

151 Conscientious Objectors Encamped for Duration at Henry



These sturdy assignees of Civilian Public Service Camp No. 22 at Henry are preparing for the evening meal after the day's work. Part of the 151 men in the camp are helping clear tornado debris at Lacon near Henry. A large crew was assigned to Lacon immediately after the city was visited by a tornado recently and within 20 hours had every street passable.



Willard Schrock of Illinois, and Daniel Yutzky of Indiana, are half of the regular kitchen force. Neither had any experience as a cook before assignment to the camp, but both have learned rapidly under the tutelage of the camp dietitian, who prepares the menus.

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—Photos by Courtesy of Peoria Star.



Letters from home are as welcome in this camp as they are in an army camp. Engrossed in their mail are Carl Miller of Iowa, and Levi Weins of Kansas, a rug weaver, who has just received a fresh supply of yarn to carry on his hobby. The head of each man's cot is his "castle" and everything from war maps to printed Bible quotations can be found there.



The quiet, peaceful camp overlooks the Illinois River; was formerly used by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Dormitories are ranged along two sides of the common from which rises a flagpole. The flag is flown from sunrise to sunset, but is raised and lowered without ceremony.



Taking up the soil conservation work where it was left by the Civilian Conservation Corps, these men are "heeling in" the 175,000 trees which will be planted on surrounding farms by the camp force.

Mennonites Bear Expenses of Henry Objectors' Camp

THOU SHALT NOT KILL:—

One hundred and fifty-one men whose adherence to that commandment prevents bearing arms in defense of their country are encamped for the duration of the war at Henry, Ill.

Selective Service Boards in Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, assigned them to the

camp. The majority are husky young men from farms, but there is a scattering of skilled workers, factory laborers and students. One is a salesman, another holds a master's degree in economics. Most of them are of the Mennonite denomination, with one or two Methodists and Presbyterians.

Expenses of the camp, even to the lease of the ground, are borne by the Mennonites through assessment of the various churches. The men furnish their own clothing, wearing overalls most of the time.

Occupying quarters formerly used by the Ci-

villian Conservation Corps, the men have taken up the soil conservation work where the CCC left it. First project on the list is the planting of 175,000 trees on farms in the Marshall - Putnam area. First big task and one entirely unexpected was the clearing of tornado debris from Lacon, Ill., seven miles south of Henry, which was visited by a tornado on March 16.

The conservation work is under the supervision of J. W. Coleman, who occupied the same position with the CCC. His salary and that of his aides, together with the maintenance of work equipment, is paid by selective service.

The camp day begins at 5:45 a. m., and ends with lights out at 9:45 p. m. During that time the men work about eight hours. Evenings are spent in classes, teaching everything from the rudiments of music to woodworking. Furloughs totaling 30 days a year are allowed. Some of the men have their own cars, but the keys are in custody of the camp director.

The Rev. Leland A. Bachman of Morton, directs the camp for the Mennonite Church, which has established nine of a total of 26 objector camps throughout the country. Mrs. Bachman serves

as matron, watches over the dormitories to see that they are kept spic and span by the men. Meals are supervised by Mrs. Ralph Hernley, whose husband is educational director.

"Do not misunderstand these men," said the Rev. Mr. Bachman. "They are not afraid to risk their lives if necessary, but not in taking the lives of others. They believe God created human life and we have no right to take it."

"There's not a coward among them," said Superintendent Coleman. "They'll tackle anything. Within 20 hours after the tornado struck at Lacon, they had all streets passable."