The CCC, 1980s style

Camp Proud Lake houses state's new brand of conservation corps

By Penny Wright special writer

going corps member, has similar ment of Natural Resources, thoughts.

"I love it here. I love the work."

"The type of work we do here is hard but enjoyable. Corpsmembers

When I tell people about Camp Proud Lake, I don't lie about the work, I tell them we work hard."

Promy reconstruct trails and work and trails while habitats in area state parks.

They bag sand to save homes along Lake St. Clair.

They bag sand to save homes along Lake St. Clair.

They boung people are members of the Michigan Conservation Corps, based at Camp Proud Lake In Oak-land County. They are participating in a work program that traces its roots to the Great Depression.

"IT'S MORE HARD work than anything (else)," said Ralph Hay-craft, who has been a corps member for stx months.

Ralph always had trouble keeping a steady job in Traverse City, Now a steady j

for six months.

Ralph always had trouble keeping a steady job in Traverse City. Now he is working every day, and wishes he could stay at the camp beyond the one-year limit.

Barbara Stevens, a friendly, outgoing corps member, has similar thoughts.

GUR EMPHASIS is on providing positive work experience, said camp manager Joanne Stritmatter, professional in the state Department of Natural Resources.

The type of work we do here is

do a variety of jobs each day."
Strimatter noted that while rules are strict — no drugs, alcohol or skipping work assignments — there are very few terminations from the program. "These people are not forced to come here. They stay because they want to."

THE MICHIGAN Conservation Corps was created by the state Leg-Islature in 1984. The program was patterned after a 1933 federal pro-gram called the Civillan Conserva-tion Corps by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Roosevelt.

At the time, FDR described the alm of his work program: "We can take a vast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness to spiritual and moral stability:

While the basic aims of the MCC

while the the data and the MCC program have stayed the same, eligibility for a job at the camp reflects modern times.

Corps members' jobs are now open to maise and females, living in the state, between the ages of 18 and 52. Applicants must be on general assistance (unemployed, with assets not exceeding \$50 at the time of application), be willing to work hard and follow the rules.

Supervisory positions are available to welfare recepients who have some work experience.

same over his new job.

not exceeding \$50 at the direct state of the control of t

Barbara Stevens of Sault Ste. Marie, Larry Garlanger and David Chrzan, both of Alpena mow weeds at Camp Proud Lake. siasm over his new job

CAMP PROUD Lake has openings for 20 more applicants and Stritmatter encourages qualified people from Wayne and Oakland County to consider the program.

"Local people who prefer to live at home can still qualify for a super-

here with the skills and a work record that will move them into a permanent job."

The program has had successes. "Two of our supervisors were hired for seasonal jobs with the DNR and may, in time, be moved to full-time positions. Other corps members time positions. Other corps members have moved to Jobs in industry."

For information about the MCC program at Camp Proud Lake, contact the camp at 685-2433 or write to: Michigan Conservation: Corps, PO Box 30028, Lansing 48909, 517-373-0134.

FDR began first CCC in Depression

Here are excerpts from "Roosevelt's Tree Army: the Civilian
Conservation Corps in Michigan."
1886 issue of Michigan History
magazine. It was written by Rogor L. Roscutreter, associate editor of the static-published magazine.

THE CIVILIAN Conservation
Corps was President Franklin Roosevelt's personal creatives.
The proposed CCC would recervit
mit migral part of CCC recreation
cover to federal and state owned THE CIVILIAN Conservation Corps was President Franklin Roosevelt's personal creation. The proposed CCC would recruit 250,000 unemployed young men to work on federal and state owned land for "the prevention of forestires, floods and soil eroston, plant, pest and disease control."
"More important," Roosevelt added, "we can take a wast army of the unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced iddeness brings to spiritual and moral stability."

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior planned the work projects, recommended camp locations and supervised the work progrects, recommended camp locations and supervised the work progress.

"JUNIOR" applicants, who com-

cets, recommended camp locations and supervised the work programs.

"JUNIOR" applicants, who composed 90 percent of the corps, had to be single males between 17 and 23, tumemployed, in need, U.S. clitzens and not attending school . (They had to have) at least "three service and below."

If chosen, a candidate enrolled for six months and agreed to send at



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