THE PHANTOM

IT'S A PHANTOM CITY. Now you see it, now you don't. Drive through the peaceful rolling hills of Valley Forge State Park on July 5, and the quiet landscape will look much as it has these many years. But come back in a week, and out of nowhere a city of 50,000 has been conjured up. Come back in another two weeks, and it's gone again.

No magic—except the magic of a great idea. It's just the Fourth National Jamboree of the BSA, camping, by invitation of Pennsylvania's Governor George M. Leader, on 1,500 acres of this historic state park, where Washington and his rugged army of 12,000 men starved and froze through the bitter winter of 1777-78 and kept alive the cause of liberty.

It's a stupendous operation, just on the physical side, involving months of careful planning. Fifty thousand boys have been busily working for many months at all sorts of jobs, earning money to pay their own way to the jamboree. Transportation will call for fifty special trains, thousands of chartered buses, and many chartered planes. Feeding the 16,000 charcoal cooking fires that may be burning at the same time will call for 300 tons of charcoal briquettes. The camp will use 74,480 quarts of fresh milk daily. A meal of chicken will call for the drum sticks and second joints of 26,600 birds. Top sirloin for the final dinner will require 1,330 head of steers. Seven hundred and fifty-two tons of nonperishable foods will be used. All of these foods will have to be bought on bid, stored, refrigerated when necessary, and distributed daily, first to sections and then to troops.

The jamboree camp will use 1,500,000 gallons of water per day. It will talk to the outside world by fifty telephone trunk lines and six 300-line switchboards. Each of the camp's thirty-eight sections will have a health lodge staffed by three doctors and four doctors' aids. Parking space for 10,000 cars will be available.

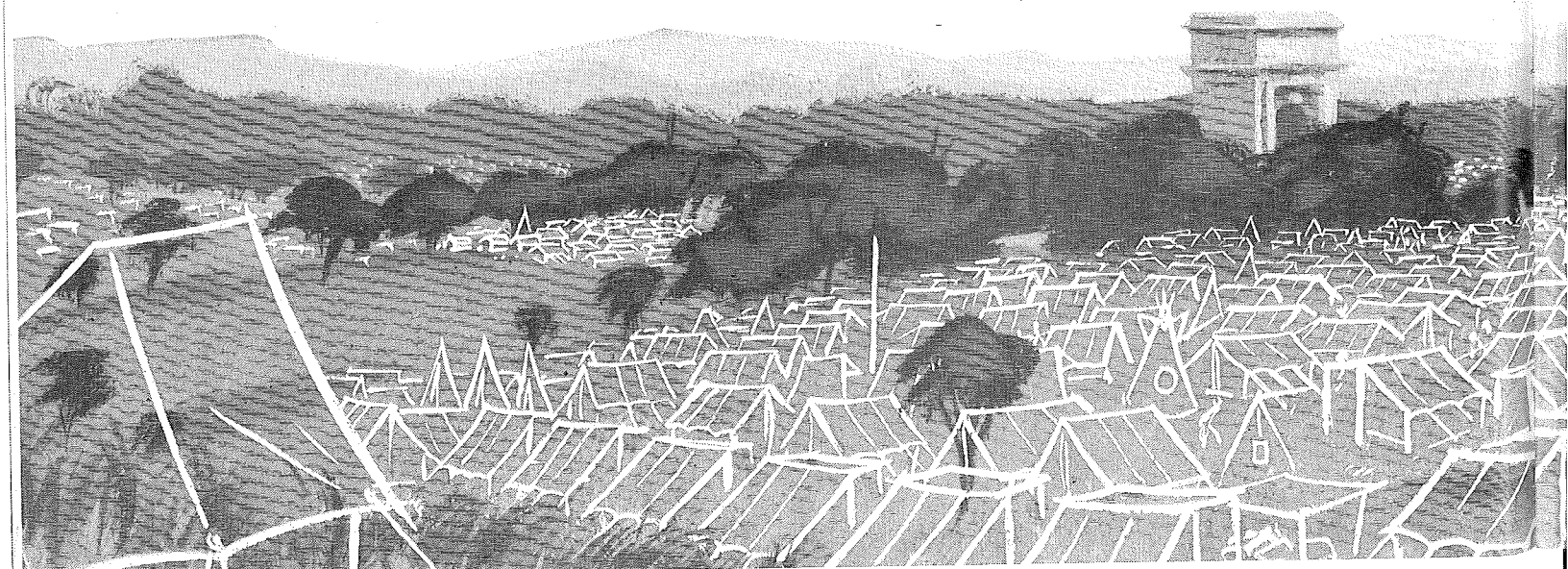
But these are only the interesting and necessary mechanics of this tent city of 50,000. To catch the real meaning of this assembly of youth, four times the size of Washington's heroic little army, one ought to live with them as they pitch their own tents, cook their own meals, make friends with fellow Scouts from every corner of the nation, and take part in a whirl of activities.

One of the first things that might impress the visitor would be the smooth, efficient manner in which this new city of 50,000 sets up housekeeping and carries on its program.

The jamboree plan is essentially very simple. It accepts as its code the same Scout Oath and Scout Law, uses the same Scout skills, operates on the same patrol system, that every Scout troop in the land knows so well. If physical factors permitted, the same plan could operate a jamboree of 500,000.

The program will be a busy one. Two great shows will be staged in the great arena. The first, the evening of July 12, will feature a mammoth opening ceremony, featuring pageantry, demonstrations of Scout skills, and a colorful and dramatic display of fireworks. The closing pageant, the evening of July 18, will dramatize the ideals of the "Onward for God and My Country" theme.

Sunday, July 14, will be fittingly observed by divine worship in which boys and leaders will participate according to their own faith. The following groups will



conduct formal services (either Saturday or Sunday): Buddhist, Christian Scientist, Jewish, Lutheran, "Mormon," Protestant, Protestant Episcopal, Quaker, and Roman Catholic.

On Sunday evening, troops will hold their own Baden-Powell friendship campfire programs, honoring the one hundredth anniversary of B.-P.'s birth and the fiftieth anniversary of the Scout movement, which he founded.

Regional and sectional campfires will be held Thursday evening, July 11, and Saturday evening, July 13. The best in Scout talent will be featured, and numerous well-known entertainers have been invited.

In addition to these major events there will be a continuous round of activities covering a wide range of interest. These will include patrol, crew, and troop displays and demonstrations; and interpatrol, intercrew, and intertroop visitation for meals, songfests, and campfires. There will be informal hiking tours of the Valley Forge area. In three controlled areas, jamboree campers will participate in live demonstrations of conservation. Experts in fish and game, forestry, and soil management will show Scouts how to repeat this program back home.

Field sports areas will offer opportunity for angling, archery, orienteering, marksmanship, and .22 caliber trap shooting.

A week-long program of interpatrol competition will be staged, including such events as two-man crosscut, wood chopping, logrolling flagpole raising, Roman chariot race, monkey bridge, obstacle course, antelope race, and long-distance signal relay.

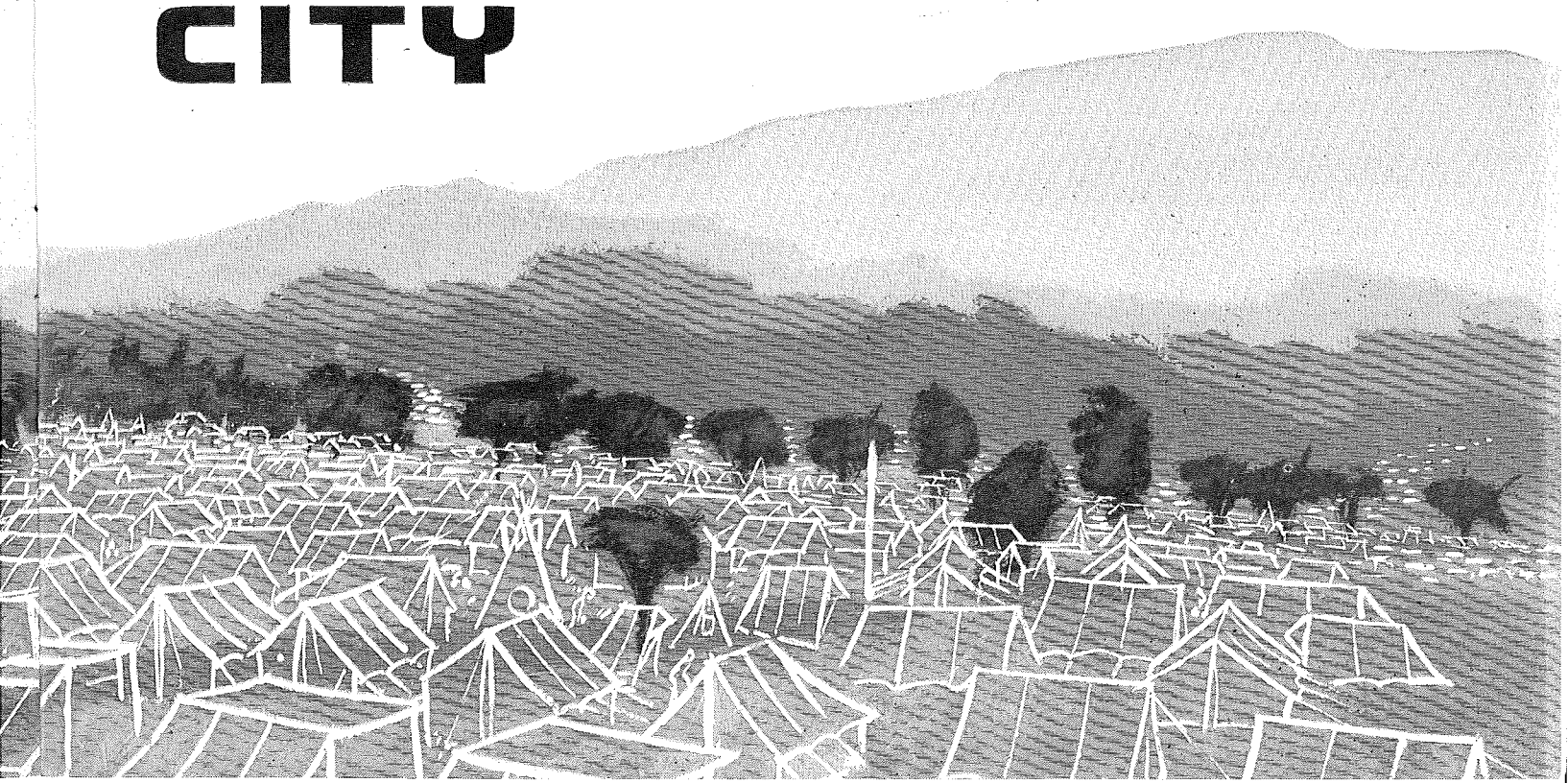
During the jamboree, on a scheduled basis, thirty-eight special trains will take jamboree campers to Philadelphia for guided tours of many historic landmarks.

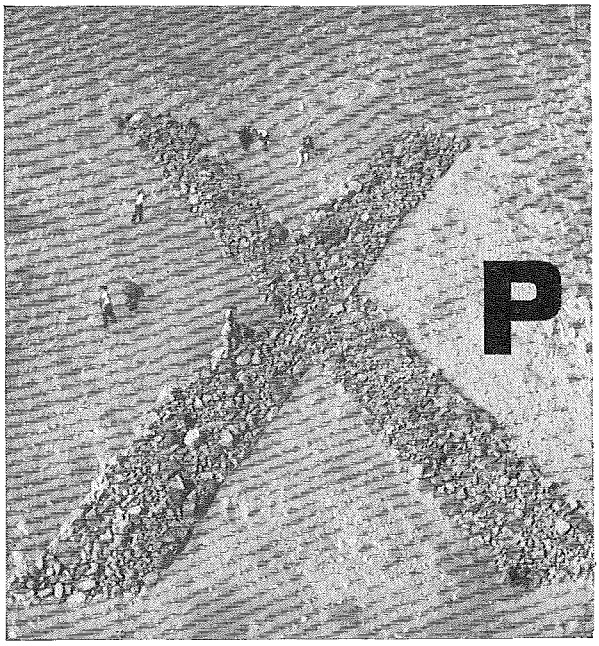
For one group of Scouts, the national jamboree will be only Act I in an eventful summer. This contingent, comprising 1,734 boys and leaders, will represent the United States at the world Scout jamboree at Sutton Park in Warwickshire, England, August 1 to 12. Scouts from other countries, en route to the world jamboree, better known as the Jubilee Jamboree, are also expected to stop over at Valley Forge.

While the Valley Forge jamboree is national rather than international, we will be honored by representatives from various foreign countries, including Bahamas, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Venezuela, and possibly others.

It's hard to measure accurately the long-term results of a jamboree. But there is abundant evidence that 50,000 boys and leaders will go back to thousands of communities all over our nation stronger and better Americans. Valley Forge will have come alive as a symbol of patriotic devotion. Rubbing shoulders with brother Scouts and Explorers from every state and many lands, living together in a great city governed by Scouting ideals and operated through Scouting organization and Scouting skills, will have left its impact. And through personal visits, radio, and TV, America will have witnessed a convincing demonstration of the sort of young citizen Scouting helps produce. For all of us who share the jamboree experience, "Onward for God and My Country" will take on deeper meaning. *END.*

CITY





The giant airmarker above, an Explorer project, is made of equal parts of boulders, perspiration, community loyalty, and dogged determination.

PLORERS WHO COULDN'T BE STOPPED

By WALTER MacPEEK
SCOUTING *Magazine Field Reporter*

THE WORLD'S LARGEST AIR MARKER is almost as long as the Empire State Building is high and can be seen from thirty-five miles away. Sprawling along the side of Usery Mountain near Phoenix, Arizona, the marker was built by a small but determined group of young men—Air Explorer Squadron 13, sponsored by the Broadway Methodist Church of Phoenix. Over five and a half years of devoted service were put into the project, with three generations of Air Explorers helping.

The marker spells "Phoenix." Each mark is 12½ feet wide and the letters are 100 feet high. An arrow points toward an emergency landing field. The marker is 902½ feet long and made of huge boulders, some of them 10 feet in diameter and weighing several tons.

When you ask the Explorers how they did it, they grin and say "teamwork." The steep, cactus-covered mountainside sheltered animals, insects, and reptiles, but the Air Explorers and their determined leader, Squadron Advisor Charles E. Merritt, just couldn't be discouraged.

The painting of the marker required forty-eight bags of lime, twelve bags of white cement, the necessary salt and milk, and the water to make 550 gallons of paint. All of this had to be carried a considerable distance up the steep slope.

"This air marker will help save lives," Advisor Merritt declared. "Just before we started working on it, a jet aircraft crashed into the side of the mountain just a few hundred yards away."

"Values to the boys who built it?" Advisor Merritt weighed the question. "No young fellow who sticks to that kind of a job and sees it through is going to let little difficulties in life lick him. These fellows are ready for anything. No less important is the lesson they have taught themselves, that it is fun to serve their community." *END*