

Report of the
Chairman and Secretary of the

CAMP BRANCH DEPARTMENT
Y M C A DAYTON, OHIO

For the 1949 season
To the President and General Secretary
Submitted January 4, 1950

The 1949 camping season at Camp Kern marked the 39th consecutive camping program conducted at Camp Kern.

Five twelve day periods, beginning June 20th and closing August 27th, 1949, were conducted. The fees charged per period were \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non members; however, in case of campers sponsored by the Aid to Dependent Children, Children's Bureau and Family Service, the \$30.00 per period rate was granted. Approximately 92% of our campers were Y M C A members of Dayton Central, Town and Country, Fifth Street, Bath Township Branches and the Lebanon, Ohio, Y M C A.

AGE RANGE AND NUMBER OF CAMPERS

8 years of age	4
9 & 10 years of age	216
11 to 15 " " "	221
15 to 17 " " "	<u>34</u>

Total number of campers 475

The average Camp population per period was 119 persons.

The total number of campers was less than that of 1948. This decrease, we feel, was largely due to the elimination of a separate Fifth Street Branch period, and our experiment in inter-racial camping which met with some opposition on the part of parents, thus resulting in the withdrawal of registrants and the refusal to permit their sons to attend Camp Kern.

INTER-RACIAL CAMPING

The subject of inter-racial camping was carefully studied and freely discussed at the November 9th, 1949, Camp Committee meeting under the heading of our "Camping Policy". The consensus of opinion was -

1. That for any who are opposed to inter-racial camping, that a few cabins or tents be set aside for all white campers;
2. That an even or equitable distribution be made of negro campers;
3. That our camp publicity make no mention of inter-racial camping or refer to any one group;
4. That since this matter is still in an experimental stage, no final statement or policy be adopted and that the Camp Committee continue with open mind;
5. That since we are a Christian organization, Christian principles be applied to this problem.

STAFF, JUNIOR COUNSELORS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES

The Camp Staff numbered 9 adults, 10 Junior Counselors, 2 cooks, 2 kitchen help, 4 "Pots" (boys in training who wash dishes and take care of dining room).

The Staff was the best manned and balanced since 1941. It was composed of men of fine character and an average of 5 years camping experience, most of which was spent in our Camp Kern. These men were not content to operate just a recreation camp but were determined in seeing that every camper had an interesting, growing, all-round camping experience.

Program - Robert Salisbury - Graduate, Springfield College
Nature Lore - Fred Roehm - Master's Degree, Ohio State
Athletics - Richard Warner - Heidelberg University and Springfield College

Don Naragon - Miami University
Steve Thompson - Ohio State
Jerry Miller - Oklahoma University
Ray Cox - Earlham College
Bill Arnold - University of Cincinnati

Junior Counselors: Joe Kelly, Sinclair College; Dean Stitz, Ohio State; Ronald Coffey, University of Dayton; Jim Poe, Jack Kerth, Glenn Stomps, Miamisburg High School; Kent Harris, Tom Eckert, Fairview High School; Bob Hagen, Osborn High School; Don Mount, Ohio State University and Phil Broughton, Bowling Green University.

Mrs. Lou Flory, Manager of the Kiser High School Cafeteria for the past five years, has been in charge of food preparation. Mrs. Eva Williams, Ft. Ancient - assistant cook for the past three years.

PROGRAM

Camp Kern program embraces numerous land and water sports, emphasizing instruction, fundamentals and fair play. Badminton, volleyball, basketball, baseball, horse-shoes, tennis, archery, hiking, nature lore, boating, arts and crafts, dramatics, music, Indian lore, gardening, conservation.

Special events - campers' election, cook-outs, camp-outs, water carnivals, character talks, daily and Sunday chapel services, evening vespers, cabin devotions, Sunday afternoon visitors' assemblies, Senior Life Saving Course, inter-camp activities with neighboring camps, movies, special Sioux Indian ceremonies open to the public, camp menagerie, conservation practices.

Swimming tests, using the National Y M C A aquatic program, were given during every period.

Passed Beginners 7 Item test	104
" " 14 " "	76
" " 21 " "	140
Passed other Standard Beginners test	174
" lower Intermediate Low Difficulty tests	27
" Intermediate Middle Difficulty tests	22
" " High " "	7
" Senior Life Saving Test	15

HEALTH

492 health examinations were required of campers and employees. Camp health was very good - no serious accidents. During one period a mild epidemic of two-day summer flu prevailed. Warren County Health Officer, Dr. Harvey, was our camp consulting physician. The Camp had been sprayed with a solution of D D T.

Every effort will be made to employ a registered nurse for the 1950 camping season. The Camp Committee has discussed campers' health and accident insurance and will make its recommendation for the 1950 season.

EXPENSE OF REPAIRS TO EQUIPMENT

Each year finds it necessary to make more extensive and expensive repairs to our old equipment. This, too, often makes for difficulties in the smooth operation of a full program of activities, often requiring the use of program personnel to assist in this work.

FOOD SERVICE

Many favorable comments were heard from campers, parents and visitors concerning the well cooked, tasty and ample meals served on time. The menus were varied and well balanced. Fresh vegetables from our camp garden added to variety and lessened the cost. The preparation and planting of the camp garden places an extra burden on our caretaker George Swartz at a time when the readying of the camp is a full time job. Bread and dairy truck deliveries every other day, staple groceries, meats and fresh vegetables delivered three times per week make it possible to take advantage of current market prices.

The steady, continuous and dependable help in the preparation of food and the careful planning and watchfulness of Mrs. Flory as to waste are major factors in our smooth operation of our kitchen and the serving of well planned meals at low cost.

OTHER GROUPS USING CAMP KERN FACILITIES

Several Jr. Hi-Y Clubs had tree planting projects. The Sunday afternoon Hikers' Club used the camp facilities. Spring and Fall week end camping by the "Old Timers" and their sons. Town and Country Hi-Y and Tri Hi-Y Training Council. Fathers and sons of the Bath Township Branch Y Indian Guide Long House. Campers of the Dayton Young Women's Christian Association use of our swimming pool at regularly scheduled periods. The weekly Wednesday afternoon swim of the youth members of the Lebanon, Ohio, Y M C A. The Fairview E U B Church high school group. The occasional use of swimming pool by Day Campers of the Cincinnati Y M C A. The annual Laymen's Fall Conference. The use of the camp by the Junior and Senior Leaders clubs. The Columbus, Ohio, Central Community Church Choir boys, supervised by Rudy Thomas.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Interviews with campers	1259
Interviews with parents	925

Type	Sessions	Participation
Program	550	46859
Crafts and Arts	154	2907
Nature Lore	147	2136
Indian Lore	175	3294
Agriculture - Garden	52	471
Athletics	1106	6790
Camp and Cook-outs	132	920
Swimming Pool	144	3397
Staff meetings	33	651
Meals served		19440

The Ohio State Conservation Department selected Camp Kern as the camp in southern Ohio in which to place one of their employees - Kenneth Lowmiller, Ohio State University Senior in Forestry and Conservation. Ken's knowledge of woods, out-door life and conservation practices was a fine addition to our program.

Every morning at 7:30, the all Camp chapel, led by staff members and junior counselors, started the day with a fine spirit of fellowship. This was an excellent camp morale builder.

7000 seedlings have been planted during the past five years; 1500 locust, 500 Norway maple - the balance, various types of pine.

COMMENTS FROM CAMPERS, PARENTS AND VISITORS

Mrs. Schuyler Church, after a visit to Camp Kern with Mr. Church -
 "I never dreamed that you had such a wonderful program at Camp Kern. Why, this compares favorably with Culver."

"My son, Jimmy, came home from the first period thrilled about Camp Kern and I am writing to see if there is room for him in the last period. He thought his counselor was wonderful."

Mr. Hewitt Mulford, Lebanon, Ohio, business man, in a talk to the members of the Lebanon Rotary Club - "I have been sending my boy to an expensive camp in northern Michigan. For the past two seasons he has spent a month each in Camp Kern for a whole lot less money and benefited much more. Right at our back door is one of the finest camps for boys."

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A father of the Jewish faith, after visiting chapel with his son, who was a camper - "I had been a little concerned about my boy attending chapel services; however, since my attendance this morning I would not have him miss."

"My son could not swim when he came to Camp Kern. When his father and I visited him Sunday, we both were astonished to see him swimming in deep water, confident and fearless."

"Who is Fred Roehm? In every letter home our son tells of taking nature lore hikes with Mr. Roehm and gathering insects and then studying them."

"What did you do with our son Johnny? He came home with a sense of tidiness about his room which I had tried for years to teach him."

"I was quite amused when our son said 'Dad, don't butter that whole slice of bread; break it this way and then butter each piece. That's the way we were taught in camp!'"

"Doug speaks often of his life in camp and I sometimes think that he would rather live in camp than in his own home. He has a better appreciation of his family since his return."

Water in our swimming pool is tested three times each day.

"The Staff of the Bureau of Aid to Dependent Children joins me in expressing thanks to you and the members of the Cooperative Club for your generous gift which made it possible for us to send ten boys to Camp Kern this summer. We have had most glowing accounts of their camp experiences - we have never known our boys to have been more enthusiastic than they have this season," wrote Mrs. Frances E. Miles, case worker.

"This was my second camping experience and I enjoyed every minute at Camp Kern. I took part in almost all of the activities and I won second place in archery. I went swimming and made a number of things in the craft shop," wrote a twelve year old boy to Mr. A. A. Josselyn of the Cooperative Club.

Respectfully submitted

Chairman, Camp Committee

Camp Executive