

FROSS, JAMES
ARTHUR

80

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CONF009501

DYKES_I_007368

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE 4/18/80

FULL NAME JAMES ARTHUR FROSS
(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS ~~211~~ 34 Broom St

CITY Red Hook STATE NY ZIP CODE _____

DATE OF BIRTH FEB 7, 1934 (This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE _____ (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION unknown NATIONALITY U.S.A.

OCCUPATION FIRE DEPT / CUSTODIAN Gateway INDUSTRIES

EDUCATION unknown

WEIGHT 180 COLOR White HEIGHT 6'

COLOR OF HAIR LT BROWN COLOR OF EYES _____

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS Fire Dept.

MARRIED OR SINGLE MARRIED CHILDREN _____
(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

WIFE'S NAME MARY

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #	CITY	STATE	OFFICE	DATE REGISTERED	DATE RESIGNED
T 16	TIVOLI	NY	SA/SM	1/77	3/79
T. 58	Red Hook	NY	SA	10/6/78	11/79

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

- CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT
- OFFICIAL CHARGES OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT (REVIEW)
- SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS
- UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND INDIVIDUAL FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE AND LIST SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

APPROVED
JUN 17 1980
JOSEPH L. [Signature]

Signed [Signature]
SCOUT EXECUTIVE
Council Dutchess County # 374

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The Daily Freeman

weather
Increasing clouds tonight with rain developing and continuing Friday, possibly heavy at times. Low tonight in upper 30s and 40s, high Friday in upper 40s to mid 50s.

Vol. 60, No. 10

Thursday, April 2, 1980

Kingston, New York

The Daily Freeman Sunday

Scoutmaster guilty in sodomy case

KINGSTON — The question of how much penalty should be levied against a former Red Hook scoutmaster who sodomized two Boy Scouts has caused an apparent rift between the district attorney's office and county court.

Acting Judge John J. Clyne told the guilty man, James E. Fross, he would sentence him to 60 days in Ulster County Jail and five years probation, provided he undergo intensive psychiatric therapy.

But District Attorney Michael Kavanagh said the crime concerned him deeply and he may recommend a state prison sentence since Fross has a prior sexual abuse conviction.

The sobbing 46-year-old defendant, who is also a former president of the Dutchess County Fire Chiefs Association, pleaded guilty Wednesday after the jury deliberated eight

hours and was reportedly split 3-4 in favor of a conviction.

Kavanagh said the agreement to allow Fross to plead was made strictly between Judge Clyne and defense

attorney Woody Close.

It was reportedly agreed to because Fross is a heart patient. Kavanagh said his office is not bound by the defense-court agreement.

Fross could receive a maximum sentence of up to seven years in prison on the felony charge.

In accepting the guilty plea, Judge Clyne asked, "You are guilty as charged, aren't you?"

"I am," acknowledged Fross,

whose wife, Mary, stood nearby.

Asked if the testimony of the two Boy Scout victims, age 13 and 14, was correct, he replied, "It was."

A member of the Red Hook Volunteer Fire Company and the Mid-Hudson Harlem Valley Fire Chiefs Association, Fross was indicted on two counts of sodomy last August.

On the witness stand the scouts told of being sodomized on several

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• Sodomy

(Continued from page 1)

occasions between October 1975 and May 1979.

The acts took place on a secluded dirt road in the town of Ulster on the way home from scout meetings in Dutchess County.

Assistant District Attorney Donald Williams said Fross pled the boys with soda and chips.

Prior to pleading guilty, Fross took the witness stand in his own defense, maintaining his innocence.

Defense attorney Close produced two other scouts who also rode home from meetings with Fross and they testified nothing "out of the ordinary" took place.

But Williams claimed the other boys were dropped off before the sexual acts with the victims took place.

Williams maintained the victims had nothing to gain by lying, despite Close's claims that they may have been coached by the prosecution.

And the prosecution asked why the pair would subject themselves to embarrassment and ridicule if there was no reason to do so?

Williams called the matter a tragic episode, mentioning the trust the community had placed in Fross as a scoutmaster.