

Work, outdoor life attract YCC youths to Tupper

The days start early for 24 high school age Youth Conservation Corps members making their summer home in the Umatilla National Forest.

Wake up calls come at 6:30, followed by a round of loosening up exercises before breakfast. Then its out of camp and into the woods for work details.

There are no televisions, telephones, or opportunities to cruise for burgers—a far cry from the urban life in the Willamette Valley where most of the youths call home. But, surprisingly, no one seems to be complaining.

"I like it here," said Rob Lorenzen of Portland. "I don't miss TV or going out after food—the cooking here is excellent...But maybe I do miss having a stereo," he admitted.

"It's good to get out of the city," commented Mike Grogan, 15, of Portland, who was taking part in his first full summer of work, as well as making his first extended visit to east of the Cascades Oregon.

All but three of this year's crop of YCC workers come from the Willamette Valley. "It's not something that was planned," said program supervisor Chuck Ernst, "they were selected purely at random."

Since the Youth Conservation Corps got underway in 1974, its popularity among eligible 15-18 year olds has grown to the point that "we probably have 12 replacements on a waiting list for every one who may want to drop out," Ernst said.

The 24 YCC members headquartered at the Tupper Creek camp facility perform 30 hours of conservation oriented work per week. This week, their labors included repairing rest room facilities at the Bull Prairie campground. Other projects during their eight week stay in the Umatilla National Forest will include lodgepole thinning, boundary marker installation, slash piling, riprapping isolated bridge abutments, and rebuilding fences.

A lot of these projects,

especially the ones involving campground maintenance, get done only through the efforts of the YCC workers, since the U.S. Forest Service does not include such programs in its budget, Ernst said.

For their efforts, the YCC members receive \$2.65 per hour.

"They probably get \$35,000 to \$40,000 worth of work done here," said Ernst, "so we get nearly a dollar in return for every dollar the program costs."

Youth Conservation Corps members also receive 10 hours per week in "environmental awareness" instruction. YCC leaders refrain from calling environmental instruction sessions classes, since they are held in an informal, open atmosphere. "We don't want the kids to think they're back in school," said Ernst.

Youths taking part in the program have some say in what the environmental awareness sessions will focus on. Participating youths also

have a voice on what their weekend activities will include.

Weekends have been spent by the YCC members on such activities as field trips to the John Day fossil beds, and a camping trip to the John Day area. Next weekend, the YCC youths will travel to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the Steens Mountains.

Other outings are expected to include trips to the museum and swimming pool in Heppner.

Some of the 24 YCC members are currently serving on weeklong "spike camps" in the Ukiah district, working in remote areas and preparing their own meals in tent camps.

Supervision responsibilities fall largely on the shoulders of four crew leaders, some of them former YCC members, who range in age from 17-25.

Some of the YCC youths will be able to earn scholastic credit for their summer experiences, by completing projects or writing papers on conserva-

tion related themes.

Aside from a chance to experience life in the outdoors, many youths had good words to say for their opportunity to meet new friends from different areas—another important aspect of YCC life.

Not to mention the chance to get away from parents and family for an eight week period.

"That part's paradise," joked 15-year-old Steve Byrne of Corvallis.

Methodist Church activities listed

On Sunday, June 25, Barbara James the congregation's lay delegate to the annual conference of the United Methodist Church of Oregon and Idaho presented her report to the congregation before the 10 a.m. worship service.

After the morning service families gathered in the church basement from 11 to 11:30 a.m. to view the film "Almost Neighbors" and to discuss it briefly with Pastor Tollefson.

This Friday, June 30, at 6:30

the young married couples of the church will meet in the Main Street Park for a barbeque dinner. Each couple will bring along a meat and a dish to share.

On Sunday, July 9, the Senior M.Y.F. group will enjoy a day of water fun. They will play in the Columbia and expect to picnic, swim and water ski. Mrs. Tollefson is their advisor.

Later this month the annual congregational picnic will be held in the park behind the County Courthouse.



Jack of all trades...

The Blue Mountains offer a change of pace and a chance to become a Jack-of-all-trades for 24 high school students. They are participants in the Youth Conservation Corp at Tupper Guard Station. Pictured here are Mike Grogan (background) and Rob Lorenzen, both of Portland, replacing gravel around one of the camp's privy.



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Monday evening June 19 for its regular meeting with the Master, Carl Marquardt in the chair.

Preceding the business session, the group listened to highlights of the Morrow County budgets to be voted on. Speaking were County Judge D.O. Nelson, Assessor Everett Harshman, Tom McElligott, and the hospital administrator, Bob Byrnes. They explained the county's and hospital's pressing money needs.

Following this, pot-luck desserts were served before continuing with the business. A stew supper and entertainment is planned for Sept. before hunting seasons. The next two meetings will be dispensed with and the executive committee will take care of any business.

Pat Cool of Pendleton was here a couple of days last week, when she held an open house for Artex paint and gave instructions. She was a visitor at the home of her mother, Florence McMillan.

Venice Hendrickson left Tuesday for Minneapolis, Minn., where she will visit friends and relatives for four weeks. She was taken to the Portland airport by her daughter Hilda Yocon.

Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Horan of Everett, Wash. are visiting at the C.C. Jones ranch. On Tuesday they visited Emma Lacey of Milton-Freewater, a long-time friend of the couple.

Billy Van Winkle of Enterprise visited his mother Gladys Van Winkle this past

SUMMER SIZZLERS

SIDEWALK SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 14

IN HEPPNER—ALL DAY

All organizations seeking to raise funds are urged to participate...ask any merchant for space on the sidewalk!

NOTICE

Drs. Richard A. Carpenter and Joseph H. Diehl regret to announce the closing of their practice at the Heppner Medical Clinic, effective August 1, 1978.

Patients may arrange for transfer of their medical records to another physician by contacting the clinic at North Thompson Rd., P.O. Box 1109, Heppner, Oregon 97836, telephone 676-9148.