Six hundred youth are devoting all or part of their summer this year to work service in some American community. It is not important that the work camps are run by the Friends, International Student Service, Black Mountain College, etc. But it is increasingly important that these students and workers feel a bond of unity, and sense the solidarity of these hundreds of young men and women working together throughout the country.

This Newsletter will carry news of your friends in other work camps. Let them know regularly what you are doing.

Robert E. Lane

READING, PA.
(Friends Service Camp)

The Beulah Anchorage, one of Reading's many piles of red brick and originally a home for friendless girls, now harbors since June 27th twenty campers from such almae matres as Bryn Mawr, CCHY, Carleton, Earlham, Haverford, U. of Pittsburgh, St. Lawrence U., Swarthmore, Syracuse U., Vassar, Wheaton and U. of Wisconsin.

These boys and girls have come together from all parts of the United States to spend the summer in this urban camp in aiding the city's recreation program by constructing a playground, erecting equipment, and assisting in playground supervision. Besides eight hours a day of this work, a study is made of the industrial problems of the locality, specifically of the labor conditions in the hosiery and steel industries through lectures by workers, labor union leaders, employers and members of the municipal government as well as through visits to plants, housing projects and social agencies.

By now you've first days in a work camp are over and you have discovered that life in a work camp is a thrill and a challenge to a richer and more abundant life for all. It is my privilege to be a guest at the Goodrich Farm Work Camp, Hudson, Ohio under the very able leadership of Jim St. John. Here again I realize that students and young workers do enjoy their days in the camp, once they are over the threshold. To get them into the camps, to make them try this experience is the job and you can help.

The world around us is bewildering. The future seems dark. Maybe we can call our work camps, varying the words of a Chinese sage: "An attempt to do what is possible in this impossible world of ours".

Dick Gothe

GRAFTON, N. H.

The headquarters of the Grafton Work Camp are perched unobtrusively along side a through state road and a bustling railroad track. Ten days ago our tar paper house and barn loft would not have drawn glances from the passers-by. However, beginning Friday, June 27th an ambitious crew of 22 campers moved in with all intentions directed toward seven weeks of dam construction. As a result the living quarters got a rapid facelift which consisted of building a dumpy garage into a fancy "back living room", screening an open porch to make a dining room, throwing together two privies, constructing a shower and laying pipe to carry the water, and preparing the multitude of little things that make a camp habitable.
By Monday the crew was set to tear into the work project. Our endeavor is to build a dam on the site where a previous one was swept away in 1927. By restoring the dam we recreate Kilton Pond which covered 64 acres of what now is unsightly scrub and marsh grass. As if to encourage us in our work the map of the region in which we labor are still printed showing an extensive body of water where actually today the Smith River trickles through at a depth of less than two feet.

To days were spent in ridding acreage near the dam site of a growth resembling not 14 years of decay, but rather an African Veldt of centuries density. During the rest of the week, with the work schedule rising to 62 hours a day, a draft tube and side channel were developed so that the water could be diverted from the main bed, where our energy will be concentrated; a soil and rock bank was attacked with the intention of levelling its 20 feet height down to that of the stream bottom; a base was smoothed out for a hand Derrick; and digging to the base rock was well under way at one of our dam’s two spillways. We were getting in shape to work by constant application. While we got tired because of our inability to be steady and slow, we snapped back the next morning each time, yes even on the 4th of July, to put in our daily licks.

The community upon which we have thrust ourselves has been remarkably friendly when one considers how strange it must be to them to watch one of our somewhat degenerate Harvard lads dash madly about proclaiming himself a bull amoeba and shouting a so-called mating cry of MOOOO-CLEEEE-USS. The local medico, Dr. Berry, has been an ardent friend of the work camp since its embryo days and we spent one of our first evenings hearing his evaluation of Grafton as a community where farming is disdained and the attractions of city life attract youth off productive land.
MAULDIN, S. C. - Cont.

Three of them are refugee students, for which fact we are grateful. To explain, one boy, Arnold Catwalad, in giving his life history at an evening meeting told of his experiences in getting out of Germany, his time as an alien, during which time he was submitted with others to air raids, and finally his coming to Canada on one of 50 ships in a convoy from England. This life history led to a lengthy discussion, after which one member said, "That was worth the entire four weeks' camp and stay here".

We are removing logs and old lumber and moving it to a spot on which it will not detract from the school buildings and grounds. We next shall improve one tennis court now in use and build a second one. Besides, we may tear down and remove two small out-buildings in the rear of the school, and lastly, if time permits, we hope to paint two or three rooms in the "teacherage", in which part of the campers is living.

That is all for the present, but we do hope that all the other camps are enjoying their program to the extent we are.

P. A. Thomas, Director

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NORTH WAARE, N. H.

A group of twenty-four campers continuing last year's work of the AFSC at North Weare, New Hampshire, is completing a recreation center on Lake Horace. The 1936 flood and hurricane washed out North Weare's main dam which supplied power to a toy factory employing about 50 men. The chief project of this year's Friends camp is to rebuild this dam. For a fuller comprehension of the problems of the community in which the camp is working, the group has heard local speakers and attended local meetings.

Before work on this "rural rehabilitation" project could be begun however, the camp's living quarters themselves had to undergo preliminary rehabilitation. Newspapers dating from 1892 and calendars by no later date than 1928 had to be put away; a privy and showers had to be built.

Elizabeth Chamberlain.

GRAFTON, N. H. - Cont.

The chief of the local selectmen, Sam Huff, showed his enthusiasm for our project at an early stage by donating the dam site to the town and during the first week he collected tools for our use from the community and spent at least a portion of every day on the job with us despite his 70 years. Mr. Huff has served the town as an officer almost since his arrival here in 1896, but still denies that he is native and that he could tell us anything about the town.

Even such a hard-laboring crew as this one takes time off. This afternoon we are off to the top of Mt. Cardigan (3,100 feet) for an evening picnic. With three hours of work in the morning your correspondent wonders how many of us will take advantage of the road which goes half way to the top. Time alone forbids telling the tale of our church going; the Ladies Benevolent Society, and the Tuesday night sings, but they will be repeated throughout the summer.

Alan Gottlieb,
Reporter.

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BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

The first Black Mountain College Work Camp opened on Monday, June 30, with twenty-seven students, eight of whom are girls. This Camp came about naturally because of the work program which has been carried on at the College all year. The main purpose of the work is to provide housing for the College for the coming year. A secondary purpose is to carry on the farm work and to develop and enlarge the farm.

Work is being done on three buildings, all at different stages. One was more than half finished to begin with, the framing of a second had been just begun, and the third is still in the drafting stage, though work digging for the foundations will be started soon. Thus there is considerable variety in the work to be done, and it includes the building of forms, pouring of concrete, both reinforced and massive, ordinary carpentry, finishing work and stone
masonry, electric wiring, plumbing installation, among other things. About a dozen Black Mountain students, who have acquired considerable skill during the year, will be directing the work, as well as an architect and a group of four skilled workmen.

A special feature is the practical training to students of architecture. The group includes a number of graduate students from architectural schools.

Our regular schedule calls for five hours of work from seven until twelve. A few of the campers also work in the afternoons, making a nine-hour day in all. Lectures, classes, choral singing and rehearsing of a small orchestral group, take place in the late afternoon and evening.

Theodore Dreier, Treasurer

Hudson, Ohio

Here at the Goodrich Farm Work Camp we are very proud of being an extremely cosmopolitan group. There are among us representatives, both white and colored, from Nebraska, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Michigan, New York, Connecticut and several others. We have students from Austria, Germany, England and Lithuania, while Ohio is well represented by campers from the Goodrich Settlement House in Cleveland.

So far our work has included much scrubbing and cleaning, as well as painting, white-washing, repairing and gardening. We hope to begin with more constructive work, such as rebuilding a cottage, some time next week.

We have found it helpful to elect several committees whose function is to specialize on certain functions of the study program and, after discussion among themselves, to help with and stimulate discussion on a larger scale.

There is an International Relations Committee who are working on two important problems. These are, firstly, intervention or non-intervention in the light of historical, economic and military factors, and secondly, the organization of Peace relative to War aims, reconstruction and international organization.

We have a committee working on Industrial Problems in relation to our field trips into industrial centers, and to problems raised by our guest speakers.

There is a similar committee working on Farm Problems.

We have several News Editors who will collect and type out camp happenings of general interest as well as make contributions of their own (we hope) in the fields of art, literature and humor. One of us gives a report on current World News every day as the supply of newspapers is limited.

For our recreational activities we have elected a Music committee who try to select programs representative of many countries. Occasionally they even attempt to be original. Some of us work on Folk Dances and try to teach them to the others. We have hopes for a Barn Dance in the near future.

Finally we have a Steering Committee who try to assist the camp directors in all matters, and who help us in self-government.

Last week we went to a Dairy farm and a Celery farm in the neighborhood. The farmers were very cooperative and we just shot questions at them. For this week we have planned visits to Hudson and Cleveland, and we shall have several speakers on Industrial problems who will come out to us in the evenings.

We celebrated our Fourth of July together with the Schauffler Congregational Camp who came over from Cleveland. We had such fun sharing work camp experiences as we joined in Volley ball, swimming and finally in a camp fire. We had songs, skits and stories from both camps and thoroughly enjoyed each other.

R. D. Lowe
Reporter
"I don't know what I'll do if there's one more activity in this place" was the cry of one of the campers at dinner this evening. And that seems to be the all-inclusive sentiment at the Highlander Work Camp. But as sure as there'll be loads more activity — sure as that — the work campers, who have very well gotten into the swing of things, will take all of it in what in five days has become their very well practiced stride.

On the first day here, the proposal to form a co-operative store to supply the campers with candies, crackers, cigarettes and drinks met a warm reception. Today the store, in its first day, was going full steam ahead. A co-operative committee, together with a chairman, was promptly elected, several meetings were held to discuss the policy and nature of the co-op, merchandise had to be purchased, and for the past two days, shares of co-op stock at a quarter a share have been selling like hotcakes.

The main project here is forestry work. A government forester advised Highlander to replace its tract of more or less unprofitable trees with cedar and pine. The campers this summer are performing the first part of the operation — stripping the forest. Not one of the campers ever handled an axe before, yet to a man — boys and girls together — the campers have been going at the work of chopping and sawing and clearing underbrush with immense vitality — witnessed by the universal reluctance to stop work, although the group knows full well that the stop-work time has long passed. In short, everyone here is giving "the extras" — in working to repair the nursery, in putting out our daily wall newspaper, in preparing a work camp magazine, in planning our movie of Highlander, in committees.

And not that it's all been work. Not by a long shot. The day before yesterday we had the fascinating experience of hearing a labor organizer. Yesterday we went to a Fourth of July union picnic about 150 miles from here.

Judging from the campers' case histories, as told these past few days, particularly as over at the cabin of one of the leaders, before a blazing, crackling fire, many of the campers have had immensely fascinating lives. In the same vein, feeling the very pulse of democracy at first hand, they are continuing to get a thorough-going thrill out of life at the Highlander Work Camp — what with, over and above all that has been mentioned, the many songs, the folk dances, and the very warm friendships which have so spontaneously sprung up — not alone among the campers, but with the superb leaders and townsfolk at camp.

Howard Samuels,
Chairman of Publications Committee

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R E O R T

FROM YOUR CAMP

AND

LET US HEAR FROM YOU EARLY

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