(from page 4)

SCOUTERS' DIGEST

refused a tip from Boyce. The boy had accompanied the publisher to a London address that Boyce had trouble finding. World traveler Boyce was so impressed that he felt compelled to learn more about Scouting. B-P satisfied his curiosity. Boyce returned to the States and incorporated the BSA on February 8, 1910, in Washington, D.C.

To recognize Boyce's contribution to Scouting, the Pennsylvanian Scouts erected a concrete monument atop a base of Belgian blocks. Surmounting the monument is an aluminum plaque bearing a portrait of Boyce. It is placed on land overlooking Boyce's birthplace in Plum, Pa. Local businessmen and townspeople provided the materials for the memorial.

Fired with their success, Dr. McClung and Troop 141 are now turning their efforts to getting the Federal Government to issue a commemorative stamp in Boyce's honor.

METRIC SYSTEM NOTHING NEW. A news note in the January 1914 issue of *Scouting* read: "GET A METRIC CHART. Mr. S. W. Stratton, the Director of the Bureau of Standards at the Department of Commerce in Washington, has recently sent to National Headquarters a complimentary copy of the International metric chart. Mr. Stratton generously offers to send one of these charts free of charge to any Scoutmaster who will promise to place it on the wall of his troop headquarters where the Scouts may refer to it. It is hoped that many troops will avail themselves of this generous offer, as there has been recently so much additional support for the universal adoption of this international system."
Editor's note: This offer is no longer current.

EXPLORING MAGAZINE Any Advisor, associate Advisor, committee member or sponsor coordinator associated with posts that registered (or reregistered) during or prior to September should have received a copy of the November issue of *Exploring* magazine containing a Leaders' Insert.

However, Exploring volunteers who have a primary registration at a district or council level get *Scouting* magazine instead of *Exploring*. *Exploring* may be secured in addition to *Scouting* by payment of the special $1.50 subscription rate through your local council service center.

Post adult leaders and Explorers who registered for the first time in October will receive their first issue of *Exploring* in December.

If you know of any post adult leaders who get magazines without the leaders' insert, tell them to check with their council service center. If they confirm that their primary registration is with a post, then they should immediately notify the Subscription Service, *Exploring* Magazine, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

NEW FIRST AID CHART. Probably the best and most thorough printed first aid information is in the manual issued by the American Red Cross. Our own BSA *First Aid* merit badge pamphlet is also excellent for Scouts. But for a quick, ready reference for common, household injuries, you might want a copy of a new first aid chart. It is published by the Council on Family Health in cooperation with the American Medical Association and other health agencies.

The chart can be posted inside a medicine or kitchen cabinet. It tells what to do for bleeding, burns, shock, broken bones, eye contamination and gives the technique for artificial resuscitation. It has other hints for handling home medicines.

Single copies of this chart, *First Aid in the Home,* are available free by writing to: Dept. FAS, Council on Family Health, 633 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

A FIRST AT PHILMONT. If our sources have their records in order, Sister Frances Marie, Dallas, may be the first Catholic nun to spend 14 days with a group of Explorers on a trek at Philmont Scout Ranch.

This Sister is not only an avid backpacker but is associate Advisor of Explorer Post 1 sponsored by the South Central Regional staff (BSA) based in "Big D." Forty Explorers from Ursuline Academy and Jesuit High School make up the post's membership. Sister Frances Marie, incidentally, when not helping lead Post 1, is principal of Ursuline Academy.

BOOK BROWSING. *Consumer Tire Guide,* Consumer Information Center, Dept. 43, Pueblo, Colo. 81009. If you're as befuddled as most people about those designations on auto tires, markings like "F78-14," "Load Range B," or "DOT-" followed by numbers, you need this free pamphlet. It tells how to interpret those marks, how to choose the right tire for your car, how to rotate tires, how to perform your own tire inspection. It also helps you spot abnormal tread wear and suggests techniques for driving in unusual weather.

The Worlds of Ernest Thompson Seton, Edited by Jack G. Samson, special holiday offer, $19.95, ends Dec. 31, 1976, Audiovisual Division, BSA, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902. ETS — as Seton signed himself — was, besides one of the founders of the BSA, a distinguished naturalist and artist. This beautifully done volume is a collection of 135 of Seton's paintings, sketches and drawings and his accompanying commentaries of animals and birds he encountered in three separate environments of North America, North, East and West. The printed reproduction of the art is faithful to the lifelike colors Seton used. Paper used for the 208-page book is a heavy, glossy stock. A bonus is a 13-page-long sampler from ETS's *Indians and Woodcraft* placed at the end of the book. You may also purchase the book at the Johnston National Scouting Museum, North Brunswick, and at the Seton Museum, Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, N. Mex., but mail orders come only from the Audiovisual Division.

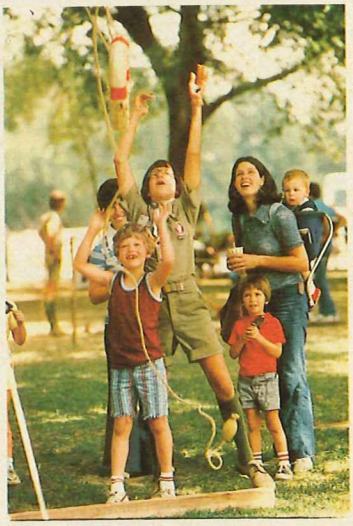
Much of the art reproduced in the book is stored permanently at Philmont's Seton Museum. When you're at Philmont, make sure that you see it.

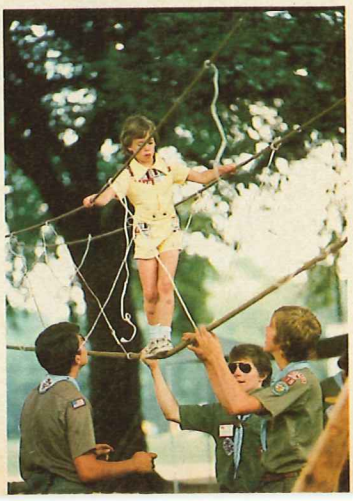
EAGLES ON THE POTOMAC

(Above) Visitors to the Washington, D.C., encampment enjoyed first aid tips, (photos at right) ring buoy toss and making it across homemade monkey bridge.

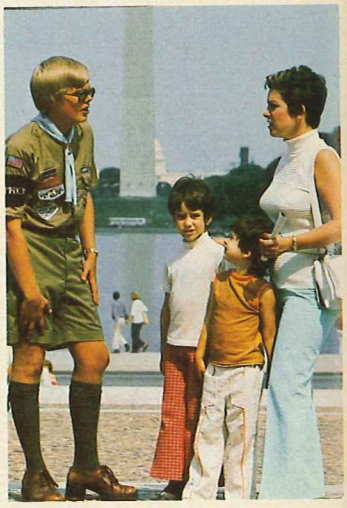
More than seven hundred of Scouting/USA's finest spent the Bicentennial summer in Washington, D.C. serving the public.

BY BOB PETERSON





(Above) Geodesic dome at Scouting/USA Center near Lincoln Memorial was the site of dozens of Scouting events. (Below) Eagle Scouts served as tour guides.



The Indian drum throbbed hypnotically, luring tourists from the looming marble mass of the Lincoln Memorial. In a grassy ring across the street, the dancer in full Indian regalia adroitly picked up 15 hoops, one by one, with his feet and webbed them into the intricate latticework of the hoop dance.

Nearby in the cool grove a long stone's throw from the Potomac River, other young men in Scout uniforms gave expert demonstrations of first aid, camp cookery and pioneering skills.

The dancer, who finished to a burst of applause from several score of spectators, was Eagle Scout Ronald W. Verheyen of Jersey City, N.J., an Order of the Arrow champion dancer. The other young men were all Eagle Scouts, too.

The scene was the Eagle Scout Bicentennial Celebration, a summerlong tribute to the nation in which the Boy Scouts of America put its best foot forward in Washington. Some 760 young Eagle Scouts spent two weeks each in and near the capital in troops of about 36 with a Scoutmaster and three assistants.

It was part service, part sight-seeing, part demonstrations of Scouting. And for most of the Eagles, all fun. Typical was the reaction of Alan Lambert of Wantagh, N.Y., who served as barker for Ron Verheyen's Indian dance and the Scouting demonstrators. "It's been just great," he said. "I thought when I came here that I wanted to be a professional Scouter, and this experience confirmed it."

Alan said he had originally planned to go to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico last summer. "But when I heard about this, I decided to come here," he said. "I can go to Philmont anytime, but this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. It cost me over $300 to come, but it's been worth every penny and more."

Three troops of Eagles were in Washington at all times, operating on a cycle of three periods, each four days long. They were billeted at Fort Belvoir, Va., a 45-minute bus ride from the capital.

After orientation at Belvoir, the Eagles toured the Washington area for the first four days. Most hiked or rode the 6½-mile National Capital Bicentennial Trail, the 7½-mile Lincoln Pilgrimage and the President's Trail, covering on these tours the chief landmarks and historic sites in Washington. They also visited the Fairchild Industries plant in Germantown, Md., which manufactures space and military equipment, and Harper's Ferry, W.Va., the site of John Brown's raid, one of the triggers for the Civil War.

The tours served as valuable background for their later service as National Capital Parks Service aides. The second four-day period, however, found the troop at the Scouting/USA Center near the Lincoln Memorial. The center was dominated by a huge geodesic dome erected by the Parks Service and decorated with colorful reproductions of merit badges and National Eagle Scout Association emblems.

The dome housed the center's staff, a trading post for Scout materials, literature and souvenirs and a hospitality area where tourists could lean back in upholstered lawn chairs and rest weary feet on a floor of wood shavings.

In front of the center was a ring where, during the early part of the summer, Eagles gave their demonstrations of Scouting skills. During the latter weeks, the demonstrations were moved 100 yards across Independence Avenue, nearer the Lincoln Memorial, to attract tourists riding the Mall's tourmobiles and the crowds at the Festival of American Folklife, a gigantic display of folk arts and crafts which lined the south side of the reflecting pool between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

This meant that every morning and afternoon, the Eagles had to lug all their equipment, including pioneering poles, tents and flies, cooking gear and tables, back and forth between the center and their demonstration area. But it was worth it because it also meant that their audiences grew.

After four days as Scouting's exemplars and showmen, the troop moved into the final four days of service to the National Capital Parks Service. Most troops were broken up into two-man patrols for information guide work along The Mall, answering questions and giving directions. One Eagle, working with the Red Cross, helped speed a pregnant woman to a hospital in time for the birth.

One troop spent a day cleaning and scouring the pink granite reflecting pool in front of Scouting's own monument in Washington. It was erected in 1964 on the Ellipse between the White House and Washington Monument to mark the first 50 years of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Eagle troops that were in Washington over Independence Day weekend 1976 took part in the Charter of Freedom Vigil, standing watch for 46 hours around the clock. On July 4, they were part of the observance at Fort Belvoir.

Ron Verheyen and Alan Lambert were members of Eagle Scout Troop 13, which was in Washington from July 25 to Aug. 5 and was made up of 28 Eagles from the Northeast Region, plus two from Florida and one from Jakarta, Indonesia. Their Scoutmaster was Sheldon "Shelly" Weil, district chairman of the Nassau Blazers District of the Nassau County Council on Long Island, N.Y., himself an Eagle and the father of another member of the troop, Eagle Scout Gary J. Weil.

Shelly Weil is a man of many parts. He is an Indian-lore hobbyist — and sang the authentic chants accompanying some of Ron Verheyen's dances. He is a ham radio operator — and so Station K2BSA was broadcasting from the Scouting/USA Center during Troop 13's tenure there. He is a trumpeter — and with his son Gary and three other Eagles, made up a quintet of trumpets, bugles and drum for flag ceremonies during their stint at the center.

Reflecting his interests and commitment, Troop 13 was a smart, spirited group of young men. And, as you might expect of Eagles, chock full of leadership talents.

"They're all leaders back home," Assistant Scoutmaster Camp Hopkins, Jr., of Cranford, N.J., pointed out. The result was that they had a tough time choosing a senior patrol leader for their pro tem troop.

"It took them three days," Shelly Weil noted, because of the embarrassment of leadership riches. At first the Eagles debated the *(continued on page 45)*

EAGLES *(from page 35)*

possibility of rotating the job daily but rejected that idea because only 12 of the 31 could serve even a day. Finally, Troop 13 elected Gerard Souser, Jr., of Ohara Township, Pa.

If it took Troop 13 a while to straighten out its leadership structure, it took no time at all to organize demonstrations for its four days at the Scouting/USA Center. Mark S. Nussman of West Hartford, Conn., told why: "In a regular troop, you have lots of young Scouts who have to be trained. But here they're all Eagles, and they can do it all. It's just been fantastic working with these guys."

The idea for the Eagle Scout Bicentennial summer was born in 1966 at a planning conference of the BSA's national Public Relations committee. The event was planned by a committee of volunteers headed by Thomas Turner, corporate vice-president of Fairchild Industries, and the working staff was directed during most of the summer by Claude Lapsley, BSA associate director of National Events.

Fairchild Industries was one of four organizations which gave support to the Eagle celebration. The others were the National Capital Parks Service, the Army and the National Eagle Scout Association.

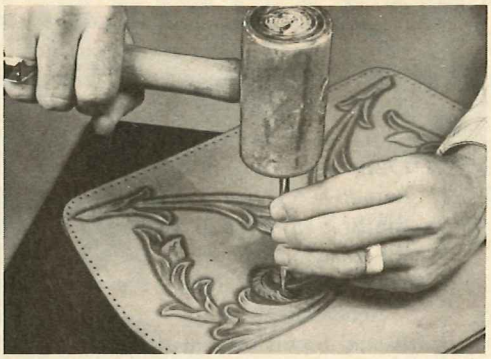
Summarizing the celebration, Fairchild's Tom Turner, who had met every one of the Eagles during their orientation or their visit to his company, said that many of the Eagles had told him it had been a highlight of their careers in Scouting. "And it's been extremely rewarding to me and the committee," he said. "These are really outstanding young men." As to the public's response, he said, "I can't really gauge the effect."

An on-the-spot minisurvey suggested that it was good. For example, Eagle Scout Donald Renner of LaHabra, Calif., senior patrol leader of Troop 12, said on his troop's last day as information guides, "We've had an excellent response from the public. People know that Scouts do Good Turns, so lots of them turned to us for directions and information." Don added, "This two weeks has been one of the most exciting experiences of my life."

While Troop 12 was getting ready to depart for home, its Scoutmaster, Frank McArthur, mused, "Two weeks can be a long time, but now the boys are asking where all the time went."

That's easy. It went to Scouting and to service. ■

LEATHERCRAFT



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Those related to the Scout program (shown at right) wear the detachable Scout emblem (No. 251) with a white blouse and the red tie (No. 860).

Those related to the Exploring program (shown above) wear the red A-line skirt (No. 762) with a white blouse and detachable Explorer emblem (No. 5607). Choice of tie is optional.

Those related to all programs wear the detachable universal emblem (No. 355 shown above) with a white blouse and the red, white, and blue striped tie (No. 861).

Those related to the Cub Scout program (shown at right) wear the detachable Cub Scout emblem (No. 350) with the gold blouse and blue tie (No. 870).

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