

Conservation Camp Report

2-16-67

By ANN ELLEN McMAINS

A short report on a three week Conservation Camp is quite difficult when it was all so educational, well organized and enjoyable. I have taken several classes but never have I worked so hard for three hours of credit. May I be quick to add, however, never did I learn so much in such a short period of time. Perhaps it was because my knowledge of Conservation had been limited. I learned so much, delved into subjects I had had no opportunity to explore and became aware of things that are so important for every person from the youngest school-aged child to the oldest adult.

Each day was filled to capacity with more than you could possibly absorb. The lectures and the lecturers were always topnotch and with updated in-

formation. (Dr. Gwynne was most challenging and admirable). The bus trips we took were well planned, informative, fun and we visited some very beautiful spots in our own state of Iowa. Our instructors and director were the "best" - patient, intelligent, and just fun to be with. Springbrook State Park was a beautiful site to spend three weeks of learning.

We had four "hand in" projects:

1. A rock collection consisting of twenty-four specimens, each had to be classified as to type and uses. We even made the rock boxes ourselves, me who is not a bit adept with a hammer and nails.

2. A wild flower collection of twelve species, mounted and classified. (Now, you would probably call some of these weeds.)

3. A teaching project to present before the class which consisted of twenty-five very nice people.

4. A notebook filled with all the information you received. This was necessary because you were given much more material than you could possibly absorb—you needed a good notebook to store that information until you had time to read and evaluate it.

I am very glad I was not asked to tell which part of the camp I thought was most interesting because I just couldn't do it. Each part rated an "excellent" rating.

The Davis County Soil Conservation Commissioners are to be congratulated for extending this generous opportunity to teachers of Davis County. It is an excellent way to promote the awareness and need of conservation. I feel that through this Camp experience I am a better teacher. My scope of general knowledge has been increased and I'm sure will be passed on in some small way to the children who pass through my schoolroom door.

I wish to thank you all for the opportunity to attend the Conservation Camp. I truly enjoyed it and felt it a very worthwhile experience for any educator.

May I recommend this camp continue to be supported by the Davis County Soil Conservation District and this valuable experience be offered to many more teachers.