

SCOUTING

DECEMBER 1958

A Faith for the Space Age

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Christmas Around the World

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MARION WHELAND
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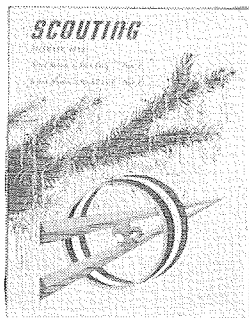
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THIS MONTH'S COVER

We hope the new Exploring program will be the most valuable Christmas present high-school age boys have had. We're glad to present it to the leaders of Explorers, both now and in the future. It's a gift that will return dividends for everybody's benefit.



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Personally Speaking

Reading on a Glacier

READING A BOOK on Mt. Rainier. A troop of husky older Scouts resting on their packs on the rubble high up on the edge of Nisqually Glacier while one of them read a book out loud.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw them. It just didn't seem to go together—the hard he-man effort of climbing that mountain—then stopping to read a book.

At the end of an exciting chapter, at a sign from the Scoutmaster, the fellows were on their feet, shouldering their packs, and falling in line to hit the trail.

Later I had a chance to get acquainted with the Scoutmaster and ask about the episode.

“We do that all the time,” he said, “We've climbed most of the peaks in the Northwest, and in the climbing of them we've read some mighty interesting books.

“We do it for a couple of reasons. One, it's a good way to rest; you forget how tired you are. Two, we enjoy the books and learn a lot from them. You'd be surprised how many ideas and unusual skills used in our troop program first came to our attention from the page of a book.

“The book we're reading now is pretty exciting, so the fellows will probably want several chapters before they go to sleep tonight.”

I was not surprised to learn later that this man was a well-known and quite unusual leader. He was more than a rugged woodsman; he was a man of wide interests. And he wanted his Scouts to develop both the physical and the intellectual interests that had meant so much to him.

It's a pretty good combination for all of us—a life of vigorous activity where we are and a program of reading that takes us into worlds of adventure and knowledge far beyond our immediate horizon.

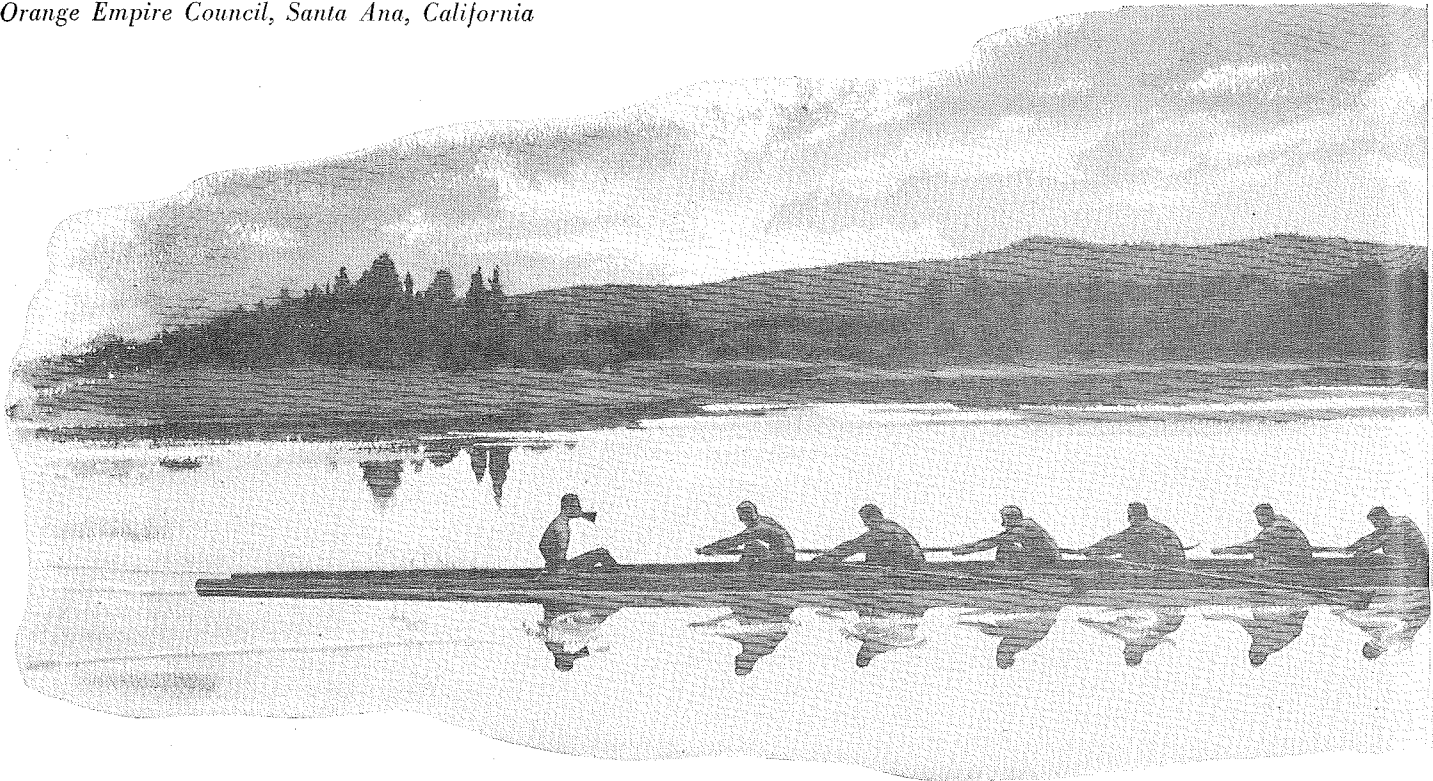
Editor

THE POST SPECIALTY IN

By WILLIAM H. SPURGEON III

Exploring Chairman

Orange Empire Council, Santa Ana, California



THE ORANGE EMPIRE COUNCIL had a three-year jump on the rest of the country using specialties and consultants in the new Exploring program. We experimented with prototype posts in cooperation with the National Council to develop the plan which has now been adopted.

We evolved the specialty unit in this council to get more men of the caliber we needed to draw high school boys into the Exploring program. We were also having difficulty reaching the seven out of eight boys who have not been attracted to the program.

We also came up with the use of consultants to encourage a tremendous number of qualified men in each field to get behind a group of boys in that specific field. We found that the special interest type of Exploring had a strong appeal to many men.

We haven't tried to see how many units we could form. We tried to organize a small number of greatly different units and let them go without a lot of direction from those of us deeply interested in Scouting. We wanted to

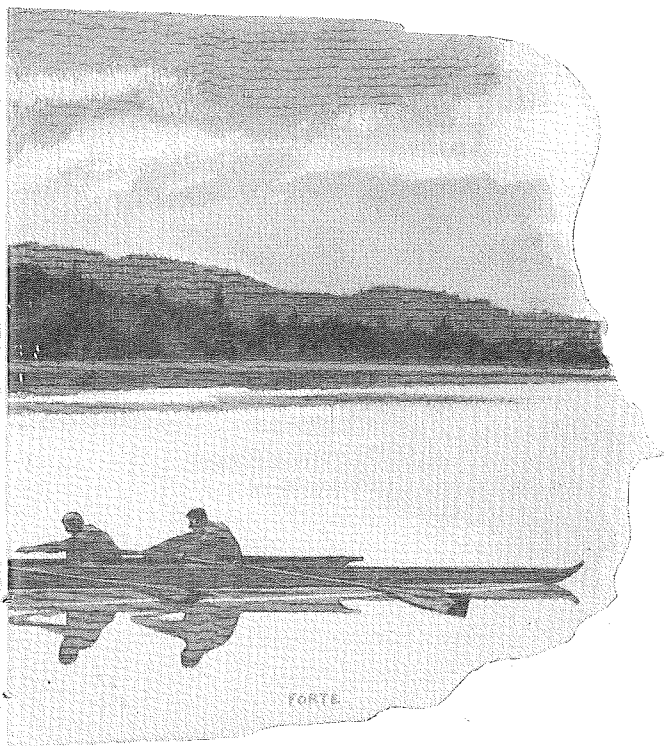
know if they could stand on their own feet and operate without excessive dependence on us.

We didn't mean to rule out the great number of present sponsors. We put emphasis on new sponsors because we felt that if the new program would work with new men and new boys, it would catch on everywhere.

High-school age boys, as the studies made by the University of Michigan and the Boy Scouts of America showed, have a variety of interests. The only way we are going to get them into Exploring is to find a level of interest they want and then put them with men who are interested in the same thing and let them explore together. The association of boys with fine men is a strong point in character building. (I believe that character is caught and not taught.) You do your best job in Exploring by putting quality men alongside high-school age boys and the right thing rubs off every time.

The shell-rowing group at Newport illustrates how specialties work. Rowing is an expensive operation. An eight-oar shell, sixty-four feet long, costs about \$2,200

EXPLORING



without fittings, and oars cost \$30.00 apiece. The average high school wouldn't even consider putting in the budget for a small group of boys to row.

Our rowing program is backed by some of the finest and wealthiest men in the harbor area, the Southwest Rowing Associates. The Advisor is an aeronautical engineer by the name of Hans Jongbloed Unterhorst. He gets these teen-age boys up at five o'clock in the morning to row in the North Lido Channel before school. Anyone who can do that has performed a modern miracle in my book. The boys get a high type of training and they have to be in excellent physical condition. They vary their program by sailing and vocational, service, and social activities. A rowing program should work anywhere in America where men would like boys to row.

One of the best examples is the science Exploring unit. It was started by contacting the head of the science department in Newport High School. This man, Kingery Whiteneck, was teaching five classes a day, heading a department, and trying to do something for students

through the high school science club. When I suggested the possibility that an electronics firm might be willing to make a program available for boys if he would be the Advisor and funnel the boys into it, he thought we had given him the key to Ft. Knox.

When we contacted the Helipot Corporation, a division of Beckman Industries, we asked them to consider seriously whether their engineers would be interested. We were amazed when seventeen of their top research engineers and department heads wanted a part in it. It appealed to the boys that this was not a make-believe situation; they wanted to rub shoulders with real engineers and real scientists and they did.

One of the key exhibits in the Far West Electronics Show is a display of things produced by this science post. Among them is a sputnik-chaser, to track satellites through space. Two of the boys developed smog control and monitoring equipment and Orange County purchased \$30,000 worth of additional equipment which these boys use to do smog control work for all of Orange County. Boys are trying to get their grades high enough to qualify to get into this post. For the first time, we've got Exploring on a basis where boys are trying to get into it.

Marketing Unit Formed

O. W. Richard, president of Richard's Lido Market in Newport and also president of our council, had the idea of a unit of boys interested in merchandising. Richard would like to tell every boy in America that he could make a million dollars and be honest in doing it. We went to the high school principal, Joseph Hamblet, to see if some boys would be interested. The next day, forty-one boys signed up, thirty-six seniors and five juniors. We realized that here were seniors who wouldn't be in school next year and who saw the opportunity to find out honestly and interestingly just how business was done.

Richard's Market selected twelve of their department heads as consultants. The unit made a series of field trips and rotated around the departments of the market. It was interesting to see how excited the heads of departments were to have these sharp boys eagerly listening to everything the men told them about the real facts of how to do business.

In Santa Ana, we have another interesting unit operating, a legal Explorer post. The district attorney, Robert Kneeland, now the superior court judge, who had watched the science group, said, "Why can't we have something for boys who want to be lawyers? Why can't we help them get the right start?"

Kneeland lined up a committee to make this happen in Santa Ana. He had three judges, the chief of police, the head of the highway patrol, three lawyers, and had the Orange County Peace Officers' Association for the sponsor. They suggested a program where the sheriff would

assign men from the ballistics department and radio communications for several meetings. The district attorney would go through lie detector routines, the public defender, and the district attorney's jobs. The superior court judge had an idea to take boys through criminal cases right in the court, giving them the behind-the-scenes operation.

The high school was interested in this one and Larry West, the head of the civics department, became the Advisor. He selected twelve boys who had the ability and might end up in this field for their life's work. They have done all the suggested program and gone on to radar detection, the police academy, narcotics problems, and immigration. This specialty will work anywhere there is a lawyer who believes in his profession.

Skin-Diving Attracts Boys

Along our coast, boys are swimming and diving in the ocean. They don't know how to do it safely and drownings have occurred. Yet the lure of skin-diving is there, and it is uncontained, untaught, and unsupervised. We decided to try a unit along these lines in Garden Grove, with the Rotary club backing it. We found a marine oceanographer named John L. Baxter to help start it. Other divers came in to help. The night we asked boys interested in diving to bring their parents to the Garden Grove plunge we signed up eighty-four boys.

A superb diving instructor, Jack Turunen, and Dr. Robert Null are working with the unit right now. They go through rigid training and tests in the high school plunge and are then permitted to go on diving expeditions down in the ocean. They build their own frogmen outfits—rubber suits, flippers, faceplates, special equipment, and safety equipment, and they're really exploring the ocean.

The underwater Explorers are establishing in Garden Grove High School the first fully equipped marine biology laboratory that we know of in any high school. At our last Scout-o-rama, their demonstration was a smash hit and everyone wanted to know how do you become a submarine Explorer.

Foreign Trade Post

The foreign trade Explorer unit involves the merchant marine, trade, commerce, and a rather technical subject called economic geography. A group of boys were paired with men interested in this subject, in the steamship business, or traveling. Arrangements are made with the steamship company for the boys to adopt one of their ships in San Pedro, the port of Los Angeles, twenty miles away.

The boys are invited to have dinner on board the ship with the captain. (The steamship companies consider this excellent public relations.) They are shown the machinery, fuel problems, loading problems, crew, and everything about the ship. They see the ship loading the cargo, see it stored in the hold. When the ship sails, the boys write to the captain at every port and he answers their letters with one letter from every port.

Sea captains are lonely men and they write fantastic letters to the unit answering their questions and telling them of local customs and all the problems of navigation, unloading, and loading cargo. The boys follow their ship on the map until its return, when they board ship again. By now they're old friends with the captain and they see the cargo they've heard about unloaded. It's been their ship and they've done everything having to do with a cruise without actually going. They take other trips in different directions and go on field trips to understand merchant marine and the moving of commerce. This unit is sponsored by the junior chamber of commerce which is keenly interested in this approach.

Requests Pour In

This fall, along with the rest of the country, we've been forming a lot of Explorer posts. Besides the regular ones, and some more of the same kinds of special units, we're working on some new specialties.

Dr. Null is forming a medical post at Garden Grove for boys who want to be doctors, and the committee will be doctors and physicians. Joe Sherman, head of the U.S. Forest Service here, asked us to form a forestry unit at Orange and he is lining up consultants. The first construction post is sponsored by the Macco Corporation. A large number of specialists are available to deal with everything from surveying to heavy equipment, concrete work to houses and tract development.

We have many inquiries, among them one from the nutritional field; an athletic coaches' unit for boys who want to coach rather than participate (sponsored by the coaches' association); one from clergymen of a group of sects asking about a philosophy unit that might lead to boys entering the ministry; a yachting post, sponsored by a yachting club to do ocean racing; a lifeguard's post to do aquatics and waterfront skills with lifeguarding; and some merchandising units, other than the markets unit.

We here in the Orange Empire Council recognize that boys don't want to do the same thing over a long period of time. Posts may change to a different specialty, and if they do, the consultants must change, too, because men want to work in their own field.

We do know that the new program will go, because it has what high-school age boys want and it taps a tremendous reserve of man power. With boys and men exploring shoulder to shoulder, it's going to go like nothing we've ever tried.

The author, Bill Spurgeon, has been an enthusiastic member of the national Committee on Exploring since 1953. He has recruited a seventeen-man Exploring committee for the Orange Empire Council. He is assistant vice president of the Irvine Company, owners of Irvine Ranch, where the Third National Jamboree was held in 1953.

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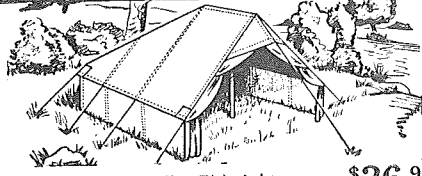
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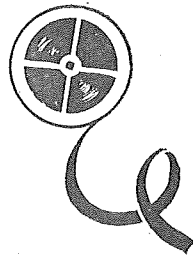
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An Explorer
Unit**

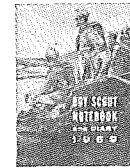
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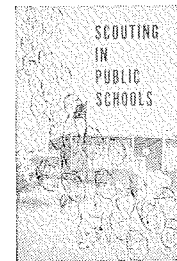
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operation.

Organization and extension com-
mittees, members of other operating
committees, and Scouters responsible
for relationships conferences will find

