S C O U T E R G R A M

Dates and places of the 1963 Regional Explorer Delegate Conferences are: I, June 14-16, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.; II, June 21-23, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.; III, June 24-26, Penn State University, University Park, Pa.; IV, May 3-5, Fort Knox, Ky.; V, May 3-5, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.; VI, June 7-9, Rock Eagle Camp, Eatonton, Ga.; VII, May 3-5, Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill.; VIII, April 26-28, Continental Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.; IX, June 6-9, Baylor University, Waco, Texas; X, June 21-23 Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.; XI, June 13-15, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Ore.; XII, June 28-30, University of California, Davis, Calif.

First ever to reach 100 per cent of members subscribing to BOYS' LIFE was Lebanon County Council, Pa., in December, 1962. In fact, they also had some adults subscribing and went 1.4 over the 100 per cent mark.

Teams in the third annual Explorer National Bowling Tournament will compete on their home lanes between April 20 and May 4. Entries closed March 31, and the American Junior Bowling Congress is sending out official score sheets with handicaps assigned. Trophies will be awarded national and regional champions.

These all-time highs in membership were recorded on December 31, 1962, thanks to the efforts of Scouters in bringing the program to more boys: Cub Scouts 1,892,797, Boy Scouts 1,708,707, Explorers 307,981, total boys 3,909,485, adults 1,412,682, total boys and men 5,322,167, packs 50,106, troops 63,314, Explorer units 21,969, total units 135,389. The Explorers' gain of 7.5 per cent over the previous year was the highest of all categories.

As many as 100 international camp counselors from European countries will be available to Boy Scout camps in the U.S.A. this summer. Forty-five councils have indicated an interest in having them. Other councils should write the Camping Service at once if interested. All counselors are at least 18, have Scout training, speak English, and work for a fee of $250 plus board and lodging from June 27 to approximately August 22. Camp directors rated the 35 in the 1962 group as excellent.

April observances that Scouting groups might wish to support are National Sunday School Week April 8-14, National Library Week April 21-27, Bike Safety Week April 22-27, Teaching Career Month April 1-30.

A new, simplified Health and Medical Record, No. 4410, is fresh off the press. It replaces all others used by the Boy Scouts of America for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers, and Scouters (adults) in connection with camp, jamboree, and our fitness program.

Six more merit badge pamphlets have been recorded for blind Scouts: Athletics, Citizenship. First Aid, Home Repairs, Music and Bugling, Nature Study. Previously recorded were Bookbinding, Camping, Firemanship. All may be borrowed from Recordings for the Blind, 121 E. 58th St., New York 22, N.Y.

Awards of bronze medals and $500 each were presented in January by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission to three 16-year-old boys who had also received honor medals from our National Court of Honor for heroism in life saving. They are Larry D. Hoppe, Troop 48, Winnebago, Minn.; Everett P. Evenson, Post 175, Eugene, Oregon; and Charles S. Brashears, Ship 540, Bremerton, Wash.

QUINCY'S EXPLORER Explosion

By HAROLD KAPPLER
Chairman, Exploring Committee
Saukee Council

WHEN WE EXAMINED THE INTERESTS of Explorer age boys in the Quincy, Ill., schools, the results of our survey were almost identical to the findings of the University of Michigan's nationwide study of high-school age boys.

In January, 1961, we began to meet the needs revealed in our survey. We developed a list of the most popular interest areas and matched them with twelve of our leading industries. Paul Cory, our dynamic organization and extension chairman, agreed to talk with the key men of these potential industrial sponsors.

Cory got an enthusiastic response from each industry contact. These men were eager to help teen-age boys get a picture of what goes on in their industry, particularly in terms of a possible vocation.

Next we brought these key men together at a dinner given for them in a plant cafeteria. The whole Exploring plan was explained, particularly as it related to specialty posts. Other civic and school leaders were present and the motion picture *This Is Exploring* was shown. Altogether 100 people participated, including men from three existing posts.

Five or more men from each industry agreed to attend three nights of training to learn the ins and outs of administering Exploring. Six council Scouters conducted the training for 78 men who completed the course.

Our first approach to the boys was at assemblies in the junior and senior high schools. Incidentally, girls also attended the assemblies. We distributed Explorer post directories listing all existing and potential posts and containing a coupon for the prospect to fill out and indicate his interest areas.

In two interest areas as many as 60 boys wanted to get into posts. However, in one area, a pattern shop where the specialty would be shopwork, there were not enough takers. This area developed later.

Industries sponsoring the various specialty posts then sent letters to interested boys inviting them to attend an organization meeting. An instructor from the Exploring training course attended each meeting as the resource person and to bring back the completed charter application. Soon there were 300 new Explorers and 12 new posts. That's why they called it the Explorer Explosion.

Shortly thereafter the posts staged a Sunday afternoon Explorer demonstration in which each post demonstrated its specialty at the Naval Training Center Armory. Quincy's new day for Exploring even strengthened the three older posts.

However, growth was so swift that neighborhood commissioners had difficulty spotting some individual post problems that soon arose.

One post had trouble when its program became almost all classroom work. This overspecialization convinced the leaders that a post's program cannot be all work.

Another post met reverses and temporarily became inactive when its industry changed managers and relocated in another part of the city. Leaders later recognized that they had made a mistake in not salvaging these boys, although some of them, on their own initiative, did transfer to other posts.

The district now has settled down to 12 active Explorer units. Several posts are still in the offing—a medical post at Blessing Hospital and a TV-newspaper post. Of the more than 300 Explorers, not more than 20 per cent came directly out of troops. Our "explosion" also brought more than 100 new men into Scouting.

Do you wonder that Scouters of the Saukee Council are enthusiastic about Quincy's Explorer Explosion?