

Case Number two: The Boy Scout and the Vice-President.

The year was 1934. Our family had moved to Glendale, California, the year before, to be closer to whatever commercial art jobs my Dad could find.

I had joined the Boy Scouts when we lived in Hermosa and was now a member of local Troop Seven of the Boy Scouts in Glendale, regularly participating in whatever activities were close to home and didn't cost much.

One activity was what the Scouts called Civic Duty: flag bearers at school, marching in parades, low-key crowd control at parades and such.

The Federal Government had just completed a magnificent new Post Office in downtown Glendale, a nearly block-long building made of polished gray marble blocks. An edifice of that stature demanded an appropriate dedication. In that time of little to celebrate, this was a big deal. Shiny new flags everywhere. A local brass band. Red, white and blue bunting around the speaker's platform. Hundreds of people awaiting the speeches and their turn to walk through the building.

We Boy Scouts marched to the front of the building with our flags, set them in prepared holders and then took up stations assisting in whatever tasks came up. This was our Civic Duty for the day. I recall thinking that

there were too many speeches. Finally, the Key Note Speaker was introduced, John Nance Garner, the Vice-President of the United States.

He had the good sense not to speak too long. The crowd cheered. The band played. The local dignitaries pushed and shoved to get close to him, and then it was over. The crowds dispersed. Most of the dignitaries were gone. We Scouts had retrieved and furled our flags, ready to march away. Just as we were about to leave, our Scout Master, Mr. Stanley, himself a Postal Carrier, asked us to wait a moment. Someone wanted to say something to us.

We turned around, and here was John Nance Garner, the Vice-President of the United States, with a big smile and an outstretched hand, thanking us and shaking hands with each one of us.

Politics had a warm hand and a warm heart that day. I was thrilled!