

SCOUTERGRAM

A Youth for Natural Beauty program was launched in Washington, D.C., last summer. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said this campaign will give youth an opportunity "to become a driving force in the war on blight; to regain and retain the beauty that is America before it slips through our fingers." Although the B.S.A. has always helped preserve our natural beauty, it is now placing increased emphasis on this type program. An article in a future issue of Scouting will outline what your units and boys can do.

Boy Scout Week 1966 (Feb. 7-13), will highlight unit open houses and Good Turn days for chartered institutions. The open houses will emphasize "Once a Scout, always a Scout" and should feature a reunion of former boy members and leaders. Other activities include Uniform Day on Feb. 8, Scout Sabbath on Feb. 12, and Scout Sunday on Feb. 13--and don't overlook planning a window display to help show off your program to the public.

But start planning--now is the time to ensure a good Boy Scout Week celebration in your unit.

More Scouts are swimmers nowadays. In the standard Scout aquatic classification plan, it had been generally assumed that about 25 percent of the Scouts arriving in camp would qualify as swimmers, another 50 percent as beginners, and the final 25 percent as nonswimmers. But according to a recent B.S.A. survey in 336 councils, almost half (49 percent) the boys classified as swimmers, 36 percent as beginners, and only 15 percent as nonswimmers.

Scouts are also swimming greater distances these days. The Mile Swim BSA Award is growing in popularity--57,000 Scouts and Explorers qualified in 1964 and more than 300,000 emblems have been earned since the program began 4 years ago.

Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton plans to give the B.S.A. her late husband's Indian museum and his collection of 69,000 books, 3,200 paintings, and 2,000 animal and bird skins. She also has offered the use of Seton Castle (Santa Fe, N. Mex.) for the public display of the collections.

Mr. Seton, an artist, author, and lecturer, was the Chief Scout of the B.S.A. and member of its National

Executive Board during 1910-14. Since the collections constitute a rich source of general information--particularly in the origins and history of Scouting, the outdoor lore of America, and the field of natural history--Mrs. Seton believes they will be useful to the B.S.A. in carrying out its program.

The pattern established by Mrs. Seton of conducting public tours through Seton Castle will be continued under the auspices of the B.S.A., and she has agreed to serve as an adviser and consultant.

Farm-City Week will be observed Nov. 19-25. Many Scouts and their leaders are expected to join forces with other youth groups and business, professional, and farm organizations in activities that help create a better appreciation of the interdependence of urban and rural communities. Contact your local Kiwanis Club to see how you and your boys might help. Typical projects are exchange visits between urban and rural units and exhibits, window displays, and programs in churches, service clubs, and other public groups that show how Scouting serves boys in both farm and city areas.

The National Supply Service warns that its Stainless Steel Cooking Outfit, No. 1040, is a possible hazard. The polish on the pot covers is so high that it can cause a fire by reflecting the sunrays. If you have one of these outfits, go over the surface with medium emery cloth to reduce the shine. This hazard is being eliminated in future production.

The program for the Third National Explorer Delegate Conference was completed in September by 12 Explorers elected last spring at their regional Explorer delegate conferences. The program planning session was held at Indiana University, site of the national conference to be held August 14-18, 1966. Every district and council in America will be represented.

The first B.S.A. unit behind the Iron Curtain is Pack 23 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Organized at the request of U.S. Embassy personnel to serve boys of U.S. Government workers, the pack will celebrate its second anniversary in December. The pack is served by our Transatlantic Council, with headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany.

Post 94 and the Refugees

THE ECONOMIC A B C's of setting up housekeeping are well known to the Explorers in Post 94, sponsored by the St. John's Methodist Church of Oklahoma City, Okla.

No, the young men aren't newlyweds.

It all grew out of Explorer Advisor Frank Hinson's conversations with a friend in his daily car pool. Sam Guerrero, Hinson's friend, is responsible for relocating displaced Cuban families in the Oklahoma City area; and when Advisor Hinson becomes interested in something, things happen.

First off, his Explorer post became enthusiastic about "adopting" a refugee family when Mr. Guerrero told them of the need for sponsors. What did they need to do? Find a job for the head of the family. Provide a suitable house with a month's rent and utilities paid in advance. Stock its kitchen with groceries. Furnish five rooms with furniture. Formidable task for a dozen high school youngsters. These people, they learned, would have nothing but the clothes on their backs and the will to make good in the country that provided them sanctuary.

Finding a house the Explorers could afford proved easier than they anticipated. The father of one of the post members owned a vacant house that he made available for the first month, free of rent, on the condition that the post would redecorate it. After papering and painting, the boys learned that the family they were expecting had decided to remain in Miami. Enthusiasm took a nosedive.

Two weeks later Advisor Hinson learned of the Alfred Silva family of Havana who were eager to get to Oklahoma City where they had relatives. He found employment for Señor Silva in the cold-storage department of a dairy. The Explorers' spirits went into orbit.

The boys took the \$60 they had been paid for redecorating the house (it had since been rented) and paid for a month's rent on a five-room cottage. A deposit on utilities took \$45 and the second bite out of their treasury that had totaled \$109. Thirty dollars stocked the kitchen with staples enough for a couple of weeks. A house-to-house canvass of their friends' homes netted five rooms of furniture—not period, but serviceable. The whole neighborhood wanted to get into the act.

When the couple arrived at the airport in Oklahoma City on a Saturday evening, they were met by their relatives and a dozen Explorers and their dates—the proudest young men in the Southwest. After much handshaking and a few tears, the group proceeded to the Silvas' new home. Here, for the first time, the young refugee family learned of their good fortune: they had expected to stay with relatives until they could arrange for a house.

Then the Explorers announced a fiesta as they emerged from the kitchen with potato chips, cold cuts, cookies, and soft drinks.

Like they say in the story books, "... and they lived happily ever after."



WE MOTHERS (Den or otherwise) have a caboodle of clichéd excuses for our ineffectiveness; so clichéd they could have been cut from a cookie press: "I'm not creative"; "I go to the roundtables, but the ideas take too much time"; "I read the quarterlies, but the projects are too hard . . . easy, noisy, dull, ambitious, etc."; "I'm not good with my hands"; "I haven't the patience."

First of all, you *are* creative, or nearly so; you just don't know it. Secondly, the roundtables and quarterlies are great stimulants, but they should be considered stimulants, not finished products. From the earliest beginnings of salesmanship and politics, it has been known that everyone prefers an idea that is his own, and attacks it with double enthusiasm. When the "inspiration" comes from you and your Cub Scouts, you develop patience to see the job well completed.

Creatively, you find you are better with your hands than you thought, or you find ways around working with your hands, or you seek out someone more deft than you are to help you.

If you can plan your time or a menu, you are creative. If you can carry on a conversation, you are creative. These talents that you take for granted require an ability to project yourself into a situation in the future—to anticipate