SHOULD COLLEGES SPONSOR WORK CAMPS?

Should Oberlin, Swarthmore, St. John, Dartmouth, etc. sponsor work camps? The Newsletter will print the views of work campers on this topic. It will be an important issue next year.

WANTED: A WORK CAMP SONG

Wanted: a work camp song that young men and women in all work camps will know and can sing together. A resolute song with conviction -- a working song. A good song for the early morning on the work project.

The Work Camp Newsletter will print the best songs received and will supply extra copies to those who wish them.

R.E. Lane

SEND YOUR NEWS NOW! to the Work Camp Newsletter

MORE NEWS, MORE NEWS

The recent article in the N.Y. Times (July 21) and the growing demand for information on work camps, has produced a large number of new requests for the Work Camp Newsletter. These people want to know what you are doing in Turnbridge, Penn-Craft, Lagro, Stillwater, etc.

HIGHLANDER WORK CAMP (I.S.S.)

A group of Highlander Work Campers raised its glasses in a Chattanooga Ratskeller a brief few minutes before the seven o'clock train would send the gang rocking homeward. The toast was a loud and hearty one. Here's to a damn good camp! A grand experience was ending. Yet in another sense it was only just beginning. But more about that later.

Wednesday the campers piled into cars and set out for Skyline Farms, Alabama, on the last phase of what has been calculated to be a thousand miles of travel while at camp. Skyline Farms is a model agricultural community under the wing of the national government, set up on a formerly barren tract of land for a limited group of destitute farmers. All the farmers work their land under the precisioned eye of governmental experts, and if a tenant is found to be inefficient, if not uncooperative, he is shooed off the project.

Accompanied by the community's governmental director, the campers made the rounds of a typical farm and the local hosiery mill, 49% owned by the government.

From the mill, the group took to the cars again and bumped it all the way to Huntsville, Alabama, passing Scottsboro and a chain gang along the way. Huntsville is dominated by its textile mills, Lincoln Mills in particular. At the home of one of the Highlander Folk School's staunchest supporters, the campers spoke at great length and with great vigor to four of the union leaders who would have been mainsprings of activity had the pending strike at the Lincoln Mills been called on the following day. These were honest men who told their stories sincerely. These were undoubtedly the finest type of union leaders the United States had to offer, and they won the almost instantaneous support of every last camper.

One of Highlander's visitors appeared on the spot with a recording machine. After lunch one afternoon, a recording was made of the campers singing various song favorites, the results comparing favorably with the best in glee clubs. During the week the campers heard talks from a representative...
of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, a Negro professor of Fiske University, and a college professor who spoke on labor legislation. Dick Goethe and Bob Lane paid all too short visits to camp. On the day of departure, a number of campers came in on the tail end of an air show at the Chattanooga Airport.

At the last shareholders' meeting of the cooperative, the enormous total of over twelve dollars profit was announced. The campers voted to turn over the cooperative's profit to the school to pay for the cost of the work camp movie, to be turned over to ISS.

One of the study programs last week was devoted to an evaluation of the work camp, and the results were gratifying indeed. Only one criticism was advanced: the campers did not have all the contacts with the immediate locale that might have been desired. But otherwise - well, as the director phrased it, "I was waiting for problems to crop up, but they never did."

As a sendoff trip, the campers visited Foster Falls, about six miles from camp. Around a crackling fire, tucking away double portions of corn-on-cob and steak, the group discussed the swarm of possibilities ahead for after-camp activities. A chairman and two secretaries of a committee to handle future functions were elected. The group returned to camp with a varied program of songs, folk dancing, music, and choral poetry reading still on the fire. Together with a short jingle for each camper (there once was a young man emphatic who led us a life quite traumatic. For each day and night he would coax us to write for that damn magazine in the attic), the twenty-eight page work camp magazine was distributed, to meet a warm reception.

The Highlander Work Camp spirit would be too strong to permit of a fade-out. We have only just begun the work we are in, and we shall see to it that the stimulating experiences we have had here will be a nucleus for greater service to the communities in which we live. And this, we are sure, is the greatest vision of the work camp movement.

Howard Samuel
Chairman, Publications Committee

HIGHLANDER - Cont.

HUDSON, OHIO - (I.S.S.)
(Excerpt from letter dated July 25, 1941 to I.S.S. office)

Our work is getting the finishing touches, and it is satisfying to see that it does mount up to a very decent total - more rather than less than had been planned for us. We have had some excellent talks this week: Dr. Potrat on pacifism last Tuesday; Abe Katofsky, a war-horse of the ILGWU on Wednesday in one of the best talks about labor I have ever heard; Mrs. Mathieson from a Cleveland Settlement on the Youth Movement last night.

Tonight we write evaluations and then have a bit of dancing and singing together. Saturday night is our Open House evening, with a rather ambitious entertainment under way. Sunday we have an evaluation meeting and close Camp with a Camp-fire in the evening.

Jim St. John
Director

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PLEASANT HILL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION CAMP - TENNESSEE
(Experiment in International Living)

The Pleasant Hill Health Demonstration Camp is different from the average work camp in that only a small part of its work is physical. It has two main objects: to give the campers an opportunity to learn to know different people, such as the German refugees who are working with us and the Tennesseans with whom we live.

The camp is composed largely of students who are interested in medical, social or nursery school work. To help us we have five German refugees; three doctors, a practical nurse and a child psychologist who helps with the nursery work and conducts mother-child clinics.

The group lives at the Pleasant Hill Academy located in the middle of the Cumberland Plateau. This is a Congregational School. Many of its students are here now working on the farm and new recreation building in order to help pay their fees.

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PLEASANT HILL - Cont.

The camp is not run on a daily schedule nor does everyone do the same work. Probably our most interesting job is the medical survey work we are doing in cooperation with the University of Tennessee and the Cumberland Homestead. There is one group consisting of a doctor and two students which goes out daily through the neighboring rural districts in a trailer operated by the Experimental station of the University of Tennessee, giving children physical examinations. The purpose of this survey is to compare the food intake with the weight, height and general health of the children examined. There are two other groups who are making tuberculosis tests at the nearby Cumberland Homestead, a project of the Farm Security Administration.

Other students help at a nearby hospital. The last group conducts a nursery school for the neighboring children between three and six years of age.

We too have our labor projects. Whenever we have time we help on the farm or with the general care of the campus.

But work is not the only part of our program. One of the main features of the summer is a chance to know other types of people. In order to become better acquainted with the Germans we study their language and learn their songs. We have also come to know the students who are here for the summer very well through our work with them on the farm and through the weekly singing games and folk dances.

Nancy Damman
Reporter

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MAULDIN, S.C. (I.S.S.)
(From the Mauldin Work Camp Magazine)

Since the South is considered by many people as "the problem child" of the United States of America, it was a wise move to establish a Work Camp in this region. Besides, we have been fortunate to be working in a community in which there is a great deal of community interest, arising chiefly from the Mauldin Area Council's activities to promote unified action and thought.

As for the camp itself, we had as many attitudes as we had campers and diverse backgrounds. But from those differences we molded a sound democratic and cooperative group of workers and students. The campers showed that they can do hard labor, that they can establish their own regulations, and that they can carry on a study program with clarity and foresight. Certainly this experiment in functional democracy did not fail.

Paul A. Thomas,
Director

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BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

The first work camp at Black Mountain College was completed July 27. Attending the camp were 27 campers, 8 girls and 19 boys. The August work camp begins immediately with only a week-end between camps. Most of the July work campers are staying for at least 2 weeks of the August camp. There are about 10 new campers expected.

A considerable amount of work has been done toward preparation for the opening of college in the fall. The main job for the summer is the construction work on three buildings. The August work campers will continue without interruption the work of this past month.

The progress on the main building, made up of individual student and faculty studies, looks encouraging. At the present, various plans for the finishing of the walls, ceiling and decoration of the studies are being tried out. The hub of the building, a fire-proof stair tower was recently completed. The service building, which is to house the kitchen staff of the college, was begun in May and is half finished. The foundations have been laid and masonry work is beginning on the cottage being built for a faculty family. Architectural students of the college, under the direction of the supervising architect, have charge of the con-
The camp put on a programme for the local Ladies' Benevolent Society last Friday, and included among its items, singing, speeches, a sermon, a piano and violin duet, and many other like choice performances. An imitation of a speech by President Roosevelt shed interesting light on local politics. One lady was "not amused," and after she had walked out disdainfully, we learned that she was one of the few staunch Democrats in the district.

Most of the evening programmes of last week were used for the final hashing out of the camp schedule — such things as working hours, meal times and curfew being included. These meetings, incidentally, revealed an astonishing amount of individualism in the camp.

An inter-camp baseball game was played with some of the campers from North Weare (Friends) when they visited Grafton last Saturday. The home team won amid cheers after a close, if not expert, match. The return is to be played at North Weare in the near future. Apart from that, the visitors seemed to have enjoyed themselves, as we certainly did.

This last Wednesday we paid a visit to the William James Camp at Tunbridge, Vermont. We took with us a picnic supper, which we ate on a hilltop, and watched one of the most dramatic sunsets seen in recent weeks. The camp we visited, together with its cows, hogs and soy beans, impressed us and a few of our number have been thinking of going there for a short while after our term of work is finished here.

Lindsey Hall,
Reporter

FERN MOUNTAIN, KENTUCKY

('associated Junior Work Camps)

This last week at Pine Mountain has been an active one for the work campers. Since our work was fairly well caught up, we made up for lost time and went on three trips.

The first one was a tour through a neighboring valley in which lie many coal camps and company towns. Our

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rough glimpse gave us an idea of the poor housing conditions and meagre recreational facilities of the miners and their families.

The second was to a logging camp, where we saw the entire process from the felling of the trees to the point where they are hauled off to the sawmill. We were impressed simultaneously by the amount of work needed to get one log and by the lack of concern for conservation.

To see what the nearby C.J.C. camp did about this situation, we stopped in and talked to one of the camp officers and discovered that the work of this particular camp was mostly road-building, instead of the usual reforestation or erosion control.

The next trip, a few days later, was only for a few of us, unfortunately. We went with the school doctor and local missionary-nurse on a "clinic trip" to a schoolhouse and migratory lumber camp. It was our job to swab the arms of both children and adults with alcohol and to record the names of all those having typhoid shots and other treatment.

Although we lost count, we estimated that we must have forded the creeks fifty-six times, and when the road vanished the truck took to the water for a quarter of a mile or so, like a tractor.

The school turned out to be a one-roomed affair with chipped pieces of slate for makeshift blackboards and assorted desks for varying sizes of children. Because of lack of books there is no fourth grade or seventh grade. Before we were finished the adults came for their inoculation, turning the improvised clinic into a community social gathering.

Before we reached our final destination we made frequent stops. It was not an uncommon sight to see a whole family lined up according to size, getting typhoid shots by the side of the road. Often we stopped to pick up orders for food or medicine because for most of these people our trip is the only access to the outer world.

We finally came to the isolated lumber camp at which the ratio of flies per person was at least a million to one.

The doctor established himself in one of the cleaner shacks, just one room with a bed and an oil lamp on a small square table - and tackled the various cases presented to him. One mother brought in a child and calmly stated he had worms.

Although the pigs and chickens walked freely into the home, the women had not lost their dignity and pride but wore hats and silk stockings to greet the doctor. This was a strange sight in the backwoods of Kentucky.

It was very enlightening to see intimately the way of life of the mountain people, but unlike most field trips, this was even better, because we were helping to improve their situation.

This week we are having three unusual speakers - the Mayor of Harlan, the President of the Bank of Harlan, and a representative of the United Mine Workers of America. We hope in this way to obtain all points of view of Harlan County.

Diana Tead
Reporter

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D O R N T E T
TO SEND IN YOUR NEWS RIGHT AWAY!

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