

White City Today Is Combination of Both Old and New

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Mail Tribune Correspondent

White City—White City today is a strange combination of the old and the new—the old world and the new deal. There is something of a feudal atmosphere with a progressive outlook pervading the scene.

When the post office address was changed from Camp White to White City, embracing more than the plant of the Veterans Administration to include the office of the bureau of reclamation in the interior department and the adjoining White City industrial community, the old aura of a military camp began to fade.

Camp White as an infantry training ground in World War II, and as a new endeavor in the chain of domiciliarys maintained for disabled war veterans, has now disappeared. The VA now recognizes the real value of White City domiciliary and in the past five years has given fullest attention to permanence of the facilities and personnel.

The domiciliary has gone through its period of growing pains and is settling down to a way of life that is unique. Attention now is being directed toward making the system work and inculcating a morale among all who participate in the program. This includes a nucleus of community agencies, churches, schools and organizations who comprise the corps of volunteers.

Frank Glonning, administrative assistant, estimates that about 400 volunteer entertainers and participants come to White City each month to assist in the program. In addition, there are 275 on an average who are regular contributors to the over all schedule of events. Most of these volunteers are enlisted from the Rogue River valley.



CLEANING GROUNDS—This is the way Camp White looked when work started on the Domiciliary back in 1950—covered with stones and bare of trees. Culverts have replaced ditches and all buildings have been repainted and reroofed.

One of the more recent additions to the operating staff has been a chief of housekeeping. The VA has been training men in this work at the hospital in Denver and Lewis Gustafson was sent here to inaugurate this supervision.

One of Station's Aims
Good housekeeping has been one of the aims of this station from the day it was opened. A corps of workers reminiscent of the days when Camp White was built, started in. Under Burton Sims, in charge of engineering, the rebuilding work was carried through.

Then attention turned to

interior decoration. Volunteers made and installed curtains around the windows, provided bed covers and other conveniences. A mammoth painting job was undertaken and among the painters an artist, Clarence Henderson, was found who decorated the canteen with murals. The interior job is only beginning, Sims declares.

Modern bathroom fixtures, beds and lockers are being installed and numerous changes are being made in the arrangement of sections, conforming with the allocation of men to rooms and dormitories.

Elaborate Organization

An elaborate organization of those contributing to the welfare and well being of the membership has been established. It is this arrangement that harks back to the feudal tradition without the severe obligations of that system of life. Member duties are imposed for reasons of health and in conformity with medical control.

In this little society, which because of its character is almost self sufficient, are all the material and spiritual advantages of food and comfortable lodging, entertainment, hobbies, sports and recreation, medical attention and religious services.

Members perform half of the housekeeping duties and provide better than 40 percent of the employment. They participate in activities of their own choice in most instances, form their own social groups, including membership in their own posts of the VFW, WW I Veterans, and the American Legion, and vote in all elections.

Distinct Character

But the distinct character of the White City domiciliary as a combination of the old and the new is the unostentatious service rendered by the surrounding communities of the Rogue River valley.

The devotion of such people as Caesar Muzzoli with his accordion band and the schools and trained entertainers is recognized. But the unannounced aid rendered continuously by such independent bodies as the Elks, the Grange, the Red Cross, the Garden clubs, the Salvation Army and the service organizations makes the task of administration much easier.

These compose the body of the VA Voluntary Services. It may be added that hardly any other VA installation has had the advantage of local publicity gained through the valley's news media.

Such activities show how White City now functions as a little city almost apart from, but still a part of the world. With the daily sale of two Portland papers, together with TV and radio, not to mention movies, the men are kept abreast of what is happening elsewhere. The complement of members comes from or has been in every part of the world.

Humanitarian Nature

The humanitarian nature of the entire undertaking is symbolized by the establishment on the spot of a social work service and the installation of offices for the American Red Cross, the American Legion and VFW Auxiliaries.

The contribution of the Red Cross is largely grooved to this aim, combined with the traditional services to the well being of veterans. A staff of 21 lady aides and one man is assigned to the domiciliary.

They spend the morning on the job performing various services, largely identified with the work of the medical department. They visit the men in the infirmary, write letters for them and do errands. Miss Voda Brower does typing in the infirmary.

The social service work is handled by Mrs. Sheridan



THE GROUNDS TODAY—Shade trees today predominate with green lawns in place of stones and sand to make of White City a park as well as a home for disabled veterans. This is a view from the administration building entrance.

Scott and Mrs. John Gates. Mrs. E. A. Littrell assists in the treatment room. Mrs. Roy Stanley, Mrs. John Hall and Mrs. Galen E. Jordan conduct classes to help aphasia cases. A class in knitting also is under Red Cross supervision with Mrs. G. G. Stagg in charge.

Most Unique Service

The most unique service at this station performed by the Red Cross lady aides is the reading class for men who are not able to read themselves, in the library. Mrs. Allan Perry, Mrs. Ted Flurry, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. J. J. McHugh and Mrs. Thelma Short are the readers.

All of these services are inconspicuous and apart from the regular theater entertainment. The Red Cross arranges for a monthly variety show and occasional travel talks given by prominent citizens who have made trips to other lands, which are reviewed pictorially.

Mrs. A. T. Wattenburg is the VAVS representative and Mrs. Fred Rehling is Gray Lady chairman.

One large scale operation that has grown in importance to the membership is the sewing circle maintained by four ladies' groups from the surrounding area. Forty-four women participate in this program.

Always Enough Mending

The Eagle Point and Phoenix Grange ladies, the Grants Pass Blue Star Mothers, and the World War I auxiliary come to White City on separate days each month and there is always enough mending and stitching to do to keep them busy several hours in the afternoon.

In recognition of this service, they are:

Eagle Point Grange: Lena Smith, Ethel Coy, Edna Best, Sylvia Hale, Mabel Harnish, Augusta Perry, Gertrude Stanley and Irene Stafford.
Phoenix Grange: Christine Dinsmore, Evelyn Cyr, Myrtle Hixson, Sylvia Bates, Ethel Hockersmith, Elsie Lewis.

Florence Hartley, Opal Strom, Mabel Cox, Edith Poe and Wilma Johnson.
Blue Star Mothers: Mary Bolling, Bessie Gentry, Jenny Smith, Nellie Sheppard, Laura Buckner, Velma Bailey, Edna Crosby, Ruth Harmon, Edna McKenzie and Ardina Kretschmer.

WW I auxiliary: May De Barry, Ruth Clark, Frances Dalton, Ruth Gendling, Olive Hoffman, Edna Hastian, Anna Lund, Mabel Lynch, Mamie Schrack, Mildred Taylor, Ruth Walters, Mildred Pitcher, Belle Otis, Cora Fawcett and Anna Brown.

Flowers, Shrubs and Trees

Flowers, shrubs and trees now grow in the Camp White area where only stones and weeds were found before. Beautification of the grounds is more than two-thirds completed, according to Sims.

The engineering division under his direction has brought about this transformation.

A good neighbor across the highway, Charles Hoover, has helped in a big way by supplying about 2,000 yards of top soil and from five to six hundred yards of fertilizer to help make the lawns green.

Among the special recreational advantages are the picnic area, sponsored mainly by the VAVS and the miniature golf course laid out by Al Williams, former pro at the country club.

Assist To Improve Grounds

The Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs has contributed rose bushes and plants and has assisted in numerous ways to improve the grounds. One special project for the men with an interest in gardening has been the sponsorship of small garden spots between buildings to cultivate.

The Garden club women have one assignment which has continued through the years in supplying flowers for decoration. They form an altar guild which is active seven months of the year in decoration of the chapel each Saturday.

Starting in April with the

Crater club, women each month are selected from the groups in Jacksonville, Ashland, Central Point, Shady Cove, Jerome Prairie and Medford.

Mrs. B. L. Lockwood of Talent is the VAVS representative of the Oregon Federation of Garden clubs.

Recognize Importance

The VA in 1957 recognized the importance of this phase of the program and a greenhouse was built and is maintained by the engineering division. Flowers and plants are grown and during the five months of winter, flowers are supplied for the chapel and special occasions such as the Christmas season.

W. K. Snook has been the official gardener since March.

One project which is being given special attention is the program of interests for the aging veterans who come to White City to stay. Many

join the 50 Plus Club sponsored by Rita Holmes. The service organizations together with the rehabilitation staff provide facilities in games, hobbies and manual arts training, tours and other interests as well as aids.

There is a collection of more than 2,000 puzzles, all donated, which has been the pet project of David Frisch. A stamp club has been active under sponsorship of Lorena Leach, of the American Legion auxiliary. And during the season, a fishing club is active.

Work in Lapidary

A few of the old timers enjoy working in the lapidary with rocks. This interest is encouraged by Elmer Binker, of the Roxy Ann club of Medford. An art class, it is announced, will soon be started.

Banks I. Paul, acting director at the present time, has been assistant to both E. K. Ricker and the late H. C. Herzog, in charge of the major portion of the rebuilding program at the domiciliary.

Paul is a trained administrator, having an MS degree from Columbia university, of New York, in hospital administration. He has had considerable administrative experience and came to Camp White

from the VA hospital in Pittsburgh, in March, 1958.

That a prophet is not always without honor is apparent today at the White City domiciliary, as the fulfillment of the aim of General George A. White, when he helped to found the American Legion in Paris, after whom Camp White was named.

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Mt. Ashland Loop Road Is Now Open

Mt. Ashland Loop rd. is now open, according to the weekly recreation report from Rogue River National forest. Snow has kept the road closed until now.

The recreation report by district is:

Applegate district: Roads in the district are dusty. The dust plus logging trucks on all major roads makes travel hazardous.

Campgrounds are receiving heavy use, but are holding up under the impact. All campgrounds are open. The river is warming up and more people are taking advantage of it.

Fishing near Copper has been reported as good, not poor, as previously reported. Other streams and lakes also are producing good catches.

Ashland district: The Mt. Ashland Loop rd. is now open. Use of the Mt. Ashland area on the Fourth and last week end was heavy.

Fish lake continues to provide poor fishing, but the weather has improved so it is now comfortable camping at the lake.

Use of the campground at Dead Indian-Soda Springs is light. It is cool and pleasant for picnicking and fishing the South Fork of Little Butte creek.

The road from Fish Lake to Lake of the Woods is open but dusty and rough because of construction on the Winnemucca-to-the-Sea highway.

Butte Falls district: Snow is still a problem in the Seven Lakes basin. Much of the trail into the basin and to Devils peak is still covered with snow. Scattered drifts are still common around the lakes. Fishing reports indicate good catches in Cliff lake and only fair success in Middle lake and Grass lake.

Trails are being opened in the Blue Canyon area. The work should be completed shortly. No fishing reports were received.

The trail to the beaver dams on the Fish Lake rd. is open and in good condition. A roadside sign on the road marks the beginning of the trails — directions to the beaver dams can be obtained at any of the guard stations or at the district office.

All district roads are in good condition. Heavy logging traffic may be encountered on the Twincrater and Lodgepole rds. during weekdays. The Fish Lake rd. has been off to the Willow lake junction. An oil dust coat was applied from the Willow lake junction to the bottom of Mosquito hill.

Prospect district: All roads on the district are now open with heavy weekday logging traffic on Woodruff and Jim Creek rds.

Major trails are also in good hiking condition with improvement operations com-

pleted or under way.

The weather has been 80 to 90 degrees during the day and quite cool in the evening. Trout fishing is improving, as the streams are warming up and daily hazards increase.

Good reports have been received from all the upper branches of the Rogue river. If any additional information is needed, there will be personnel at the station throughout the week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for assistance.

Union Creek district: All campgrounds and roads are now open on the Union Creek district. Motorists are advised to use caution on the National-Wizard access road because of heavy logging traffic.

Clear skies and warm weather make camping and fishing conditions ideal. Reported catches are good and many.

Beckies Cafe is now open 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. standard time. Tourist accommodations are available at the Union Creek resort. Supplies and gas may be purchased from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. standard time.

Plans Progress For Demo Picnic

The Jackson-Josephine county Democratic picnic committees met at the Canby Cottage in Gold Hill last week with Ralph James and Dr. Carroll Dewey, co-chairmen, presiding.

The annual picnic will be held July 22 at the new Valley of the Rogue State park between Gold Hill and Rogue River. The eating and festivities will start at 1 p.m. Speaking will begin at 2 p.m.

Candidates who will speak are Sen. Wayne Morse, Robert Y. Thornton, Democratic candidate for governor, Robert Duncan, candidate for congressman from the fourth district; Norman Nilson, labor commissioner, and Charles Crary, candidate for state representative.

Ed Spencer, Democratic state chairman, has accepted an invitation, and plans to attend with his family.

Registration will be 25 cents for adults, but not over 50 cents per family. The charge is to cover various beverages, ice cream and table service which will be furnished. Families with names from A to G are asked to take a meat dish; H to M, a vegetable; N to S, a salad; T to Z, a desert, co-chairmen said.

NAVIGATOR DIES
Boston — 47 Cmdr. Charles V. Cowing, 47, commander of the first U.S. ship to navigate the Northwest Passage, died Thursday of cancer. Cowing commanded the Coast Guard cutter Spar when she made the hazardous voyage in 1957.



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