

CAMP KERBY CCC ENROLLES PASS FEW DULL HOURS

Long Evenings After Work Made Enjoyable by Programs, Games—Talented Minstrel Troupe Feature

After one year of service in the 1746th company at Camp Kerby, Selma, Oregon, the men who are leaving will take with them many pleasant memories of their 12 months' service which includes their monthly salaries, nourishing food warm clothing and the many forms of entertainment secured for their benefit.

Most of the personnel has seen the camp grow from a tented village where the food was served in the open to a camp composed of barracks built of lumber containing showers, drying rooms, a recreation hall attractively decorated with pictures from various phases of the camp construction program, a mess hall scrupulously clean and inviting, and a parade ground claimed to be the class of the district.

Never Lack Entertainment. It has been the pleasure of the 1746th company to never lack some form of entertainment during the long evenings after work since the camp's inauguration. When volunteers who could either sing, play some musical instrument or give readings were invited to help present the recreational programs the response was surprising. In fact the reputation of the entertainers has been so widespread that the members have been the recipients of many invitations for presentations over KMED, the American Legion programs and various civic and church programs.

Not only have the musical programs furnished entertainment, but during the summer months a baseball team was organized in the camp and games were scheduled each Sunday and oftentimes two games were played over the week-end. As many of the men did not find it convenient to travel home over the week-end, the baseball games were an inviting answer to their problems of how to pass their spare time.

Athletics Enjoyed. Boxing and wrestling were other sports that found ready response from the younger members of the camp. A

standard boxing ring was erected in the camp and every night two exciting, sunburned figures could be seen trading lusty wallops with each other. Matches were often arranged with other neighboring CCC camps and a number of the local enrollees journeyed to Medford for the American Legion amateur tournament, one of whom brought home the light-heavy-weight championship.

As a climax to the baseball season Camp Kerby was just beaten out for the district's championship. The local team won 16 out of 18 games played.

With the completion of the barracks and recreation hall, the card tables, permanent and travelling libraries, ping-pong tables, newspapers, magazines and radio played an important part in whiling away the evening hours.

Welfare Officer Busy. Under the direction of the camp welfare officer, Preston E. Rohner, 1st Lieut. Inf. Reg., who holds a life certificate to teach in the Oregon schools, educational classes in various subjects were held, open to all who cared to enroll. The various subjects given were radio instruction, telephone and line classes, dramatics, correspondence courses, assistance to

those who were completing their high school units toward graduation, news writing and feature writing, first aid work and fire control. A camp newspaper was published twice a week.

With the extension of the Civilian Conservation Corps for another period of six months in September, new funds were made available for the various camps which led to purchase new recreation facilities, which included newspaper subscriptions, magazines, basketball equipment, ping-pong equipment, miniature golf outfit, boxing gloves, punching bag, indoor baseball, horseshoes, dominoes, chess and checkers.

Have Basketball Team. During the winter months a basketball team was organized and was entered in both the CCC district league and the Grants Pass city league. During the scheduled games transportation was provided for the participants and to the men who wished to go as spectators. Prizes were also awarded to winners of the singing, chess, checker and ping-pong tournaments.

Not only have the camp members furnished their own programs, but through the invitation of Lieut. P. E. Rohner many outside groups of high class entertainers and speakers appeared at the camp. The Oregon Cavemen, Schroeder's dancing class, Dr. Hoyt's Comedy Circus, Mayor Stockwell of Grants Pass, Methodist Epworth league, Mrs. Goddon's musical entertainers, Mrs. Grover's readings, Captain White of the National Guard, G. E. Mitchell, supervisor of the Siskiyou National Forest, the Grants Pass high school orchestra and Martin Trepte's students from the Trepte Conservatory of Music, all from Grants Pass, have made their appearances at the various camp functions. A few of the other entertainers were Jay Gore "Magic and Mystic" from Ashland, Schaefer's orchestra from Cave City, Girl Scouts from Rogue River, under the direction of Mrs. A. W. Love, moving pictures sponsored by Medford headquarters CCC and the famous CCC "Showboat" moving picture.

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Religious Services. District CCC chaplains and various religious groups presented services at the camp. Both the grand opening of the barracks and the Christmas party given by the camp in honor of the school children of the Illinois valley district were packed by spectators.

So successful have been the programs of the camp that the latest venture has met with unprecedented success. A 17-man minstrel representing colored players, has been organized and at the present time has been practically snowed under with invitations to present their programs at various clubs, lodges, church gatherings and grocers covering practically the entire area of southern Oregon and northern California. KMED, the Medford radio station, carried their program to the many listeners who found it impossible to attend the actual performance.

Publicity Given. Various items of interest depicting the recreation work at Camp Kerby have appeared in all of the newspapers received locally.

The men will have been very appreciative of the pleasantness of their hours outside of their work. The scenes in the recreation hall in the evenings were as comfortable as those of the various homes. Every man leaving will take with him the memories of his pleasant stay and conviction that the U. S. government is interested in his welfare and that his condition in every respect is superior to that upon his entrance into the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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