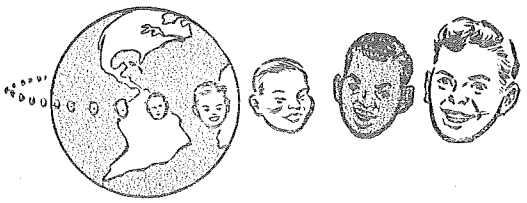
worth retelling

WHAT'S YOUR LINE? Must everything in camp relate directly to camping? Not necessarily, reasoned Middlesex Council of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Aware that studies show a major teen-age interest to be vocations—"What am I going to be?"—the council set aside one night weekly at Camp Sakawawin for "Explorers Only." On this evening every Explorer in camp gathered after taps to hear a representative of some profession or trade tell about his work—exactly what he did, education necessary, aptitudes needed, availability of jobs, salary scales, etc. Afterwards—question period.

Did the idea work? Yes, indeed! The council reports that "Explorers Only" played to a full house, that the boys were enthusiastic and full of searching questions, and the speakers delighted at their warm reception. Would the plan work elsewhere? "It's a natural," says the council. "We hope other councils will pick up the idea for next summer."



ALL BOYS. The Boy Scouts of America is for the boy who can afford a whole summer in camp and the boy who needs help to get there at all. It's for the boy who lives in any part of any town. It's for the boy whose religion is any religion you ever heard of, whose national origin is any country on the planet, whose skin is any color you care to name. It's for the boy who never gets into trouble and for the boy who's in trouble a good part of the time. It's for all boys.

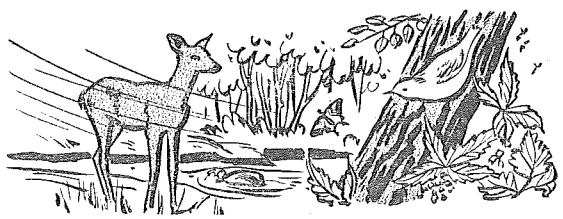
CHANGING TIMES. The other evening after Scout meeting I heard a violent argument raging just outside the troop-room door. Supposing it to be some typical juvenile disagreement over baseball or jalopies, I started over to shush them. Suddenly I stopped—and listened. They were arguing, believe it or not, about the need for a better school in our township and for better-paid, better-qualified teachers to man it.

Yes, I know they picked it up from their parents or teachers, but that isn't the point. The point is—they were interested enough to think seriously about it, even to get real sore about it. It felt good, just standing there listening to them screech at each other about improving their educational system.

In my day, seems to me, our only serious argument about school was: How long would it take to burn?

Scoutmaster J. M.,
New Brunswick, N. J.

INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT. Visiting at Philmont Scout Ranch last summer were Senior Scouts from several European countries, including Finland and Sweden. A meal in camp headquarters was almost over when an American Explorer, anxious to do some swapping, approached one of the European Scouts and inquired politely, "Are you finished?" "No," was the answer, "I'm Swedish."



TWELFTH POINT. Sunday dawned bright and clear, and after breakfast the Scoutmaster gathered the troop and told them: "It is time for our observance of the

TEST BY FLOOD

How did Scout training for disaster pass the test of the costliest flood ever to hit the nation? Thousands of people in the six states most affected put a grade of A on help given by Explorers, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and leaders.

Photo by Rev. F. L. Couch

An Explorer swam from the second floor of his house and reported to a hospital where he manned a field radio.

A Boy Scout waded from house to house, supplying his neighbors with food from his pack, filled at home.

A Cub Scout collected half a dozen coaster wagonloads of clothing to send to the neighboring town.

A Scouter set up and ran a field kitchen that fed his marooned community for nine days.

These are examples of what members of the Boy Scouts of America did during the floods in the Northeast last summer.

The floods swept down under cover of darkness on August 19 and 20 after Hurricane Diane had dumped fourteen inches of rain in thirty-six hours. Characteristic of disasters, the waters struck without warning, adding to the force of their terror and destruction.

Hundreds of communities were staggered or knocked out by sneak punches. Measured in dollars the damage totaled a billion and a half. The score included over 250 dead, 20,000 homes damaged or destroyed, hundreds of factories wrecked, merchandise in thousands of stores spoiled, and countless acres of farm lands ruined. Destruction of roads, bridges, railroads, power, water, and sewer lines isolated families and whole communities. Health was endangered. Survival depended on the most primitive means.

The scope of the disaster rightfully put the burden of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation largely on the National Guard, Red Cross, and Civil Defense, as well as local governments. Incidentally many Scouters served ably as members of these organizations.

But what roles did Explorers, Scouts, and Cubs play in this widespread tragedy? A list of their services

Photo by Hartford Courant

by
TED S. HOLSTEIN

SCOUTING *Magazine*
Field Reporter

Photo by Hartford Courant

Flood Services

Carried messages (in disaster headquarters, throughout the community, afoot, on bicycles, and with truck and car drivers)
Answered telephones at disaster stations
Operated ham radio stations
Posted official notices
Gave first aid
Purified water and showed others how
Sprayed buildings with disinfectant
Distributed lime for sanitation
Built latrines
Directed traffic
Stood guard duty (to warn police or National Guard when help was needed)
Marked landing strips for helicopters
Searched for survivors and victims
Provided and manned boats
Supplied electric generators with gasoline
Collected food from homes, stores, farms
Distributed food
Set up field kitchens
Cooked meals and showed others how (outdoors, indoors, for families and larger groups)
Collected ice cubes to refrigerate food
Loaded and unloaded trucks
Back-packed food, clothing, and supplies
Collected, sorted, and distributed clothing
Pitched tents
Set up cots and made beds
Cut up fallen trees
Dug out basements
Mopped floors
Cleaned up debris
Registered evacuated persons

is given at the right. A thrilling story of how well they served is in the November, 1955 BOYS' LIFE magazine under the title "Don't Call Us Heroes."

Let's get some opinions about how the boys served from New England Scout executives whose councils cover such flood centers as Naugatuck, Waterbury, Torrington, Winsted, Worcester, and Putnam. The executives agree that the boys' emergency actions ran true to Scouting tradition in all kinds of disasters.

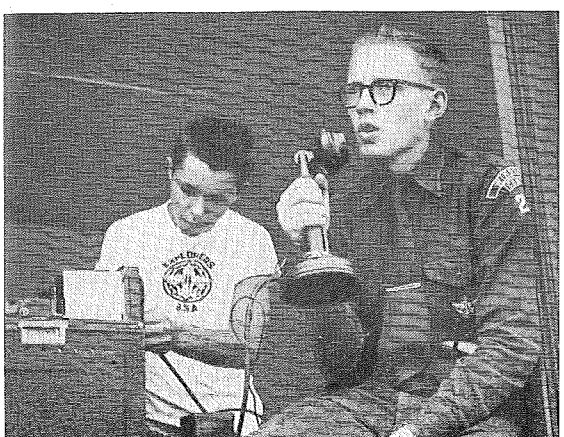
What boys did first, whenever and wherever they became aware of the danger, usually was on an individual basis. Often there was no time to mobilize Scouting groups. Anyway the hazards until the waters subsided were so great that organized use of any but men trained and equipped for rescue work would have been foolhardy.

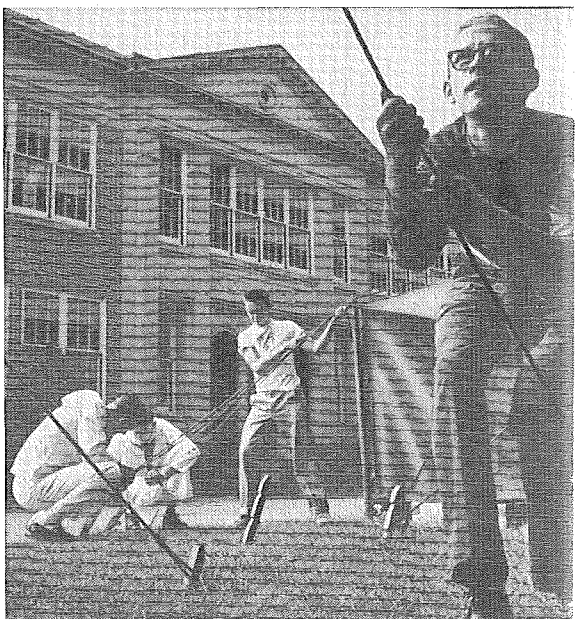
The boys' immediate and natural reaction was to help themselves and those around them, at least to avoid burdening others. Since the floods began at night and crested late the next morning, most boys were at home. Thus they did what they could with their own families. Much depended on each lad's courage, self-reliance, and training.

"Skills were important, but Scouting spirit helped a lot," declared David F. Babson, executive at Water-

(Continued on page 22)

BOYS' LIFE photos below show Connecticut Explorers giving flood service, typical throughout the disaster area: left, manning a field radio in marooned Winsted; center, cleaning up debris in Torrington; right, pitching army tents to shelter homeless Winsted families.





Scout Shorts

SCOUTING IN ACTION. These SCOUT SHORTS pages undertake to show a cross section of our program in action. Besides important announcements and items of information there will be a panorama of Scouting activities. Some items will be unique and different; most of them will be just healthy examples of the good Scouting which goes on in thousands of communities over the nation week after week. If you have a good story or a good picture, send it in.

TRAIN STOPPER. It's not in the official *Handbook for Boys*—the use Scout Robert Monk of Chicago found for his neckerchief.

When the crack "Dakota 400" of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was bearing down on a spot where a tree had fallen, Robert ran a half mile along a line of track and flagged the oncoming train with his red neckerchief. Officials of the railroad said that it was quite likely that the train would have been derailed if it had hit the tree.

VISUAL AIDERS. American history took on new meaning for campers at Camp Childs of the Old Colony Council after legionnaires of East Walpole, Massachusetts, gave the camp a series of historical flags.

Photo by John Ghorse

EXPLORERS IN ACTION, new 35mm. filmstrip, highlights a year's program of Explorer Post 103 of Jackson Heights, New York. The filmstrip was written, photographed, and narrated by members of the post. The program pointers in the filmstrip are ideas that can be adopted by any troop, crew, post, ship, or squadron. Ask your local council office about it or order direct from Visual Aids Service, National Council, Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Cost, $15.00.

BLAME CONNIE. Nine Scouts and two leaders were marooned on Navy Island in the stormy, upper Niagara River, and Hurricane Connie was reported on the way. Worried parents prevailed on a LaSalle Yacht Club member to go to the boys' rescue in his powerboat. He did—and things began to happen:

The Scouts—warm and dry in their tents on the island—got soaked to the skin striking camp and carrying their gear to the boat.

The small boat taking the boys to the powerboat got its line fouled in the big boat's propeller. Rescue operations stopped while the rescuer went over the side and spent half an hour in the icy water freeing the line.

The small boat, swinging dangerously in the wind, lost an anchor.

Somebody fell overboard.

Safe on the mainland at last, the Scouts looked around for the storm.

It was gone.

BEAUTIFIERS. Nine truckloads of junk—more than fifteen tons—were removed from the Au Sable River by Explorers from Post 77 of Grayling, Michigan, in a Conservation Good Turn project last summer. Assisted by their local chamber of commerce and sportsmen's club, the group undertook the forty-two miles of river clearance with these purposes in mind: to teach a valuable lesson in conservation to Explorers and to beautify the river as well, and to spearhead a movement that they hope will be taken up by other groups throughout America.

EXPLORER SOUP-ERINTENDENTS. How'd you like to teach twenty-eight hospital dietitians how to cook? That was the question posed to members of Explorer Post 351E of Cleveland, Ohio, by their local Civil Defense organization when they wanted instructors to teach key members outdoor cooking.

The Explorers divided the ladies into three groups, showed them how to cook beef stew in tin-can utensils and how to lay a cross-trench fire with a grating as well as one using bricks and no grating. Then they gave them mattocks, shovels, tin cans, and ration—and put them on their own. The ladies were such apt pupils that they were able, several weeks later, to instruct a still larger group of volunteer CD workers—but the Explorers stood by, just in case.

ONCE A SCOUT. Scouter John H. Melvin, chief of the Division of Geological Survey at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, added to his long record of Good Turns recently when he wrote to each geology professor in the state suggesting cooperation with the Boy Scout program, particularly through the Geology merit badge.

The former Eagle Scout pointed out what a rich source of potential geologists such cooperation might uncover. He enclosed a copy of the merit badge pamphlet and the name and address of the local Scout executive. Then he wrote each executive, sending a copy of the letter written to the geologists.

INTERPRETER. If there were a merit badge for interpreter, Eagle Scout Bob Lawrence of Ridgefield Park, New Jersey, probably could qualify. He did much last summer to interpret American life to his Egyptian pen pal, George Armanious, who spent ten days with him before going on to the Eighth World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

In addition to his correspondence with the Egyptian Scouter, Bob writes regularly to twenty-one other Scouts and leaders around the world. Pictured above are the two friends with Mayor Ross Vogt of Ridgefield Park.

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TEST BY FLOOD

(Continued from page 13)

bury, Connecticut. "The boys' will to help and their conditioning to discipline are great advantages. Scout spirit shows tangible results on the scene of a disaster."

The Family Be Prepared plan receives high praise from Scout executives who have been through the disaster mill. E. Merle Hildreth at Worcester, Massachusetts, has seen it work in a tornado as well as a flood. Under this plan Scouts and Explorers lead their families in training themselves and equipping their homes for emergencies. Then family members are able to help each other and their neighbors when ordinary community facilities and services are disabled.

Two Scouting skills have proved most useful in disasters. Lloyd L. Noyes, the executive who has been through the Bar Harbor, Maine, fire, the Worcester tornado, and now the Torrington-Winsted, Connecticut, floods, points out, "We have a responsibility to train boys in these two major services, first aid and communications."

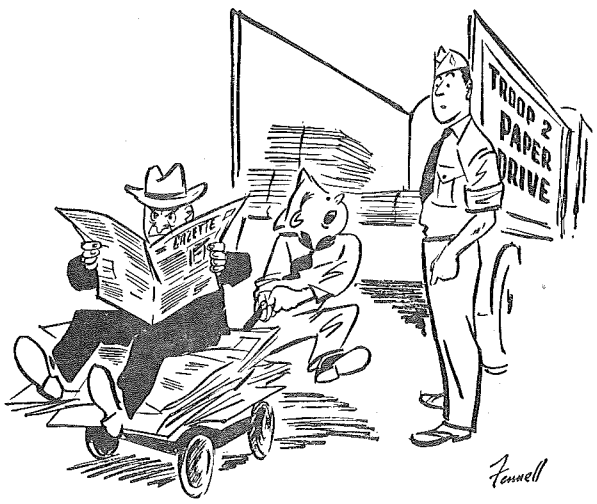
The value of first aid is obvious, especially in the first stage of a disaster. How vital communications are is fully realized when telephones are dead and streets and roads are flooded, washed out, or blocked with debris. Flood officials enthusiastically report that Scouts and Explorers did an outstanding job in message delivery. Cub Scouts served best in collecting food and clothing.

One specific aid can be given by all Scouting people near a disaster area, say the New England executives. That is to stay away from the scene and urge others to do the same, unless under the direction of emergency authorities. Sight-seers and misdirected emergency helpers create traffic problems that waste man power and may block transportation of vital supplies.

Scout Executive Elwin B. Cornell points out that local disaster authorities may vary in different states and at different stages of emergency. In Connecticut, for example, Civil Defense is in charge during a disaster unless the National Guard takes over under martial law. The Red Cross, however, is in charge of relief and rehabilitation. Scout council, district, and unit leaders should know their disaster authorities and confer with them as to how Scouting groups can cooperate in case of emergency.

Here are some emergency service principles in which the executives of the New England flood area reaffirm their belief:

Mobilization of Scouting groups in the immediate area of the disaster should come only after the danger is past. (The Worcester Area Coun-



"He wasn't quite finished!"

cil executive board made this a policy after the 1953 tornado.)

Scouters, Explorers, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts should be given responsibilities and authority in line with their individual abilities. (Although boys did show surprising skill and poise in face of danger, they should not receive dangerous assignments or be tempted with authority beyond their control.)

Scouting members should serve, whenever possible, in their established groups under their own leaders. (Flood officials agree this was the most effective method. It has been accepted as a national Civil Defense policy.)

Scouting groups should serve under the direction of the authority legally in charge of the disaster.

To sum up what Scouting spirit and skill accomplished against Diane's floods in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, comes a letter from an Explorer Advisor in Putnam, Connecticut. There, in a magnesium plant, water, exploding chemicals, and fire created chaos.

The Advisor and his son, an Explorer just turned eighteen, were among the volunteer firemen who

(*Continued on next page*)

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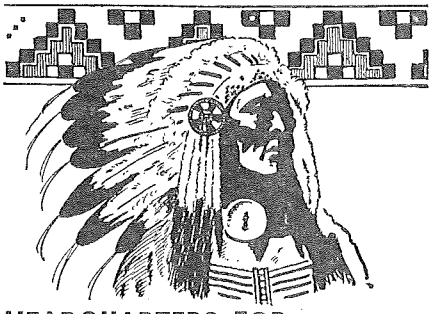

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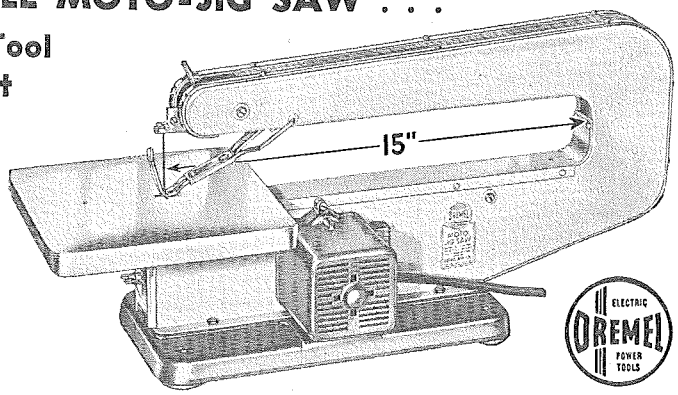

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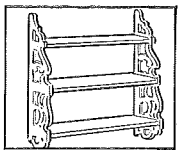

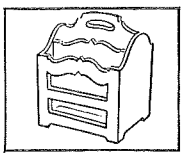

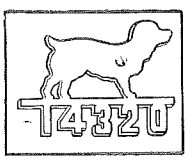

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