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Scouting Around

TV Drama Will Salute Cub Scouts' 50th Birthday

Television star Gary Coleman will portray a boy who joins the Cub Scouts and goes on to fame and adventure in an NBC special scheduled for airing sometime this fall.

The show will be called "Scout's Honor," and it is the network's salute to the 50th anniversary of Cub Scouting. Watch your newspaper TV guide for the exact time the show will be televised in your area.

There is a kind of double plot. Coleman is a poor kid who loves everything about Cub Scouting. His den leader is not quite so happy. She is a telephone company executive forced to join by a superior who claims to have been the first Cub Scout when the program was founded in 1930.

The show provides a lot of



Gary Coleman

laughs, but finally the den gets lost and there's a big search and . . . well, if you want to find out what happens, watch the special.

Gary Coleman is the star in a series called "Different Strokes." So anyone who wants to see more of his fine acting can do so, for he is being hailed as one of the top child actors in television.

Eagle Scout Earns 122 Merit Badges

When Eagle Scout Michael David Whitener of Arnold, Mo., passed Farm Records merit badge last January 22—the day before his 18th birthday—he was extremely happy. According to his records he had earned 122 merit badges, all that were available to him.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitener, Mike is a member of Troop 430, chartered to the Junior High School of Arnold. The town is about 15 miles south of St. Louis, Mo., and is part of the St. Louis Area Council.

Michael estimates that he spent 9,000 hours working on merit badges, but he does not think that he missed much because of all this extra work. During seven years in his troop, he held every office in the troop at least once, served under five different Scoutmasters, and never missed a summer camp, spring or fall jambo-ree.

He attended Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base. Altogether he camped 175 days with his troop and did a lot of hiking and canoeing. He earned the God and Life Protestant Award, the God and Country Baptist Award, seven mile swims, the World Conservation Award, and

the Lifeguard BSA. He is a member of Order of the Arrow, Shawnee Lodge No. 51, and is certified as a lifeguard by the Red Cross and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Michael has been on the "A" honor roll all four years of high school and was in the National Honor Society both his junior and senior years. He also has been active in the youth group of his family's church, the First Baptist Church of Arnold, and is considering entering the ministry.

What was the toughest merit badge for him to earn? "Personal Management," he told Boys' Life, "because it was one of the first merit badges I had gotten, and I was young and inexperienced in monetary dealings and financial matters."



Michael Whitener, right, shows the ropes to a younger Scout.

The number of merit badges a Scout may earn fluctuates. As of last March 1, there were 118 merit badges on the active list, but by the fall of 1980 the total will go to 120 with the addition of Farm / Ranch Management and Handicapped Awareness merit badges.

Michael has joined the ranks of a very small handful of Scouts who have earned all available merit badges. He thinks his efforts will pay off. "Working with so many subjects really allowed me to broaden my range of possibilities for future employment," he said. "I'll always be able to use the knowledge I have acquired."

Does your troop, pack, or post have a good idea you'd like to share? Send it to SCOUTING AROUND, BOYS' LIFE, P.O. Box 61030, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, TX 75261.