctorate. I chose the program on recovering a losing Cub Scout Pack.

The program includes finding leaders, parents, and Cub Scouts, as well as finding an area in which to meet, and fund raising programs to support the Cub Scout Program. Further, and even more important, is finding a charter organization to support the Cub Scout Program.

In the past, I have assisted Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs in their survival. Not always a success, at times I got there much too late, and I learned a lot over the years. I have been involved as a Unit or Assistant District Commissioner the last fifteen years. In the last ten years I either have been very lucky or as I would like to think skillful, as I had much success in unit recovery. As I was preparing to do my dissertation on one of my past experiences. I thought it would be interesting and educational for commissioners whom ran into problems, that I had with a Cub Scout Pack, several years ago.

I had some papers put away as I often keep a diary when I enter one of these problems. This helps to determine what I did right and what mistakes I might have made and how to improve the next or same circumstances when it occurs. By this time I had worked around with the outline, really about ready to go.

Reedy Falls District Executive of the Blue Ridge Council had left a message on the answering machine that he would like for me to call when I got a chance. Having a District meeting on Monday night I decided to wait till then, to see him. I got there a little early, and when I came in the door, he was waiting for me. Don, he said "Pack 100 is completely disorganized, and all of the members have either joined another pack or have quit."

NEW PROBLEM ARISES

Now the other side of the coin. I started this pack nine years ago and worked hard to organize it. One time I had to take over as Cubmaster. I had some time Tuesday morning and asked if current Cubmaster could meet with me. He said he could and a meeting transpired the next morning. His first reaction was, we had better things to do with our time and summer is here, "let's just see if we can start another Pack in the same area this fall". My response was "Do you realize I started Pack 100 about nine years ago? It's not going down the drain. Somebody should have notified me earlier. Give me some time, let me think about what needs to be done."

FIRST STEP

That evening I called the District Assistant Commissioner and asked the same question, "Why did you let Cub Pack 100 disintegrate before anybody got a hold of me?" He replied, "Don, I know that wasn't one of the Packs issued to you, some Commissioners just don't do their job." My answer was "Well, Cub Scout Pack 100 is issued to me now. I've got to do something."

After I got off the phone, I thought, "How about a current event for my thesis?" An incentive to put Cub Scout Pack 100 back together again. I knew a big let down could occur and in all probability would. I've worked some bad ones, but never this bad. I had to do what all the Kings Men couldn't do. I had to put this egg back together again, at least give it a good try.

Step 1: Go to Blue Ridge Council Office and get computer print outs of past leaders for 1997, 1998, and 1999. The names of all the Cub Scouts, addresses and phone numbers and any other information that was available, such as awards and ratings.

July 1st or close to it, I made a list of things to ask the parents of the Cub Scouts, which consists of:

Hi, this is Don Van Deusen, a Scouter concerned with Pack 100. May I take a minute of your time to ask a few questions?

- I. Did you take your son out of Cub Scouts?
If yes, why?
If no, What pack is he with now?
What was the reason for leaving Pack 100?

2. If problem is correctable:

If we can correct the problem, would you consider coming back and help us put Cub Scout Pack 100 back in motion?

Answer: YES NO

If yes: We will call you periodically to keep you up to date with the progress.

If no: I'm sorry for your inconvenience, and do you mind if I keep in touch with you and let you know the current status of Pack 100.

Answer: YES NO

Thank you for your time and I will stay in touch.

Step 2: Call the leaders for the last two years. Again I pre-established the questions to ask:

Hi, this is Don Van Deusen, a Scouter concerned with Cub Scout Pack 100. May I have a few minutes of your time:

1. When you gave up leadership in Cub Scout Pack 100, did you take your son out of Cub Scouts? YES NO

2. What was your reason for giving up Cub Scouting?

What would it take to get you back into Cub Scouting?

3. I am trying to re-organize Pack 100. Would you mind if I called once in awhile and let you know the progress? YES NO

Thank you for your time.

I do this so my conversation with each person stays consistent to prevent any problems at a later date and to keep it level with information I give out. Saying or promising the wrong thing at this point and time could be the end of Cub Scout Pack 100.

After making all the phone calls, I need to look at the remarks of Cub Scout Leaders and

Cub Scout parents. I then decide the problems that are correctable. At this time I am working directly with the District Executive not the District Commissioner or the Assistant District Commissioner because of the time of year "summer" everybody is busy with their families and vacations.

I met with the District Executive to discuss the answers I received from the phone questions. We decided what were problems and what were not. He gave me his approval and thanked me for what I had accomplished to date.

WHAT WENT WRONG

Leaders Complaints: The number one complaint was den meetings, we had held some meetings in our home. When we chose to become Den Leaders, the Cubmaster promised us a place to hold meetings. Pack meetings were held at the Chartered Organization premises. The Cubmaster had the only key. There were times the Den Leaders showed up, the Cubmaster didn't. The Den Leaders didn't want to disappoint the boys. When we did hold pack meetings, the Cubmaster never took the time to purchase the awards for the boys.

The Tiger Cub Leaders and parents were very upset with the Cubmaster. They indicated he never made contact with them. Some of them said the only time they saw him was school nights. They didn't hear anything about Round Tables or Training Programs offered by Boy Scouts of America. Also, none of them had heard from their Unit Commissioner. Most did not understand what I was talking about. It's a wonder Cub Scout Pack 100 lasted as long as it did.

START TO REORGANIZE

A meeting was needed with the Chartered Organization. In this case, the Minister and a church representative. I know the representative, but not the Minister, who had been with the church two months. The minister left and said I was in good hands with the representative. What a relief, as I had not discussed any problems while the minister was there. I felt comfortable with the representative, as he had a son in Cub Scouts. In another pack. I told him that Cub Scout Pack 100 had some problems and asked if he would bear with us until we could pull it back together. I promised to stay in touch with him and let him know the progress, and would certainly let him know if it folded.

He said if he could be of any help to call him. He wished me good luck and asked God's blessing. My parting answer, Thank you.

I asked if I did pull it together would they still honor our Charter. His answer was yes, by all means.

My next task was to find a place for Den meetings. I approached a church in my immediate area. A large church that over the years had a diminishing congregation, lots of room to furnish our needs. The church indicated it was not that easy, As they had previously had a Boy Scout Troop use their premises and did not leave it as clean as they found it.

Upon further conversation, I found this happened six years ago. There are no young

people involved in this church. I looked around for another place or places to accommodate our situation with no avail. I got this far, I had to do something. I decided to go to the church elders and ask if they would at least have a meeting with me, with their minister present. If not, would they mind if I met with their minister privately. They gave me his phone number and approval to speak with him.

The minister and I discussed our needs of the church class rooms, for Cub Scout Den meetings, once a week on whatever day was available. I told him I preferred Monday nights. He suggested that he wanted to discuss the situation with the church elders. Two hours later that same evening he called me back with approval.

Another hurdle had been jumped, thank God. In a later discussion he disclosed the reason he pushed so hard for me. He adopted a handicapped youngster who is now eight and understands the value of Scouting for young boys.

A PROBLEM WITH CUBMASTER

Now came my real problem, I had to meet with the Cubmaster of Pack 100. It took a number of calls to reach him and when I did, I insisted we have a meeting to discuss Cub Scout Pack 100 at his earliest convenience, in my office for privacy. He agreed on a date and time but did not show or call.

I left word on his answering machine, we needed a meeting or he needed to call the Boy Scout office to set up a meeting with the District Executive by the end of the week. Within minutes he called me back, told me he had worked late the night before, did I mind if he got a bite to eat and then come on over, I said I would appreciate that.

I was really worried about the future of that meeting and was nervous waiting for him. He arrived about 7:15 P.M. I have known this Scouter for about two years and knew he had a son in the Boy Scouts. I didn't want to say or do anything that would hurt his son or the rest of his family. I had to be very careful.

HOW THE MEETING WENT

The first thing we discussed is the fact that Cub Scout Pack 100 had fallen apart. He told me he was aware of the problem. I asked why he didn't attempt to get some help, such as calling his Unit Commissioner or somebody.

The Cubmaster's explanation was that his son went from Webelos to Boy Scouts and he wanted to move into the Boy Scouts with his son and be active in the troop. A Boy Scout Troop of fifty plus boys with a strong leadership put him on the bottom of the pile of leadership, so he didn't want to give up Cubmaster of Pack 100, as he enjoyed wearing the Cubmaster patch on his shirt at District Scout functions.

These were pretty much his words to me. All I could say was, in order to wear the Cubmaster patch, you have to function as a Cubmaster. The Cub Scouts deserve at least that much. He also admitted he had some business problems that prevented him from giving the Cubmaster position the time it needed. He suggested he had cleaned up his act and would like to retain his Cubmaster position.

I asked questions pertaining to the Pack. Where are the flags? Where is the Pine Wood Derby track (I built that track nine years ago)? Where are the Cub mobiles that belong to the pack? What other items do you have that belong to the pack? I need the Cub Scout Pack 100 checking account statements for the last two years or for the length of time you have been collecting and dispensing funds. I handed him the note with

these questions on it and suggested I needed a letter or statement with these questions answered. I wanted to schedule a meeting with the Cubs and parents to explain where these items were.

At the end of the meeting he looked me in the eyes and said "What do you think my chances of staying Cubmaster are?" I did not answer.

The Cubmaster did as I asked. He sent me a letter explaining where everything was. Instead of bank statements, there was a note stating there was no money, he had been supporting the pack out of his pocket.

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL SCOUT CUB PACK

By now school had started and I needed to get in motion. I called all the Cub Scout families that had a positive or at least somewhat positive attitude from the phone calls I made earlier in the summer and invited them to a meeting the first Monday night in September. I did not invite the Cubmaster, as I thought it might create conflict. At this time we had only second and third graders involved, No Tiger Cubs or Webelos. The Webelos had moved on to other packs by now.

The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. Monday night with sixteen of the twenty people showing up. I first bored them with a little of my background in Scouting over the past number of years in hopes of promoting the fact that I qualified to help put this Cub Scout Pack 100 back in business. When I entered Scouting as a Boy Scout, there were only forty eight states in America and they were united, meaning that each state was united to another. I have worked with the Boy Scouts of America in the Blue Ridge Council for the past twenty years. Sometimes as a committee man, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and goodness knows what else. Oh yes, Assistant District Commissioner and a Unit Commissioner. In fact right now I am representing you as a Unit Commissioner. This basically means, I am your messenger to the District and you belong to the Reedy Falls District and the Blue Ridge Council. We will go into greater detail at a later date.

From there we went to the question I discussed by phone when I first contacted them. What was the reason for taking your son out of Cub Scouts? I did not mention Pack 100, as I felt that would add to much fuel to the fire that was doing well by itself. Well I

certainly didn't have to worry about lack of noise. Everyone answered at once. Oh well, at least I had their attention.

All their answers to my questions seemed to point to the fact, they knew very little about the Cub Scouting program. None of their children had full uniforms. No advancement records. They didn't even know about records. I went on to explain Cub Scouting is a family program. You as a parent help him with his achievements and electives. As parents you need to attend monthly pack meetings. Especially when your son is to receive a badge or an award. Parents may be asked to make some contribution to the den or pack meeting, such as setting up tables for projects, helping with projects, and whatever personal help is needed. There are Cub Scout competitions coming up in early spring. Fathers, grand fathers, and maybe even big brothers could help with this.

"Now for the problem you considered to be the worst. The Cubmaster problem. We need to approach this problem as adults. Complaining does not correct anything. Let's dig into the problem, not the person. If you are unhappy with the current Cubmaster's leadership, we need to make a change. But for the time being, I'm going to suggest we leave him as Cubmaster under my supervision", I said.

I went on to explain that I did have a place for the pack meeting and den meeting. We could start using these facilities immediately. I had keys to both places and would like to meet next Tuesday, if it was all right with everyone. They all agreed on Tuesday night at 7:00 P.M. My last official move was to pass paper around to everyone with all names of

the Cub parents for the last two years. We went down the list. I asked the Cub Scout parents if they knew any of these people. I then matched them up to the folks they knew. I asked them to encourage the parents on the list that they knew, to attend the meeting next Tuesday, when we would work on recruiting new leaders. I then asked one of the gentlemen if he would lead us in prayer. He did, and we then left for the evening.

GETTING GOOD LEADERS

I knew in the week ahead I had to figure out who to ask to be Den leaders. It looked like we would have two dens of eleven, made up of second and third graders. I needed to contact the Chartered Organization Representative and let him know what we had accomplished and that we would be needing the church hall on the last Tuesday of the month. I also needed to let the other church know we intended to hold meetings every Monday night, except for the week of the pack meetings.

I made contact with the District Executive, explained the program that I had proposed and how many people had showed up for the meeting. I had made contact with two mothers to be temporary Den leaders until after school night recruitment. The current Cubmaster, was trained, had experience and if I supervised, would work hard to prove his worthiness. I asked the District Executive if could try to work this out? The District Executive said to try it.

A MEETING WITH CUBMASTER

I was now ready for a meeting with the Cubmaster. I made the phone call the same evening that I talked with the District Executive. I told him we would like him to continue being the Cubmaster temporarily. If he was interested, we needed to meet. He sounded excited and said how about tonight, I have nothing better to do. I replied we need to be in private. He agreed to bring some coffee and asked if we could meet in my shop. I responded, why not. Here's how the meeting went:

I told him up front that he and I were the only two people in favor of him being the Cubmaster. I laid the plans out in front of him. As we conversed, I wrote everything down. His job as Cubmaster was temporary. I had promised the people involved and the District that I would be at every meeting as a supervisor. It was more like I was the Cubmaster and he was the Assistant Cubmaster. He had a habit of making smart remarks. The parents asked that he refrain from doing that. This not being much to ask, I delivered this request and he agreed. I told him I wanted him to bring bank statements to the next meeting, also cancelled checks. I asked if he would put a program together for our next Pack meeting, he agreed. I told him I had been fortunate enough to get two additional Den leaders and he was not to interfere with them. I got them both a quick start VCR tape from the Scout office and told them I would assist them in their needs. I went on to explain how I had called everyone, who at one time or another, was involved with Pack 100. I informed him that he was not exactly their idol. In fact, if anything he was just the opposite. There was a lot of argument and excuses during our conversation. It was not a yes sir, no sir deal. He felt like everybody was picking on him. I'm sure that some of his

leaders had their problems, especially since the majority of them had never been trained. I also requested he help out on school night. He agreed. I further asked that he provide us with Pack 100's flags and anything else he had that belonged to the Pack. In all honesty, the flags and all the equipment flags requested, actually belong to the Chartered Organization, so the requested provision was not extreme.

When we finished with the meeting, I showed him what I had written, and I asked him to sign. This he did, and I did as well. I went into my office and made him a copy. He asked what the chances were of him being Cubmaster for another year. I indicated we were going to have to play a wait and see game. I stated he was going to have to impress the adults in the Pack and the District more than he had.

SCHOOL NIGHT RECRUITING

We had two meetings, all went well. The Cub Scouts had a good time. The leaders had asked the parents to split the cost of soda, cookies, cups, plates, and napkins, as well as the awards for the Cub Scouts. The next week we wouldn't have a meeting, as school night Cub Scout Recruiting was Tuesday night, at the school we drew from. The District Executive would meet with the kids that afternoon. They would expose them to Cub Scouting, and explain how much fun it was. They would let them know that if they joined, they would get an opportunity to wear a uniform, earn badges, belt loops and go camping.

At school night recruiting we had three leaders and their sons in uniform, the Cubmaster, myself as Unit Commissioner and District Executive. We had the flags there. One Cub mobile and some pine wood derby cars. The first group to come in were first graders. Twenty three boys showed up. Earlier the District Executive told me not to expect many, as the kids didn't seem to be interested that afternoon. The year before, we had eleven show up. I was thrilled. We went through the program, signed up all twenty three and got three new leaders. Most bought Boy's Life Magazine. We also promoted the District Cub Scout family camp out. It comes in October at Camp Old Indian, our Council Boy Scout Camp. We gave them the program, explained it and told them that now they were Cub Scouts. We explained that next week we were going to have a Pack meeting for them. They should attend the meeting so they could sign up to go on the family camp out. Further we would introduce the boys to our existing Cub Scouts and organize the Pack.

For our next program, the second, third, fourth, and fifth graders were waiting for us. Not nearly as many, but eight was better than the alternative none. Three were second graders and two were third graders. Three were fourth graders, and none were fifth graders. We already had second and third graders in the Pack. We signed them all up and also invited them to go to the Family Camp Out with us. I felt great. Just a few short months ago Cub Scout Pack 100 had no Cubs, only a Cubmaster. Now we had Den Leaders, Cub Scouts, and two Tiger Cub Dens. Now I was not working alone. Finally Cub Pack 100 was on its way to success.

NEED FOR NEW CUBMASTER

The following Tuesday night meeting for the Pack and parents needed to be well prepared, as there were many items to discuss. I made list of the items to discuss, after I called leaders to help plan the program.

Item 1. Entertain Cub Scouts while we make plans with parents.

Item 2. Planned with parents the following:

Cub Parent Camp out - In two weeks.

Dues: We needed money coming in both Pack and Den level.

Leader training: Available shortly, but when & where was the question. I had some video tapes with me from Scout Office to loan out.

We needed a volunteer to attend The Cub Scout Round Table.

Contact Cubmaster: He had to run the meeting and help with some of the programs.

Popcorn sales were coming up. We needed a leader to take charge of that program. A sure way to earn some funds.

I needed to contact our Chartered Organization to see if they would furnish and serve refreshments to adults and Cub Scouts.

I needed to call some of the parents for help, as this meeting was going to be too much for the leaders. Several of the parents we had in the Cub Scout Pack we shouldn't have had a problem with, in fact I called one of them to be the popcorn chairman. He told me his plate was full, as he was working full time and going to college. He hoped to finish college in time to be in Boy Scouts with his son, but that he wanted a chance to talk with his wife, as she might be interested. About two hours later he called me back and said it was a go. I asked that she be at the meeting Tuesday night. I called the District Popcorn Kernel and asked if she would come to the meeting Tuesday night. She agreed to arrive about 7:30 as she had an earlier meeting. The rest of the programs were accepted by the leaders and some of the den parents. The Chartered Organization agreed to furnish and serve

refreshments. This meeting could make or break us. We needed unity.

The Pack meeting was well attended, we had fifty two paid applications for the Cub Parent weekend camp out. Most Cub Scouts and parents bought the printed tee shirts. The Cub Scouts made holders to cook their hot dogs with at camp, and cards with their names and Pack number for identification. The adults agreed on dues. The leaders agreed to go sign up for the training program the following weekend. I distributed training tapes to them, and they were told to return them at the training program. Two of the leaders agreed to go to the Cub Scout Round Table. I gave them the name and phone number of the Cub Scout Round Table Commissioner for dates and places of their meetings. The Cubmaster performed an excellent job. No complaints on his actions were received from anyone. I sat back most of the meeting and observed it. The Chartered Organization out did themselves and had an enjoyment participating and assisting.

ADDED THREE MORE TO THE PACK

Following that meeting there were three den meetings plus The family camping experience. There also would be two more Cub Scout Recruiting Nights for me to attend alone on two following Tuesdays. At one of the school nights I didn't get any Cub Scouts signed up. At the following one, two families came to join Pack 100 because they knew me. One family had two boys, the other had one boy. Now we had forty two boys attending meetings regularly. We also had Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders.

STATE PARK PICNIC

We went to the State Park for a picnic one Sunday afternoon. We hiked about a half mile, had a good time, and a nice lunch. On such a warm day, all went very well. I saw much unity. The pack was looking and advancing very well. Still in the back of my mind, I knew there would be problems to come up in the future, that I would have to deal with. I also knew that there were still items existing to be dealt with, but today, the weather was so wonderful and the pack was so active, attending, achieving, and progressing so well. Today was perhaps a day that the problems could be over looked. Other days in the future, all could be dealt with. Today was a day made to enjoy the wonderful interaction of the pack. Perhaps a day that reminded me that, regardless of the problems that came along, this pack was very well worth dealing with them. I saw an unbelievable amount of unity, and I was willing to go forth with what I had to do to help this pack to achieve.

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

The school holiday was coming up. Our last pack meeting was the last Tuesday in November. Our last Den meeting was December 13th. When we got back in January, there were things to deal with:

1. Need for new Cubmaster.
2. Re-charter by end of February.
3. Leaders told me they were going to rent a building in State Park for winter indoor camping.
4. As soon as I found a New Cubmaster I needed to divorce myself from the pack, as I had a lot of other Scout functions coming up and I needed to get busy on my dissertation for Commissioners college.
5. Scouting for food was coming up.

FINALLY; A NEW CUBMASTER

The second Monday in January, we had both den meetings in one church, it helped. I got there early on purpose, to meet one couple that was very active in the pack. They really impressed me as people that could handle the Cubmaster position. She was going to college full time, to become a school teacher, and he was working plus going to college. They had three children, one was in Boy Scouts, one was in Cub Scouts and the third was a cute little girl who showed up at Cub Scout meetings. The parents were proactive in the Boy Scout Troop. They had both turned the Cubmaster position down at least twice. I was forewarned by the District Executive. In fact he had told me I needed to look elsewhere as he had already approached them. I thought I would try a different method of approach. I would ask her to be Cubmaster and her husband to be assistant. When they came in they both went to different areas. I approached him with the program, he called his wife to join the conversation, and we went into a small room to have a meeting.

I explained to them, that they both had a lot of experience in Cub Scouting, and that one or the other or both were always at meetings. Anything much different than what they were doing could be done by phone. We had a good group of adults to whom they could delegate a lot of the work. They were well liked by everybody in the Pack. I went out and played with their daughter, while they talked it over, and in about five minutes they came out and accepted. They asked when this would take place? I informed them it would begin at the Pack meeting, at the end of the month. They agreed.

CONVINCING RESIGNATION OF THE PREVIOUS CUBMASTER

Now I had to tell the existing Cubmaster he had to resign, because the new Cubmaster was taking over at the next Pack meeting. He was totally upset. He said I had promised him another year as Cubmaster. He refused to quit. I explained that we needed to make the move for the sake of Pack 100. I told him I had talked to his son's Boy Scoutmaster and they were in need of adult help. That they had plenty for him to do. I told him that I was a volunteer just like him and I went where I was needed. If I took a job, I did the best I could. He should move on to Boy Scouts with his son, where he was needed. He said he was going to talk to the District Executive. I told him I didn't believe that would be in his best interest, but if he felt that was what he should do, then proceed. I didn't think noise was what anybody wanted to hear at that time. I asked him to come to the Pack meeting. I would have a Cubmaster patch and Assistant Cubmaster patch attached with pins. I asked him to make a short speech and then turn the Cub Scout Leadership of Pack 100 over to the new leaders and pin the patches on their left shoulder. Then he could leave with some dignity. He finally agreed.

RELEASE OF CUBMASTER LEADERSHIP

When we got to the meeting, he asked when he was to turn the leadership over. I suggested that he be involved with the Cub Scout awards and then he should make the transfer of leadership. He was pretty calm, his son was there with him. The program went well, he turned over the Cubmaster Leadership, as we discussed, after the award ceremony. He did a great job to my surprise. They gave him a nice Boy Scout pen light.

He brought some popcorn that belonged to the Pack, and some awards he had left over. I had already had him sign the checking account over to the new Cubmaster.

The new Cubmaster was already involved in re-chartering. She collected registration fees from about five people the first night she was Cubmaster.

A FEW PROBLEMS

The following Friday, the new Cubmaster called me about 3:00 P.M. She informed me the previous Cubmaster had not deposited the popcorn money into the checking account. She went on to tell me it amounted to five hundred and fifteen dollars. She said he had promised to deposit it on Tuesday morning. After I parted with her, I called the Scout office and asked what the Boy Scouts of America would allow me to do to collect the funds. They said to proceed as necessary. I decided I would send a certified letter to alert him that we needed to receive that amount from him. No sooner had I come to that decision, I received another call from the new Cubmaster who informed me he had made the deposit at 5:00 P.M. Sometimes things do happen for the best.

SO FAR, SO GOOD

Everything had gone so great, at this time it was scary. I did take a band saw to the last meeting and helped the boys cut out their pine wood derby cars. I went on to cut out some bird houses that they would be able to put together, as well.

As I get older, this unit recovery becomes more difficult. I think I will work with new units, introduce them into Scouting. By the way, Pack 100 is not the true pack number and I was careful not to use any names.

Thanks to my wife's patience, I will probably be involved in Scouting for years to come. By the way, on Saint Patrick's Day, I turned sixty five years old, not bad for an old man.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

In all the commotion going on I forgot to explain that we had three Webelo Scouts in our Pack. Not enough to accomplish anything or make it interesting for them. We got in touch with another pack not far away and discussed these three boys. They happened to need some boys to fill their Webelo Den. I have seen two of the parents since. Both are very happy and informed me that all three were very happy. All is well that ends well.

REFERENCES

My own experiences over many years in the Scouting Program.