

Extending Education

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PUBLISHED BY NATIONAL CAMP, LIFE CAMPS, INC.

VOLUME III

MARCH, 1946

NUMBER 1

Interesting Developments in Michigan



OUTDOOR education will become a reality for the youth of America only when the communities of the country organize their school curricula to include the outdoors as a regular part of the school experience and hire teachers and administrators who know how to conduct an educational program outside of the classroom. One of the moves in this direction is in operation in Michigan.

In July, 1945, seven Michigan public school teachers from the fifth and sixth grades and two staff members from teachers colleges of that state journeyed to National Camp in northern New Jersey to spend six

weeks planning for and learning how to provide outdoor education for the children in their schools. These teachers came to National Camp on scholarships provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The report they prepared is of significance for all educators interested in extending education into the out-of-doors.

The outdoor education program in Michigan described here centers around the two camps of the Kellogg Foundation . . . Clear Lake Camp in Barry County, just north of Battle Creek and St. Mary's Lake Camp in Calhoun County. A brief description of these camps and the method of their operation is presented here also as a background for the specific plans for learning outdoors.

Clear Lake Camp

WESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE of Education in Kalamazoo has leased Clear Lake Camp. In cooperation with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, a five year experiment is being conducted to determine the feasibility and worthwhileness of school camping and outdoor education as an extension of the public school curriculum and of the training of teachers. The experiment is now in its second year.

The camp comprises an area of twenty-nine acres of secondary woodland growth, a portion of Clear Lake, a main lodge, twenty-three cabins which can accommodate one hundred and sixty-five campers, the director's home and a counselors' lodge. During

the cold weather, the children and teachers live in the main lodge.

Nearby are the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary at Wintergreen Lake and the Reforestation project under the supervision of the Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan. Within easy walking distance is the village of Dowling, which provides opportunity to study changes in community living. In addition there is access to the Leila Arboretum and the Kingman Museum, which are both near Battle Creek.

It is to this environment that two classroom teachers at a time take fifty children to experience out-of-door living for a two-week period. While living there, there is an integration between these