

Camp Namanu Near Sandy Offers Camping Experience for Girls

BY GLENDA HAGAN

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August 4--Blob Day. So it was at Camp Namanu, Camp Fire Girls retreat for girls from Multnomah and Washington counties.

Blob Day at Camp Namanu is a "wild" affair with the older Camp Fire girls cooking doughnut holes, (blobs) over camp fires no less, for their younger camper friends. Blobday is just one of the many which makes the one week campout for the Camp Fire Girls a very memorable and educational time.

Camp Namanu is a forest hideaway located near Roslyn Lake North of Sandy. The area was donated to the Camp Fire Girls by Samuel Cobb in 1929. During the ten weeks of summer each year, the girls flock to the hilly, tree-covered haven to camp, explore nature, learn new crafts and make new friends.

For 30 years after the camp was formed, the Sandy river, just down the hill was used for swimming. Now, the girls learn to swim and practice water ballet in a 165,000 gallon, aqua-



Many of the girls learn to weave at Camp Namanu. They can make place mats and rugs among other things. The girls learn to do things at camp that they might not have an opportunity to learn living in the city.

colored pool located on the camp meadow.

Camp Namanu is a 540 acre development with more than 60 buildings. It even boasts a ranch, complete with 16 horses and a counselor who originally comes from Poland. Her young charges call her Miss Sophia. The ranch unit director is a Gresham girl, Sue Grover.

The girls live at Namanu in units according to age groups. Blue Birds, under ten, stay in Blue Bird cabins named for characters in "Winnie the Pooh". Ten-year-olds live in Sherwood Forest, Robin Hill is for eleven-year-olds and here cabins are named for the stars

and constellations. When a girl is twelve, she lives at Kiwanis. At thirteen she can live in Pioneer or at Tepee. High schoolers live at Balagan in and Pioneer tree house perched over and in trees near the Sandy river. The tree houses, usually reached by plank paths, have trees growing through the floors and roof which make ideal hanging posts for mirrors--what girl would ever be without a mirror. The tree houses have no doors, windows or screens. Girls who live in Tepee, live in true Indian style, in tepees, although they do have cots for sleeping.

The camp is scattered with the living units on the hills and slopes which surround a huge meadow. In the meadow, the girls exercise, practice archery, hear about forest friends, and "sing around the camp fire". The sylvan camp has its own pond complete with boats and ducks. One of the favorite activities of the young campers is to paddle around the pond. The girlish voices ring from the hills, usually in song and laughter--these girls are

always singing with lots of youthful vigor and girlish enthusiasm.

Lunchtime at Namanu finds most of the fair maidens grouped around the tables at Raker Lodge. When they finish eating, the girls take turns leading in songs--usually about the attributes of their Camp Namanu. They even sing on campouts when they make their own lunch and take to the woods.

Camp director is outgoing Virginia Ramsey. She is an attractive, red-haired outdoorsy type who extols the virtues of Camp Fire Girls from her years of devotion to the organization. This is her first year at Camp Namanu.

During a regular week there are approximately 286 campers at Namanu supervised by a staff of 75 including 65 counselors. Usually there are six or seven girls for each counselor.

The camping program at Namanu emphasizes three points. "We do things you can't or wouldn't have the opportunity to do in town," the director said and gave the ex-

amples of archery, weaving and nature crafts. The girls use branches to make picture frames and "they come away with a respect for growing things." The campers plan their own program. "This is the beautiful part," she continued, "and we know this works for we have a waiting list of 100 in the senior unit alone." The director stressed the fact that "the girls don't develop into woodsmen" at Namanu, but they learn to appreciate and enjoy the outdoors. They are taught fire safety, to build and put out fires. Skills in camping are emphasized.

The development really comes alive in the summer time. It has a health house with one registered and one student nurse on duty at all times. A Sandy doctor, E. D. Leavitt is on call 24 hours for the camp.

Counselors at the camp are college girls, students or graduates who come to lead the young girls. Some are teachers who come to this retreat to spend the summer. Seventy percent of the counselors were once Camp Fire Girls themselves.

The camping community has a budget of over \$50,000 for the 10 week period with much of this money spent in the Gresham and Sandy areas. The money covers staff, program, food and other costs of the camp. Some of the Gresham merchants which the camp does business with are Meadowland Dairy, Peterson Plumbing, Gresham Transfer, Gresham Plumbing and Heating, Portland Stages which takes the girls to the camp.

Sandy Merchants who provide Namanu with goods and services are Lewis Hardware, Three Boys, Smith Chevron, Sandy Rexall, Ogden's, Art's Mt. Electronics, Sandy Lumber, Mt. Hood Laundry, Brewster's Paul's Welding, Clackamas County Bank.

And the post office which really has a big job deciphering the girlish scrawls on letters home deserves a mention. Mail service is good, coming right to the camp. One counselor from Switzerland gets her letters from home in about five days.

Letters to Portland usually take three days from Namanu. Dietician Rosa Burrell, a ten year veteran at Namanu, gave a few figures on quantities of food consumed at the camp during one week. The campers used a total of 1400 quarts of milk one week and during that same time period ate their way through 632 pounds of meat.

The girls like the camp immensely and find it hard to leave after one week. But, if they're



After meals at Raker Lodge, (the dining hall), everyone, including the girls, counselors, and even camp director Virginia Ramsey help clear the tables.

lucky they'll come back next year to enjoy more camping and when they get older they may come back to be a counselor. Many do.

For additional pictures on Camp Namanu see page 5.

(Post Photos)

Church Service Honors Two

Two young men about to enter the army, Greg Douglass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quinton Douglass, and Nick Courser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loy Courser, were honored at the Saturday, August 6, service at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

The sermon by Pastor Chambers was based on a Christian's attitude towards life in the army. At the close of the service each boy was given a special gift from the church.

In the evening the two, who were inducted yesterday, met with their relatives and friends at Pastor Chamber's home for an evening of recreation.

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