AMBASSADORS OF WORLD FRIENDSHIP

Hot dogs and milk shakes prove popular with Swedish, Greek, and Finnish Scouts.

EXPLORER AND SENIOR SCOUT ambassadors of world friendship crossed the Atlantic both ways last summer. Next spring more of them will cross the Pacific.

While the bond of Scouting brings these strangers together, living in each other's homes and camps creates mutual understanding beyond the scope of Scouting. In fact, though the guests arrive as ambassadors to their host countries, they return home as ambassadors for their host countries.

Last summer sixteen American Explorers and three leaders visited Europe while sixteen European Senior Scouts and two leaders visited the United States of America. Next spring a group of Explorers will be exchanged with Senior Scouts from Pacific countries.

These exchanges are arranged by the Program and Relationships divisions of the Boy Scouts of America with the Boy Scout International Bureau and the Boy Scout associations of the countries involved. The United States Air Force furnishes the transportation.

The American Explorers who went to Europe were representative of the twelve regions. They were led by a national staff member and two Explorer Advisors, one from Oregon and one from Massachusetts. Each leader took a group to two countries for two weeks. One group visited Sweden and Finland, another England and Norway, and the other Holland and Denmark.

The first week they stayed in Scout homes and the second week in camps. The groups reassembled at Stockholm, Sweden, for four days of sight-seeing. Back in America they spent three days in New York City and visited the national Boy Scout office in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The European contingent was made up of two Senior Scouts each from Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, and Finland. Their leaders were a French Scoutmaster and staff members from British imperial and American national headquarters.

Besides three weeks at Philmont Scout Ranch, the Europeans visited two or three days each at Pennington, New Jersey; Washington, D. C.; Rantoul, Ill.; Chicago, Ill.; New York City; and Schiff Scout Reservation.

At Philmont they camped with hundreds of Explorers and mingled with dozens of families at the training center from all parts of the country. At Pennington, Washington, and Rantoul they lived in Explorer homes, and at Chicago in Scout camps. At Schiff they met members of national and junior leader training groups.

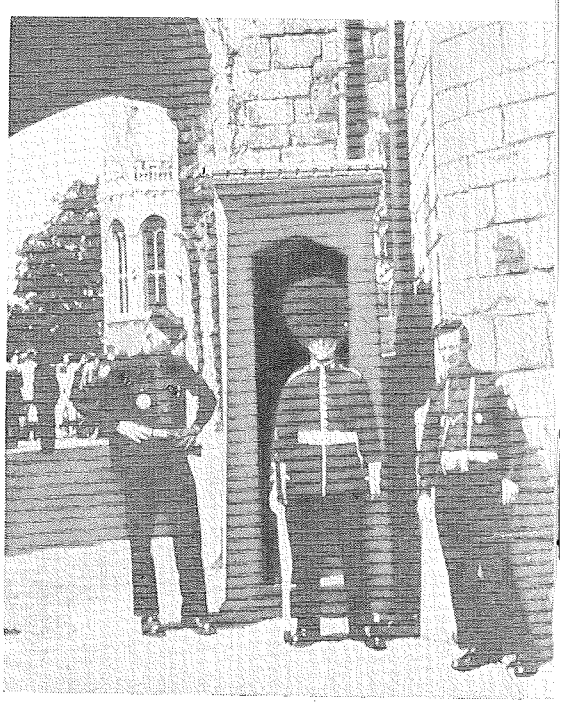
The friendships formed within the contingent from eight European countries were significant by-products of the trip. For example, during a song fest at Philmont, a German lad was surrounded by the three French members of the party. For them the war was truly over.

Language was no barrier to either party. All the European Scouts could speak English, and the Americans started out with English, too. One American Explorer remarked that it was amazing how well he managed with "hello" and "thank you" in the foreign languages. The leaders reported that all the young men, regardless of linguistic ability, communicated easily with the girls they met in any country.

Leaders and hosts of both parties were interested in

European Senior Scouts and a leader learn the mysteries of Dutch-oven cooking while guests at Philmont Scout Ranch. They camped, and made friends with hundreds of American Explorers, leaders and families.

First group of American Explorers to be airlifted to Europe arrive at Air Force base in Frankfurt, Germany. At same time European Senior Scouts were on airlift visit to United States.

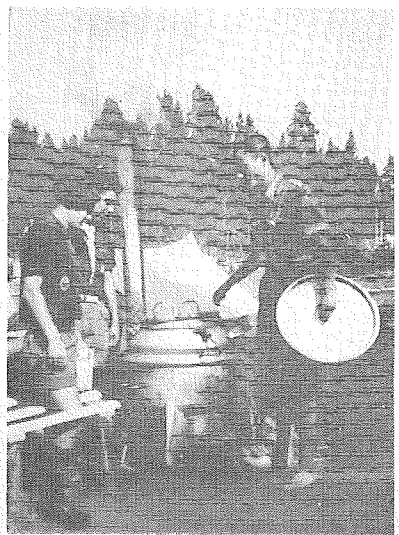


American Explorers see Old World traditions in the person of a colorful English guardsman at the Windsor Castle gate near London.

—and often amused by—the differences between the visitors and native youth, but these differences were superficial. Outstanding were the number and nature of their similarities. Our British host whose impressions of America were gained mainly from movies told an Explorer, "Thank you for being our guest. Now we know there are real people in America."

The young men were interested in comparing Scouting abroad with Scouting at home, but their interests went beyond that. They wanted to become familiar with the whole way of life of the people they visited. They were much impressed with the scenic, historic, industrial, and educational aspects of other lands, but they were most impressed with the friendliness of their many hosts and of the people who stopped on the street to talk to them. The European Senior Scouts, for example, were thrilled by the Empire State Building, the national Capitol, and Philmont Ranch, but they enjoyed most being in homes—"weeth fahmahlies" as they put it.

All thirty-two of the young ambassadors plus their leaders are giving talks and showing pictures back in the homelands. One Explorer was signed up for thirty-two appearances with schools, churches, service clubs, and Scouting groups.



American Explorers at Swedish jamboree-type camp observe troop meal being prepared in a double-boiler field range. Three groups of Explorers visited many Scout camps and Scout homes in six northern countries of Europe.

In 1956 the transatlantic airlifts are scheduled to continue, possibly with more than sixteen young men each way. In addition the first transpacific airlifts are planned for April.

The tentative plans for the Pacific exchanges are these. Twenty-four Explorers, two from each region, will represent the Boy Scouts of America. Countries which might exchange Senior Scouts are Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, Pakistan, and India. Visitors from these countries will visit western states. En route both parties would stop over in Hawaii.

Explorers who participate in the Pacific and Atlantic airlifts must be between sixteen and seventeen years of age. They should be the type of young men who can be effective ambassadors to other lands. They should agree before hand to continue in Exploring and spread their foreign experiences among as many groups as possible at home. Local councils will receive applications to be filed with regional offices where the final selections will be made.

These exchanges of the high type of young men selected from Scouting build international friendships on the sound basis of mutual understanding. The good will spread by the young ambassadors is immeasurable. And someday, one of them may be "Mr. Ambassador," or "Mr. President," or "Mr. Prime Minister." *END*

aminer, "I said that I was asleep in the bed at the time." "Oh," said the Scout, "I forgot that." After a moment's thought he brightened up and said, "I would remove the furniture very quietly!"

The Nigerian Scouter
November, 1953

ONCE OVER LIGHTLY. An Explorer Advisor who was the principal of the local high school took his post to Philmont last summer. While out on the trail he fulfilled a lifelong ambition—to grow a beard. At the end of the trip, however, he quailed at the thought of returning bearded to civilization and shaved it off. Just as he scraped away the last whisker, one of his Explorers caught sight of the shining, bare face and exclaimed, "Hey, you look like a principal again. I liked you better the other way!"

☆ ☆ ☆

SUBSTITUTION. This one happened back in 1933, at the first inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt. Scouts were on duty at various points on the White House grounds. One boy was posted near the building's kitchen and told to remain there until relieved. Shortly after the ceremonies a woman appeared at the kitchen door and invited the Scout inside to have some ice cream.

"Sorry, ma'am, I can't leave my post," he said.

"You can't?"

"No, ma'am."

"Well, then, suppose you go on in and have some ice cream and I'll stand out here and watch your post for you."

"Well," the Scout replied, weakening, "I—I guess that might be O. K."

The Scout then went inside, and the woman—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the new President of the United States—took his place until he returned.

Walter MacPeek
North Brunswick, New Jersey

PAPERWEIGHT. Our troop recently held a paper sale, and to spur the boys in their collecting I announced that the first Scout to bring in a thousand pounds would win a double chocolate milk shake. At the next meeting one Scout claimed the prize.

"How much did you bring in?" I asked him.

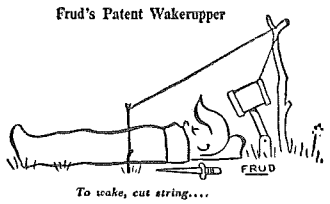
"Eleven hundred and seventeen pounds!" he declared positively.

"What makes you so sure of the exact amount?"

"I weighed it," he explained, "on the bathroom scales!"

I fell asleep that night mentally calculating how long it would take to weigh over half a ton of old newspapers on the bathroom scales—and what a boy's mother might think about the proposition.

Scoutmaster M. J.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

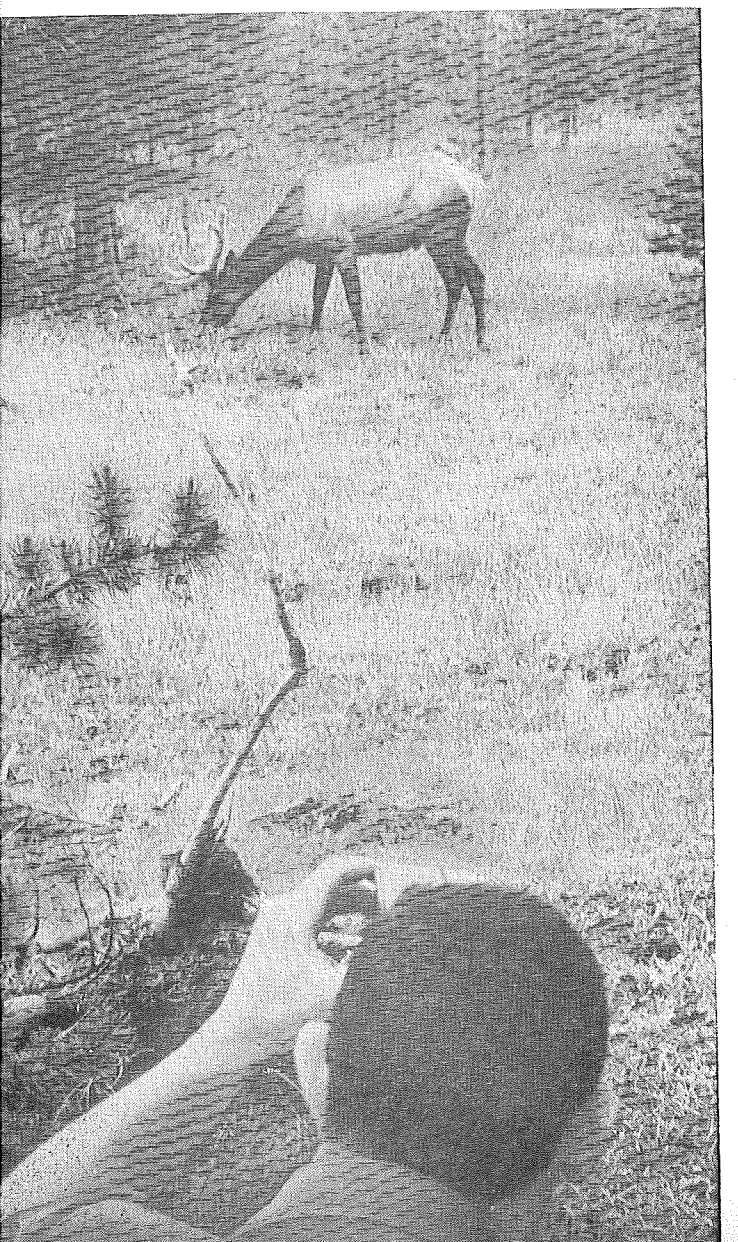


IS THIS GADGET NECESSARY? Recently Britain's *The Scouter* magazine ran a contest—"The Unnecessary Gadget Competition"—which poked sly fun at the tendency of some campers to overemphasize rustic camp gadgets. Contest entries ranged from silly and simple to comic and complicated. All of them were overwhelmingly unnecessary. Above is one of the prize winners.

CONSERVATION CARAVAN

Come along on a modern caravan to adventure, as twelve conservation-minded Explorers tour, camp and learn, in the rugged grandeur in the American West.

Big game photography was a popular feature. This Explorer snaps a grazing elk.



THEY FLEW OVER OIL FIELDS, big-game country, copper mines, and farmland. They visited an elk refuge, sat down at a buffalo-bear-moose roast and took in a rodeo. They were twelve Explorers on a two-week conservation caravan. They not only had the time of their lives, but they discovered things they never knew about our nation's natural resources.

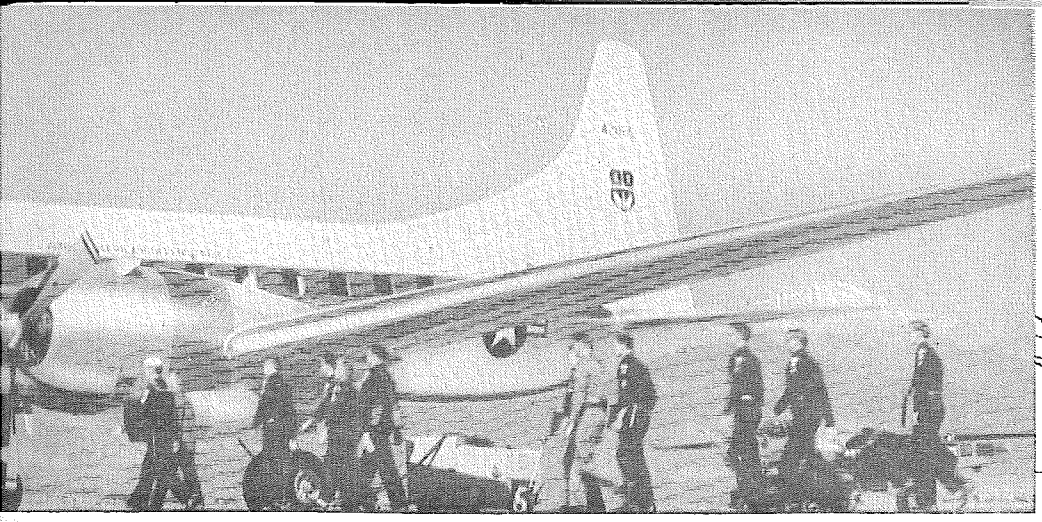
They visited national forests and parks, wildlife refuges, reclamation projects, range improvement experiments, mining operations. They camped on the Old Oregon Trail and at Yellowstone Lake where they fished for trout in a snowstorm. The caravan, sponsored by the U. S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and the Interior and the North American Wildlife Foundation, went through Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

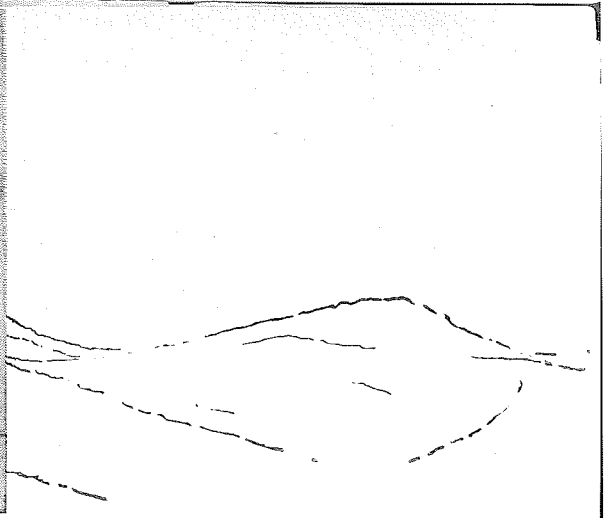
Next year, twelve more Explorers, not as yet chosen, will go on another conservation caravan. This time they'll visit the great Northwest where wood products, commercial fisheries, and power industries will be featured. Any Explorer has the opportunity to go. Each Scout council will nominate its outstanding conservation Explorer—and one from each region will be selected for the 1956 trip. Details will be sent to each council soon.

The 1955 conservation caravan resulted from President Eisenhower's request that the Boy Scouts of America carry out a National Conservation Good Turn in 1954. A plan for recognizing outstanding achievement was set up and these Explorers were selected for their unusual service in their respective regions.

Objectives of the Caravan

The primary objective of this unusual device in conservation education was to show these twelve outstanding young men the close interrelationship that exists between all natural resources—soil, water, minerals, grass, forests, fish, and wildlife. As these boys become leaders in their communities—perhaps their state or the nation—they will have a firsthand knowledge of the need for wise use of all resources. They will know something concerning management of these resources.





Visits to conservation projects also demonstrated the close cooperation necessary between federal, state, and private agencies.

By camping in national parks and near national-forest wilderness areas, the Explorers came to realize the vast importance of these areas for recreation for an increasing population and the need for setting aside outstanding scenic features for enjoyment by all.

Caravan Itinerary

Rendezvous point for the twelve Explorers, the nucleus of conservation technicians who accompanied them, photographers, and writers, was Colorado Springs. The Air Force flew them to the rendezvous point. At Colorado Springs the group was the guest of the Continental Air Defense Command and saw how unidentified planes are tracked down.

From Colorado Springs the caravan continued by air over the Colorado Dust Bowl area, the Army Engineers'

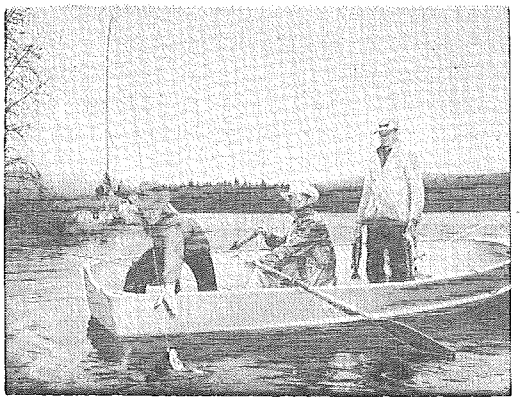
(Continued on page 18)

PARTICIPANTS

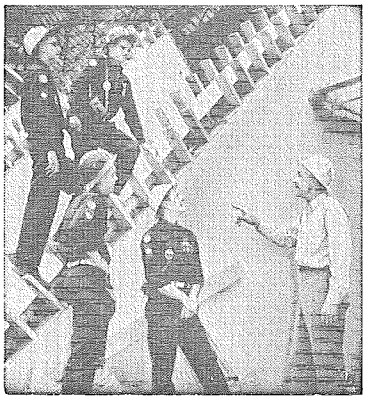
Participating in the caravan were: U. S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, Air Force. Also, the Utah Department of Fish and Game, the Wyoming Department of Fish and Game; Teton Peeks Council, Tendoy Council, Great Salt Lake Council, Pikes Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America; the Utah American Automobile Association, Kennecott Copper Mines, several Rotary, Kiwanis, and Knights of Phythias clubs, and many hotels and other local groups.

Explorers taking part in the caravan were: Robert Pilvenis, Branford, Conn; David L. Gerwitz, Williamsville, New York; Larry Hutchinson, Thornton, Pennsylvania; Paul B. Welleford, Paducah, Kentucky; James Noblin, Forest, Mississippi; Alexander R. Moore, Raleigh, North Carolina; Lowell Gillem, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Bruce Bent, Denver, Colorado; John R. Cookerly, Fort Worth, Texas; Charles L. Braun, Rapid City, South Dakota; Robbie Langley, Milton-Freewater, Oregon; Lee Talbert, Taft, California.

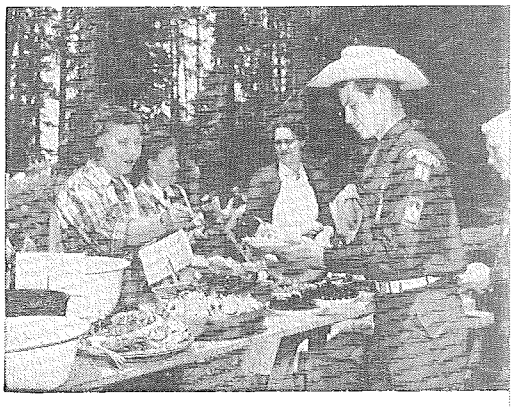
Two days on Yellowstone Lake brought catches like this three pound trout.



Group visits Palisades Dam on Snake River, largest of its kind in the United States.



Chow line at Teton National Park barbecue. Menu: elk, moose, bear, buffalo!



ALPHA PHI OMEGA. This national service fraternity, composed of former Scouts and Scouters, operates on more than 250 college and university campuses over the nation. In the Scouting spirit of service these young men engage in a variety of service projects both on and off the campus. Accompanying photographs show APO members at Wisconsin State Teachers, at La Crosse, giving swimming instruction for Scouts.

tional Council pointed out the fact that the home is still the greatest influence for good in the lives of young people and that parents are the ones chiefly responsible for their guidance. Continuing, the resolution expressed appreciation for the cooperative use parents are making of the Scouting program.

BOUND VOLUMES of SCOUTING magazine for the year 1953-54 are still available at $2.00 each from the Editorial Service.

WEST CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP. An outstanding record of participation in Scout or Explorer conservation activities will pay high dividends to some Scout late next spring. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars will again make available the James E. West Conservation Scholarship for $500 in 1956. The 1955 scholarship was awarded to Explorer Louis Ray Sadler of Union, Mississippi.

The scholarship applications are judged on the following points: record in conservation activities, school grades, participation in Scouting, leadership ability, church or synagogue activities, and general all-round ability and high character.

Application blanks may be obtained from the Activities Service, National Council, Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Closing date for applications to be submitted is May 15.

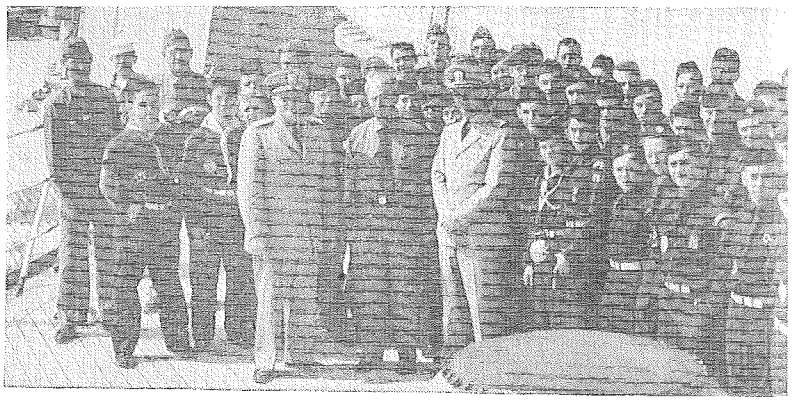
P. T. A. AWARDS. In Norwalk, California, members of the parent-teacher association made awards last winter to two persons in the community for their outstanding work in child welfare. Shown receiving the awards are Scoutmaster Paul Thompson of Troop 327 of the Bethany Congregational Church and Mrs. Ivan Naumann, a Den Mother and Girl Scout leader.

Making the presentations are Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman who received the awards last year. They, too, are Scouters. Mr. Zimmerman is Cubmaster of Pack 307 and his wife is a Den Mother.

THRILLS FOR EXPLORERS. Guests of the Navy League, fifty-one Explorers and ten leaders of Atlanta Area Council flew by Navy plane from Atlanta, Georgia, to Norfolk, Virginia, where they boarded U. S. S. New Jersey BB62 to spend four days and nights at sea cruising to Mayport, Florida.

The group saw the refueling of seven destroyers, as well as other interesting operations — engineering, gunnery, and navigation.

At the end of the cruise the executive officer of the ship said, "If I had known what a fine group of fellows they were going to be, I would have arranged for my fourteen-year-old son to have been here to spend these four days with them." Commander Pratt praised the group by declaring, "Young men, your conduct has been such that it would be a credit to any organization in America. As a former Star Scout I call you a credit to the Boy Scouts of America."



CONSERVATION CARAVAN

(Continued from page 13)

control project at John Martin irrigated farm land, steel mills oal mines, and old mining settle- near Royal Gorge and Cripple , Colorado. Continuing, the covered beetle-killed spruce on the White River Plateau, ely oil fields, and big-game ry in the Colorado Rockies. Also from the air were the Dinosaur nal Monument, the Bingham on Copper Mines of the Kenne- Copper Company, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, and the Davis County rshed.

ter a day in the Salt Lake area ng the open-pit copper mine, the n Bay Wildlife Refuge, the Davis ty Watershed, two farms, and points of interest, the trip con- d by air to Pocatello, Idaho. flew over the Snake River Val- the Palisades Dam, the Teton ge and Jackson Hole, Yellowstone onal Park, the Red Rocks Federal Wildlife Refuge, Craters of the Moon, and outstanding irrigated farms in Idaho.

In addition to camping on the Old Oregon Trail, the Explorers were entertained at special Indian ceremonial dances on the Fort Hall, Idaho, reservation. They were guests of honor of the Bonneville Sportsman's Association at a trout breakfast. They also visited Bureau of Reclamation projects along the Snake River.

From Idaho Falls the caravan continued by bus to Jackson, Moose, Yellowstone Park, and Lander, Wyoming. Some features along the way included: an elk dinner in Jackson; ride on a ski lift; visit to the federal elk refuge in Jackson; the buffalo-bear-moose roast picnic at Jenny Lake; overnight stay at the new Jackson Lake lodge; firsthand explanation of the geology of the Tetons; visits to the many geysers and Hot Springs in Yellowstone; close-up snapshot shooting of bears, moose, buffaloes and coyotes in Yellowstone. They stayed overnight at a fire camp in Togwotee Pass and were guests of honor at the Lander Pioneer Days rodeo and parade.

This brief description can't begin to do full justice to a carefully planned and smoothly operated program. Highest tribute is due the field committee of Scouters and conservationists along the way who developed this most successful and instructive trip.

Method of Conservation Instruction

While experts in geology, soil and water conservation, forest and range management, and wildlife conservation went along on the entire trip, local technicians joined the caravan for an hour or several days, depending upon the nature of the country. These men explained their specialties during frequent stops at oil wells, phosphate mines, hot springs and geysers, fish hatcheries, game management areas, range experiment stations, large and small dams, soil management demonstration areas, irrigation projects, forest management projects, and other examples of wise natural resource use.

Between stops public address systems on the plane and bus gave out with a continual commentary on the country alongside or underneath. The trip was indeed a National Conservation Good Turn. *END*

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