Charters for the four units were presented to Principal William B. Kamprath and Superintendent of Schools Parmer Ewing by Buffalo Council Scout Executive A. C. Gaskin.

THE BEST PLACE to catch fish is where they are. Likewise with Explorers, reasoned Sid Richardson, director of Exploring in the Buffalo Area Council. One of the most likely spots in Buffalo to find boys 14 to 17 was at the Burgard Vocational High School, with 1,200 boys enrolled. So Sid visited Burgard.

But he had bigger plans than just to tell boys about existing Explorer units in Buffalo. He had observed that the lives of these boys revolved largely about activities related to the school. "What would happen," he asked himself, "if the Explorer program were given an important place among those school-sponsored activities?"

His first step was to take that proposal to William B. Kamprath, principal of the high school. Mr. Kamprath listened intently and interrupted frequently with discerning questions. Carefully Sid explained the four phases of the Explorer program, the way in which boy leaders plan and execute the activities, and the role played by adult Advisors.

As the plan unfolded, the conviction seemed to grow in Mr. Kamprath's mind that here was the answer to several of his own problems. Here was a made-to-order pattern for a full-rounded program of student activities—vocational, outdoor, social, and service. Here was a program that might well help to build a common *esprit de corps* among the four departments of the school. This venture would cut across all lines, religious, racial, social, economic, and provide a common rallying point of interest and enthusiasm. This teen-age organization might satisfy the desire "to belong" and help combat the growing agitation for fraternities in the high school. In other words, here was a program which was not asking him to do something for it, but was offering to do something for him.

Convinced that here was a tool which his school might use to advantage he set about to secure the necessary backing for it. His first step was to call a meeting of eleven key faculty members, who studied the proposal carefully. These men approved a plan to organize four Explorer units, one in each of the major departments of the school — printing, automobile mechanics, aviation, and boat building. They backed their enthusiasm with their offer to provide the necessary leadership.

The big question was yet to be answered—"How would students respond to the idea?" To find out, a meeting was arranged with about seventy student leaders, including class presidents, captains of athletic teams, and heads of other student groups to explain the program, its opportunities, and its purposes. The plan met with hearty approval, as did the suggestion, made at the same meeting, that the first project sponsored by the Explorer units be an all-school Christmas party.

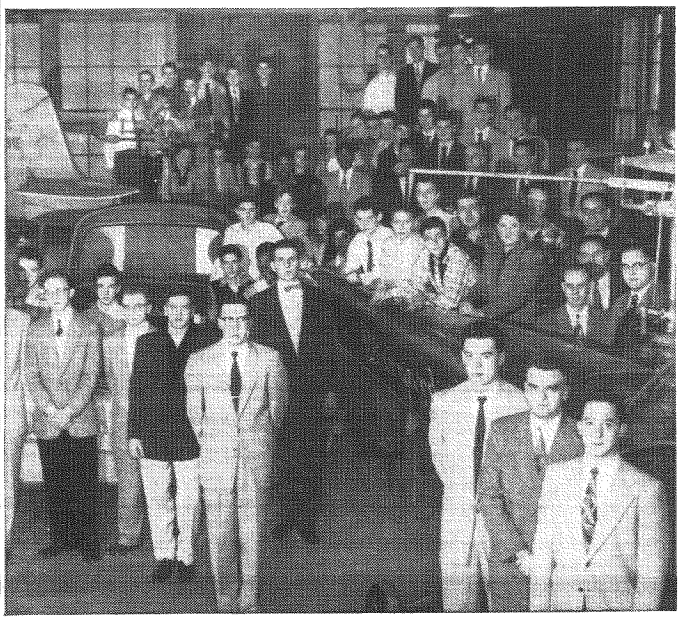
With the backing of these student leaders, the proposal was presented to the student body and Explorer applications were distributed. Within three days the four charter applications were completed, with eighty-eight boys registered, including fifty-five out of the seventy leaders with whom the program had been discussed. It is interesting to note that a majority of these fifty-five had never been Scouts. Those boys who were already members of other Explorer units did not transfer their membership but became members of a school unit also, without extra fees. Since many of the school unit activities are worked out during school hours there is little conflict with membership in a neighborhood unit.

Enrollment in the four units has grown steadily. Each unit has been expanded to four crews of ten boys each, plus three leaders, a total of forty-three boys per unit. Incidentally, the Christmas party, the first held in the history of the school, was an outstanding success and a fitting kickoff for a year of outstanding activity.

BELONGS AT BURGARD

This experiment in the organization of Explorer units as an integral part of a High School program merits thoughtful study by every council.

Members of the Explorer Squadron beside some planes in one of the aviation department workshops.



Much of the activity of each unit is geared into the department of the school in which it is organized. For example, the Explorer squadron is in the aviation department, and the Explorer ship is in the boat-building department. The social and service phases of the program are school-wide, of course. To coordinate these new activities with the rest of the school program, each unit has three representatives — senior crew leader, deputy crew leader, and secretary — on the student council.

The complete integration of the units with the other school activities was further evidenced by the charter presentation, which took place at a regular school assembly. Participating were President G. Howard Chappel and Scout Executive A. C. Gaskin of the Buffalo Area Council; Principal William B. Kamprath; Dr. Parmer L. Ewing, superintendent of schools; as well as leaders and members of the four units. The Burgard Band provided two numbers, and the Burgard Glee Club sang "On My Honor." Present as guests were numerous top Scouters in the council and district. It was a dignified and impressive occasion that left no doubt in anybody's mind that Exploring was now an accepted and important part of Burgard.

The attractive charter ceremony program folders, the work of the printing department, said to the 1,200 young men of Burgard:

"EXPLORING IS FOR YOU —

If you like the feel of a boat tiller, with the shore far behind;

Or if you like the feel of a plane stick, with the earth far below;

Or if you like the feel of the open trail, with civilization far behind.

AND EXPLORING IS FOR YOU —

If you enjoy getting together with fellows and girls for a party, picnic, or social good time;

If you wonder what your lifework will be, and want to explore the possibilities around you;

If you want to do your share in making your community a better place to live.

YES, EXPLORING IS YOURS —

If you like your spare time filled with outdoor, social, hobby, and service activities, planned and run by yourselves and backed by the friendly help of older men."

While it is too early to write the results of this venture, the evidence to date suggests that the young men of Burgard are convinced that Exploring is for them. Much of the success of the enterprise has been due to the personality and enthusiasm of Principal Kamprath, who claims that the program has already knit the four departments of the school together in a new sense of unity. Much credit is likewise due the continuing interest of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Parmer Ewing, who has said many times that he would like to see the Scouting program in every school in Buffalo.

Here, certainly, is a technique for the organization of Explorer units that councils will want to study. *END*