Camp Endeavor Offers A Welcome Change To Underprivileged Kids

By TRACY WOOD
Staff Writer

"Get my name," "Put my name in the paper," "My name is..." Children—uninhibited by the polite courtesies which they will later learn, know only that someone has paid for them to spend ten days at a camp in the mountains and that people from a newspaper have come to take pictures of them enjoying it.

A few are aware that they are "underprivileged" but that means that other children have different places to spend their vacation. Those who go elsewhere could not possibly be richer than they who could not possibly be richer than they could not possibly be richer than they could not possibly be richer than they who can't possibly be richer than they could possibly be richer than they.

Those who go elsewhere mean that other children have facilities available to the approximately 80 children at each of the four, ten day sessions, at Camp Endeavor. The Camp, for underprivileged children, is located on Johnston Dr., close to the Scotch Plains—Watchung border.

Camp Endeavor "has been Vacationland for the underprivileged boys and girls from 8 thru 10 years of age of Union County" for over fifty years. In 1911 when the camp opened for its first season it consisted of two tents on rented property. Today, the boys—right there is a camp—whose father gave him $1.27 just to buy candy.

The candy store is one of the facilities available to the approximately 80 children at each of the four, ten day sessions, at Camp Endeavor. The Camp, for underprivileged children, is located on Johnston Dr., close to the Scotch Plains—Watchung border.

The campers bring out their own beds and head to the dormitories, staff dormitories, assembly porch, craftsroom, first-aid building, office, and reading-day shelter.

The young campers day begins at 7 A.M. when they climb out of their rustic bunks and head for the dining hall. After breakfast they go to the dormitories to make their own beds and then spread out over the Camp grounds to explore the activities. The swings, slides and see-saws are always in use but the most popular playground facilities seem to be tetherball and the swings, slides and see-saws. A great deal of imagination is often used in building sand castles, but the real fun seems to be in tearing them apart later...and it's no fair knocking it down if you didn't help build it.

Recreation includes organized group games like softball and occasionally an unofficial organized game of switching grapes from the vines when a counselor isn't watching. This game usually ends quickly. At noon a dinner bell is rung and the children "wash up and stand in line for the "eats". Over 100 quarts of milk are used a day for eighty children. In the afternoon there is supervised swimming in the large, heated pool. The pool was built in 1922 and expanded in 1930. A craftroom is provided for children who would like to make something to keep as a remembrance of their visit to the Camp. This summer the girls are making bracelets and the boys are making horns out of real cow horns. The noise made by the horns is similar to that of a kavoo. The children do all of the work on the projects themselves.

"At 5:00 a simple vesper service is held in the assembly room and the children then get ready for supper," which is at 5:45. There is "special" entertainment every evening, movies, puppet shows, magic tricks and other forms of amusement are furnished by county church youth groups, service groups and other organizations. Afterwards, there are marshmallows roasts in front of the fireplace on the assembly porch or refreshments such as lemonade and ice cream are served.

Each group has one out-door picnic during their stay at the Camp.

Tuesday, August 13, special project groups presented a show for the rest of the campers. Some of the children formed a chorus group and others under the direction of counselors Miss Sylvia Hedlund of North Plainfield and Miss Judith Nickerson of Titusville, presented a Swedish dance. The children made their own costumes.

Camp Endeavor is open for the four, ten day sessions during July and August. A vacation for each child costs $35.00 and the money is raised through contributions.

Counselors for this summer are: Art Group, Marilyn Kayser; Drama Group, Jenny Colberg, Elizabeth and Donna Cypheus, Pennington; Music and Crafts, Jane Brown, Watchung; Handcrafts and Head Counselor for Boys, Susan Pavon, Branchburg Township; Head Counselor for Girls, Betty Phoenix. Additional counselors are Susan Kayso, Colonda Linda Seazas, Mountainside and Diane Smith, Elizabeth. Mr. Robert Costantini, a second year ministerial student at Wesleyan seminary in Washington D.C. is playground supervisor of staff.

Miss Maryjean Hoffman of Clark and Miss Carol Wadell of Fanwood, is office supervisor. The camp is under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Lounsberry.

The Board of Trustees of Camp Endeavor, Inc. are: President; Robert W. Paton of 49 Popular Place, Fanwood, Vice-President; Forrest Keenemholder of 1339 Bellevue Ave., Pfladfield, Sec; Mrs. William R. Holzgief of 261 Third Ave., East Orsa:; Mrs. Jesse H. Lounsberry, Scotch Plains, Treasurer; Donald McDougal, 1 Elm Street, Woodfield, Camp Director; Jesse H. Lounsberry, Scotch Plains, Miss Virginia A. Baker, Rootstown; Frederik J. Bakker, Pfladfield, Mrs. Elvira Doller, Elizabeth, Alfred M. Elsasser, Hillside, Mrs. Harold L. Gray, Rahway, Richard Lamal, Pfladfield, Howard Rogers, Union, Mr. Robert Brown, Watchung, William R. Rand, Rahway.

CAMPER finds quiet recreation in sand area of Camp Endeavor.

Staff Photo)

READING ROOM offers a pleasant brake for campers during activity-filled day.

(Staff Photo)