

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
 REGISTRATION SERVICE
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council No. 200 Date 12/21/88

Full Name PAUL J WADAGA Social Security Number _____
 (no initials if you can possibly get full name)

Address _____

City Port Huron State MI Zip Code 48060

Date of Birth 12-16-39 (This is important and should be exact.)

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

Religion _____ Nationality AMERICAN

Occupation TEACHER

Education _____

Weight 190 Height 5-10 Race C+I

Color of hair DARK - GRAY Color of eyes _____

Outstanding characteristics or interests _____

Married or single SINGLE Children - 0 -
 (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Spouse's name _____

Scouting connections: Chartered organization _____

Unit No.	City	State	Position	Date registered	Date resigned
50005	Port Huron	MI	MCJCSA	11-1-67	10/30/78
03165	"	"	MC	11-1-79	10/31/81

Special recognition _____

Suspended or denied registration for following reasons: SEXUAL CHILD ABUSE

RECOMMEND NEVER TO REGISTER AGAIN

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION, INCLUDING HOW THE INFORMATION CAME TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION, AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT RUMOR, CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION):

CONFIDENTIAL NOTED
 NOV 01 1988 NOV 30 '88
 F. STAROI JOSEPH L. ANGLIM
 3962r
 8/2/88-eko

Signed [Signature]
 SCOUT EXECUTIVE
 Council 16205 11/27/88 F2175

December 2, 1988

Mr. Daniel G. Miller
Scout Executive
Blue Water Council, No. 277

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Paul J. Wadaga

Dear Dan:

Thank you for the detailed information sent concerning the above Scouter. This case has been reviewed with our attorney and is now on our permanent Confidential File.

Sincerely,

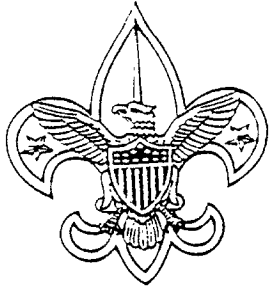
Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

eko

cc: East Central Region

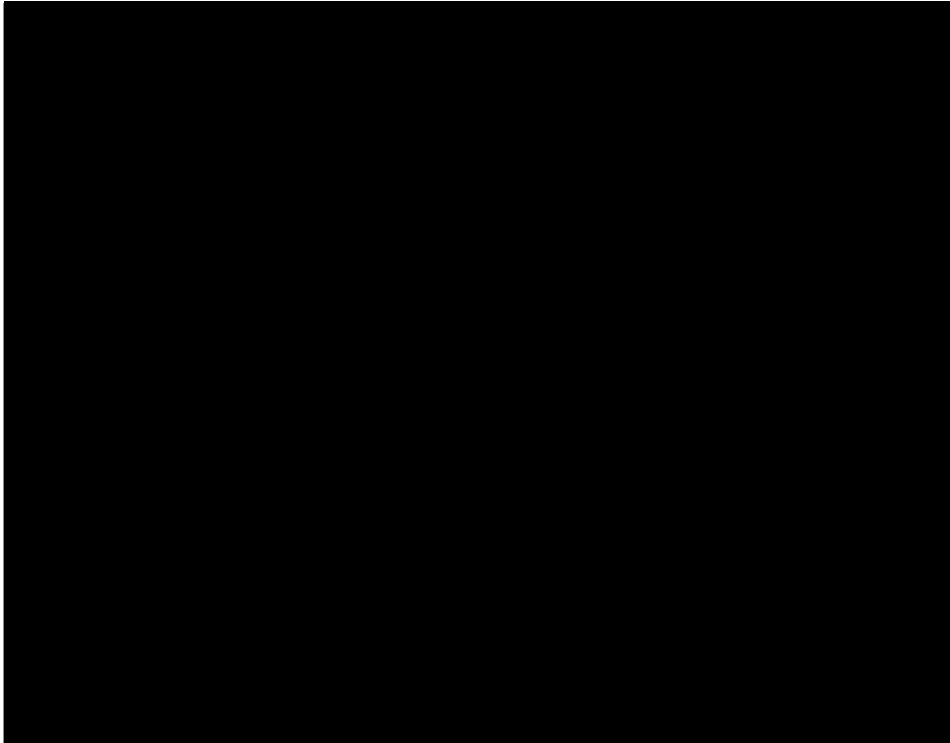
READY TO FILE
DEC 01 1988
ERIN O'RILEY

CONF027581



Blue Water Council
Boy Scouts of America
Port Huron, Michigan

10/27/55



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP
DAVID G. MILLER
SCOUT EXECUTIVE



Times Herald — RALPH W. POLOVICH

Tourism Grand Prix Saturday.



P.H. TIMES HERALD 9/11/88
Sex abuse case leads to teacher
Port Huron educator makes deal, resigns

By JOHN F. BROWN and TOM MURPHY
Times Herald

A Port Huron Area School District teacher has resigned during an investigation into alleged child sexual abuse.

Paul J. Wadaga, 48, who taught fourth and fifth grade at Harrison Elementary School in Port Huron, is suspected of molesting as many as 18 boys over the past 18 years, St. Clair County Prosecutor Robert H. Cleland said.

Wadaga, a district teacher for 24 years, resigned under an agreement that he would not be charged if he cooperated with investigators, Cleland said.

The immunity agreement was signed by Wadaga on Sept. 2, the same day he submitted his resignation to the school district, Cleland said.

Cleland said Wadaga, after signing the agreement, admitted having been sexually involved with 10 boys aged 9 and 10 years old. Cleland said another eight cases are suspected.

Cleland said the alleged victims apparently were neighbors or the children of friends. He said none of the boys appears to have been a student of Wadaga's.

Attempts to reach Wadaga since
See WADAGA, 2A



1980 photo

Paul J. Wadaga

Counselors offer help to victims

By TOM MURPHY
Times Herald

Blue Water Area counselors are available to help anyone who may have been sexually assaulted by a former Port Huron teacher.

Paul J. Wadaga, formerly a teacher at Harrison Elementary School, resigned Sept. 2 during an investigation by the St. Clair County Sheriff Department.

See HELP, 2A

Have questions? Need help?

■ **QUESTIONS AND** information about the case can be directed to St. Clair County Sheriff Detective Rick H. LaRue, 985-8115, or county Protective Services, 984-7500.

Scout program attacks problem of sexual abuse

Editor, the Times Herald:

The recent articles in the Times Herald regarding alleged child sexual abuse by Paul J. Wadaga of Port Huron clearly identifies some of the great problems our society has with sexual child abuse. These savage assaults against defenseless children reach epidemic proportions with over 100,000 cases reported annually in the United States. Studies indicate that only about 10 percent of the victims are reported. That means that possibly over one million youth are sexually abused each year!

The Wadaga case points out that the young victims suffer more than immediate pain and shame. Their mental trauma may continue for years and may culminate in an attempt at suicide. According to the Wadaga article, this was the tipoff to the problem.

Amazing, isn't it, that this one person could allegedly sexually abuse children for years without one report! However, non-reporting by victims is typical. The young victims are embarrassed, ashamed and usually too scared to tell even their own parents.

It is no secret that child molesters seek out occupations like teaching or become involved in community activities like Scouting where they can be in close contact with potential victims. In these positions, they can "court" and "seduce" their selected victims while maintaining the respect and trust of the community.

The Boy Scouts of America are

very conscious of the desire of pedophiles (persons who prefer children as sexual objects) to use youth organizations for their perverted desires. The Boy Scouts have a five-phase attack on this social problem:

- 1 — Education to parents, children and all levels of volunteers on the detection and prevention of child sexual abuse.
- 2 — Strengthening leader selection procedures to deter abusers from entering the ranks of Scouting.
- 3 — Creating barriers to sexual abuse (requiring two or more leaders for every activity or campout; leaders not to share a tent with youth, etc.).
- 4 — Prompt reporting — teaching youngsters to "Yell and tell!"
- 5 — Swift action to remove suspected child abusers from youth contact and the Scouting movement.

There is no fail-safe method for identifying potential offenders before incidents occur, but the Boy Scouts are making it difficult for abusers to operate! It really is too bad that the first victim in the recent report hadn't been taught to "Yell and tell!" If he had, perhaps there never would have been other victims!

We urge parents to counsel their children about this important subject. Make sure your children know that it is OK to tell if someone deliberately touches them in their private parts. Contact the Boy Scout Office, 901 Huron in Port Huron for a free copy of our parents' guide, "How to Protect

your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse." It offers many tips on protecting your children from our society's greatest dangers to youth.

DANIEL G. MILLER
Scout Executive
Blue Water Council, Boy Scouts
Port Huron

READY FOR FILE

OCT 06 1988

A. GRAVES

October 6, 1988

Mr. Daniel G. Miller
Scout Executive
Blue Water Council, No. 277

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: PAUL WADAGA

Dear Dan:

I recently was given a copy of some communication which you had concerning the above named individual. We note that he has admitted sexual abuse of youth.

Since Mr. Wadaga was involved in Scouting, at one time, we would want to make certain that he could never again involve himself with the Boy Scouts of America. I, therefore, would like to set up a Confidential File and would like to have a Confidential Record Sheet completed, so we have all the information necessary for identification.

I have enclosed a sheet for your use. A copy of a piece of paper with Mr. Wadaga's signature would also aid in the identification process.

Thanks for your help in protecting the youth in America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration Service

pam

Enclosure

cc: East Central Region

CONF027586

YOUR OPINION

The Times Herald

Port Huron, Mich.

Sunday, September 18, 1988

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DANIEL G. MILLER
Scout Executive
Blue Water Council, Boy Scouts
Port Huron

Added to CF file
10/16/88

Not registered
on National Computer
at this time

NOTED

OCT 03 '88

JOSEPH L. ANGLIM

Game

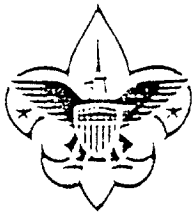
Good, Positive, Move

By DAN

PAUL WADAGA

DO WE HAVE?

NO



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Explorer Programs

Blue Water Council No. 277
Boy Scouts of America



September 19, 1988

Mr. Al Morin, Area Director

[Redacted]
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dear Al,

Enclosed is a photocopy of the first newspaper article regarding a new sex abuse case in Port Huron, that I found on my return from the conference on Sunday, September 11. Mr. Wadaga was involved for about 12-15 years in Boy Scouting, but only about 4 years as an Assistant Scout Master where he would have youth contact. A number of articles following the original article indicates that additional children were abused, but to date, they have not been able to identify any Scouts or former Scouts.

Nevertheless, I thought this particular case gave us a good opportunity to identify to the general public what Scouting is doing about protecting children from child abuse. I have also enclosed a copy of my "Letter to the Editor," which appeared this Sunday, September 21, in the Times Herald. I am sure you can tell most of it was extracted directly from the Youth Protection Media training. Trust it meets your approval.

The request for a \$10,000 Gannett Foundation grant was approved and we will soon be in the process of ordering equipment, software, and training. We hope to have the computer in operation by December 1, 1988.

Best wishes

Daniel G. Miller
Scout Executive

Enclosures 2

DGM: tao



United Way

Member Agency Sanilac County United Way and
United Way of St. Clair County

CONF027588

Sex abuse case leads to teacher

Port Huron educator makes deal, resigns

By JOHN F. BROWN and TOM MURPHY
Times Herald

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1980 photo

Paul J. Wadaga

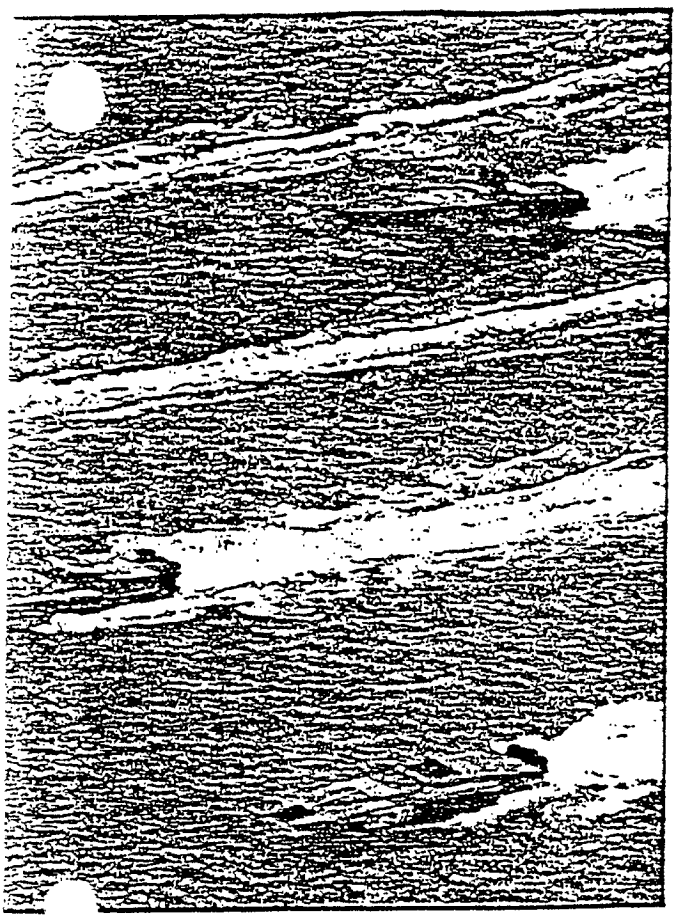
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Times Herald

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See HELP, 2A



Times Herald — RALPH W. POLOVICH

Tourism Grand Prix Saturday.



Have questions? Need help?

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Signs

... a young man's attempted ... that tipped off authorities ... problem, Cleland said.

On July 5, a parent of the 27-year-old man told police that Wadaga's past association with the young man was partly to blame for the suicide attempt.

Sheriff Detective Rick H. LaRue said a subsequent investigation turned up numerous other molestation accusations.

However, Cleland said none of those complaints could be proved because no one has been willing to press charges.

"There has been a lot of accusations," LaRue said, "but no one wants to testify."

LaRue said the young man who attempted suicide also refused to testify.

Cleland said the decision to grant Wadaga immunity from prosecution was made:

■ To get help immediately to the abused youngsters.

"We want to try to get these people help. The last thing I want to see is what happened to the first kid who began this investigation, and that is to hurt themselves," Cleland said.

To get Wadaga out of the classroom and away from children.

■ Because prosecutors could prove no crime since no one would accuse Wadaga in open court.

"We had no one willing to testify and parents refused to cooperate with investigators," Cleland said. "We have no provable case. ... There is no proof of criminal activity."

"We know the victims are there, and we know these things happened. But we keep getting the door slammed in our face."

Besides quitting teaching, Wadaga agreed:

■ To give the names of any children involved in criminal sexual conduct complaints.

■ Not to take any job involving children.

■ Not to take part in any youth activities, including Boy Scouts, in which he once was active.

... what's cooking
each Wednesday
in FOOD

... interviews with the 19 boys whose names Wadaga supplied as part of the immunity agreement.

Cleland also said his office will monitor Wadaga periodically through written reports and contact with police in the town in which Wadaga relocates.

The statute of limitations for molestating a child is six years after the offense or six years after the victim turns 21.

Wadaga's resignation is not official until accepted by the district's Board of Education. That could occur at the board's meeting Sept. 19.

School Superintendent Larry J. Moeller said he could not legally comment on specific incidents. Indeed, he declined to confirm that Wadaga had resigned. But Moeller added:

"Any time we get any kind of report or accusation, we would investigate ... and take the most severe action that was appropriate."

Harrison Principal Joann Monaghan declined to comment and directed questions to Moeller's office.

Cleland described Wadaga as "highly intelligent" and "highly trusted." He said Wadaga is a charismatic man who initiated relationships with boys after developing close ties with their families.

"This is a fellow who engendered a great deal of trust — particularly with the parents," Cleland said.

"At this point, there is no connection (with) his students. We have no student-teacher cases."

Wadaga, who was born and raised in L'Anse in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, graduated from Michigan State University in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

He received a master's degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University in 1975.

Wadaga was involved in local Boy Scout activities for 12 years but apparently left Scouting some 10 years ago. He also worked with the Port Huron Recreation Department for five years after moving to the city.

... ing treatment in Mercy Hospital, Port Huron.

Both women were passengers of a vehicle driven by Richard L. Davies, 49, of 2701 W. Birch Hill Road, Smiths Creek. Davies' car was struck from behind by a car driven by Sheridan L. Hoopengartner, 41, of 6275 Gibbons Road, Jeddo, about 6:15 p.m., state troopers at the St. Clair post said.

Hoopengartner was arrested for drunken driving, police said.

Jeddo woman hurt in 2-car accident

MARYSVILLE — A Jeddo woman suffered minor injuries after a two-car accident on Wadhams and Ravenswood roads Saturday.

Judy A. Wilton, 21, of 6812 Jeddo Road, was treated in Port Huron Hospital and released.

Help

Continued from 1A

Officials believe he molested at least 10 boys aged 9 and 10 during the past 13 years.

The St. Clair County Department of Social Services has formed a team of counselors to work with victims and their families, DSS Director Juanita A. Gittings said.

"The parents will also go through a phase of denial and guilt and anger," Gittings said. "They will ask, 'Why my kid?' and 'Why didn't anyone stop this?' But we will let them know they're not alone."

"We want to help them in every way possible."

A DSS worker will accompany a sheriff department investigator to interview victims and will refer them to counseling agencies if necessary.

Public agencies participating include Blue Water Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinic and St. Clair County Community Mental Health.

Gittings said information disclosed by victims will be kept confidential, and victims are free to choose whether to press charges.

The agencies will try to cover costs for victims who cannot pay for counseling or therapy, Gittings said.

Letha R. Gamble

PORT HURON —

Gamble, 73, died Thursday, Sept. 3, 1983, in Port Huron.

She was born July 1, 1910, in Kalkaska. She married William H. Gamble Oct. 1937, in Port Huron. He died April 3, 1976.

Mrs. Gamble was a member of the Golden Ages and the American Legion. She dedicated mother and daughter to the church. She liked to do embroidery work.

She is survived by four sons, Larry E. Gamble (Nancy) Gamble and (Emma) Gamble, a daughter, Edna Ledford Clemens; one brother-in-law, Harold and Debra of Port Huron; several nephews.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandson, Bruce Brusch Dec. 10, 1987.

Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday in Arthur Smith Funeral Home, 1000 South St., a Guardian Church. John Larsen of The Army will officiate. Burial in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Visiting is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. in the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Larry E. Gamble's grandsons, Terrence Gamble, Michael Baisle Gamble Jr., Michael G. Gamble, Emory Elmer Gamble, Eric G. Gamble, Bruce Brusch. Honor bearers are Nicholas Gamble.

Memorials may be made to the Salvation Army.

Port Huron
TOWN HALL
Mondays 10:30
Municipal Place
Series Begins Oct. 1
All 5 Programs
For Ticket Information
Call 984-2345

Cataract
Removal
Nicholas
D. Gamble, M.D.
PORT HURON

Timothy B. Aiken, M.D.
CERTIFIED, American Board of Ophthalmology

CENTER FOR ... 984-4550