

Aerial Supply!

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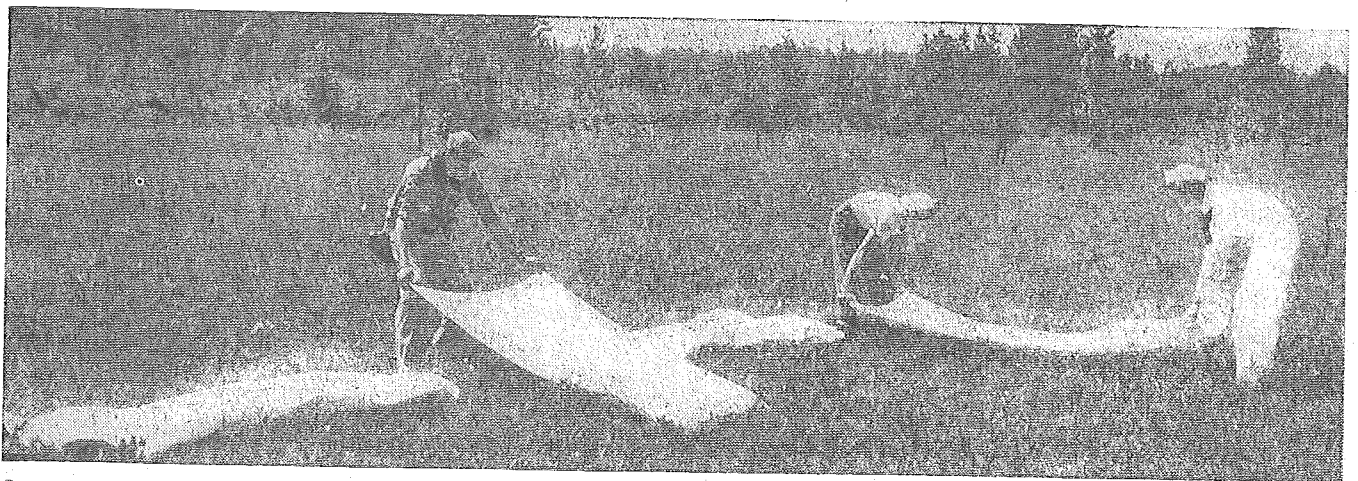
CAN YOU imagine the thrill awaiting the Senior Unit or Troop that goes on an expedition to a practically inaccessible area and there lays out some improvised signal panels, builds a fire and stands by for its food and supplies to come floating down from the clouds?

Take a day off to go with Sea Scout Ship 7 of Anniston as they plan and execute the program. Before the date of the activity they arrange with a committeeman of their Unit, who owns and pilots a plane, to have him drop the supplies on the appointed date. They may work out an alternate date if the weather turns bad.

The night before the expedition is spent in packing the parachutes and preparing the drops. The pilot is in the meeting, helping work out every detail: target area, ground signals and panels, plane-to-ground signals, the pattern of fires for wind direction and exact moment the plane will be over target.

On the day of the expedition the Sea Scouts start in sufficient time to give them time to lay out their panels and build fires so that the pilot can ascertain wind direction from the smoke and make his run accordingly.

In another moment the plane has slipped in over



Sea Scouts lay out panels of folded bedsheets in the shape of the letter "F" to indicate to their plane that they want food to be dropped to them.

the tree tops and the parachutes blossom forth to deliver the Sea Scouts' lunch as gently as a cook setting it on the table.

You say, "That's not for us, we have no planes, no pilots or parachutes available for our Unit." Two to one you are wrong. In this post-war America there are private flyers in practically every Scout district. Some of them are Scout leaders, some are committeemen, some are fathers, uncles, brothers, friends or perhaps even a big sister of a Scout. Almost any type of present-day light plane will serve suitably well in the role of an aerial delivery truck.

Parachutes can be either made or bought. If you decide to make yours, design it also. Make some with four, six or eight sides and find out which one performs the best. Don't forget the air vent in the top of the "chute" which prevents oscillation.

The forest service has used square-burlap canopies for a number of years to lower all types of fire fighting equipment. Army flare parachutes 128" in circumference and 21" long can be bought for \$1.00 each from Aviation Products Company, 207 East 43rd Street, Department "A," New York City, New York.

In regard to the drop area, you will want to use a large open field with unobstructed approaches. There should be no large streams or swamps bordering it as the plane may occasionally drop a parcel out of the field.

Ground signals are best made of equipment which will ordinarily be taken along by Scouts on a trip. Such things as folded bedsheets and blankets serve as excellent signal panels. Surplus Army air-ground panels can be purchased from retailers. The red panel is known as Panel AL 140 and the yellow one as Panel AL 141. The greatest possible contrast between the ground and the panels must be effected so the pilot can easily spot you.

Photos by Lace Johnson Studio, Anniston, Ala.



Sea Scouts stand by as a light plane comes over with supplies.

The sheriff's Aero Squadron of Los Angeles, California uses a code formed of panels in which the letter "A" means 1st Aid Kits are needed, "Y" means Injured, "H" means Doctors needed, "F" means Food, "T" means Water and "O" means Everything OK. They have a numeral code of roman letters in which I means one to five people. V means five to 10 persons, X means 10 to 50 and L means 50 to 100.

Some signals that airplanes can make to persons on the ground are as follows: 360 degree left turn. alternate dips and climbs, rock wings, yaw right and left, etc. Meanings for the signals can be worked out between the Scout Unit and the pilot.

The old Civil Air Regulations which stated that nothing larger than unconfined shot could be dropped from flying aircraft, has been broadened considerably so that now there are no restrictions as to what may be dropped from aircraft in flight except that no hazard to other persons may be created (Amendments to August 1, 1945). If there is a doubt in the pilot's mind as to whether or not he will break a regulation, write to your nearest Civil Aeronautics Administration Office and ask for Form 400, which is an application for waiver of a Civil Air Regulation.

There it is; the activity is waiting for you to set it up. Try the unusual. It may be possible for you to spend a few days on an island or mountain plateau with Aerial Supply playing an integral part. Perhaps you will be able to use helicopters or even blimps as your delivery vehicles. Enough said— from here your imagination and ingenuity will serve as your guides. Good luck.



Disentangling parachute of supplies from the pines as the plane circles over the target.