

WITH OUR BOY SCOUTS

WHAT IS THE BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT?

Any boy, of any nationality, of any creed, twelve years of age or older, may become a Boy Scout if he promises to keep the Scout oath and law and prepares himself for simple tests on the composition and history of the American flag and the significance of the Scout badge and can make several cordage knots.

The Boy Scout Movement is in no sense a secret organization.

The plan is to group a number of boys (not more than 32 in any one troop, as they are designated) under the leadership of a scoutmaster—a carefully selected, clean, intelligent, boy-loving, volunteer leader—always a man of sterling character and mature judgment. Each troop and scoutmaster are under the supervision of a Troop committee of responsible citizens, usually officials of the church, synagogue, school, settlement house, asylum or playground with which the troop is connected.

Through such leadership the boys of the troops are kept interested in a program of play-activities that are health-giving and educational. They take long tramps, studying nature in all its forms. They learn woodcraft, and how to take care of themselves in the open. They have troop meetings each week for study, handicraft, experiments, demonstrations, etc., and go into camp every summer under trained directors.

Program Carefully Worked Out

In a hundred ways the boy's time is occupied. The Scout program is so

varied and so fascinating to the boy that he simply hasn't time or opportunity to trail with an idle gang or to turn into the evils that beset the path of the idle boy.

The Boy Scout is taught courtesy, honor, humanity, kindness, chivalry and service, and to exercise them at home, in school and outside, and such practical activities as first-aid, life-saving, camp cooking, swimming, etc.

The Boy Scout must do a "good turn" daily.

The only membership cost is an annual registration fee of twenty-five cents. The Boy Scout is taught thrift. He must earn the money for his own Scout expenses.

Takes Part in Public Activities

City officials often co-operate with Scout leaders, permitting the scouts to enjoy, as they do, the privilege of assisting in honorable, safe ways in connection with big demonstrations. On such occasions Scouts are responsible aids, while other boys, in striking contrast, just "hang around", getting in the way if not actually into mischief. It becomes a first step in practical civics.

The vast majority of Americans now understand pretty well how practical and how beneficial is the Boy Scout movement as an influence in the lives of boys, and they applaud it in unison. They should not forget that the movement is what it is as a builder of character—as a builder of good citizens—because of the magnificent service of men who are giving their time to the movement as volunteer leaders.

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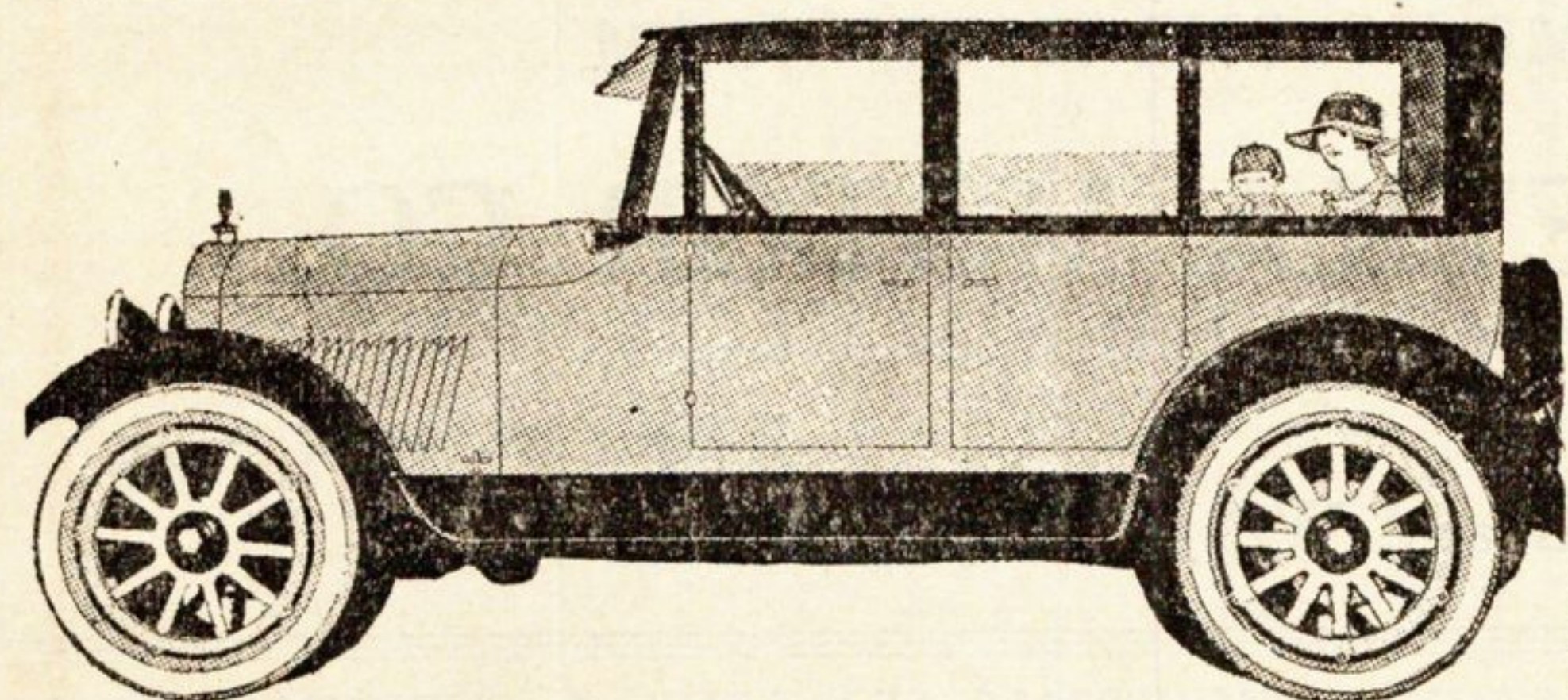
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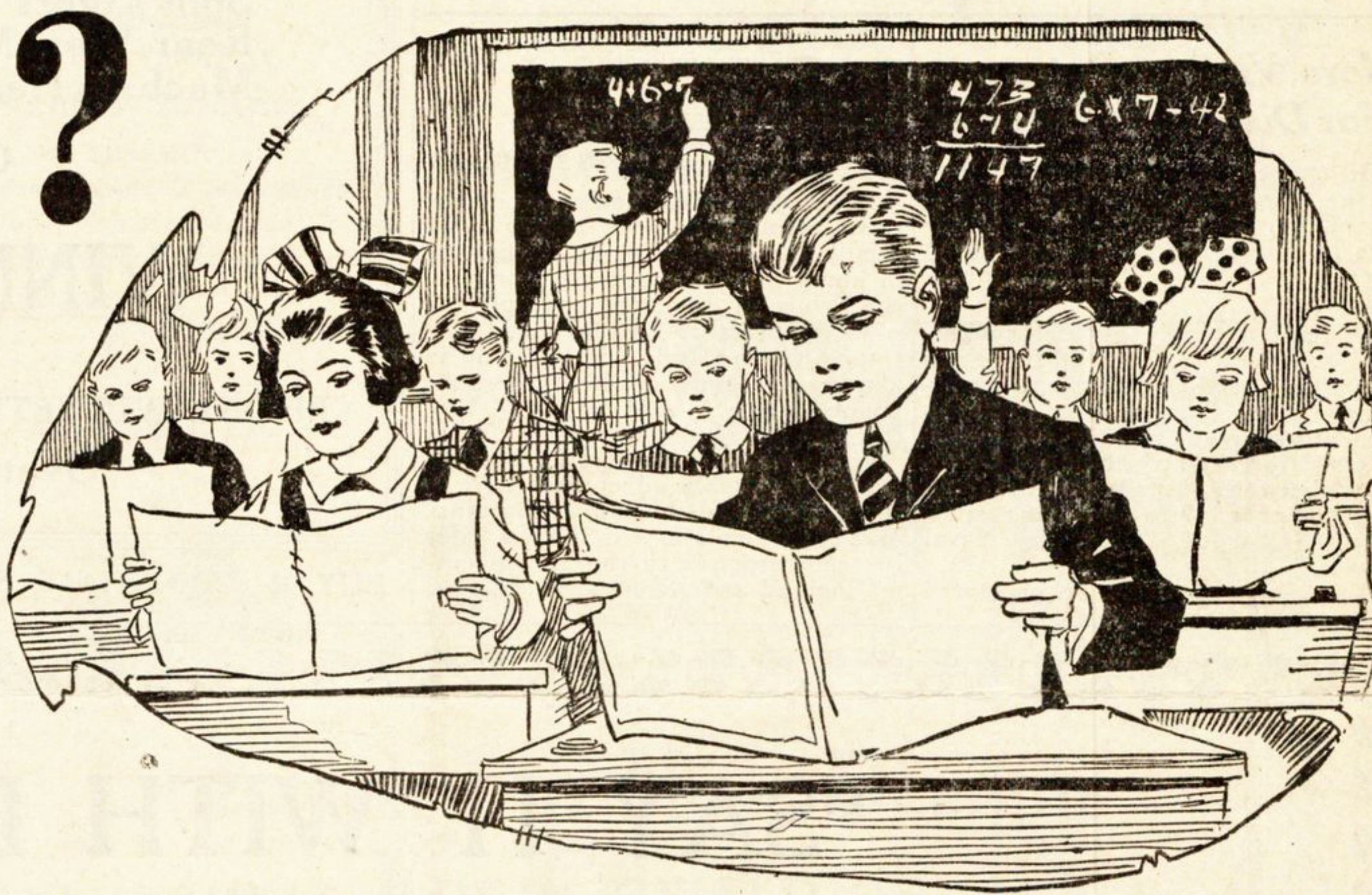
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