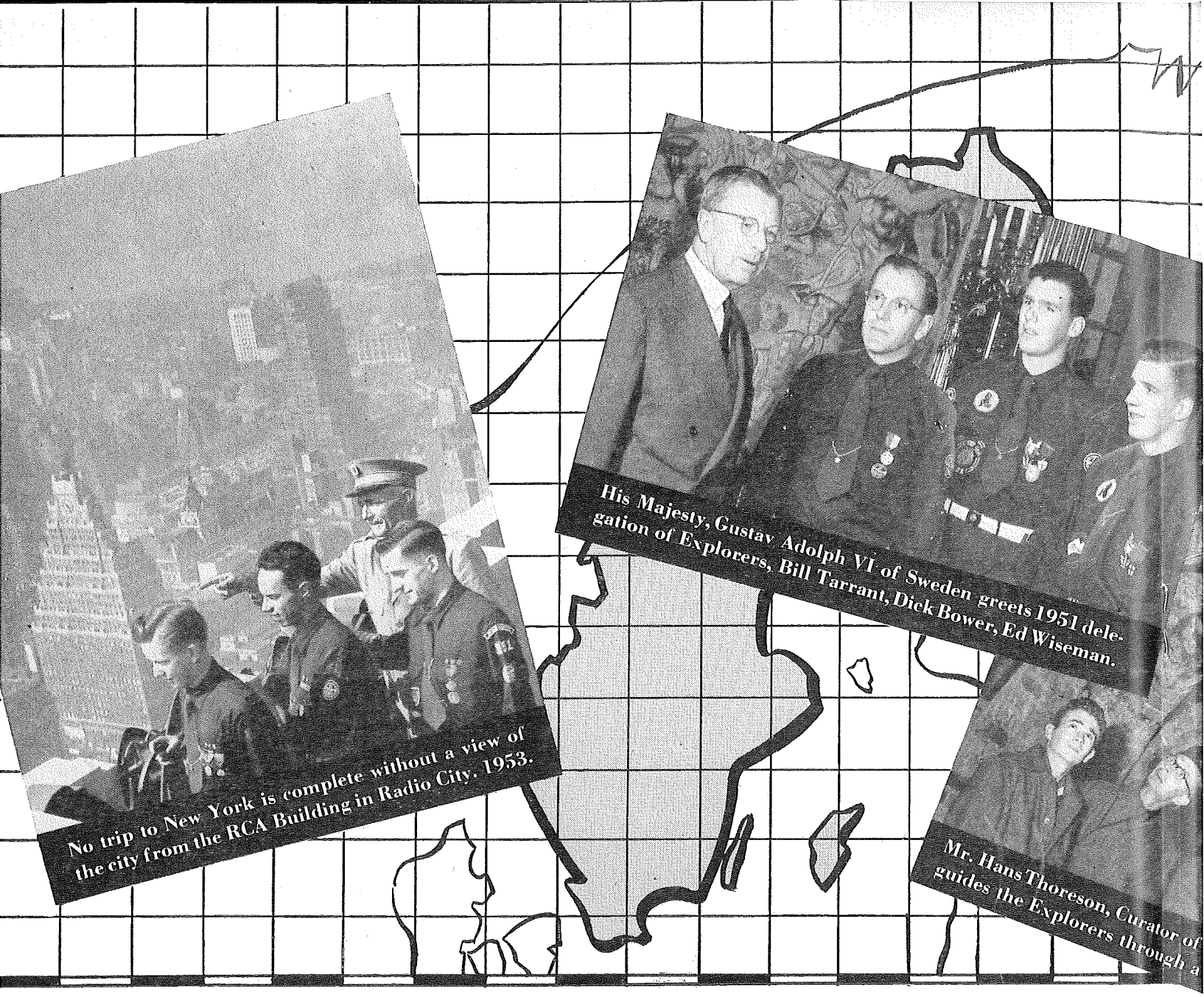

By PAUL W. MOORE
Asst. Director Explorer Service

EXPLORERS GET

NO PART OF OUR TOTAL program offers richer rewards than does Exploring. To these young men, growing up into larger opportunities and responsibilities, Exploring opens many doors. They explore new fields in human relationships as they work together as a team with their fellows, as they profit by the friendly coaching of men of character, as they enjoy the social activities of the program.

They find new opportunities for self-expression and training in leadership as they plan and carry out their own projects. Vocational exploration enables them to study at close range a variety of occupations, and to assess their own interests and abilities.

And those high adventure expeditions, when the gang drinks deep of the joys of a trip to Philmont or to the north woods canoe country or to some other rugged op-

AROUND

portunity of real Explorers! Who can forget sunrise through that mountain pass, the flash of paddle blades in the sun, or those campfires deep in the wilderness.

This is the story of still another unique payoff at which every Local Council in the country has a chance. Each year the three Local Councils judged to be doing the best job in the Exploring program may send one Explorer each on a trip to the Scandinavian countries.

These trips have been made possible to two Explorers and one Advisor from America during the last three years. Again, in 1954, the Silva Compass Company of Stockholm, Sweden, and LaPorte, Indiana, will offer the trip through Norway, Denmark and Sweden to the chosen representatives of the three Boy Scout Councils in America with the best record of Exploring in 1953.

Also cooperating to make the trip successful are the Boy Scout Associations of the three Scandinavian countries visited, plus the Scandinavian Airlines who fly the representatives both ways.

Every Council has an opportunity to be chosen as one of the three to send its representative on this Scandinavian trip. They are judged on the record of Explorer leadership, membership and Explorer program. Council applications are sent to the regional offices by April 1st of each year. The Region selects the best of its Councils and sends its record to the national office, where final eliminations are made.

Selection of individuals who are to take the trip is made by the three Councils. The Explorers must be 16, 17 or 18 years of age and hold the Eagle, Ace, Quartermaster or Silver Award. In addition, they must show outstanding service, Scouting spirit and must have instructed at least two others in the compass.

The adult, a registered Explorer Advisor, must meet the other requirements listed.

In 1951 there were representatives from Syracuse, New York; Pueblo, Colorado; and Saginaw, Michigan. The second year of this wonderful adventure saw the winners from Dubuque, Iowa; Houston, Texas; and Little Rock, Arkansas winging their way overseas.

Last year in 1953 Advisor Robert Heiland, Troop 81, Coopersburg, Pennsylvania represented the Bucks County Council of Region III; Richard Klaesing of Post 151, Milwaukee, Wisconsin represented the Milwaukee County Council of Region VII; and Larry Anderson of Post 103, Idaho Falls, Idaho represented the Teton Peaks Council of Region XI.

The trip itself is a wonderful experience as you would expect it to be. The representatives meet first at the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America in New York City, and meet with officials of the Silva Company as well as consulates of the Scandinavian countries. They see the points of interest in New York City and then board a Scandinavian airliner which takes them to Oslo, Norway. While in Scandinavia (Norway, Denmark and Sweden), they enjoy a two-week period during which time they meet with Scouts of these lands, inspect historical sites, and points of vocational interest.

One of the features of the trip is the presentation of a gift from the American World Friendship Fund to the Deaf Children's School in Stockholm, Sweden.

It's a great opportunity for a Council to demonstrate to the nation its progress in Exploring and obtain for one of their representatives a never to be forgotten experience . . . all expenses paid. *END.*