

BLUE WATER SAFARI

For Navy League Cadets

A group of Atlanta boys, age 12-13, will have an opportunity to satisfy Youth's natural interest in the ways of the Sea. They are to spend several days on board the Navy's newest Mine countermeasures ship the USS OZARK (MCS-2). (photograph enclosed). The Ozark has just returned from its arduous task of searching for the nuclear submarine Scorpion. The Commanding Officer of the Ozark is Captain William B. Hooffstetter. (photograph enclosed).

Navy League Cadets are recruited from all walks of life. Membership is entirely voluntary. Cadets assume no military service obligation. Cadets may resign at any time or they may complete an entire 5 year program by advancing to the Sea Cadet Corps at age 14. If the Cadet wishes, at age 17, provided his scholastic standing in high school is satisfactory, he will be eligible to take advantage of the Navy's many educational opportunities at the college of his choice, including Annapolis. This could mean the equivalent of a \$15,000. scholarship. All Cadet Officers are well known Atlanta citizens. These men are experienced in working with boys and they enjoy it. They are capable instructors. They serve without pay.

The Commanding Officer of this group of Atlanta boys is Lieutenant Commander Delbert D. Sprague. Mr. Sprague served with the Navy for more than 24 years. 16 of which were at sea. He is a submariner by choice and is a much decorated officer. Since Mr. Sprague is a nuclear engineer, one of his assignments was on board the Savannah. Currently he is with the firm of Robert & Company Associates of Atlanta, Georgia.

Although any boy age 12-13 may join the Navy League Cadet Corps they must first pass the Navy's standard AQT test and physical examination. These tests and

examinations are given each applicant without cost or obligation to the applicant. Every boy age 12-13, and his parents, is entitled to know something about that boy's mental and physical aptitudes. Standard Navy tests and examinations such as those given to Cadet applicants sometimes reveal unknown talents. Navy League Cadets are required to have very high ratings. After review of the results of these tests and examinations by an impartial Board, the applicant is notified as to whether he should come in for counseling, should repeat the tests, or has successfully passed the requirements.

If the applicant then wishes to take advantage of Cadet training, a deposit of \$35. is required to cover the cost of insurance and administrative expenses for one year and the replacement cost of uniforms and personal equipment. Uniforms and equipment issued to Cadets by their Officers are the property of the Navy League of the United States and are loaned to the Cadets during their training periods. Should a Cadet leave the Corps for any reason he is required to turn in all uniforms and equipment issued to him and he will be refunded \$10. when all uniforms and equipment are returned to the Navy League.

All Cadets train at drill and in classrooms in the Naval Training Center on the Georgia Tech Campus. Drill and Classroom periods are two hours each week, currently from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM every Friday. Here they learn basic seamanship, first aid, and safety. They are provided with mental, moral and physical training thru the medium of Naval and other instructions. They have an opportunity to qualifyⁱⁿ swimming and marksmanship. They develop principals of patriotism, good character, and good citizenship. They become instilled with a

sense of duty and discipline, self-respect and respect for others. Should later in life a Cadet decide to enter the military forces he will, by virtue of having completed Sea Cadet Training, be eligible to enlist in the United States Naval Reserve as a Seaman, two pay grades above the normal enlistee.

All practical factors training of Cadets is not necessarily on Naval Ships, or at Naval Stations and Installations. Last June their survival training took them to remote areas in the mountains of Tennessee. Here they learned about backpacking and trail recognition. They constructed shelters, learned how to build fires, and to cook their own meals from dehydrated ingredients. They were shown how to snare trout in the trouts native habitat. They saw a part of the forrest which never had been inhabited by man and where no trees had ever been cut or any forrest fires had burned. This is the primeval forrest just as it was when the first white man set foot on American soil. The forrest floor is carpeted with moss. There is no underbrush except near the streams. And sunlight is broken into shafts as it streaks thru trees as tall as highrise buildings.

At Sea on board the Ozark there will be an entirely different life. The Cadets will be mixed with the regular crew and will perform the same duties and stand the same watches. They will be billeted with the crew and will eat with the crew. Each Cadet will have a personal instructor to show and demonstrate the myriads of chores needed to keep a man-of-war on active duty. He will have an opportunity to put to use the contents of the Blue Jackets Manual which he has been studying.

Accompanying the Cadets on this cruise will be the Navy Leagues Sixth Naval

District National Director of Youth Programs, Mr. Thomas T. Tucker. He is the son of Mrs. Cornelia Tucker of 21 Lamboll Street in Charleston. His wife, Wava Dell, is an Officer in the Navy League Cadet Corps. While the men are on "Blue Water" she and their daughter Deveney Tucker will be staying in Charleston at 21 Lamboll Street. Their son, John Hyrne Tucker, is one of the Cadets who will be on board the Ozark during its sea maneuvers. Another son, Roger St. George Tucker, is a Sea Cadet and is in "Boot Camp" training at the Naval Air Facility, Orlando, Florida. Being a native Charlestonian Mr. Tucker is at home on the seas. His listing in "Who's Who" reads like a story book and shows that he has always breathed life into Youth Programs. When he was President of the Atlanta Council of the Navy League he established the Sea Cadet Program. This program is designed especially for boys from ages 14 thru age 17. He was Chairman of the special council committee which started training the age 12-13 Cadets.

These Cadet Programs are the United States Navy Leagues national answer to training teenagers for a useful life in our society. Each Cadet must demonstrate that he is trustworthy and of good character. He must prove that he is physically able to perform the duties of a Cadet. He must show that he has sufficient educational background to absorb the training offered to him. Cadet training stresses the Naval virtue of personal hygiene, neatness, courtesy, obedience, dependability, a sense of responsibility for developing good character, and a motivation of self discipline.