

# EXPLORERS WHO DIG THE MOST

By **BILL ZIEGLER** and **TED HOLSTEIN**

Scouting magazine field reporters

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By then the Explorers had discovered the area was rich in deposits of fauna and invertebrate fossils 10,000 to 25,000,000 years old. Mr. Skinner helped the boys identify and organize the specimens they had collected.

Now the 15 members of Post 410 were avid amateur paleontologists. They bought books on the subject. They cleaned, treated, numbered, and classified the specimens. The collection grew rapidly. Six members added plant fossils from a trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Others brought specimens from vacation trips in West Virginia, Illinois, and Nebraska.

The collection was exhibited with Explorers cleaning and treating fossils at Tampa's Gulf Ridge Council Scout-o-rama and the Hardee County Fair. This aroused some talk of starting a county museum. If it materializes, Post 410 will make a sizable contribution, because the members continue to expand the variety and quantity of their collection.

At press time word came of another rare find by Post 410—a complete skeleton of a mammoth (elephant) now being excavated.

## Specialty from the Indians in Texas

Post 6's Advisor Holland Cogdell, retired National Parks Service ranger with a background in archaeology and geology, believed that high school boys could be interested in exploring those fields. School officials helped him select 14 boys eager to work on Indian lore projects. The Kiwanis club sponsored the new post.

Their projects included excavating an Indian grave site and exploring a Tonkawa tribal campground. But their biggest job was and is the "painted rocks," one of the most extensive groups of Indian pictographs in this country. About 1,500 are painted for a half mile along

the vertical edge of the rock rim of a bluff 30 to 40 feet above the Concho River Valley.

At least three tribes painted them, probably 300 to 500 years ago. The materials used were animal fat as a base for native pigments of red, ocher, black, and white. In height the paintings range from a few inches to 5 feet.

With the owner's enthusiastic permission, the Explorers brushed out the slope and built a trail so people could get close to the paintings. Next they began to remove the marks of years of vandalism. Many paintings have been defaced by names, initials, and dates scratched, painted, tarred, and lipsticked over and around them. Some have been used as rifle targets. Working with rubber erasers, knives, sandpaper, and solvents, the boys developed skill in removing the marks without spoiling the paintings or bleaching the rocks.

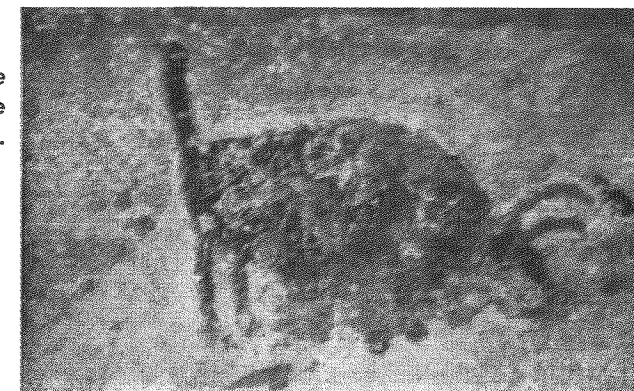
The amount of patience required can be measured by the 10-months' results—56 paintings restored. The post works on weekends, pitching their tents on the old Indian campgrounds beside the river. Sunday mornings they don uniforms and attend church in Paint Rock.

In interpreting the pictographs, the boys have as consultants a retired archaeologist on the post committee and a woman anthropologist. Some of the symbols are believed to be calendars, others stories of weddings, harvests, and battles. The Smithsonian Institution supplies film for the Explorers' photos of the paintings.

## Live programs, too

This digging into the past obviously affords vocational, service, outdoor, and fitness experiences. The two posts also round out their programs with parties and other types of activities.

Both posts—one by chance and the other by design—illustrate that adult activities do challenge the interest of high school youth; and, with understanding leaders and technical support, such activities are within teenagers' capabilities. Explorers can and do dig man-sized programs.



*Tragic story depicted by cranes (center) flying from burned San Sabe Mission (right) to Big Lake, Texas (left).*



*Sacred bear track symbol is flanked by wedding party with dancers. Circles (top) were added by a white man.*



## Digging up a specialty in Florida

Post 410's Advisor Mitchell Hope is a citrus-fruit grower with a hobby in anthropology. He and two Explorers started to reconnoiter for a post canoe trip on the Peace River. Rounding a bend, they saw a strange protrusion from the bank. Investigation proved it was a large bone. Digging in the heavy clay with bare hands and pocketknives, they unearthed a jawbone. Since it appeared to be from a huge prehistoric animal, they decided to seek professional help.

They called the state museum, and three days later a team of experts arrived. Scientists and Explorers excavated a large portion of the skeleton. It was identified as an American mastodon (*Mammot Americanum*).

During the next month, the Explorers removed 10 feet of overburden from the rest of the skeleton. They exposed a complete rear leg and the pelvis, measuring 72 inches from hip to hip. Morris Skinner of the Frick Laboratories



**T**WO EXPLORER POSTS ARE LITERALLY DIGGING INTO America's heritage, and their findings have been scientifically recognized as contributions to paleontology and archaeology.

Accidental discovery by Explorers of a mastodon jawbone near Wauchula, Fla., led their newly organized Post 410 to specialize in paleontology. This and some of the other fossils they collected are in the Florida State Museum.

In Abilene, Tex., Post 6 was organized for high school boys especially interested in archaeology and geology. Soon they were refurbishing and studying Indian writings near Paint Rock. The photos and records they made of these pictographs are in the Smithsonian Institution files in Washington.

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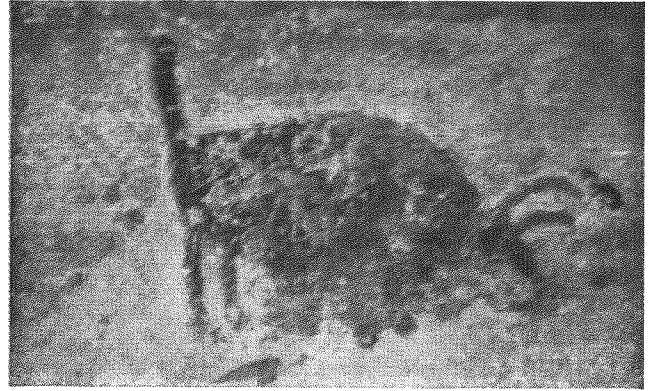
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*Anchorage Alaska, March 30, 1964* — I am happy to report to you that we have Explorers working on a 24-hour basis in many capacities. Our council Explorer Advisor has a two-way Citizens Band radio in his car, and he is doing a most valuable service to both Scouting and the community at this time. The Explorers, of course, are being used as runners and messengers and are assisting with other jobs. The more they work, the more those in charge can see they can be depended upon, and the more responsibility they are placing upon them. In fact, Civil Defense has set up a building for them to work from and use as quarters. They are all wearing the Explorer "Ready" armbands. If there is anything that we might need soon, it would be more of these armbands.

**T**HIS REPORT TO CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE JOSEPH A. BRUNTON, JR., by Robert R. Smith, Scout executive of the Western Alaska Council, the day after the Good Friday earthquake, emphasizes the importance of having trained Scout personnel ready, any time, anyplace for any possible emergency.

It was not just an accident that these Alaskan Explorers were prepared. They had completed their training as "Ready" Explorers, a part of the new Emergency Preparedness BSA program, and were qualified to serve in the disastrous earthquake.

Realizing this need for boys of all ages to be prepared for emergencies and to give service in their neighborhoods and communities in time of need, the Boy Scouts of America has developed a new guidebook for disaster training, *Emergency Preparedness BSA* (No. 3189—75 cents).

The new preparedness book is filled with how-to-do-it diagrams and illustrations that teach disaster skills,

ranging from coiling a rope to building and stocking an emergency shelter. The Office of Civil Defense, Washington, D. C., purchased 20,000 copies of this book for distribution to all local and state Civil Defense officers.

Highlighting training techniques and projects to help leaders and parents teach boys to prepare for disasters of all kinds, this 64-page book presents a workable plan to make all units and boys prepared for emergencies.

Created for all unit leaders, commissioners, and other council Scouters, the book is a reservoir of information about unit, individual, and home preparedness in time of emergency. It covers mobilization for community aid, communications, and disaster-related skills.

The special section on home and community preparedness was developed in cooperation with the Office of Civil Defense. This section serves as a source of additional ideas and training projects for Scout units plus detailed outlines of family preparations for emergencies and community participation by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers.

Detailed plans and activities are outlined for the "Family Alert" pack, "Prepared" troop, and "Ready" Explorer post.

Using the family as the center of preparedness activities, the "Family Alert" Pack Plan section details fitness activities, home firesafety plans, family first aid, and emergency training for Cub Scouts in the den. Plans for a "Family Alert" pack meeting highlight this section.

Fitness activities, troop preparedness training, and practice for Boy Scouts are featured in the "Prepared" Troop Plan section. Survival equipment, signal devices, and patrol contests in rescue methods, first aid, and messenger service are a few of the projects for Scouts.

The "Ready" Plan for Explorers section includes illustrated outlines for the four "Ready" training sessions plus post activities to complete the "Ready" participation requirements. Rugged water rescue, rescue first aid, a search and rescue contest, and fitness events complete this section.

Everyone will find the Home Emergency Preparedness section helpful in planning for modern living. It is filled

**By DONALD M. HIGGINS**  
Director  
Health and Safety Service

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Here's a natural outgrowth of Scouting's program  
of developing a boy's resourcefulness,  
skills for living, and self-reliance.

# BSA

with suggestions on how to prepare your home and your family for an emergency. Included is information on natural disaster preparations, emergency food and cooking, sanitation, safe water supply, firesafety plans, shelters, and first aid supplies.

Community Emergency Preparedness section includes plans and activities for Boy Scouts and Explorers to complete the overall preparedness training picture. These projects include mobilization practice, realistic first aid, search and rescue procedures, and communications with special emphasis on messenger service.

*Emergency Preparedness BSA* is chock-full of the latest ideas, projects, and training to make every Scout and Scouter—from the youngest Cub Scout to the veteran leader—prepared for any emergency.

Be prepared to give leadership to this important, practical program. Get this excellent new publication, study it, then start the wheels turning to qualify your unit for the "Family Alert" pack, the "Prepared" troop, or the "Ready" Explorer unit citations.

In case of an emergency—you and your boys can all say—"We are prepared."

## NEW BOOK—OLD PROGRAM

The emergencies of today's world demand more than ever that boys be trained as individuals and members of a Scout unit to meet emergency situations. The importance of this training is not new to the Boy Scouts of America, as Scouting has always taught boys to be prepared for all types of emergencies.

The basic aims of Scouting include teaching boys to take care of themselves and to be helpful to others and to develop courage, self-reliance, and the will to be ready to serve in an emergency.

In addition to the five million boys and adults now active members of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of former members have received Scout training that has prepared them for emergencies. They are a built-in source of help to meet the challenge of readiness. As Scout units across the country plan and train for emergency preparedness, they have this foundation of former members for support (see page 6).

And now there's a new book that will help renew interest in this fine, old program. Pointedly entitled *Emergency Preparedness BSA*, it explains Scouting's current emergency preparedness program.



# NATIONAL EXPLORER RIFLE CHAMPIONS



Photo by Paul Parker



**E**XPLORER POST 400 (above), Forty-Niner's Team A, Springfield, Mass., with a score of 1,104 out of a possible 1,200, was tops in the nation in the eighth annual postal rifle match sponsored by the National Rifle Association and the Boy Scouts of America. Team members are (left to right) Neil Durkee; Dave Helgevold; Ralph Peat, institutional representative; Harry Blair, Advisor; Don Michael; and Warren Ruthschild.

Explorer Alan I. Rauch (left) of Post 350, New York, N. Y., shot 299 out of a possible 300 to win national

individual high score. The 17-year-old sharpshooter first became interested in shooting when he attended Camp Keowa of Ten-Mile River in 1959.

Rules for entering the ninth annual rifle meet are announced in the fall issue of the *Explorer Program Quarterly*.

The 10 finalists, both teams and individual shooters, for the first time were required to compete in a shoot-off in the presence of an NRA observer. Explorer Rauch scored 298 on the postal score but he upped this by 1 in the shoot-off.

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