Deep - Freeze Explorer

AS YOU READ THIS Kent L. Goering, Explorer and Eagle Scout, may be taking a hot shower down inside a Greenland glacier.

Kent, a seventeen-year-old member of Post 99, Neodesha, Kansas, and a Danish Boy Scout Soren Gregersen, are representing Scouting at Camp Century. That is the United States Army Corps of Engineers research base buried beneath the ice at the northern tip of Greenland. For the third time the Boy Scouts of America is honored by having a member as a junior scientific aide on a government polar expedition.

Our deep freeze Explorer is following the example—if not the direction—of Dr. Paul A. Siple who, as a Scout, went to Antarctica with Admiral Richard E. Byrd in 1928, and Richard L. Chappell who went there with the International Geophysical Year expedition in 1958. Both of them served on the committee that selected Kent.

The seven finalists, screened from more than two hundred applicants, were brought together in New York City for interviews by the committee. Their accomplishments in school, church, and Scouting made the first choice extremely difficult and proved him a truly outstanding young man.

Kent graduated in June from Neodesha High School, second high in a class of seventy-six. His scholastic honors include four Rotary Club scholarships, an Elks Club leadership scholarship, six science awards, a Navy ROTC four-year scholarship, and a scholarship at the University of Kansas where he plans to major in mathematics.

In his church Kent sings in the choir and has been Sunday school secretary, deacon, and president of youth groups. He has earned the God and Country Award.

Kent began his ten years of Scouting as a Cub Scout and continued in the troop and post sponsored by the men's club in the Methodist Church. In Troop 28 he rose to the office of senior patrol leader and became an Eagle Scout with sixty-eight merit badges. In Post 99 he has been president.

Further leadership ability is indicated by his record as jamboree patrol leader, nature counselor at Sekan Area Council camp for four years, Philmont Scout Ranch ranger, Order of the Arrow lodge chief, crew leader for a Canadian canoe trip, and a Report to the Nation Explorer.

Kent's 270 days of camping experience should prove a useful background at Camp Century. However, life for ice worms, as the hundred army and scientific men in the subglacial town call themselves, is far different than any six months that Kent has experienced.

The camp, 800 miles from the North Pole and 150 miles west of Thule Air Force Base, has temperatures of 50 degrees below zero and winds of 100 miles per hour.

(Continued on page 26)

Seven finalists and selection committeemen are, left to right, seated: Joseph A. Brunton, Jr., Chief Scout Executive; Jack A. LeCuyer; Harry M. Addinsell, chairman, National Court of Honor; Kent L. Goering, final selection; Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Hanmer, deputy chief of engineers. Standing: Lawrence R. Mansur; Thomas G. McGee; John I. Rankin; Dr. Paul A. Siple, director, Army Office of Polar Affairs; John W. Hartwell; Peter M. Allison; Richard L. Chappell.

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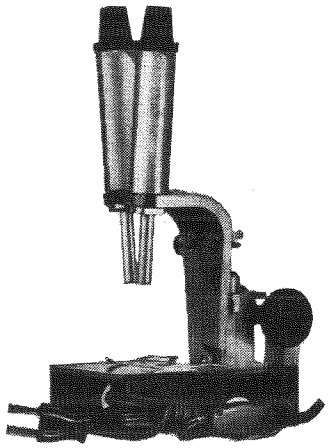

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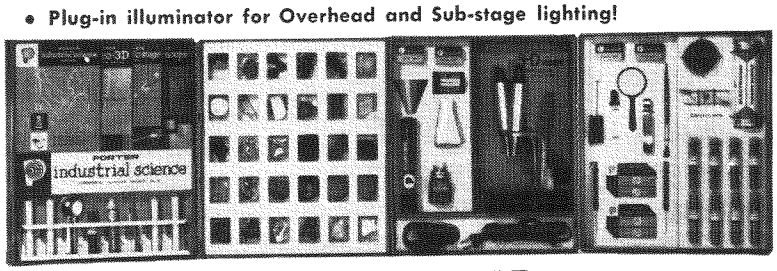

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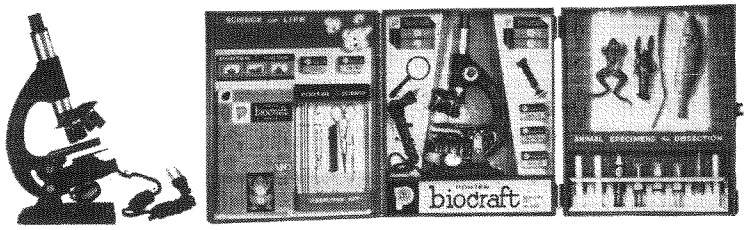

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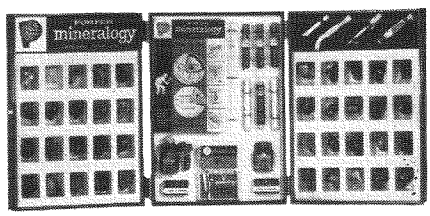

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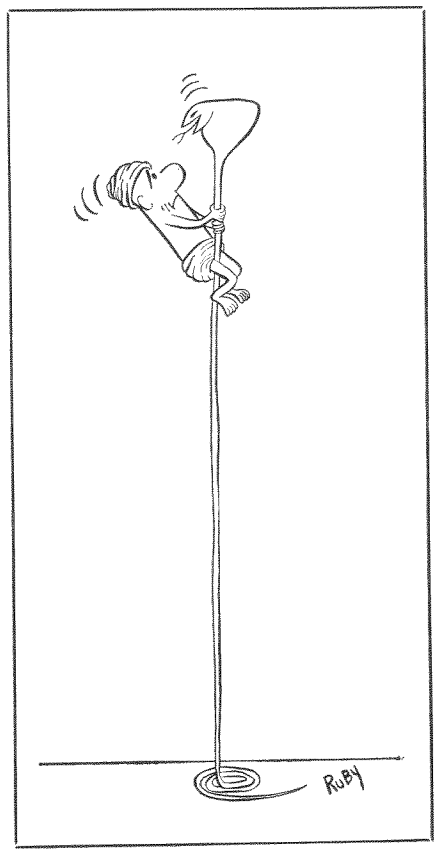
(Continued from page 7)

As described in the May *Reader's Digest* and the September 10 *Saturday Evening Post*, Camp Century is four blocks long, three blocks wide and twenty-five feet deep.

Its twenty-eight buildings in ice tunnels are heated, lighted, and ventilated by a nuclear reactor. They include a chapel, library, movies, television—and the first hot showers ever inside a glacier.

Research is being done on meteorology, glaciology, and the operation of polar bases. Besides sharing in camp maintenance tasks, Kent assists the scientists and engineers. His assignments are rotated to give him a variety of experience.

SCOUTING magazine sends a warm salute to our deepfreeze correspondent in Greenland. We will keep our readers in touch with him until he thaws out for the return trip in April.