AT COUNTDOWN

By **GEORGE A. MOZEALOUS**
Director
Exploring Service

FROM THE ROCK-BOUND COAST of Alaska to the sunny shores of Florida, council Explorer planning committees are launching the new Exploring program. It should get off the launching pad this year in each of the 535 councils.

At every council's "Cape Canaveral," careful groundwork by adults is necessary, but at the countdown, Explorers and other teen-age opinion leaders, including girls, must be there to avoid a misfire. Both the force of youth opinion and speed in getting off the launching pad are vital to put our Explorer program into the orbit of the needs of today's high-school age young men.

Among the councils reporting successful blast-offs at the teen level by the first of this year were five, in the states of California, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio, and Connecticut. Here's what they did, following the lead set by the nationally televised "Exploring with Hope" program late in November.

San Francisco Council

Principals of over thirty high schools set the stage for the Golden Gate launching. With their wives they were briefed on the program at a complimentary dinner. Later each principal selected two outstanding boys, preferably with a year or more to represent his school.

Three weeks later these representatives, accompanied by an assistant

principal or dean, attended a dinner where the new program was presented. After viewing the movie, *This Is Exploring*, each table of ten held a buzz session on how to present Exploring to their schools.

A follow-up in the schools is under way. Executive staff men appear at assemblies with an explanation emphasizing post specialties. They distribute return post cards for the boys to indicate their preferences in special-interest fields. In this way, three thousand boys will be contacted.

Meanwhile almost a hundred industrial and professional executives are being called together to learn about the specialty featuring of Exploring and to help sponsor specialty posts. The aroused interest of youth will not be allowed to cool without an opportunity to join.

St. Louis Council

On the banks of the Mississippi, the blast-off took place at a popular disc jockey's "St. Louis Hop" on television. Two hundred and fifty Explorers and their dates listened to Explorer Director Bob Nichols outline the new program. When the new blazer and slacks were modeled, they brought oh's and ah's from the girls as well as the boys. The rest of the hour was spent in dancing.

A few days later, teams of Explorers visited high school assemblies to describe the new program.

Gamehaven Council

In the Paul Bunyan country, 250 teen-agers from six southeastern Minnesota counties joined in the launching. They held a record hop and square dance at the county fairgrounds in Rochester led by a popular disc jockey and a well-known caller.

The program began with a demonstration by a couple from a ballroom dancing school. The Explorer movie was shown, the blazer and slacks modeled, and the emblem and code posters displayed. Nondancers had a game room for their entertainment. Everybody participated at the snack bar.

Toledo Council

Along the Great Lakes, Toledo area high-school newspaper editors and student council presidents were invited to an Explorer information meeting. All but two schools were represented at the two-hour evening session held at a hotel.

After the guests were welcomed and introduced, the Scout executive disclosed the purpose of the meeting. Three visual aids were shown—filmstrips with recorded narrations from the pamphlet, Explorer Leader Basic Training, First Session, Part III—*A Look Ahead;* and Third Session, Part I—*Exploring Activities;* motion picture, *This Is Exploring.*

During the question-and-answer period, the girls asked almost as many questions as the boys. The new program was summarized, and the young people were asked to tell the Exploring story among their friends. The editors were given a written outline of the program and asked to run stories in the school papers, which many of them did. The meeting closed with refreshments.

Quinnipiac Council

In New England, a launching took place at a high school leaders' conference in a well-known New Haven restaurant. Formal invitations were sent to junior and senior class leaders — class officers, editors, club presidents, and team captains. The two hundred attending were about equally divided between boys and girls, twenty-five per school.

The participation of the television disc jockey from "Connecticut Bandstand," played up in advance publicity, proved to be a major drawing card. The only adults present were those who had a part in the program.

The formal hour of the program consisted of the Explorer movie and a discussion of how to spread Exploring through teen-age speakers and poster contests. Editors were given a mimeographed statement of the new program. The last two hours were devoted to refreshments and dancing to records and a live band.

Follow-up on the launching in-

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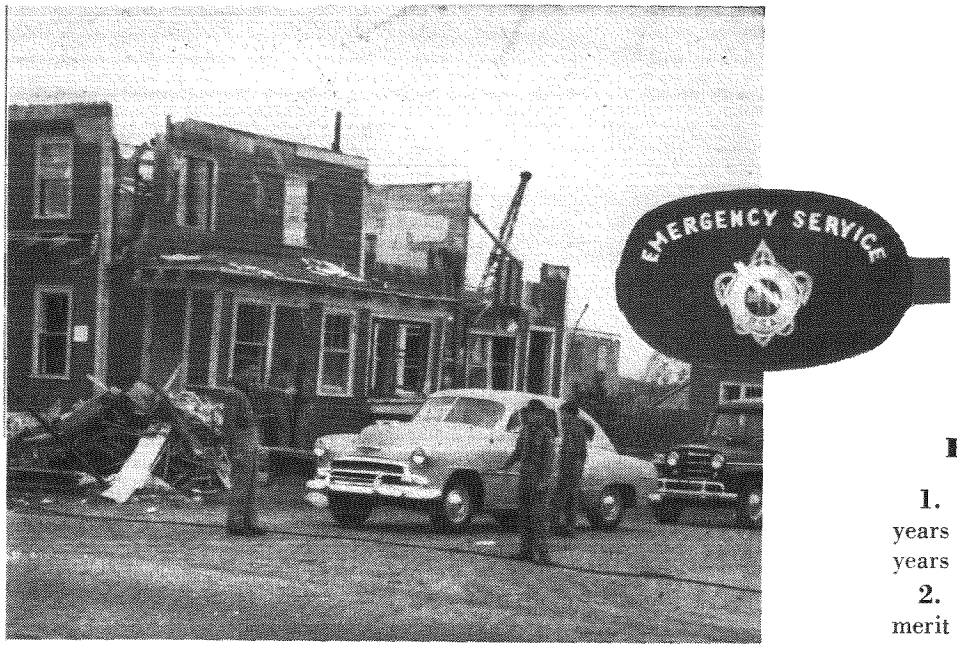

NEW EMERGENCY SERVICE PLAN

"BE PREPARED" is such a basic concept in Scouting that it provides the motto of our movement. Scouts and leaders applying this motto in times of emergencies and disasters have dramatically illustrated the service values of the program.

The unpredictable and urgent needs for emergency service demand special training in pertinent skills for the aid to be most effective. The skill to serve is as vital as the will to serve.

After more than a quarter century of experience in assisting at scenes of disaster, culminating in the 1937 Ohio River floods, the Boy Scouts of America defined its Emergency Service plan. This was revised to meet war and postwar conditions.

To maintain Scouting's reputation of able as well as willing service in emergencies and disasters, the plan was brought up to date and simplified late in 1958. Alternative qualifications and methods of meeting some of them add to the flexibility of the plan without lowering the standards.

In addition to Explorers, older Boy Scouts may qualify now. Everyone doing so will receive a pocket certificate. This in turn entitles him to wear the emergency arm band only while on duty or training. The certificate and arm band are the only forms of recognition provided.

Emergency Service Requirements

1. Be a registered Explorer or Boy Scout fourteen years of age and in the ninth grade or higher, or fifteen years of age regardless of grade.

2. Personal fitness—Qualify for the Personal Fitness merit badge, *or* do *each* of the following:

a. Submit, on a standard Boy Scouts of America medical record form, evidence of a thorough health examination by your doctor.

b. Demonstrate that you have a good understanding of the reasons for being fit; the importance of sanitation, immunization, cleanliness, proper diet, personal health habits, and prevention of accidents.

c. Swim 100 yards.

d. Demonstrate that you can meet the following physical fitness tests after you have trained for them regularly at least four days a week for four weeks; push-ups, 18; pull-ups, 5; sit-ups, 45; vertical wall jump, 16 inches; running, 1 mile in 7½ minutes.

3. First aid—Qualify for any one of the following: Red Cross standard first aid course, Bureau of Mines standard first aid course, or First Aid merit badge.

4. Special skills—To show that you are trained or proficient in *one* of the following emergency service fields, submit evidence that you have completed the necessary merit badge or course (indicated below).

Lifesaving—Red Cross junior or senior course, or YMCA junior or senior course, or Lifesaving merit badge.

Radio—Federal Communications Commission amateur or novice license, or Radio merit badge.

Light-duty rescue—Standard Civil Defense course.

Firesafety—Fire department course, or Firemanship merit badge.

Public safety—Police or safety council course; or Safety merit badge.

Boat handling—Red Cross course, U.S. Power Squadron course, Coast Guard Auxiliary course, or Rowing merit badge.

5. Know the mobilization plans of your unit, district, and council.

6. Participate in a mobilization of your unit.

7. Discuss with your Advisor or Scoutmaster potential causes for emergencies and disasters in your community, such as flood, fire, earthquake, storms, and power failure. Tell how you might serve in such situations.

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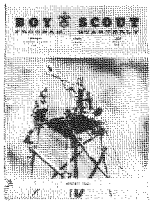
• BOY SCOUT GAMES. A volume of tested games for advancement or fun. Written by Charles F. Smith, an authority on the play way of teaching.

• LOST. Tells how to conduct a search for a lost person, how to train Scouts for search duties, and what to do if lost.



• THE BOY SCOUT PROGRAM QUARTERLY. A supermarket of helpful program ideas for troop and patrol meetings, hikes, camps, and other events. Two copies are given free of charge to each troop. If you do not receive yours, check with the council office.

• BOY SCOUT LEADER'S PROGRAM NOTEBOOK. Serves as a companion to the program quarterlies. It outlines monthly themes, providing space for planning notes on your troop's weekly activities. Councils distribute this handy book each year in late summer.

• SCOUTING MAGAZINE. A monthly source of informative and inspirational stories about Scouts and Scouters. You subscribe to this magazine when you register with the Boy Scouts of America each year.

• BOYS' LIFE. The nation's foremost youth publication. This monthly magazine offers a wealth of program material, much of it keyed to the themes of the program quarterlies.

These are the books and magazines that men like yourself find best to put snap in troop programs, answering questions of organization, and providing general information on Boy Scouting. By their own choice, Scoutmasters have elevated this literature to the philospher's highest category—"some few to be chewed and digested."

MODERN OPEN SESAME

MAGIC WORDS that open doors today, even to top-secret areas, are "Boy Scouts of America," A dozen Eagle Explorers of Boulder Dam Council found that this applied to the Nevada Test Site of the Atomic Energy Commission near Las Vegas. These boys were the first visitors, except for official observers, at the Camp Mercury site.

The modern magic words, however, do not operate instantaneously as "Open sesame" did for Ali Baba. They must go through channels to get the best results—or in some cases, any results at all.

Plans for the Explorers' visit were begun by the council in January, 1957. At that time a request was made to the A.E.C. public relations office in Las Vegas. It is reported that permission had to be cleared with the commission in Washington, D.C. At any rate, the event was finally set seven months later on July 14.

Patience paid off, for the Explorers got the full treatment. Scientists on the staff who briefed them on operation were Dr. Alvin C. Graves, scientific adviser; Dr. Gerald C. Johnson, test director; and James E. Reeves, test manager.

In the Rad-Safe Building near Control Point the boys received a run-down on radiation and safety procedures. They were familiar with procedures in the Uranium Room, the dining room where they had lunch. On Frenchman Flat they inspected Control Point and the results of blasts as close as 100 yards from the firing site.

This group illustrates a program procedure valuable for all packs, troops, and posts. The name of the Boy Scouts of America opens doors to many places where program features can be staged. The secret is to ask the cooperation of the right people at the right time so arrangements can be mutually satisfactory.

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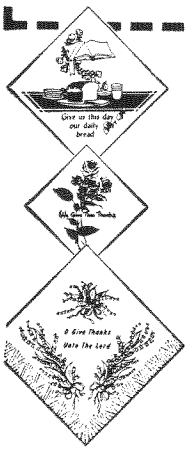

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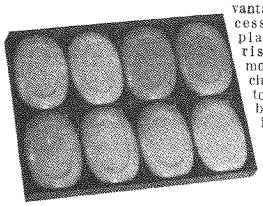

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COUNTDOWN

(Continued from page 7)

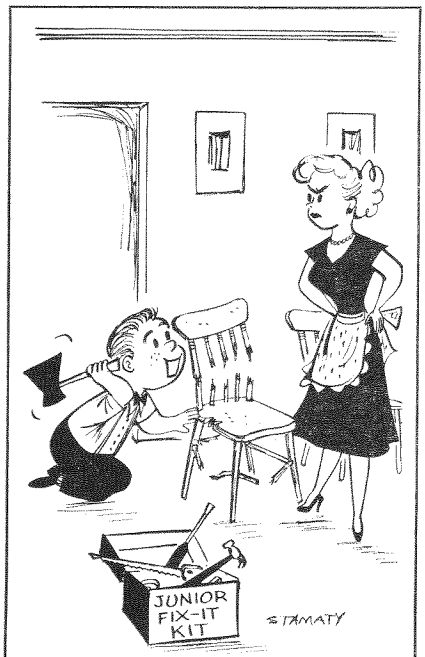
cluded a student interest survey in the ninth and tenth grades, a Sunday feature in the New Haven paper, and running the Explorer movie on television.

Your Council

If your council's countdown is still to come, find out when and where it will happen, how many high-school-agers will be there, and if you can help. The chairman of the council planning committee on Exploring is the man responsible for this as well as preliminary phases of the launching.

Plans are detailed in a public relations kit, The New Exploring Program, sent to councils last May. Further assistance to committee chairmen will be given in a special session Thursday afternoon, June 4, just before the National Council meeting in San Francisco.

Be sure your council has high-school opinion leaders at the countdown. Then keep firing until the skies are filled with new Explorer satellites, so that young Americans will see Exploring wherever they look.



"There wasn't anything for me to fix."

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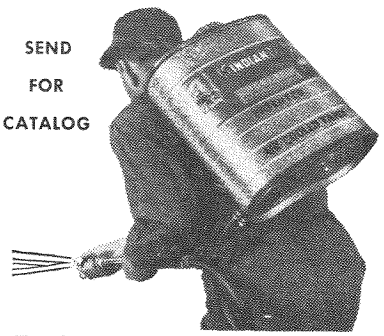

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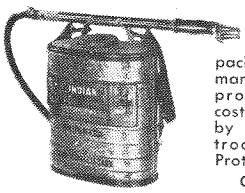

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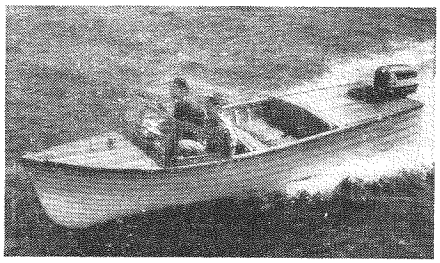

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