WORKCAMP NEWS LETTER
AUGUST 7, 1941 VOL. 1 NO. 5 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE, 8 W. 40 ST. N. Y. C.

GRAFTON, N. H. (ISS)

Old man J. Pluvius frowned on our efforts to keep the new Hilton Dam on the pre-arranged construction schedule this week. The result was intermittent rain which washed out many work hours and wrought havoc with the newly built coffer dam. Erected Monday afternoon, the coffer dam would ordinarily have been the go-ahead signal for uninterrupted all-out effort until August 15. But Tuesday morning saw nature's elements at their fiercest, and Tuesday noon found the coffer dam several inches below water.

However, let all be cognizant of the fact that Grafton work campers are made of stern stuff! We have carried sandbags and sod clods through drenching downpours to bulwark the temporary dam, and we have pushed ahead with work on other sections of the dam when programmed work was impossible because of high water conditions.

Fortunately, rain did not impede the tempo of camp activities. As a matter of fact, these last seven days have been crammed full of new and interesting experiences.

Sunday noon saw Bill Macaulay, instructor at Harvard, as our guest speaker on "British Labor and the War." His was an informative lecture as the camp had heard in a long time.

The Wednesday evening discussion period was enhanced by the presence of two unexpected guests. One was Commissioner of Welfare William Hudson of New York City, who had dropped in to visit his son, one of the campers, and the other guest was Al Black, president of the Ethical Culture Society and teacher at the Ethical Culture School in New York City. Both men discussed their respective fields with great vivacity, stimulating that rather rare phenomenon, a really intellectual bullsession.

The event which all the campers have been looking forward to for the last two weeks, the presentation of the barn dance and one-act play before the Women's Union of Danbury church supper, occurred Thursday evening. It was a great success. It marks another step in the cementing of our relations with surrounding communities.

Friday morning, Eliot Pratt, ambassador-at-large of the I.S.S., reported his observations at the Hudson County Work Camp after a two-day visit there. We perked up our ears to hear how the other one-fifth lives.

Dave Zeiger
Reporter
FELICIA WORK CAMP
(Associated Junior Work Camps)

Work at Felicia progressed very well with the upstairs rooms almost complete. In a few days the girls will be able to move into them, and work will be started on the ground floor. The outside of the house was painted and an old ice house, which had served as a play room for the children, was torn down because its rotted beams had made it a hazard.

The most important event of the week was our visit to Camp Paugnut, in the state forest near Torrington, Connecticut. We arrived at noon in spite of trouble with the Ford pickup, two flat tires and a blowout. After lunch we helped the campers with their work and then went for a re-
FELICIA WORK CAMP — Cont.

freshing swim in Burr Pond. After supper we were entertained with a camp fire. That nite we wrapped ourselves up good and warm and slept underneath the stars. After breakfast we left camp.

Short though our visit was, we were provided with an excellent picture of another work camp in action. We learned all about their duties: how they had to cook their own meals, how they had to do all their washing, a good deal of what type of work they did in the forest, and how they were winning renown as baseball field constructors. We got a clear impression of their work and in turn tried our best to tell them all about the kind of work we were doing at Felicia.

The visit served to remind us again that there were other work camps with boys and girls who, like us, were doing constructive work for communities all over the nation, and though none of them were doing exactly the same kind of work as we were, their thoughts and purposes were the same. We felt the trip enriched our summer greatly by helping us to see clearer just what the Work Camp Movement was like and where we fitted into the great scheme of things.

Jeremy Newman
Reporter

# # # # #

THE WAY OF ST. FRANCIS AND TODAY
(taken from a book of that name by J. S. Hoyland, pub. by Student Christian Movement Press, London.)

APPENDIX II

Report of a conversation, in a railway train in India, between Mr. Gandhi and a member of the international team helping peasants to reconstruct their villages in the earthquake area of Northern India, as an enterprise in Franciscan "reconciliation by pick and shovel."

"I told Mr. Gandhi about Work Camps in general, and what our School had done in working with unemployed men at Cymer and Withyham in particular. He was very impressed that boys were going off on their own to work with unemployed men on their allotments at Wigan this Christmas. I could not have had a more sympathetic or enthusiastic listener.

He said, "I am convinced that it is essential to have manual labor. If your boys are going to get in contact with the working men in England, and especially the unemployed, they must share manual labor. It comes naturally to all men. It is the one thing that all men have in common."

"I told him that the allotment schemes were increasing in England, and were already being recognized as one, if not the only, possible solution of the unemployment problem; that similar international Work Camps were starting. He was delighted to hear this, and said 'Now it must extend to India. Englishmen must come to India and work in the same way here; but it will be difficult.'

"I said, 'When I go back to England, I will tell them what the work in India is like, and perhaps some of the older boys might wish to come out for a few months.'

# # # # #

WHERE SHOULD WORK CAMPS GO?
(from a discussion following a meeting at Hudson, Ohio, Work Camp, July 20, 19)

Since I subscribe to the view that work camps represent:

1. concrete education in the social sciences and 2. experience in self-government and democratic living, and believe in 3. the "Prophets" (the German mysticism of "creativity"), I think, as you do, that if the work camp movement is to be expanded, it should be done as a part of the college system.

But — my question is then: what concessions, if any, would have to be made to the college system that would be destructive to what is vital in a work camp?

You speak of work camps becoming a part of college curriculum. I protest. College courses as such seem necessarily to involve credit hours and marks — which may be very practically regarded as bait hung out, as a reward to be sought, that is other than the "enjoyable experience" of
the course itself. Students who take hard-work, creditless courses are few and far between, aren't they? — and will continue to be so. I am sure it is essential that work camp experience be pursued for itself alone.

College courses run the danger of becoming required courses, as work camps (to indulge in a little premature speculation), run the danger of becoming compulsory.

Whenceupon: the question of whether compulsion is cancerous to work camps. My answer is a flat "yes." I think I am justified in saying this now:

The comparison between the fresh history course and a work camp, boils down to a question of the comparative importance of attitude in the enjoyment of an experience. In the history course, initial attitude is of much less importance than the material presented and the manner of presentation. In a work camp, attitude is all-important. It is an essential part of the experience itself. Without the proper attitude the experience unique and peculiar to work camps does not exist.

Where will the personnel for a work camp that is a college course come from? And how to prevent the course from being thrown upon the mercy of the sociology department, or worse, the schools of social work?

From remarks from various sources, I begin to think that the personnel problem is among your worst problems. Where to find them — where to train them — except in work camps? Certainly one would get no place by transferring bodily a bunch of faculty members to the directorships of camps.

Where, actually, do you intend to look for people to run the 30 camps which 30 colleges might sponsor next year?

Lucille Thomas
Hudson, Ohio Work Camp
July, 1941
(Univ. of Nebraska)

WHERE SHOULD WORK CAMPS GO?

We invite your participation in this discussion. Varying opinions will be printed in these columns every week.

WRITE NOW!

# # # # # # #

WORK CAMP NEWSLETTER SEeks MATERIAL

When interviewed today, the Work Camp Department of ISS stated that they were very anxious to obtain news from work camps throughout the country which would keep their readers abreast of all the activities in the work camp movement.

To those work camps from which nothing as yet, has been heard, a plea is made for NEWS! Send your stories in at once!

# # # # # # #