

Notes on People

Boy Scout Earns All 118 Merit Badges Offered

It was his 18th birthday yesterday, and **John G. Gelinus Jr.** of Scarsdale, N.Y., was able to breathe a sigh of relief. He had met the deadline and become one of the few youths in Boy Scout history to earn every possible merit badge.

The slight, 5 feet 6 inch tall Eagle Scout achieved the mark on Sunday after four straight days of skiing in the waters off Florida's Marathon Key, which earned him his 121st and final badge. Officially, only 118 badges are offered, but a spokesman in the Boy Scouts' national office, in Irving, Tex., said this was because of periodic revisions. No national data are collected on how many have achieved the mark, the spokesman said. But since only 2 percent of the Scouts earn even the 24

badges needed for Eagle rank, he called the achievement "very unusual."

Mr. Gelinus, who belongs to Troop 1 in Eastchester, set the goal 15 months ago after he reached the 100-badge mark. "The ones I'd done before were easier for me," he said yesterday. "I'd never really been water-skiing before." A scoutmaster in Fort Lauderdale, Russell Carlyle, invited the youth to Florida after hearing of his unsuccessful efforts in the cold waters of Long Island Sound.

"It was a matter of setting a goal for myself, then another, then another," said Mr. Gelinus. The first had been to become an Eagle Scout, which he did when he was 12.



HEIDI SUKKA—GARY/CLIXSON

Artful garden: First Lady (left) on bridge

The gardens inspired perhaps the best-loved impressionist paintings—the watery cycle—and for **Claude Monet**, the lush landscape surrounding his house outside Paris became a work of art, too. From 1890 until his death in 1926, he planted his paradise, painted it on canvas and planted some more. Last week, after 40 years of neglect and decay, Monet's newly restored estate at Giverny was formally opened by **Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing**, France's First Lady paused on the Japanese footbridge that drips with wisteria and overlooks the famous pond. But if she was searching for the familiar pink blossoms, she didn't find any: the waterlilies won't be blooming for another month.

Anyone who thinks today's youth cares for nothing but roller disco hasn't heard of **John Gelinax Jr.**, 18. He just earned his last possible Boy Scout merit badge, one of few scouts to do so. To win the 121st badge—in water-skiing—he went to Florida because the waters near his Scarsdale, N.Y., home were too cold. His toughest badges: bee-keeping and rabbit raising. "For all the jokes about rabbits liking to multiply, mine just didn't want to," he remembers. Is there life after Eagle scouting? "I guess I have to set a new goal now," says John, who plans to study Russian as a premed at the University of Pennsylvania next fall.

It may be the eleventh hour in the campaign for the Democratic nomination, but it's never too late to let fly with a few zingers. So **Joan Kennedy** explained to Women's Wear Dai-

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ly why she'd make a better First Lady than **Rosalynn Carter**. "I'm a very sophisticated lady," she said. "I have met Mr. Brezhnev, I've met the leaders of China. I've done all these things Mrs. Carter has not done yet." Joan, who just received a master's, also pointed out that Rosalynn didn't have a graduate degree. Mrs. Carter held her tongue, but a friend responded: "Joan's statement just wasn't sophisticated."

Neither gray skies nor grumbling in-laws could spoil the \$1 million wedding of **Michèle Bennett**, 29, to Haiti's President for Life and her old school chum, **Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier**, 28. It wasn't Bennett's divorce or two young sons that bothered Baby's Mama—but she did mind that



WARRI HAZ

Gelinax: Is there life after scouting?

Turner's masterpiece: A \$6.4 million display of fireworks

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'Baby Doc' and Michèle: A \$1 million wedding

the bride had been married to the son of a man who led an unsuccessful coup against "Papa Doc" Duvalier in 1958. Mama was matron of honor, anyway, and will keep her title of First Lady. Bennett, wearing a million-dollar diamond ring from Baby Doc, said "oui" before 4,000 guests in the Port-au-Prince cathedral. She also vowed, "We will make lots of children," but said her husband maintains that their offspring won't carry on the Duvalier dynasty of dictators begun by his father.

Money is no way to measure art, but even the sublime has a price. Last week, **J. M. W. Turner's** magnificent "Juliet and Her Nurse" sold at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York for \$6.4 million, the highest price at auction for an art work, edging out Velázquez's "Juan de Pareja," the record holder since 1970 at \$5.5 million. Painted in 1836, the light-drenched view of fireworks over Piazza San Marco in Venice anticipated the English genius's late paintings that seemed to dissolve into nearly total abstractions.

"I'm just staggered," said con-signer **Mrs. Flora Whitney Miller**, 82, after the sale. The painting had been in the Whitney family since 1901, and she had often trundled it between Manhattan and her country house in a station wagon.

Shipping the painting to its new home will be done more carefully. The buyer represented **Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat**, widow of an Argentine cement tycoon. She recently purchased a Gauguin and a van Gogh at the Christie's sale of **Henry Ford II's** paintings. With the 10 per cent buyer's premium added by the auction houses, her shopping for two weeks cost more than \$12 million.

CATHLEEN MCGUGAN