

First Full-Fledged California Honor Camp Approved by State

By ANN H. PEARSON
United Press International
Susanville, Calif. — Men and nature are conserving each other in a unique prison without bars near here in a valley ringed by the Sierra Nevada.

The California Conservation Center, with 1,200 inmates, is a new approach to penology. Here, social outcasts are learning to take their place in society by protecting and developing California's vast forests and recreation lands.

The center was dedicated this summer to the proposi-

tion that inmates — and the state that confined them — can help themselves by helping each other.

The brick, buff and blue complex sprawls over several acres of a dry, flat, brushy valley. The inmates, in blue shirts and blue jeans, work inside and outside its walls learning how to fight forest fires, build trails, develop firebreaks, clear streams, fight forest pests and diseases, replant lands, and perform many other tasks for the state.

The center grew out of the honor camp program. It is the

first time the honor camp concept has been applied to a full-fledged prison.

The center will serve as a training ground. From it, men will be funneled out to California's growing chain of conservation camps — now 34 — to work in the woods for the state division of forestry.

California pioneered the honor camp about 17 years ago. The Magalia camp is typical. Enclosed only by a low split-rail fence, its wooden buildings nestle in the trees. Its 80 inmates live in dormitories and work in open

shops, fields, or deep in the forest.

When a fire call sounds, crews board a bus, armed with axes, picks and saws, for what may be days and nights of dirty, exhausting and dangerous work. The pay for inmates is \$15 a month.

The conservation center's job is to fill these camps with men who are trained and conditioned for the heavy work.

No Guards in Towers

The center is constructed of huge quadrangles, enclosing yards that will be planted with grass. The building walls

are the only walls. There are no guards in gun towers.

Not are there bars. The men live in dormitories, which also serve as units for counseling. There are 290 corrections and forestry officers.

Statistics have proved the value of the honor camp program. Many of its carefully-selected inmates have returned to society as responsible citizens. Only a few inmates have chosen to walk away. The same success is forecast for the center.

What makes the difference between this and conventional

prisons?

Corrections officers — and prisoners — cite two main factors: the work, and the freedom.

The work, by its nature, is a challenge. To fight a fire, break a trail, or clear a stream requires physical fitness, determination. Each inmate wants to prove himself as good as the next man.

The work, at the same time, provides a sense of accomplishment. The men seem to appreciate the value of protecting and rehabilitating forests and of constructing rec-

reation facilities.

The work also puts prisoners side-by-side with forestry personnel, from whom prisoners learn there are ways of combatting life's problems without violating laws.

Respect Good Deal

Inmates make a point of the "freedom." They say a man will try hard to keep in line because he knows he has a good deal at the center or at a camp, and he doesn't want to go back to the cramped cells and idleness of a conventional prison.

Gov. Edmund G. Brown put

it this way when he dedicated the center: "Not many years ago . . . prisons were crime schools which men left bitter and vengeful . . . these buildings represent hope."

And, he said, "without these inmates, California could not afford these projects."

The public reaction to the program has changed from concern to appreciation.

The city of Auburn, where prison crews held back a forest fire from the city's edge, said in a citation "there was averted by and through the

assistance of these men a tragedy which would have scarred our community for years to come."

A resident near the Magalia camp wrote: "We feel it is a great advantage to have the camp close to our home . . . in fact, they've been the best of neighbors."

The state's confidence in the program is demonstrated by its plans to open three more centers. By 1967, plans call for more than 7,500 men in centers and camps.

Outdoor Cookery Contests Planned At Oregon Event

Corvallis — Outdoor cookery contests will be included for the first time this year in 4-H events at the 1963 Oregon State Fair. Several other contests will have a different look.

Outdoor cookery, a fast-growing 4-H educational program, has been represented in the past only by exhibits, reports Miss Lois Redman, Oregon State university state 4-H agent. The new contests are planned for an outside area near the 4-H-FFA building and should prove popular with fairgoers, she said.

Outdoor cooks in the 12 to 14 age bracket will be required to build a fire and prepare meat and one other dish. In the senior contest, participants will be asked to prepare a complete meal and to serve it.

'Dollar Dinner'

Another food preparation contest will be found under a new name this year. The "dollar dinner," long a standard 4-H name, has been replaced by meal preparation contest. The name, which originally meant serving four people for \$1, has outlived its usefulness, she explained.

However, the purpose of the contest is still to teach 4-H club members to serve economically priced meals that are nutritious and pleasing to the eye and taste.

Some of the contest rules are new this year also. In the intermediate division, the young cooks will be asked to prepare only a two-course luncheon instead of the full course dinner of past years. Senior girls will still prepare a full dinner. For the first time, girls may work in teams in both divisions.

Participants in the intermediate luncheon contest must not exceed 80 cents per person in costs. The senior dinner contest maximum is \$1 per person, Miss Redman said.

Find Some Changes

Fairgoers who like to watch the young 4-H cooks show their skill in food preservation also will find some changes in that contest this year, Miss Redman noted, as efforts are made to increase the educational value of the event to the 4-H club member.

This year, intermediate contest participants may show their food preservation skill by either canning or freezing or by making jam or jelly. In the past, the contest was limited to canning. In addition to showing their skill in food preservation, the contestants will be asked to show one way of using the food that was prepared.

Entrants in the senior food preservation contest will not be asked to freeze or can food during the event this year. Instead, they will bring food with them that is already processed and use it to prepare a quick meal for four people. They will be judged on both their food preservation and meal preparation.

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Gang Beating Nets 10 Years in Prison

Salem — (AP) — William Le Roy Berry, 18, Salem, was sentenced to 10 years in the state penitentiary Wednesday for his part in the gang beating of John Parchman, 78, at his South Salem home May 25.

Berry was the third of five youths charged in the attack to be sentenced.

Parchman remained in critical condition at a Silverton nursing home.

Berry was accused of stabbing Parchman in the eye when the five youths raided his shack.

Louis Zahler, a companion, was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Another of the youths, Donald Dow, 15, was committed to MacLaren School for Boys.

John Wheeler, 18, a n d Dale Wheeler, 19, pleaded guilty last week to reduced charges of assault and battery and are in jail awaiting sentence.

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- Deviled Ham** Underwood. Whole ham goodness. 2¼ oz. can **2 for 45c**
- Instant Coffee** Chase & Sanborn 6 oz. jar **89c**
- Dessert Topping** Towne Pride. Fudge, Butterscotch, Pineapple. 6¼ oz. **2 for 33c**

- Sandwich Cookies** Sunshine famous fudge cookie. 16 oz. pkg. **49c**
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