Vocational Exploration

By Lyle M. Spencer and Robert K. Burns
Science Research Associates
Chicago, Illinois

FINDING the proper career is perhaps the biggest problem a young man faces. To solve it correctly requires planning—which cannot wait until the boy is suddenly out on the street looking for a job.

Of course, Scouting cannot undertake vocational training as such, that is, the actual preparation for particular jobs. That is up to schools, government, and industry. Nor should Scouters consider themselves vocational guidance counselors. But Scout Leaders can help their boys get a picture of the broad possibilities in business and industry, and one of the sound ways to accomplish this is through "vocational exploration."

Vocational exploration can best be understood by comparing it to geographical exploration. When Admiral Byrd was preparing for his first expedition to Antarctica, he dug up as much information as he could about that land. He learned too, about the equipment he would need, the hazards he could expect to face, the time it would take him to prepare, the things he actually must do once he got there. Not until he had examined carefully all of the information available, did he set out on his expedition.

In much the same way, Scout Leaders want to help their boys to explore the world of work, to find job "dope" on hours, pay rates, hazards, training, unions, and so on. The object of such exploration is to let Scouts examine the various job fields as completely as possible by reading, by seeing, by doing. Only then can Scouts begin to make intelligent choices of careers.

Perhaps the value of vocational exploration can be illustrated by citing a case where such exploration was lacking.

Diesel engineering schools, which have carried on a wildfire campaign to attract paying students, turned out about 100,000 new Diesel "Mechanics" last year. But at the present time there is a demand on the Diesel market for but 5,000 new men a year! And most of these new workers are not graduates of Diesel schools at all, but trained gasoline mechanics. In other words, nearly 100,000 young men pinned their hopes on a future they could not possibly achieve. Many of them wound up as unhappy shoe clerks, farm hands, or maybe without a job at all. How many of these young men

Scouts being trained in shop for Blacksm

Encourage Your Scouts to Read S.R.A. Series in BOYS' I

would have gone in for Diesel work if they had really explored the field first before entering Diesel school?

What holds true for Diesel mechanics is also true for hundreds of other occupations. At the same time, there are many fields of work that are actually hungry for workers! Vocational exploration can prevent a waste of manpower by directing youth into the fields where jobs really are. And it is especially valuable in helping youth learn about the world of work — helping them solve the "problem of finding their productive place in the life scheme of things."

MANY ways are open to the Scouter who would do his bit to help the vocational exploration program along. To begin with, he can see that vocational information gets in the hands of his older Scouts who have expressed interest in certain careers. The first source of such information is Scout literature itself. The current job series in BOYS' LIFE can be particularly valuable in this regard.

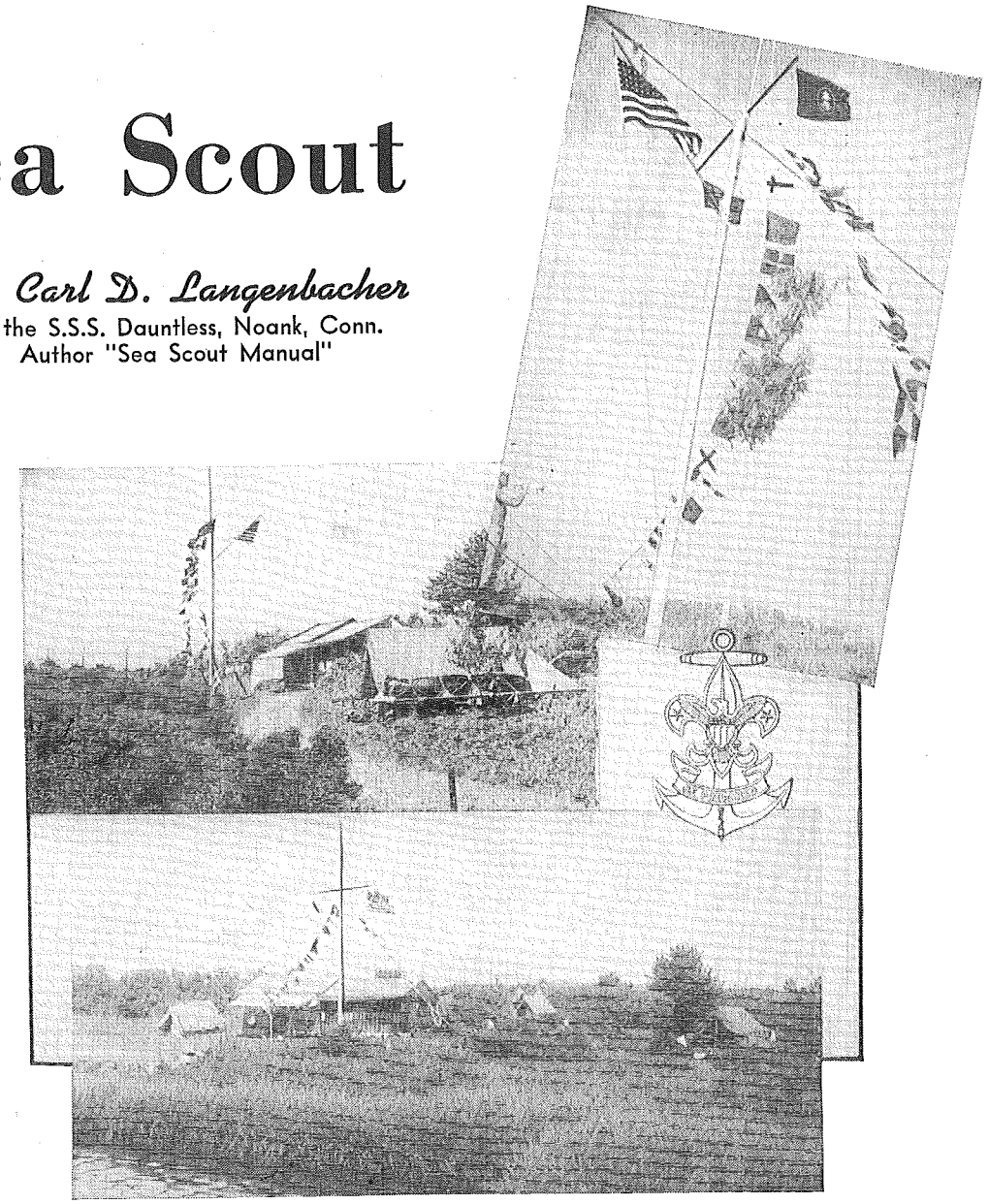
The Scouter should coordinate the Merit Badge Program and other Scouting literature with vo-

smithing Merit Badge Requirements

LIFE, including "Summer Jobs" Article in M

Good Sea Scout Ship

By Carl D. Langenbacher
of the S.S.S. Dauntless, Noank, Conn.
Author "Sea Scout Manual"



Fiddler's Green on the Paucatuck River, shore base of Sea Scout Ship 66, Weathersfield, Connecticut.

WHAT makes a good Sea Scout Ship? Is it the Scouts, their officers, base, meeting place, spirit, Council program—or what?

Since publication of the sixth edition of the *Sea Scout Manual* I have become tremendously interested in finding the answer to this question. The Manual quite consciously makes a plea for high standards, for real Sea Scouting, for *good* Ships. With the uniform National Standards of advancement, program, and uniforming, and the annual rating chart, a Ship today can be graded with accuracy and fairness. It is good, fair, or poor in direct comparison with all the other Sea Scout Ships in the United States.

Then how to make your Ship rate high? Which aspect of the program is *most* important? I found the answer: none! To rate high there must be a balanced program. No one phase can be stressed at the cost of another, or phut-t-t—there goes the rating.

For example, one of the largest thrills I have ever had as a Scouter was last summer when I happened upon, while vacationing, the SSS Champlain, in Winooski, Vermont. "Huh! Fresh water Sea Scouts! Farm boys, playing sailor!" were some of my thoughts; not expressed fortunately to my host, the Council's Executive. Even then, I was making a common mistake—judging Sea Scouting by false standards.

I met the officers, "gammed" with the boys (the great kick of Scouting, men!), was piped aboard their fine land-ship, listened to their program, swapped yarns, read in their Log what they had given to Scouting and their community. I could have shut my eyes and, without imagination, been right on my own SHIP! It was home; as familiar and recognizable as my favorite chair. There was no single element of the program lacking, none stressed; it was balanced Sea Scouting and it felt like home. And, yet, these men and boys sailed in a tiny boat, two at a time. Many had never seen a deep-water ship or a sailor and would always be more at home in a cow barn than in a forecastle. But there was nothing lubberly about them; not a thing. They stood up proudly and blue-eyed, intensely keen about Sea Scouting. They were—and I told them so very humbly—Sea Scouting!

Rated? I don't know where they rated. But it was high, I'm sure of that. They couldn't fail to be. Any Sea Scout Ship, deep in the Green Mountains, which could make a salt-water man and the author of their Handbook feel at home,—they must be good! Any program that can be applied to mountain boys and do this—must be good!

Last summer also, I was the delighted guest of the Sea Scout Ship 66, of the Charter Oak Council, Region I. Here was a different outfit, salty swashbuckling shellbacks. They'd cruised in their own boats some hundreds of miles to their own unique Fiddler's Green, hard by the mighty Atlantic itself; set up camp, billeted camp duties and spent weeks in fishing and sailing and navigating and signal-

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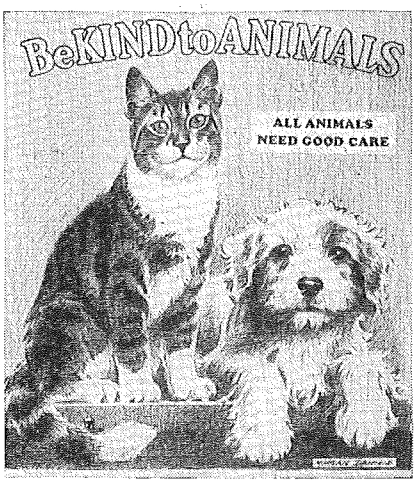
BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK—APRIL 20-26



THE week of April twentieth to twenty-sixth will be celebrated as Be Kind to Animals Week, sponsored by the American Humane Association, 135 Washington Avenue, Albany, N. Y. The poster above is designed for national distribution. For information, write to the Association direct.

Good Sea Scout Ship

(*Continued from page* 21)

ing and swappin' yarns with deep-water men nearby. "Uh, uh," I muttered, "a cruising outfit; sail like fiends and don't know the Scout Salute!"

But I was dead wrong. Once again, as I joined them in their activities, I was at home. During that long pleasant day there was no single element of the program lacking; no single one stressed. It was balanced Scouting; it felt like the *Sea Scout Manual* and like my own Ship and the Green Mountain Ship and a score of other good Ships upon which I have been privileged to visit. Rate? I don't know where—but high it was! These young men, too, stood up proud and blue-eyed. Any one of them was more at home at the main sheet than ashore, and yet they stood for wonderful things in Scouting in their community. They had organized many other Ships, swung in on all kinds of community service—done the very things that I should have expected more from an inland Ship.

What makes a good Sea Scout Ship? You bet I know! The Sea Scout Program—complete, entire, not added to or pared down; the healthy, sane balance of all the elements of the program as reflected in the advancement requirements. Cruising is no more important than socials. Cruising alone makes a yacht club; socials alone make a social club. Swimming is just as important as sea history. Swimming alone makes an athletic club; sea history alone makes a debating club! It is the mixture and balance of all these features that make Sea Scouting.

This balancing has been done in the National Sea Scout Program. To vary from it, even slightly; to insert or to omit anything, will destroy the program. It is possible to have a yacht-debating-social club or any of a dozen combinations but then Sea Scouting will be gone.

To have Sea Scouting there must be the Sea Scout Program.

I know that this is true.

I know it because it works without alteration in Vermont.

I know it because it works without alteration in "Fiddler's Green."

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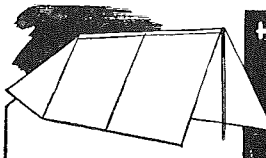

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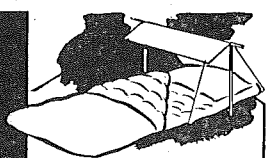

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Vocational Exploration

(*Continued from page* 19)

nomic barriers in the way—but a job of value and satisfaction.

In the same manner, talks might be made by well-informed engineers, business men, lawyers, carpenters or representatives of other occupations.

The job forum can also be used to encourage individual exploration among the Scouts. They may be asked to report on little excursions into the world of work they themselves have taken—jobs they did, workers they interviewed, industries they have read about. Perhaps a Scout can talk to the group on what his father does for a living, picturing some of the advantages and disadvantages of the business or occupation.

Many industrial firms and government agencies have vocational films depicting different jobs in a large number of varied occupations and industries. These usually will be loaned without charge to any responsible group which can use them. Also such popular films as "Pasteur" and "Arrowsmith" have dramatized certain professions.

An excellent method of carrying on vocational explorations was outlined in last month's SCOUTING —the vocational tour. The Scouts can observe, take notes, and store away in their own minds some of the valuable facts and impressions which will help them later in solving their own career problems.

The matter of getting work experience for the future is something else that the Scouter can wrestle with successfully. He can encourage his Scouts to look for work of various kinds—especially spare-time work for pocket money. The best time for them to find jobs is during the summer vacation. Older Scouts, especially, should be able to uncover some kind of work to do or some little "business" they can set up for themselves. On the job, they will learn to work under superiors, pick up a smattering of business methods, gain some of the work experience that will be so helpful later on, and add to their knowledge of human nature. In addition, of course, they will get the feel of actually earning their own money!

THE good Scouter, of course, will always think of vocational exploration in terms of what it means to a boy's future. He will use it as a means of breaking the ice, to introduce his Scouts to the many broad fields of work. The smart Scouter will not try to tell a boy what he is best fitted for. But he *can* suggest a number of fields of work that might be attractive and help him investigate the facts and opportunities of these fields. No boy of Scouting age is prepared to make up his mind definitely on so big a question as choosing a career. But if Scouting —through vocational exploration —can provide him with useful information for making a choice later on, it will surely pay real dividends. And those dividends will be measured in terms of satisfied Citizen Scouts, who are productive members of society, happy and useful at their work.

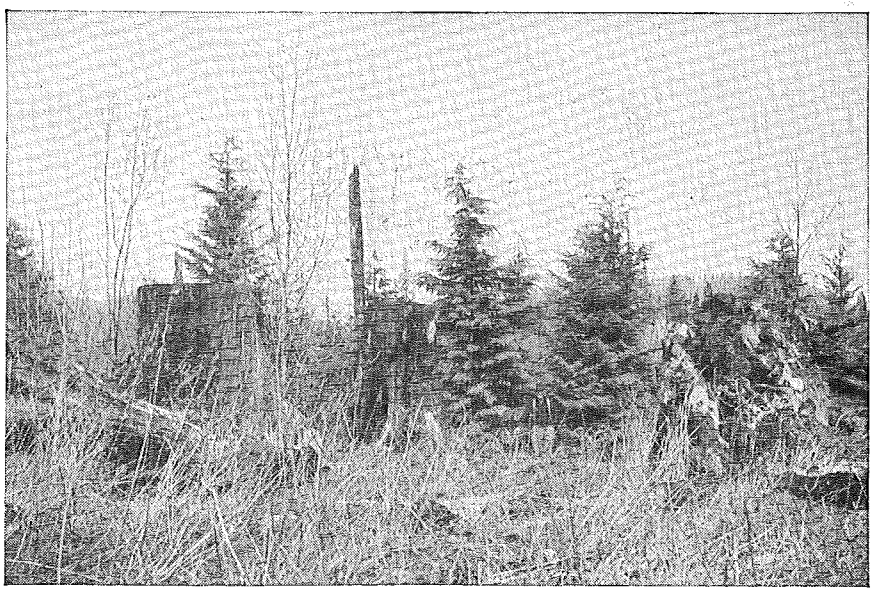


Photo by U. S. Forest Service

Alaska Cedar plantation, about twelve years old, on cutover land near Pysht, Washington, in Olympic National Forest

Conservation

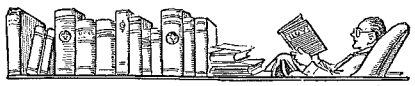
(*Continued from page* 9)

in order to survive it must be an industrious forager for weed seed and insect eggs.

The encouragement of game birds is desirable, too.

Another conservation project that is greeted with enthusiasm by most boys is the hunting and destroying of rodent pests. No brown rat performs any useful function, and rats destroy about two hundred million dollars' worth of produce yearly. There is a need here for careful training, as a rat can be a dangerous opponent. With care these pests can be safely dealt with, and their systematic extermination by means of properly used traps and poisons may be a useful project for cooperation. Rat "owners" may be willing to pay for extermination of the beasts.

We see, then, that Scouting is equipped to participate in conservation both in its broadest scope, by means of education, and as a program of activity which will appeal strongly to the business men, shopkeepers, and farmers of each local area. Conservation work affords concrete, constructive jobs for Scouts—jobs that are Good Turns for their neighbors and their nation. The same energy and determination with which the pioneer once conquered the wilderness must now be turned to saving our resources. Where could one look for a better opportunity to meet this challenge than in Scouting, which has in its charge the nation's most valuable resource of all—its youth?



The SCOUTER'S BOOKSHELF

Wildlife Conservation by Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. The Macmillan Company, New York, 246 pp. ($3.50).

This book provides an opportunity to become acquainted with one of the greatest of our natural resources, its history, and the problems connected with its restoration, preservation, and use. It puts into simple language the essential facts of wildlife conservation, and points out the interdependence of the various programs for conservation of our soil, water, forests, and wildlife.

The material on the habits and environment of our native species of animals, fish, and fowl should be stimulating to everyone interested in the world of nature. The value of the book is greatly increased by an excellent format, clear maps and charts, and a superb collection of wildlife photographs.

National-Forest Vacations, published by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. (Free from regional Forest Service offices *while their supply lasts;* or 10c from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.)

Information and photographs on the many opportunities offered by the National Forests of the United States, together with a tabulation giving the name and location of national forests with individual thumbnail sketches of special features, sports and accommodations, make this a worthwhile pamphlet for the planning of vacations.

Nature Notes by John Kieran; published by The Country Life Press, Garden City, N. Y. ($1.50).

This delightful little book by a real nature lover gives a bird's eye view of the field of nature. Different species of birds, animals, trees and flowers are discussed and each of the fifty-one chapters beautifully illustrated.

Boatowner's Sheet Anchor by Carl D. Lane; published by W. W. Norton & Co., New York, N. Y. ($2.75).

A practical book for the thousands of owners of sailboats and motorboats, written by the author of the *Sea Scout Manual.* Its fifteen chapters discuss in shipshape language, with plenty of diagrams and drawings, the ideal boat for each man's purpose, the details of acquiring a boat, how to inspect a boat, conversions, the hull, decks and deck structures, painting, interior accommodations, shipboard upholstery, sails, masts and spars, rigging, dinghies, care of a boat.

Vocational Guidance for Boys by Robert C. Cole; published by Harper & Brothers, New York, N. Y. ($2.50).

Developed to aid youth agencies and others dealing with youth in planning and launching new guidance programs and making those already in operation more effective. The techniques discussed here have been actually tried and found practical. Case studies illustrate certain points.

My Fish Friends by Myron E. Shoemaker; published by The Gray Printing Co., DuBois, Pa. (60c per copy; 15 or more copies, 35c each.)

An illustrated booklet to develop the growing interest of a boy in fish life, containing a clear concise and simple story of a number of the best-known species.

SENIOR SCOUTING GUIDE BOOK

THE popular *Guide Book of Senior Scouting* has been reprinted recently and can be secured through Local Councils or the National Supply Service (Cat. No. 3442, Price 15c).

The chapters of this 80-page pamphlet are: The Need and the Opportunity, The Senior Scout and the Regular Troop Program, Special Activities for Senior Scouts, Special Interests and Explorations for Senior Scouts, Rover Scouting, Alumni or "Old Scout" Plan, and The Big Idea.

Scouting

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