

Education and training offered by Job Corps

Education and training are what the Job Corps is all about. And since the Timber Lake Civilian Conservation Center on the Clackamas River Road above Estacada opened 10 years ago in August, more than 5,500 young men have been enrolled in its program.

The majority of them have met the requirements for a GED diploma and accumulated 750 work hours on a 40-hour work week. Some have continued their dropout pattern and left the Job Corps.

"The average stay is six to seven months," said Wright Mallory, Mt. Hood Forest supervisor.

The Forest Service administers the Job Corps for the Department of Labor, and Timber Lake Center is under the jurisdiction of the Mt. Hood Forest.

"We are fast losing in this society having a skill. It seems that now all a carpenter has to do is pound a nail. The needs of this country include apprentices," Mallory continued.

Timber Lake has seven vocational training programs which lead into apprenticeships for the corpsmen who complete them.

Three—plastering, painting and carpentry—are union programs with a coordinator and staff selected by each union teaching the trade at the center. Cooking, automotive service mechanic, warehousing and maintenance complete the vocational offerings.

Corpsmen are "job ready" when they complete their course.

"I wouldn't be afraid to give a job contract to one of them who is close to finishing his course," Mallory stated.

"They never get fired from a job because of skills but for social reasons, a late-to-work habit or money. A kid gets involved with buying a car, clothing and TV all at once," explained Nella Dickson, who taught in the education program at Timber Lake for almost six years.

Mrs. Dickson was promoted last month to the personnel department of Mt. Hood Forest and exchanged a classroom at the Job Corps Center for an office at headquarters in Gresham. She is involved in training with "people programs" as she terms it.

"Ninety-five per cent of Job Corpsmen were dropouts," their former math and reading teacher said.

"Some of them were within three or four weeks to high school graduation then dropped out. I would like to recommend Job Corps education to replace what the schools have now

equivalency one plus high scores on the Standard Achievement Tests in math and reading, he goes to school. He is on a 10-day schedule varying from full time in education to full time in vocational training.

Timber Lake CCC was accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary Higher Schools in 1971. This accreditation enables a corpsman to receive his G.E.D. upon successful completion of the course work and the five-subject test areas administered

by Mt. Hood Community College.

The Job Corps isn't all school or work. Arts and crafts, sports activities, games and movies are available. Seasonal recreational activities are provided plus off-center trips. Off-center passes are earned as is home leave.

Leave can be taken after six months in the Job Corps and is accumulated at two days a month from the date of enrollment. Twelve days of approved emergency leave are

provided. A library trailer at the center is operated by the Action people.

"We have a continuing need for paperbacks," Mallory remarked.

Mysteries, sports novels, westerns and Black and Chicano history books are on the preferred list.

But is the Job Corps on the "preferred list" of the federal budget? Oregon once had five centers and now has three. All of the Job Corps centers in

California are closed.

"If we can make it through these tough money years and produce qualified men . . . is Nella Dickson's hope.

Commented Corpsman Mark Artesani:

"When we complete our trade and pass our G.E.D., we hope to be placed in a job before we go home. We have all heard how bad it is as far as jobs are concerned back home. But out here, in the middle of nowhere when all the basic needs are provided for, it's hard to

imagine how it is out in the streets.

"Most of us have had times where we didn't have money for food, or maybe we were kicked out of the nest. There were always some small jobs around or some way to get some money, but now when you go for any job, not just the good ones, you are going to have men laid off with maybe 10 years experience trying to get it, too."

He plans to wait until he is placed on a job through the Job Corps placement service.

Another success story is

George Foreman, who started gas station back home if his boxing career while a Job Corps enrollee in California.

The Job Corps follows up on the employment situation of members. Their records indicate that within three months after termination, only three per cent are unemployed.

And four former Job Corpsmen are on the staff at Timber Lake. One of them is a graduate of the Mt. Hood Forest Center at Timber Lake.

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TIMBER LAKE Job Corps has a vocal booster in its over-all boss, Wright Mallory, Mt. Hood Forest supervisor.

starting with the ninth or tenth grade," she suggested.

"A 14- or 15-year-old now gets a work permit and tries to go to school, gets discouraged and drops out. With part school and part vocational training, he won't have to come out of the public school and start all over to obtain training," was her explanation.

Corpsmen entering Timber Lake take a series of written tests to determine their educational achievement.

"Some haven't learned to read and some read proficiently," said Don Smith, a reading teacher at the center since it opened in August 1965.

"We have three programs in reading," he continued, "kindergarten or first grade through third, graded reading of third through eighth grade and advanced which is junior high, high school and college level."

There are two reading teachers plus assistance from the four Action (Vista) people at Timber Lake.

Besides reading, the center classes include math, world of work, language and study skills, physical education and G.E.D. Elective subjects also are offered.

Unless an entering corpsman has a high school diploma or an