OLDEST SCOUT RADIO PROGRAM. ***What is believed to be the oldest Scout radio program still on the air celebrated its eighth continuous year of broadcasting recently in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Green Bay radio station WEPG sponsors the program "Scout Time," in cooperation with council Explorers. A radio committee of four Explorers carries out the duties of producing, interviewing, and announcing. A typical program includes news of national, regional, and local Scout interest and features an interview with a local Scouter or special guest. Station Manager John Walter, a veteran Scouter himself, has supervised the show throughout its eight productive years. Left to right in the photo above: Explorers Joe Collard and Dave Schmidtke, Scout Executive Craig Uncapher, District Camping Chairman Dick Solboe, and Explorer Stan Riggs.***

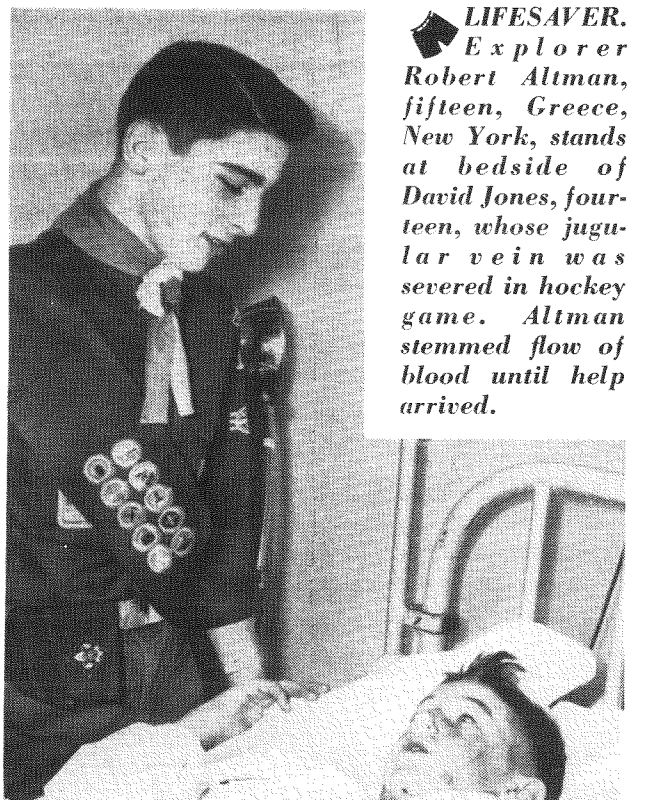
Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers, and adult leaders now totals more than four million. This growth gives heartening assurance that in years to come our nation will continue to have citizens prepared in body, mind, and character to serve it and to further its strength and progress.

"In preparation for citizenship—for the exercise of its rights and the discharge of its obligations—spiritual training plays a major part. I therefore congratulate you on the fact that your organization will round out its first half century with the Four-Year Program, "Onward for God and My Country"—a program which will strengthen your knowledge of our heritage and your capacity to contribute to the welfare of your fellow man and of the Republic.

"As you begin work under this program I wish all of you the greatest possible success."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

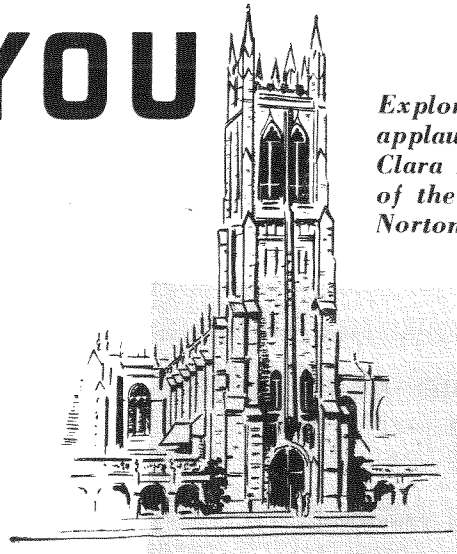
MENTAL HEALTH WEEK will be observed April 29 - May 5, 1956, directed and coordinated by the National Association for Mental Health and cosponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, an agency of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In response to the mounting incidence of mental illness many agencies are at work on the problems involved. The preparedness for life which is the objective of Scout training is not only a matter of physical fitness, but of mental and moral fitness as well. Our own Dr. William C. Menninger, chairman of our national Health and Safety Committee, has been one of the pioneers in recognizing and dealing with this increasingly important phase of our national health.



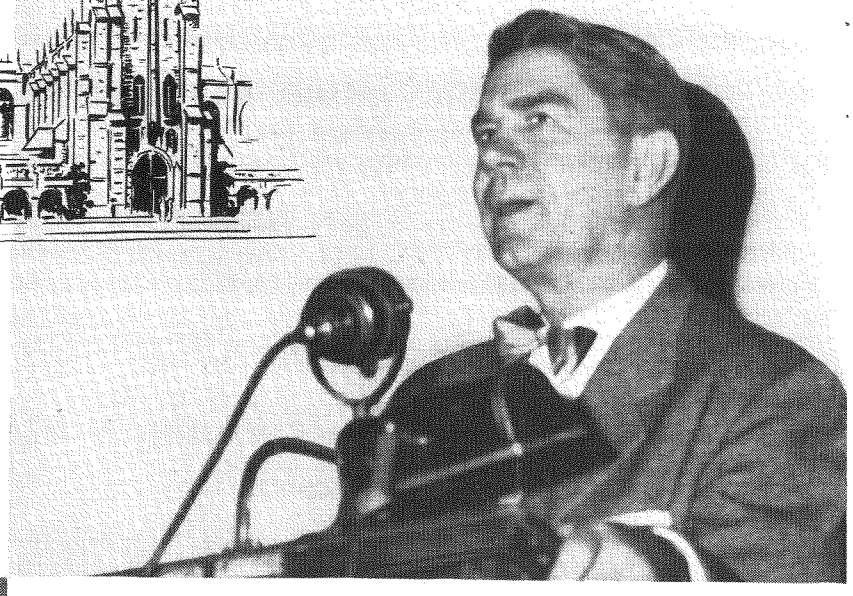
LIFESAVER. ***Explorer Robert Altman, fifteen, Greece, New York, stands at bedside of David Jones, fourteen, whose jugular vein was severed in hockey game. Altman stemmed flow of blood until help arrived.***

THEY'RE OLDER THAN YOU THINK

By EUGENE JONES
Deputy Regional Executive

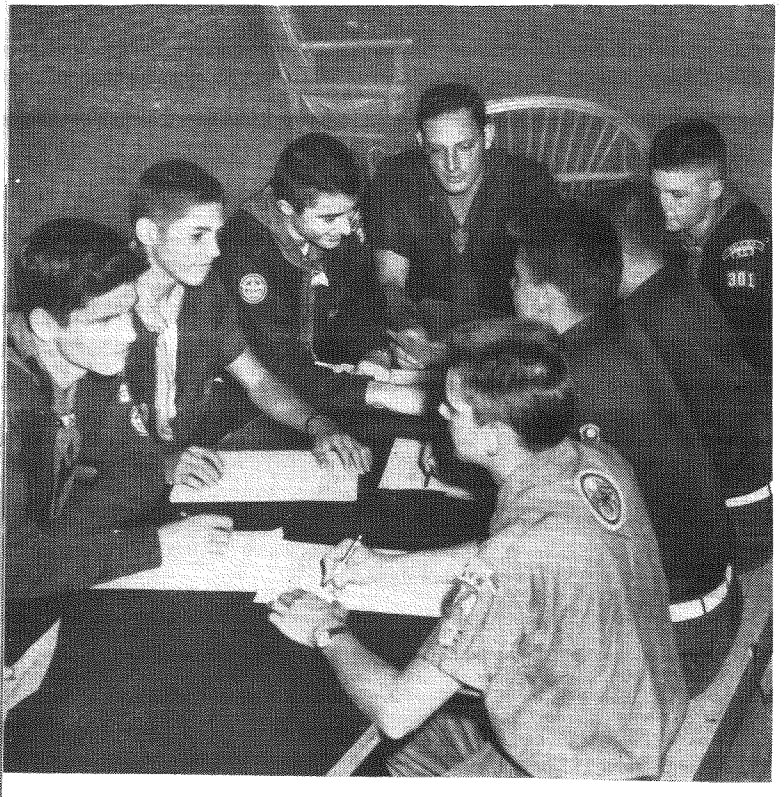


Explorer Fred Handy III of Post 10, Raleigh, applauds announcement that his date, Miss Clara Beth Smith, has been selected queen of the ball. Master of Ceremonies William Norton and band members are Explorers, too.



Dr. A. Hollis Edens, president of Duke University, welcomes the Explorers to campus.

The steering committee plans the Duke University "Citizens Now" conference.

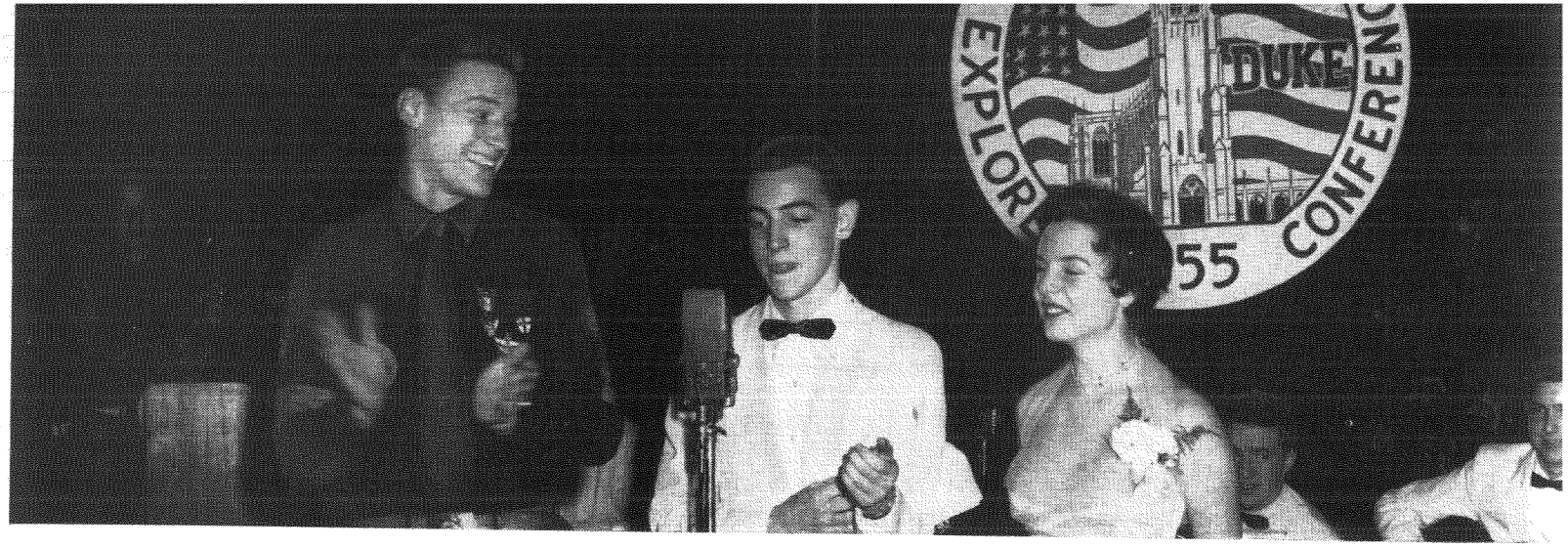


EDITOR'S NOTE: *At what age do one's citizenship responsibilities begin? What are the responsibilities of an Explorer—a young man of high-school age—to his home, his family, and his community?*

To learn the young men's thinking on these subjects, councils throughout the United States this year are providing opportunities through meetings known as "Citizens Now" conferences.

This is an account of such a conference held in the Occoneechee Council, Raleigh, North Carolina, last fall . . . one of the first held by a local council. To help councils guide their Explorers to successful conference experience of their own, most regions will be holding training conferences within the next few months. Each council should plan to be well represented.

JUST THE OTHER DAY I was with three boys—a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout, and an Explorer. "Boys," I said, "how about some ice cream?"



"Sure!" said the Cub Scout.

"What kind?" asked the Boy Scout.

"I'll take apple pie!" answered the Explorer.

It isn't that the Explorer was being discourteous; he was just being his age. Young men in the Explorer age group, fourteen to eighteen, are not likely to follow a set, predictable pattern—a fact that may be most disconcerting to some adults. If the Explorer's answer takes you by surprise and it shouldn't—remember: Explorers are just naturally of a dual nature. One moment these boy-men are eager to assume adultlike responsibility—again, they are tremendously interested in boylike activities like playing games that would leave you and me physically exhausted.

It's an example of one side of their dual nature that I want to tell you about. Specifically—their willingness, even eagerness, to assume adultlike responsibility in improving themselves and their community here and now. It's an inspiring story of how more than six hundred young men recently planned, recruited man power for, and carried out a man-sized activity that we've labeled a "Citizens Now" conference.

Let's take a trip to the campus of Duke University at Durham, North Carolina, where I think I can show you what I mean.

Last November more than six hundred Explorers, from farmhouses and cities all over eastern North Carolina, gathered on the Duke campus. Their purpose? To discuss citizenship problems related to themselves and their own homes and communities; to discuss some questions that had been troubling their minds—and the minds of most young men their ages—since time began. To name a few: "How can we bring our parents to understand us and our viewpoints?" "How much freedom should we be allowed at home?" A couple of others the young citizens mulled over were, "Why should we contribute both our talent and money to the church?" "How can we help our schools in the big job they are doing?"

Rather weighty questions for young men of high-school age to be pondering? I thought so, too.

And remember, some of those fellows drove a half a day to meet together and all paid out their own good, hard cash to air their views. And they were sound views, too.

For instance, here's a summary of some of the conclusions reached by these Explorers who spoke out with feeling. These findings were recorded by young men reporters who sat in on all the discussions.

Now, let's listen to the opinions of an adult who attended. What's his opinion of this "Citizens Now" conference, one of the first of this type held by a local council in America.

Dr. A. Hollis Edens, president of Duke, says that the conference ". . . was correctly staged on a university campus for it was truly a part of the educational process for the Explorers who attended. It is my belief that demonstrations to our youth that they are responsible members of their homes and communities now can effectively challenge them to accept the privileges and obligations of citizenship in our democracy. I . . . hope that other Explorer groups will participate in similar projects."

Mr. Horace Fowler, father of an Explorer, was one of a number of dads who attended the closing session in which the discussion group findings were presented:

"The youths proved to me that they are seriously concerned with their role in society and that they are prepared to accept their responsibilities now and in the future."

You may wonder how such a conference as this came about. It began last spring when five Explorers from the Occoneechee Council of Raleigh, North Carolina, together with several hundred others from councils throughout the southeast part of the United States ,met on the campus of the University of Georgia where a

(Continued on page 22)

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THEY'RE OLDER

(Continued from page 17)

pilot "Citizens Now" conference was held. Those five Explorers, together with the three adults who accompanied them, returned home filled with enthusiasm at what they'd seen and heard. Soon they had formed a steering committee for the Duke conference.

In addition to the pilot conference held at the University of Georgia last year, training conferences were held at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Willamette University at Salem, Oregon.

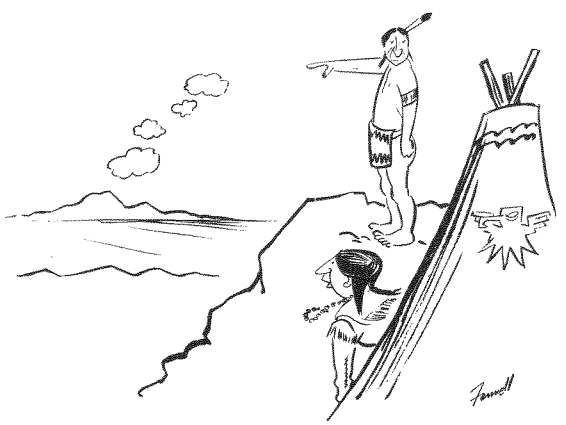
Similar training events are being held in the remaining nine regions of the United States. To these, councils will send representative Explorers and leaders to get the know-how of such an event. Then, these Explorers will return to their home councils to serve as steering committees for their own conferences.

Serious discussions aren't all that go on at one of these "Citizens Now" conferences, though. After all, these are virile, normal, young Americans we've been talking about. They enjoyed the Duke-Wake Forest football game Saturday afternoon. And they're still talking about the variety show and the gala ball thrown by the Alpha Phi Omega boys at Duke. The APO is the national service fraternity made up of former Scouts and Scouters. They even had Miss North Carolina there to crown the queen of the ball. Yes, sir, there was some fun, too. You've been to conferences. You know how it is.

But I'm naïve enough to think this as only the frosting on the cake and not the cake itself.

Somehow, from talking with Bill Roth, director of Exploring in the Occoneechee Council and adviser for the conferees, I came away with the impression that the conference aims had been fully attained. Through this conference, and others like it being held throughout America this year, Explorers are learning that they are participating members of their homes and their communities today and that the privileges and obligations they have now are as real and as important as they will be when the boys become adults. Second, the conferences are giving Explorers the opportunity to meet and listen to outstanding leaders in business, education, religious, and social fields. Finally, the public is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of the Explorer program and the Explorers themselves are realizing that they are part of a big, purposeful movement.

Imagine, some people keep talking about the two or three problem fellows out of a hundred who, they say, are just about calling the plays in this game of youth. Don't you believe it. *END*



"It's for you dear . . . Den Mother's meeting . . . 8 o'clock . . . Dry Gulch Canyon . . . Bring your tomahawk."