S C O U T E R G R A M

• James W. Whittaker, first American to reach the top of Mt. Everest, did his first mountain hiking 21 years ago as a member of Troop 272, Seattle, Wash. Jim used an exact duplicate of the B.S.A.'s cruiser pack frame in scaling the world's highest peak.

• The site of the Second National Explorer Delegate Conference will be the University of Kansas. Dates will be August 16-20, 1964.

• "Jubilee Jamboree," the Boy Scouts of America motion picture about the 1960 Colorado Springs encampment, has received still another award, its fourth—a Golden Eagle from Cine, an organization of the National Education Association. The award is presented to films chosen to be shown abroad. "Jubilee Jamboree" competed in recent international film exhibition in Venice, Italy.

• The B.S.A. has also received second place awards from the National Visual Presentation Association for two filmstrips: "Board of Review" and "How Scouting Dollars Serve."

• Anthony J. Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, recently registered as a member at large of the National Capital Area Council. Thus, the President's Cabinet remains 100 per cent B.S.A. Celebrezze also supported Scouting while mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

• Bowling champs of the third annual national Explorer tournament are members of Post 32, St. Michael's Church, Staten Island, N.Y. Mitchell Lambo, Post 133, Bronx, N.Y., won the individual championship for the second straight year with a series total of 668 pins.

• Two special plaques were presented to the B.S.A. at its Annual Meeting in New York. One was from National Youth Hostels, expressing appreciation for the work that Scouting has done in cooperation with their organization relating to the People-to-People program. The other plaque was presented by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Mormon-Scouting partnership.

• A study of Cub Scout age boys will be conducted beginning this fall and continuing into early 1964.

• Freedoms Foundation has added a new category to its 1963 national and school awards—the "youth campfire programs in organized camps" category. As many as 50 awards of $50.00 with George Washington Honor Medals and Certificates will be given for outstanding programs based on American heritage themes.

The new awards are possible through a grant to the foundation by Raymond Burr, star of "The Perry Mason Show" on television. Any person, group, or organization may make nominations for the awards. Information and nomination forms can be obtained from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa.

• The Boy Scouts of America has offered to serve as host to the world jamboree and world conference in 1967, extending an invitation that these events be held in the U.S.A.

• Two more new merit badges have been approved—Atomic Energy and Electronics. Requirements for these badges will soon appear in SCOUTING magazine and will be included in the 1964 edition of "Boy Scout Requirements."

• The National Council is collecting rocks at its home office. In fact, one rock is being recruited from each of our 528 Scout councils. The purpose: to build a special cairn, representative of the nationwide scope of Scouting, that will form a landmark at the B.S.A. exhibit at the New York World's Fair next year. When the fair is over in 1965, the rocks will be reassembled in the form of a permanent map of the U.S. at the Johnston Historical Museum in New Brunswick.

Many councils sent their rocks with delegates to last May's Annual Meeting. Councils which have not yet sent in their specimens are urged to forward them directly to the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, New Brunswick, N. J., as soon as possible.

• Approximately 10,000 acres were recently added to Philmont Scout Ranch's 127,000 acres with the acquisition of the "Baldy" tract.

SPECIALTY

We got boys from the old troop together and organized a post—but suddenly everyone wanted to go in a different direction.

By JACK I. LAVENDOL
Explorer Advisor
Post 713
Levittown, N. Y.

WE HAVE THE LARGEST TEEN-AGE GANG in Nassau County, almost 60 Explorers. I'm so proud of them I could bust everytime I see them in action, whether on parade, at a skating contest, visiting West Point, or just having fun.

We started our post with former members of our old troop. These boys went to high school together, played ball together, and were "at home" in any one of a dozen homes. We bought *Exploring* manuals, elected officers, and progressed rapidly in our organization. It was an easy start.

But what should we specialize in? Larry had suddenly become a scientist. Steve became a judo expert. Bill was a track star. Max was great at the piano. Bob took his father's old Plymouth apart and made it run. Tom, Bill, and Eddie were roller skating champions. Jack was an artist. Harry just liked to eat, so he was a great cook.

Let's get an old car and fix it. No! Let's get down to the track field. No! Let's start a judo team. No! Let's go skating. No! Let's go camping this weekend. Ah, I've got a date with my girl Saturday night. Nah, I got to work at the gas station—I need the money for a new wrench set. I can't go; I've got a piano lesson Saturday morning. I've got an appointment Saturday with my science teacher.

What had happened to my boys? They had been like sons to me since their Tenderfoot Scout days. All I had to do was suggest, and it was done. Now if I wanted something, I had to be able to debate the point. Almost overnight they had become individualists interested in different subjects; and although they had spent several years together in Scouting, they were growing further apart because of these interests.

Oh, I knew what would pull them together; we'd become super campers—they'd go for that. Yes, they did, but not at the old camp sites. Well, let's plan a bike trip to Niagara Falls and Canada. We'll visit Canadian Scout camps. Wow! Needless to say we had a ball and that means me, too.

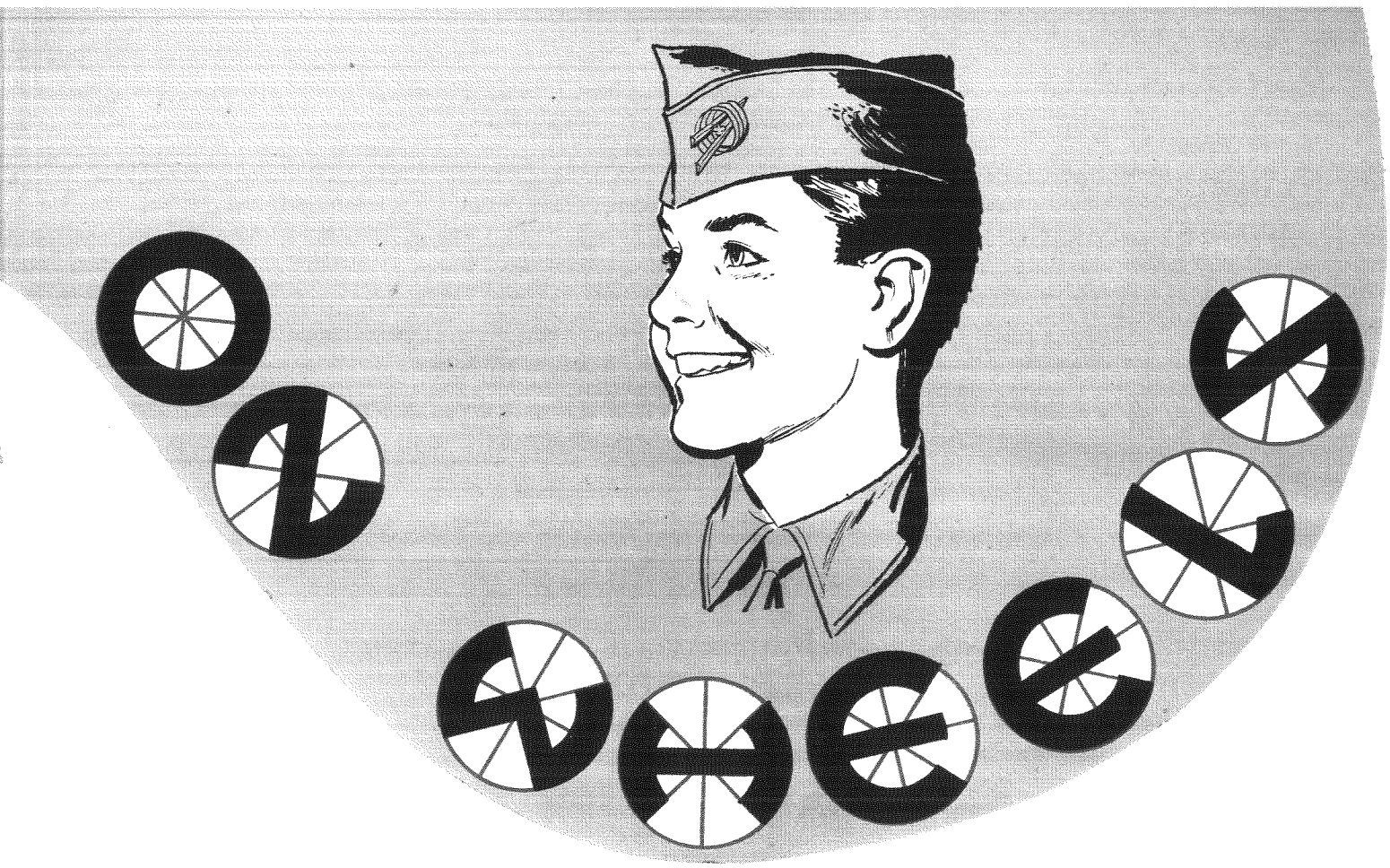
But it wasn't all peaches and cream. They whistled at girls along the way, and I felt the color rising to the roots of the little hair I had left. After all, they were wearing the Explorer uniform. I called them together to admonish them on the proper attitude to the other half of the world called female.

My own son said with a gleam in his eye, "What do you want to know, Pop?" Eddie, one of the best two-fisted, American-boy types, said, "Oh, come on, Mr. Lavendol, don't tell me you never whistled at girls." "Well, now, boys, I'll tell you . . ." and as I looked into the 13 grinning faces, we all burst out laughing.

The summer over, we settled down to regular meetings, poorly attended because of part-time jobs, homework, Saturday night dates, athletic teams, science clubs, art clubs, and so on.

What happened to our up-and-coming post? We couldn't go on a superactivity every week or every month, nor were we satisfied with the hopped-up Boy Scout program we were trying to work up.

I knew, too, that a boy interested in science wants to talk to boys who have a common interest. He wants to exchange ideas with fellows from high schools in neighboring towns. He has lost interest in the path of least imagination—"Let's specialize in camping."



Suddenly the light came to me. We're putting the cart before the horse. The solution to our basic Explorer problem: Establish the specialty and then build the post around the specialty.

This would create the kind of interest that would bring boys back week after week, and we'd have no trouble introducing the rest of the program from the *Exploring* manual. All the boys would no longer be in the neighborhood gang nor would they live near each other, and they'd probably find it difficult to get transportation to the meetings. They would be from different high schools and thus be widening their ability to make new friends.

At this point you must have a dozen questions and many doubts because I had about two years ago. I am a professional roller skater and was assistant manager at Levittown Roller Rink in East Meadow, N. Y. Three of the fellows had been competitive artistic skaters when they joined our original Scout troop. Later I had recommended a few of our Explorers for part-time jobs as skate boys and food-concession helpers. Thus when the idea of a roller skating post flashed into my mind, I had a nucleus of nine boys to start with.

Toying with a roller skating specialty, I enlisted the support of America on Wheels, Levittown Rink, to become our sponsor. When I explained that we needed a place to meet and skate, I received wholehearted support from the management. Our artistic instructors became associate Advisors and gave free instruction to our members. In all I have seven associates, including four former Eagle Scouts.

We have grown to be a post of 84 members, some former Boy Scouts or Explorers, some never enrolled before. At almost every meeting one or two boys apply for membership.

We specialize in race, hockey, dance and free-style skating. Obviously, a young man can't learn to dance skate without a partner, so we enlisted the help of girl members of the Amateur Skating Association. In no time at all the girls were so thrilled with the activities that I was showered with questions about Exploring.

"Mr. Lavendol, we didn't know you had so much fun." "Can we form a club of our own to help the Explorers skate?" "Will you please be our leader?" "May we have more coed activities?" How could anyone say no?

We haven't had a month go by in two years without a planned activity. We meet 52 weeks of the year. Suddenly homework, dates, school teams, and other excuses all seem to fit into place and our meetings are always heavily attended. It is not unusual to see 100 teen-agers skating in pairs to organ music with proper instruction and supervision.

The post's specialty of roller skating gets the full Exploring program to the leaders' specialty — young people.

NEW PROGRAM AIDS

UNLESS otherwise indicated, these items are available through your council office or Scout distributor.

BOY SCOUT SONGBOOK, No. 3226A, 40 cents. The book is completely redone, and the collection of 150 songs contains 40 new ones. Enlarged type makes it easier to use at campfires or any Scout gathering.

BOY SCOUT HANDBOOK, hard-cover edition, No. 3225, $2.50. The regular handbook bound in a green hard cover is best for library use and makes an attractive presentation piece for Scouters and friends of Scouting.

POW WOW GUIDE, No. 4388, 75 cents; PACK ADMINISTRATION, No. 4389A, 75 cents; SKITS, PUPPETS, AND CEREMONIES, No. 4390A, 50 cents; CRAFTS FOR CUB SCOUTS, No. 4391A, 50 cents; GAMES, TRICKS, AND PUZZLES, No. 4392A, 50 cents. All five of these Cubbers' pow wow booklets will be sold to the participants for use in pack and den programs as well as the pow wow. The booklets have been thoroughly revised and brought up to date.

CORRESPONDENCE CARD, No. 4909A, 3 cents. Of postal-card size, it bears a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Explorer in color on the left side.

CAMPWAYS INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORM—MILITARY, No. 4429, 1 cent. One side outlines the steps in making reservations for overnight facilities for Scouting groups at military reservations. The other side is a form for requesting information about such facilities and for making reservations.

Recording for ceremonies

A patriotic recording of "Make America Proud of You," No. 3039, 98 cents, is available for use in unit, district, or council ceremonies. Fred Waring prepared the choral arrangements, and Don McNeill did the narration. One side of the 45 r.p.m. record is in march tempo, the other side slower.

Explorer cabinet captured on film

Ways and workings of the district Explorer cabinet are pictured and explained to cabinet members and officers in a new color filmstrip *available through council offices*. Entitled *The District Explorer Cabinet*, this visual aid is done in original art work and stunning color photography. With it comes a high-fidelity recording and a printed guide. Every district cabinet should see it at least once a year to keep on the track in developing district Explorer activities.

World Scout items

Flags and poster stamps bearing the world Scout emblem (illustrated) and a book on world Scouting are now available. The flags come in two sizes (2x3 and 4x6), costing $6.50 and $11.00, plus $1.50 postage. The stamps (postage-stamp size but not for postage) are 20 cents a sheet of 12 or three sheets for 50 cents. The book *Facts on World Scouting* outlines the organization of the world Scout movements and gives brief presentations of Scouting in 36 countries. The price is 50 cents. These three items only may be ordered directly from the Boy Scouts World Bureau, 77 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa 4, Canada.

Requests for information and all other correspondence relating to world Scouting should be sent to the Boy Scouts of America, International Relationships Service, New Brunswick, N. J. The bureau is not staffed to handle a large amount of correspondence and will count it a real Good Turn if Scouts and Scouters in this country channel their requests through the National office.

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