

Central Oregon draws young Grangers to camp



GLASSED GARDENS—Charles Kocher, Portland, and Gary Hague, Dexter, put finishing touches on terrariums, using materials gathered on nature hike at camp on Tumalo Creek.

Text by Ila Grant Hopper, photos by Nate Bull

This weekend at the Oregon Grange Youth Camp, straw ticks will go back in storage, grounds and buildings will be cleaned, campers will leave for homes in all parts of the state, and the rustic lodge will be locked up for the season.

The camp, about 10 miles west of Bend on Tumalo Creek, has seen some pretty lively days and nights, the past three weeks. Three groups of campers in the 10-14 age bracket, all juvenile Grangers or from Grange families, have been communing with Nature, but not isolated from the conveniences of civilization.

The campers will be leaving with more possessions than they brought, and suitcases and hampers will bulge with useful and decorative handcraft items, leaves and rocks from forest and stream — and perhaps an occasional frog or water snake, to help keep the memories of camp alive.

Each week-long camp session had a different cast, except for staff members who served throughout the three-week period. Mrs. Ralph Rogers of Junction City was camp director, assisted by her husband.

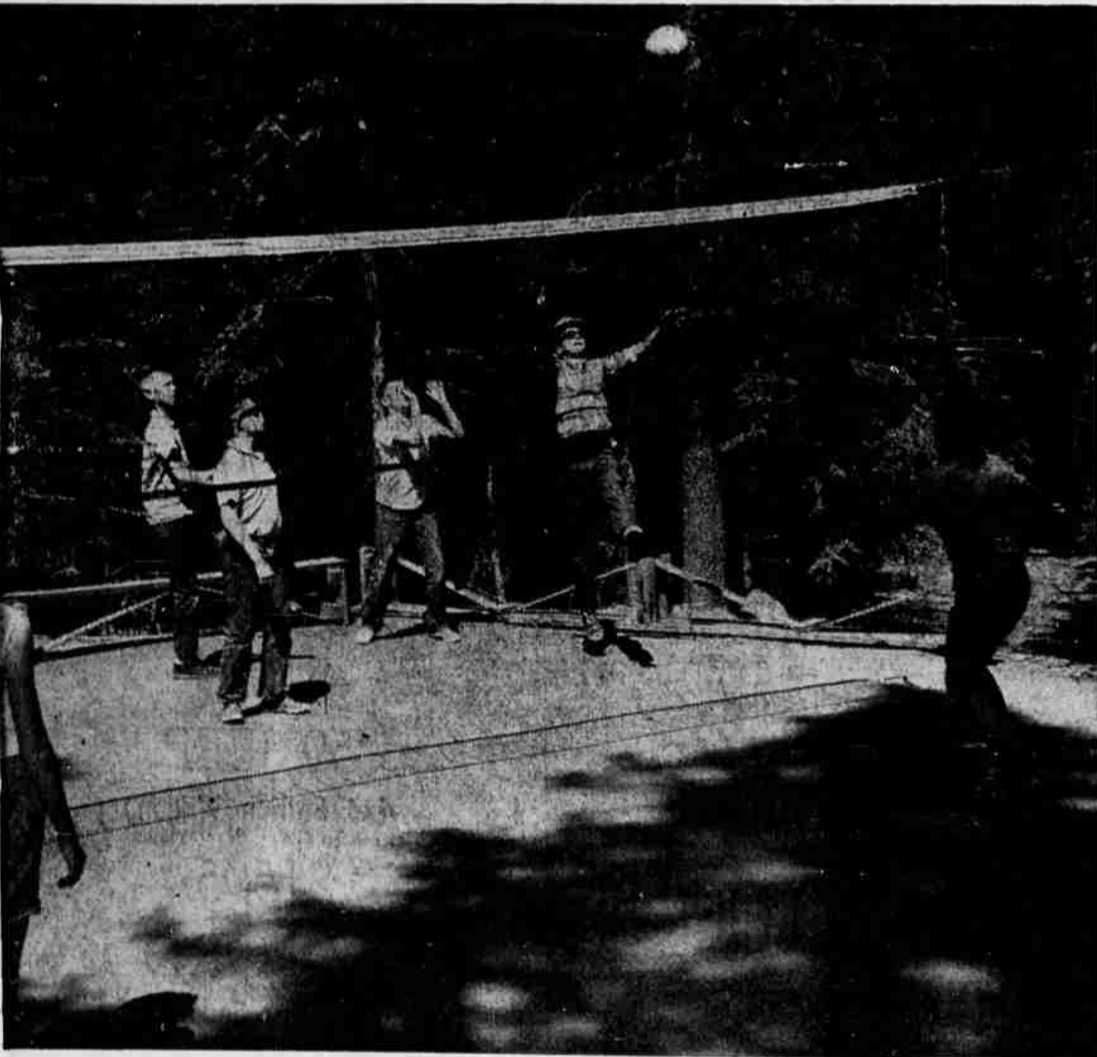
There were games and sports, nature hikes, special programs, and a handcraft program that will provide more leisure-time activity for the youngsters even after they return home. They will be able to share their craft training with non-camping friends, and many of the items will be exhibited in Grange booths at fairs and festivals.

The youngsters made leave-a-note boxes and beaded crosses from ready-packaged sticks. They converted walnut shells into salt-and-pepper shakers. They made plaster-of-Paris vases, painted, touched with gilt, and decorated with tiny cones. They gathered plants and dry materials from the woods, and made terrariums and plaques.

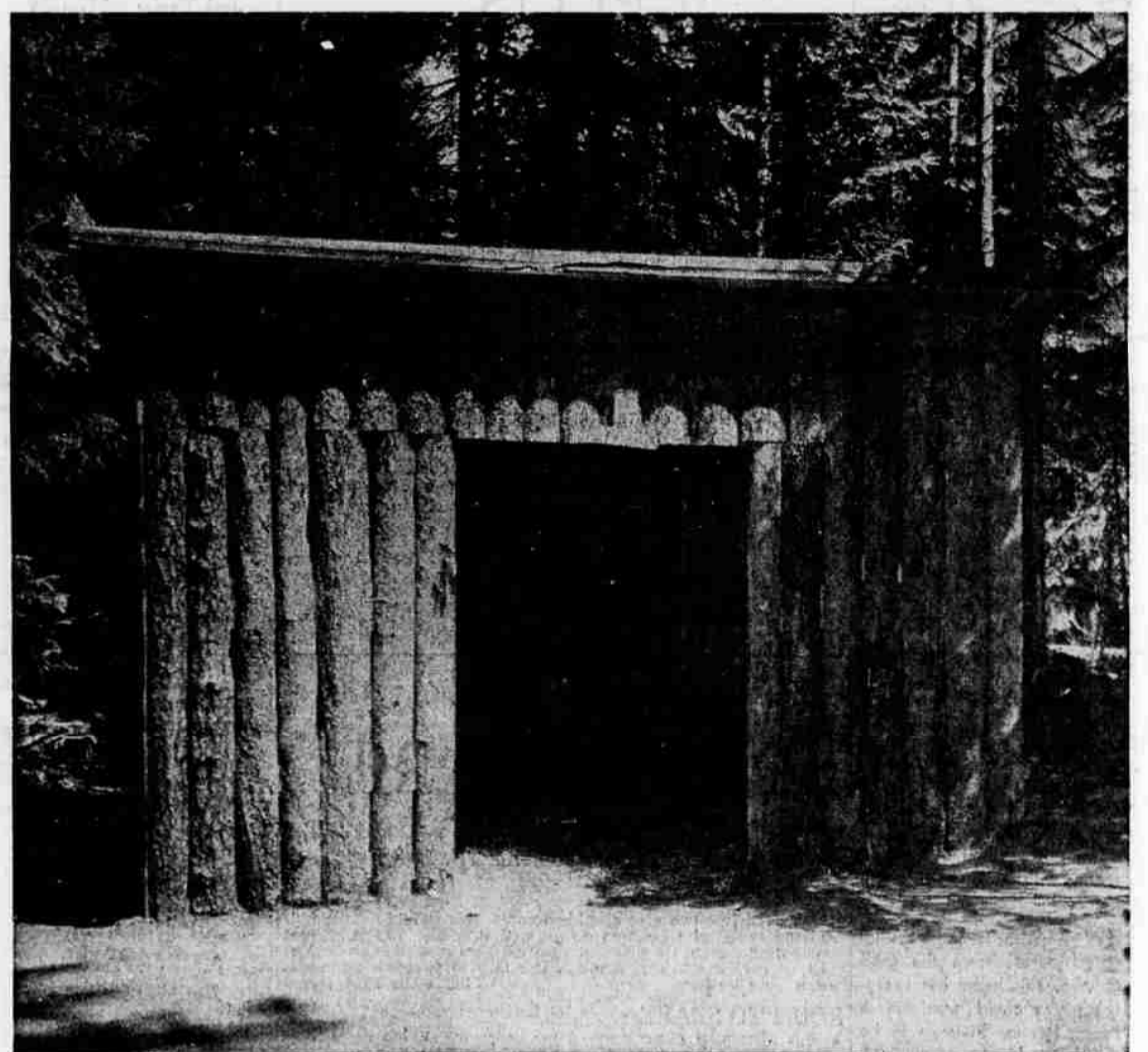
There were ball games and dances, educational lectures and long walks. There were talent shows and stunts, songfests and quiet times. There were camp chores and showers, mosquito bites and sunburn. In short, there was summer camp. There's nothing like it.



STICK CRAFT—Kathy Kocher, Portland, and Cherie Conyers, The Dalles, spend craft period making small wooden crosses, decorated with glitter glued on to form designs.



OVER THE NET—Volleyball game helps use surplus energy. Behind net are Gary White and Tom Crader, Redland; John Schroder, Hillsboro; Jim Erickson, Redland. In foreground are Michelle Lynch and Christine Layman, The Dalles.



SLEEPING SHELTER—Typical bunk-shack at camp has been furnished by occupants with wall-to-wall straw carpet. Groups select names like "Cool Cats," "77 Skyline Strip," "George's Monsters"; post names on rustic quarters.



CLEAN-UP TIME—Wash basins get a workout as young Grangers scrub up for dinner. From left are Curtis Wicks and Elvaree Fine, from Cottage Grove, and Harold Johnson, Redland. Camp facilities include hot and cold water, showers. Grange holds 99-year lease on National Forest land.



RURAL SURGERY—Practicing skit for evening bonfire program, Ronald Young, Lakeview, has role of victim. "Doctors" are Dale Rogers, Dexter, and Gary White, Redland.