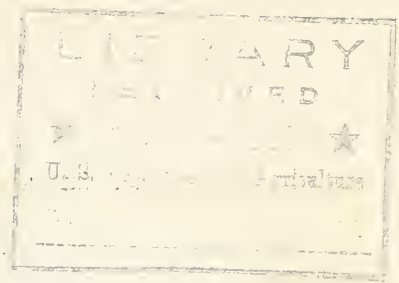


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A STATE 4-H CAMP THAT MADE GOOD

A radio talk by Wm. H. Kendrick, Assistant Director, Weston, West Virginia, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, Saturday, July 1, 1933, broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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It is well indeed in the beginning to build any of the tools of education with the ideas in mind for which it is to be used. West Virginia built the Mother State Camp of the United States knowing very definitely that it was to be used for the education of farm boys and girls through 4-H club work. The site therefore was selected and the buildings constructed with these ideas in mind. The old home farm where "Stonewall" Jackson spent his boyhood has brought to the youth of West Virginia a fighting spirit against all odds to make good. A State law was then passed defining the purpose of the camp which reads as follows, quote, There is hereby established a 4-H Camp and State exhibit of boys and girls club work for the purpose of teaching the 4-H standards of living, to inspire them to lift themselves towards these standards and to discover and train leadership for the purpose of teaching excellence in agriculture and home economics. End of quote. Our first State appropriation then followed. The boys and girls bargained with the State Board of Control that if the State would buy the ground, build the necessary Assembly Hall and Dining Hall, that they would do the rest. The State has even gone further than that. It has added a water and sewage system and the boys and girls have built twelve county cottages ranging in value from \$4,500 to \$20,000.

The building plan was worked out with the camp's educational purpose in mind. A landscape architect was employed to lay out the entire plant and the State lent us the supervision of one of their best architects to fit in the application of the 4-H principles to the buildings themselves. Certain laws of construction were laid down. For instance no imitation materials should be used, and the front entrances of the cottages should have a hospitable appearance. The Upshur County cottage was built of stone because the boys and girls said they wanted it to stand as long as the principles of 4-H club work do. The Harrison County cottage being located half way between the Dining Hall and Assembly Hall was built for largest possible service to the camp. In it is a large over-flow assembly hall and a dining room and kitchen. These not only take care of the over-flow crowds, but are thrown into operation when there is only a small crowd in camp. The Randolph and Webster log cottages bespeak pioneering. The Gilmer County cottage is an ideal farm home. The Calhoun County cottage shows what boys and girls can do in times of depression, it was built by volunteer labor. The money with which to build the cottages has been raised by thousands of friends, many ice cream suppers and booths at the fair. The boys and girls have put a great deal into the camp and they use the cottages to stay in when attending their leadership programs.

The purpose of the West Virginia State 4-H Camp is to discover and train leadership. Boys and girls who have come up through its practical activities are holding high positions of leadership in the professions, in business and in extension work,

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and in addition, in recent years have ranked at the top in National 4-H contests. All of these boys and girls credit a large share of their development to the training afforded at the camp. The method of work is that of doing a Masterpiece while you are yet in your youth. Artists' pictures of the world's great geniuses have been of old, passing out men in most instances. Biographies tell us that these men made their first great contributions to society between the ages of twelve and twenty and this is exactly the age of those attending the leadership training programs of the 4-H club work in all of our States. To attempt a Masterpiece means to take the flaws out of the product. The struggle of accomplishment forces us to realize that we must take the flaws out of our own lives before we can make an honest pack of a jar of tomatoes. To pack a jar of blackberries that scores 100 percent is to attempt to do a Masterpiece. The everlasting struggle back of such effort proves that we have master workmanship.

The foundation stone of the attendance at the State 4-H camp is the county camp. Like the old illustration of the big and little beans in the jar, when shaken up by work and play and study the best boys and girls come to the top. As the boys and girls in the county camps show capacity for development they are hand-picked and sent on to the State Camp. This makes a continuous flow of the cream of the youth of any State and makes possible development much easier because of the type of youngsters attending.

About 75,000 folks visited the camp last year in addition to 3,500 regular campers who attended as much as a five day program. The place is run on a continuous schedule of leadership training. It is estimated that 20,000 mountaineer youths have learned the ideals of the 4-H club program and have caught the challenge of successful achievement at the camp.

It has placed West Virginia on record as backing a character training program which sets the pattern of her future citizenship.