

**I**T HAPPENED IN PHILADELPHIA while I was a deputy regional Scout executive for Region Three. Clarence Urffer, the regional Scout executive, opened the door to his office and motioned to me to come in.

"Jim," he said, "what are you doing Friday night, November 14?"

I didn't answer quickly enough, and he went on, "Do you know where Ludwigs Corner is?" I did. He then explained that the "Balboa"—Sea Explorer Ship 89—was planning its first charter anniversary night, that Skipper Lewis Conover III had the presidents and their wives from three Scout councils attending, and that he'd like to have me represent the regional office.

So I called Scout Executive Don Simpson in West Chester, Pa., and asked, "What's going on in your council at Ludwigs Corner?"

Simpson told me all he knew, adding that Conover was a good guy but hard to keep in check. It seems Conover was adding something or somebody to his charter night program almost daily. He had the whole community taking part. There was even a poster contest being promoted in the junior and senior high schools—with cash prizes.

I said I would like to attend. The next day I received a fine letter of invitation prepared on an IBM executive typewriter. The same day my wife received a handwritten letter from Mrs. Conover inviting us to dinner at the Black Angus Inn.

### **The Skipper runs riot**

Several days later, I saw Scout Executive Simpson. He had that sure-glad-to-see-you, I-need-help look. Conover was out of control. Simpson reported: "Now he has coming—the Freedoms Foundation—two admirals—a general—*Life* magazine, and he's trying to get *BOYS' LIFE*, too. Just look at these letters!"

We reviewed the whole business and concluded:

- Conover III believed no one was too big to help in the celebration of their first anniversary. That could be true.
- The theme was Upholding the American Way of Life. That was worthwhile.
- He wasn't going through channels. He was going direct from Ludwigs Corner to New Brunswick; to New York; to the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Now *that* might embarrass someone.

Simpson said Conover wrote to the editor of *BOYS' LIFE*. The editor replied that he couldn't see anything unusual about his charter night—that it was just another whing-ding with brass added.

Conover told the editor to cancel his two subscriptions and that at the end of the program he would ask the

audience if it has been just another whing-ding with brass added, and if they felt it had been, he would resign on the spot.

### **A searchlight sweeps the sky**

Friday, November 14, came. My wife Mary and I started for Ludwigs Corner, which is several miles west of Valley Forge, Pa. As we topped a hill, we saw the beam of a huge searchlight sweeping the sky. It was in the direction of Ludwigs Corner so I thought maybe Whing-Ding Conover had competition. Not so—the searchlight was advertising Conover's whing-ding.

Skipper Conover met us at the door of the inn. He greeted us graciously, then turned us over to his aid, a Sea Explorer, who took care of Mary's coat and pinned a corsage on her. Inside were about 30 dinner guests, including the two admirals, the general, and the three council presidents. The *filet mignon* was delicious. The ladies were beautiful. I sat by Mrs. Conover who told me her experiences as a Den Mother.

When we left for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, scene of the evening's program, the searchlight was still sweeping the sky. Fireworks were exploding. We could hear band music. Members of the volunteer fire company parked our car.

We walked toward the little country church with its graveyard alongside. As we watched the fireworks, we overheard an excited Cub Scout say, "I bet that one woke up some people."

Some three hundred people jammed the church. I was escorted to the dais and handed the "three-star-final cue sheet," timed to the minute. I could see two tape recorders ready for use, and there was a stenotype machine and two operators.

In came the local Scout troop and a visiting Sea Explorer ship. To my great delight, there was a *BOYS' LIFE* reporter-photographer busy as could be.

Exactly according to the cue sheet, the music stopped, the bos'n pipe's shrill tones sounded, and in marched the members of Sea Explorer Ship 89—all twelve of them.

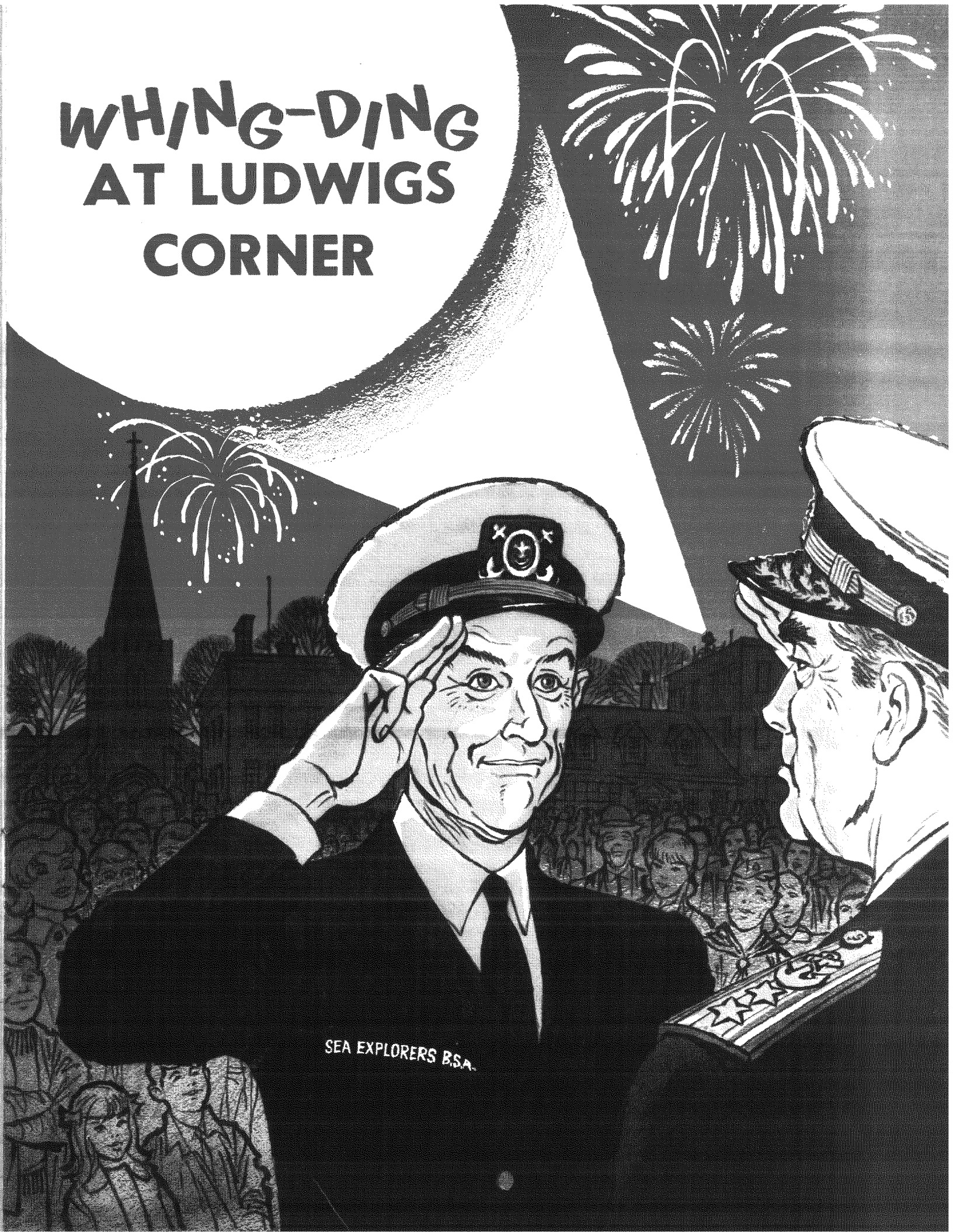
Skipper Conover introduced one Explorer, sat down and folded his arms, and from then on a different Sea Explorer introduced each new person on the program.

A bishop of the Episcopal Church gave the invocation. An admiral presented Ship 89's first silver cross medal for distinguished service to the pastor of the church. Another admiral, chairman of the art jury, said that the first-prize poster would be displayed at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, the second in Scout Executive Simpson's office, and the third in the ship's room.

Speakers included the Girl Scout president, the school

(Continued on page 32)

# WHING-DING AT LUDWIGS CORNER





**THE CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE**, meeting on Kansas University campus last summer to start 1964 plans, are, included with their assignments (left to right): Norton Jones, Bartlesville, Okla., electives; Robert A. Roth, Arlington Heights, Ill., program; Robert A. Ross, Jr., San Lorenzo, Calif., secretary; Douglas J. Deutsch, Wichita, Kansas, recognitions; James Telsey, Newtown, Conn., Explorato;

Gary L. Ashford, Jr., Charlotte, N. C., skill events; Larry G. Tanning, White Bear Lake, Minn., social; (rear) Michael L. Tead, Toledo, Ohio, vice-chairman; Allyn Lewis, Hicksville, N. Y., exhibits; (rear) Jeffrey A. Slusher, Blacksburg, Va., registration; Timothy W. Armour, Lewiston, Idaho, promotion; and William C. Waller, Jr., Nashville, Tenn., chairman.

## YOUTH WILL BE HEARD

**F**OR THE SECOND TIME representative Explorers will meet in a national conference to discuss current youth issues and to exchange experiences on Exploring methods. Every council Explorer cabinet is expected to elect at least one delegate to the 1964 National Explorer Delegate Conference at the University of Kansas, August 16-20.

Explorer William C. Waller, Jr., conference chairman, says, "A vital step toward the success of our conference is broad representation—delegates from every council elected on the basis of Explorer population. Then we can get a cross section of youth opinions."

The conference steering committee (elected in 1963 regional conferences) met last August on the university campus at Lawrence. They elected officers and made the committee assignments indicated under the photo.

The committee chose Seek the Truth in All Things as the conference theme to be focused on special days on citizenship, the world of tomorrow, and Exploring. On the program they listed discussion groups, exhibits, demonstrations, skill competitions, recognitions, and a variety talent show. These will be held in the new Fine Arts auditorium, classrooms, and dormitories— all air-conditioned buildings.

The committee voted to invite teen-age guests from other national youth organizations and Scout associations of other countries.

Because of limited facilities, the 527 councils are

allowed one delegate for every five hundred Explorers or a fraction of that number based on December 31 registrations. Every delegate must be eligible for at least another year of Exploring after the conference so he can apply its values to his council. That means he must be no more than a high school junior in the 1963-64 school year.

Fees are \$6.50 for registration to be paid by March 1 and \$30.00 for room and meals to be paid by May 15. All registrations and fees will be handled through council offices.

A suggested procedure for councils to elect their delegates begins with each unit nominating a member who presents his qualifications at a district Explorer cabinet meeting. The district cabinet elects its nominee who presents his qualifications at a council Explorer cabinet meeting. This cabinet elects the council's delegate(s). Alternates should be elected but need not be registered unless they become delegates. This democratic procedure will send truly representative delegates to the conference.

The thousand or so select young men who confer at Kansas University on August 16-20 will produce a concentrate of the views of youth on Exploring and the issues facing their generation. Back home they will apply this concentrate as a catalyst for better Exploring and better teen citizenship. Be sure your council sends its share of delegates to the 2nd National Explorer Delegate Conference.

# WHING-DING AT LUDWIGS CORNER

(Continued from page 8)

board president, the Boy Scout council presidents, and Colonel Lyle, a Wood-Badger of the first imperial Baden-Powell troop of England. No one exceeded the three-minute time limit imposed by the cue sheet. Dr. Kenneth D. Wells, president of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, gave the main address and was presented with a statuette.

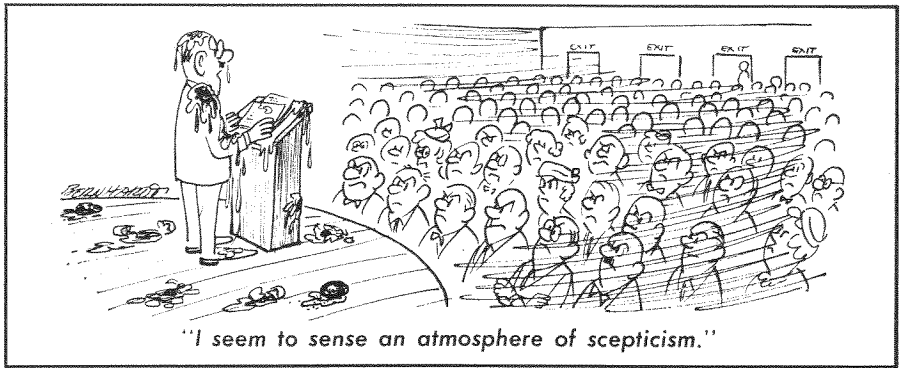
We all stood to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." I noticed a disappointed look on the faces of the Sea Explorers. Later I learned they had saved the biggest firecracker for just the right moment—"the bombs bursting in air"—but it failed to go off.

We went downstairs for refreshments and the unveiling of the posters. We thanked Skipper Conover and congratulated him on the ship's first anniversary. He said firmly, "We'll have a still better one next year."

On our way out, we stepped into the sanctuary where the oil lamps, unchanged over the years, were aglow.

We said a silent prayer for Scouting and unselfish men. As we rode home we thought that as long as people love boys and the American way of life, and there are Whing-Ding Conovers, we'll have the Boy Scouts of America.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The good ship "Balboa" recently celebrated its fifth charter anniversary whing-ding—no less spectacular than its first. Were their birthday parties all whistle and no steam? We were curious. From the ship's newsletter we learned that their program has maintained variety and balance: Balboans recently attended a presentation of "The Mikado"; sat in on a session of the Pennsylvania legislature; advanced their Yeoman to Quartermaster (the first Explorer in the county to reach this rank); solicited merchandise totaling \$4,000 for two families whose homes had burned; received certificate of appreciation from U. S. Naval Reserve for outstanding service to Fourth Naval District; received second place in Freedoms Foundation's Thomas Jefferson Community Service Award; have covered several thousand miles on land and sea with a 100 per cent no-accident record. Skipper Conover says that they can't handle the number of applicants; and they are, therefore, "trying to help establish other ships in the area. So far, there are four in successful operation and two more we are hopeful of getting competent leadership for." We've a hunch we haven't heard the last of Ludwigs Corner.



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