

1491

Vela, Herlin E. 182

CONF000875

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APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET  
 REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION, and STATISTICAL SERVICE  
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date 12-31-82

Full name Herlin E. Vela  
 (No initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address 407 N. San Horacio

City San Antonio State Texas Zip Code 78228

Date of birth 01-22-54 (This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age 28 (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

Religion Catholic Nationality U.S. Citizen

Occupation Parking Lot Attendant - Driver

Education Unknown

Weight 140 Height 5'5" Race White

Color of hair Dark Color of eyes Unknown

Outstanding characteristics or interests Unknown

Married or single Married Children 2

Wife's name Unknown (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Scouting connections:

<u>Unit No.</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Date registered</u>	<u>Date resigned</u>
T-64	San Antonio,	Texas	Alamo	3-17-82	12-82

Special recognition \_\_\_\_\_

Suspended or denied registration for following reasons:

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION):

NOTED

F. STARON  
 MAR 17 1983

JUN 15 '83  
 JOSEPH L. FAGLIM

Signed Robert W. Shover  
 SCOUT EXECUTIVE  
 Council Alamo Area

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June 17, 1983

Mr. R. M. Shoemaker  
Scout Executive  
Alamo Area Council, No. 583

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Merlin E. Vela

Dear Bob:

Thank you for the detailed information concerning the above Scouter. We have reviewed this case with our Attorney and have now placed this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director  
Registration Subscription &  
Statistical Service

eko

cc: South Central Region

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January 11, 1983

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Gen. John W. Roberts (Rec.)

Dr. Charles H. Beckmann

Robert M. Shoemaker

Elvin J. Schofield

Teairl W. Lewis

Judge Carol R. Haberman

Jesse Garcia

George A. Musselman

Peter J. Hennessey

Gen. Ralph E. Haines, Jr. (Rec.)

Maj. Gen. Chester L. Johnson (Rec.)

C. McAllister III

Mark M. Johnson

Bernie R. Sanders

Maj. Gen. William L. Scarnes (Rec.)

Lt. Gen. John R. McGiffert

Judge Albert Bustamante

Harold O. Herndon

H.E. Knox

Pat Legan

Edich McAllister

Joseph S. Morris

Edward M. Schliefer

Fred W. Shield

C. Linden Sledge

John T. Sceen

Louis H. Scumberg

Chester L. Todd

Mr. Herlin E. Vela  
407 N. San Horacio  
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Dear Mr. Vela:

After careful review, we have decided that your registration with the Boy Scouts of America should not be continued. We are therefore compelled to request that you sever any relations that you may have with the Boy Scouts of America.

You should understand that BSA leadership registration is a privilege and is not automatically granted to everyone who applies. We reserve the right to refuse registration whenever there is a concern that an individual may not measure up to the high standards of leadership which the BSA seeks to provide for American Youth. Please also understand that this decision and the reasons for it will be maintained as confidential.

If you wish to have this decision reviewed, please write to me, explaining your version of the facts supporting your claim that your registration as a BSA leader should be granted or reinstated.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Shoemaker  
Scout Executive

RMS : ma



**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

ALAMO AREA COUNCIL 2226 N.W. MILITARY DR. SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78213 PHONE: 341-86

512

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President

March 7, 1983

Dr. Charles H. Beckmann  
Commissioner

Robert M. Shoemaker  
Scout Executive

Elvin J. Schofield  
Treasurer

Teairl W. Lewis  
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Manpower

Peter J. Hennessey  
Development

Gen. Ralph E. Haines, Jr. (Ret.)  
Administration

Maj. Gen. Chascer L. Johnson (Ret.)  
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W.W. McAllister III  
Outgoing for the Handicapped

Mark M. Jonsson  
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Program

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Louis H. Stumberg  
Chester L. Todd

Mr. Paul Ernst  
Director of Registration  
National Office  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062

Dear Paul:

Enclosed is the summary of Troop 64 problem which I discussed with you in December. Also enclosed is a confidential record sheet for both of the men involved.

We attempted to mail the attached letters to the two individuals by way of registered mail, return receipt requested. The letter to Vela was unclaimed and returned to us. The letter to Rohm was returned to us and marked left, no address. This means that the only notification given was that Mr. Vela received at the meeting on December 22.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Shoemaker  
Scout Executive

RMS:ma



United Way

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On Monday, December 13, 1982, the Scout Executive of the Alamo Area Council received a call from [REDACTED] father of a prospective Scout for Troop 64, who alerted him to a possible morals problem within the leadership of Troop 64, which is sponsored by the Holy Rosary Parent Teachers Club.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1982, at the request of the Scout Executive, I visited with [REDACTED] and was apprised of the details of his concern. I reported this conference to the Scout Executive and we mutually determined that the problem must be addressed.

I attempted to schedule a meeting with Sister Elizabeth Swartz, Principal of Holy Rosary Parish School, Mr. Rudy Nava, Aztec District Chairman, and Frank Blanco, Aztec District Executive, but Sister Elizabeth had already departed the Parish for the Christmas holiday vacation.

At 10:30 a.m., December 22, Mr. Nava, Mr. Blanco and I met with Father Bernard Rochon, Holy Rosary Parish priest and explained the problem to him. He authorized us to discuss the matter with Mr. Gilbert Rendon, President of Holy Rosary Parish Parent Teachers Club.

On Wednesday, December 22, 1982, at 5:30 p.m., at the Troop 64 Scout Hut on the campus of Holy Rosary School, [REDACTED] a concerned parent, Mr. Gilbert Rendon, President of the Holy Rosary Parent Teachers Club, Mr. Rudy Nava, Aztec District Chairman, Mr. Frank Blanco, Aztec District Executive, and Wayne Eskridge, Council Director of Support Service met to discuss the Troop leadership problem.

[REDACTED] outlined his son's invitation to visit Troop 64 and his subsequent discussion with his son as to what occurred on this visit. He specifically detailed the physical examination which his son reported that he passed. He then played for the group a taped conversation between he, Mr. Vela, Troop 64 Scoutmaster, and Mr. Billy Rohm, Troop 64 Assistant Scoutmaster, which was recorded on December 11, 1982, at his home when Mr. Vela and Mr. Rohm called upon him to complete his son's registration in the troop.

The conclusive decision of Mr. Rendon, PTC President (PTC sponsors Troop 64), Mr. Nava, District Chairman, and Mr. Blanco, District Executive, was to ask Mr. Vela and Mr. Rohm to step down as Troop leaders of Troop 64.

At 6:30 p.m., on the same day Mr. Herlan Vela, Scoutmaster of Troop 64 joined the group already assembled. Mr. Nava explained to Mr. Vela the purpose of this meeting and the confidential nature of it. Mr. Vela admitted that he and Mr. Rohm had conducted physical examinations of the genital area of the Scouts' bodies. In defense of his actions, Mr. Vela stated that the physical examinations were conducted: (1) In response to a letter which he produced which instructed him to conduct such examinations. (2) The examinations were conducted at the Scout Hut with boys individually and were planned to be done every six months. (3) He reported a visit from a police officer who said a complaint had been filed by the parents of a troop member that Mr. Rohm had been sexually molesting their son over a period of three

years. (4) He checked with parents of other troop members to determine any other reports of sexual molestation. (5) He called Mr. Rohm, who admitted the involvement with the one boy in question, and (6) He instructed Mr. Rohm that he was discharged as Assistant Scoutmaster immediately.

Mr. Nava explained to Mr. Vela that it was the feeling of the group that he (Vela) had exercised poor judgment in conducting physical examinations on the authorization of a hand written letter on steno paper with an undistinguishable signature, the authenticity of which had not been verified with District or Council support. He was instructed that he and Mr. Rohm would not be re-registered with the Troop when the Charter expires on December 31, 1982, and that he was not to be involved in any further activity with the Troop.

Based on the above it is recommended to the Scout Executive of the Alamo Area Council that Messrs. Vela and Rohm not be permitted further registration with the Boy Scouts of America.

Wayne Eskridge  
Director of Support Service

WE/cb

Copies shared with: Rudy Nava  
Frank Blanco  
Sister Elizabeth Swartz  
Father Bernard Rochon  
Mr. Gilbert Rendon

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Robert M. Shoemaker  
Scout Executive



December 31, 1982

Dear Paul:

Please read this and call me after  
you have read it.

Thanks.

*Bob*

CLAIKE -  
NEW  
CASE -  
MORE  
INFO  
TO FOLLOW  
RS  
1-5-83

Alamo Area Council - Boy Scouts of America  
2226 N. W. Military Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78213  
Phone (512) 341-8611

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