Celebrating OUR BIRTHDAY

Everybody likes to have a birthday, and everybody likes to blow his own horn in a dignified sort of way. We in Exploring will do both when we celebrate Scouting's 41st Anniversary Week, February 6-12. It is a ready-made opportunity to put Exploring in the spotlight and gain recruits for your Unit. Try one of the ways suggested below.

COMMUNITY OFFICIALS — Arrange for Explorers to take over the community for a day or a half-day. This combines vocational exploration and citizenship instruction. An Explorer is carefully elected to sit in with each official. All Explorers should visit each official to learn briefly about his duties, or the Explorers who sit in should report on their experiences later to the whole group. Another way is for a representative of all Units to visit officials and report back to their Units.

CONSERVATION SERVICE — See in this issue "First Aid on the Land" (pages 18-19), about how to get expert local help on projects, and "Wildlife Service Projects" (page 28).

EMERGENCY SERVICE MOBILIZATION — All communities are asked to do their share in Civil Defense. The greatest contribution Explorers can make is to be equipped, trained, and ready to mobilize for Emergency Service. Your young men may not be perfectly trained or fully equipped by February, but it is their patriotic duty to start preparing now. A mobilization system can be set up and practiced once before Anniversary Week. (Use it to get together for a regular meeting a half hour earlier than originally planned.) Then during the birthday week use it for a dual purpose — to practice and to gather for a visit to community officials, as suggested above, or for performing a conservation project, or taking a hike. As soon as you have equipment, include it in the mobilization. (See December 1950 SCOUTING, pages 24-27, for equipment ideas).

SCOUT SUNDAY — Explorers should wear their uniforms to church on February 11. If they attend as a group, arrangements may be made for them to have a special part in the services.

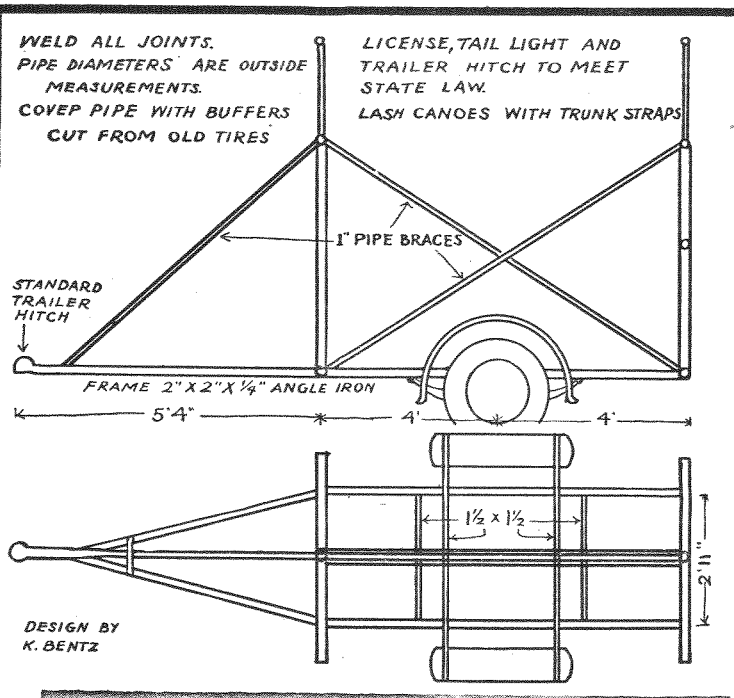
SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM — Confer with the principal for a date during Anniversary Week and on the type of program to be presented to the students and teachers. Close the program with an invitation for non-members to join your Unit or form another one.

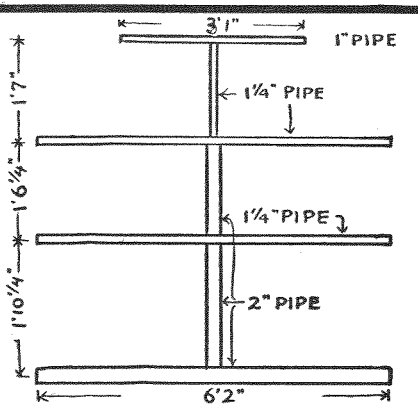
RADIO PROGRAM — If you ask soon enough, your local radio station may give you a fifteen-minute period during Scout Week to present Exploring. Work up your own script with the advice of station technicians and rehearse it thoroughly. Use the B.S.A. radio production manual, *Broadcasting Scouting,* available from your Local Council office.

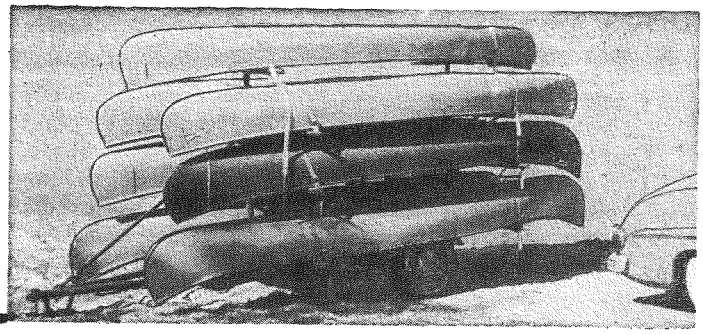
CITIZENSHIP DEDICATION — A brief ceremony can be arranged for a school assembly or a radio program. It may be preceded by a panel discussion of material from the *Citizenship* manual (Cat. No. 3290) as suggested in "Sell Americanism" on page 6, May 1950 SCOUTING. The climax should be a group repetition of the "Explorer Citizenship Dedication" (page 375 of the *Explorer Manual.*

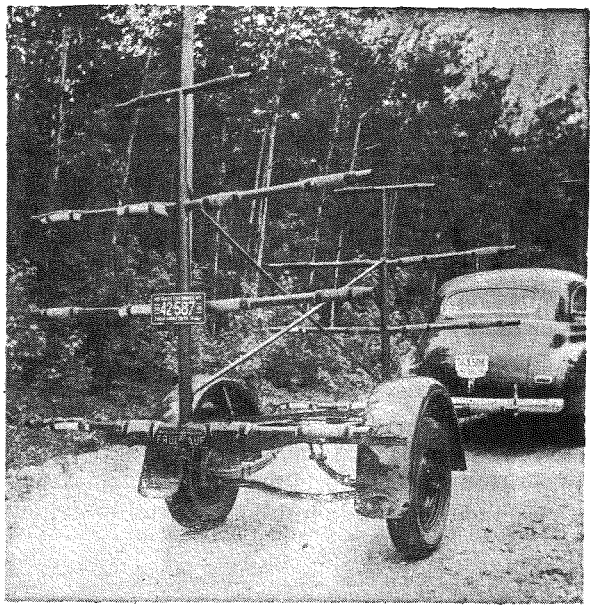
HOME MANAGEMENT — Each Explorer might take over the management of his home during Anniversary Week. He should buy the food, serve at the head of the table, help make decisions of household management and family life.

STORE WINDOW OR STREET CORNER DEMONSTRATION — A live act is always better than a window full of exhibits. Plan your demonstration for the afternoon or evening when there is plenty of shopping traffic. Police permission is usually necessary for street demonstrations. A loudspeaker outside a window helps you tell the crowd what's happening.









A Canoe Trailer

Explorers, hunters, traders, settlers, all followed the water routes . . . paddling or pulling up the streams from the coastal plains to the headwaters, carrying across the Indian trails or portages to the other side of the watershed and again following new streams into the western wilderness.

To get on water today, canoes often must go over the road. That's where the trailer, shown above, comes in handy. Seven canoes can be loaded and unloaded quickly and hauled safely. It's ideal if you need canoes in Emergency Service.

An addition to the plans, as given above, is a bottom to the trailer frame for carrying duffle and paddles. This bottom is made of 1/16" sheet steel or iron, welded to the under side of the frame. It should be 3 feet wide and 6 feet to 8 feet long. The longer size will completely cover the space below the upright carriers.

Even if the waterways are ice-locked, now is the season to equip for training your Explorers in the traditional American canoe skills. Then as soon as water is available, they can get out for coaching, practice, and short trips.

While the water is too cold to risk upsets on a trip, it is safe in shallow water near a shore base to practice launching, loading, landing, portaging, mastering the strokes, and repairing canoes and paddles. All this leads up to a canoe expedition for a week or two by a qualified group.

Through your Local Council you can plan such a trip to one of the following Explorer canoe bases:

Region 7 Canoe Landing in northern Wisconsin.

Region 10 Sommers base in northern Minnesota.

Region 11 base on Melita Island, Flathead Lake, Montana.

Councils may make reservations for Explorer groups by writing to the Regional Offices below:

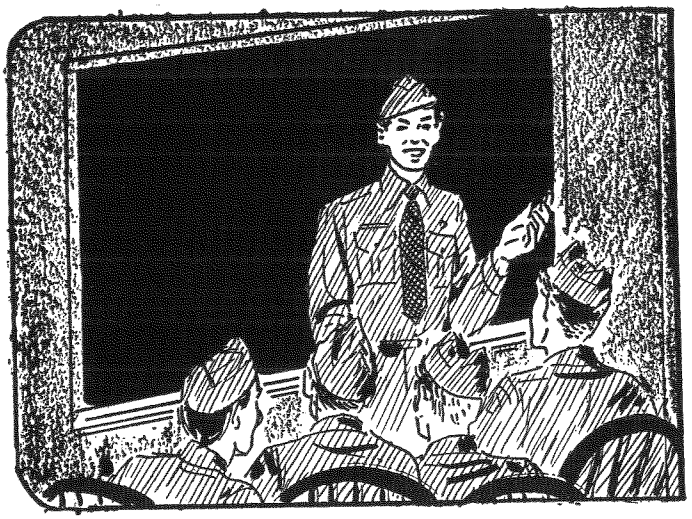
Region 7, 9 W. Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill.

Region 10, 238 Minnesota Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minn.

Region 11, 312 Failing Bldg., Portland 4, Ore.

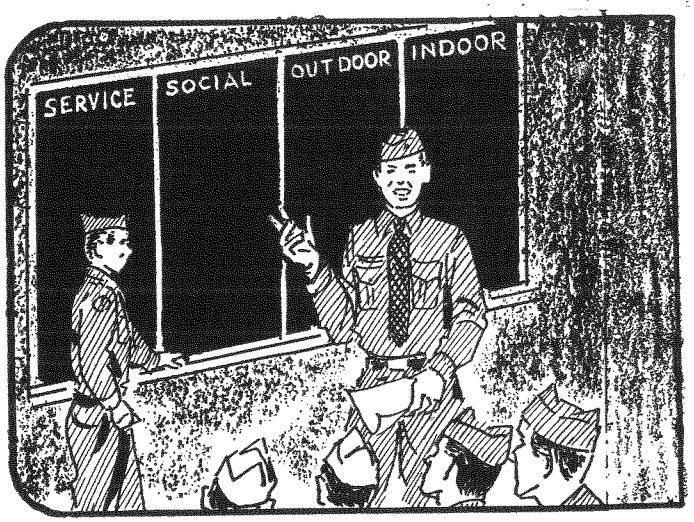
Know and obey the laws of your state and other states where you plan to haul the trailer. These regulations refer to licensing, tail light, and hitch. Whether required by law or not, a safety chain in addition to the hitch is a wise precaution.

PROGRAM

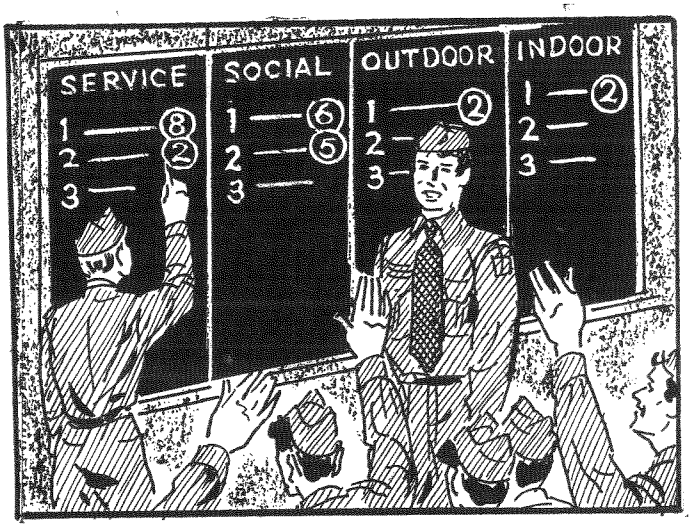


1. EXPLORERS ELECT CHAIRMEN each quarter (early in August, November, February, May) for the four Program Planning Committees — Outdoor, Service, Indoor (vocational exploration and hobbies) and Social. These young men are to lead in planning the next three-month program. A Troop Crew elects these Chairmen, to be sure plans will be made in all four activity fields.

2. CREWS APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMITTEES. Each Crew Leader appoints representatives to each committee after asking members to voice their choices. Every Crew is represented on every committee, and every Explorer serves on at least one committee. In a Troop Crew the entire Crew acts as a Committee of the Whole under each of the Chairmen, assuring coverage of the four activity fields.



5. CHAIRMEN REPORT COMMITTEES' SELECTED EVENTS. Each Chairman in turn gives his committee's recommendations for the quarterly program, briefly trying to "sell" them to the Unit or Troop Crew. Members may ask questions but should not go much into detail here. The Secretary lists on a blackboard or chart each event as it is reported, keeping each committee's events in a separate column.

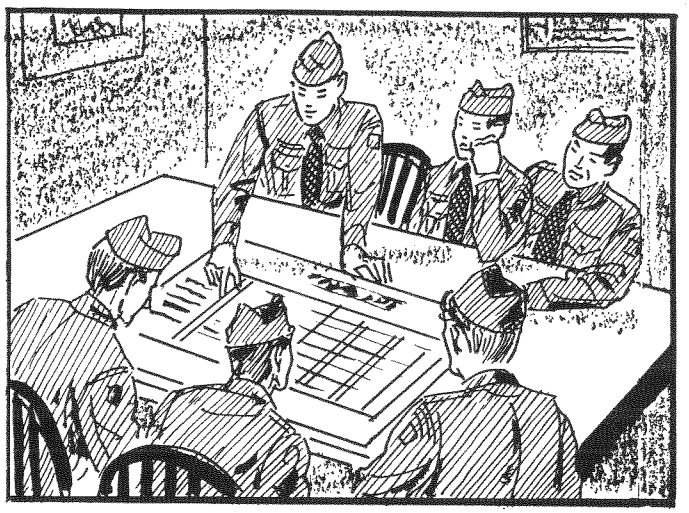


6. EXPLORERS VOTE ON FINAL EVENTS. The Unit or Troop Crew decides on the number of events wanted during the next quarter. This is the same as the number of votes each member has in choosing final events. Senior Crew Leader directs voting across the board, on the top event of each committee's column in turn. The events receiving the most votes make up the three-month program.

PLANNING

3. ADVISOR CONFERS WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, giving suggestions for conducting committee meetings and reporting results. He reminds each Chairman to invite to his meeting the Unit Committeemen assigned to assist that committee. To avoid conflict with other important dates, Chairmen should have calendars of Local Council, District, school, religious, and community coming events.

4. EACH COMMITTEE SELECTS EVENTS in its activity field to recommend to Unit or Troop Crew for next quarter (starting in September, December, March, or June). Committee may meet at any convenient time or place, such as school or Chairman's home. It makes two to five recommendations from ideas collected from all Crews, SCOUTING Magazine, *Explorer Leader's Program Notebook, Explorer Manual.*



7. EXPLORER LEADERS' COUNCIL SCHEDULES EVENTS AND APPOINTS EVENT DIRECTORS. The three-month calendar is adjusted to the convenience of the majority. A Troop Crew program is fitted into the Troop schedule. An Explorer is chosen as director of each event, based on his ability and interest. He chooses his committee to help make detailed plans and put them over successfully.

8. THREE-MONTH SCHEDULE AND EVENT DIRECTORS ARE ANNOUNCED. This is done at least a week before the quarter begins, and at any gathering where all Explorers are present. Copies of schedule are distributed to everyone. Directors and their committees go to work at once on detailed plans which are announced as soon as completed. Advisor and Senior Crew Leader follow up on directors.

February and QUARTERLY for Crews and

THEME: SCOUT WEEK

● Go to your District Explorer Roundtable in January, and you should get plenty of how-to-do-it on the February Explorer activity theme: Scout Week Participation. Every Local Council has a copy of *Explorer Roundtable Ideas* containing the theme for each month which will be developed in SCOUTING. (See next page for February.)

Use your own theme by all means; otherwise the one here is a convenience. The point is to use a theme around which to build a unified monthly program, whether your Explorers are in a Troop Crew, a Post, Ship or Squadron. Most groups find that a central idea stimulates thinking and planning of specific events.

Anniversary Planning

"Celebrating Our Birthday" on page 22 of this issue suggests several ways your Explorers can participate in observing Scouting's 41st anniversary. Some are simple, some elaborate. Some can be done by a small group, others by a large group.

You might have the Service Committee Chairman read the article to your fellows and then have them vote on their Scout Week event. A choice should be made early in January to allow a month for preparation. Since it will in most cases involve a public appearance, it should be well rehearsed.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Early in February hold one of the quarterly business meetings so important to well-planned and operated events. This session need not be stuffy; hold it before the fireplace in someone's home or cabin. Top it off with refreshments; they are an incentive to get the work of the meeting done. A Saturday or Sunday afternoon may be a convenient time, followed by a supper.

Advisors coach the Senior Crew Leader to keep the business moving along and yet not slight any part of the process as described on pages 24-25 of this issue. Further information on quarterly planning is given in Chapter 6 of *Hints On Explorer Leadership* and in Chapter 15 of the *Explorer Manual.*

Electing Officers

A vital part of the quarterly business meeting is the election of officers. In fact this should be first on the order of business so the new officers can take over and lead in the rest of the session during which the program for their term of office will be planned.

Reasons for electing officers every three months are explained in Chapter 3 of *Hints.* Advisors would do well to review that chapter before the business meeting. There it is recommended that the qualifications for each office be pointed out before nominations. Discussion of qualifications by the Explorers is better than a "lecture" by the Advisor. However, he may stir up the discussion with "leading" questions.

Party Stuff

With one big event in February devoted to the quarterly business meeting and another to Scout Week participation, the Crew or Unit ought to be about ripe for a party. February has a variety of stimulating occasions to hitch a social to — Valentine's day, Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday. A Washington-Lincoln party offers a wide range of possibilities for decorations, favors, costumes, refreshments, games, and stunts.

Ask your public or school librarian to get for you the new book *Gay Parties For All Occasions* by E. O. Harbin, published by the Abingdon-Cokesbury Press for $2.95. It will give your Social Committee a raft of ideas on what to plan for February and other months as well.

If the fellows don't go for an "occasion" party, suggest a puzzle-trick party. Call it a P-T Party. Your committee can get all the ammunition they need from a couple of twenty-five cent Comet Books:

Fun With Puzzles by Joseph Leeming.

300 Tricks You Can Do by Howard Thurston.

Each member of the committee chooses a few puzzles from the first book and gathers the simple materials needed, such as matches, pennies, paper and pencil. Then he practices — probably on his family — explaining how to do the puzzles. When the committee gets together, they can run off an hour or two of fun that will make one of those "different" parties.

If you have one or two amateur magicians, they add to the entertainment by some easy tricks picked from Thurston's book and performed with homemade "props." If you have no would-be prestidigi-

PLANNING Units

PARTICIPATION

tator, ask that shy fellow in your Crew or Unit to work out just three of Thurston's "300 tricks." Let him pick the three easiest. Then give him the spotlight for about five minutes at the P-T Party. He'll help the party, and it'll help him.

Kid Stuff

Come to think of it, those puzzles and tricks would go over in a big way with the kids at the orphanage or at the hospital. Take the P-T Party to them some afternoon, either as a rehearsal or follow-up to the Crew or Unit social. Afterwards leave the puzzles there for the kids to play with.

The Service Committee should make the arrangements with the orphanage or hospital authorities. Want to bet who has the most fun, the kids or your Explorers.

More Puzzles

While we're service-minded, there's a good project Explorers can do for GI's in veterans' hospitals. Clip crossword puzzles and the solutions from newspapers. Paste a puzzle on one side of a piece of cardboard and the solution on the other side. Stick a pencil stub beside the puzzle with a bit of scotch tape. Get the cardboard from tablet backs, suit boxes, and laundry shirt wrappings. Collect pencil stubs from banks and offices. Let the fellows who prepare the most puzzles have the honor of delivering them to the GI's.

Sea Manual Ahoy!

Sea Explorers and leaders can now get the new Seventh Edition of the *Sea Explorer Manual* (Cat. No. 3229), just off the press, for 75 cents. Part II on Seamanship remains much the same except for corrections of Explorer terminology. Part I on Sea Exploring has been completely rewritten.

Chapter 1, Coming Aboard, opens with the story of the Dauntless, a thrilling account of Sea Explorers in action during a hurricane. It continues with the Lure and Lore of the Sea, Scouting Ideals, and an overall view of Sea Exploring.

Chapter 2, Learning the Ropes, deals largely with safety practices and rules on and around the water. The safety through skill principle underlies the chapter. Requirements for Emergency Service qualification are included.

Chapter 3, Off Watch, contains games, sea and story history sources, chanteys, social observances, and many specific suggestions on planning parties.

Chapter 4, Customs and Courtesies, covers sea lore, Sea Explorer tradition, flag etiquette, Ship ceremonies, wear and care of the uniform, Sea Explorer insignia, use of the bo's'n's pipe, and Scouting history and organization.

Chapter 5, Leadership, discusses leadership in specific terms, starting with democratic leadership, responsibility and authority, and a leader's qualities. The leader's personality and methods, aims, and training are covered. This chapter gears in with *Hints On Explorer Leadership.*

Chapter 6, Recognitions, explains recognition and advancement procedure, the Reviewing Board and Bridge of Honor, and the requirements for all Sea Explorer ranks.

The Seventh Edition of the *Sea Explorer Manual* is up-to-date and shorter by sixty-four pages. It treats the necessary "organization" part of the program in a briefer, more attractive fashion. Buy it from your Local Scout Distributor or through your Local Council office.

JANUARY ROUNDTABLE

Develop theme for February program in Crews and Units:

Scout Week Participation

EXHIBITS: 10 minutes

Material to exhibit in window displays—types of packs, miniature camp layouts.

DEMONSTRATION AND DO: 30 minutes

Make miniature fire lays.
Build council fire for ceremonies.
Make fire starters from string, paraffin, matches.

OPENING: 5 minutes

Explorer Induction ceremony (see *Explorer Manual* pages 327-331).

PRESENTATION OF THEME: 20-30 minutes

During Scout Week —
How to write and produce a dramatization for high school assembly or service club (see *Hints On Explorer Leadership* pages 77-79).
How to stage a public demonstration, indoor or outdoor (see *Hints* pages 76-77).
How to make a window display, live or still (see *Hints* page 80).

PARTICIPATION: 30-45 minutes

Each Crew plan one of these —
Street demonstration
School assembly dramatization
Service club demonstration
Window display.

Report from each Crew on what they learned from their planning.

Wild Life Service PROJECTS

By Eckford J. de Kay, Asst. Advisor, Troop, 57, Piasa Bird Council

Their conservation exhibit at the annual Sportsmen's Carnival last August won wide recognition for the Explorer Crew of Troop 57, Alton, Illinois. The sixteen Explorers made good use of the choice 20x30 foot space allotted them opposite the entrance of the main tent.

They surrounded this area with a rustic fence, placing entrances on two sides. Inside the fence they filled the space with greenery and shrubs gathered from neighboring woodlands.

Live quail and pheasants were borrowed from the Illinois State Department of Conservation and placed in runways built of chicken wire behind and under the greens. Other live exhibits were ducks and rabbits. A few stuffed birds and animals were included.

Crew members were on duty at all times during the three-day show. As pictured below, they gave out free literature on conservation and safe hunting practices. They answered thousands of questions, such as how to plant multiflora rose hedges on the farm as cover for upland game.

The exhibit attracted large crowds. Officers of the Alton-Wood River Sportsmen's Club, sponsors of the show, praised the Crew highly for their contribution. The "service to community" ideal of Exploring had been demonstrated again.

The exhibit type of conservation project appeals to most young men. The activity is definitely on the adult level and not of the errand boy sort of civic service too often expected of Explorers. It is an opportunity to make a dignified public appearance in uniform which few young men will shun — whether they admit this or not.

Editor's Comment

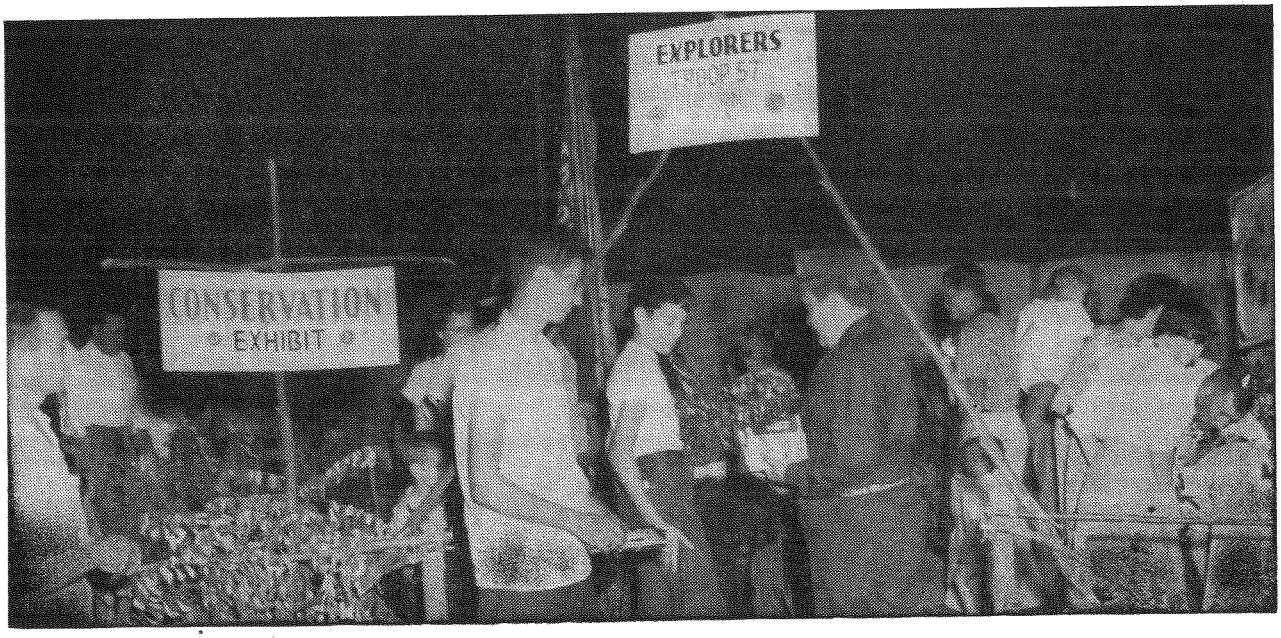
The Alton Explorers measured up well to the suggestions for "Setting Up an Exhibit" on page 80 of *Hints On Explorer Leadership.* They used real things; nothing attracts more attention than a live exhibit. Only where necessary did they use substitutes. They arranged their material in a natural manner. They were on hand to answer questions and give something away. They didn't clutter up their display with insignificant details. And they returned borrowed material in good condition.

Your Explorers, in finding and developing conservation projects, should consult people with the same interest but more know-how, for example:

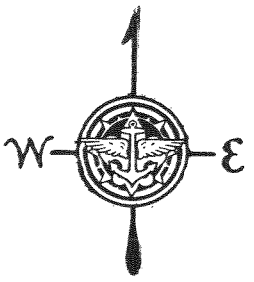
Local officials of state conservation or forestry department, county agricultural agents, science teachers, Izaak Walton League chapters, other sportsmen's groups, garden clubs, county or municipal park departments, Friends of the Land chapters, Audubon Societies, conservation committees of service clubs and labor unions. For other sources of help see page 18 of this issue.

Follow the Alton Explorers and serve conservation.

R. H. Fulton, Alton, Ill.



Photo, G. J. Gray, Mason, Ohio



BASE OF OPERATIONS

By G. J. Gray,
Advisor, Post 43, Mound Builders Area Council

Knotty Pine Post — there's a name that fits an Explorer gang. It grew, with a lot of activities, out of Post 43, Mason, Ohio, while fixing up a Post base.

Now, a base for an Explorer Unit or Crew should be like the home plate in baseball. It's a spot where the batter starts from — he hopes. If he never gets away from home base, he'll never have a chance to score or really enjoy the game.

That's why Knotty Pine Post furnished its headquarters as a base of operations, not as a boundary of activities. One great advantage of having your own base is that the place is always available.

You can schedule formal meetings, parties, work bees, or whatever you choose at your own convenience. You can store tools, equipment, and supplies, either for use there or in the field. It's a well-known center from which to start expeditions and field trips — truly a base of operations.

Here's how the Post created a warm, friendly atmosphere in a garage that formerly was a storage place for junk. One Saturday afternoon, two Explorers, armed with brushes and a gallon of asphalt paint, waterproofed the walls. The wallboard ceiling was given a coat of buff calcimine.

Vertical sheeting boards were nailed to the walls, as pictured, stained maple, and varnished. Inexpensive lumber with lots of knots was used. That's where the suggestion for the Post name came in when the job was done.

The floor was given a coat of gray paint. Curtains were made from feed bags, and dyed green. A small wood burning stove from a house trailer supplies heat and a "woodsy" smoke smell. A small blackboard is used for program planning and instruction. The bulletin board was made from a piece of composition board. A salvaged kitchen table with a linoleum top serves as the leaders' desk.

The Post flag on the wall was designed after a lot of democratic argument. Made of gingham, it includes a pine tree and red winged blackbird which are prevalent in this area.

Having voted to specialize on the Communications Rating, the Post made International Code flags of 8½"x11" paper painted with showcard colors. The Post name is spelled out with these flags strung on a beam across the room.

The Post log in a special holder on the wall is full of traditions, photographs of activities, newspaper clippings, and copies of programs. The plywood holder is painted green with "Post Log" spelled out on the front with split twigs.

A supply of old kitchen chairs came from attics. After each Explorer painted his chair green, he personalized it with his totem and nickname spelled with code flags. Shelves provide space for nature and craft exhibits. A work table hinged to one wall folds out of the way when more space is needed.

Incidentally, there's some advice on page 342 of the *Explorer Manual* about protecting your base.