APRIL **THE WHOLE SCOUT FAMILY** 1952

Scouting

JOHN I SIMPLAIR
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LANSDALE PA
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GOOD TIME CHARLIES

FRONT LINE STUFF

Dealing with real problems and real people. This time it is Exploring. What is your solution, Mr. Advisor?

Edited by **JIM MOISE**

EVER HEAR AN EXPLORER LEADER *complain, "All my bunch wants to do is to have a good time?"*

Plenty of leaders have said that, and some may even have wondered what would happen if their gang went off the deep end socially.

Here's an answer from a man who found out. We print in full the letter of Explorer Advisor B. K., whose Post wandered off the beam in search of that good time. And is still wandering.

Editor, FRONT LINE STUFF

Dear Sir:

"I would like, through FRONT LINE STUFF, to tell a story. A sad story about the decline and fall of a perfectly good Explorer Post, B.S.A. I know the story better than any other man. I'm the Advisor.

"A year ago we had a flourishing outfit, one of the top Posts in town. We were strong in every department; active outdoor program, planned schedule of service, a lively social program. We had a good Committee, an interested sponsor, a fine meeting room, plenty of recruits. Swell set-up. A year ago, that is.

"The trouble began gradually and innocently enough. Of our four monthly meetings, the most popular was always the social one. In even-numbered months, the social would be a stag event; in odd-numbered months a date affair. It was inevitable, I suppose, that somebody would eventually suggest that if one social a month was good, two would be twice as good. Somebody did, and the trouble is, we listened to him.

"After kicking the idea around awhile, the gang decided it would be a good thing, and I went along. The second meeting of each month became a stag social, the fourth became the date social. Our non-social Exploring program was thus confined to the first and third meetings.

"For the first few months this worked pretty well. Oh, our advancement slipped some, and a couple of boys transferred to another Post. But nobody suggested these things were the result of the increase in good times, and besides the majority seemed to like the two monthly socials just fine, particularly a certain group who were always plugging for extra social affairs every time a holiday rolled around.

"About now I was getting a little worried. But every time I said anything the boys would remind me that Scouting is fun, and ask was I, the best Advisor they ever had, trying to Simon-Legree them out of a wholesome good time? Oh, they were clever all right, and it was after just such a buttering-up that somebody proposed to make the third meeting of each month a Sport Night.

"Sport Night, they explained, would mean an all-Post visit to the school gym for basketball, or the "Y" pool for a swim, or in nice weather to the park for baseball. It seemed like a good idea to everybody except me, so in deference to my graying hair and ulcers they put it through on a 90-day trial basis.

"We were now reduced to only one regular meeting a month, and even this was becoming little more than a planning session for the three socials. Further, the group that particularly liked the socials had now become a single-minded clique, and were getting very choosey about who was going to join the Post and, especially, who *wasn't*.

"Pretty soon the decline started in earnest.

"Some of our best boys decided they didn't like the set-up, could do nothing to change it, and began dropping out. Advancement and our once well-rounded program dropped off to practically nothing. Recruits stopped showing up. Our summer expedition had to be cancelled through lack of interest. We were on our way out.

"Today, we are nothing more than a snooty little social club of good time Charlies. Any similarity to an Explorer Post is purely accidental.

"The sponsor is alarmed. The Committee wants to start all over and reorganize. I have a feeling they blame me. Maybe they're right. I won't argue. But —

"Just have your Front Line Stuff readers tell me two things:

1) An Advisor is supposed to *advise,* not to boss. How else could I have handled this?

2) What'll I do now? Try to salvage what remains and rebuild? Go along with the Committee on complete reorganization? Or resign?

Sincerely yours,
Advisor B. K."

FOR ALL SCOUTERS ★

Hit it Hard!

Every year some Explorers get summertime jobs, and some go on Expeditions or to Council Camps. Each group insists that what they are doing is the most important thing. What do you think?

HOW MANY TIMES have you watched your Explorers as individuals try to run away from themselves? Have you heard them say such things as "That lucky guy, his dad's got a car." Or "If I had his dough, I'd show 'em." Or "If I lived over there I could . . . ."

And now on the lips of some of these young fellows is the most tragic of all phrases "Aw what's the use — I'm going to be drafted anyway." It's high time you helped straighten out their thinking.

Making Adjustments

Sooner or later every young man must stand and face life alone without mother or dad to fight his battles for him. If parents want to guide the young man in the right direction, the best thing they can do is help him adjust to his job, to his friends, to his neighbors, to military service and to marriage.

Explorer Advisors can and should supplement the parents' efforts along this line. Here are some ways to help your Explorers make their adjustments:

Go camping with them as often as possible.

Get them used to doing things for themselves.

Teach them to get along with small and large groups under varying situations.

Teach them camping, pioneering and survival skills which make them self-reliant.

Teach them to fish, to hunt with gun, and bow and arrow, and to paddle a canoe. Give them the chance to live on the deserts, in the swamps, in the woods, on the mountains and the prairies. Or at least teach them to camp in their own region so they can adapt what they learn to wherever they may be later.

Send them to Jamborees and to Philmont where they can meet new people, new customs, and new situations. They can make new friends and broaden their fields of interest.

Help them face up to the future by advising them of things they'll run up against. If it's the draft that bothers them get a "vet," dad, chaplain or recruiting officer to tell them what to expect.

Recruiting officers will recommend that the young men get as much education as possible before enlisting. The officers have books available showing the vocational opportunities in the military services, and their application to civilian life. Tell your Explorers about the two tests each gets shortly after induction which record his capacities and aptitudes, and show him their importance.

Vocational Exploration

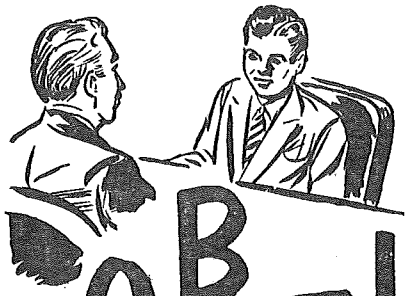
Getting a job, holding a job, and liking a job is a cinch for the fellow with the proper attitude. You can help your Explorers by setting up a Roundtable discussion at your home some evening and inviting in a personnel man from a local industry, a guidance teacher from a nearby college, or a recruiting officer from the Army, Navy or Air Force to discuss vocational opportunities.*

And above all teach them to respect, not fear authority. After all, someone must be in charge of every situation.

The more you build self-reliance, self-confidence and self-respect *inside* a young man, the harder it is for the problems from the *outside* to strip these from him.

As the old-timer would remind us, it's not who you are or where you live. It's how you think that's important. After all sez he, "It ain't the dog in the fight that counts — it's the fight in the dog"!

*References:
Helping Youth Choose Careers, Understanding Yourself, How to Get the Job, School Subjects and Jobs, published by Science Research Associates, 57 W. Grand Ave., Chicago 10, Ill., 40 cents or 3 for $1.00.
Occupational Handbooks issued by the Army, Navy and Air Force are usually available in your school, library or state employment office.



JOB HUNTING

HIGHLIGHT OF PLANNING FOR MAY

JOB HUNTING is a significant interest in every Explorer's life. He may want a job for pre-vocational experience or to earn money for clothes, social events, hobbies, or college. Whatever the reasons may be, he is interested in finding a better job with more money, more advantages, better working conditions.

You can capitalize on this interest when you plan for May in your Troop Crew or Explorer Unit. Try these suggestions to start your thinking:

1. Work with a local or nearby employment bureau, public or private, to list job opportunities.

2. Bring in a personnel director from some business to talk about applying for a job — what to wear, making appointments, what to say, etc.

3. Survey your community for summer jobs.

4. Visit farms, dairies, industrial plants, etc., to get more knowledge of job opportunities.

5. Check with your recreation or park department about playground, waterfront, and camp jobs.

6. Check with your Local Council about summer camp positions.

7. Put on a dramatization of someone applying for a job. Have the "manager" ask questions concerning character, references, experience, physical fitness, neatness, schooling, etc. Have the "applicant" ask questions about duties, working conditions, wages, future possibilities, etc.

Turn Back

Four articles elsewhere in this issue can be of direct help in Explorer program planning. We recommend: *Supposin'* page 2; *Citizenship* page 15; *Put Nature Across in May* (methods for Explorers to use as nature instructors in Troops) page 16; *Rebuild America's Resources* page 18.

BOYS' LIFE

The April issue is loaded with program ideas for Explorers. We recommend:

Freedom Gardens, Getting the Show on the Road (circus), *They Paddle Their Own Canoes* (wilderness adventure), *Ten Minute Skyscraper* (signal tower), annual BOYS' LIFE Fish Derby announcement, *Here's Exploring.* How to make animal pictures, bike stoplight, nature museum, floating minnow box, flowerpot birdhouse, model Conestoga wagon, nail keg stool, electric photo dryer.

April Roundtable on May Plans

For your District Explorer Leaders' Roundtable (including elected and commissioned leaders) we offer this agenda:

HIGHLIGHT: Expedition for This Summer

EXHIBITS: 15 minutes
1. Units' expedition log books, maps, photos.
2. Tour permit. Health blank. Expense chart.
3. Local Council camp and summer schedules.
4. Personal camping gear and gadgets.

DEMONSTRATE AND DO: 10 minutes
Make picture maps of suggested trips, illustrated with sketches, cartoons, or magazine cutouts.

OPENING: 5 minutes
Dramatize business meeting procedure (see *Explorer Manual* page 249).

HIGHLIGHT PRESENTATION: 30 minutes
1. Filmstrip *Planning an Explorer Expedition** or discussion based on *Explorer Manual* chap. 1 and pages 281-288; also *Expedition Skills,* Instructor's Guide for Explorer Leader Basic Training (Cat. No. 3156).
2. Movies (16mm, sound, color or black and white)*
   A Canoe Expedition (20 minutes)
   Colorado River Expedition (24 minutes)
   A Rock Climb (20 minutes)
   Philmont Adventure (35 minutes)
3. Local travel films or slides.

PARTICIPATION: 30-45 minutes
By Crews plan and report on expeditions, covering costs, transportation, food, gear, itinerary, etc.

OLD-TIMER'S IDEA: 10 minutes
Tour Permit* (Cat. No. 4419) is a safeguard for everyone and helps guide planning.

CLOSING: 3 minutes
1. Announcement of next month's Roundtable.
2. Formal adjournment.

**Available through Local Council Office.*

Remember Her **May 11**

MOTHER'S DAY

Make Mother a Queen For a Day.
Give her a miniature universal Explorer Emblem (Cat. No. 5605), available through your Local Council Office. Ask the Dads to cook and serve a dinner for the Mothers and Explorers.

May 11 **Remember Her**

BLUE RIBBON EVENTS

Send in your Explorers' BRE and win a Certificate

Mother's Day

By Rod Price, Advisor, Post 52
Coca Cola Bottling Company, Rapid City, S. D.

A combined social and service project was outstanding because it was something the Explorers conceived and carried out on their own. On Mother's Day they cooked a complete dinner for their mothers and ended up with a family square dance party.

Disaster Duty

By George E. Whitwell, Advisor, Troop 90
Grace Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N. Y.

You may recall that a series of gas main explosions in Brighton, a suburb of Rochester, last September 22, wrecked forty houses, killed three persons and injured twenty-four others. The disaster happened at 1:30 P.M.

The Explorer Crew Secretary and I rushed to the scene and helped firemen to fight fires and roll hose. Then our District Commissioner, a public utility man, sent us to work at the first aid station. Next we went with firemen to shut off gas meters in the area.

At 3:00 P.M. we returned to Rochester to pick up the rest of our Troop Crew as soon they were out of school. We donned our uniforms for identification purposes and rushed back to the disaster area.

The Explorers went on auxiliary police duty at 3:30 P.M. with the Civil Defense police, and patrolled destroyed homes against looting until relieved at 1:30 A.M. They willingly gave up a long planned birthday party for one of the fellows so they could help in this time of need.

Camp Flight

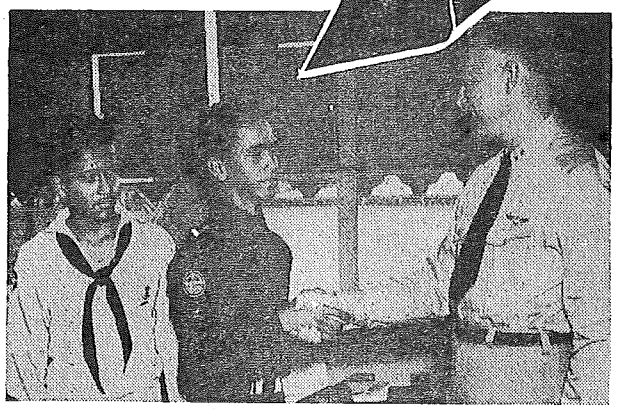
By Gordon H. Fountain, Advisor, Squadron 1
Mantle Club, Oakland, Cal.

The Squadron held a Camp Flight at Center Field Airport about 20 miles east of Oakland. After a last minute weather check, the members were notified of the departure through the Squadron's Emergency Service mobilization plan.

The ground party got under way at 11 A.M. Saturday by car with the heavy equipment and food. At 12:30 P.M. the air party took off from Oakland Airport in a radio equipped Stinson. Arriving at Center Field, they found the ground party had selected a campsite east of the hangar. After a bag lunch, the tents were set up.

In the afternoon six training flights were made. Each Explorer got 20 minutes "stick time" and 40 minutes "observer time" in the rear seat. Preflight instruction in checking the plane had been given just before the takeoff. Flight maneuvers included takeoff, medium turns, stalls, wing overs, forward slips, inherent stability demonstration, use of flaps, and landing.

Explorers call on 10th Naval District Commandant in Porto Rico on Armed Forces Day to say thanks for Navy aid.



Official U. S. Navy Photo

Sunday morning, following devotional services, one additional training flight was made. Then came the contest with control-line model planes. Due to excessive wind and engine trouble, the model plane flying was not too successful.

After lunch the ground party left by car, followed by the air party, again chosen by lot.

Total cost of the Camp Flight was $5.50 per member, including food, and training flying time. The flights to and from camp were paid out of the Squadron treasury.

Shipyard Tour

By E. A. Connell, Skipper, Ship 13
Propeller Club, Norfolk, Va.

On a Saturday afternoon sixteen Sea Explorers and their Skipper boarded a Navy tugboat at Norfolk, bound for a week-end at the Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. What a busy, salty week-end it was!

Included in the twenty-four hour visit were a tour of one of the largest machine shops in the world; swimming in a fine indoor pool; dining and movies at the Marine barracks; sleeping in barracks; inspection by the duty officer; visit to the shipyard museum; tour of the waterfront; tour of the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt; attendance at religious services aboard this giant aircraft carrier.

The last meal at noon (chicken too!) and then all too soon they were back on the tug for Norfolk. It is hoped that other Explorers will take advantage of military hospitality as S.E.S. *Noholoa* did.

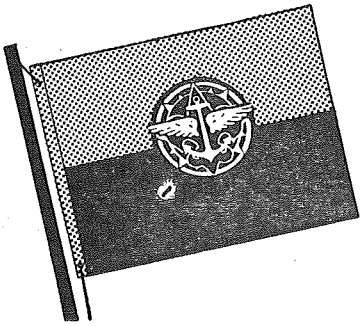
PROGRESSIVE

1. *Everybody meets at a Post Committeeman's home where the Explorers pin corsages on their girls. From then on this party is bound to be a success.*

2. *Fruit juice cocktails and canapes are served at the first home. The candles, napkins, and decorations carry out the Christmas motif. Find the Advisor and his wife in this group.*

5. *Here's what the gang was waiting for — at least the fellows were. At the fourth home the tables are set with a turkey dinner. Committeemen and their wives serve.*

6. *When the turkey dinner has been stowed, the crowd calls in the hosts and hostesses for a word of appreciation. Question is which group is having the best time.*



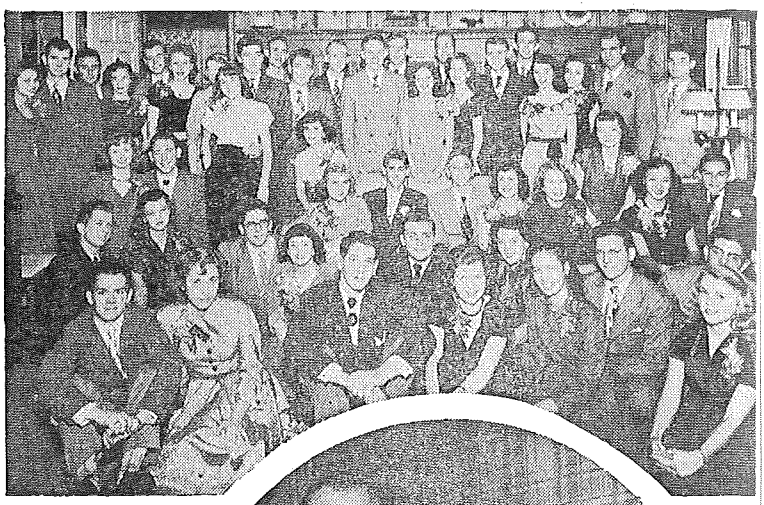
This party cost $2 of each Explorer's money, plus a little from the Post treasury, plus the committeeman's generosity. Post 2 has a large membership, approximately 35. But an Explorer Unit or Troop Crew of any size can have a progressive party. Ask parents as well as committeemen to help. Both generations working together will get to know each other better.

PARTY *in Tulsa, Okla.*

3. *At the second committeeman's home the salad course is served buffet style. Here the Explorers must prove the hand that swings the axe can balance the salad plate.*

4. *Around the Christmas tree at the third committeeman's home carols have been sung. The girls have been presented with silver bracelets engraved with "Post 2."*

7. *What — more to eat? Yes, there's dessert, buffet style, at another home. Now the couples are looking forward to a social evening in this same home.*

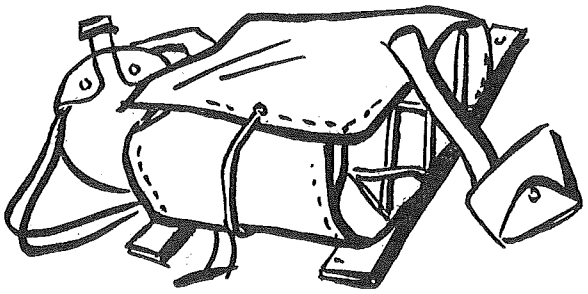


8. *Here's the gang as Post 2's progressive party draws to a close. The faces would indicate a unanimous opinion about the food, fun, and frolic.*

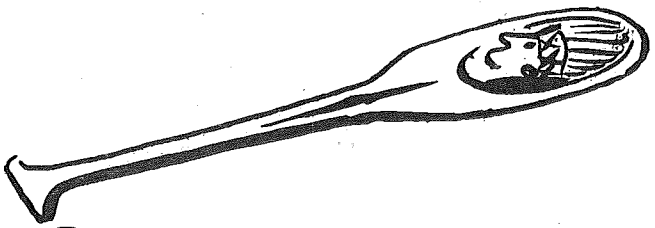
9. *Surprise and a "thanks a million" gift from the Post members to the Advisor and his wife.*

P STANDS FOR

PACKIN' YOUR FOOD AND GEAR



PADDLE YOU HANDLE WITH CARE



PORTAGE A SHORT AND A LONG

PRACTICE THE THINGS THAT ARE WRONG

ONLY A FEW MORE WEEK-ENDS left before we take off on our canoeing high adventure. And boy, are we going to make the most of them. We don't mean just to practice our skills; but to dream, to talk and to argue.

Do you remember when you were a kid, and you were making plans for that up-river fishing trip? Or that four-day trip to a back country lake? Remember all the planning you and your buddy did? The food lists, the packs; where to get a tent; how you were going; what you'd do just in case of storm or flood or danger from wild animals?

Remember the warm feeling of anticipation you had? Remember how carefully you took your reel apart, cleaned and oiled it, and dreamed of the big fish you were going to catch? Remember how you pored over the maps and argued about the short cuts, the type shoes to wear, the extra clothes, and how to sleep on the ground?

Well don't forget all that, because the plans, the dreams, and the practice trips (you called them "toughening-up trips") are as important to the teen-ager as are the tales he has to tell when he gets home from his high adventure trip.

I doubt very much if anyone has to tell you how important it is to have the Explorers know how to handle a canoe, to swim, and to camp. Get out your *Canoeing* and *Camping* Merit Badge pamphlets and check off the things you want to learn. Look over your *Explorer Manual* and your *Scout Field Book* if you have them handy. Then make up a list of preparations. It will probably read like this:

SWIMMING AND RESCUE

Swimming test. Shirt, paddle, and rope methods of rescue. Swim party eight defense method.

CANOEING — DOUBLES

Choose buddies. Demonstrate, then practice. Launch canoe. Body position. Balance and trim canoe for paddling. Position of hands on paddle. Left and right pivots, using sweep and reverse sweep strokes. Bow stroke. Let 'er run. Hold water. Stop. J-stroke. Change position (sides for paddling). Sweep turns. Land and rack canoe.

CANOEING — SINGLES

Demonstrate, practice with coach in canoe, practice solo. Launch canoe. Balance and trim canoe for paddling. Go straight away. J-stroke. Outside pivot. Left and right turns. Draw stroke. Push-over stroke. Sculling and reverse sculling. Bow rudder. Hold water. Fast stop. Land and rack canoe.

CANOE RESCUE

Rescue tired swimmer. Rescue over-turned canoe. Get in empty canoe. Canoe support. Get in submerged canoe. Undress in submerged canoe. Paddle submerged canoe. Empty canoe in shallow water.

ROPE WORK

Whip ends. Taut-line Hitch. Bowline. Sheet Bend. Clove Hitch.

AXEMANSHIP

Felling, trimming, chopping, splitting. Choice of wood for cooking fires.

NAVIGATION

Use of compass. Map reading, weather lore.

FISHING

Fly and bait casting. Cleaning and preparing fish for the pan. Care of tackle.

COOKING

Cook breakfast, trail lunch, and supper. Use dehydrated foods.

CANOE REPAIR AND CARE

Know how to repair rip or hole, broken rib, broken paddle.

All of these things you'll want to practice around home for awhile. Then you're ready for your shakedown cruise.

This check list will help you.

- ☐ Map route of trip.
- ☐ Make out food requisitions.
- ☐ Select and secure equipment.
- ☐ Secure packs and food.
- ☐ Daily job rotation.

  Leader.
  Cook and assistant.
  Dishwasher and assistant.
  Navigator and Fireman and assistant.
  Tentman and assistant.

SHAKEDOWN CRUISE

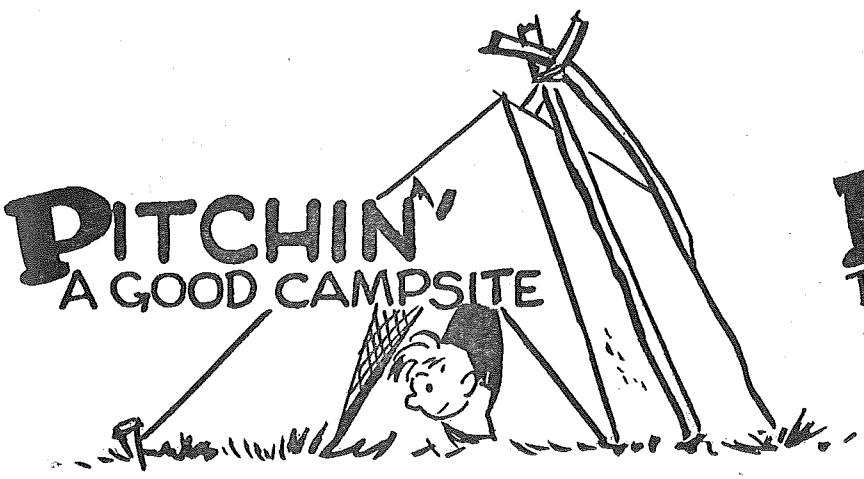
Apply these on a two-day trip. Trail courtesy. Canoe loading. Canoeing care and handling. Portaging. Nature study. Firewood and fires. Cooking (individual). Tent pitching and care. Sanitation. Swimming (Eight Defense Plan). Campfire programs. Fishing laws.

RETURN TO BASE

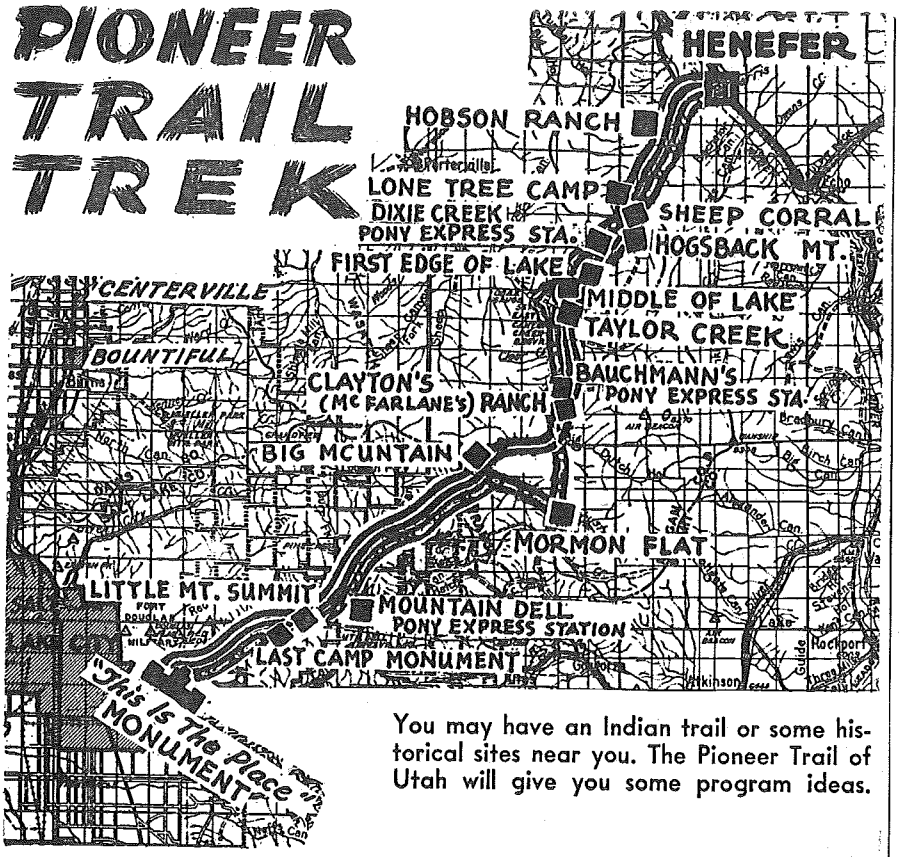
Clean, repair, and check in equipment. The *Swimming, Lifesaving, Canoeing, Rowing, Cooking, Camping* and *First Aid* Merit Badge pamphlets are helpful in running your training.

In getting set for your canoe trip, you may have to spread this training out over several week-ends. If you need expert coaching, your Scout Executive or Commissioner will find someone who can give it to you. Maybe one of your dads can do this.

Whatever you do, get out and paddle, practice, portage and pitch as often as you can before the trip — you'll find more time left for "phishing."



PIONEER TRAIL TREK



You may have an Indian trail or some historical sites near you. The Pioneer Trail of Utah will give you some program ideas.

WE IN EXPLORING ARE TRYING to lead young men into *informed, inspired* citizenship. Though the task is rewarding, it is not simple. It requires thinking *specifically* on how to get results.

It must be done in ways that *interest* young men. One sure way is now and then to merge the trail to citizenship literally with a trail from our American heritage. The three Lincoln Trails are examples that have been described in SCOUTING.

Another is the Mormon Pioneer Trail Trek—the end of the long, rugged route to the Great Salt Lake blazed by Brigham Young and his followers.

The last thirty-six miles lead through a wilderness of virgin forests, rugged mountains and fertile valleys. They follow mountain streams and skirt a large reservoir. The historical background is rich and interesting. This is out-of-doors at its best.

To preserve the spirit and tradition of this historical event, these thirty-six miles of the original pioneer trail have been designated as a camping pilgrimage for Explorers of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Two days and an overnight camp are required for the pilgrimage. No young man covers the distance on foot, pack on his back, without acquiring a keen appreciation of the sacrifice of those who subdued his homeland.

Applications and Badges

Groups of three or more may make the trek with or without adult leadership. Applications should be made at least two weeks ahead. Forms are available from the Y.M.M.I.A., 50 N. Main St., Salt Lake City 1, Utah.

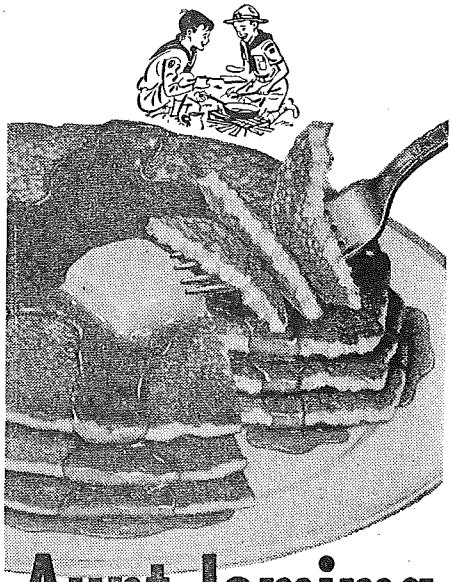
Historic Points

As indicated on the map, the trek starts at Henefer, located on US 305. Hikers register at the cabin of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. From there on the route is filled with historic points. The Pony Express stations and pioneer camps on the map are examples. Others are wagon wheel marks worn in the soft rock at Hogsback, and defense breastworks near Clayton's Ranch.

The trek ends at Salt Lake City at "This Is the Place" monument which designates in Brigham Young's memorable words the end of the Mormon pioneers' search for a promised land.

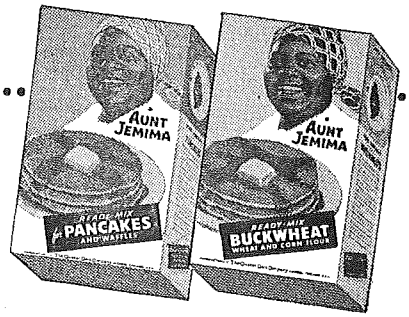
1ST CLASS MEAL!

Always a favorite at home . . . on a hike . . . or in camp!



Aunt Jemima PANCAKES

Get both for twice as much fun



- The red box for pancakes and waffles.
- The yellow box for buckwheats.

*Aunt Jemima Ready-Mix comes in 1¼ lb. and 2½ lb. boxes and 3½ lb. and 5 lb. sacks.