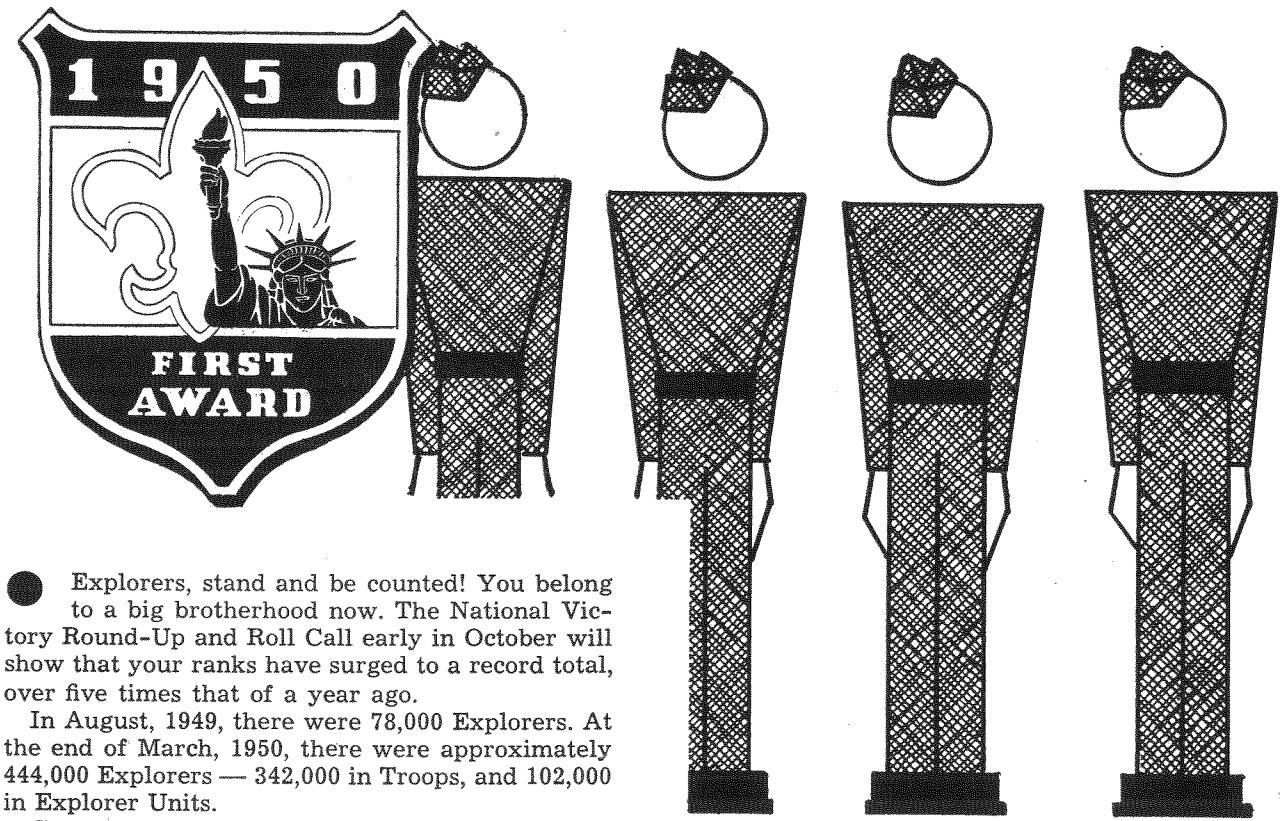
EXPLORERS Stand and Be Counted



Explorers, stand and be counted! You belong to a big brotherhood now. The National Victory Round-Up and Roll Call early in October will show that your ranks have surged to a record total, over five times that of a year ago.

In August, 1949, there were 78,000 Explorers. At the end of March, 1950, there were approximately 444,000 Explorers — 342,000 in Troops, and 102,000 in Explorer Units.

Greater growth lies ahead as we clinch our *leadership, program,* and *membership* goals in the next four months. The Round-Up and Roll Call will reveal exactly what your Unit or Troop has to do to win a Crusade Award by December 31. Check your commitments with your accomplishments to see if you can earn a First, Merit, or Progress Award.

Units organized since the Crusade began in 1949 should ask the Scout Executive how to make commitments now in order to be eligible for an award.

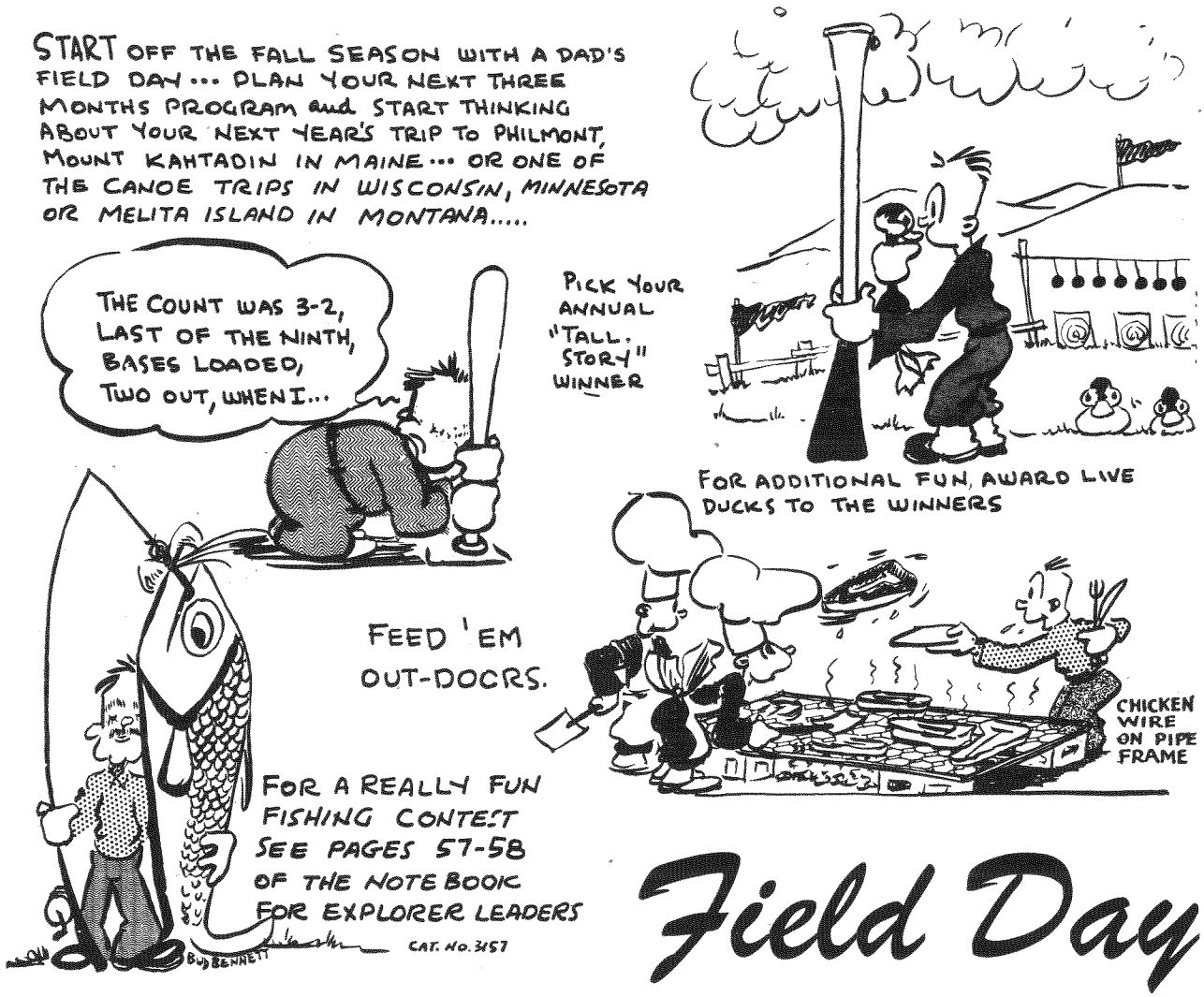
The awards, similar to the one shown above, are to be sewed on Unit flags half way between top and bottom, four inches from the pole. These permanent reminders that you did your share to "Strengthen Liberty" are a worthy addition to the Unit's traditions. Your Explorers will be as proud of it as of their school trophies.

But let's not count our trophies before they're "catched." Let's call the roll on what we have done, and round up what we need to do better.

A special formal meeting should be devoted to the Roll Call during the first two weeks in October. The Local Council will make available National Roll Call forms that will speed up the recording of your Unit's enrollment, recognitions, and camping. A Neighborhood Commissioner or Council representative will also conduct a Uniform Inspection. It is recommended that Explorers in a Troop all adopt the same style of uniform — khaki with maroon tie, or green with brown tie.

The Local Council will furnish to every Explorer an inspection chart showing the proper wearing of uniforms and placement of insignia. To be of most use, these charts should be handed out two or three weeks before the inspection.

By the time of this meeting your fall program should be completely planned and under way. It is a strategic spot on the schedule to hold "open house." Invite any prospective members to see the gang on parade. Make a social occasion of it by inviting the girls and turning the meeting into a party. Announce briefly the high adventures and big events on the calendar for the year. Enough enthusiasm can be generated here to get off to a flying start for the year and a flying finish to the Crusade.



Field Day for Dads

By O. W. Bennett

National Director, Exploring Service

Cars are beginning to arrive at 2 P.M. for our annual Explorer Dads' Day. We'll have few stragglers because the first Crew with all Dads and Explorers on hand gets extra points.

Our Event Director has a new way to start — a form of "kangaroo court." Arrivals are haled into court by sheriffs, wearing large stars, and sentenced to the rifle range, field archery range, etc. Score cards are called "summons." The events, which run until about 6 P.M., include Explorer field sports, (see SCOUTING, November, 1949), horseshoe pitching, boomerang throwing, and a wood yard where axes and crosscut saws are used.

The barbecue pit is made of plain chicken wire stretched on a pipe frame. The steaks are laid on the wire and broiled. Brother, will they look good! No need to tell you what else to have; you know best what you like with steak besides an appetite.

After supper, campfire starts with a few old songs. Then four of the Explorers will report on what their committees have developed in the way of program. We'll talk, too, about our 1951 Expedition. We figure it's smart to get our Dads in on the start of our high adventure plans. We've agreed that this part of the program will last only a half hour.

The campfire winds up with our annual Tall Story contest, Dads and Explorers competing. Choosing an annual winner has developed quite a tradition. The trophy cup has something added by each winner.

Fastened to it are Cyclop's eye, a rib from Jonah's whale, a two-cell fish hook for electric eels, and a tooth from Paul Bunyan's blue ox, Babe. I sure hope my Dad wins it this year.

All contest winners will be announced at campfire, and the high scoring Crew, including attendance and participation, wins the Solid Rock Trophy — a field stone we all work hard to win because of what it stands for.

Well, it's 2:30, time for me to find my Dad. We're due at the rifle range, and Dad's worse than my kid brother when he gets out like this.

FILLING UP THE CALENDAR

Summer's not over, but when it comes to planning for the year and the quarter-year just ahead, "it's later than you think." August is the logical month to do this planning, even though it takes extra effort to call the Explorers together during the hot weather before school opens.

Bait 'em with a barbecue, corn roast, or watermelon feed some evening, and they'll stay for a planning session. The advantage of an early start on the year's program is that the fellows become interested in their own Explorer plans before they get involved in too many other activities.

First step in filling up the calendar is the quarterly election of officers and formation of Program Planning Committees. Besides helping the officers and committee chairmen to operate smoothly at the planning session, the Advisor's job is to see that they follow through on the details necessary to have the calendar all set by September 1. The more planning he can get his Explorers to do, the better Advisor he is.

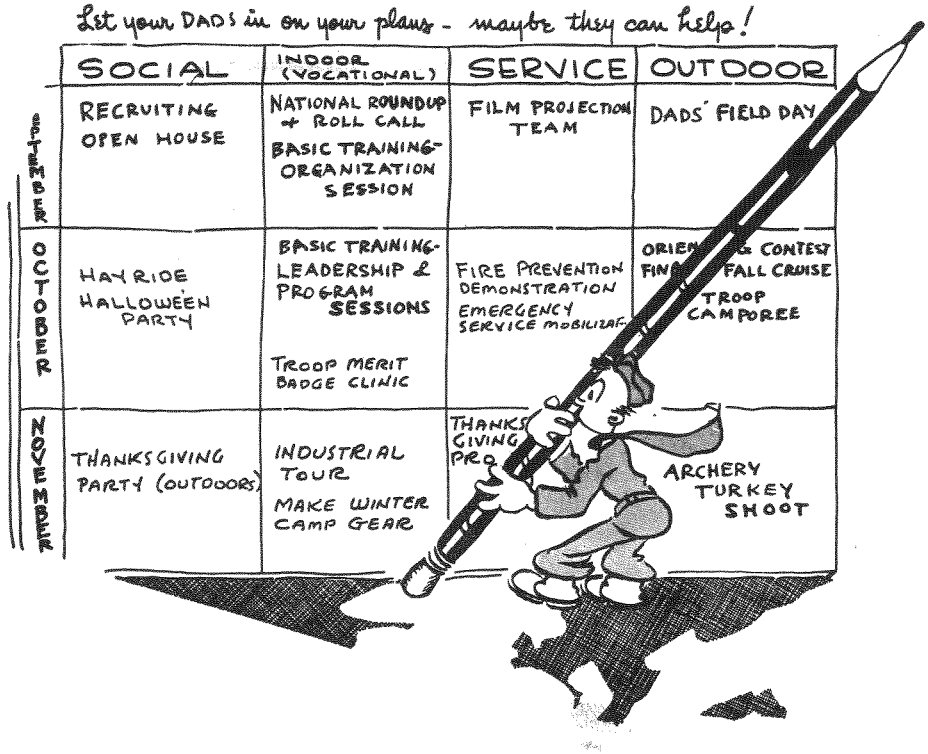
The Unit's or Troop Crew's schedule is arranged now, much like the football team has the dates for its whole season determined months ahead. For the time being, only the highlights, or big events, and the regular events need be scheduled. Place them on the calendar "approximately" if exact dates cannot be settled yet. Later on you can handle the details of these events.

Among the highlights of the year will be the 1951 high adventure, but August, 1950, is the time to start work on it. The trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, the canoe cruise, or whatever your gang wants will pay off in more fun and better experience when carefully planned. With months in which to prepare, hardly anything is too ambitious. There will be plenty of time for Explorers to get organized and make the money and equipment required for their next summer's high adventure.

Find out the dates of your Local Council and District events for Explorers and fit your schedule to them. Among the regular events within the Unit or Crew which can be placed on the calendar are monthly or quarterly business meetings, Reviewing Boards, and Courts of Awards or Bridges of Honor.

A wise move in annual or quarterly programming is to get a copy of the school calendar from the principal or superintendent and adjust Explorer plans to it. Then, for example, an Explorer party will not be set for the same night as a school basketball game or play and suffer from competition. Also you will do well to omit Explorer meetings during the week of school "exams." On the other hand school holidays are opportune for special Explorer events.

Filling your program calendar well in advance has other advantages. You have a better chance of getting reservations for sites and facilities, for example, a campsite in a state forest reserve that is much in demand, or the number and type of sailboats you wish to rent for a regatta. Also the earlier you invite them, the more likely you will get experts and special guests to appear on your programs.



PROGRAM PLANNING AIDS:

The *1950-1951 Explorer Leader's Program Notebook* is now available from your Local Council. Also see Chapter 6 in *Hints On Explorer Leadership*, Chapter 15 in the *Explorer Manual*, or Chapter V in the *Handbook For Skippers*. Ask your Local Council for these three filmstrips with discussion guides: "Planning a Three Months Explorer Program," "Planning an Explorer Social," and "Planning an Explorer Expedition." None of these printed or filmed helpers will do the planning for you, but they'll give you lots of ideas.

Fall Fun for Explorer and Troop

The fall planning conference, preferably held late in August, is a double-barrelled meeting. One barrel is aimed at annual plans, as explained on page 35. The other is aimed at quarterly plans for September-October-November.

Let's get trigger happy with that second barrel right now. We'll outline some ideas for the three months but go into detail on the September and October suggestions. Details for November will be given in the next issue of SCOUTING.

We'll set up twelve Unit meetings and seven Troop Crew meetings for this thirteen-week quarter. While Units and Crews will have to adjust the loads to their own game, here is the program ammunition.

Crew Calendar

September:

1. Field Day for Dads and Explorers.
2. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Organization Session.
3. Troop Activities.

October:

1. National Round-Up and Roll Call and other activities with Troop.
2. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Leadership Session.
3. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Program Session.

November:

1. Turkey Shoot.
2. Industrial Exploration.
3. Planning for winter quarter, December-January-February.

Unit Calendar

September:

1. Field Day for Dads and Explorers.
2. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Organization Session.
3. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Leadership Session.
4. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Program Session.

October:

1. National Round-Up and Roll Call.
2. Fire Prevention Demonstration.
3. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Service Session.
4. Explorer Leader Basic Training, Expedition Skills Session.

November:

1. Turkey Shoot.
2. Industrial Exploration.
3. Small boat building.
4. Planning for winter quarter; December-January-February.

Dads' Field Day

This event presented by Bud Bennett on page 34, is an A-1 opener for the fall quarter because it's outdoors; it's he-man stuff, and it brings the dads into the picture where they belong.

Crews from several Troops or small Units can get together on this event. Pooling their leadership facilities and pep will give everyone a better time.

Basic Leader Training

After a rousing outdoor Dads' day, five meetings may be built on the new Explorer Leader Basic Training. It will open everyone's eyes to the possibilities in Exploring and practically guarantee a successful year's program.

If the Local Council or District is not conducting the training in September or October, your own group may do so, calling on the Council and experienced Explorer leaders for help with the instruction.

All Explorers, leaders, and Unit Committeemen may take the training. When all the Explorers take it, a greater spread of leadership assignments is possible. Those over 18 who complete the training will receive the regular Basic Training Certificate and credit toward a Scouter's Key. Those under 18 will receive a special Explorer Training Certificate.

Complete information on how to run the course is contained in the *Notebook For Explorer Leaders* (Cat. No. 3157) at 20 cents, and the Instructor's Guides on *Explorer Organization* (Cat. No. 3152), *Explorer Leadership* (Cat. No. 3153), *Explorer Program* (Cat. No. 3154), *Explorer Service* (Cat. No.

Units Crews

3155), and *Expedition Skills* (Cat. No. 3156), each 15 cents.

Round-Up and Roll Call

During the first two weeks in October a formal meeting should be devoted to the National Round-Up and Roll Call. Troop Crews will participate in their Troops. In Explorer Units, since everyone will be "slicked up" for inspection, you might as well have a party.

Demonstrate Fire Prevention

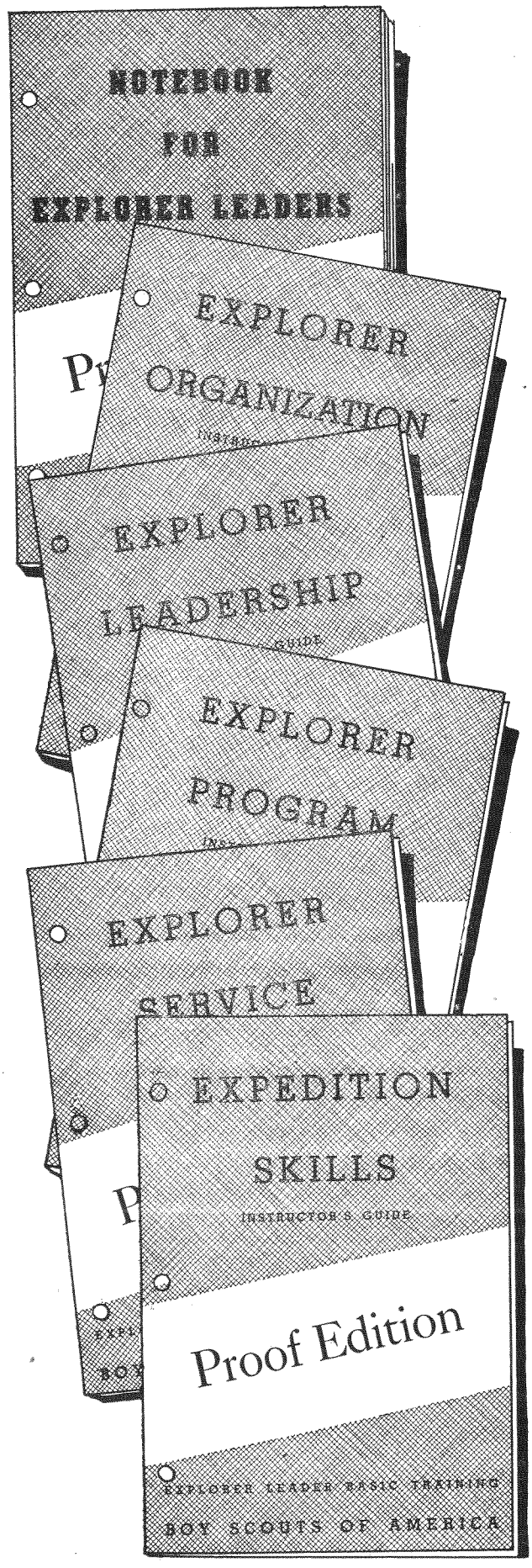
October has become fire prevention month throughout the nation. Explorers not only should but can do something about the ever lurking danger of fire. This is an opportunity to practice good conservation and good citizenship.

Your Explorers can do what one Ship did — stage a 12-minute presentation in a high school assembly. In fact they did so well that they gave "command performances" in other schools.

They demonstrated home fire hazards and their correction. The setting and "props" were homemade. A few of the demonstrations were as follows:

Lighting matches from match book with book open and closed. Storing rubbish in basement and removing it. Throwing oily rags in corner and putting them in airtight container. Replacing blown fuse with penny and with new fuse.

An Explorer Post interested the fire department in putting on an exhibition of fire fighting methods. On the scheduled evening a half dozen railroad flares were lighted on the roof of the high school building. An Explorer turned in an alarm at the nearby call box, with an explanation of how he was doing it announced over an amplifier. The fire trucks arrived, and the firemen gave their demonstration. Explorers, firemen, and the public were so pleased with the results that they're planning to do it again this fall — with the help of more police to hold the crowds back.

A Late Thank You

Credit for the excellent outdoor photos in the "Headin' For Tall Timber" in the June-July issue goes to E. H. Miller, Advisor, Post 38, Schenectady, New York; Ralph Zaffrann, Assistant Advisor, Post 123, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and the Region 10 Wilderness Expedition Base in Minnesota.