

Outdoor Education Workshop for Teachers

By MARGIE GOOD
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Oregon is a state with many lakes, streams and tall trees. And yet with all of nature's world around, few people know how to act in nature's back yard.

For the past two weeks Southern Oregon college has been conducting a workshop to help alleviate this problem. The unique workshop completed its session yesterday. The course was Outdoor Education, and it was the second year the course has been taught at SOC.

Purpose of the course was to teach students to utilize the outdoors and to facilitate and enrich the learning

processes of students. This could involve school field trips or camping trips.

The underlining theme of the entire course was conservation.

The workshop class was composed of 12 school teachers from southern Oregon and northern California. It is hoped these teachers will be able to help their students learn more about their environment.

Eight different fields were covered in the two-week workshop. Weather, forestry, natural history of the area, camp craft, astronomy, wildlife and bird study, and map and compass reading, and the relationship between the different fields were studied.

Dr. Alex Petersen and Dr. Chester Squire, both of the SOC staff, Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of SOC, and Don Crawford, principal at Keno, were instructors for the three-hour credit course.

During the two-week session, the class took several trips and held most of their class periods in Lithia park. Trips were taken to the weather station in Medford, to the fish hatchery at Fish lake, and the class accompanied Bob Paeth, soil conservation service agent for this area, to a local farm to study soil conservation.

The workshop ended with a three-day camping trip at Fish lake. The class roughed it, learning to build fires and to cook food. Thursday, the first day at the camp, the class feasted on stew and biscuits on sticks for lunch and round steak for dinner.

Demonstrations on finding food in the wilderness were given. They were all instructed on how to fish, and the lucky ones who caught fish got to cook and eat them.

The students consummated the two-week course by taking a three mile hike through part of the 40 acres SOC owns in that area. On the hike they used maps and compasses.

The school supplied food, water and tents. Students supplied their own sleeping bags.

The idea of outdoor education is a new idea in Oregon. Oregon State university was the first college in Oregon to offer the course. At present OSU and SOC are the only schools in the state that offer such a program.

There is only one county in Oregon that has an



The Outdoor Education workshop spent the last three days of their session at Fish lake. The main cooking site was located in a clearing near the lake. It was soon turned into a scene of seeming confusion as everyone rushed around to gather rocks for the fire sites and wood for the fires. Class members were graded on how well they went about preparing the campsite.



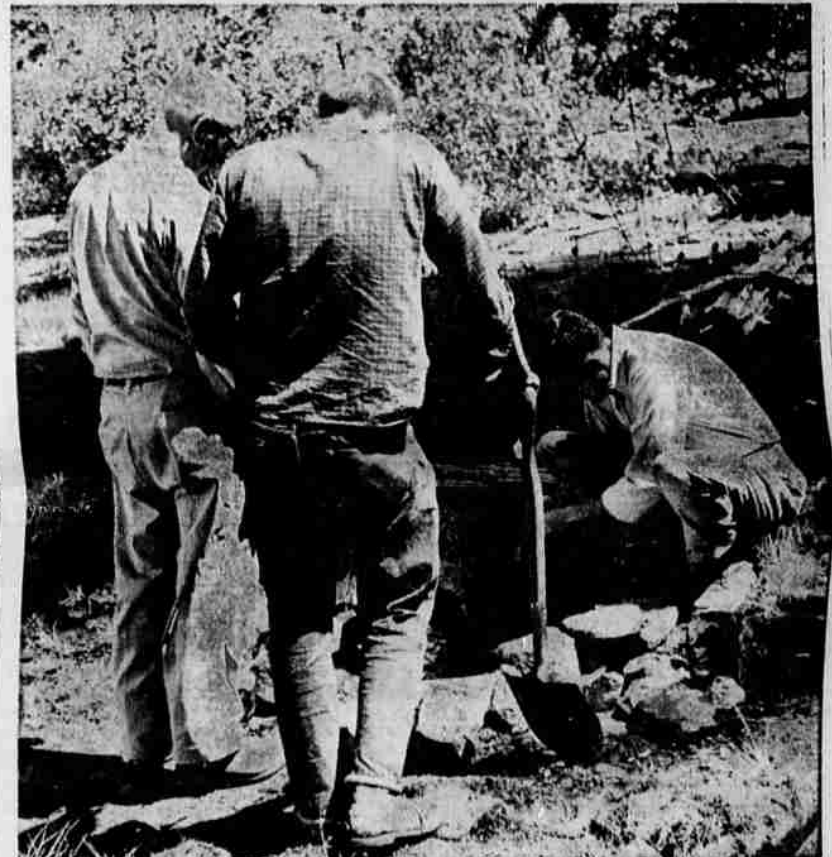
During lunch most of the campers ate sitting on logs, with their plates in their hands, but Russ Werner and Jess Loffer both of Grants Pass, wanted some of the comforts of home and built themselves a table out of fallen timber.

outdoor program. Crook county schools take the sixth grade camping every year. Of the 200 students who are in the sixth grade, one-third are taken camping each week until every student has gone camping. The county has been doing this since 1958.

In 1957, Dr. Irene Hollenbeck, of Southern Oregon college, took a pilot group from the fifth grade of West Side school to Soda Springs for a camping trip. This was the first time such a trip had been made in Oregon.

A tri-county council has been set up between Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties to study an outdoor program for southern Oregon.

Dr. Petersen, chairman of the council stated, "Klamath Falls is interested in outdoor education and is looking into a site at Varney creek. Klamath could be the next county to start an outdoor program." The purpose of the council is to promote outdoor education and preserve sites for outdoor education.



Ed Knapp, Central Point, and Bob Austin, Fort Jones, Calif., watch as Dr. Alex Petersen shows them how the camp fire site should be laid out. The students divided into four groups and each group built its own camp fire. Before workshop participants traveled to Fish lake for a three-day camp out, they were shown how to prepare the fire site.



Compass reading is something every student of the woods should know. It is included in the curriculum. Charles Pell, Mrs. Coca Pervorse, Ten Mile, Ed Knapp, Central Point, and Russ Werner, Grants Pass, double check a compass reading during a field trip to Lithia Park.



Each group had to prepare its own food. For the first meal in camp, stew and biscuits were the main dish. Above Mrs. L. R. Thomas, Talent, and Mrs. Eileen Mallery start to prepare some biscuits while Mrs. Florence Helms waits her turn.



A group of students arrive at the campsite after being ferried across Fish lake by Don Crawford, Keno. The road into the camp is inaccessible except by pickup truck. Mrs. Eileen Mallery, Grants Pass, Miss Jeanette Schmidt, North Bend, Mrs. Florence Helms, Riddle, and Mrs. J. R. McMillion, Riddle, prepare to leave the runabout after being ferried across the lake. Dr. Alex Petersen lends a helping hand.



Students were kept busy on their three day stay at Fish lake with hikes, laying out nature trails, cooking and other subjects. However, there was always time for a cup of black, hot camp coffee. Ed Knapp, chief coffee watcher, pours out the first cup of coffee for Charles Pell.



One of the first jobs completed after everyone reached the camp was the job of setting up the tents. Lost completely in the job at hand are Bob Austin and Russ Werner in the tent, and Jess Loffer studying the problem from outside.