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PRINT MEDIA COVERAGE

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Smyth County NEWS

MIDWEEK EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1994

MARION, VIRGINIA

Riverwalk planner coordinating grand vision

Service program will benefit conservancy

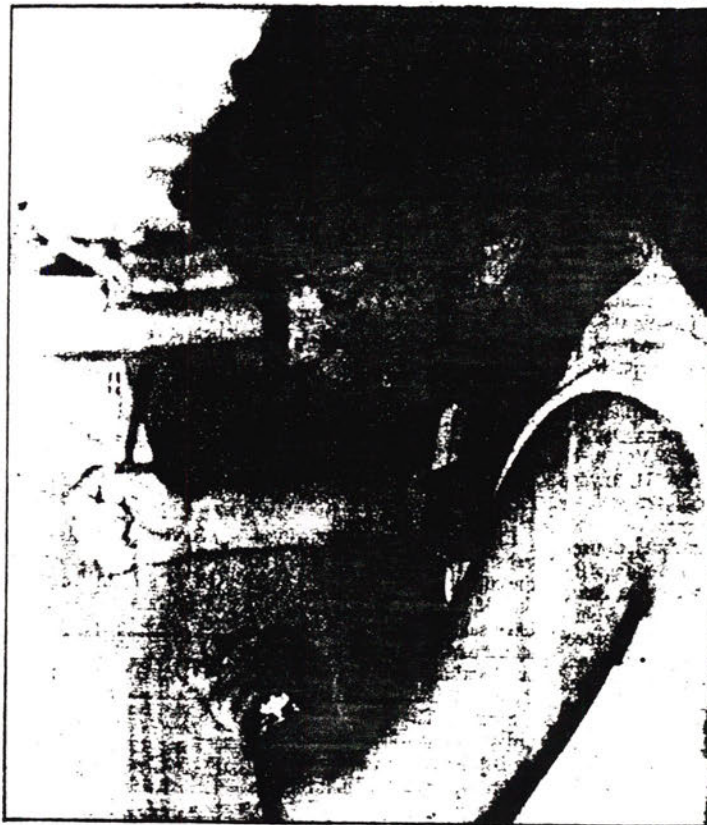
By DON SIMMONS JR./Staff

A downtown focal point where families can enjoy the beauty of Marion's own river and an educational and therapeutic tool that can be used by schools, civic groups and health facilities in the community—this is Mindy Clark's vision for the Grassroots Conservancy's Riverwalk.

The three-mile riverwalk path, which extends from beyond the old ice plant in South Marion, past the town swimming pool and along Campbell Avenue almost to the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute, is one of the first recipients of the benefits of Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps service.

Clark is part of a four-member AmeriCorps team headquartered in Wytheville. The team is assisting a variety of projects, but Clark's work will be concentrated on the riverwalk. Working out of office space donated by Bill Huber of Echols-Sparger, Clark's job is to manage the overall riverwalk project, design features for the project and to assist in negotiating easements to connect the riverwalk's three phases. She has nine-12 months to do this.

Originally from a rural community in New Hampshire, Clark holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture



Don Simmons Jr.

Mindy Clark works on preliminary sketches for the Wilderness Road Park section of Marion's three-mile riverwalk.

from Montana State University with a focus in landscape design.

With only six weeks on the job, Clark has spent most of her time familiarizing

herself with the existing features of the riverwalk.

"It's already a beautiful trail," she says. "My job will be to see exactly what people are looking for in the river-

walk. A lot of times people have assumptions that they don't communicate. I'll try to coordinate everyone's ideas and present a plan which meets their needs as closely as possible."

Soon Clark will distribute a survey to members of the Grassroots Conservancy, but she says she welcomes other input as well. There are numerous possibilities, maybe even including space for a community theater near Riverbend Park. There have also been discussions about re-stocking the river with trout.

"The goal of the trail is to serve the community as a whole," she noted.

Concurrently with her work on the riverwalk, Clark is also helping her AmeriCorps team members in a tree identification project along the riverwalk. The information gathered will be used on educational tours by Marion Middle School students and other schools in the county.

The riverwalk is divided into three parts. Phase one runs from Riverbend Park near the old ice plant to the railroad trestle at Church Street. One of the most scenic parts of the walk, this phase features the old dam and ice plant, a variety of trees and wildflowers and a quiet, removed atmosphere in the middle of downtown Marion. Clark is suggesting the addition of markers with information about the various vegetation and wildlife along the trail. Benches for quiet repose are also being considered.

Once at the trestle, walkers must now take to the street until they reach the town swimming pool, but one of Clark's tasks is to attempt to negotiate easements (or rights-of-way) so that

■ See CLARK, Page A8

AmeriCorps team begins its service in region

By ANDY KEGLEY/Staff

Take four individuals with diverse backgrounds, add their strong interest in conservation and public service, and then meld them into members of the new rural development and conservation team in Southwest Virginia.

The result: one of the newest AmeriCorps teams—the new national service initiative pushed by President Bill Clinton to tackle a wide range of critical needs across the nation. As envisioned, over 100,000 people will eventually be put to work solving a multitude of problems, and in return, receiving living stipends, health insurance, child care and an educational allowance for their

one or two year service.

This particular four member team headquartered in Wytheville (a fifth member has yet to be brought on board), falls under the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development wing, and will be specifically answerable to the New River/Highlands Resource Conservation and Development district.

As explained by Gary Boring, director of the NR/H RC&D, when the president's program was announced earlier this year, the local forestry committee applied for a grant to staff five positions to assist in the overall marketing of timber, but with the goal of enhancing the existing soil erosion and conservation programs.

And now, since this team was sworn in a Nashville ceremony Sept. 18 along with approximately 2,000 other AmeriCorps volunteers from a five-state area, the members are busily defining their tasks, and becoming familiar with new terminology and bureaucracy.

Audrey Biggs, Adrienne Perkins, Mindy Clark and Delton Alderman bring diverse backgrounds of communications, forestry and horticulture to their newly created positions. Three of the four hold degrees from Virginia Tech, while Clark completed a horticulture program at Montana State University in Bozeman.

As the team, they will be spend one day a week working out of Clark's Marion office, where their focus will be on a tree

identification program along the town's three-mile long Riverwalk and Greenway project. That project has received two other state grants, one of \$100,000 from the state Commonwealth Transportation Board's ISTEA program; and another from the Division of Forestry's Urban Forestry program. With Clark's expertise in landscape architecture, the project can move forward.

Clark may also be available to localities in the service region, to assist with park planning, Boring noted.

Separately, the team members have their own responsibilities throughout the NR/HRC&D to implement aspects of conservation.

■ See AMERICORPS, Page A11

Team begins service

■ AMERICORPS, from Page A1

Biggs, for example, will serve as outreach coordinator, predominantly working in the 11 county region of the NR/HRC&D, developing quarterly newsletters and press releases. "Basically, I will be working to improve the community's knowledge of the programs available," and more specifically, "whatever affects soil conservation or forestry in the area."

She earned an English degree from Tech, plus a master's in communications from Radford, and had been working in a management position in Harrisonburg when she learned of the AmeriCorps program. "The initial attraction? This allows me to utilize my degree to its best potential. Plus, it allows me to give back some of what we've gotten. If Uncle Sam helped us out (in student loans), I have no problem giving back to him."

Biggs will also develop four newsletters specifically targeting watershed groups in the region, including the Middle Fork of the Holston in Smyth County, Little Reed Island Creek in Wythe and Pulaski counties, Little River in Floyd, and Chestnut Creek in the Galax area.

Also bringing a communications background and degree to the team, Perkins will be serving as forest economics specialist. "No," she says, "I don't have any background in forest economics, but that's why they hired me. They told me when they hired me they would train me in forestry, but they wanted my expertise in communications," said the 1992 Tech graduate.

Perkins will serve as a liaison between the forest industry, producers, and local governments, and how local forest resources can most efficiently be marketed. "I've been going to planning meetings of the Appalachian Hardwood Expo in Princeton," she noted, "and will be working on publicity."

Alderman brings over a dozen years of practical private forestry consulting to his job as Forest Engineer. After working out of his home in Mt. Airy, N.C., he says he had gotten of that aspect of the industry, and was interested in "learning something new."

His specific task is assisting with the design and construction of low cost, low value timber bridges, "to take advantage of what there's a lot of in this area." The main benefit for timber bridges will be to loggers, who won't have to worry about stream crossings when bringing logs out of the forest. In turn, stream conservation and soil erosion will be protected, and loggers won't be in violation of state mandated Best Management Practices.

There are no timber bridges in this area yet, Alderman said, but he hopes to find some suitable cooperators to build demonstration projects on soon. The bridges are constructed by laminating timbers

together, and are capable of holding a tractor-trailer load, 80,000 pounds, across spans of 20 to 40 feet. He will also be working on the dry hydrant program offered by the RC&D, and is encouraging fire chiefs to apply for grants before a Dec. 1 deadline.

Alderman is also the tree expert on the Greenway project, and will be contributing more technical work on growth rates potential along the trail. "There is some old growth along the river, and some huge red and white oaks dead from

recent droughts," he observed.

Because the local AmeriCorps team has strong a forestry emphasis, the Jefferson National Forest is cooperating in support of the team as well. The public relations office of JNF is providing video equipment for the team to film various forest facilities and recreational areas, which will then be edited into a promotional video. The equipment will also be used for assisting with the Marion Greenway project and the tree identification educational program. □

Grand vision

■ CLARK, from Page A1

walkers will be able to continue along the riverbank.

Much of the construction is already completed at phase two—the walking park in the vicinity of the pool. Plans for future construction include picnic tables, lighting and an information kiosk which will note community events and club meetings.

To get to phase three, walkers must now cross the old bridge beside Happy's Restaurant, then cross Main Street to Campbell Avenue. This phase of the riverwalk uses the old Wilderness Road Garden Club park. Although the park has suffered some over the years, it will be redeveloped as funds become available.

Clark is already working on preliminary drawings for development of all three phases of the riverwalk. She says Marion Senior High School has expressed interest in using the Wilderness Road section for its cross country runners to

practice on. And, with supervision, patients at Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute may benefit from the therapeutic value of quiet strolls along the river.

In addition to coordinating the planning and design of the riverwalk, Clark will also be in charge of organizing the various volunteer groups who have helped so far in its construction. She must also stay in communication with the Middle Fork Holston River Water Quality Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority as well. The Grassroots Conservancy recently was awarded one of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's ISTEA grants for \$115,000. In helping administer the grant, Clark says there are many struggles ahead in keeping within the grant's guidelines. Local contractors must be used for some of the work and there are also rules governing materials used. The stack of paper with information regarding the grant and its usage stands at over an inch high,

so there's definitely some reading in Clark's immediate future.

But Clark remains undaunted. "There are so many interesting people here who are excited about the riverwalk, that I don't think I'll have too many problems that can't be solved."

As its part in the annual Smyth County Trash-Off, a county-wide clean-up day, the Grassroots Conservancy will host a river clean-up this Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon. Anyone wishing to participate should meet at the riverwalk near the swimming pool. Clark says she will also be using the occasion to get more community input on the riverwalk. □

the Salina Journal

Serving Kansas since 1871

MARCH 18, 1995

Working for an education

AmeriCorps offers chance to learn

By DAVID CLOUSTON
The Salina Journal

Sweating over a brush fire or building nesting boxes for birds aren't typical jobs thought of as a way to pay for college.

Kurt Grimm and Troy Hurlburt are hoping their work leads to more than just a paycheck.

"I've been working for them for three years. I'd like to get on full time," said Hurlburt, speaking of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, with whom he, Grimm and other participants in the AmeriCorps Program are working.

AmeriCorps is a federal program designed to help students pay for college by completing a set number of hours of public service work. For 1,700 hours of service — about nine months — workers receive a \$7,660 stipend for living expenses and \$4,725 for college.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible. Money can pay for accumulated college debts for those already graduated, or help pay tuition for those just entering college or going on to pursue a master's or doctoral degree.

AmeriCorps workers are assigned to different federal agencies. Hurlburt and his co-workers are assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but being directly supervised by Wildlife and Parks officials, with whom they're working at state parks.

During February, the four members of the AmeriCorps/USDA team at Kanopolis Reservoir, Hurlburt, Grimm, Chris Newton and Scott Morris, developed fish



Todd Lovin, Lindsborg, a participant in AmeriCorps, starts a head fire for a controlled burn in the Langley Point area of Kanopolis Reservoir.

Tom Dorsey/Salina Journal

► See AMERICORPS, Page 9

Clinton's Domestic Peace Corps Is Hard At Work in Vermont

By KRISTIN BLOOMER
Herald Staff

One young person is helping Vermonters fight hunger. Another is teaching visually impaired people to cope with their vision loss. Another is working to control erosion along the Winooski River.

They are three Vermont members of AmeriCorps, otherwise known as the Clinton administration's domestic Peace Corps. The national service program has more members per capita in Vermont than in any other state, according to the Corporation for National Service in Washington, D.C.

With 130 members serving a population of 562,758 (1990 census), Vermont's AmeriCorps has one member for every 4,328 residents. Rick Allen, the corporation's deputy assistant to President Clinton, said only Montana rivals those numbers. Montana's AmeriCorps has 179 members serving a population of 799,065, has one member per every 4,464 residents.

There are six AmeriCorps programs in Vermont:

- The Northeast Kingdom Initiative, run out of Lyndon State College, offers services ranging from tutoring to economic development assistance.

- The Independent Living Project, based in Brattleboro, assists the elderly and Vermonters with disabilities to remain in their

homes and stay connected with their communities around the state.

- USDA Rural Development Teams are working on soil conservation projects — such as one along the Winooski River — and on helping rural communities like Mendon get fire protection.

- USDA Public Lands Teams are working with the Green Mountain National Forest and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to rebuild long-neglected parks, recreation areas and miles of hiking trails.

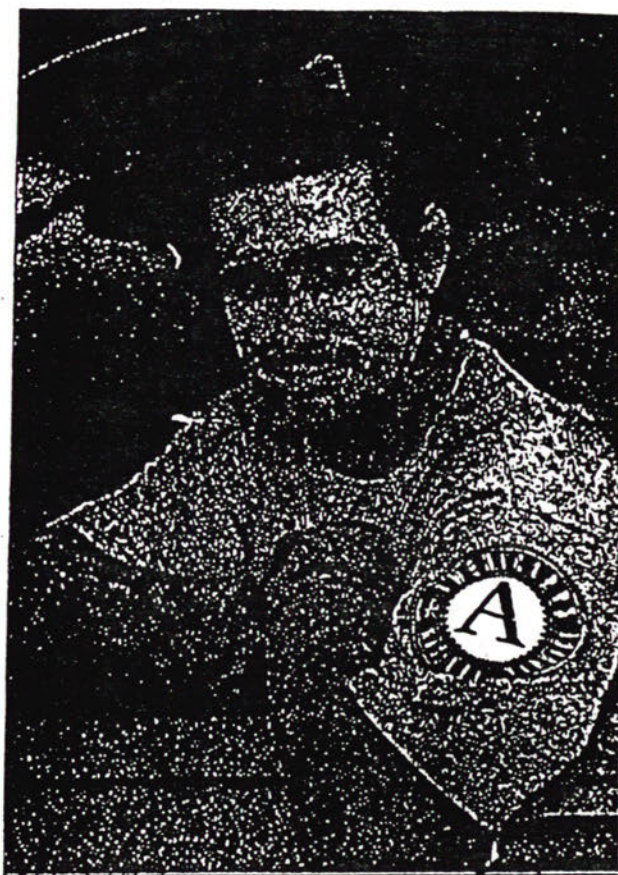
- The USDA Anti-Hunger Corps is working to help communities locate their own hunger needs and realize or improve projects they deem important, such as food co-ops, community gardens, and school lunch programs.

Many of these programs had already existed through USDA funding. But they were able to extend their services on the strength of their applications, Allen said.

"They were very clear about the beneficial change they were going to make for their communities," Allen said. "Vermont programs proved they were going to get things done in Vermont."

"Getting things done" is the motto for AmeriCorps. Members are selected from applications and receive a small living stipend, health care benefits and, if necessary, child

(See Page 18: AmeriCorps)



Staff Photo by Peter Carr

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Rutland area with the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps.

AmeriCorps

Continued from Page 15

care. Vermont's AmeriCorps members range in age from 19 to 67.

At least three programs — the Public Lands Team, the Anti-Hunger Corps and the Independent Living Project — are still accepting applications.

For 1,700 documented hours of service and training, "full-time members" receive about \$600 a month and a \$4,725 voucher that can be used for college, graduate school or vocational training, or to pay back college loans. "Part-time members" receive travel allowance, no stipend and an education voucher of \$2,363.

Kathleen Furgeson, executive director of Vermont's Commission on National and Community Service, is in charge of the six programs. She said Vermont's relatively small

population helped groups cooperate during the grant-writing process in a way that made Vermont's proposals especially powerful.

"I don't think the decision (to fund Vermont's programs) was based on our being any more or less needy than any other state," Furgeson said. "It was based on whether we were able to best meet the needs of our particular state."

And the needs are there. Bari Gladstone, program director of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, said the Vermont Food Bank served 100,000 people last year — a fifth of the state's population and a significant increase over last year.

"There's a growing population of working people living right on the edge," she said. "Many don't consider themselves eligible for food

stamps, for example, when in fact they may be."

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is a member of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps southwest team, whose six members live together in Sudbury and whose current work is to take "climate surveys" of the region.

The work has nothing to do with weather. The purpose is to collect information about the community's food and nutritional needs before moving into actual "project work," Kellogg-Roe said.

"We don't want to come in as Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps or some outside group and tell Rutland, 'This is what you should do,'" he said. "That's not going to fly. It has to be grass roots. It has to come from people who are affected by the problem."

So Kellogg-Roe is meeting with groups such as the Rutland-Area Co-Op, a group that has 77 members and needs 300 in order to get started, he said. He plans to help them with grant-writing and membership drives, and hopes to help revitalize a community garden in Bennington, he said.

The idea is to empower local communities, he said.

"I'll leave eventually," he said. "At the end of September our term will roll over. It's important that what we do has the potential to carry past us. We don't want to come in and fill a gap as a volunteer, and when we leave have it open again. We want to create a system, so that when we leave, the system is still there."

Students part of Clinton's pilot program

AmeriCorps lends funds for services

By Craig McEwen
The Forum

TWIN VALLEY, Minn. — Fargoan Jeff York was preparing to enroll for classes at Moorhead State University when a brochure caught his eye.

It was seeking applicants for AmeriCorps, the national community service program that President Clinton calls the most prized achievement of his administration.

A key incentive is the \$4,725 in college tuition that the six-month-old program offers its workers.

Participants, 17 years and older, commit to 11 months of community service — 40 hours per week — for which they earn near-minimum wage salaries in addition to the tuition allowance.

Already, the U.S. House of Representatives wants to cut the \$500 million AmeriCorps budget by two thirds. Five workers stationed at Twin Valley have mixed feelings about that.

They are among 20,000 nationwide and 20 in Minnesota who joined AmeriCorps when it began last September.

York, a 26-year-old MSU junior majoring in political science, admits that the tuition prodded him.

But he also wanted the job experience that the program would provide. "I thought it would be really beneficial to do something like this," York says, "as far as other opportunities that would be created."

It's the college stipend that Kathy Musch, a North Dakota State University zoology graduate, also found attractive.

But Musch, 22, also wanted to do conservation outreach work since her college emphasis was in wildlife and fisheries biology.

"I've gained a lot of experience



CRAIG MCEWEN/The Forum

AmeriCorps workers (from left) Jeff York, Holly Sirjord, Kelly Engen, Aaron Neubert and Kathy Musch stand along the Agassiz Recreational Trail near Twin Valley, Minn.

through it," she says.

Much of the Twin Valley group's effort involves promoting the 32-mile, Agassiz Recreational Trail that is being built on an abandoned railroad bed between Ulen and Fertile, Minn.

The multi-use trail will have two levels: the upper tier for snowmobiling, hiking, biking and birdwatching and the lower for snowshoeing, skiing, dog sledding and horseback riding.

Other projects include promoting area tourism, seeking grants for a city park and planning a walking trail in Ada, Minn., helping with a water screening project in Halstad, Minn., promoting the planting of trees along state highways to eliminate snow drifts and soil erosion.

Holly Sirjord, 20, Gary, Minn., attended North Dakota State University for one year and hopes to go back after a stint with AmeriCorps.

"I just hope that this experience will help me with other jobs in the future," she says.

Sirjord is working with the Mahanomen, Minn., Chamber of Commerce and Mahanomen County to promote tourism.

Among her projects is the development of a map that will highlight the Agassiz Trail as well as area resorts, the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen and other tourist spots. The map, she says, will be distributed by area businesses.

Aaron Neubert, a 22-year-old Bemidji State University graduate from Mahanomen, is using his mass communications skills to promote the trail.

Neubert, whose college concentration was in broadcasting, is helping produce a promotional video for the Agassiz Trail. "That will be a pretty big project. We want it to be pretty professional," he says.

He is also helping Ada community leaders update a city development video.

AmeriCorps is a good program for more than one reason, he says.

"We're trying to bring economic development to small communities around here," Neubert says. "If we weren't here, nobody would be doing it."

Gary native Kelly Engen, 23, was previously in charge of the Norman County Soil and Water Conservation District's tree program.

Now an AmeriCorps worker, Engen is asking local landowners to set aside land for planting trees — or what he calls a "living snow fence" — along Highway 200, west of Ada.

The Norman County Soil and Water Conservation District, he says, will begin planting about 1,500 trees in May along the first three-mile stretch of the project.

Engen, who had completed 1 1/2 years at Northland Community

College in Thief River Falls, Minn., majoring in conservation law, says the grant will help pay the remainder of his education costs when he returns to school.

Musch says she thinks the AmeriCorps program should be continued a second year because it provides a benefit to small communities.

"I think it's a good program especially for people who have to take out loans for college," says Sirjord.

York, from a political science standpoint, agrees that federal budget cuts should be considered.

"I can see the concern in budget increases because this could potentially be another billion dollar program," he says.

But those who want to cut AmeriCorps funding, he says, shouldn't go in there "hacking away" without taking a close look at what the program has accomplished.

A program that works

As head of a division of AmeriCorps, a Spring Valley native sees its members making a difference in communities around the nation

By **Janet Kempton**
Staff Writer

WHEN President Clinton introduced his plan for a national and community service program three years ago, Joel Berg knew the project's concept of a "domestic Peace Corps" would catch fire.

Berg, a former Spring Valley resident, believed fervently enough in the AmeriCorps program to devote a part of his life to it. And as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's component of AmeriCorps, Berg is witness to the program's grassroots success in communities across the country.

"I can attest that it's working well," says Berg, who's 30 and a 1982 Spring Valley High School graduate. "I've met with hundreds of members around the country, and I like to work alongside the members. They're getting as much out of the program as they're putting in."

Berg recently took a 1,400-mile field trip from his Washington, D.C., office to Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. In December, he swung through Oregon, Washington state and northern California. Along the way he made stops at AmeriCorps projects and pitched in with constructing fishery habitats, pruning trees and building trails.

In Nebraska he helped cart away debris from a stream bed for a flood cleanup project. In local programs that emphasize education, he has entered classrooms to weigh in on environmental and nutritional themes.

"Communities throughout the country are benefiting from Joel Berg's tireless efforts on behalf of National Service," says Eli Segal, the president of AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National Service.

College down payment

The USDA has more AmeriCorps members — 1,200 — than any other federal agency. The program enrolls 20,000 people age 17 or older, primarily young adults, in 350 nonprofit programs.

Corps members run childhood immunization programs; build inner-city gardens; fix dilapidated homes; restore wildlife habitats; tutor students in Head Start and early childhood education programs; escort the elderly through high-crime areas and perform other activities, all the while earning money that will help pay their college bill.

If workers can make it through one year's work, they will have put in trust a \$4,725 grant they can draw on to pay for college or vocational training. The commitment can last one or two years. Those hired also get a \$7,600 annual stipend — about minimum wage — plus health care and child care if



SERVING THE COMMUNITY: Samona Wilson, Mark Bey, Vaughn Howard and Joel Berg, in black shirt, sort clothes for the needy last week at Bread for the City in Washington, D.C. Berg, formerly of Spring Valley, is the director of the Department of Agriculture's component of AmeriCorps, which sponsors the anti-hunger team.

AmeriCorps

How to join

Call: 1-800-94-CORP

What you'll get: An information package on how the program works, a listing describing all the programs in the country, and an application form to fill out and return to AmeriCorps national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

needed.

AmeriCorps cost \$376 million to administer last year; the program started in September. Berg says it costs about \$20,000 per participant. This year the program is budgeted for \$580 mil-

lion, in anticipation of a growing membership. The project's goal is 100,000 members by late 1996, at a three-year cost of \$1.5 billion.

At 20,000 members, the program enrolls 4,500 more than the Peace Corps at its 1966 peak.

AmeriCorps is run by state organizations and financed in part by local contributions. Communities decide what kinds of service are in their best interest. Programs that qualify must meet the educational, human, environmental or public safety needs of the communities.

Berg defines the USDA component's role in AmeriCorps as threefold: fighting hunger, which encompasses 150 members; protecting the environment and rural development, which occupy about 500 members each. Most of those involved in rural devel-

opment are college graduates and receive a \$12,000 stipend.

"For regular folks, it's very popular," Berg says. "It cuts across all ages and ideologies. Most of the members are in their early to mid-20s, but a fair number are in middle age and a bunch are senior citizens."

Full-time work

Berg notes the program received bipartisan support in Congress. When AmeriCorps legislation passed in 1993, 26 House Republicans and seven Senate Republicans voted for it. Rockland's congressman, Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-Middleton, co-sponsored the original legislation for the program.

"He's been an enthusiastic supporter since President Clinton first proposed it," says

The Joel Berg file

Age: 30

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Family: Single

Education: Spring Valley High School, 1982; Columbia University, 1986

Career: Member, Bruce Babbitt's presidential campaign team, 1987; Policy analyst, Progressive Policy Institute of Democratic Leadership Council, focusing on national service, 1988-1991; member, Bill Clinton's presidential campaign team, 1992; director of public affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1992; USDA director of public liaison, 1993; USDA director of national service, 1994 to present.

Interests: Writing poetry.

Andrew Zarutskie, a Gilman spokesman. "He anticipates supporting its continuation if and when it comes up for a vote. He feels it's a good program and he doesn't care who proposes it."

Not everyone in Congress is satisfied with AmeriCorps, however. Some Republicans on Capitol Hill want to abolish the program; others consider the corps members volunteers who should not be paid. Berg scoffs at that notion: members work full time, putting in 1,700 hours per year, he says.

"The day you can find people who serve in the military and the Congress for free is the day you can find someone to work year-round for free," he says. "Most of our members are from the middle class. If they didn't get paid a small living wage, they couldn't afford to do it."

"No one is doing it just for the money, but you need money to eat for a year. I challenge critics to go out and see a site, see the work being done. This is a full-time commitment to service."

Berg says no Rocklanders are members of the USDA component of AmeriCorps, and that the closest project to Rockland is in Middlesex County, N.J. In the overall AmeriCorps program, the closest projects are in New York City.

Because members usually are recruited by local community service groups and no national clearinghouse yet exists, AmeriCorps officials could not say if any Rocklanders participate in the overall program, says AmeriCorps spokesman Bill Barrett.

Budding politician

Berg's involvement in community service stems from his longtime interest in politics. At

AMERICORPS continues C2

MORE THAN JUST A JOB

While earning college money, AmeriCorps crew provides a service, learns about hard work

By Doug O'Loughlin
of the Daily Courier

APPLEGATE — AmeriCorps members who spent Thursday digging out a pile of dirt after a landslide weren't just earning money for college and providing a service for neighbors of Thompson Creek, their supervisor says. They were also clearing up after their parent agency.

Bill Fleeger, supervising the eight-member AmeriCorps crew, said the landslide was probably caused by a clearcut done at least 10 years ago in the hills above a drainage ditch. The ditch takes water from Sturges Creek to Thompson Creek, but the landslide had blocked it.

"That was probably a (U.S.) Forest Service cut," said Fleeger. He works out of the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, part of the Forest Service.

"That makes this kind of ironic," Fleeger continued. His crew spent most of this week working on trails, but had a free day Thursday. So he sent the troops out after receiving a call from the neighborhood ditch association.

AmeriCorps is a federally funded public-service program established by Congress a year ago under the advice of President Clinton.

The Oregon part of the program started up in September, and an estimated 500 aspiring students across the state are taking part.

Enterprising workers between the ages of 18 and 25 can help their community and earn money for school through the program.

The Southern Oregon team works out of the Rogue River National Forest, and falls under the public land and environment part of AmeriCorps. Recent projects included surfacing a trail around Upper Table Rock in February.

Participants, about 35 total, work on a 10 month long pro-

Budget cuts loom

Some funding for the AmeriCorps program could be cut under part of a series of rescissions going through Congress.

Julie McGregor, press secretary for Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said among spending reductions the Senate is considering, the AmeriCorps program could be cut back to the levels of the 1994 fiscal year. That means \$210 million out of the \$576 million budget could disappear.

Local AmeriCorps administrators said it was too early to say how the cuts would affect the program.

gram. During that time they live at the Star Ranger Station of the Applegate district.

They receive a stipend of \$7,660 and, at the end of their service, a \$4,725 "scholarship" slated to pay for future education or pay off a student loan.

For 20-year-old Amethyst Black of Medford the program means she can go to college, which she hopes to do in Texas sometime after completing her stint.

"I wasn't going to be able to get a job that would pay for school," Black said. "I didn't have any money at all to pay for school. I worked at IHOP and that wasn't going anywhere at all."

"Now I can go to school."

Another team member said he enjoyed finding out how to help the environment. Taking a break from clearing out the drainage ditch, John Maguire, a 24-year-old AmeriCorps member from North Carolina, said he was glad



DOUG O'LOUGHLIN/Daily Courier

AmeriCorps worker Robin Reed, 19, of Ashland, helps clear a landslide Thursday.

to provide water passage to keep fish alive.

"This is going to bring cooler water to lower areas," Maguire

said. "I didn't know about that stuff before, so I'm learning."

"I'm learning how to work hard, too. I know that for sure."

Maguire added. "I think this program gives you a lot of discipline. It also gives you a real good work ethic."

Mail Tribune

Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

MAIL TRIBUNE, MEDFORD, OREGON, JANUARY 11, 1995

Applegate release boosted

Water will cover some bridges by this afternoon

By BILL KETTLER
of the Mail Tribune

A rainstorm expected tonight could swell Rogue Valley rivers and streams, but forecasters said they expected less rain than the deluge earlier this week.

Several days of heavy rains prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release extra water from Applegate Lake today, as residents of the Rogue and Applegate valleys braced for more wet weather.

"I don't think we're going to have anything like the rain we had Monday," said David Spector, of the National Weather Service.

Since Sunday, a total of 1.26 inches of rain has been recorded at the Medford-Jackson County Airport, and a total of 4.42 inches in Grants Pass, according to the Weather Service.

Spector said several storms are expected to pass through the region by the weekend, bringing

Disasters drain Red Cross

Fire and flood emergencies are exhausting resources at the local American Red Cross chapter.

In addition to opening two evacuation shelters in Josephine County for flood victims this week, the organization has provided shelter, food, clothing and emergency medical assistance to six local families who have lost their homes to fires in the past 30 days, officials report.

Two local Red Cross volunteers were to leave late this

morning for the San Francisco area in an emergency resource vehicle to help flood victims in northern California, drawing further from local resources.

Contributions are urgently needed to help cover expenses, said Liz Knips, health director for the local chapter.

Contributors should make checks out to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and send to the American Red Cross Rogue Valley Chapter, 80 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR 97504.

For more information, call 779-3773.

snow to the mountains above 5,000 feet.

Releasing water now from Applegate Lake will allow the dam to continue to control potential flooding during the rest of the winter, said Ken Olson, project manager for the Corps' Lost Creek and Applegate dams.

Olson said flows in the Applegate River would rise to about 3,000 cubic feet per second by this

afternoon, covering some low-water bridges. He said water released from the dam may bring the Applegate near the top of its banks, but should not cause any flooding.

"We will not cause the river to get bigger than bank-full conditions," Olson said.

Olson said Applegate Dam controls flooding by collecting water

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Release

from Page 1A

during high streamflows and then gradually releasing it. He said flows into Applegate Lake briefly rose to 10,000 cubic feet per second on Monday, while the river flowed at just 1,660 cfs near Wilderville, downstream of the dam.

Olson said future weather will determine how long it will take to draw the lake down to its flood control height of 1,889 feet above sea level. The lake was 24 feet above the desired flood control level on Tuesday.

Releasing extra water at those levels probably will not cause problems for fish, according to Chuck Fustish, a fisheries biolo-

gist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

recalled that high water isolated his mobile home before the dam was built.

"The dam saved me," Christie said.

Olson said streamflow measurements this week showed far greater rainfall in the Applegate basin than the area drained by the upstream tributaries of the Rogue River. Rogue River flows into Lost Creek Lake increased only about 1,000 cfs on Monday, while flows into Applegate Lake were rising by up to 10,000 cfs.

Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems in the area

gust with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fustish said eggs of fall chinook salmon are incubating now in gravel along the river bottom. Those eggs could suffer if fine sediments and silt clog the gravel, but that would be unlikely unless streamflows rise to about 8,000 cubic feet per second, he said.

Several residents of the area below Applegate Dam said they preferred the minor inconvenience of high water to a full-blown flood.

"I would have water around this mobile home right now," said Thomas Christie, who lives on Lower Applegate Road. Christie

burned by the Hull Mountain fire last August. A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill, said Mindy Martin, of the Rogue River National Forest.

"The whole mountain is coming down," said Martin, who visited the 10-person work crew Tuesday.

Martin said the crew has built small "check dams" and other erosion control structures, trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides.

"It's a 10,000-acre mudhole," she said.

CHEROKEE

MESSENGER & REPUBLICAN



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AmeriCorps working in county



AMERICORPS workers saw through a tree trunk at the Dean Campbell farm near Jet. Notice the protective gear worn by Charl Marshall of Clinton, on the right. Robert Martin of Broken Bow, on the left, wore the same except he didn't don the jacket for the camera.

Making \$4.23 an hour plus \$4,700 scholarship bonus

By CAROL ANGLE

In President Clinton's State of the Union message, he said AmeriCorps has many more participants than the Peace Corps ever did but most Americans don't know what it is.

In Alfalfa County, it is the whine of chainsaws at work in a grove of old trees. It is young people working for scholarship money.

AmeriCorps is the new national service program, a domestic Peace Corps. Participants are paid \$4.23 an hour for 1,712 hours of work (10 months) and earn a bonus of \$4,700 in scholarship money. They can be in the program for two years; that is, if Congress continues the program for a second year.

For the last few weeks, an AmeriCorps unit has been working through the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Service on shelterbelts in the Jet

area. The crew is completing three conservation projects for Dean Campbell and Kyle Campbell.

Anthony Lovelace of Alva supervises a crew of three men and four women. Lovelace is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and has a master's in agriculture education.

Robert Dotson of the Natural Resources office (former SCS) in Cherokee said he and a state forester located the sites, then the forester wrote the windbreak restoration plan and forest stewardship plan.

At the Campbell shelterbelt one mile north and one mile west of Jet, the crew is rejuvenating an old stand of three rows of trees which had been planted to prevent wind erosion of the sandy soil. The north row of mulberry trees

See WORKING Page 3

WORKING

Continued from Page 1

has been trimmed back almost to stubs which will grow back again. Dead limbs were cut from the other two rows. Some of the trunks and limbs were made into firewood lengths for Campbells. All the smaller limbs and brush were arranged in a row down the length of the shelterbelt for wildlife habitat. Then a row of cedars will be planted on the south side.

The project is cost share with the landowner paying one-half the cost of the trees and a fence which the corps will build to keep cattle away from the new seedlings.

The AmeriCorps workers are paid by the federal government.

The project is headquartered in Woodward although some of the workers live in Alva. They have to provide their own housing. Each day the crews have been driving from Woodward and back as part of nine-hour days so they have short work days in Alfalfa County. They have every other Friday off. In bad weather, they find alternate work to do in the Woodward area.

After the corps was organized last fall, these seven people started working near Mutual, then on a farm near Woodward, then they came to Jet. After they finish here, they plan to go to Arnett. Their ten months will be up in June.

Interviewed individually, all the participants were enthusiastic about the program and about how it has given

them an incentive to go back to school.

Robert Martin of Broken Bow said he wants to become a state park ranger.

"I was interested in AmeriCorps because my mom told me that my grandpa was in the CCC in the 1930s. I wanted to see what kind of work he did," Martin said.

The CCC was the Civilian Conservation Corps of the depression years. In that program men traveled to work camps and lived in barracks or dormitories while they worked for a low wage. CCC veterans have said it kept their families from starving.

Amanda Squires of Norman said she learned about AmeriCorps from the newspaper. "I applied, interviewed and was accepted. I want to go into environmental science," Squires said.

Leslie Woldridge of Watonga also learned about the program through the newspaper. "I plan to go into wildlife management. I started to be a vet but I've changed my mind," she said.

Charl Marshal of Clinton is hoping the program will be continued another year. "I want to go into environmental studies, teaching, making people aware about natural resources. We have seven years to use the scholarship. They get you in here and educate you. It gives you a little push and some money. We need some cleanup in America," she said.

Rick Freeman of Woodward explained how the program works and said, "I

plan to do some type of botanical science. I want to make the world a better place."

Mary Ager of Woodward is 36 and is raising three school age children as a single parent. She said AmeriCorps is giving her a chance to switch her life around.

"With this year's money, I'll pay off an old federal loan. It is a good opportunity. I'm a recovering alcoholic and I've worked at various jobs. I'm interested in wildlife and forestry," Ager said. She is originally from North Dakota.

She too hopes the program can continue a second year.

Bryan Farrell of Woodward, 18, graduated from high school last spring. A friend of his mother heard about AmeriCorps and told him.

"I had quit a job I had with a freight company. I had been working for them for three years but it interfered with school. I plan to go to Southern Nazarene College in Bethany and major in elementary education or environmental awareness," Farrell said.

Counseling is available to the participants to help prepare them for college.

Across the U.S., AmeriCorps members are working on all kinds of projects, including helping immunize infants, tutoring teenagers, working with the ill and elderly and restoring natural resources.

For information about AmeriCorps National Service, call 1-800-942-2677 or TDD 1-800-833-3722.

Americorps team researches resource management plans

By SCOTT NIENDORF
Staff writer

People could say the Americorps program is President Bill Clinton's domestic Peace Corps.

Taking a page from the international program, Clinton has geared up the Americorps program to provide opportunities to give people a way to give back to their communities.

In the four-corners region of the western United States, there are approximately 40 Americorps members working together in different capacities to efficiently develop or protect the area's resources.

Six individuals in Utah are under the direction of Kresha Eastman of Green River, who oversees the Americorps program through her position with Castleland Resource Conservation & Development in Price.

Three Americorps members work out of Monticello and three work out of Price. They receive a stipend for living expenses and a voucher at the end of their service, good for continuing higher education studies or to help pay off student loans.

Locally, the three people working for Americorps are well-educated in a variety of backgrounds.

Nancy Steele, Helper, comes to the Carbon County area from Florida via Colorado. She collects economic development-related information and assists the South-eastern Utah Association of Local Governments with information related to community development block grants.

Anna Prawl came from Tucson, Ariz., and wanted to work in the Price area for Americorps after living in Salt Lake at one time. She works with economic development programs to research potential business expansion and retention in a rural setting plus seeks possible training for entrepreneurs.

Eldon Miller, Helper, is the only native to the region. He does research on natural resources indigenous to the area and the local economies dependent on them, providing important data in layman's terms on agriculture, mining and tourism for potential decision-making on how to utilize those resources.

The group is located here to

hopefully enhance and complement existing organizations to provide valuable information on resource management. Miller has a master's degree in conservation and outdoor education. Prawl has a master's in social work and Steele brings a degree in anthropology to the team.

Eastman said their variety of perspectives will help to add a different, less-technical view of resources and their impact on local communities.

The program geared up in September and the team members should be working at full speed in early 1995.

One of the valuable research goals the Americorps members would like to accomplish is to study resource management plans of various local entities, from cities to county agencies, to understand and explain their management plans and how they all interrelate—seeking to find common goals.

Eastman said they will also work with city managers to help identify issues and projects which could benefit the people at large. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities," she said.

SUN ADVOCATE, PRICE, UTAH, DECEMBER 27, 1994



From left, Eldon Miller, Nancy Steele, Anna Prawl and Kresha Eastman (front) comprise a team of researchers working locally in the

national Americorps program to promote the interests of the four-corners region.



Top: The author (second from left) and team at "spike camp" on the Olympic Peninsula.

Spike Camping & Other Thrills on the Olympic Peninsula AmeriCorps: Getting Things Done

By Cherie Ude • Photos by Erik Kvilaas

Welcome to the first year of AmeriCorps, a federally-funded program designed to help our communities and environment through "national service" (*a la* the Peace Corps). This gives a chance for young people to give (and receive) education and job skills, while developing a sense of pride in the nation in which we live. For the public, this

means upgraded campgrounds and trails that conform with the American Disabilities Act, an improved logging economy through pruning trees for selective lumbering, preservation of old growth and endangered species with projects like habitat surveys, and building and installing bird and bat boxes. It's a program from which all of us benefit —

environmentalists and loggers, hikers and fishers, Forest Service and the volunteers of AmeriCorps. The program is nationwide; more than 22,000 people are involved in programs set up across the US, doing work in a variety of fields: environmental, public safety, education, and human services. The AmeriCorps motto is "getting things done" — and that's exactly what we're doing!



I am one of the many thousands of guinea pigs in this new program. I first became aware of AmeriCorps from a newspaper ad looking for people interested in environmental issues and willing to work out of Port Townsend. My interest quickly aroused, I called and soon received information and an application.

The Olympic Peninsula program (operated by the Oregon-based Northwest Youth Corps, contracting under the AmeriCorps umbrella), offered housing at the Fort Worden State Park, a small living stipend, and a college award of \$4,725 after 1,812 hours of service — about ten months. It all sounded too good to be true: Port Townsend was close to my home on Whidbey Island; I enjoy working outside and have always been concerned about the environment; I needed a job because I'd been traveling for an extended period, and I haven't been to college, so the education award was appealing.

After sending in the extensive application and enjoying a positive preliminary phone interview, my next month was spent hovering expectantly over the phone. As time dragged on, though, I became convinced I hadn't gotten the job; I spent my hours pestering and complaining incessantly to my parents. Imagine their relief when, two weeks before the job's starting date, the call came asking me to report to Fort Worden on November 1. The call was followed by a brief note, describing what to bring and where to go on the first day. My next two weeks were spent frantically packing, re-packing, and running around buying new things (a new job means it's time to shop, right?).

The day finally came when I took the ferry over to Port Townsend to begin our first two weeks of orientation. I still believe that first impressions are important, but I no longer believe they're always accurate. The AmeriCorps volunteers that showed up that day were as diverse, I had my doubts as to whether any of us had *anything* in common. There were huge intimidating people and petite people who looked like a gust of wind would blow them over; there were shaved heads and hair to the waist, loud, high-energy people and quiet mice in the corner. How could we really expect to work and live together?

We were taken up to one of Fort Worden's old houses, where all 40 of us were to live. Perhaps predictably, some of our first lessons were in conflict resolution and space management. We had to figure out special hours for the hacky-sack players to do their thing, without disturbing the readers and sleeper downstairs; quiet hours in the evenings were and sometimes still are, a major source of conflict. Keeping the kitchen and the common rooms clean, too, was a problem at first.

Orientation was a good time for us to scope out potential problems and get them solved. We had many workshops on functioning together as a team, developing leadership skills, and maintaining equality — lessons that help a diverse group live and work together efficiently. We also played a lot of "get to know each other" games; we took several field trips — exploring Port Townsend and Fort Worden, traveling to nearby range stations, doing trash cleanups, and taking couple hikes to learn about old-growth forest and resident animals. Our first two week

Jury to seek hydrant grant

By JOHN ST. ORES
Daily News Staff Writer

The Jeff Davis Parish Police Jury is expected to take action next Wednesday to participate in a federal grant program that will supply each parish in Louisiana with 35 dry fire hydrants.

Dry hydrants are nonpressurized pipe systems permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provide a ready means of water supply to a tank truck.

During the jury's agenda meeting Thursday, Jim Neveu of the Imperial Calcasieu Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. and Dominic Beggan, of Americorp, coordinator of the dry hydrant program, explained the project.

Trailblazer Resource

□ See JURY on Page 10A

Jury

Continued from Page 1A

Conservation and Development Office in Ruston is in the final stages of obtaining the federal funds to install the hydrants across the state. The contracts should be signed by the end of this month and the materials should be delivered during the summer.

"Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Office will oversee the distribution of the dry hydrant materials," said Beggan. "Technical assistance during dry hydrant site location will be provided by the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office, based in Jennings."

Imperial Calcasieu RC&D will provide the following materials for 35 dry hydrants:

- 1 dry hydrant head assembly
- 1 ell
- 2 supports
- 1 blue reflector
- 1 strainer
- 60-foot 6-inches of Schedule 40 PVC
- 1 quart of paint per parish
- 2 gallons of epoxy per

parish

The jury is being asked to:

— Adopt a resolution stating they would like to participate in the statewide dry hydrant project;

— Provide a parish-appointed coordinator;

— Provide the labor and machinery necessary to install the dry hydrants;

— Provide a sign, e.g. "Fire Department Fire Hydrant Number;"

— Maintain the hydrant, i.e. have the local fire department backflush the hydrant at least once a year.

"This project would probably provide a drastic cost savings in terms of insurance premiums, because it counts toward ratings," said Lake Arthur juror Austin "Sonny" Abshire.

Sponsors for the project are the Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis Parish police juries and the Allen, Calcasieu and Gulf Coast Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

AmeriCorps program making a difference

By Mark Watson
Staff reporter

AmeriCorps — a voluntary service organization that has been called the domestic version of the Peace Corps — should not be a liberal or a conservative issue, Joel Berg said Friday.

"Is it liberal or conservative to improve rural fire protection?" asked Berg, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Service director. "Is it left wing or right wing to improve the water supply for farmers?"

One USDA AmeriCorps program is designed to build 35 dry fire hydrants in each parish of Louisiana. A dry fire hydrant makes it easier for fire engines to pump water out of surface ponds.

Another program actively pursued in central Louisiana is Farm-A-Syst, in which farmers learn how to avoid risks to well water caused by various agricultural practices.

In exchange for providing this service, each AmeriCorps volunteer receives about \$12,000 a year, plus about \$4,700 toward college tuition — or has that much lopped off his student loans.

Berg delivered a pep talk to Louisiana AmeriCorps members Friday at the federal department's state headquarters in Alexandria.

"This is not just another big government giveaway," he said. "This is part of a big movement. You are proving the doubters wrong."

"The Washington press corps is used to the old ways of pork, large government programs, and not expecting much from citizens, and this is a program that only works with citizen involvement."

"People don't trust government, and because people are so cynical, that is precisely why you are so important. You are the link to bring government back to the people."

The program is fighting for its fiscal life, as Republican congressmen call for cuts in various domestic programs.

"AmeriCorps is going to live or die, not based on lofty speeches from people like me from Washington, or really because of anything we really do in



Joel Berg: AmeriCorps is not "another big government giveaway. This is part of a big movement."

Washington," Berg told the AmeriCorps members. "It's going to live or die based on what you do."

AmeriCorps has made a difference in Louisiana and the South, said Don Gohmert, the USDA's state conservationist for Louisiana.

"They've brought a different dimension than we were able to provide through our ongoing programs," Gohmert said.

"For instance, we are assisting with the statewide dry hydrant project. We can provide the technical engineering support, but we don't have the resources to work directly with all the police juries, volunteer fire departments and local people to tell them about what they need to do to bring dry hydrants to their communities."

"It's a real assistance to a state like Louisiana, where we have high fire insurance costs, because we don't have fire hydrants."

Reducing the spread of fire furthers Gohmert's mission to conserve soil. Burned forests result in more soil erosion.

In another program, AmeriCorps member Aminul Mahfuz, based in Pineville, helps communities build timber

■ Please see PROGRAM, D-2

Metro

Alexandria Daily Town Talk

Saturday
April 1, 1995

Rural areas may get fire hydrants

By Karl Belvin
Staff reporter

A Rapides Parish Police Jury committee took preliminary steps Tuesday to join a program designed to bring fire hydrants to rural areas.

Through the program, materials for 35 dry hydrants would be provided at no cost to the parish by Twin Valley Resource Conservation and Development District in Natchitoches.

The Police Jury would be responsible for providing equipment and labor for installing the hydrants.

Tressa K. Lantz, an AmeriCorps participant repre-

senting the district, told jurors that a dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system which is permanently installed in a lake, pond or stream in areas not serviced by other hydrants.

These hydrants can be used as alternate water sources for volunteer fire departments in rural areas and also for road maintenance work, she said.

If the jury agrees to take part in the program, Twin Valley would provide pipes, hydrant heads and strainers for 35 sites around the parish, Ms. Lantz said.

Money for the materials is to be provided by a grant from the

state Department of Natural Resources, she said, although the contract for this funding is still being finalized. Because the contract has yet to be completed, Ms. Lantz could not comment on the amount of funding the state will provide.

Once finalized, however, the money would be allocated to Trailblazer Conservation and Development District in Ruston, which is coordinating the project statewide.

Twin Valley is handling the program in 26 parishes, including Rapides, Ms. Lantz said.

The jury's Fire, Rural Development and Agricultural Affairs Committee passed a resolution in support of the project and named Juror Richard Billings, committee chairman, as coordinator of the project for the parish.

Billings said he would be putting together a committee of rural and VFD fire chiefs in the parish to come up with plans for the program.

He also said that the parish has been pursuing a system of dry hydrants for rural areas since

1992 when a map of potential locations was put together.

Ms. Lantz explained that the 1992 program was contracted with a different coordinator and that the program has now been changed to Trailblazer.

In other matters, the Federal Programs Committee heard a proposal from jury President Myron Lawson for a grass-roots, letter-writing campaign in opposition to proposed cuts in federal funding to Job Training Partnership Act programs and food and nutrition programs.

Lawson said these proposed cuts in social programs would most hurt "the young, the poor and the needy."

Terry Bounds, parish director of JTPA programs, said the newly elected Congress has launched a "feeding frenzy" on social programs.

With the cuts, the JTPA's summer program could lose 500 to 600 jobs for young people, Bounds told jurors.

He also pointed out that federal funding for JTPA programs 15 years ago was \$6 million. That sum is now down to \$2 million, and with the proposed cuts, could fall to just over \$1 million.

In light of the detrimental impact the cuts could have to the parish, Lawson urged other jurors and the public to take part

in the letter-writing campaign.

In environmental matters, the Grant Coordinating, Personnel and Civil Service Committee heard a report on parish recycling from coordinator Randall Moore.

Mrs. Moore said the city of Pineville is in its fourth week of a new curbside recycling program and is averaging 11 tons per week. This amount could double once commercial businesses begin adding their recyclable materials to the program she said.

In another environmental concern, Albertia Roshto of the Tioga Environmental Action Committee read a proclamation from her organization before the Public Health and Liaison Committee.

The proclamation stated that the organization is not anti-business or anti-industry, but that is against any commercial enterprise that seeks to treat, store or dispose of hazardous material or that has to be permitted by the state Department of Environmental Quality for locating in Tioga.

In other matters, the committee discussed creating a new Police Jury logo, giving the president authority to issue proclamations for historical events and to recognize outstanding citizens.

Oldest Shelter Belt Honored



SHELTERBELT - This Forest Stewardship sign was recently unveiled at the nation's oldest shelterbelt site in Greer County. Pictured, from left: Leonard Graumann, director of the Greer County Conservation District; Buddy Cranford, president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts; Nancy Deaver, director of the Oklahoma Community Services Commission; State Rep. Jack Bonny; U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas; and landowner Pat Curtis.

More than 200 people attended a celebration in Greer County on March 17 marking the 60th anniversary of the first shelterbelt planted in the nation.

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, many state senators and representatives, conservation agency leaders, Civilian Conservation Corps alumni, AmeriCorps members and area residents took part in the ceremony.

The shelterbelt was planted on March 18, 1935, by CCC alumni and others. Louise Phillips of Chevy Chase, Maryland, wife of the late George R. Phillips, was on hand at the anniversary celebration to recognize the contributions of her husband and the continuation of that work by local members of AmeriCorps. George Phillips planted the first Australian pine in the shelterbelt and was also the first state forester in Oklahoma.

Twenty USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps members are currently working to renovate and restore shelterbelts and windbreaks in western Oklahoma by removing dead and diseased trees, clearing out debris, piling brush for wildlife habitats and replanting more desirable tree species in selected areas. Three teams comprise the 20-member corps, with eight members housed at the Woodward office, six at Mangum and six at Sentinel.

Project partners include NRCS, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture-Forestry Services, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Each agency was recognized at banquet ceremonies in Elk City on March 16 for its contributions.

AmeriCorps will help at Winter Shows

AmeriCorps National Services Organization enrollees will work with the Red River Valley Winter Shows at Crookston during the Winter Shows February 17 - 20. AmeriCorps members, wearing various symbols of their national service program, hope to provide needed help to ensure that events run smoothly.

In addition to helping out the Red River Valley Shows organization, AmeriCorps will have booth space exhibiting AmeriCorps information and descriptions of the projects currently in progress in northwest Minnesota. These include the Conservation Outreach project stationed out of Warren, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, McIntosh and Twin Valley; the Agassiz Recreation Trail project out of Thief River Falls and Twin Valley; and the Ag-Waste project out of Thief River Falls.

AmeriCorps will give a short presentation at the Education (Emu) Seminar located in the educational Area on Sunday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. during the Winter Shows.

If interested in learning more about AmeriCorps and what members are doing in this area or find out how to help out with one of the projects, stop by the AmeriCorps booth at the Winter Shows, contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office to get further information.

Fuel load project to begin in Traverse Creek Watershed

A team of Americorp members have been assigned to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service. Their mission: to reduce fuel loads in potentially critical forest lands.

The local team covers the area encompassing El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Amador counties. The program is part of President Clinton's pilot Americorp legislation, with projects of community service and a motto of "getting things done." The program has been called the Domestic Peace Corps.

The team members, headquartered in Placerville, are working on the Traverse Creek Watershed located in the Georgetown area. The participants will identify landowners and then set-up community meetings and workshops. They will assist in formulating individual plans according to the various desires and needs of land use from limited timber harvest to wildlife habitat. They will also help develop incentive programs and assistance funding.

District Conservationist Jim Kimmel has two Americorp members to assist work through his office: Aleta Apgar, a conservation educator, certified teacher and former viticulturist, and Jesse Haramati, a civil engineering candidate in a joint University of California Santa Cruz-Berkeley Program. They work cooperatively with El Dorado County's Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District and Soil Conserva-

tion Service.

As a team they unite their efforts with Cliff Heitz, Auburn's District Conservationist, and his representatives: Geologist Carol Rutenberg and James Newman, a wildlife management Humboldt State University graduate. Two other team members, Christi Lyn-Maison, an agronomist, and Althea Brusin, an agriculture science graduate from Cal Poly, work under the tutelage of Grass Valley's District Conservationist, Ron Zinke. The project coordinator is Bob Roan of High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The anticipated success of this project will minimize the impact of inevitable wildfires. Successful implementation of this program will generate more Americorp volunteers and inclusion of more watersheds in the fuel load reduction program.

The aim of this rural land development project is to demonstrate a model of community interaction, cooperation between federal and state and local agencies and private landowners. The reduction of fuel loads and fuel ladders to reduce possibility of catastrophic wildfires is one of the most critical environmental issues currently being addressed in the foothills.

Pittsfield survey findings 'significant'

By Deborah Gertz

Herald-Whig Staff Writer

PITTSFIELD, Ill. — Look at downtown Pittsfield as an employer, and it's the largest one in Pike County.

The downtown area has 122 businesses, churches and fraternal organizations and 674 employees, based on findings from a recent central business district survey.

"That's significant," said Robin Hendley, the city's economic development director.

"I had no idea there were that many businesses in that small of an area and that many employees."

The survey, done by Hendley's office and two rural development team members from the AmeriCorps program through Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development, looked at a nine-block area bordered by Memorial, Jackson, Jefferson and Fayette streets. Interviews were done with 111 — 90.9 percent — of the establishments.

"I don't see how you can develop any kind of strategy without data and information to base it on," Hendley said. "It's a good

AT A GLANCE

The findings of a recent Pittsfield central business district survey include:

- The district had 674 employees — 482 full-time and 192 part-time.

- Employers classified the workforce as 54.9 percent white collar and 45.1 percent blue collar.

- Seventy-one of the 111 establishments surveyed are owner-occupied. Forty rent or lease the property.

- Retailers represented the largest group of employers with 26 — or 23.4 percent of the total.

- Five commercial establishments — Kientzle Shoe Store, the Pike Press, First Bank, Farmers State Bank and Alexander Lumber — were established prior to 1900.

- Forty-nine of the businesses surveyed were established since 1981, with 26 coming after 1990.

- Fifty-nine percent of the non-residential structures were rated in good to very good condition. Forty-nine of the buildings had the original facade.

- The district has 602 on-street parking spaces and 629 spaces in parking lots.

baseline, something good to start with."

Business owners/managers were asked about the product or service offered, the year established, employment levels, classification of employees and

use of upper floors. The survey also looked at structural roof and facade condition and use of basements.

"It gives you a lot of information," said Mayor Rick Conner. "Who knows what some of this

data will be useful for at a later date?"

The survey, for example, could help the city look at parking needs, Conner said. "If the traffic patterns continue, the city could look at public/private partnerships ... leasing parking for certain hours."

Conner also pointed to the number of businesses established since 1990.

"Eight or 10 years ago there was a downswing in the core area of the community and the council became aggressive in promoting the downtown area. Now it's showing its full effects," he said. "I think we have an extremely solid downtown area compared to most communities our size."

Business owners and managers also take pride in their buildings. "Over 50 percent of the buildings are in good to very good (condition)," Hendley said. "They do take care of them."

Many business owners and managers offered comments and suggestions about the downtown. "Thirty people were very happy" with the area, Hendley said. "That's a real good sign."

AmeriCorps: making a difference

Of the 46 teams assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the AmeriCorps program, South Carolina is hosting three.

AmeriCorps is the new service initiative described by President Clinton in his inaugural address and put into operation shortly thereafter.

Sponsored by government agencies, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for a diverse group of members from varied ages and backgrounds to serve their country while receiving educational awards and vocational training in return.

In exchange for their year of service, the participants receive a living stipend, educational awards for college or vocational training, basic health insurance, and, in some cases, child-care allowances. The program also benefits the participants by giving them lasting skills, experiences and training in a diversity of subjects.

Of the three teams serving in South Carolina, the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD) was granted 15 members to concentrate on the southwestern Lowcountry of the state. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) received five and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received 20.

Based in Greenwood and Newberry, the NRCS put its first group to work on public safety and community development. They spent six weeks on a road inventory in Edgefield County, creating a spreadsheet database of data that supplemented an updated road map of the county.

The second Greenwood group spent four weeks on a stream coding project to upgrade the state's ability to gather information about the quality of streams, rivers and lakes.

Another group conducted a grassland survey in Abbeville County, while a final group visited 16 farms to conduct water-quality surveys in Newberry County.

The RECD teams are concentrating their services on the southwestern Lowcountry, while the USFS members are centering on Williamsburg County.

Qualifications

Education backgrounds vary for the AmeriCorps team members who are either



AmeriCorps volunteers John E. Morgan, III, and Karen Kinard test livestock lagoon waste water.

from the project areas or nearby counties. Mostly college and professional school graduates, the members' expertise is matched with the needs of the rural community they serve.

The teams work to empower communities to help themselves by developing local leadership needed to assure community planning activities that help them reach their goals.

These volunteers learn skills in community and coalition building, strategic planning, environmental protection strategies

and communication enhancement.

USDA

Overall, there are more than 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers in this service initiative designed to address the nation's needs in the areas of education, human service, public safety and environmental needs from a community perspective.

The United States Department of Agriculture received almost half of the 2,500 AmeriCorps slots awarded to federal agencies. Of these, the 40 members assigned to South Carolina are carrying out their assigned task.

USDA was set up by Congress as a "people's department to acquire among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture ... and to procure, propagate and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants."

Rural electrification was initially set up as a part of the USDA, and continues under that agency.

"The USDA of today is leading the effort to bring the AmeriCorps service program to success," said Mark Berkland, South Carolina State Conservationist with the USDA.

"The USDA-AmeriCorps members will help to plant seeds throughout America for a future built upon volunteerism and community service," he continued. [From material gathered by Angi Paulus.]

MARCH 1995 / LIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA



GAZETTE 50¢

of the Gold Country

Adjudicated as a Legal Newspaper • Court Decree No. 18589

School program features fuel reduction

As part of the community Communication Program for Fuel Reduction, the Education Coordinator for Americorps, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Aleta Apgar, has presented a series of ecosystem-themed workshops to explain to students grades 5-12 in El Dorado County the basics of fire safety in our wild land-urban interface.

The presentations are aimed at helping to reduce catastrophic wildfires in our county through community education. The public school system currently endorses both cross-curriculum learning and community awareness. The education program emphasizes things each student can do now to be aware and help address this critical issue in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Sharing with peers, adults, and teachers the components of fire safety at home and in our forests an important facet of the series of presentations.

Reducing catastrophic fire is a goal with which all of us can agree. The problem is being addressed by agencies on the federal, state, and local level, one of the issues where we are seeing cooperation between private landowners and government agencies.

El Dorado Unified High School was the first school to be involved in this program. Camino Opportunity School, Ponderado, is lining up a schedule for March. Sierra Ridge has expressed an interest in scheduling presentations. The Pollock Pines area was targeted first to coincide with a community

action project co-sponsored by the KCD's Mark Hicks, U.C. Cooperative Extension's Bill Frost, and the District 2 Supervisor, Ray Nutting.

On Saturday, Feb. 11 there was a cooperative effort to make two lots in Sly Park Hills a fire safe demonstration model.

Later in the Spring, Forest Service Representatives are willing to do a school presentation to coincide with the Mormon Emigrant Trail Fuel Break Burn as part of the series' thrust to expose students to the high risks and prevention measures in our region.

An outdoor environmental education component, a casual vegetation survey of the sites is also offered as part of the program. By law, schools have fire defensible space, but students do not necessarily understand what this entails. Their own schools are a good starting place.

In conjunction with the goal of making the Traverse Creek Watershed fire safe it is hoped the program will expand to the Black Oak Mine Unified School District Schools.

Any interested teachers in El Dorado County wanting to schedule presentations or desiring more information should contact Aleta Apgar, Americorps, NRCS, 415 Placerville Dr., Suite M, Placerville, CA 95667, phone 622-1410.

It is better to have
old, secondhand diamonds
than none at all.

—Mark Twain

AmeriCorps in Four Corners

AZTEC - Four AmeriCorps workers have set up shop in the Natural Resources Conservation and Development office in Aztec, N.M., while nine more are working with the Council of the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development in Southwest Colorado.

AmeriCorps engages diverse groups of Americans in performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment.

The Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams - an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environmental team, and a rural development team. There are 1200 workers in the various programs at 42 urban and rural sites nationwide.

The Aztec contingent is made up of Ana Gomes, a natural resource specialist from central valley California specializing in environmental anthropology; Erick Aune, a natural resource specialist from Detroit specializing in natural resource development; Laura Horochowski, an education information specialist from Missouri specializing in fine arts. They will be focusing on San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties. Another AmeriCorp member,

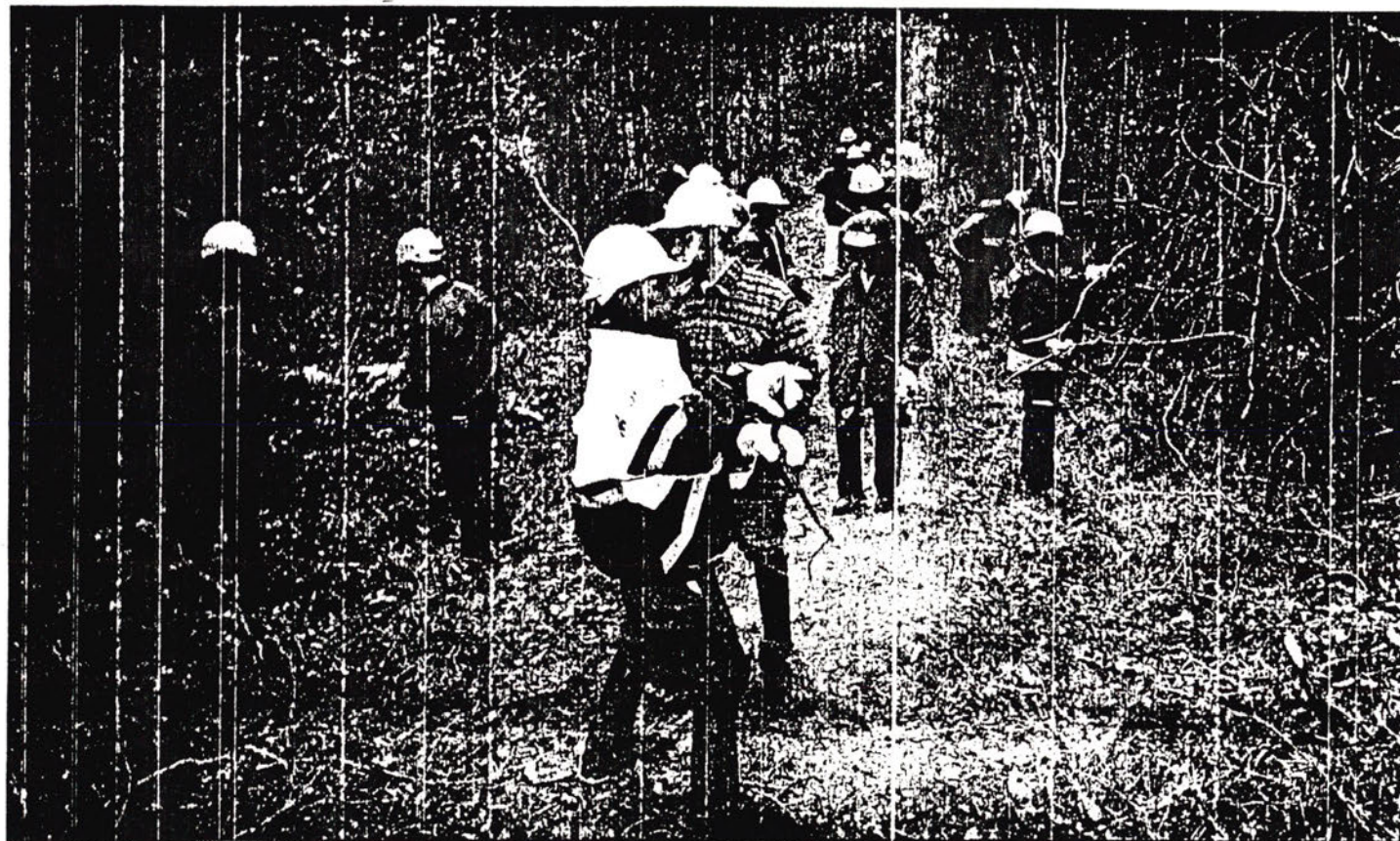
Shantel Farnsworth, is working for Rural Economic and Community Development, formerly known as the Farmers Home Administration.

Nine AmeriCorps members are working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development, the USDA Forest Service, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the San Juan Forum.

Region 9 is up-dating its Overall Economic Development Plan. One worker, Amy Callard, a graduate of Colorado State University with a masters degree in business administration and an undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis College, is up-dating data through information gathered from the Colorado Census Bureau, the National Census Bureau, the state office of the Division of Local Governments, County Clerks and Chamber of Commerces.

The information will be offered to the public in written form, and through the San Juan Basin's new telecommunications information system, SCAN, the Southwest Colorado Access Network, 259-9350. The information is accessed by a computer with modem and a telephone line. 

Learning to make it in life



Brian Albert Broom/The Clarion-Ledger

Participants from the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps inspect a horse trail they cleared in the Blenville National Forest near Hillsboro.

The youths provided the labor needed for the national forest including trail clearing and other maintenance.

Service corps helps at-risk young people

■ The program allows enrollees to earn a diploma while learning to work.

By Mary Jefferson
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

It's far from a dream workweek: 25 hours at minimum wage and 15 hours of volunteer duty, much of it heavy labor.

But for about 50 young people like Eric Jackson, their toil is nothing compared with their reward.

TODAY'S EXTRA

Jackson, 20, is a member of the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps program. In its fifth year, the corps is an educational program for at-risk males and females 16-23. While earning their high school equivalency diplomas, young people acquire self-esteem, pride in their community and good work and study habits.

"The whole program is such a

learning experience," Jackson said. "It is not like anything I have ever been involved in. It is wonderful. The people over the corps really make sure you understand what you need to in order to make it in life."

The service program has three facets:

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Anti-Hunger Corps.

■ The agriculture department's AmeriCorps Public Lands Corps, part of the initiative signed into

law last September by President Clinton.

■ The Urban Corps.

Jackson, a participant in the Public Lands Corps, said the program not only provides him a chance to improve his character, but gives him support he needs to continue his education.

"We work the young people for one year on various community service projects," said Alfred Martin, Greater Jackson Youth Ser-

See YOUTHS, 10A

Youth

From 1A

Urban Corps executive director. "Although each site has different projects, our mission is all the same. We want these young people to be the best they can be."

Members of the Urban Corps traveled Monday from Jackson to Forest to work with the Public Lands Corps at Bienville National Forest. The workers are improving 23-mile Shockaloe Trail for the spring arrival of horseback riders.

The two groups went to south Jackson Wednesday and will be there again today to work on demolishing a vacant building and cleaning the lot at 5020 Gertrude Drive.

Public Lands Corps program coordinator Richard Dolan said corps members always make him proud.

"The attitude is always real good," he said. "They are all hard workers, and one day they will be able to bring their children to some of the sites they have improved and say, 'See, Junior, I did that.'"

He said one of the more important projects his land corps completed was restoring an abandoned building marred by graffiti and vagrants.

"They got in there, cleaned it up and painted it," Dolan said. "The Scott County Board of Supervisors was so pleased with the initiative and the work that they donated the building to us for the next five years. The young people deserved that."

Dolan said before any work project, students are briefed on the goal and method of accomplishment. He

said when tools are to be used, classes are held to teach safety and proper use.

"They have worked very well here," said Laura Garrison of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service/Bienville National Forest. "We have even pulled them off this to do other projects."

Garrison said Monday's work moved slower than usual because urban students weren't familiar with the terrain. She said the students adjusted well and the groups together did an exceptional job.

"The object is to develop teamwork as well as social interaction among the rural and urban corps members," Martin said. "I think there is nothing they cannot do. If it addresses the mission, we will go for

it. They have probably done about 100 projects each year, everything from planting plants to helping senior citizens with maintenance on their homes.

"The Urban Corps members even helped the Jackson Police Department stencil addresses on houses in the Georgetown area."

The students, who are paid bi-monthly, will have completed 1,700 hours of work at the close of their program term. Each student will receive \$4,700 to go toward college or to pay back a student loan.

Jackson said the program offers many incentives, in addition to helping members receive their General Education Development certificates.

"They have taught me to respect

myself and others as well, and I am thankful for that. Being a part of it gave me a chance to redeem myself," said Kenneth Walker, 19, who was the first Urban Corps member to receive his high school equivalency diploma this school year.

Members attend classes each weekday morning before doing community service projects in the afternoon. "They are being taught things from life skills and parenting skills to how to work well with others," Martin said.

Mark Evans, 19, in the Public Lands Corps for about six months, said the program has "given me the confidence I needed to do better."

"The program has really turned me around. I am headed in a much better direction now."

AmeriCorps: Volunteers for America

By Mara Caitlin Roche
Poly Post Reporter

AmeriCorps, the "brain child" of President Clinton, has been in the news lately. Republican members in Congress, notably Newt Gingrich, have recently mentioned it as a possible target for funding cuts. But, what you might not know is that there are four full-time AmeriCorps members here at Cal Poly.

In the AmeriCorps application, Clinton states, "Through national service, you can help lift up America. There is so much to be done today, including teaching children to read, caring for the sick, and keeping our streets safe and our parks clean. Through AmeriCorps, you can help make America everything it ought to be—a nation where all our citizens, whatever their backgrounds, can live up to the fullest of their potential."

The four students interviewed have had positive experiences with working for AmeriCorps, though they are concerned about possible cutbacks to the organization, due to the congressional opposition.

"There is funding for the first two years [for AmeriCorps]. We are trying to establish a tradition of excellence so AmeriCorps can continue," said Jami Fisher, a senior in Landscape Irrigation Science. "Because this is the first year—we do need publicity. We're a lot like the Peace Corps—but we deal more with the community."

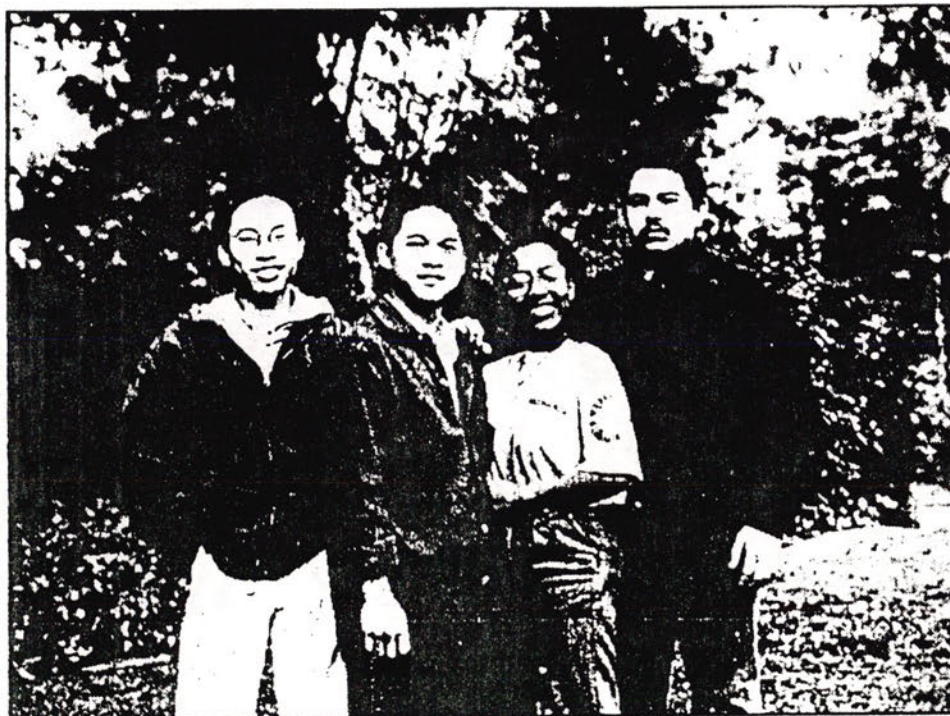
The group is currently working on a project for the Morongo Indian Reservation, helping that community with a flood-water control project. "We are able to provide the additional labor and technical assistance needed on projects like this," said Fisher. Fisher said that projects such as this would normally have to wait months to get off the ground if the extra assistance was not available through AmeriCorps.

Additional projects this past year have included developing waste-management plans for dairies and environmental improvements for area high schools.

"We are working with one high school, developing a 'demonstration garden' of native plants on steep, rocky soil," said Fisher.

"The program is good for community service," said Tai Diep, a junior in Civil Engineer major. When asked to explain the difference between Poly Corps and AmeriCorps Diep said, "They are both developed to help the community. But the focus is different for AmeriCorps groups; Poly Corps deals mainly with community service."

In the application, Clinton continues, "... through national service you will learn things that money can never buy. You'll join America's



AmeriCorp's volunteers Tai Diep, Kevin Nguyen, Jami Fisher and Adrian Gonzalez

Mara Roche/Poly Post

long tradition of great citizens—men and women of every race and religion who come together to build up our communities and our country."

When asked how he felt about the diversity of AmeriCorps, Kevin Nguyen, a junior in civil engineering, said that he thinks it is important because, "It's not only friendship that we exchange, but we exchange our cultural backgrounds as well."

"Communication is a key to everything. Well, we've managed to work in groups, and handle problems—we manage to achieve power in a group," said Adrian Gonzalez, a senior in Agricultural engineering.

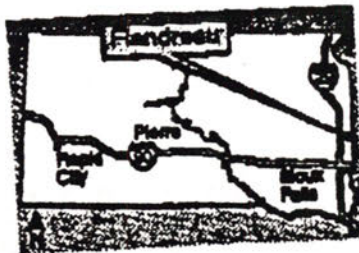
Last week, the group had a surprise visit by Richard Rominger, acting secretary of Agriculture. He fielded questions from the students, including some about the questionable support in Congress for the 20,000 member workforce.

"There are people who think it costs too much money, but it has bipartisan support in Congress and it's a high priority for the president," Rominger said.

Hopefully, students such as Fisher, Diep, Nguyen and Gonzalez can show those in Congress that the work they do does make a difference.

THE ARGUS LEADER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA, MARCH 15, 1995

■ FLANDREAU



**AmeriCorps members
promote conservation**

AmeriCorps members, costumed as Sammy Soil Saver and Wendy Water, will visit Spafford Elementary in Flandreau from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today.

The Daily News

NO-24

MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1995

14 Pages

Group tracing pioneer paths

By William Saunders
Staff Writer

Several groups are working to make U.S. 25E and U.S. 11W into a tourist attraction for Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wilderness Road will trace historic pioneer paths that follow the current routes, as well as highlighting area food, lodging and entertainment sites.

"We have a lot of families that came through here years ago when the area was being founded, and now people come through here looking to trace their roots," said Mary Russell, Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) - Americorps.

The road begins at Elizabethtown, runs through Rogersville and ends at Cumberland Gap. "We're planning a map of the Wilderness Road with historical sites on it, as well as food, lodging and a range of other items," she added. The map is scheduled to go to print June 1.

The goal of the road, she said, is to highlight the historical significance of the area, as well as to bring in tourism.

"Our main goal is historical preservation," she said. "We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."

"The main trail will attract visitors here initially, and offshoots from the trail will get them into surrounding counties," said Lindy Turner, Clinch-Powell RC&D.

"Our main goal is historical preservation. We've been writing grants to preserve different sites along the road. Also, the road will bring visitors to the area with appreciation of the historical areas of Tennessee, including but not limited to Daniel Boone."

—Mary Russell

Area counties that would be directly affected by the Tennessee Wilderness Road will be Claiborne, Hawkins and Grainger.

The road program came about through the combined efforts of Clinch-Powell RC&D, Northeast Tennessee Tourism Council, First Tennessee Development District and Middle East Tennessee Tourism Council.

Russell said the program was based on similar roads in Virginia and Kentucky, such as the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail in Kentucky. Such roads have been proven to help boost economies in the communities through which they pass.

Road signs marking the trail are not in place, but Russell said they will be posted at a later date.

AmeriCorps assists Northeast Tennessee rural communities

AmeriCorps is "getting things done" in Northeast Tennessee. Seven members of this new domestic peace corps have taken on the challenge to address human and environmental needs in Northeast Tennessee communities.

AmeriCorps members recently helped serve meals at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. This was one of many community service projects they will undertake this year.

Amy Crumley and Billie Barlow are two AmeriCorps members based in Johnson City. They are part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Team. Directed by the USDA-Forest Service, they are working in the six-county Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Area, which includes Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties. The Rural Development Team's objectives include assisting rural communities with economic development and natural resources conservation.

Crumley and Barlow are assisting the RC&D Council with new and ongoing projects. They are coordinating conservation education programs for elementary and high school students and organizing and promoting recycling and hazardous waste collection programs. They are

also developing promotional materials for a local tourism council. In addition, they will assist the RC&D Forestry Committee with a wood waste assessment.

The other five AmeriCorps members in Northeast Tennessee are also part of the USDA Rural Development Team. Their projects are directed by the Farmers Home Administration in Greeneville, Mountain City, and Sneedville, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) in Morristown.

In addition to their assigned projects, the seven AmeriCorps members in Northeast Tennessee work as a "cluster" on community service projects of their choice. Several members recently helped serve meals at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City. The cluster also plans to work on a streambank protection project and would like to help with housing construction for those in need.

The AmeriCorps National Service Program is a grassroots effort to solve the problems facing communities across the nation. The AmeriCorps ethic is embodied in four phrases: getting things done, strengthening communities, encouraging responsibility, and expanding opportunity. The program offers Americans of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to serve their country and earn education awards in

return. Members serve a limited term of nine months to a year. They receive a living stipend, and at the completion of service, they are awarded an education voucher for payment of tuition or outstanding student loans.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabili-

ties who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



AmeriCorps member Amy Crumley, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, has been assisting in the preparation of meals to those in need at the Haven of Mercy in Johnson City.

Clinch Powell Development Council employing AmeriCorps participants

RUTLEDGE — The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council has employed six AmeriCorps Participants.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows young people to earn money for school and loan repayments while serving critical needs in their communities. The Clinch-Powell RC&D AmeriCorps are sponsored by the United States Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to aid the rural community.

The positions they are filling are Environmental Education,

Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist, Recycling Specialist and a Specialty Recreation and Tourism team. Participants will be working in the five counties served by the Council. Those counties include Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union.

Sarah Buchanan is serving as the Environmental Education coordinator. Buchanan will work in the schools conducting various programs and activities which include solid waste education, a clean water program, Conservation Camp, Envirothon and Teacher Inservice Workshops. Other activities will include newsletters to area schools, publicity of the environmental education program and the environmental resource library maintained by the council. Buchanan holds a BS degree in Agriculture Communications.

Liz Upchurch is serving as the Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist. Duties will include developing exhibits and displays, assisting solid waste boards, education and a promotion campaign to increase recycling and waste reduction, development of a Buy Recycled campaign and integration with the Keep America Beautiful coordinator and environmental education activities. Upchurch is a recent University of Tennessee graduate in Geography.

Mikhail Delong, Mary Russell and Jeremy Williams are serving as the Specialty Recreation and Tourism Team. While serving these individuals will be evaluating and

establishing a tourism base for the five counties served by the council. The formation of a regional advisory committee for the project and working with established tourism committees will be the basis of developing a long range tourism development plan. Russell and Williams hold MS degrees in Geography from UT and Delong is a geography graduate from U.T.

Steve Karnitz will be serving as Recycling Specialist for the Recycling Marketing Cooperative for East Tennessee. RMCEC, located in Knoxville serves thirty-four East Tennessee counties. Karnitz will be working on the inventory and database management of recycling programs, program design and materials management.

Recruitment of members and education of the public concerning market and promotions of recycling in terms of solid waste management will also be addressed by the participant. Karnitz is a Tennessee Technological University graduate in chemical engineering.

AmeriCorps participants are assigned to work 1812 hours and are eligible to serve for two years. Call the RC&D office at 828-5927 or 828-8354 to find out more about the AmeriCorps program.

"The AmeriCorps program is helping RC&D to meet important needs in the communities we serve. The talents of the AmeriCorps workers and their dedication to community service is an exciting addition to our programs," reports Lindy Turner, RC&D Coordinator.

AmeriCorps succeeds in S.D.

BY ROBERT PORE
OF THE PLAINSMAN

Despite attacks by House Speaker Newt Gingrich as "coerced volunteerism," President Clinton's AmeriCorps program has been a success in South Dakota, said an official of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service.

"It has made a difference with the communities that have been working with the environment here in South Dakota," said Joyce Watkins of Huron, who is the director for the Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team.

Last September, nine Huron residents were sworn in as members of AmeriCorps, a national service organization.

Among the members of the Huron team are: Brad Bader,

Jeffrey Dronen, Jim Hansen, Neal Hegg, Jason Kleinsasser, Michael Knigge, Shelli Meehan, Kendra Sargent and Kerry Zihlman.

Twenty AmeriCorps slots were allocated for NRCS in South Dakota, Watkins said. Currently there are 18 AmeriCorps members, nine in Huron, four in Brookings and five in Mitchell.

In Clinton's budget, he's proposing to increase funding to the AmeriCorps program. He would boost the number of participants from 20,000 currently to 47,000 by the end of the 1996 budget year, boosting the funding for the program's parent agency by \$290 million.

Sixteen of the 18 AmeriCorps workers receive \$7,760 for 1,700 hours of community service, Watkins said. The other two

members will receive \$12,000 for their supervisory responsibility.

The workers also receive free health care and a \$4,725 educational voucher for one year of work. The \$4,725 can be used for college, vocational education or to pay off college loans.

Also in South Dakota, there are AmeriCorps members working on the Rosebud Reservation and on a YMCA program in the Timber Lake area, Watkins said.

"The AmeriCorps members working outside of Huron have been involved in conservation work designing and building riparian areas by planting trees and helping in stream bank stabilization," Watkins said.

She said AmeriCorps members have also been collecting information for the USDA's Natural

AMERICORPS / page 3

AMERICORPS/ from page 1

Resources Inventory and doing conservation programs, such as on windbreaks and wetlands, for South Dakota youth.

"AmeriCorps members will be working with the Beadle Conservation District on the Ravine Lake project this spring," Watkins said. "They have helped to bring a lot of community awareness when it comes to conservation programs."

While Watkins said their wages amount to "just enough to buy groceries and keep a roof over their heads," AmeriCorps members are keeping busy.

She said the AmeriCorps program is a "valuable aid" to conservation work in South Dakota.

"It gives the Natural Resources and Conservation Service another tool to help promote environmental awareness and what it means to South Dakota," she said.

Along with AmeriCorps help-

ers, NRCS also has an Earth Team Program, with members providing more than 10,000 hours of volunteer service to the field of conservation work.

Watkins said the NRCS will be seeking to renew its grant with the organization that administers the AmeriCorps program.

AmeriCorps teams across the country work in a variety of programs including anti-hunger, public lands and environment and rural development.

Watkins said her agency will be working with the Consolidated Farm Service agency and the Rural Economic and Community Development agency on future AmeriCorps projects.

"What's important is that the program is giving the AmeriCorps members a sense of personal satisfaction in the work they are doing," she said. "They also learn the value of community service."

SONOMA-MARIN FARM NEWS

March 1995

Volume 6, Issue 8

The official Farm Bureau newspaper that serves Sonoma and Marin Counties



Colin Close of NRCS, kneeling, shows Doug Buttke and his son Danny how to use the ammonia test kit.

March 30 cut-off date for first-time assistance

Dairy Owners Check Out Ammonia Test Kits

As the water from the relentless January storms drained off the land, AmeriCorps members Colin Close and Julie Maggi donned rubber boots and headed out to visit three of Sonoma County's dairies. Working out of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Santa Rosa, the two AmeriCorps members have made themselves available to train dairy farmers on how to use ammonia test kits.

The CHEMetrics kit, which produces test results on location in just a couple of minutes, is used to analyze the amount of ammonia contained in a water sample. The derived results enable dairy operators to locate any potential problems. As dairymen Doug Buttke, Jim Kehoe and Jack Dei, Jr., were the first to ask for assistance in learning how to use the ammonia test kits, they were among the first to receive one of the ten test kits that were generously donated by the Gold Ridge

So far, all of the dairy farmers that have been introduced to the ammonia test kit were happily surprised to find the kit quick and easy to use. It was also viewed by each dairy operator to be a valuable tool to help better manage their dairy.

The test results may be a rewarding testimony to the time, money and energy invested in improving water quality upon a dairy.

Dairy owner Jack Dei, Jr., has made yearly changes in management practices to better improve his operation. Says Dei, "Using the test kit is very valuable because now when I make changes I can monitor the improvement of the water quality."

Jim Kehoe, the dairy manager of Saint Anthony's Dairy, says of the water quality issue, "It's a tough subject that needs to be addressed, but it all can't be done overnight. We have to work together to solve the prob-

Kits

from page 1

lems and do what we need to do to avoid future problems."

Appointments are still being made for any dairy farmer interested in learning to use the ammonia test kit. Telephone calls to arrange for first time appointments will be taken until March 30, although follow-up appointments will be accepted at any time.

Visits made, come rain or shine, are free and confidential. For more information call Colin Close or Julie Maggi at the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Santa Rosa field office, (707) 575-1409.

The AmeriCorps members wish to express their gratitude to Doug Buttke, Jim Kehoe and Jack Dei, Jr. for their active commitment to the water quality issue and for their consent to use their names for this article.

(ARTICLE & photo
PRODUCED BY
AMERICORPS MEMBERS)

Mangum Shelter Belt Was America's First

By Lillie-Beth Sanger
Lawton Bureau

Col. Frank H. Shepard remembers well the blowing sand and dirt that gave Oklahoma a place among the Dust Bowl states in the 1930s.

Shepard, 75, of Midwest City also remembers the efforts in which he participated to conserve the soil for Oklahoma farmers by planting trees and reshaping farmlands.

"The sand had blown so hard it had covered up all the fences," Shepard said. "You couldn't find the fences. You couldn't find the farm implements. ... You could actually see the soil moving."

At the time, he became part of the Civilian Conservation Corps' movement to plant rows of trees — called shelter belts — to serve as windbreaks for the farms losing soil to erosion.

CCC volunteers planted 2,000 miles

of shelter belts in Oklahoma alone, as well as others from Texas to the Dakotas, said Dwain Phillips, a public affairs specialist with the National Resources Conservation Service in Stillwater.

Their efforts helped put an end to the Dust Bowl, he said.

The first shelter belt in the nation, located near Mangum, was planted March 18, 1935. It still has the same trees, along with a few new ones.

On Friday, Shepard and other former CCC volunteers, state conservation officials and members of the AmeriCorps volunteer service program will celebrate the 60th anniversary at the shelter belt.

The Mangum shelter belt, one of the larger ones planted, is about 12 rows of trees thick and provides the windbreak on an isolated field surrounded by shel-

See TREES, Page 2



— Staff Photo by Lillie-Beth Sanger

AmeriCorps volunteer Brent Smith, 24, of Sentinel packs dirt around a red cedar seedling as that will be part of a windbreak.

From Page 1

ter belts on all sides. It also shelters wildlife, from deer to turkeys.

Pat Curtis owns shelter belt No. 1 and remembers her husband, the late Horace Curtis, telling stories about helping plant the windbreak to stop the blowing sand, which they called "sugar sand" because of the way it moved.

Curtis' father opened his land to the radical shelter belt idea amid skepticism from other farmers, Pat Curtis said.

"We were in a drought. There was no rain coming in," and farmers didn't think the trees would live, she remembered. "Some of the farmers didn't want to give up their land."

But Horace Curtis didn't take his shelter belts for granted, said Pat Curtis, noting her husband's protective attitude in taking care of the nation's first one.

"The years have taken some of them, but those that are left are those that were planted 60 years ago," Pat Curtis said. "That's something. For that, he just didn't want it destroyed."

The windbreaks aren't hard to spot on Oklahoma's landscape. Trees are planted in rows and line edges of fields. Smaller trees are planted on the outside, the larger ones closer to the field to provide the greatest protection. Fuller trees, like cedars, often fill in gaps.

And if you stand inside one on a windy day, you can hardly feel the breeze.

Sixty years after "No. 1," a new group of workers is renovating shelter belts in western Oklahoma as members of AmeriCorps, the national service program implemented last year.

student loans and to learn more about the soil conservation side of agronomy, his major at Cameron University in Lawton.

Since September, he has cleared debris, chopped down dead trees and prepared the ground for planting new ones.

The shelter belt where Smith works at Moonlight Farm near Sentinel, owned by Rusty Rigin, now has just one row of tall trees because high winds last summer destroyed many of the others.

Smith and his work crew began planting two more rows of red cedar seedlings last week.

"It feels good to actually see what we've accomplished," Smith said. Newer windbreaks contain three to five rows of trees, unlike the first one's 12 or so.

Many farmers take the windbreaks for granted because they were planted so long ago, said Linden Haygood, district conservationist for the Conservation Service in Mangum.

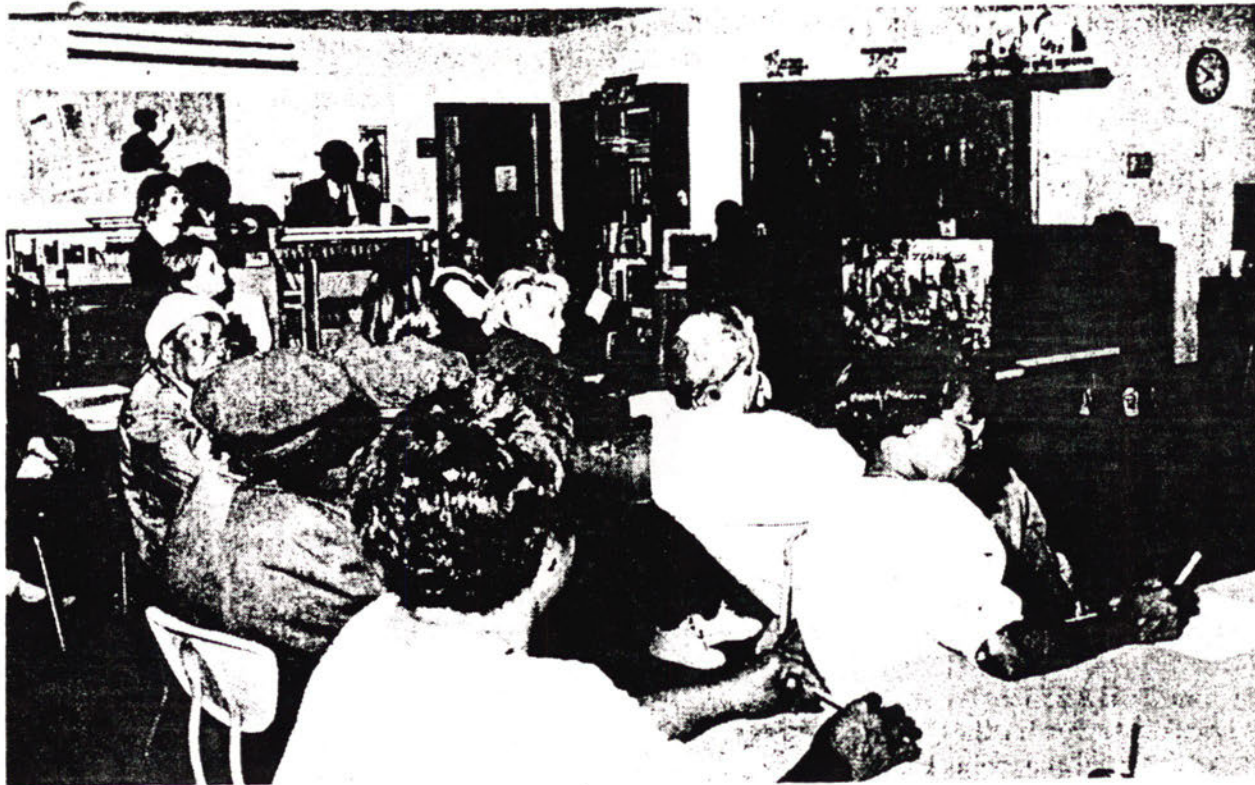
"They've been here forever, and a lot of times they (farmers) don't care for them the way they should," Haygood said.

He said that since the AmeriCorps program began last fall, more have asked for their names to be added to the waiting list.

The shelter belt celebration will begin at 10 a.m. Friday. The 20 AmeriCorps program members in southwest Oklahoma, all working through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be recognized, and U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne, and Paul Johnson, chief of the Conservation Service, will be among the speakers.

A lunch will follow

THE BRINKLEY ARGUS, BRINKLEY, ARKANSAS, JANUARY 15, 1995



PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY MEETING: Residents concerned about the future of Holly Grove attended a Monday night meeting to discuss community issues. Mayor Lula Tyler and Americorps Coordinator Renee Spurlock spearheaded the program. Participants listened to the concerns of the new mayor and then signed up to work on committees in various areas. Committees will be focusing on the issues of health care, crime and drugs, city beautification, education development, economic development, and recreation and tourism. The individual committees will meet on February 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Holly Grove City Hall. For more information about serving on a committee contact Lula Tyler or Renee Spurlock.

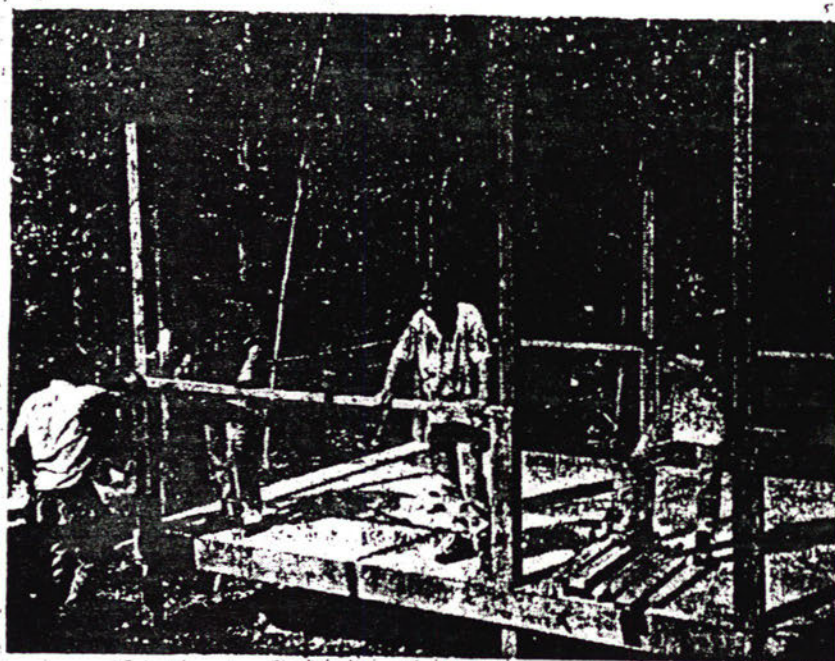
AmeriCorps team works to complete campsite

Twenty AmeriCorps members have been working hard for the past two weeks to complete a Wilderness campsite for the children at John de

la Howe, according to an AmeriCorps news release. The campsite will house a group of students participating in the wilderness Program at de la Howe.

The Wilderness Program is a very successful part of the John de la Howe curriculum. The school has several wilderness campsites available for their program. Ten students occupy each campsite with at least two counselors present at all times. The campsites are very basic, with simple structures and the essentials needed for survival. The students participate voluntarily in the four-month program, during which time communication with the outside world is monitored. The students leave the program with a better understanding of themselves and the earth around them.

AmeriCorps is a new national service initiative designed to help the rural communities of America in the areas of education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs from a community perspective. They target a nine county project area in South Carolina consisting of Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, McCormick, Saluda, Lexington, Edgefield, and Aiken. The program is sponsored in these areas by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to represent the state and they will be duplicated in other areas in the future.



AMERICORPS DOES PROJECT AT DE LA HOWE—
An AmeriCorps team, part of a national service initiative, has been involved in a project at John de la Howe School in McCormick County. (AmeriCorps photo)

Crews working it out

AmeriCorps gives job experience

By Lee Peterson
Daily Bulletin

LYTLE CREEK — They wanted to work, and they got what they asked for.

After a few months of chopping, clearing, shoveling and sculpting, the parcel behind the Lytle Creek Ranger Station is more than halfway toward becoming a multihabitat nature trail, thanks to a team of AmeriCorps workers.

The trail is just one of several projects assigned to the AmeriCorps workers hired by the San Bernardino National Forest last October. In addition to the trail, tasks performed by the

various crews have included restoration of fire-scarred wild lands, hiking trail maintenance and graffiti removal from picnic tables.

"It's hard work and it's something I enjoy," said Barbara Hicks, a 26-year-old Bloomington resident, who is part of the nature trail crew.

Hicks, like many AmeriCorps workers, joined the federally funded "domestic Peace Corps" in its inaugural year in order to gain work experience and earn money toward education. The minimum age for AmeriCorps members is 18, and there is no maximum. The enlistees serve for one year, with an option of joining for one more year. The National Forest's crews average age is 26.

In return for a \$4,725 educational grant and \$4.23 per hour, the workers are required to put in 40 hours per week, show up on time and put in a full day's labor, said Jessie McIntire, a Forest Service AmeriCorps team supervisor.

Lazar Jackson of Rialto said he joined the National Forest's AmeriCorps because he wanted to get more experience in forestry, as a possible career. After almost three months in the corps, the 22-year-old said he's getting the variety of experience that will help him decide exactly what career to pursue.

Shannon McCallum of San Bernardino is also part of the nature trail

See AMERICORPS/B2

AmeriCorps/from B1

crew. "I'm looking forward to seeing it in five to six years down the road when everything grows in."

McCallum is also thinking about "re-enlisting" in AmeriCorps next year, after this program is completed in September.

But members of the Republican majority in Congress have mentioned AmeriCorps as a possible target of funding cuts.

On a visit to Lytle Creek Friday, Richard Rominger, the acting secretary of Agriculture, was optimistic about the continuing federal support for AmeriCorps, which employs about 20,000 people nationwide.

"There are people who think it costs too much money, but it has bipartisan support in

Congress and it's a high priority for the president," Rominger said.

While there's plenty of sweaty heavy labor to do in the National Forest, AmeriCorps workers have been assigned to a variety of federal agencies and do a wide variety of work.

The Inland Empire West Resource Conservation District has four AmeriCorps workers, who are serving in a variety of consulting, surveying and educational roles.

Administered through the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, the workers are helping dairies create manure management plans, educating the public on resource conservation and consulting on various environmental projects.

Jami Fisher, a Cal Poly Pomona landscape irrigation science major, is going to school on a limited basis this academic year in order to make time for AmeriCorps.

By working for the Resource Conservation District, she said she's getting real-world experience in designing irrigation and consulting on other projects. That experience will help when she starts looking for a job upon graduation in 1996.

"It's not just going out carrying tools and doing the hard grunt work," Fisher said.

The district's other AmeriCorps members include two Cal Poly civil engineering students and a Cal State San Bernardino environmental studies and geography major.

MID-DELTA BRIEFS

GREENVILLE — Ten AmeriCorps volunteers in the Delta will spend the year trying to improve bridges, sewer systems and recycling programs in an effort to improve the general quality of life among residents.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new national service program, involving 20,000 Americans, 17 and older.

Volunteers receive money at the end of the year of service, which began in September. They can use the money to further their education or pay back student loans.

The 10 volunteers are stationed throughout the Delta, in Greenville, Greenwood, Belzoni, Cleveland and Stoneville, according to team leader Cassandra McClure.

"Each member has different objectives," McClure said.

In Greenville, for instance, Wandra Arrington and Jethro Henderson hope to obtain grants to help fund local recycling programs already in place in Washington, Issaquena and Sharkey counties.

"We're working with local leaders and public officials in the area to expand, evaluate and work with existing projects," Arrington explained.

Another volunteer is an assistant forester;

two in Cleveland are working on the sewer systems; and the Belzoni team is evaluating the safety of timber bridges to find out which ones need to be fixed, McClure said.

The Northwest Resource Conservation and Development Area in Stoneville acts as the sponsor for the program. Part of the federal Soil Conservation and Development Service, the non-profit agency works on rural development programs in the Mississippi Delta.

Throughout the year, volunteers also hope to initiate other projects related to education, public safety and human and environmental needs.

"We've got people in the area that have no well water. They're still having to haul water."

— Richard Coleman

Americorps sees progress on plans for water system

By Margery Smith
BC Staff Writer

Local members of the Americorps program are progressing with plans to help establish a water system in the northwestern part of Bolivar County.

Lebrunski Richard and Andrea Clark, Bolivar County members of the Clinton Administration's Americorps program, explained that they have been going door to door in the northwestern rural areas of the county to collect information from residents in their efforts to get the North Bolivar County Rural Water Association system jump-started.

"We've talked to more than 15 people living in the area just north of Merigold to just south of Maund Bayou," Richard said. "So far, it's been pretty successful. People seem to be interested in joining the association."

Richard explained that residents living in this area must presently go through a difficult, time consuming and expensive procedure to supply themselves with a safe water supply.

"Most rural homeowners must have additives — mostly salt — added to their water to purify it," he said. "These additives come in 20 or 25 pound bags, and that is too much for older rural homeowners to handle themselves every few weeks."

Richard Coleman, District 3 Supervisor of Bolivar County, explained that the work Clark and Richard are performing is not only valuable to the water association area, but to the county as well.

"Oh, I think that this is an excellent deal for the area, in that we're not having to pay somebody else to conduct this much-needed survey," Coleman said. "And it's a way to give Lebrunski and Andrea some on-the-job experience."

The surveys being conducted by the Americorps members is vital to the application for grant monies for and establishment of the North Bolivar County Rural Water Association, Coleman added.

"We had some areas that were not well convinced that they wanted to join the water association," he said. "Somehow, they had been missed in earlier surveys. But Andrea and Lebrunski are now canvassing the area and updating the roster of folks to be included in the association."

"Many of the members have been a bit disgruntled because we haven't gotten our application to the Rural Economic and Community Development folks yet, but our problem has been that one of the RECD criteria is that we have four to five users per mile signed up. That's what Lebrunski and Andrea are doing now — making sure that we meet these requirements."

THE BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL
BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
JANUARY 28, 1995

Americorps

— From Page 1

Membership into the water association is \$25 and the connecting fee is \$15, Coleman said, adding that monthly water bills in the association should run around \$15.

"That's a real bargain," Coleman said. "when you consider that you're not only getting safe drinking water, but consistent water pressure, too."

"We've got people in the area that have no well water. They're still having to haul water."

Coleman noted that Richard and Clark should be ready to present the door-to-door data they've collected Thursday evening during the North Bolivar County Rural Water Association.

THE BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL
BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
JANUARY 28, 1995

AmeriCorps

Continued from 1-B

know there are good people who live in this state. There are a lot of positive things going on here."

Reaching young women with a positive message is one of Shelly's goals in Natchez.

"I want to tell young women in high school that it is nice to have a boyfriend, but they need to get an education and think of themselves, think about their future and go for it. If he loves you, he'll stay with you. Don't rush your life. Do something for your community. If you do it, will come back to you.

"My philosophy is if everyone would do one act of volunteer work for his community, this world would be a lot better place to live. We won't have to worry about violence or drug problems or teenage pregnancy. We have to live in this world together, we might as well work together."

Shelly credits her parents, Andy and Mary Ellen Foutz, for raising her in a Christian home and giving her a solid foundation on which to grow and mature.

"My dad taught me how to be assertive and not just lay back. He taught me not to hurt people but to go for what I wanted. My

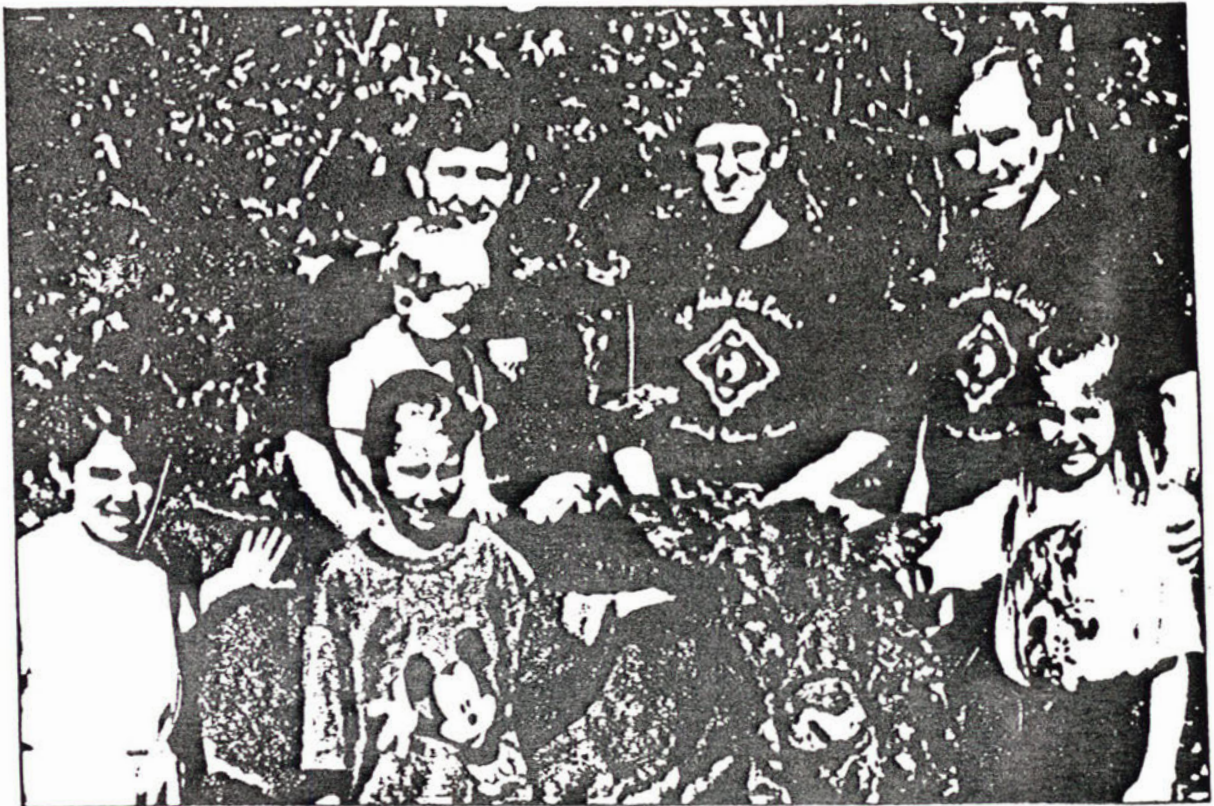
mom taught me to reach for the stars. She raised me to be myself and to never lose sight of my identity. I love my mother and have to give her all the praise. She's the best thing that ever happened to me. She's my best friend."

Shelly said changing the world needs to start with changing attitudes.

"We have become a 'me' nation. If people would stop their selfish attitudes, reexamine their lives and think about someone else for a change, then they could lift their neighbors up instead of kicking them when they are down."

She added, "It only takes one person to get the spark going; it takes one person to get the ball rolling. I used to be a pessimistic person, but pessimism doesn't change anything. Optimism does. I know things can happen if people want them to happen. If I can make a difference in just one person's life because of my work with AmeriCorps, then all the work has truly been worth it."

For more information on the AmeriCorps program, call 1-800-880-4183.



"A Celebration of the Land," held recently at the Blue Creek Nature Center in Waverly, included about 1,000 Humphreys County third-sixth graders who learned about such things as farming and water conservation. Shown above, front row, from left are Ryan Stewart and Jessica Patterson. Middle: Justin Lamb sitting on 'Precious' the cow, and Jessica Moore. Back: Jerry Lamb, Darrell Duncan and Odell Poyner.

A Celebration of the Land

About 1,000 Humphreys County third-sixth graders were guests at Blue Creek Nature Center April 20-21.

The two-day event was held in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service month long observance, "A Celebration of the Land."

Hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, AmeriCorps and the Humphreys Soil Conservation

District, "Celebrate the Earth" gave students the opportunity to learn about topics from farming to water conservation.

Over 15 agencies and businesses that deal with the conservation of natural resources and the environment were present with educational displays and activities. Likewise, the students were treated to a livestock show by local 4-Hers and a nature walk on the trails of Blue Creek Nature Center

by volunteers.

Humphreys County School Superintendent Enid Barber said, "Celebrate the Earth was an outstanding day for the students of Humphreys County. The students were exposed to experiences that they would normally not encounter in the classroom. It was heartwarming to see the community volunteers and various agencies join together to educate the students of our county."



The Natchez Democrat/Kevin Cooper

AMERICORPS RALLY: Charleston, S.C., Police Chief Reuben Greenberg talks to a group of teens after speaking at the Americorps Rally on Saturday.

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI
APRIL 10, 1995

Teens hear messages about keeping community values

By **MICHAELA GIBSON**
The Natchez Democrat

A nationally known author and police chief urged people attending a Americorps Teen Rally to no longer accept excuses for crime.

Charleston, S.C., Police Chief Reuben Greenberg stressed the importance of a community-value system and accountability for criminals, instead of blaming society for creating criminals.

"Values are something all of us need to pay a little more attention to," Greenberg said. "We've created a system of no fault crime."

Greenberg, who wrote "Taking Back the Streets," said that communities, told the teens and adults attending the Americorps rally that the community was vital to reestablishing values and taking away excuses such as lack of education from criminals.

"If we exempt (the criminal), we

become a society of endless excuses," Greenberg said.

Greenberg and the other speakers talked to teens about the problems of violence, drug use and teen pregnancy at Saturday Americorps Teen Rally. Americorps volunteer Shelly Foutz-Lowe, the rally organizer, said she was pleased with the audience's response to the rally.

"The people here have been dynamic in their response," Foutz-Lowe said. She estimated about 120 teens and adults were on hand for the rally put together by Americorps volunteers from around Mississippi.

"The crowd may be small, but the results can be big," Mayor Larry L. "Butch" Brown told the audience gathered at the Natchez Convention Center.

"It was worth coming out for," said Katrina Harris, a student at

Natchez Middle School. "More people should have come."

The organizers brought in speakers from different disciplines to give the rally participants their viewpoint on the problems facing teens.

"As long as we've helped one individual, we're pleased," Betty Oliver, state coordinator for U.S. Department of Agriculture Americorps volunteers.

Foutz-Lowe said she hopes the teens who attended the rally will continue the dialogue begun at the rally. "It's important for them to go home and talk to their parents."

In addition to Greenberg, Americorps rally participants heard from WLBT anchor Maggie Wade, who talked about the importance of self-esteem.

Americorps volunteers from Louisiana and Arkansas also helped to put on the rally.

MID-DELTA BRIEFS

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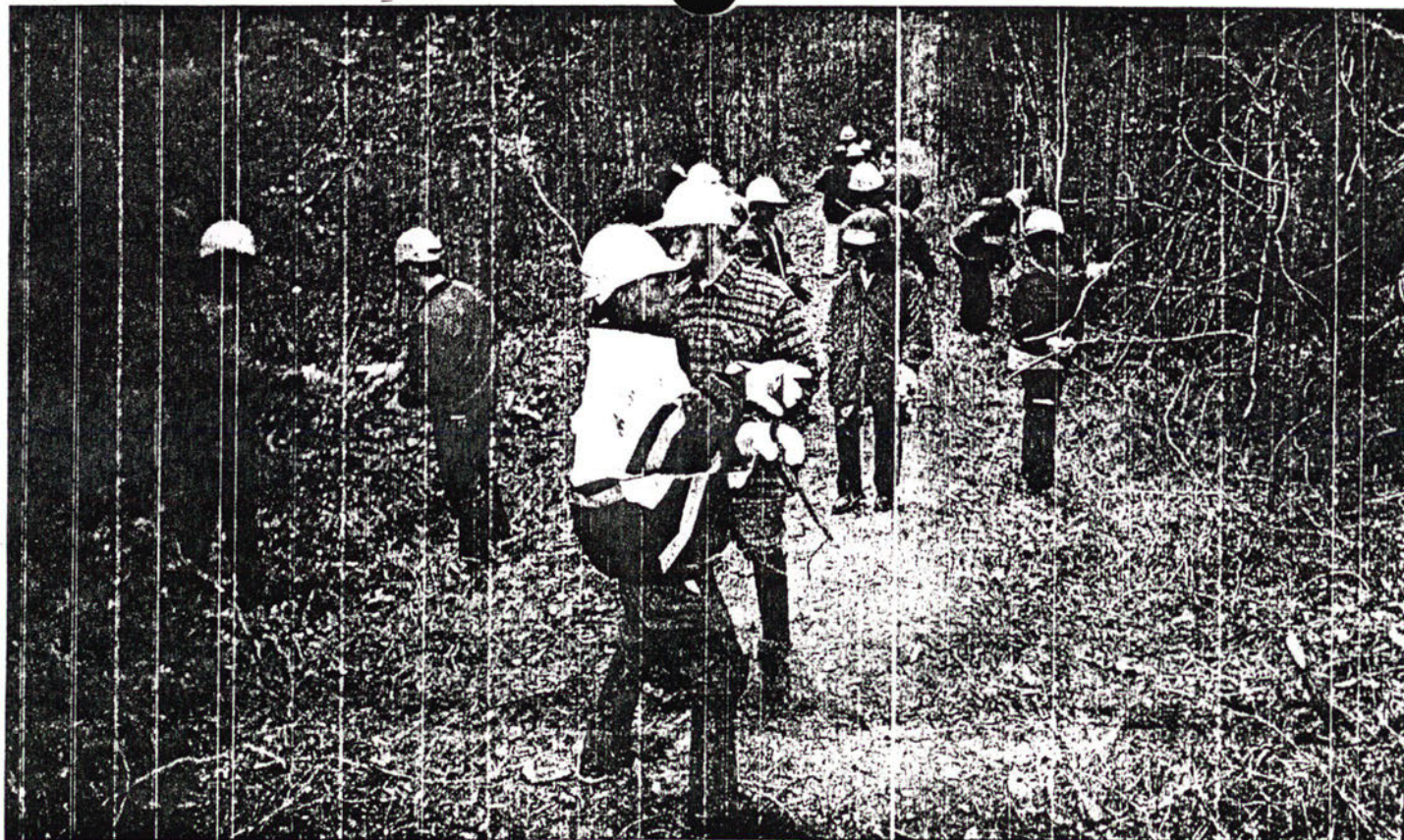
"We're working with local leaders and public officials in the area to expand, evaluate and work with existing projects," Arrington explained.

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two in Cleveland are working on the sewer systems; and the Belzoni team is evaluating the safety of timber bridges to find out which ones need to be fixed, McClure said.

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Brian Albert Broom / The Clarion-Ledger

Participants from the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps inspect a horse trail they cleared in the Bienville National Forest near Hillsboro.

The youths provided the labor needed for the national forest including trail clearing and other maintenance.

Service corps helps at-risk young people

■ The program allows enrollees to earn a diploma while learning to work.

By Mary Jefferson
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

It's far from a dream workweek: 25 hours at minimum wage and 15 hours of volunteer duty, much of it heavy labor.

But for about 50 young people like Eric Jackson, their toil is nothing compared with their reward.

TODAY'S EXTRA

Jackson, 20, is a member of the Greater Jackson Youth Service Corps program. In its fifth year, the corps is an educational program for at-risk males and females 16-23. While earning their high school equivalency diplomas, young people acquire self-esteem, pride in their community and good work and study habits.

"The whole program is such a

learning experience," Jackson said. "It is not like anything I have ever been involved in. It is wonderful. The people over the corps really make sure you understand what you need to in order to make it in life."

The service program has three facets:

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Anti-Hunger Corps.

■ The agriculture department's AmeriCorps Public Lands Corps, part of the initiative signed into

law last September by President Clinton.

■ The Urban Corps.

Jackson, a participant in the Public Lands Corps, said the program not only provides him a chance to improve his character, but gives him support he needs to continue his education.

"We work the young people for one year on various community service projects," said Alfred Martin, Greater Jackson Youth Ser-

See YOUTHS, 10A

Youth

From 1A

vice Corps executive director. "Although each site has different projects, our mission is all the same. We want these young people to be the best they can be."

Members of the Urban Corps traveled Monday from Jackson to Forest to work with the Public Lands Corps at Bienville National Forest. The workers are improving 23-mile Shockaloe Trail for the spring arrival of horseback riders.

The two groups went to south Jackson Wednesday and will be there again today to work on demolishing a vacant building and cleaning the lot at 5020 Gertrude Drive.

Public Lands Corps program coordinator Richard Dolan said corps members always make him proud.

"The attitude is always real good," he said. "They are all hard workers, and one day they will be able to bring their children to some of the sites they have improved and say, 'See, Junior, I did that.'"

He said one of the more important projects his land corps completed was restoring an abandoned building marred by graffiti and vagrants.

"They got in there, cleaned it up and painted it," Dolan said. "The Scott County Board of Supervisors was so pleased with the initiative and the work that they donated the building to us for the next five years. The young people deserved that."

Dolan said before any work project, students are briefed on the goal and method of accomplishment. He

said when tools are to be used, classes are held to teach safety and proper use.

"They have worked very well here," said Laura Garrison of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service/Bienville National Forest. "We have even pulled them off this to do other projects."

Garrison said Monday's work moved slower than usual because urban students weren't familiar with the terrain. She said the students adjusted well and the groups together did an exceptional job.

"The object is to develop teamwork as well as social interaction among the rural and urban corps members," Martin said. "I think there is nothing they cannot do. If it addresses the mission, we will go for

it. They have probably done about 100 projects each year, everything from planting plants to helping senior citizens with maintenance on their homes.

"The Urban Corps members even helped the Jackson Police Department stencil addresses on houses in the Georgetown area."

The students, who are paid bi-monthly, will have completed 1,700 hours of work at the close of their program term. Each student will receive \$4,700 to go toward college or to pay back a student loan.

Jackson said the program offers many incentives, in addition to helping members receive their General Education Development certificates.

"They have taught me to respect

myself and others as well, and I am thankful for that. Being a part of it gave me a chance to redeem myself," said Kenneth Walker, 19, who was the first Urban Corps member to receive his high school equivalency diploma this school year.

Members attend classes each weekday morning before doing community service projects in the afternoon. "They are being taught things from life skills and parenting skills to how to work well with others," Martin said.

Mark Evans, 19, in the Public Lands Corps for about six months, said the program has "given me the confidence I needed to do better."

"The program has really turned me around. I am headed in a much better direction now."

Missouri RURALIST

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A test you can't fail

*Confidential assessments of risks to
your farm's water quality*

BY STEVE FAIRCHILD

A voluntary program called Farm-A-Syst is bringing rural water sources and management of possible pollutants into the spotlight. The program critiques how farmstead practices might affect ground water and is reminding farmers that they have some control in the purity of their water.

Farm-A-Syst, an extended acronym for Farmstead Assessment System, doesn't scrutinize field crop practices. Instead, the program concen-

trates on potential problems on the farmstead — petroleum and pesticide storage, manure management, and others.

A Farm-A-Syst evaluation is no more than a series of 10 worksheets. The worksheets use a ranking system for risks. The pesticide storage and handling worksheet, for example, catalogs what is good and bad on the farmstead: how much pesticide is stored on the farm? Is downslope from the well? Are pesticides stored on impermeable surfaces? Is there an anti-backflow device for the waterline used to mix pesti-

cides? The hazardous waste worksheet looks at disposal of cleaners, solvents and other possible contaminants.

Farm-A-Syst is a national effort, but each state has a different approach. Missouri's is unique because it is one of the few that uses AmeriCorps volunteers to deliver the program. AmeriCorps is a program championed by President Clinton that aims to resemble a Peace Corps here at home. Volunteers in AmeriCorps receive a living allowance and a stipend to be applied toward education.

David Myers, the AmeriCorps Volunteer stationed in Boone County, says much of what he finds during his farm assessments is easily corrected.

"After you've been on the farm a long time, working every day, you get busy and just don't think of some of these things. This way, we can leave it in writing and the farmers can look at the package whenever they want to."

Before going on a farm visit, Myers does some background work, checking the farm's soil types at the National Resources Conservation Service. During the farm visit, he likes to spend 20 minutes walking the farmstead with the owner. Myers and the farmer fill out the worksheets together. Myers adamantly points out that no one but he and the farmer see the finished assessment.

As farmers show they are concerned about the environment, we'll probably see more programs like Farm-A-Syst. Because it's voluntary and confidential, it could be a good way to make sure a farm is able to continue to meet regulatory requirements.

Farmers interested in participating in Farm-A-Syst should contact their local extension agent or the State Water Quality Extension office at 573-882-0085. ♦



David Myers, AmeriCorps volunteer in Boone County.

NEWS

Volunteer offers to assist farmers after the flood

By Tammy Tucker
Staff writer

After the floodwaters recede, St. Charles County farmers will concentrate on pulling their lives back together. And they may get some help with assessing damage and completing paperwork.

Trish McCracken, an AmeriCorps volunteer in St. Charles County, will be available to help flood-stricken farmers complete those tasks.

AmeriCorps is the national version of the Peace Corps under President Clinton's domestic plan.

McCracken, who works out of the Soil and Water Conservation District office in St. Charles County, is one of many volunteers around the country setting up programs and performing community

service. She is one of 12 AmeriCorps volunteers in Missouri who are doing work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

McCracken said that once the floodwaters recede, she would be busy helping farmers so that they can salvage what they can from this year's crops.

"I'm going to be helping them past the red tape," she said. "I'll do their paperwork, visual exams, and anything else that is required. It's my job to help the public."

But, she said, "We can't do anything until the water goes down. I don't know yet what kind of assistance would be available."

McCracken said no special criteria exist for the farmers to seek her assistance.

"Hopefully, they can try and get their crops out at the last minute or worry about other farm land they might have," McCracken said. "They need to get on with it right now, rather than worrying about the flood."

St. Charles Journal
St. Charles, Missouri
June 14, 1995

Page 2A Sunday, June 11, 1995—JOURNAL

NEWS

U.S. Ag secretary assures farmers of flood assistance

By Tammy Tucker
Staff writer

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman visited Defiance Friday to assure flood victims that the federal government has not forgotten about them.

Glickman discussed the recent flooding situation with local farmers, AmeriCorps volunteers from around the state and County Executive Joe Ortwerth.

Ortwerth told Glickman that about 43 percent of St. Charles County lies in a floodplain. Much of the land in the floodplain is farmed.

Two of the past three years have been tough ones for farmers because of flooding.

Glickman said the first goal of the federal government must be to help farmers get through this year. The second, long-term goal would be to raise levees in floodplain areas.

However, Glickman cautioned that achievement of that goal depends on various factors.

"Some things get done more easily than others," Glickman said. "One problem is that nobody is truly in charge, though the Corps (of Engineers) is probably more in charge than anyone else."

Glickman said the Department of Agriculture needs to look at the value of the land and its production before committing to any kind of financing for the

raising of levees.

"I don't know enough about levees to know what exactly goes into it," Glickman said. "I do know that taxpayers' dollars are going out to pay for assistance. There's a lot of revenue used to pay for disasters when they occur."

Ortwerth said he was "extremely impressed" by Glickman's commitment to help farmers stricken by the flood.

"We have continued to be dismayed by the efforts of the federal government to help the flooded areas," Ortwerth said. "But it's clear that he (Glickman) is acutely aware of the losses here in the county."

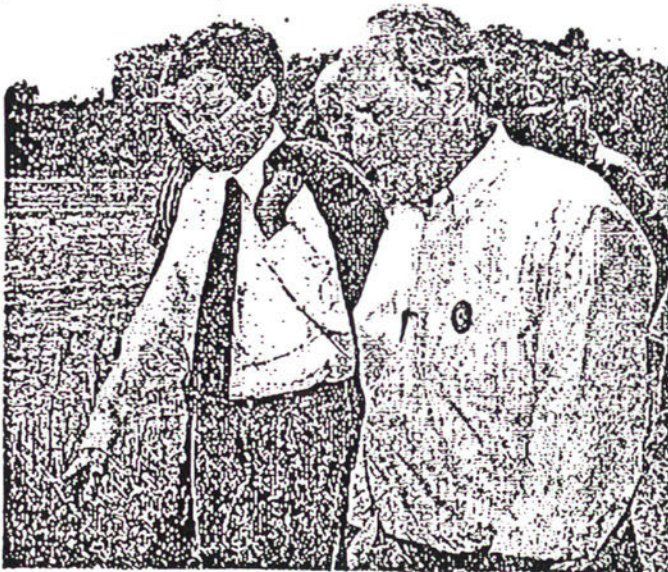
Ortwerth said he hoped Glick-

man's visit would result in better protection for the county's floodplains.

"We can only hope for a more coherent plan to raise the levees to allow for protection where the bottomlands are heavily farmed," Ortwerth said. "Even a moderate raise in the level of the levees would be better."

As Glickman looked at the floodwaters surrounding the Katy Trail, he expressed amazement.

"This vast area of water shocks me," Glickman said. "The scope of the water brings home the scope of this disaster. But we will do our best to get the farmers through this flood."



John Fresse photo

County Executive Joe Ortwerth (left) accompanies U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman on a visit to Defiance Friday to discuss federal assistance for flood-weary farmers.

Fulton Sun Gazette
Fulton, Missouri
March 24, 1996

Program can help rural residents determine: Is your drinking water safe?

A voluntary and confidential program called the Farmstead Assessment System can help farmers and rural residents determine how safe their drinking water is. The Farm *A* Syst, as it is more commonly known, is a tool that can be used to assess the possibility of groundwater contamination.

The Farm *A* Syst is made up of seven worksheets that look at drinking water well condition; pesticide, fertilizer and petroleum storage; household wastewater management; hazardous waste management; and animal manure management. It also looks at the soil type present at the farmstead.

After the worksheets are com-

pleted, recommendations are made for any activity that showed a high-risk potential for groundwater contamination. The assessment only takes one hour and can be beneficial even to those who no longer use well water.

Here in Missouri we have five AmeriCorps members who are assisting rural residents in completing the Farm *A* Systs. Tara

Richardson has been assigned to the Callaway County Extension office to work in Callaway, Audrain and Osage counties. So far, Tara has worked with 35 rural residents in performing Farm *A* Systs. She is hoping to do a total of 80 Farm *A* Systs before the end of August. For more information, contact the Callaway County extension office at 573-642-0755.

AmeriCorps worker calls program a 'good deal'

By LISA YORKGITIS
News Tribune

Earlier this year, Ed Gillmore of Jefferson City was exploring ways to continue working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture when he found out about AmeriCorps, the new national service program.

The nation's program enables him to earn a living stipend for about 10 months' work as well as \$4,725 for tuition or loan payments. Plus, he said, it will give him an edge in case a full-time job becomes available.

"It's a good deal," said Gillmore, 31, a father of two girls who became an AmeriCorps worker in October.

As an animal sciences graduate from the University of Missouri-Columbia, Gillmore said the education award will help repay his loans. He also is considering graduate school.

Gillmore works in Cole, Callaway and Osage counties with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly called the Soil Conservation Service.

More than a dozen AmeriCorps members work

★ **AmeriCorps**

From page one

with the service throughout Missouri. Other AmeriCorps members scheduled to work in Mid-Missouri include two people who will conduct pesticide safety training through Rural Missouri Inc., based in Jefferson City.

As an AmeriCorps worker, Gillmore helps farmers develop ways to reduce soil and land erosion, increase crop yields and protect water supplies.

"Our main goal is to conserve our natural resources," he said.

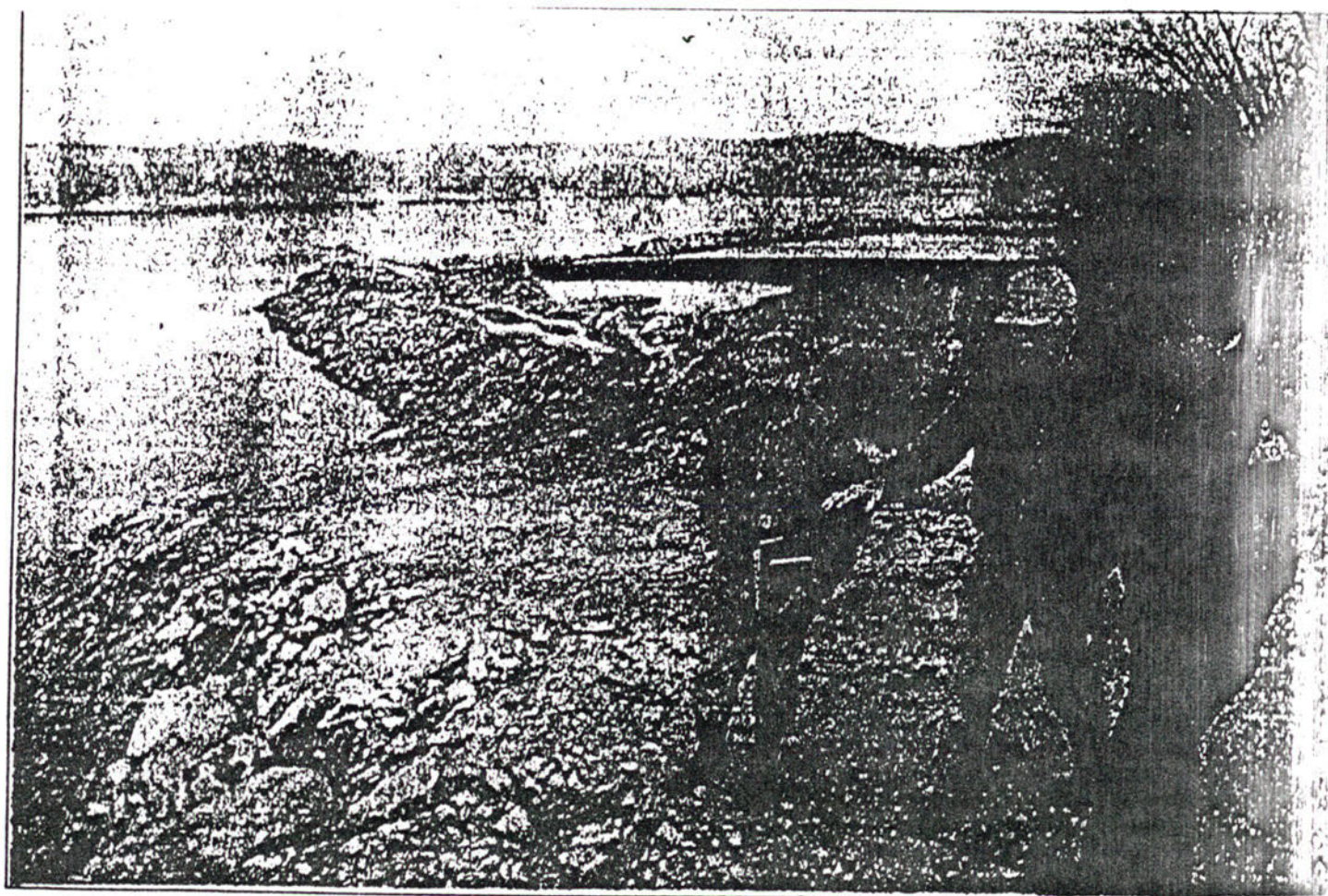
On a given day, he may help a producer develop a crop rotation plan, teach about soil erosion or

Although the office didn't have much time to prepare for having an AmeriCorps member, the staff quickly found a place for the new worker.

"It wasn't like we had to scramble," Van De Velde said.

Gillmore's position with AmeriCorps enables him to work with producers across a variety of landscapes in his three-county area.

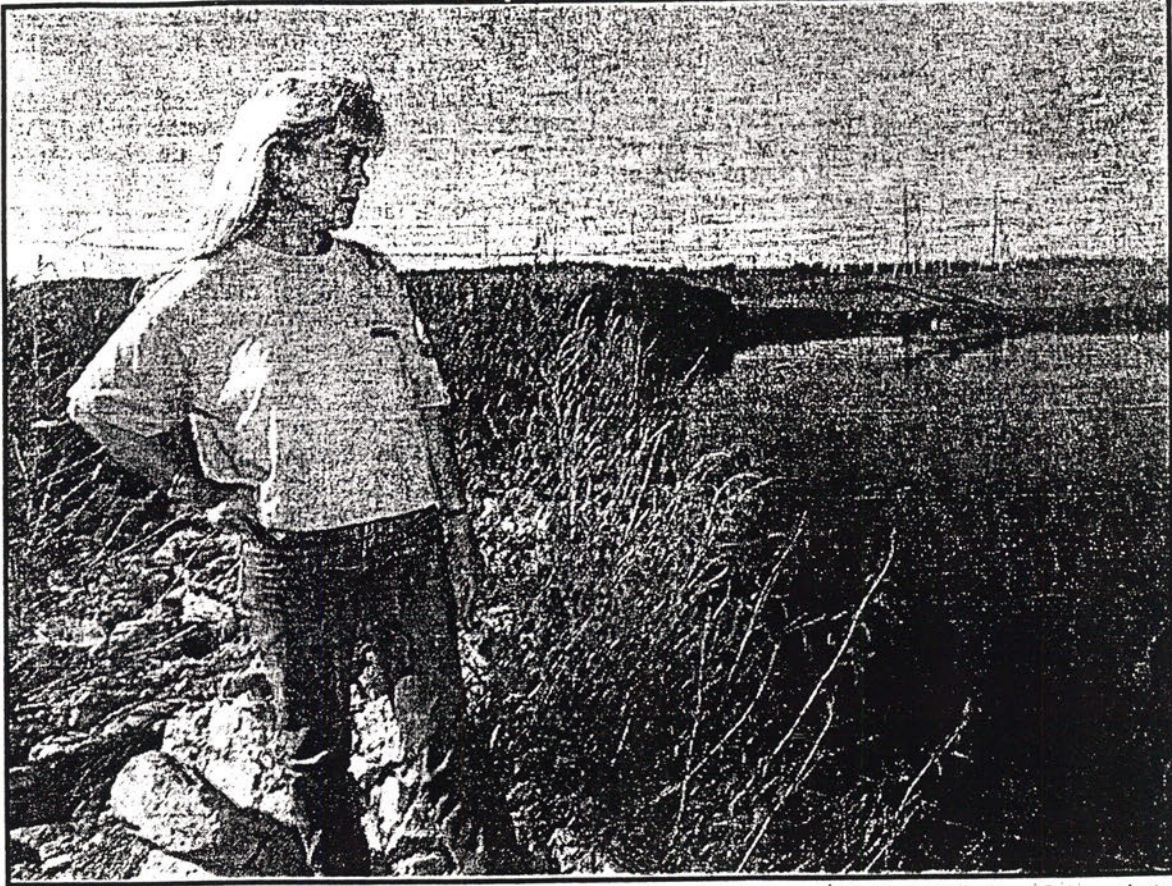
Earlier this week, he visited farmer Cletus "Jake" Schellman in the Cole Junction bottom along with a wildlife biologist and another worker at the district office.



AmeriCorps worker Ed Gillmore, left, examines a possible wetlands area on the property of Cletus "Jake" Schellman center, at Cole Junction. With them is wildlife biologist Reggie Bennett.

Julie Smith/News Tribune

NEWS TRIBUNE
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI
NOVEMBER 31, 1995



Roy Sykes photo

Trish McCracken, an AmeriCorps volunteer, looking at a ruptured levee off Dwiggins Road. The levee is in the North County Levee District.

A working education

AmeriCorps program repays volunteers with knowledge

By Laura Bradford
Correspondent

With the help of the Clinton administration and her own hard work, the past 10 months have earned Trish McCracken "money" toward her education.

The St. Peters woman just completed her term as an AmeriCorps volunteer. The domestic Peace Corps program — introduced by President Bill Clinton — rewards its members for their service with an education.

AmeriCorps volunteers can be found working with various federal agencies, public school districts and organizations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society. McCracken served her time with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working out of an office in St. Charles County.

Each AmeriCorps member embarks on a community service project for a predetermined number of hours and is given a small living allowance. Once a volunteer completes the term of service, he or she receives an education voucher, which must be used within seven years. The voucher, which is not redeemable for cash, may be applied toward obtaining a college education or a master's degree or paying off student loans.

McCracken's 1,700 hours of service earned her a \$4,700 voucher, which she plans to use to pay off her student loans. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Lindenwood College; she also has a teaching certificate in secondary education.

See EDUCATION, Page 2A

Boonville Daily News
Boonville, Missouri
November 2, 1995

Program offers ground water checks - and community service

By Tiffany Eckert
Staff Writer

It is supposed to be clear and refreshing as it pours into the glass, but in some cases, it is full of harmful bacteria. What is this substance? It is the water in your cup.

But thanks to a former Tipton resident and a national community service program initiated under President Bill Clinton, landowners in Cooper County now have a way to test their ground water in search of dangerous microbes and hazardous pollutants.

Jeane Engelmeyer, a fourth year agri-business student at State Fair Community College, has begun her first stint as an AmeriCorp member by setting up a water quality assessment program called FARM-A-SYST. Engelmeyer will be working out of the University Extension office in the Cooper County Courthouse.

The primary function of FARM-A-SYST is to make sure drinking water is safe and clean by testing ground water for bacteria, microorganisms and pollution, Engelmeyer said.

And educational presentations and water quality publications from the University of Missouri will make information on water quality and conservation more understandable.

"I've lived on an 80-acre farm all my life," Engelmeyer said. "I love farming and I love working with farmers."

Engelmeyer said she hopes farmers and landowners will utilize the services made available through this program.

"AmeriCorp is here to bring communities together," Engelmeyer said. "The goal is to make every rural community a little stronger."

It was during her last year at college in Sedalia that Engelmeyer made two important discoveries. Through her studies, she learned how many environmental and educational needs rural communities have. At the same time, she realized her tuition costs were starting to bear down on her.

There was one clear solution as she saw it: join the AmeriCorp Program.

She did, and now the people of

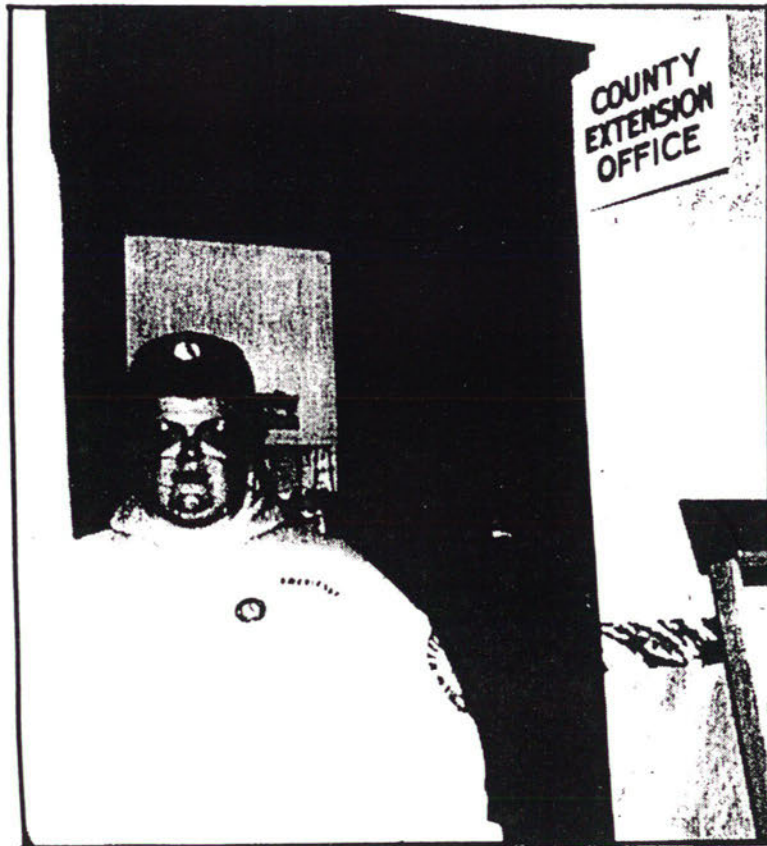
Cooper County will be the beneficiaries.

Engelmeyer was just one of thousands of people who have joined AmeriCorp. It all began in September 1993, when Bill Clinton signed the National Community Service Trust Act. This initiative was designed in the spirit Franklin Roosevelt's 1930's social programs which provided jobs for displaced Americans during the Depression.

Today, AmeriCorp seeks to benefit young Americans who might not otherwise find a productive way to serve their community.

Participants give their time and resources in exchange for a limited wage, then receive a post service educational award of \$4,725 after a full year of service.

A meeting to discuss what services are available through AmeriCorp will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, on the first floor of the Cooper County courthouse. Engelmeyer will discuss the benefits of FARM-A-SYST as well as how a water quality assessment can be arranged.



Program assesses water quality

By LARA HEARNBURG
Staff writer

People know contaminated water can make you sick. But what most people don't know is how safe their water is. And what some don't know, too, is that if you have a well, you are responsible for your own drinking-water quality.

At a recent meeting at the Boone County University Extension Center, David Meyers of the Americorp Rural Development Team for mid-Missouri presented the Americorp Farm-A-Syst action program for safe drinking water in mid-Missouri. Between now and September 1996, Meyers will help more than 100 Boone County landowners assess the quality of their drinking water.

"The program provides accurate first-hand information about how your farmstead buildings and activities, such as pesticide storage, fuel storage and livestock activities, might affect your drinking water," Meyers said.

The federal program provides individual site evaluations to help landowners identify potential pol-

lution risks and plan how to deal with them. The site evaluation is confidential, voluntary and free if it is completed by Meyers or another member of the Americorp Rural Development Team for mid-Missouri.

Team member Tara Richardson said the land and water evaluation can help landowners protect their family's health, the groundwater quality and the value of the land.

The evaluation also can help landowners learn about state laws and regulations governing chemical and fuel storage, waste management and well maintenance. Meyers said that often during assessments, landowners will see laws they didn't even know existed.

"If there's a problem," Meyers said, "nobody is going to run and tell teacher. Instead, you have a chance to fix it."

All evaluations include suggestions for both immediate action and future plans. The assessments also let landowners know of any cost-share programs that might be available to help them.

Another team member, Audrey Harmon, said, "The biggest goal of

the program is just to get information out to people."

All of the Americorp team members stressed that the information they gather is given to the landowner to keep.

Meyers said the services are available to all farmers and landowners who have their own drinking-water source. He also said landowners who have old well facilities on their property might not be aware of how it can affect their drinking water.

Any landowner who is interested in an evaluation or has any questions about the program can contact Meyers at the Boone County University Extension Center at (314) 445-9792.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1995

Agriculture Secretary Backs Flood Control

Glickman Tours River Bottoms, Promises U.S. Help For Farmers

By Tim O'Neil
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman toured flooded Missouri River bottoms Friday, promised federal help for farmers and said he'd like to see more flood control for the fertile flatlands.

"I'm not one of those people who want this land to go back to nature," said Glickman, as he visited Defiance in St. Charles County.

"This is some of the best agricultural land in the country. The government will pay out way more in disaster [payments] than the cost of fixing levees."

Glickman said he didn't know enough about the federal levee program to say whether farm levees

along the Missouri River should be built higher. But he said government agencies, including his own, should talk about revising the Army Corps of Engineers' way of calculating how much money should be spent on levees.

The corps bases the amounts it will spend on a levee according to the value it assigns to the properties being protected. Generally, the higher the value, the higher the levee. Agricultural levee districts must pay a share of construction and repair costs.

The big Corps of Engineers levees along the Mississippi River below St. Louis are higher than the agricultural levees along the Missouri. The Mississippi levees held this year, but the



Kevin Manning/Post-Dispatch

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman (center) talks Friday with Joe Simpson while touring a flooded farm near Defiance, Mo. Simpson is a member of the Clinton administration's public-service program called Americorps.

Missouri topped or broke most of the levees along its banks.

Glickman's main job Friday was to tell Missouri farmers that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering special assistance and financial

breaks to farmers whose operations were damaged by floods and flash floods this spring. He met with farmers in Montgomery City and then went to Defiance, where he walked down a gravel road with floodwater

on both sides to repeat the news to about 10 St. Charles County farmers. "I can't promise the moon, but we'll make things as flexible as we can," he said.

His announcement includes:

- More time for farmers to file notice of crop loss for insurance claims.

- Price-support loans for flooded

See GLICKMAN, Page 3

Glickman

From page one

crops that weren't planted in that program.

- \$25 million for flood repairs in seven states, with most of that going to people in Missouri and Louisiana.

At Defiance, the flood broke through the Darst Bottom levee three weeks ago and covered the fields almost to the Katy Trail. By Friday, with the Missouri down 6½ feet since the crest May 21, water still covered most of the bottoms. Where the water had receded, the soil was thick gumbo mud.

Don Howell, president of the Darst Bottom Levee Board, said

several other farmers there had planted their corn before the flood came. The crop was ruined. If the river drops and the weather gets drier, they still have time to plant soybeans this summer, he said.

Layton Rehmeier, another farmer near Defiance, told Glickman that this flood probably didn't damage the land like the 1993 flood did. "But you don't look for this mess two years after '93," Rehmeier said.

Glickman also used the visit as an opportunity to promote Americorps, the public-service program dear to President Bill Clinton that many Republicans on Capitol Hill want to kill. Glickman posed in the road for pictures with about 15 Americorps workers, including a group from East St. Louis.

AmeriCorps members help make life easier

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Amy Gronquist was so intent on hanging up a kindergartner's hand-drawn poster declaring the neighborhood "drug free" that she didn't even notice the symbolism at first.

At the left was a picture of Martin Luther King Jr.; at the right was a framed copy of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Gronquist, too, has a dream. She longs for the day when children like those at Hamilton Elementary School in St. Louis don't have to make posters to warn drug-peddling thugs to stay away.

Gronquist, 23, is working to make that dream a reality as a member of President Clinton's national service program, AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps pays its 20,000 members — including more than 400 in Missouri — a \$7,945 stipend and a \$4,725 education award in return for a year's service in one of four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety.

There are 15 AmeriCorps projects under way in Missouri. Members do everything from tutor at-risk youths in Cape Girardeau to pick up trash in St. Joseph neighborhoods to test water quality in Columbia.

"I wanted to do something for other people," Gronquist said. "The program is based on the idea that if you have a common goal and work together, you can make a difference. I like that."

Gronquist, who is from Jamestown, N.Y., is assigned to the

ly, we are in times of very tight money. We have higher priorities than funding volunteers."

Clinton — who set up AmeriCorps in 1993 — stood firm, saying he wouldn't back a budget that didn't include money for his pet program.

A number of corporate chiefs, including Anheuser-Busch's August A. Busch III, also wrote to lawmakers in hopes of saving AmeriCorps from the GOP budget scalpel. By law, nongovernment sources, usually businesses, must pay at least 25 percent of operational costs and 15 percent of each member's stipend.

"AmeriCorps plays a key role in developing our nation's future work force, providing practical skills and educational opportunities that will be essential to America's competitiveness in the marketplace," Busch wrote.

Marilyn Hoffman, director of Success Centers at Lincoln University, which has established tutoring centers in three low-income neighborhoods in Jefferson City through an AmeriCorps grant, waves off complaints about the costs.

"Our program is funded through a \$110,000 grant and will impact several hundred students," she said. "If we can keep five kids from going to prison, than we've more than earned our keep."

Indeed, state prison officials estimate it costs \$10,285 a year to house one inmate.

AmeriCorps member Debbie Burke said she often supplies mate-

American Youth Foundation in St. Louis. She spends five days a week mentoring elementary students and, among other things, teaching them to steer clear of drugs.

The foundation has two federal grants totaling more than \$1 million. In 18 months, members have performed 230,000 hours of service that otherwise might not have been done, said Bruce Bailey, a program director.

"To us, this is very much like a war," he said. "We believe that what we are doing in inner cities is every bit as valuable as the work the soldiers involved in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia are doing."

Bailey said members have taught conflict-resolution to 1,600 middle school youths. They have walked beats with police to make 700 senior citizens feel safer in their neighborhoods. They spent more than 1,800 hours sandbagging when the Mississippi River flooded last year.

After the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, and before the Federal Emergency Management Agency requested their help, AmeriCorps members from St. Louis arrived in Oklahoma. They helped distribute donated clothing and food pouring in from across the country.

"The team effort truly showed what young Americans can do when given the chance to participate in a meaningful way," FEMA Director James Lee Witt said in a letter to members.

But not everyone praises the program. It has run into trouble on Capitol Hill, where some Republicans complain about its \$470 million price tag. At one point, both the GOP-led House and Senate had sliced it out of next year's budget.

"Undoubtedly, there are some areas where it has done some good," said Sen. Christopher S. Bond, R-Mo., chairman of a Senate Appropriations subcommittee. "Unfortunately,

materials to help students complete homework. For instance, one boy needed to keep a journal on a pet for science class. His apartment complex didn't allow animals, so for two weeks Burke carried her son's white mouse to the center for the boy to observe.

Kris Frank of Holts Summit said her 14-year-old son, Joseph, has improved his reading and math grades since going to the centers.

"He was falling behind to the point where he was going to have to repeat this year," she said. "Now he's up to where he should be."

Burke, 36, said she considered dropping out of Lincoln University, where she's majoring in education, because of money. AmeriCorps allowed her to continue her studies, she said.

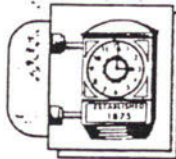
"In my mind, it's the perfect solution," Burke said. "I get to continue my education, I get to help others and I get experience in my field."

Michelle Johnson Harvey, a 35-year-old single mother of two who is studying education at Penn Valley Community College, credits AmeriCorps with turning around her life and her Blue Hills neighborhood in Kansas City.

Harvey works hand in hand with police and other community workers to fight crime and drugs, tutor students and other things. AmeriCorps members have given police information that has led to the closing of 25 crack houses, Officer John Wilson said.

Harvey goes door to door, encouraging residents to take back their neighborhood.

"I was tired of seeing all the crime that was going on in our neighborhood," Harvey said. As for how AmeriCorps has changed her life, she said: "I wanted to set an example for my daughters. To show them that I believe in their community and that they can make a difference."



School



Course of molecules

Jeanne Engelmeyer helps some fifth and sixth graders trace the route of a water molecule in a game at the Tipton Elementary School gym last Thursday. Engelmeyer, who represents Cooper County, and other AmeriCorp members David Myers, Boone County, and Tara Richardson, Callaway County, presented the program to the students so they can better understand the importance of water quality.

MANEATER
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
SEPTEMBER 29, 1995

AmeriCorps enters second year of service

BRAD CRAWFORD
Reporter

For Chris Fulcher, an MU graduate student, AmeriCorps was the perfect way to follow up his Peace Corps experience.

Fulcher, a graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the agricultural economics department is an expert on Geographic Information Systems. Fulcher employed GIS, a tool for conducting spatial analysis, to aid flood recovery decisions in St. Charles County near St. Louis.

"My goal has been to take this high-tech information and bring it to the local level. This is a major undertaking," Fulcher said.

As part of being a consultant for GIS, Fulcher gave talks to St. Charles' city and county officials on using GIS to analyze watersheds and evaluate flood areas.

Missouri AmeriCorps members will kick

off their second year of national service next month in a joint Kansas-Missouri ceremony.

The Oct. 12 celebration at Kansas City Convention Center will include swearing in new members and a ceremony commemorating the first year of President Bill Clinton's national service program. The convention will mark the end of service for 12 of mid-Missouri's members from last year.

AmeriCorps programs in Missouri are managed by the lieutenant governor's office and Program Director Steve Schad. He oversees eight programs statewide with more than 400 members.

"I haven't met an AmeriCorps member yet who hasn't said that it was a critical transformation in their life," Schad said. "It creates an ethic of service that carries on throughout their lives."

Missouri's AmeriCorps program is strengthened by corporate partnerships that

include Anheuser-Busch, Hallmark, and Sprint. Businesses nationwide view the program as a wise investment.

"It's clearly a program with a lot of support across the country. It's hard to get past the financial end of it, but the money is coming back to the communities," Schad said. "For every dollar invested, they see a \$1.60-\$2.60 return."

The program's future looks less bright in Washington. A Senate subcommittee headed by Christopher Bond, R-Mo., voted last week to defund the program. Bond's press secretary, Catherine Kaliniak, defended the senator's position on AmeriCorps.

"Senator Bond had to make a series of tough choices on program funding. Community development block grants were a higher priority than AmeriCorps," Kaliniak said.

The program has now become a sign of

the struggle for power between Clinton and the Republican Congress. Bond has suggested he might support AmeriCorps as part of a deal to get a bill signed.

"It seems AmeriCorps is being used as a bargaining chip for Republicans to gain leverage in budget negotiations," said M College Democrats' adviser Valer Heitshusen.

Republicans supported AmeriCorps earlier, but that changed.

"I agree that public service is an important value to instill in our young people, [but] I do not believe this program represents the type of program the federal government can afford to continue," Congressman Jam Talant, R-Chesterfield, said in a press release. "Although the initial concept of AmeriCorps may have been noble, this program has become a system of paid 'volunteerism' for political causes."



Renyold Ferguson

AmeriCorp workers prepare the soil for a garden in Rush City.

Gardens A Matter Of Pride

By Margaret Gillerman
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

It won't be long before the lot next to Jesse and Donna Haire's home in the Rush City neighborhood will be ripe with yellow peppers, plump red tomatoes, tasty green peas and summer squash. Marigolds and zinnias will bloom.

The gardeners who are tilling and planting this week are building a community garden. And backers of the project hope this community garden — and about a dozen like it around East St. Louis — also will grow a bumper crop of neighbor-

Crews Are Preparing Community Project

hood pride.

Crews of workers from AmeriCorp and neighbors are helping prepare the soil, build the wooden sides and walkway, and plant seeds and cuttings at the garden at 910 Sycamore.

Other folks also helped get the community garden project — called Harvesting Good Neighbor Relations — this far. MECCO/Operation New Spirit, a citywide

neighborhood organization, started the garden program about two years ago and has been expanding it since. At least four community gardens are new this spring. AmeriCorp joined as co-sponsor this season.

"Community gardens serve as a way of bringing neighbors and neighborhoods together for a common purpose . . . and of harvesting good neighbor relations," said Venessa Marion, administrator of MECCO/Operation New Spirit.

See GARDENS, Page 4

Gardens

From page one

Florine Johnson, an AmeriCorp worker, coordinates the tilling and planting and was busy on Sycamore this week. Johnson, 46, of Centreville, recently completed a master gardening course offered by the University of Illinois' Extension Service.

She joined AmeriCorp because she wanted "to give a year of community service." In March, she and others

experimenting with a raised bed garden, Johnson said.

Sheets of plastic were placed on top of the original neighborhood soil, and then covered with clean soil, so any possible contamination would be eliminated. The original soil has been sent to a lab for tests.

James Pace, 40, an AmeriCorp worker from East St. Louis, helped install wooden planks around the garden and till the soil. He recently completed the master gardening course and joined AmeriCorp "to try to beautify the community" and improve the environment. He said he

for their community."

The garden on Sycamore is just outside the window of the Haire's house in Rush City, on land donated by the Haires. Most years, Donna Haire, has planted a smaller garden on the lot. "I love gardens and I like to see stuff grow," Donna Haire said.

She already has plans to freeze the tomatoes and make stew and chili for her husband and two daughters.

MECCO/New Spirit and AmeriCorp are sponsoring 11 gardens in the Winstanley, Olivette Park, Dayton, Wedgewood, Fairlawn and Lans-

ST. CHARLES POST
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI
MAY 26, 1995

ST. CHARLES COUNTY

5th-Graders To Join Natural Resources Festival

More than 450 fifth-graders from St. Charles County will participate in a Natural Resources Festival May 3 at the Busch Memorial Conservation Area.

The festival will teach pupils about conservation of natural resources. Students will touch and compare animal coverings, such as skin, scales and feathers. They'll learn how terraces and waterways keep soil in place as they become make-believe raindrops and travel down a slope. They'll walk through a prairie to see how prairie restoration can help wildlife.

They'll take part in such activities as "Soil Spies," "Animal Wrappers" and "Speed Bumps."

The St. Charles Soil & Water Conservation District and the Missouri Department of Conservation are sponsoring the event.

Dan Crigler, a wildlife management biologist for the Conservation Department, said, "The Busch Area is the ideal place to hold this type of event because we've set up examples of land-management techniques that conserve our natural resources. We are anxious to share our knowledge and foster proper land stewardship for future generations."

Sessions will be led by profession-

als from such agencies as the Soil and Water District, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the National Weather Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, St. Louis Science Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, University Extension and other conservation partners.

Other presenters include students from Francis Howell High School's stream team and SAFE (Students Acting for the Environment), Recycle Round-Up, Wild Canid Survival and Research Center and the World

Bird Sanctuary.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students in our community to spend a day outside, get their hands dirty and expand their knowledge of natural resources," said Coordinator Trish McCracken. She added, "We have 400 students on a waiting list now, so I hope the success of this festival will lead to many more festivals in the years to come."

The festival is a pilot event and community service project coordinated by McCracken, an AmeriCorps member.

Nebraska City News-Press

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Creek project introduces AmeriCorps

By DAN SWANSON
News-Press managing editor

National officers greeted an AmeriCorps National Service crew working Monday to clear South Table Creek.

Paul Johnson, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, and Joel Berger of the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited the crew to help launch the program in Nebraska and nationwide. AmeriCorps, which got off the ground on Sept. 12, is considered to be the domestic version of the Peace Corps.

Berger joined the four Corps workers removing log and debris from the creek bed. National Arbor Day Foundation property near Steinhart Park Road. "There's no better way to learn, than to work alongside your members. You don't really learn by sitting in your office in Washington," he said.

The Nebraska City project is one of the first in the Midwest and is part of the Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy's focus on helping to repair damage from the 1993 floods. "When we visited the flood damaged sites, we promised not to go until the job was done. We're here because the job isn't done," Berger said.

AmeriCorps has four branches in Nebraska -- Tecumseh, Omaha, Lincoln and Norfolk. The Omaha and Tecumseh branches are already in operation and the Norfolk branch is recruiting for workers. Workers are paid a minimum of \$7,600 and receive health benefits. They are also eligible for an educational voucher worth \$4,725 to pay for tuition or school debts.

Working in Nebraska City Monday were Crew Leader Chuck Yearsley of Lincoln, Eric Bartels of Tecumseh and Theresa and Emily Sherman of Tecumseh. Bartels said he joined AmeriCorps because of the education benefit and the chance to serve the community. Bartels, who is married with two children, hopes to go back to college. Yearsley said the program is a way to serve the country and gives citizens an example of national service.



Theresa and Emily Sherman, left, USDA director Joel Berger, Eric Bartels and Chuck Yearsley take a break from work Monday. Berger and the AmeriCorps crew worked one day clearing debris in South Table Creek that had been left behind by the 1993 floods.

Photo by Dan Swanson

Johnson told the workers that the Soil Conservation Service intends to build on what they do. "You're the first generation of this program," he said. "This is a program that will only strengthen in future years." He said up to 20,000 people will be working in AmeriCorps by the end of the first

year.

Bill Caldwell, a University of Nebraska Extension specialist, was also on hand Monday to inspect the program. He said he is studying the program to use it with other service projects. "The service component is the lasting benefit," he said. "The spirit of volunteerism

and national service are the things I will look for in building components. We are looking for something that adds meaning to the lives of the young people involved."

Johnson said AmeriCorps gives people the opportunity to work on the land and be of service. "Young

people a great deal to contribute and they want to contribute," he said.

NADF employees are expected to work throughout the winter cleaning the creek bed. AmeriCorps crews moved on today to other areas of the district affected by the 1993 floods.



The Auburn Press-Tribune

Established 1882 — Volume 113

Auburn, Nebraska — October 11, 1994

USDA/Americorps Team in Brownville

From Oct. 11-14, the Tecumseh USDA/Americorps team will do restoration work on the Meriwether Lewis at Brownville.

The restoration involves painting inside areas that were damaged as a result of last year's floods. The high waters of 1993 nearly swept downstream the former paddlewheel dredge now turned into Museum of Missouri River History.

Another dredge of a similar type that was located near Kansas City last summer wasn't so lucky. It was swept downstream and destroyed.

The Meriwether Lewis received the National Historic Landmark designation in 1989.

AmeriCorps workers lend a hand to flood recovery

BY LARRY PEIRCE
Lincoln Journal

BROWNVILLE — Anyone joining AmeriCorps, President Clinton's "domestic Peace Corps," must have community spirit and be willing to forgo higher wages they might earn at another job.

In return for their sacrifices, workers can wipe out college debt or gain money to return to college by helping out nonprofit agencies and local governments.

Workers must look beyond the limited financial benefits of AmeriCorps, said Chuck Yearly of Lincoln, supervisor of a crew working out of Tecumseh.

"We're here for the community, to get involved," Yearly said.

Workers wear black baseball caps and gray T-shirts with a white A on a black circle. The AmeriCorps motto is "Getting things done."

The Tecumseh crew will spend most of its 1,800 working hours clear-

ing 1993 flood debris from flood control dams in Johnson, Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson and Pawnee counties.

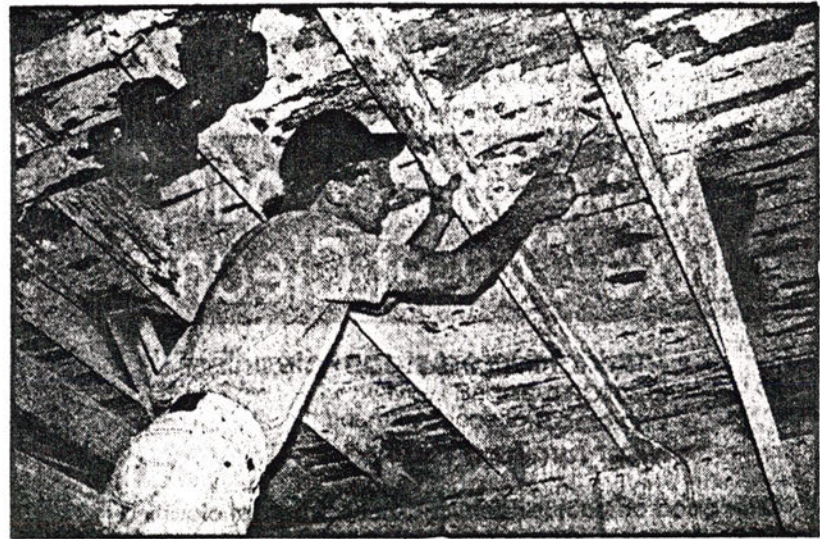
Work is directed out of the Soil Conservation Service office in Tecumseh and is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rural development program.

AmeriCorps also has crews working in an anti-hunger, nutrition and empowerment program.

Clinton announced AmeriCorps on Sept. 12, and crews went to work a week later. Yearly is accepting project proposals for nonprofit and public projects in villages, cities and counties.

"A lot of these places don't have much money (for public work projects)," he said.

Last week, the Tecumseh crew began scraping damaged paint from the interior of the floating Meriwether Lewis Museum. Last year's floods nearly swept the old river



LARRY PEIRCE/LINCOLN JOURNAL

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh scrapes paint from the ceiling of the Meriwether Lewis Museum in Brownville. Bartels and three other AmeriCorps workers are repairing damage done to the old dredging boat by a leaky roof and flooding in 1993.

Please see AMERICORPS on page 5

Workers help communities and themselves

Continued from page 1

dredge away. The interior paint was damaged when the roof leaked. Heat and humidity caused more damage.

The crew will scrape and then repaint the ceiling and walls for the nonprofit Meriwether Lewis Foundation. A private contractor installed a new roof this summer.

Yearly, who has a master's degree in rural and community planning, was a community planner in Carroll, Iowa, before his job was phased out. He had been out of work for months. AmeriCorps will help him pay off his graduate school debt and gain experience as a supervisor.

Eric Bartels of Tecumseh, a construction worker and the father of two children, said he wants to go to a two-year college without borrowing money.

Theresa and Emily Sherman, two sisters from Tecumseh, said they will pay off student loans they incurred while attending Platte Community

College in Columbus and Peru State College.

"It takes care of all of mine, thank God," Emily Sherman said, scraping paint from the ceiling of the old river dredge.

The sisters, 20-year-old identical twins, plan to go back to school after a year.

AmeriCorps, a \$360 million program, pays 20,000 Americans to work in four areas: education, health and human needs, the environment and public safety. If extended by Congress, the program could spend \$1.5 billion over three years to pay for 100,000 workers.

Anyone older than 17, including high school dropouts and people with graduate degrees, can apply for the program.

AmeriCorps supervisors make \$6.35 an hour plus credit toward money for education; workers earn \$4.35 an hour plus school money.

When the educational voucher is

added in, workers earn about \$12,000 a year plus paid medical benefits. AmeriCorps workers are not considered federal workers and are not eligible for unemployment. They must work the entire year to receive educational benefits, and are limited to two years in the program.

Yearly said the Tecumseh crew and crews in Lincoln, Omaha and Norfolk soon will each add another worker.

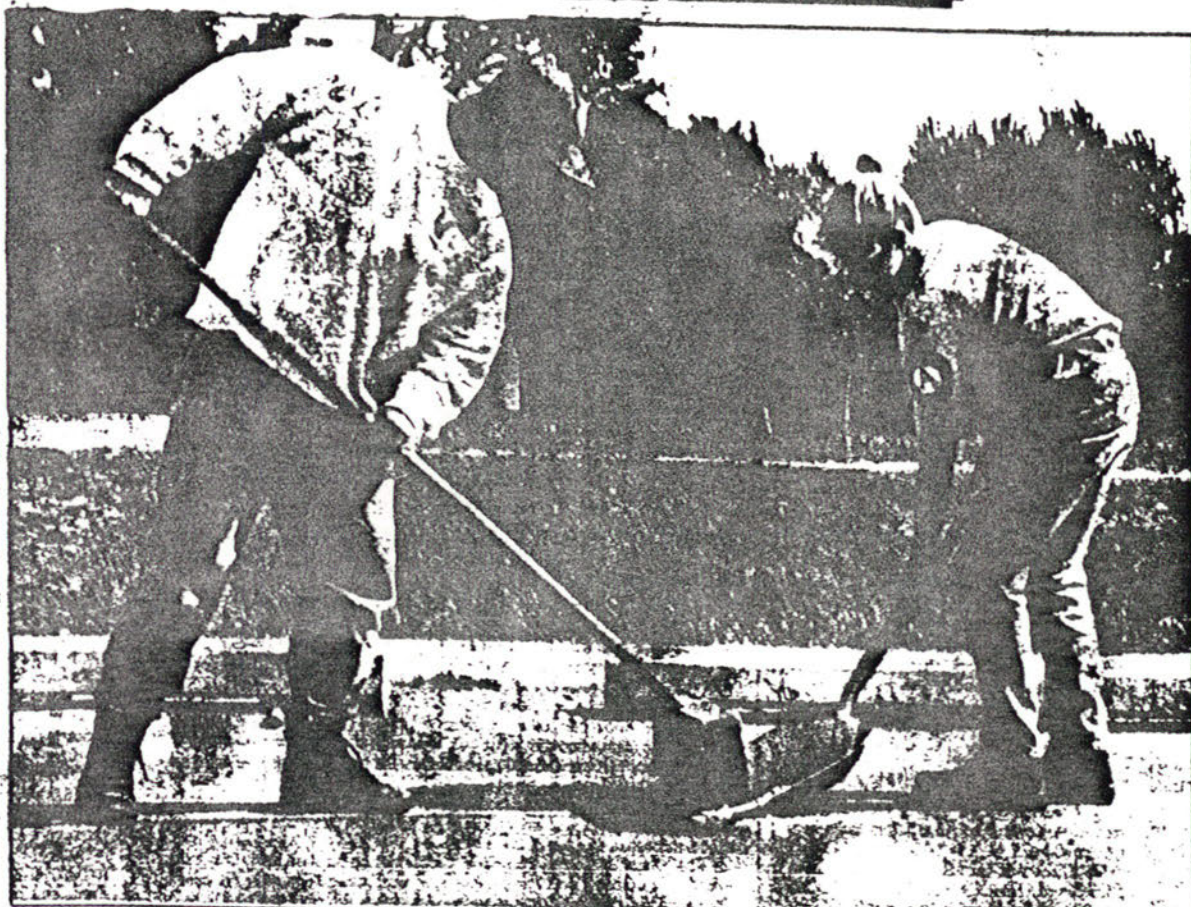
In Lincoln, recruiting is under way for 23 volunteers to work with nine community action agencies in Nebraska, said Lorrie Benson, director of Community Action of Nebraska Inc.

Benson will oversee a program aimed at reducing violence among youths 10 to 15 years old. For information, call Benson at (402) 471-3714.

For information about other AmeriCorps opportunities, call 1-800-880-4183.

LINCOLN JOURNAL
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
OCTOBER 4, 1994

FAMILY & FRIENDS



CLEANUP CREW: Omahan Chad Helmke and Dianna Waters of Lincoln scoop glass in a parking lot at Omaha's Zortney Lake. They are in their second week in the AmeriCorps environmental program. BY RHONDA STANSBERRY/THE WORLD-HERALD

OMAHA WORLD HERALD
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
SEPTEMBER 27, 1994

Serving Their Country

Youths Earn, Learn in AmeriCorps National Service Program

BY RHONDA STANSBERRY
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Omahan Chad Helmke has staked out a future in natural resources. And to gain experience, he is turning to AmeriCorps.

Helmke, 21, looked for work with the U.S. Park Service but was unsuccessful. He said he considers himself lucky, though, to have worked for the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District and now AmeriCorps.

Volunteers in the new national service program receive fieldwork experience in addition to a living stipend, personal health-care benefits and, upon completion of 1,812 hours of work, a \$4,725 educational award. The award may be applied to student loans or college tuition.

AmeriCorps was launched earlier this month by the Clinton administration. Nationwide, the domestic service corps expects to enroll 20,000 people in programs geared toward education, public safety,

human needs and the environment.

Helmke will be one of 20 people on Nebraska's AmeriCorps-USDA environmental team. Craig Derickson, project director of Team USDA, said five-member teams will work in the Omaha area as well as three others — Lincoln, Norfolk and Tecumseh.

Also under the AmeriCorps umbrella is the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, which will employ 23 people to work with youngsters between ages 10 and 15 in schools throughout the state.

Those who wish to apply may contact one of nine community action agencies, the Office of Dispute Resolution in Lincoln or one of six mediation centers throughout the state, said Fayette Carpenter, interim director.

The community service commission focuses on youths, Ms. Carpenter said, but "there will be no upper age limit" for the volunteers.

They must be at least 17 and cannot have dropped out of high school. They also must have a high school

diploma or agree to earn a high school equivalency degree," she said. "And there are no income guidelines. This is not a poverty program. It applies to everyone."

In addition, AmeriCorps has absorbed VISTA, a well-established anti-poverty program.

Seventy-five volunteers will be hired for the three Nebraska programs, AmeriCorps spokesmen said. Iowa will have 158 positions, said Jody Heuberger, state program coordinator.

Helmke, a part-time student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in natural resources, said he wasted no time applying when he heard about the program.

AmeriCorps programs are in various stages of readiness, project directors said. Marilyn Anderson, the Omaha AmeriCorps project supervisor and Helmke's immediate supervisor, said she had one more position to fill as late as last week.

Helmke said he believes his 10- to 12-month AmeriCorps stint "will be a great resume builder and

Please turn to Page 31, Col. 1

AmeriCorps is launched nationwide

Nebraska students will participate in service program

By Angie Goettsch
Staff Reporter

President Clinton's service corps of college students soon will be marching into Nebraska.

In Nebraska, 20 college students will serve in AmeriCorps, said Craig Derickson, Nebraska's director of AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps, which kicks off today nationwide, is President Clinton's national service program that will offer students academic scholarships in ex-

change for community service. Through the program, students can help solve local problems while getting leadership and service opportunities.

Nebraska's Soil Conservation Service will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fill the Nebraska positions. Five people will be working at offices in Norfolk, Lincoln, Omaha and Tecumseh.

Derickson said participants would earn a living stipend of \$7,660, and supervisors would receive \$12,000. They also would receive an educational voucher of \$4,725 when they completed 1,812 hours of service. The educational voucher may be used to pay for college loans or tuition.

This summer, organizers have been gearing up for the project around the

country. Students had to apply to participate in the AmeriCorps program by Sept. 2.

Derickson said many University of Nebraska-Lincoln students had sent him applications.

No specific qualifications were required to apply for AmeriCorps, he said, other than a strong interest to work in a community service program and on environmental projects. Site supervisors are required to be college graduates. Other service participants must be college bound.

John Beacon, UNL director of scholarships and financial aid, said the program would give people who normally couldn't afford it the chance to go to college.

But, he said, "it will be at least one

year before anyone will be able to get a voucher."

Beacon said: "Under this scenario, you are a servant for some years before you can use that money toward college, but students will not have loan dependencies."

Derickson said the Corporation for National Service administered the national program. State commissions sponsor 300 programs across the country, and federal agencies also sponsor some projects.

Derickson said AmeriCorps programs that were linked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, like Nebraska's program, would help solve environmental problems.

See AMERICORPS on 6

Page 6

AmeriCorps

Continued from Page 1

"They will be working as a team to provide local communities support for flood relief, water quality protection, natural resource protection, complete rehabilitation and maintenance on recreation areas, and environmental and ecosystem management education," Derickson said.

"We want to work with the community and provide information on how to protect the environment," Derickson said.

Derickson said he expected 20,000 students to participate in AmeriCorps nationwide by the year's end.

He also expected the program to be a lasting one.

"Because this national service program gives students opportunities to help meet educational needs, I have speculation that this program will continue," Derickson said.

Beacon said AmeriCorps was a good opportunity for college students, but it would be better if more students could get involved.

LAS CRUCES SUN
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO
AUGUST 25, 1995

AmeriCorp personnel tour colonias

By Steve Ramirez

Las Cruces Sun-News

The national director for AmeriCorps toured throughout Dona Ana County, including the area's colonias, Thursday.

"Don't judge us by our words, judge us by our deeds," said Joel Berg, AmeriCorps national director of services within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "This is a program that's become enormously successful throughout the country. Not only do our members want to get involved in the communities they work in, they want to find ways to improve them, too. This program is a good way to bridge the gap between government and its people."

Berg is in the midst of conducting a whirlwind tour

through the Southwest. Wednesday afternoon, he toured the Sparks Colonia east of El Paso. "That was something to see," Berg said. "I got to meet a 95-year-old woman who had just gotten running water in her home for the first time. Getting to see the look on her face and her reactions are some of the rewards of this job."

Thursday, Berg, AmeriCorp volunteers Anna Rodriguez and Lourdes Vigueria, and John Thomas, state rural development director, toured the Gospel Rescue Mission in Las Cruces, a water improvement plant in Mesquite and a wastewater treatment plant in Anthony. Later, Berg traveled to Tucson, Ariz., before ending the day in Flagstaff, Ariz.

"It was partly through the help of AmeriCorps volunteers that the wastewater treatment plant in Anthony was able to get a (\$750,000) grant to improve the treatment plant," said Ernie Watson, spokesman for Rural Economic Community Development, the agency which provided funding. "AmeriCorp volunteers were able to help them fill out the necessary applications to get the funds."

AmeriCorps is a national service program created by President Clinton. About 20,000 citizens, who perform services that meet critical community needs receive money from AmeriCorps that can only be used for college, job training or paying back student loans.

**THE FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS JOURNAL
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 1995**

AmeriCorps in Four Corners

AZTEC - Four AmeriCorps workers have set up shop in the Natural Resources Conservation and Development office in Aztec, N.M., while nine more are working with the Council of the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development in Southwest Colorado.

AmeriCorps engages diverse groups of Americans in performing service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment.

The Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams - an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environmental team, and a rural development team. There are 1200 workers in the various programs at 42 urban and rural sites nationwide.

The Aztec contingent is made up of Ana Gomes, a natural resource specialist from central valley California specializing in environmental anthropology; Erick Aune, a natural resource specialist from Detroit specializing in natural resource development; Laura Horochowski, an education information specialist from Missouri specializing in fine arts. They will be focusing on San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties. Another AmeriCorp member,

Shantel Farnsworth, is working for Rural Economic and Community Development, formerly known as the Farmers Home Administration.

Nine AmeriCorps members are working with the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development, the USDA Forest Service, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the San Juan Forum.

Region 9 is up-dating its Overall Economic Development Plan. One worker, Amy Callard, a graduate of Colorado State University with a masters degree in business administration and an undergraduate degree from Fort Lewis College, is up-dating data through information gathered from the Colorado Census Bureau, the National Census Bureau, the state office of the Division of Local Governments, County Clerks and Chamber of Commerces.

The information will be offered to the public in written form, and through the San Juan Basin's new telecommunications information system, SCAN, the Southwest Colorado Access Network, 259-9350. The information is accessed by a computer with modem and a telephone line.



AmeriCorps volunteers (l-r) Henry Silentman, Andrea Dyer, and Sam Sellers. Staff photo

AmeriCorps program benefits area

Three college graduates are hard at work in San Juan County as part of the new domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps National Service Program.

Although they are working on projects throughout southeastern Utah, the three are headquartered at the Monticello City Offices.

In exchange for their hard work, the AmeriCorps program provides a modest monthly stipend, health care, and an educational benefit. The \$4,725 annual benefit can be used to finance tuition or pay back student loans.

All three AmeriCorps workers are college graduates. They say the program bridges the gap between college and graduate school or work.

"We have the chance to develop work experience, serve communities, and pay off student loans," said Sam Sellers.

Sellers graduated from Northwest Missouri State with a geology degree. He plans to further his education by studying city plan-

Sellers is seeking funding for a Blue Mountain ski-area feasibility study. He also is developing a corridor management program for the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway. A third project is developing and marketing mountain bike trails on the Abajos.

Sellers had never been in the Four Corners area before arriving for his AmeriCorps assignment.

Henry Silentman, a Navajo from Twin Lakes, New Mexico, is working on a number of projects in the Montezuma Creek area.

The 24-year-old graduate of Grand Canyon University has bachelor's degrees in French and International Business.

He recently returned from studies in France. Si-

lentman plans to further his education with graduate work in economic development or sociology.

He is establishing a county-wide food bank to serve individuals who are not adequately served by existing social programs. The goal is to improve the nutritional content of diets in low-income families.

Silentman encourages participation in this grassroots organization. Volunteers can donate time to serve on an advisory board or donate storage space for the food bank. Call 801-587-2271 for more information.

In addition, Silentman is working on a McElmo Creek irrigation project and development of the proposed sheep dairy.

Andrea Dyer is working on projects in Moab and the La Sal Mountains. The biology graduate from Mesa State College is completing a tree inventory of Moab. In addition, she is working with the Grand Water Conservancy District to develop guidelines for recreational use of Ken's Lake.

Dyer will further her education with studies in botany or counseling.

**SAN JUAN RECORD
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 22, 1995**

AmeriCorps

Our Ranch San Juan Inc. benefits from volunteers

SPECIAL TO THE DAILY TIMES

About 20 AmeriCorps members, most of whom are based in Durango, Aztec and Shiprock, and other community members gathered at Bob Browning's ranch on National Service Day to help prepare for the young visitors expected soon.

The idea for Our Ranch San Juan Inc. was developed by Browning and supported by the AmeriCorps' local members, who work together to create a safer and stronger living environment for their community. AmeriCorps members Erick Aune with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Shantel Farnsworth with the Rural Economic Development District, both of which are located in Aztec, organized the event and solicited donations of supplies from 21 local businesses.

Our Ranch is a 45-acre ranch, which is called home by horses, one Texas long-horned bull and other farm animals.

Browning has offered the use of his ranch to local disadvantaged youth who would like to learn horsemanship skills and enjoy being around farm animals.

The ranch offers a safe environment for youth to establish relationships with their peers, as well as with the animals at the ranch. Providing a positive experience at the ranch, where the youths input is valued and rewarded by the animals, is one of the goals of Our Ranch, said organizers.

The long range mission of



Photo courtesy AmeriCorps

Shantel Farnsworth sits on a Texas long-horn bull at Our Ranch San Juan Inc.

The idea for Our Ranch San Juan Inc. was developed by Browning and supported by the AmeriCorps' local members, who work together to create a safer and stronger living environment for their community.

Our Ranch is to provide a project on which the entire community works together to enhance the enjoyment of life for all residents of the community, organizers said.

Projects completed by the AmeriCorps members, community volunteers, sixth grade students from Nenahnezad

Boarding School in Fruitland, and by volunteers from the Farmington DWI treatment facility include surveying the location for the new petting zoo, repainting picnic tables and a large awning above the tables, pulling weeds, laying irrigation pipe and painting the entrance way.

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 1995

The Aztec Local News

AmeriCorps in San Juan County

Since early 1989, the Aztec Theater has been the home of the San Juan Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The building was a shambles when it was donated to the DAV. Since then, with patience, their own and donated funds, and lots of ingenuity, DAV members have been renovating the building. The goal is to create a comfortable space for their own meetings and an entertainment and meeting space for the community.

So far, the members of the DAV estimate they have volunteered 36,000 hours and spent \$18,939 on repairing the building. With youthful vigor and dedication, the volunteers have achieved some amazing results. Trash was cleared, walls were stabilized, a kitchen was installed, and energy conservation measures were implemented. A thrift store was also established to raise funds.

Recently the DAV received a boost in their efforts when AmeriCorps offered their services. AmeriCorps members were referred to the Aztec Theater Project by Aztec City Manager Debi Lee. The DAV, AmeriCorps, and Lee worked together on a grant proposal to replace the deteriorating roof, to upholster the theater seats, and to re-stucco the front of the building. The grant was mailed on Feb. 7, and all involved eagerly await the outcome, which will be announced after Feb. 27.

AmeriCorps is a program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical service to meet human environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment. The local team members, Ana Gomes, Laura Horochowski, and Erick Aune, are working in the Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Aztec. ♣

THE SAN JUAN RECORD
SAN JUAN,
MAY 17, 1995

Food bank in Blanding gets new coat

The Americorps team painted the town of Blanding - at least that is how the team members felt as they painted the inside walls and ceiling of the newly acquired San Juan County Food Bank building.

The new food distribution center will open later this month, primarily through the efforts of Americorps team member Henry Silentman. Silentman wrote the proposal to establish a food bank to serve San Juan County's needy population.

Food will come from donations and purchased from the Utah Food Bank and lo-

cal food stores. Needy families will be given a nutritionally balanced seven-day food supply.

Henry Silentman coordinated the inside paint party. Fellow Americorps team members Andrea Dyar, Sam Sellers, Eldon Miller, Anna Prawl, and Nancy Steele; their Americorps supervisor, Kresha Eastman and her son, Klint; and Allison Williams, a local VISTA volunteer working with students at Albert R. Lyman Middle School, all participated in the project.

Local Boy Scouts may clean the grounds as a possible Eagle Scout project.

CROSS CURRENTS
FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO
MAY 19, 1994

BASIN BULLETIN

Ameri-Corps workers help study region's population growth

By David Eppich,

I discussed population growth in the Four Corners region in "Basin Bulletin" last February. Growth in any one community will have implications for others.

The San Juan Forum will undertake a project the next several months that looks at growth in a regional sense. Ana

Gomes, Erick Anne, Laura Horochowski, and Shantel Farnsworth, who are Ameri-Corps workers out of the Aztec office, have become partners in this project. They will collect data on growth throughout the Four Corners region, and they'll use it in a survey of citizens in the region.

We will compile the results into a report that will show directions of growth in communities of the San Juan Basin and how these directions might affect each of the other communities.

I have described in an earlier column the importance of forests to the entire Four Corners region. Many

entities in our area are now coming together to work through the issues concerning healthy forests.

Kirk Johnson, a research analyst with the Northwest Policy Center at the University of Washington, states, "The time is right to expand incentives for promoting environmental stewardship and long-term economic productivity on forest lands. After years of debate, a growing number of on-the-ground partnerships are forming, involving large and small landowners, tribes, environmentalists, public agencies, universities, and others. These partnerships are helping to pioneer the concepts of watershed and ecosystem management, and to develop new, environmentally sound strategies for revitalizing resource-based economics."

A conference held on May 4 by the San Juan National Forest Association was a good start in this new approach. Laurie Gruel, director of the forest association, facilitated this excellent meeting. Presenters included Dr. Bill Romme of Fort Lewis College, Mike Znerold and Jim Powers of San Juan National Forest Service, and Mike Preston of Fort Lewis College, who is the project coordinator for the Pine Zone Project.

FOUR CORNERS BUSINESS WEEKLY
AZTEC, NEW MEXICO
JUNE 15, 1995

AmeriCorps in San Juan County

Team USDA/AmeriCorps members are all abroad at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Aztec, NM. They will be assisting the HUB Resource, Conservation and Development (RC&D) program, a rural development initiative with the mission of identifying and matching local citizens' needs with opportunities and solutions to problems. By accelerating conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, RC&D serves to improve the general level of economic activity and to enhance the environment and standard of living of local communities. RC&D is a USDA program admin-

istered by the NRCS. The AmeriCorps team will focus their efforts in the San Juan, McKinley and Cibola counties of New Mexico.

The team has been contacting local governments and community groups to offer their services and identify needs. Already, they are participating in three projects in the tri-city area. They are currently looking for projects, with an emphasis on industries based on natural resources, in which they can be involved. They are open to suggestions and able to do the research and the grant writing necessary to get things done. Feel free to contact Ana Gomes, Erick Anne or Laura Horochowski at the NRCS office at 505-334-6888. (7)

The San Juan Forum will host a conference on October 11-12 that will build from the forest association meeting and concentrate on improving rural economies and forest health by promoting new and more efficient uses of forest products.

As Kirk Johnson also states, "A growing number of participants in forest policy deliberations have come to believe that economic and environmental goals must be joined, or both will ultimately suffer."

If you have comments or questions, please write to Dave Eppich, San Juan Forum, c/o Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO 81301-3999, or call 970-247-7328.

(David Eppich, a Farmington native, is the executive director of the San Juan Forum and assistant to the president of Fort Lewis College.)



(Photo by Ray Jones)

Bird Condo

Volunteers from Americorps hoist one of two new purple martin houses installed Monday at the Robert Stahl Natural Area off River Road in Bedminster Township. From left are Doris Ignatow, Wendy Aresge and Chris Marahan. The deluxe bird houses, donated by the Garden Club of the Somerset Hills, are designed to attract colonies of purple martins, which feed on mosquitos and other flying insects.

The Courier-News

LOCAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1994

SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY
OCTOBER 21, 1994

LOCAL NEWS



Courier-News photo by David Bergerland

STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS: Participants in the AmeriCorps direct an end-loader carrying rocks that will be used to build a deflector in Peter's Brook in Somerville Thursday. Story, B-1.

The Press

OF ATLANTIC CITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995

Vol. XCV No. 47

Job program boon to area nature sites

■ Workers in President Clinton's Americorps college assistance program help the southern New Jersey environment while gaining valuable job experience.

By RICHARD DEGENER
Staff Writer

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The rare winter tourist who stumbles into Cape May County's welcome center on a cold February day normally would be

lucky to get somebody to point them in the direction of the beach.

But this February, thanks to President Clinton's Americorps program, that tourist will meet Linda Gray and get the complete scoop on all of the resort penin-

sula's ecological gems.

They may end up heading over to the Wetlands Institute or Leamings Run Gardens. Soon, they will even be carrying a brochure of environmental "dos and don'ts" that Americorps worker Russell Holst is preparing.

"It's been nice to have people to assist the tourists. Normally in winter we don't have anybody," said Robert Patterson Jr., who directs the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce.

Promoting "ecotourism," teaching Atlantic County school children how recycling helps the environment, planting dune grass in Ocean City, and designing a program to protect wells from pollution.

These are just a few of the things Americorps workers are doing in the Cape-Atlantic region, and doing it at no charge to the organizations they assist.

□ See Program, Page A4

AmeriCorps team in EA finishes map transfers

The USDA/AmeriCorps team based in East Aurora has completed transferring the 32 Erie County Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory maps from paper to computer format. The data were joined by computer to create a complete Erie County wetlands map. The five-member team began this work when their service term started in September.

The wetlands data, when overlaid on other computer maps, will provide an efficient and accurate means of identifying wetlands locations, boundaries and classifications to agencies and municipalities with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities. The AmeriCorps team will make the data available at no cost to local communities in their effort to promote the use of GIS in Western New York, according to a recent press release.

"Getting things done for America is the AmeriCorps motto," said John Whitney, USDA

NRCS District Conservationist and program director. "The five members of the East Aurora based AmeriCorps team have certainly lived up to that motto. In the last few months, they have developed and assembled many data layers that will help with efforts to implement geographic information systems throughout Erie County. Benefits of the AmeriCorps team's efforts are being realized as communities start using GIS to more effectively and efficiently protect environmental resources and direct future development with greater sensitivity to environmental constraints, economic impacts, community needs and individual land rights."

In addition to the wetlands inventory mapping, ongoing USDA/AmeriCorps projects include creating a GIS tax parcel base map for rural areas of Erie County in conjunction with Inteligis Corporation, producing a series of forest management maps with the Seneca National of Indians, and generating original maps with the WNY Land Conservancy, American Chestnut Foundation, West Seneca AmeriCorps, Governor's Office of Voluntary Service and a number of other agencies and community organizations.

Of the 42 USDA sponsored AmeriCorps sites nationwide, the East Aurora based program is the only one in New York State. Members are Melissa Brice of Clarence, Michael Gangemi of Hamburg, Lisa Matthies of Alden, Jeffrey Rosier of Arcade and Betsy Vazquez of Lancaster.

ALDEN ADVERTISER
ALDEN, NEW YORK
MARCH 9, 1995

Alden Resident Participates in AmeriCorps Project

Alden, first to receive Wetland data from study



Lisa Matthies

Lisa Matthies, a 1990 Alden High School graduate and a 1994 graduate of Alfred University, recently helped complete transferring 32 Erie County Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory maps from paper to computer format. Matthies, 23, is part of a five member USDA/AmeriCorps team based in East Aurora.

As an example of how the work AmeriCorps does aids communities, Lisa explains, "By request, we have plotted two maps of the Town of

Alden - one displaying NYS DEC Wetland delineations, and one showing US Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands. These maps will provide an accurate and efficient means of locating wetlands in the Town of Alden. Alden is the first town in Erie County to receive Wetland data from AmeriCorps."

The wetlands data, when overlaid on other computer maps, will provide an efficient and accurate means of identifying wetland locations, boundaries, and classifications to agencies and municipalities with Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities. The AmeriCorps team will make the data available at no cost to local communities in their effort to promote the use of GIS in Western New York.

In addition to the wetland inventory mapping, ongoing USDA/AmeriCorp projects include creating a GIS tax parcel base map for rural areas of Erie County in conjunction with Inteligis Corporation, producing a series of forest management maps with the Seneca Nation of Indians, and generating original maps with the WNY Land Conservancy, American Chestnut Foundation, West Seneca AmeriCorps, Governor's Office of Voluntary Service and a number of other agencies and community organizations.

Of the 42 USDA sponsored AmeriCorps sites nationwide, the East Aurora based program is the only one in New York State.

AmeriCorps program contributing much to nation's future

If the focus of the current (and untimely) political debate over the 5-month-old AmeriCorps national service program were directed toward the results of full-time service instead of AmeriCorps "volunteer" status, critics threatening to eliminate the program would note:

AmeriCorps programs are devoted to increasing the quality and volume of community service by taking advantage of America's resource of youth. By working directly with the community on a full-time basis, AmeriCorps members enhance their communication and teamwork skills, gain a strong sense of personal achievement and responsibility, and, most importantly, increase their awareness of and commitment to community needs.

Two AmeriCorps programs exist in

Western New York — a NYS Corps Collaboration site in West Seneca and a National Direct program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture in East Aurora. As one of the five members of the AmeriCorps/USDA team based at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in East Aurora, I see the benefits of AmeriCorps firsthand.

The goal of our AmeriCorps program is to support resource management and protection in Western New York in part using Geographic Information Systems. Our focus has been on digitizing data (converting maps from paper to computer format) for efficient, accurate analysis and management. In the short time AmeriCorps has been in existence, we have worked on GIS projects in cooperation

with numerous local agencies and municipalities, assisted in soil and water conservation practices, and trained and worked alongside eight Earth Team volunteers.

The need for quality production of digitized data and instruction in GIS will become essential as increased members of organizations store and manage cartographic data by computer. The East Aurora AmeriCorps/USDA team has incredible potential to facilitate GIS data production and education in Western New York — but only if AmeriCorps survives the war of words in Washington.

LISA A. MATTHIES
AmeriCorps/USDA
Alden

BUFFALO NEWS
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 25, 1995

THE EAST AURORA BEE
EAST AURORA, NEW YORK
JUNE 1, 1995

The East Aurora Bee - Your Community Newspaper

Local News

EA USDA/AmeriCorps offers geographic, map resources

The USDA/AmeriCorps Team based at the East Aurora district office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service has geographic and natural resource data available for Western New York community organizations and agencies at no cost. Through the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, AmeriCorps has created or ac-

quired the following computer data:

- Wetlands in Erie and Niagara Counties delineated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory.
- Wetlands in Erie and Niagara Counties delineated by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- A School District map of Erie

County that follows parcel lines.

- Tax Parcel boundaries and Real Property Information System parcel labels for the Towns of Wales, Holland, Sardinia, North Collins and Collins (so far). Included are fire, water and sewer districts, political boundaries and rights-of-way.

- Roads, waterways, political boundaries in Western New York

from the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER files.

All data can be plotted at scales most effective for the user's needs as paper maps or exported by computer to organizations having GIS capabilities. Using GIS, AmeriCorps members can also create maps displaying more than one of the listed data coverages to customize maps based on the user's needs. For example, a map showing parcel lines overlaid with wetlands has been created of the Town of Wales. This type of map is especially important and effective in resource management and land use planning. Members of the AmeriCorps/USDA program can also provide initial instruction in GIS and are available for demonstrations of GIS technology and its applications in community planning and resource management.

Activities are underway to computerize soil maps from the published "Soil Survey of Erie County, New York." This data should be available for northern Erie County by next fall.

AmeriCorps unit completes mapping chore for county

The five-member AmeriCorps technical unit based in East Aurora has completed its first task, computerizing paper maps of Erie County's wetlands so that as map overlays they are readily available for developers and municipal planners.

The unit, guided by District Conservationist John Whitney of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, began work last September. The computerized data when overlayed on other computerized maps will provide an efficient and accurate means of identifying wetlands for agencies with Geographic Information Systems. The East Aurora AmeriCorps unit is one of 42 tied to a U.S. Department of Agriculture agency and the only one of its kind in New York.

Other tasks awaiting the team during its service period are creating a computerized tax parcel map, forest management map and other maps. The East Aurora AmeriCorps team will be working with the Seneca Indian Nation, Western New York Land Conservancy, American Chestnut Foundation, the Governor's Office of Rural Service and West Seneca AmeriCorps unit and other agencies.

Technical AmeriCorps members who work 1,700 hours are paid \$6.62 per hour up to \$12,000 and are given a \$4,700 tuition voucher.

THE BUFFALO NEWS
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 21, 1995

A program that works

As head of a division of AmeriCorps, a Spring Valley native sees its members making a difference in communities around the nation

By Jamie Kampton
Staff Writer

WHEN President Clinton introduced his plan for a national and community service program three years ago, Joel Berg knew the project's concept of a "domestic Peace Corps" would catch fire.

Berg, a former Spring Valley resident, believed fervently enough in the AmeriCorps program to devote a part of his life to it. And as director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's component of AmeriCorps, Berg is witness to the program's grassroots success in communities across the country.

"I can attest that it's working well," says Berg, who's 30 and a 1982 Spring Valley High School graduate. "I've met with hundreds of members around the country, and I like to work alongside the members. They're getting as much out of the program as they're putting in."

Berg recently took a 1,400-mile field trip from his Washington, D.C., office to Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. In December, he swung through Oregon, Washington and northern California. Along the way he made stops at AmeriCorps projects and pitched in with constructing fishery habitats, pruning trees and building trails.

In Nebraska he helped cart away debris from a stream bed for a flood cleanup project. In local programs that emphasize education, he has entered classrooms to weigh in on environmental and nutritional matters.

"Communities throughout the country are benefiting from Joel Berg's tireless efforts on behalf of National Service," says Eli Segal, the president of AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National Service.

College down payment

The USDA has more AmeriCorps members — 1,200 — than any other federal agency. The program enrolls 20,000 people age 17 or older, primarily young adults, in 350 nonprofit programs.

Corps members run childhood immunization programs; build inner-city gardens; fix dilapidated homes; restore wildlife habitats; tutor students in Head Start and early childhood education programs; escort the elderly through high-crime areas and perform other activities, all the while earning money that will help pay their college bill.

If workers can make it through one year's work, they will have put in trust a \$4,725 grant they can draw on to pay for college or vocational training. The commitment can last one or two years. Those hired also get a \$7,600 annual stipend — about minimum wage — plus



SERVING THE COMMUNITY: Samona Wilson, Mark Bey, Vaughn Howard and Joel Berg, in black shirt, sort clothes for the needy last week at Bread for the City in Washington, D.C. Berg, formerly of Spring Valley, is the director of the Department of Agriculture's component of AmeriCorps, which sponsors the anti-hunger team.

AmeriCorps

How to join

Call: 1-800-94-CORP

What you'll get: An information package on how the program works, a listing describing all the programs in the country, and an application form to fill out and return to AmeriCorps national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

needed.

AmeriCorps cost \$376 million to administer last year; the program started in September. Berg says it costs about \$20,000 per participant. This year the pro-

gram, in anticipation of a growing membership. The project's goal is 100,000 members by late 1996, at a three-year cost of \$1.5 billion.

At 20,000 members, the program enrolls 4,500 more than the Peace Corps at its 1966 peak.

AmeriCorps is run by state organizations and financed in part by local contributions. Communities decide what kinds of service are in their best interest. Programs that qualify must meet the educational, human, environmental or public safety needs of the communities.

Berg defines the USDA component's role in AmeriCorps as threefold: fighting hunger, which encompasses 150 members; protecting the environment and rural development, which occupy about 500 members each. Most

opment are college graduates and receive a \$12,000 stipend.

"For regular folks, it's very popular," Berg says. "It cuts across all ages and ideologies. Most of the members are in their early to mid-20s, but a fair number are in middle age and a bunch are senior citizens."

Full-time work

Berg notes the program received bipartisan support in Congress. When AmeriCorps legislation passed in 1993, 26 House Republicans and seven Senate Republicans voted for it. Rockland's congressman, Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-Middle-town, co-sponsored the original legislation for the program.

"He's been an enthusiastic

The Joel Berg file

Age: 30

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Family: Single

Educations: Spring Valley High School, 1982; Columbia University, 1986

Career: Member, Bruce Babbitt's presidential campaign team, 1987; Policy analyst, Progressive Policy Institute of Democratic Leadership Council, focusing on national service, 1988-1991; member, Bill Clinton's presidential campaign team, 1992; director of public affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1992; USDA director of public liaison, 1993; USDA director of national service, 1994 to present.

Interests: Writing poetry.

Andrew Zarutskie, a Gilman spokesman. "He anticipates supporting its continuation if and when it comes up for a vote. He feels it's a good program and he doesn't care who proposes it."

Not everyone in Congress is satisfied with AmeriCorps, however. Some Republicans on Capitol Hill want to abolish the program; others consider the corps members volunteers who should not be paid. Berg scoffs at that notion: members work full time, putting in 1,700 hours per year, he says.

"The day you can find people who serve in the military and the Congress for free is the day you can find someone to work year-round for free," he says. "Most of our members are from the middle class. If they didn't get paid a small living wage, they couldn't afford to do it."

"No one is doing it just for the money, but you need money to eat for a year. I challenge critics to go out and see a site, see the work being done. This is a full-time commitment to service."

Berg says no Rocklanders are members of the USDA component of AmeriCorps, and that the closest project to Rockland is in Middlesex County, N.J. In the overall AmeriCorps program, the closest projects are in New York City.

Because members usually are recruited by local community service groups and no national clearinghouse yet exists, AmeriCorps officials could not say if any Rocklanders participate in the overall program, says AmeriCorps spokesman Bill Barrett.

Budding politician

Berg's involvement in community service stems from his longtime interest in politics. At

A program makes a difference

AMERICORPS

continued from C1

age 14, he wrote an article in the Kakiat Junior High school newspaper on what he viewed as drug abuse among his fellow students.

When the school board moved to squelch the article, Berg sought local newspaper and radio coverage to publicize his position.

"I felt it was a greater First Amendment issue," he says. "That started me in politics. I saw how a person in office could affect public policy."

At age 18, he ran for a position on the East Ramapo district's school board. While a student at Columbia University, he worked on Democrat Gary Hart's presidential campaign, and on Bruce Levine's first campaign for the Rockland County Legislature in 1985.

Berg continued to forge his imprint in the political arena after graduating from Columbia in 1986. That year, he accepted the Democratic mantle in the race for state senator against popular incumbent Eugene Levy, who won easily.

Thereafter followed a stint

working in New York on Bruce Babbitt's presidential campaign. After the election in 1988, Berg came to Washington and landed a job as a policy analyst for the Democratic Leadership Council's Progressive Policy Institute. His primary issue was national service.

The council, chaired by Sen. Sam Nunn, introduced a project called City Year in Boston that attracted Clinton's attention, Berg says.

"In the past, programs like the Peace Corps and VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) were mainly for upper middle class people. And there were other programs for kids from lower economic levels. But City Year connected all kinds of kids. Clinton saw this and he went from enthusiastic to evangelical. He made national service one of the centerpieces of his campaign."

'Getting things done'

Berg worked on Clinton's campaign for a year and was a member of his transition team. For three months, he held the position of U.S. Department of Agriculture director of public affairs, reporting to then Secretary of Agricul-

ture Mike Espy.

For the next year, he served as USDA director of public liaison, which entailed dealing with special interest groups.

"People have to remember that the USDA is not just involved with farming," Berg says. "It's also nutrition, inspecting meat, world development, research, national forests."

A year ago, Berg secured his current position, USDA director of national service, in which he strives toward four general goals: "getting things done, promoting community, building responsibility and expanding opportunity."

Berg works with community-based agencies such as youth service corps, soil conservation districts and county governments. He reports to Segal, the AmeriCorps president, and Dan Glickman, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"The leadership and spirit of Joel and his colleagues at the Department of Agriculture," says Segal, "have inspired creation of service programs that make a difference to thousands of families, and give hundreds of AmeriCorps participants a chance to give something back to their country."

THE CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 5, 1995

AmeriCorps' James Bradley To Assist With Home Loans On Reservation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces that AmeriCorps member James Bradley will be working in an outreach program on the Cherokee Indian Reservation through the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD). Mr. Bradley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Red Bradley of the Soco community.

AmeriCorps is a program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical services to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment after 1,700 hours of service.

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams at urban and rural sites nationwide: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team.

Bradley will be working with the RECD Guaranteed Housing Loans Program which assists moderate-income Americans who do not have a down payment when qualifying for a mortgage. The USDA/AmeriCorps member's main goal during this time of service is to build an effective outreach program between RECD and the Eastern Cherokee Tribe. He will

also be working in Jackson, Swain, and Haywood Counties.

Many lending institutions are hesitant to make housing loans to members of the Tribe residing on the Qualla Boundary due to the Possessory Land Holding situation. Bradley will be working through the RECD Guaranteed Loan Program to encourage banks to make housing loans to Tribal members.

The RECD also makes low interest home repair loans and grants, which may only be used for needed structural repair or to remove health or safety hazards. Applicants must be over 62 years of age to qualify for a grant.

Anyone with questions about the RECD Guaranteed Housing Loan Program or home repair loans and grants, call Bradley at (704) 586-5549. You may also call your local lending institution for information on the Guaranteed Housing Loans program.

The AmeriCorps member will also be compiling a directory of available local resources for use on the Reservation. Anyone with information about other sources of funding for housing, about any possible housing grants, or about any Indian-owned businesses such as contractors, surveyors, plumbers, electricians, that could be included in the directory may call Bradley at the same number.

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
SEPTEMBER 13, 1994

AmeriCorps volunteers to tackle Asheville parks

By Clarke Morrison
STAFF WRITER

Teams of volunteers will spend the next year beautifying and improving access to some of Asheville's parks as part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service program.

The program is providing \$12,000 to hire recent UNCA graduate Diane Ducharme, who also will receive a \$4,725 stipend to be applied toward graduate school or student loans, said J.C. Smith of the U.S. Forest Service, the agency supervising the effort.

Ducharme will recruit volunteers and coordinate the work on Martin Luther King Park, Weaver Park, Walton Street Park, the Montford Center and Reid Center.

"We are excited to be working with the city of Asheville to make our local parks more accessible to all members of the community," said Fred Foster, rural develop-

ment coordinator in the Forest Service's Asheville office. "The Asheville Parks and Recreation Department has offered money, materials and expertise to make this joint project succeed."

The city and the Forest Service will hold a kickoff ceremony at Weaver Park at 11 a.m. Thursday.

Smith said many of the city's park facilities aren't accessible by the handicapped. For example, gates to tennis courts and basketball courts are too narrow to get through, water fountains are too tall, and bathrooms aren't accessible, he said.

And yes, the wheelchair-bound do play tennis and basketball, Smith said.

"We also hope to plant trees, shrubs and flowers to make our parks more attractive," said Ray Kisiah, city parks director. "Based on the response we have received so far, we are optimistic that there

will literally be a flood of local volunteers to help ensure the success of this community project. Through the help of community groups we will be able to accomplish a great deal more."

To volunteer, call 257-4215.

Clinton signed the legislation creating the national service program last year. The goal is to give Americans opportunities to serve their country in organized efforts, fostering citizen responsibility and building their communities.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AMERICORP VOLUNTEER: CHEROKEE — Robert Hawk II, an AmeriCorp volunteer, will begin working in Cherokee on parks and recreation plans as well as cleaning up and developing new parks, said Susie Arkansas, of the Tribal Planning Office. AmeriCorp is a national service program where volunteers are paid a \$12,000 stipend and a \$4,725 stipend toward their education or student loans. Hawk, who will be working with Arkansas, will be doing a reservation-wide survey to pinpoint needs in the community and then develop a priority list based on the survey. An overall parks and recreation plan will be put in place and then volunteers will be signed up and donations and grants sought, Arkansas said.

Mangum Shelter Belt Was America's First

By Lillie-Beth Sanger
Lawton Bureau

Col. Frank H. Shepard remembers well the blowing sand and dirt that gave Oklahoma a place among the Dust Bowl states in the 1930s.

Shepard, 75, of Midwest City also remembers the efforts in which he participated to conserve the soil for Oklahoma farmers by planting trees and reshaping farmlands.

"The sand had blown so hard it had covered up all the fences," Shepard said. "You couldn't find the fences. You couldn't find the farm implements. ... You could actually see the soil moving."

At the time, he became part of the Civilian Conservation Corps' movement to plant rows of trees — called shelter belts — to serve as windbreaks for the farms losing soil to erosion.

CCC volunteers planted 2,000 miles

of shelter belts in Oklahoma alone, as well as others from Texas to the Dakotas, said Dwain Phillips, a public affairs specialist with the National Resources Conservation Service in Stillwater.

Their efforts helped put an end to the Dust Bowl, he said.

The first shelter belt in the nation, located near Mangum, was planted March 18, 1935. It still has the same trees, along with a few new ones.

On Friday, Shepard and other former CCC volunteers, state conservation officials and members of the AmeriCorps volunteer service program will celebrate the 60th anniversary at the shelter belt.

The Mangum shelter belt, one of the larger ones planted, is about 12 rows of trees thick and provides the windbreak on an isolated field surrounded by shel-

See TREES, Page 2



— Staff Photo by Lillie-Beth Sanger

AmeriCorps volunteer Brent Smith, 24, of Sentinel packs dirt around a red cedar seedling as that will be part of a windbreak.

From Page 1

ter belts on all sides. It also shelters wildlife, from deer to turkeys.

Pat Curtis owns shelter belt No. 1 and remembers her husband, the late Horace Curtis, telling stories about helping plant the windbreak to stop the blowing sand, which they called "sugar sand" because of the way it moved.

Curtis' father opened his land to the radical shelter belt idea amid skepticism from other farmers, Pat Curtis said.

"We were in a drought. There was no rain coming in," and farmers didn't think the trees would live, she remembered. "Some of the farmers didn't want to give up their land."

But Horace Curtis didn't take his shelter belts for granted, said Pat Curtis, noting her husband's protective attitude in taking care of the nation's first one.

"The years have taken some of them, but those that are left are those that were planted 60 years ago," Pat Curtis said. "That's something. For that, he just didn't want it destroyed."

The windbreaks aren't hard to spot on Oklahoma's landscape. Trees are planted in rows and line edges of fields. Smaller trees are planted on the outside, the larger ones closer to the field to provide the greatest protection. Fuller trees, like cedars, often fill in gaps.

And if you stand inside one on a windy day, you can hardly feel the breeze.

Sixty years after "No. 1," a new group of workers is renovating shelter belts in western Oklahoma as members of AmeriCorps, the national service program implemented last year.

Brent Smith, 24, joined the program to pay off

student loans and to learn more about the soil conservation side of agronomy, his major at Cameron University in Lawton.

Since September, he has cleared debris, chopped down dead trees and prepared the ground for planting new ones.

The shelter belt where Smith works at Moonlight Farm near Sentinel, owned by Rusty Rigin, now has just one row of tall trees because high winds last summer destroyed many of the others.

Smith and his work crew began planting two more rows of red cedar seedlings last week.

"It feels good to actually see what we've accomplished," Smith said. Newer windbreaks contain three to five rows of trees, unlike the first one's 12 or so.

Many farmers take the windbreaks for granted because they were planted so long ago, said Linden Haygood, district conservationist for the Conservation Service in Mangum.

"They've been here forever, and a lot of times they (farmers) don't care for them the way they should," Haygood said.

He said that since the AmeriCorps program began last fall, more have asked for their names to be added to the waiting list.

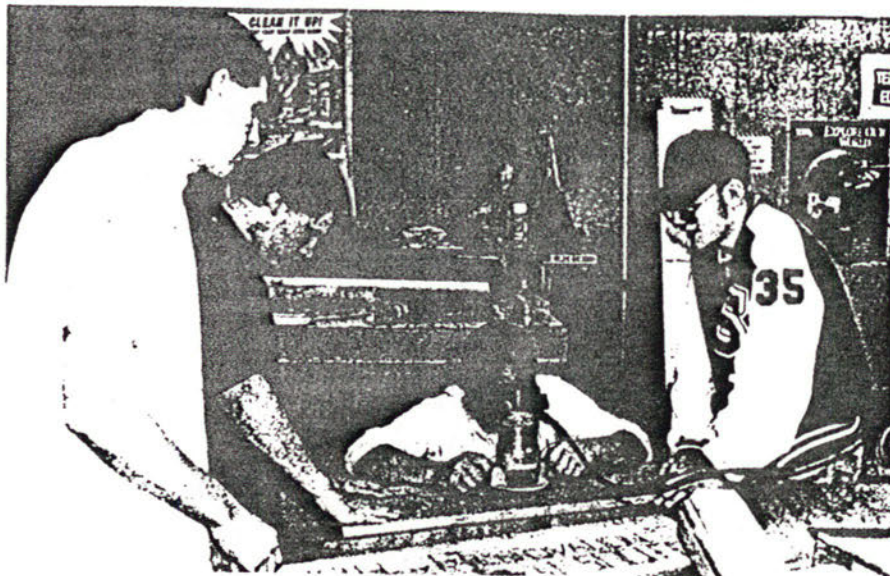
The shelter belt celebration will begin at 10 a.m. Friday. The 20 AmeriCorps program members in southwest Oklahoma, all working through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be recognized, and U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Cheyenne, and Paul Johnson, chief of the Conservation Service, will be among the speakers.

A lunch will follow.

Sentinel Leader

Second Class Postage Paid at Sentinel, OK 73664 (USPS 490-620)

Volume 92, Number 43



Sentinel AmeriCorps members are busy with the help of Kevin Rozell and his Sentinel technology students making signs to put in the windbreak that

will be honored on its 60th anniversary next week, March 18. Working on the sign are Michael Smith, Matthew Callahan, Chad Gross, AmeriCorps, and Chris Keen., TSI students.

Ceremony to honor oldest living shelterbelt in nation

The oldest living shelterbelt in the nation, located in the north part of Greer County, will be 60 years old on March 18. A special program has been planned at the site of the shelterbelt located on the Pat Curtis farm, 10 miles north and five miles east of Mangum. The program will also recognize the National AmeriCorps Service. The event will begin at 10 a.m.

Guest speakers will be U.S. Representative Frank Lucas and NRCS Chief, Paul Johnson.

For more information on the program, contact the Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development office in Sentinel at 405-393-4319. The AmeriCorps Service Program, one of three in Oklahoma involved in environmental service, is housed at the RC&D office also. Tom Wilson is Project Director for the AmeriCorps team which is working to renovate the windbreaks.

Shelterbelts were planted as part of the Prairie States Forestry Project in the late 1930s and early 1940s to help control wind erosion during the "Dust Bowl." Over 2,000 miles of windbreaks were planted in Oklahoma under this project which was originally managed by the USDA Forest Service and transferred to the NRCS in 1942. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) members helped plant many of the first windbreaks.

The 20 persons working for the AmeriCorps, six of them out of the Sentinel office, are removing dead trees and replanting areas that have been lost over the years.

"These shelterbelts have protected cropland and pastures for more than 50 years. As these AmeriCorps crew-members renovate and make new plantings, ranchers in western Oklahoma can continue to have windbreak protection for many more years," says A.E. "Buddy" Cranford, Sentinel, president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) and board member of the North Fork of Red River Conservation District. Cranford says, "These National Service Initiative AmeriCorps members are providing a valuable public and community service to landowners in western Oklahoma and gaining valuable job skills while earning education awards."

Oldest Shelter Belt Honored



SHELTERBELT - This Forest Stewardship sign was recently unveiled at the nation's oldest shelterbelt site in Greer County. Pictured, from left: Leonard Graumann, director of the Greer County Conservation District; Buddy Cranford, president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts; Nancy Deaver, director of the Oklahoma Community Services Commission; State Rep. Jack Bonny; U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas; and landowner Pat Curtis.

More than 200 people attended a celebration in Greer County on March 17 marking the 60th anniversary of the first shelterbelt planted in the nation.

U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, many state senators and representatives, conservation agency leaders, Civilian Conservation Corps alumni, AmeriCorps members and area residents took part in the ceremony.

The shelterbelt was planted on March 18, 1935, by CCC alumni and others. Louise Phillips of Chevy Chase, Maryland, wife of the late George R. Phillips, was on hand at the anniversary celebration to recognize the contributions of her husband and the continuation of that work by local members of AmeriCorps. George Phillips planted the first Australian pine in the shelterbelt and was also the first state forester in Oklahoma.

Twenty USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps members are currently working to renovate and restore shelterbelts and windbreaks in western Oklahoma by removing dead and diseased trees, clearing out debris, piling brush for wildlife habitats and replanting more desirable tree species in selected areas. Three teams comprise the 20-member corps, with eight members housed at the Woodward office, six at Mangum and six at Sentinel.

Project partners include NRCS, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture-Forestry Services, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Each agency was recognized at banquet ceremonies in Elk City on March 16 for its contributions.

Program Employs Youths To Clean Up Windbreaks

Western Oklahoma will be the focus of a program to preserve and renovate existing windbreaks in a program through AmeriCorps, a national service program employing youth and helping conserve national resources across the country.

An agreement has been signed with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, the State Soil Conservation Service, the State Conservation Commission and the Association for Conservation districts to employ 20 youth, 17 years of age and older, to work on preserving the windbreaks most of which were planted during the Dustbowl era of the 1930s.

Area coordinator of this program will be Mark Rose, with Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development Association (405) 562-4882.

His office currently is located at Burns Flat but will be moved to Sentinel by Oct. 1.

Young men and women desiring to apply should contact him in the near future. Forms are available.

One of the focuses of the program will be the first such windbreak in the county which was located in Greer County.

A special ceremony involving this site is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 21. Congressman Frank Lucas has been invited to participate in the program.

The program is funded with both public and private support.

Rose notes that not all wind-

ELK CITY NEWS
ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA
AUGUST 21, 1994



PRESERVING WINDBREAKS — Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Sherrer, SCS State Conservationist Jack Jones, Oklahoma Conservation Commission Director Mason Mungle, and Vice President of Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts A.E. Cranford of Sentinel sign an agreement to cooperate on AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is an environmental program that will provide jobs and help conserve natural resources in western Oklahoma.

breaks will be able to have work done on them in the one-year life of this specific program.

Any landowner who desires work on a windbreak on his or her property is urged to contact Rose in the near future.

Rose notes that the interest evidenced in this program will determine whether this kind of effort will continue in the future.

The agreement was signed in Oklahoma City on August 3 by Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Sherrer; SCS State Conservationist Jack Jones; Oklahoma Conservation Commission Director Mason Mungle; and Vice President of Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts A.E. Cranford of Sentinel. Cranford is also district director of the Northfork Conservation District, headquartered in both Sayre and Sentinel.

Oldest Shelter Belt Honored



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OKLAHOMA

FARMER - STOCKMAN

November 1994

Job program investing in conservation

Patterned after the CCC of the 1930s, AmeriCorps workers take their turn on the windbreaks of western Oklahoma

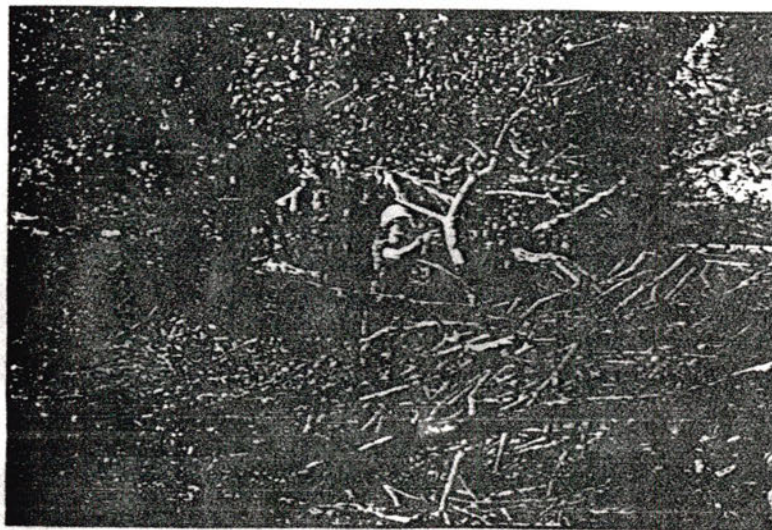
BY DAN CRUMMETT

Milton Vaughn, 77, has farmed the light soils of Greer County since 1942 when he returned from the Seabees to farm with his father. The windbreak that extends westward from his current home was already there, beginning to control what had been a farmer's nightmare only several years before.

"We bought our first tractor in 1936 or '37, and you could hardly drive it over the dunes in this field," Vaughn pointed, noting today's field as it gently rolls, neatly surrounded by windbreaks on three sides.

The windbreaks planted by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the federally-sponsored work program born of the drought and depression of the 1930s, have served well. Vaughn will tell you they've stopped a lot of sand and have allowed him to farm wheat, cotton and alfalfa since he came home to help his dad, whose failing eyesight was ending his career.

But, windbreaks are living creatures, and like all other creatures they age. More than a half-century of standing up to the hot summer winds of southwest Oklahoma has killed some of the trees in the 1940 vintage planting. On two occasions Vaughn "posted" the planting, selectively cutting some trees for fence



Removal of dead underbrush is one of the first steps in renovation of windbreaks that date back to the 1930s and '40s.

posts to make room for new growth. Still, without additional periodic maintenance the windbreak's Siberian elms, desert willow and mulberry's ultimately will give up.

That's where the modern-day counterpart of the CCC entered the picture this fall. A team of 11 young people employed under the USDA's new Soil Conservation Service AmeriCorps program provided the labor to upgrade Vaughn's windbreak, and many others in a 23-

county area of western Oklahoma. Overall, 20 members of the Oklahoma Public Lands and Environment Team currently are employed in western counties to renovate windbreaks. They are organized into three teams based at Sentinel, Mangum and Woodward.

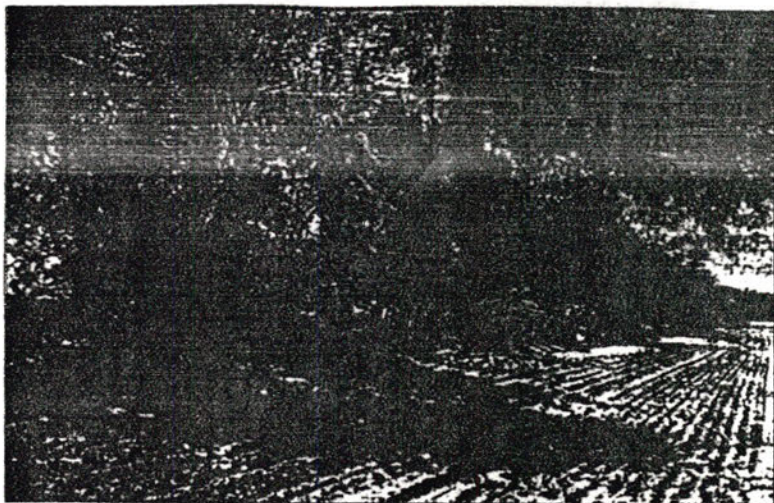
Using chainsaws, axes and gloved hands, the teams follow directions provided by state foresters and SCS personnel to scour out the undergrowth of old windbreaks, remove dead and fallen limbs and, in general, prepare the old plantings for planting season.

During cold weather, team members will be back planting modern windbreak varieties, such as pecan, to fill some of the holes age and decay left in the windbreaks over the years. In addition, the clearing of undergrowth and brush will allow existing trees to be invigorated and will provide for natural regeneration.

Team members also will be involved in constructing fences on windbreaks exposed to cattle, to prevent trampling of young trees before they can become established.

In all cases, the AmeriCorps team works hand-in-hand with the landowner, SCS and state natural resources personnel.

For their efforts the workers receive roughly a minimum wage paycheck, health insurance coverage and



Providing a half-century of protection to the fragile soils of Greer County, this aging windbreak receives a face lift from young people employed in the USDA AmeriCorps program.

CHEROKEE

MESSENGER & REPUBLICAN



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Feb. 16, 1995

35¢

AmeriCorps working in county



AMERICORPS workers saw through a tree trunk at the Dean Campbell farm near Jet. Notice the protective gear worn by Charl Marshall of Clinton, on the right. Robert Martin of Broken Bow, on the left, wore the same except he didn't don the jacket for the camera.

Making \$4.23 an hour plus \$4,700 scholarship bonus

By CAROL ANGLE

In President Clinton's State of the Union message, he said AmeriCorps has many more participants than the Peace Corps ever did but most Americans don't know what it is.

In Alfalfa County, it is the whine of chainsaws at work in a grove of old trees. It is young people working for scholarship money.

AmeriCorps is the new national service program, a domestic Peace Corps. Participants are paid \$4.23 an hour for 1,712 hours of work (10 months) and earn a bonus of \$4,700 in scholarship money. They can be in the program for two years; that is, if Congress continues the program for a second year.

For the last few weeks, an AmeriCorps unit has been working through the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Service on shelterbelts in the Jet

area. The crew is completing three conservation projects for Dean Campbell and Kyle Campbell.

Anthony Lovelace of Alva supervises a crew of three men and four women. Lovelace is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and has a master's in agriculture education.

Robert Dotson of the Natural Resources office (former SCS) in Cherokee said he and a state forester located the sites, then the forester wrote the windbreak restoration plan and forest stewardship plan.

At the Campbell shelterbelt one mile north and one mile west of Jet, the crew is rejuvenating an old stand of three rows of trees which had been planted to prevent wind erosion of the sandy soil. The north row of mulberry trees

See WORKING Page 3

WORKING

Continued from Page 1

has been trimmed back almost to stubs which will grow back again. Dead limbs were cut from the other two rows. Some of the trunks and limbs were made into firewood lengths for Campbells. All the smaller limbs and brush were arranged in a row down the length of the shelterbelt for wildlife habitat. Then a row of cedars will be planted on the south side.

The project is cost share with the landowner paying one-half the cost of the trees and a fence which the corps will build to keep cattle away from the new seedlings.

The AmeriCorps workers are paid by the federal government.

The project is headquartered in Woodward although some of the workers live in Alva. They have to provide their own housing. Each day the crews have been driving from Woodward and back as part of nine-hour days so they have short work days in Alfalfa County. They have every other Friday off. In bad weather, they find alternate work to do in the Woodward area.

After the corps was organized last fall, these seven people started working near Mutual, then on a farm near Woodward, then they came to Jet. After they finish here, they plan to go to Arnett. Their ten months will be up in June.

Interviewed individually, all the participants were enthusiastic about the program and about how it has given

them an incentive to go back to school.

Robert Martin of Broken Bow said he wants to become a state park ranger.

"I was interested in AmeriCorps because my mom told me that my grandpa was in the CCC in the 1930s. I wanted to see what kind of work he did," Martin said.

The CCC was the Civilian Conservation Corps of the depression years. In that program men traveled to work camps and lived in barracks or dormitories while they worked for a low wage. CCC veterans have said it kept their families from starving.

Amanda Squires of Norman said she learned about AmeriCorps from the newspaper. "I applied, interviewed and was accepted. I want to go into environmental science," Squires said.

Leslie Woldridge of Watonga also learned about the program through the newspaper. "I plan to go into wildlife management. I started to be a vet but I've changed my mind," she said.

Charl Marshal of Clinton is hoping the program will be continued another year. "I want to go into environmental studies, teaching, making people aware about natural resources. We have seven years to use the scholarship. They get you in here and educate you. It gives you a little push and some money. We need some cleanup in America," she said.

Rick Freeman of Woodward explained how the program works and said, "I

plan to do some type of botanical science. I want to make the world a better place."

Mary Ager of Woodward is 36 and is raising three school age children as a single parent. She said AmeriCorps is giving her a chance to switch her life around.

"With this year's money, I'll pay off an old federal loan. It is a good opportunity. I'm a recovering alcoholic and I've worked at various jobs. I'm interested in wildlife and forestry," Ager said. She is originally from North Dakota.

She too hopes the program can continue a second year.

Bryan Farrell of Woodward, 18, graduated from high school last spring. A friend of his mother heard about AmeriCorps and told him.

"I had quit a job I had with a freight company. I had been working for them for three years but it interfered with school. I plan to go to Southern Nazarene College in Bethany and major in elementary education or environmental awareness," Farrell said.

Counseling is available to the participants to help prepare them for college.

Across the U.S., AmeriCorps members are working on all kinds of projects, including helping immunize infants, tutoring teenagers, working with the ill and elderly and restoring natural resources.

For information about AmeriCorps National Service, call 1-800-942-2677 or TDD 1-800-833-3722.

First AmeriCorps worker to focus on water, sewage plans

By Barbara Hehn
of the Daily Courier

CAVE JUNCTION -- Rural development in a small town in the Dominican Republic has a lot in common with rural development in a small town in southwestern Oregon.

Marcus Kauffman, the new community development coordinator for the Illinois Valley, knows the similarities well. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he helped set up water collection and storage systems, as well as construct a latrine in a Dominican Republic community with few such facilities.

In his new post in the Illinois Valley -- the first AmeriCorps position in the valley -- he'll help the Community Response Team meet goals outlined in the region's strategic plan. And one of the big goals outlined in the plan is to improve and expand water and sewage systems.

Same thing, bigger scale.

But for Kauffman, 26, the experience of helping a community solve its problems and accomplish goals has a personal twist. This is his home town.

Kauffman grew up in the Illinois Valley and recently returned after leaving to earn a bachelor's degree in international studies, with an emphasis on Third World

Illinois Valley native returns after a stint in the Peace Corps

economic development, from the University of Oregon. Then, he joined the Peace Corps, helping rural Dominican Republic communities improve infrastructure.

Trained as a rural youth volunteer, due to his experience with Future Farmers of America and 4-H as a youngster, he was sent to the northwest corner of the small Caribbean island nation.

"I started off in rural youth projects," he says. That is, he managed a baseball team composed of Dominican Republic children.

"There are hundreds of kids there and everyone wants to play baseball," he explains.

With sports a mainstay of community participation, Kauffman organized a program that brought needed sports equipment to rural communities. Through contacts at Illinois Valley High School and other schools, unused athletic equipment was shipped to the small country. The sporting goods were then distributed to those community groups willing to put their labor toward a community project, he says.

One success story was a community latrine.

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MARCUS KAUFFMAN
Drawn to rural communities

munity didn't have latrines," he says. So, Kauffman organized a project that built a simple latrine near a community building that served as a center for social functions.

Then there was a project to provide drinking water.

"About two-thirds of the villagers didn't have access to potable water," he says. Instead, there was a large, concrete cistern within the community that was periodically filled by the government to provide for basic needs.

The idea was simple enough: Capture rain water that falls from November through March via gutters attached to roofs, then store the water in cisterns for use later in the season.

Using system designs, Kauffman wrote grant requests that garnered funds from public and private agencies. The money came through, but within days of the project's implementation, Kauffman severely injured his leg, sending him back to the U.S. for reconstructive surgery. Another volunteer saw the project through.

Though now out of the Peace Corps, Kauffman saw a need to continue helping rural communities. This time, President Clinton's AmeriCorps program provided a way to employ him at a local level.

"This is an opportunity to do great things," Kauffman says of the program. Not only with the community benefit from the help, but he'll also have \$4,700 a year in student loans paid off for his effort.

The experience also is giving him an opportunity to return to his roots.

"I spent my formative years in college," he says. "I'm having to

relearn the community."

And, the community has changed in recent years. More people have moved in, and those involved in promoting projects have changed faces.

"I'm working on outreach now trying to get more people involved," he says. Most important is to get those willing to commit for at least a year of service involved in working toward meeting the community's goals.

The Community Response Team will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Illinois Valley High School.

AmeriCorps rebuilds trails, park shelters

By Patrick J. Sullivan
Leader Staff Writer

While President Clinton continues to defend his AmeriCorps youth service program in the face of a looming Republican budget-cutting ax, the federal program is getting things done on the Olympic Peninsula.

A 35-member AmeriCorps crew of young men and women in three months into a 10-month program to improve public recreation facilities in Jefferson and Clallam counties. The work includes Olympic National Park and Quilcene Ranger District trails and campgrounds, county parks and picnic shelters and a city park.

"When we look back over what we've done so far, it's been huge in just a quarter of the time we'll be here," said Jeff Parker, project coordinator employed by Northwest Youth Camp (NYC), an Oregon-based company contracted to manage the Olympic Peninsula program.

"The crews have developed a lot of new skills and we're doing projects that probably wouldn't get done otherwise," Parker said.

That's true, according to Dave Johnson of the Quilcene Ranger District's operations staff.

"The Forest Service no longer has a budget for extensive trail or campground or picnic area maintenance," Johnson admitted. "AmeriCorps is getting more done in one year than we

"We're doing projects that probably wouldn't get done otherwise."

*Jeff Parker,
project coordinator,
Northwest Youth Camp*

An unscheduled project earned crew members immense praise. Twenty-nine volunteered to help with flood control in December along the Quilcene River. Some worked a full shift on AmeriCorps projects and then spent eight more hours in rain and mud hoisting sandbags.

Campaign promise

President Clinton campaigned for the AmeriCorps program, initiated through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). AmeriCorps was funded for 1995-96, although Republican critics have already threatened

tuition and fees at any college, university or trade school. Each person has seven years to use or lose the grant, which may also be used to pay off an existing federal student loan. Interest on a student loan is deferred during a person's program participation.

Workers are also paid \$7,650, which works out to about \$4 an hour for the 1,700 net hours assigned to tasks.

Jefferson and Clallam county's respective park and recreation departments each provide at least \$25,000 (in-kind services, materials, equipment or money) while private sources are funding \$100,000 for work done in each county.

Fort Worden State Park personnel support the programs by making living quarters available. The National Forest Foundation (NFF) allocated \$50,000 to improve the barracks with new wiring, paint and carpet. Whidbey Island Naval Air Station donated surplus beds, dressers and other furnishings.

Barracks life

Some AmeriCorps members are moving into rental housing — which is allowed — so those remaining at the Fort Worden barracks have more space. Learning to live with people from different ethnic and personal backgrounds has been one of the program's good experiences, said Kevin Brockway, 30, a crew leader employed by NYC.

Portland, Oregon

JUNE 7, 1995

THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



PHOTO BY JULIE K. KAY

Working from the Ground Up

Amber Porter-Perifory, a first grader at Vernon Elementary, lends a hand to Robert Smith, a volunteer with AmeriCorps' EnviroCorps.

The two were part of a group of volunteers and Vernon students planting shrubs in Alberta Park recently.

Tuesday

November 29, 1994

Serving Oregon's Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Hood River counties and KI

Clinton project benefits college

■ The AmeriCorps project leaves its mark in The Dalles

By TOM STEVENSON
Managing Editor

There is much work to be done on the grounds of the new Columbia Gorge Community College campus.

Projects are backed up, waiting for the time, money and manpower to become available to get them done.

One of those projects — a new retaining wall that holds back a bank along the main driveway — has been done thanks to a cooperative agreement between the college and the new AmeriCorps Program.

The AmeriCorps Program was designed and implemented by President Clinton as an opportunity for those who want to go to college — but for financial reasons cannot afford to. Under the program's rules, participants sign up for a year, work on a number of different projects for a minimal weekly salary, and at the end of the year get a \$5,000 education voucher.

For many the commitment is one year, for others it can be two.

It takes quite a commitment for someone to step outside each day to work in all kinds of conditions, doing work to benefit the environment, all for only \$156 a week. There is a carrot dangling at the end, however, and it is that, along with an opportunity to learn many skills, that has attracted a wide assortment of people to the program, according to Jerry Gabay.

Gabay is the director of the Mt. Adams Center of the Northwest Service Academy, which is a part of the AmeriCorps program. He was on hand last week to watch six members of one of his three nine-person crews work on the



AMERICORPS IN ACTION — Brent Force (left) and Carl Lampman were two team members from the AmeriCorps Program who were working recently on a new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College. Both work through the Northwest Service Academy's Mt. Adams Center. (Staff photo by Tom Stevenson)

new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College.

"It is a diverse group," said Gabay. "We have three grandmothers in the program, and we have people right out of high school."

Under the guidelines of the AmeriCorps program, all of the projects the teams work on have to be environmentally related. The team that was working at CGCC had earlier been building a fence around a water project in

Washington before being snowed out. Near Estacada, they built about five miles of trail in the Mt. Hood National Forest. At the same time the crew was working in The Dalles, another group was

See AmeriCorps, page 7



THE WHOLE CREW — Crew members from the AmeriCorps Program who took part in building a new retaining wall at Columbia Gorge Community College include (from left) Christina Wellman, Jennifer Glowacki, Brent Force, Kim Pope, Carl Lampman, and John Duff, the Team Steward. (Staff photo by Tom Stevenson)

AmeriCorps

Continued from page 1

enhancing habitat for waterfowl on Wells Island at Hood River.

Yet another team recently finished working three weeks dismantling Hope's Place, a women's shelter in White Salmon that burned. The environmental connection there, Gabay noted, is that the new Hope's Place will be a solar building and will have a state-of-the-art recycling program.

The work is not easy, as Jennifer Glowacki, a recent high graduate from Timber noted.

"The work is hard," said Glowacki. "The first project we did was trail building and it took a lot out of you. But we got used to it, and we have a good time working together, so that helps."

Glowacki joked that the team had recently took a week off for training, and then moved to Columbia Gorge Community College to begin the latest project and the sore muscles quickly returned. But to her, it is certainly worth it.

"The scholarship at the end makes it all worth while," she said. "But I just graduated and this is giving me a chance to figure out what I want to do."

Carl Lampman, a 23-year-old from White Salmon, had worked construction since he graduated from high school, but has wanted to go to college to study engineering. It was his mother who handed him the application for the AmeriCorps program.

"If you're looking to further your education and looking for a challenge in your life, then I would say 'yes, do this,'" Lampman said. "It's also nice to know that what we're doing is

going to affect future generations."

John Duff, a 26-year-old former resident of the east coast who came to the program via Seattle, was the "team steward" on duty at the college. He was quick to note that the program was off to a good start.

"Things are going well," he said. "There have been a lot of things we had not anticipated, but that is part of it being the first year. What I'm enjoying seeing is the success people are having. They are sticking with the program, setting goals and reaching them."

Because he is a member of the actual "management staff," Duff will not get the \$5,000 education voucher at the end of the year. He said he chose to become a part of the AmeriCorps team because he "wanted to do something for the environment, something outdoors and to work with people."

"It's been a great experience so far," said Duff, who has his Bachelor's Degree in English and plans on furthering his education. "The dynamics of working in a group like this are really interesting."

Since the program began late last summer, only four people have dropped out, Gabay said. One was asked to leave, while the other three chose to depart for personal reasons.

The Northwest Service Academy is one of similar programs created as part of AmeriCorps. Some of those involved live on site at Trout Lake, and their room and board is deducted from their \$156 per week. Others live at home or in other private residences.

Those from the Mt. Adams

Center work throughout the Mid-Columbia region, and Gabay said he is hearing from a number of groups and agencies who are interested in having groups do work.

"We met (last week) with some people who want us to do some riparian work on Fifteen Mile Creek," Gabay said. "The BPA also wants us to do riparian work on other creeks. The Dufur Historical Society has talked to us. All of those are in the conceptual stage. We would also really like to do some work on the Riverfront Trail in The Dalles."

The projects being accomplished by those in AmeriCorps are quite likely projects that would not get done otherwise — at least not as quickly, Gabay noted.

"We are going out and working in the communities," said Gabay. "We hope people will see what can get done."

Those who have work done by AmeriCorps workers pay for it in various ways. In the case of the college, CGCC officials agreed to give tuition grants for participants of \$200 per day that the crew is working on the campus.

Gabay said that he is uncertain how the grants will be used, but different options are being explored, ranging from a class being taught to all in the Mt. Adams Center, to individuals getting further training.

"It is a cooperative effort that works," Gabay said.

The Northwest Service Academy is currently recruiting for new crew members to begin working in January. For additional information about the program contact Leigh Hancock at (509) 395-3467.

THE DALLES DAILY CHRONICLE
THE DALLES, OREGON
NOVEMBER 29, 1994

AmeriCorps stresses work ethic

Also provides college money

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — Eagle Point resident Melissa Powers, 20, gave up her job at a local pizza restaurant to join AmeriCorps.

"I want to earn some money to help me with college," she explained. "I want to get a degree in forestry and work outside."

Seattle resident Lynne Petersen, 21, who had been working as a nanny while going to college, was also looking to earn money to further her education.

"I wanted the discipline and the college education," she said. "Also, I wanted to learn a lot about the environment."

But there was another reason Petersen, who sports a thin silver nose ring, had for joining.

"I think it will be fun," she said with a grin.

The two were among the 38 young adults standing in the rain near the Star Gulch barracks in the Applegate Ranger District that will serve as their home base for the next 11 months.

The camp, which began Tuesday, will be administered by the Northwest Youth Corps in a partnership with the Rogue River National Forest. It is one of eight AmeriCorps camps that have been established in the nation.

Under the national service program created by President Clinton, participants receive up to \$7,500 per year in pay plus an educational award of \$4,725 at the end of the year to go toward college or trade school expenses.

During their tour, the coed group, ages 17 to 24, will learn career skills while doing tasks ranging from trail maintenance to construction projects.

The 38 participants come from as far as North Carolina and Minnesota, but most — nearly 30 — are from Oregon. They were among thousands of applicants who applied for AmeriCorps jobs across the country, and were selected based on their ex-



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

KNOTTY — Members of AmeriCorps practice a team-building technique, untying a human knot without letting go of each other's hands.

perience, enthusiasm and career goals.

"A youth program such as this is exactly what the forest is looking for," Rogue River Forest Supervisor Jim Gladen told the group. "This is just the thing we need to help our spirit."

Carl Lierman, 76, of Tigard, who worked for two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps that ran from 1933 to 1942, told the young crew that it is also what the nation needs.

In addition to teaching young people a good work ethic and providing training, it would also provide community service, he said.

"This is what our group (CCC

alumni) was hoping that Bill Clinton would do, something for you kids," he said.

In addition to working on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management projects, the AmeriCorps crew will assist communities such as Butte Falls and Prospect in a variety of civic chores. The communities have each received \$100,000 federal grants awarded through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative aimed at providing economic stability to Northwest timber-based communities.

"Our age group kind of gets a bad rap for being apathetic and lazy," said Dan Miller, 23, a crew leader who has bachelor's de-

grees in resource management and public policy. "This program gives us an opportunity to demonstrate that is not true."

The Star Gulch facility, which is still being spruced up for the crew, includes separate bunk houses for men and women, a dining hall, a recreation/meeting hall and a staff trailer. No drugs or alcohol will be allowed.

A husband and wife will cook dinner for the crew and help the crew prepare breakfast and lunch.

"We're stressing real health-oriented food," Miller said. "They are going to need healthy meals because we're going to be working them hard."

AmeriCorps no boondoggle in Butte Falls

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

BUTTE FALLS — Risa Huetter has a challenge for those in Congress contemplating cutting the budget for AmeriCorps.

"They should come out and work with us and see how hard we work," said the AmeriCorps member. "If they think what we're doing is stupid, then they don't know what's going on."

Congressional leaders, vowing to reduce federal spending, have questioned the merits of the \$580 million in funding for the 20,000-member national service corps. President Clinton, who touted the program in his state-of-the-union address last month, wants to expand the program.

Under the program, participants receive \$7,660 in living allowance during their 10-month tour, and a \$4,725 educational voucher to be used for college or trade-school tuition.

Since joining AmeriCorps last fall, Huetter, 19, of Ashland, and the other members based at the Rogue River National Forest have been cutting trails, planting trees, building erosion control projects, cleaning up after forest fires and working on various construction projects.

In the local community hall, built 40 years ago, AmeriCorps members are restoring the interior and adding a long awning over the entrance.

Over at the county branch library building, they have started building a storage shed. Plans also call for building an extension on the local fire hall. And they are rehabilitating restrooms in the nearby park.

Those projects are being financed by a \$100,000 grant received by Butte Falls through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative for timber-dependent communities. Prospect has received a similar grant.

Huetter, who was working on a ranch in Colorado before joining AmeriCorps, says the program allows young people to learn work skills and earn money for education.

"I've learned a lot of patience," she said, noting she intends to go to college upon completing the program. "I plan to go into architecture. I like doing construction. It's great to learn how things are put together."

Volunteer supervisor Bill Tucker, 65, former town marshal of Butte Falls, likes



Mail Tribune / Steve Johnson

Cisco Villastrivo, 19, works on the Butte Falls community center in an AmeriCorps project.

the way the program has come together.

"We're getting repairs that have been badly needed for years," Tucker said. "I honestly believe it's as good a program as you're going to get to help a community like this. There's no other way I can think of that this kind of work would get done."

"And they are great workers," he added. "As soon as they know what you want, they get right to it."

Tim Dodge, 21, of Cottage Grove, spent three years studying environmental science at Oregon State University before joining AmeriCorps.

"Probably one of the toughest things to do nowadays is to get a job straight out of

college," he said. "I wanted to get some work experience before completing my degree."

Dodge also wants doubters to visit an AmeriCorps work site.

"The best way to know what's going on is to get out here," he said. "It's hard to put down on paper what we're getting from this program. We're earning what we're getting."

Cisco Villastrivo, 19, of Woodburn, agreed.

"It keeps me out of trouble," he said of the program. "And I'm learning new stuff all the time."

Before joining AmeriCorps, he worked

in a glass factory.

"I want to go back to school," he said. "The only reason I'm not going to school now was that I didn't have the money. This program is really helping me out."

Laurel Alexanian, 20, of Spokane, who was painting a room inside the hall, was working in fast-food restaurants six months ago.

"I wanted to do something that had more of a purpose," she said, adding that she is interested in pursuing a career in wildlife biology or conservation.

"I like learning the different types of work," she said, adding, "It'll look good on my resume, too."

MEDFORD, OREGON
APRIL 25, 1995

First AmeriCorps worker to focus on water, sewage

By Barbara Hahn
Of the Daily Courier

Illinois Valley native returns after a stint in the Peace Corps

CAVE JUNCTION -- Rural development in a small town in the Dominican Republic has a lot in common with rural development in a small town in southwest Oregon.

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economic development, from the University of Oregon. Then, he joined the Peace Corps, helping rural Dominican Republic communities improve infrastructure.

Trained as a rural youth volunteer, due to his experience with Future Farmers of America and 4-H as a youngster, he was sent to the northwest corner of the small Caribbean island nation.

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The idea was simple enough: Capture rain water that falls from November through March via gutters attached to roofs, then store the water in cisterns for use later in the season.

Using system designs, Kauffman wrote grant requests that garnered funds from public and private agencies. The money came through, but within days of the project's implementation, Kauffman severely injured his leg, sending him back to the U.S. for reconstructive surgery. Another volunteer saw the project through.

Though now out of the Peace Corps, Kauffman saw a need to continue helping rural communities. This time, President Clinton's AmeriCorps program provided a way to employ him at a local level.

"This is an opportunity to do great things," Kauffman says of the program. Not only with the community benefit from the help, but he'll also have \$4,700 a year in student loans paid off for his effort.

The experience also is giving him an opportunity to return to his roots.

"I spent my formative years in college," he says. "I'm having to

relearn the community."

And, the community has changed in recent years. More people have moved in, and those involved in promoting projects have changed faces.

"I'm working on outreach now trying to get more people involved," he says. Most important is to get these willing to commit for at least a year of service involved in working toward meeting the community's goals.

The Community Response Team will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at Illinois Valley High School.

Mail Tribune

Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

Forest work camp to open in June

Youths get chance
at jobs in the woods

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

PROSPECT — A forest work camp for teenagers from timber-dependent communities in Oregon and northern California is set to open June 26.

The eight-week camp for 33 youths ages 16 to 19 will be the only one of its kind in Oregon, and officials say they're optimistic federal funding will be approved in June to expand it to year-round use.

It will be operated by the nonprofit Northwest Youth Corps at Camp Katydid, a former nursery owned by Boise Cascade Corp.

Patterned after the Civilian Conservation Corps camps of the Great Depression, the camp is a partnership project between the Eugene-based Youth Corps,

"A lot of the work they'll be doing are projects we've wanted to do for a long time but haven't had the work force or the funding."

— Tom Dew,
forest employee

Boise Cascade and the Rogue River National Forest.

"The program focuses on developing job skills," said Bill Murphy, a Northwest Youth Corps official who will serve as camp coordinator. "It's kind of a first step for many in that it gets them out into the real world."

Participants will be paid \$4.75 an hour, working 38 hours a week on forest projects that will include everything from developing recreation sites to improving wildlife habitat and clearing trails.

In addition to creating employment for youth, the camp will provide education while promoting teamwork, discipline, responsibility and self-confidence, he said. The youth crew will be divided into three teams of 11 workers.

A special effort is being made to recruit youth from communities hard-hit by the depressed timber industry, he added.

"Everyone who applies will be asked to fill out an application," Murphy said. "They will be judged solely on how much effort they put into the application."

After the work week, camp participants will spend weekends in recreational activities, including everything from fishing and hiking to playing volleyball and whitewater rafting.

Anyone interested in applying should call the Youth Corps at (503) 998-4830.

The eight-week camp will be funded by the Forest Service as part of a \$225,000 package that also includes the cost of the projects, said Tom Dew, a Rogue River

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Camp

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forest employee spearheading the effort.

"A lot of the work they'll be doing are projects we've wanted to do for a long time but haven't had the work force or the funding," Dew said.

Although the summer camp will end Aug. 20, Forest Service officials hope to turn it into a year-round facility as part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps program.

Under that program through

the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, youth working 1,700 hours — about 10 months — would be eligible for a \$5,000 college scholarship.

Some \$200,000 is expected to be available for the AmeriCorps project through President Clinton's economic adjustment initiative, Dew said, adding that a decision on the year-round camp is expected by June 1.

The facility is situated about 1½ miles west of Prospect.

CURRY COASTAL PILOT
BROOKINGS, OREGON
NOVEMBER 12, 1994

Chetco watershed qualifies for grants

By TRACY REED
Pilot Staff Writer

The Chetco River Watershed Council received the stamp of approval and qualified to apply for watershed money recently.

"You've jumped through all the hoops," said Lucie Giampaoli, president of the South-coast Coordinating Watershed Council.

"You are now officially recognized."

She said the council was qualified to submit projects for funding. Projects will be considered on Jan. 5 and April 6, she said. Proposals must reach the coordinating council by those dates to be considered for funding, she said.

Other discussions at the meeting were:

- Dave Morris explained his role as AmeriCorps representative, and described the Hire the Fishermen Program.

He said the program is intended to provide work to unemployed commercial salmon fishermen for conducting watershed restoration projects.

Funds available in Oregon total \$2.2 million. These will be used towards administrative costs (15 percent), wages, equipment costs, materials and training, and mileage reimbursement.

Salaries for fishermen are a minimum of \$12 per hour, he said.

- Gauging stations, assessment and action plans, and the technical advisory committee available to the watershed councils was discussed by Derek Godwin, watershed health extension

agent.

Godwin said he recommends the council write a letter supporting restoration of the Chetco River gauging station, and others. Measuring stream flow is essential to data gathering, so gauging stations are critical to every watershed council, he said.

- Mike Cosgrove reviewed some of the past projects completed by the Oregon South Coast Fishermen, Inc. over the past several years.

Volunteers have worked on habitat construction in Jack Creek, Hamilton Creek, and Joe Hall Creek, and operated stream side hatch sites at Hamilton and Joe Hall creeks. They have hauled in hatchery fry for seeding of West Coon Creek, Upper Quail Prairie, Boulder Creek

and upper North Fork of Chetco.

The group has also assisted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in several different programs, improved angler access roads, and placed aquariums in the local elementary school for education of children.

- Since this was the first meeting of the council with its official membership, it took care of the business of ratifying the membership categories, the mission statement and the by-laws, and elected officers.

The officers and their positions are: Steven Nicholson, president; Pat McVay, vice president; Mike Frazier, secretary; and Richard Calkins, treasurer.

Meeting times were changed to the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

MEDFORD, OREGON

AmeriCorps recruits youth for employment program in RRNF

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service projects that the Department will run on the Olympic National Forest near Port Townsend Washington and on the Rogue River National Forest near Medford Oregon starting in October, 1994.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for approximately 10 months earning a stipend of at least \$7,500 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

The 32 participants in the Olympic National Forest program and 35 participants in the Rogue River National Forest program will restore watersheds, restore streams to enhance fisheries habitat, complete habitat surveys, renovate developed recreation sites, construct and maintain trails and a host of

other natural resource projects.

Any citizen age 17 or older is eligible to apply for the program however it is anticipated that most participants will be between 18 and 23. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. Applications will be accepted until September 16.

To apply for the program or obtain more information, call Dave Johnson at (206) 765-3368 (Olympic National Forest), Mindy Martin at (503) 560-3404 (Rogue River National Forest) or the toll-free

national USDA AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urges all interested Americans to apply. Espy said "AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from increased ability to attend college or vocational school--good for the communities, which benefit from their services--and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic pride.

Mail Tribune

Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

MAIL TRIBUNE, MEDFORD, OREGON, JANUARY 11, 1995

Applegate release boosted

Water will cover some bridges by this afternoon

By BILL KETTLER
of the Mail Tribune

A rainstorm expected tonight could swell Rogue Valley rivers and streams, but forecasters said they expected less rain than the deluge earlier this week.

Several days of heavy rains prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release extra water from Applegate Lake today, as residents of the Rogue and Applegate valleys braced for more wet weather.

"I don't think we're going to have anything like the rain we had Monday," said David Spector, of the National Weather Service.

Since Sunday, a total of 1.26 inches of rain has been recorded at the Medford-Jackson County Airport, and a total of 4.42 inches in Grants Pass, according to the Weather Service.

Spector said several storms are expected to pass through the region by the weekend, bringing

Disasters drain Red Cross

Fire and flood emergencies are exhausting resources at the local American Red Cross chapter.

In addition to opening two evacuation shelters in Josephine County for flood victims this week, the organization has provided shelter, food, clothing and emergency medical assistance to six local families who have lost their homes to fires in the past 30 days, officials report.

Two local Red Cross volunteers were to leave late this

morning for the San Francisco area in an emergency resource vehicle to help flood victims in northern California, drawing further from local resources.

Contributions are urgently needed to help cover expenses, said Liz Knips, health director for the local chapter.

Contributors should make checks out to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and send to the American Red Cross Rogue Valley Chapter, 60 Hawthorne St., Medford, OR 97504.

For more information, call 779-3773.

snow to the mountains above 5,000 feet.

Releasing water now from Applegate Lake will allow the dam to continue to control potential flooding during the rest of the winter, said Ken Olson, project manager for the Corps' Lost Creek and Applegate dams.

Olson said flows in the Applegate River would rise to about 3,000 cubic feet per second by this

afternoon, covering some low-water bridges. He said water released from the dam may bring the Applegate near the top of its banks, but should not cause any flooding.

"We will not cause the river to get bigger than bank-full conditions," Olson said.

Olson said Applegate Dam controls flooding by collecting water

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Release

from Page 1A

during high streamflows and then gradually releasing it. He said flows into Applegate Lake briefly rose to 10,000 cubic feet per second on Monday, while the river flowed at just 1,660 cfs near Wilderville, downstream of the dam.

Olson said future weather will determine how long it will take to drain the lake down to its flood control height of 1,889 feet above sea level. The lake was 24 feet above the desired flood control level on Tuesday.

Releasing extra water at those levels probably will not cause problems for fish, according to Chuck Fustish, a fisheries biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

recalled that high water isolated his mobile home before the dam was built.

"The dam saved me," Christie said.

Olson said streamflow measurements this week showed far greater rainfall in the Applegate basin than the area drained by the upstream tributaries of the Rogue River. Rogue River flows into Lost Creek Lake increased only about 1,000 cfs on Monday, while flows into Applegate Lake were rising by up to 10,000 cfs.

Heavy rains in western Jackson County this week have triggered some erosion problems in the area

gist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Fustish said eggs of fall chinook salmon are incubating now in gravel along the river bottom. Those eggs could suffer if fine sediments and silt clog the gravel, but that would be unlikely unless streamflows rise to about 8,000 cubic feet per second, he said.

Several residents of the area below Applegate Dam said they preferred the minor inconvenience of high water to a full-blown flood.

"I would have water around this mobile home right now," said Thomas Christie, who lives on Lower Applegate Road. Christie

burned by the Hull Mountain fire last August. A crew from the newly created AmeriCorps national service program has been building erosion control structures in the burned area near Ramsey Road, north of Gold Hill, said Mindy Martin, of the Rogue River National Forest.

"The whole mountain is coming down," said Martin, who visited the 10-person work crew Tuesday.

Martin said the crew has built small "check dams" and other erosion control structures, trying to slow runoff on barren hillsides.

"It's a 10,000-acre mudhole," she said.

Mail Tribune

Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

Clinton's Forest Plan aids local timber towns

Prospect, Butte Falls will get money for civic projects

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

Butte Falls and Prospect are about to get major facelifts, thanks to two \$100,000 grants awarded through the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative.

The money, part of President Clinton's Forest Plan to help provide economic stability to northwest timber-based communities, will enable the communities to launch projects identified by community-originated strategic plans.

"We will be able to upgrade the existing facilities that are badly in need of repair, and to build a much needed addition to our fire hall," explained Tacey Hoban, a member of the Butte Falls town council and the Butte Falls Economic Development Commission.

Other projects include community hall renovation, restoration of park rest rooms, reroofing the library and making it handicapped accessible, building a library/museum storage room, sidewalks and repairing fences around the town perimeter.

"The townspeople are very enthusiastic about the projects planned," Hoban said, adding, "and

(they) intend to contribute their time, labor, effort and materials to bring this about."

In Prospect, the money will be used to install lighting and covered bleachers at the high school and community field, renovate Lions Park, complete the arboretum and construct and install visitor services signs along Highway 62.

Most of the labor for the projects will be supplied by the Rogue River National Forest's AmeriCorps workers, who begin training Tuesday, according to forest spokesman Tom Dew.

Most of the 40 participants in the 10-month local national service program hail from southern Oregon. Participants receive up to \$7,500 per year in pay plus an educational award of \$4,725 at the end of the year to go toward college expenses or to pay off school loans.

During their tour, the coed group, ages 17 to 24, will be housed in separate barracks in the old Star Gulch facility in the Applegate Ranger District. In past years, Jackson County had leased the site to use as a juvenile offender facility.

"Most of these projects are labor intensive,"

see GRANTS, Page 3A

Grants

from Page 1A

Dew said of the Butte Falls and Prospect projects. "They'll start doing those this winter."

This marks the first time the Forest Service has melded the new AmeriCorps program with its rural community assistance program, Dew observed.

"We're real excited about it," he said. "We're getting a real wide range of kids in the program. Some have had some college or are college graduates. But we also

have those who haven't completed high school. It's a neat idea to mix those groups."

The young people will learn career skills while doing tasks ranging from trail maintenance to construction projects.

Besides the Forest Service, entities helping in Butte Falls and Prospect include Pacific Power, Burrill Lumber Co., Prospect schools, Lions and Lioness Clubs, Prospect Community Improvement Association, Boise Cascade Corp. and Jackson County.

MORE THAN JUST A JOB

While earning college money, AmeriCorps crew provides a service, learns about hard work

By Doug O'Loughlin
of the Daily Courier

APPLIGATE — AmeriCorps members who spent Thursday digging out a pile of dirt after a landslide weren't just earning money for college and providing a service for neighbors of Thompson Creek, their supervisor says. They were also clearing up after their parent agency.

Bill Fleeger, supervising the 10-member AmeriCorps crew, said the landslide was probably caused by a clearcut done at least 10 years ago in the hills above a drainage ditch. The ditch takes water from Sturges Creek to Thompson Creek, but the landslide had blocked it.

"That was probably a (U.S.) Forest Service cut," said Fleeger. He works out of the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, part of the Forest Service.

"That makes this kind of ironic," Fleeger continued. His crew spent most of this week working on trails, but had a free day Thursday. So he sent the troops out after receiving a call from the neighborhood ditch association.

AmeriCorps is a federally funded public-service program established by Congress a year ago under the advice of President Clinton.

The Oregon part of the program started up in September, and an estimated 500 aspiring students across the state are taking part.

Enterprising workers between the ages of 18 and 25 can help their community and earn money for school through the program.

The Southern Oregon team works out of the Rogue River National Forest, and falls under the public land and environment part of AmeriCorps. Recent projects included surfacing a trail on Upper Table Rock in February.

Participants, about 35 total, work on a 10-month long pro-

Budget cuts loom

Some funding for the AmeriCorps program could be cut under part of a series of reactions going through Congress.

Julie McGregor, press secretary for Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said among spending reductions the Senate is considering, the AmeriCorps program could be cut back to the levels of the 1994 fiscal year. That means \$210 million out of the \$375 million budget could disappear.

Local AmeriCorps administrators said it was too early to say how the cuts would affect the program.

gram. During that time they live at the Star Ranger Station of the Applegate district.

They receive a stipend of \$7,660 and, at the end of their service, a \$4,725 "scholarship" slated to pay for future education or pay off a student loan.

For 20-year-old Amethyst Black of Medford the program means she can go to college, which she hopes to do in Texas sometime after completing her stint.

"I wasn't going to be able to get a job that would pay for school," Black said. "I didn't have any money at all to pay for school. I worked at IHOP and that wasn't going anywhere at all."

"Now I can go to school."

Another team member said he enjoyed finding out how to help the environment. Taking a break from clearing out the drainage ditch, John Maguire, a 24-year-old AmeriCorps member from North Carolina, said he was glad



AmeriCorps worker Robin Reed, 19, of Ashland, helps clear a landslide Thursday.

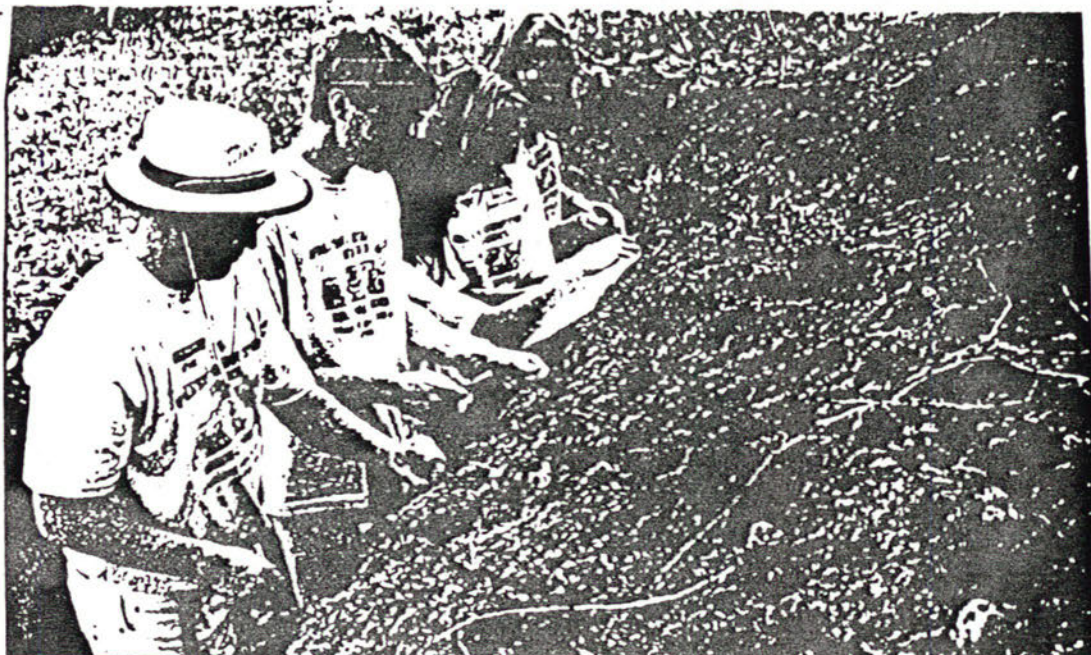
to provide water passage to keep fish alive.

"This is going to bring cooler water to lower areas," Maguire

said. "I didn't know about that stuff before, so I'm learning."

"I'm learning how to work hard, too. I know that for sure."

Maguire added "I think this program gives you a lot of discipline. It also gives you a real good work ethic."



Times-News photo — Ned Jilton II

A Sullivan Central team tests soil at the Envirothon at Sycamore Shoals State Park.

Envirothon tests nature knowledge

By LISA ELDRETH
Times-News Staff Writer

ELIZABETHTON — Sullivan Central senior Sara Everett examined a handful of soil at Wednesday's Envirothon competition before she helped her team come up with an answer.

The hands-on outdoor competition involved 15 teams from area high schools.

"I've just always liked nature and the environment," said Everett, a member of Central's ESP (Environmental Student Protectors) Club.

Envirothon tests students' knowledge in five areas: forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and a current environmental issue. This year's issue was groundwater.

Students spend 25 minutes in each area, answering written multiple choice questions and identifying plants, trees and other objects. Each team fills out one answer sheet.

The team from South Greene High School won first place and will compete in the state contest in May. Second place went to one of the two teams competing from Hampton High School. And the FFA Club team from Cloudland High School took third place.

"It's peaceful to be outside, and I'm concerned about the environment," said Jessica Stowell, a sophomore on Sullivan South's team. The team was made up of members of the school's Environmental Awareness Club.

The aquatics' questions were the toughest, competitors agreed. Sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority's Clean Water Initiative, the questions included mapping a watershed.

The Tennessee Division of Forestry sponsored the forestry questions, which included the identification of five different tree varie-

ties.

For the wildlife questions, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency had various items on display — such as traps, pelts, skulls and feathers — that students had to answer questions about.

"I think there is a problem with the environment, and people don't realize that," said Heather Seay, a junior at South. "I want to try to help rather than sit around and do nothing."

As a project, the club tests the water quality of streams near the school. Also, a recycling day is planned Saturday at South for area residents to bring paper and aluminum to the school between noon and 4 p.m.

"The club's purpose is to make people more aware of environmental issues," said senior Jason Phipps.

South's team also included Spicey Gould, a senior, and Amy Haase, a junior. Club adviser is biology teacher Dee Eiklor.

Recycling has been promoted by the ESP Club at Central for about five years — so much so that even the cafeteria grease is recycled, said English teacher Nancy Shackelford, club adviser.

Team members Tina Kyte, Sara Weaver, Jeffrey Kiser, Gabe Anderson and Everett, all seniors, spent time reviewing sample questions sent to schools about the Envirothon to help prepare them for the contest.

Billie Barlow, Americorps National Service member, helped recruit Envirothon teams. Barlow works with the Appalachian-Northeast Tennessee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, which has coordinated the local Envirothon for the past two years.

AmeriCorps provides opportunity to help

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

As the little girl handed Samuel Shore a homemade get well card made from a folded paper plate, she asked, "Could you please give this to my papaw?"

Shore immediately took the card to her grandfather, a patient in the critical care ward at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home.

Shore is one of the 300 AmeriCorps volunteers working in Tennessee's urban and rural communities. As a 47-year-old man preparing to study for the ministry, Shore is almost twice as old as the average AmeriCorps participant.

Half of the AmeriCorps workers are 21 to 29 years old, with one quarter 20 years and under and the remainder 30 and over. Most have had some college or a bachelor's degree and more than half—64 percent—are women.

"The only requirement for AmeriCorps is that they be at least 17 years old and an American citizen," said Carol White, Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service executive director.

What the AmeriCorps workers do depends on what the leadership of the community considers a priority, Ms. White said. This includes promoting tourism, attracting industry, improving housing or working in existing programs.

In Knoxville, AmeriCorps is reducing violence in inner cities by working with Head Start students who display violent tendencies at an early age. AmeriCorps workers in Nashville are developing health care programs for at-risk families and senior citizens.

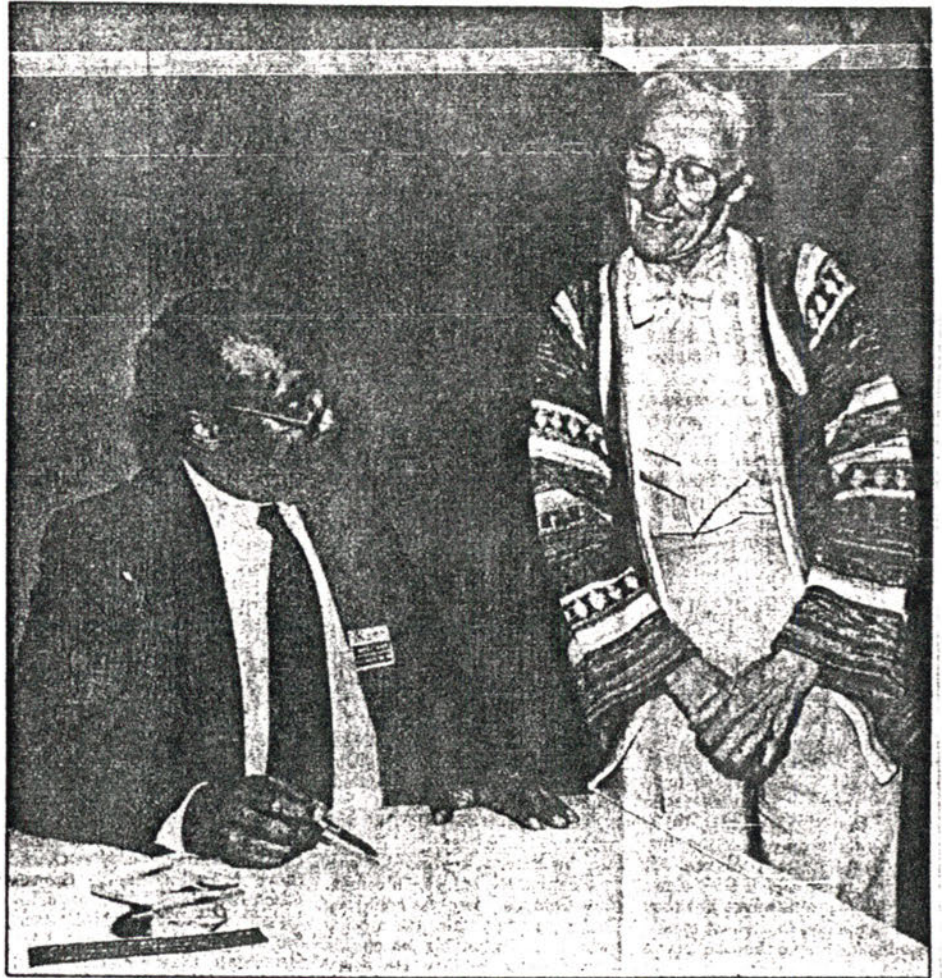
"And in Memphis, AmeriCorps workers are working to break the cycle of child abuse," Ms. White said. "AmeriCorps workers all across the state are working in environmental education and economic development."

Like AmeriCorps members in other communities, Shore wears more than one hat. In addition to his work with families of critically ill patients at Mountain Home, he is updating the community services directory at the First Tennessee Development District Area Agency on Aging.

Shore is partnered with Robert Hamm, an AmeriCorps volunteer based in Johnson County. Hamm, 53, who also works at the VA intensive care unit waiting room, does some work for Habitat for Humanity and the Haven of Mercy.

Hamm became an AmeriCorps worker after his small business shut down and his 20-year job at Burlington Industries ended. He wanted to graduate from college, but said he also wanted to serve the community.

"I understood I could help others by helping myself," Hamm



Staff Photo by Eddie LeSueur

Samuel Shore, left, helps Mary Miller at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center

said. "This has been the most rewarding and fulfilling thing I've done since I was in the military."

Nationwide, AmeriCorps' 20,000 participants work in communities for \$6,200 in salary and living expenses and, if they complete a nine-month tour, are awarded \$4,725 for college.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees AmeriCorps, received \$575 million in funding this year. Like many other job training and education programs, AmeriCorps may be eliminated in the efforts to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

There are seven AmeriCorps workers with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic and Community Development Council, all of whom are stationed in Upper East Tennessee, said Jeff Powell, council spokesman.

Powell, who is based in Nashville, said the workers are in this region because so many of the counties here are below the poverty level.

The USDA Rural Development Team is recruited from people who grew up in this area. According to an AmeriCorps brochure, planners hope this will empower communities to develop local leadership and to reverse the "rural brain drain."

Amy Crumley, a 22-year-old Jonesborough resident, says she'd been a 4-H volunteer and Future Farmers of America member since she was in fourth grade. As an AmeriCorps worker, she was a primary organizer of the recent Envirothon for high school students and the Conservation Field Day for elementary school students.

"I really enjoy doing things for other people," she said.

AmeriCorps volunteers like Ms. Crumley are required to work a total of 1,812 hours in order to receive the educational assistantship. This must take at least nine months but no more than one year.

Paperwork within the agency is kept to a minimum. Each AmeriCorps member is required

to submit a quarterly report stating the goals of each project and what is being done to meet those goals.

A service learning grant provided by the National Service Corp. allowed East Tennessee State University, Milligan College and Northeast State Community College to each offer a three-credit class called "Introduction to Community Service."

Billie Barlow, a former journalist from Charlottesville, Va., is working on a "Hidden Heroines" project for the ETSU Center for Appalachian Studies.

The project involves collecting oral histories from Upper East Tennessee women who somehow changed their communities for the better, Ms. Barlow said, and has also written a grant proposal for the cranberry project in Shady Valley.

"I was attracted to the national service movement," Ms. Barlow said. "I felt that a number of people could really make a difference."

HERALD-CITIZEN
COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE
NOVEMBER 10, 1994

Recycling program airs here Tuesday

The annual meeting of the Cookeville-Putnam County Clean Commission will feature a program by AmeriCorps on recycling and solid waste management.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 5:15 p.m. at the new recycling center on E. 21st Street.

AmeriCorps is a volunteer organization similar to the Peace Corps on a domestic level. It is administered through the US Soil Conservation Service.

Americorps will present hands-on activities for kids and their parents, demonstrations, displays and literature on recycling and composting.

For more information, call 526-8434.

Clinch Powell Development Council employing AmeriCorps participants

RUTLEDGE — The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council has employed six AmeriCorps Participants.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows young people to earn money for school and loan repayments while serving critical needs in their communities. The Clinch-Powell RC&D AmeriCorps are sponsored by the United States Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to aid the rural community.

The positions they are filling are Environmental Education,

Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist, Recycling Specialist and a Specialty Recreation and Tourism team. Participants will be working in the five counties served by the Council. Those counties include Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union.

Sarah Buchanan is serving as the Environmental Education coordinator. Buchanan will work in the schools conducting various programs and activities which include solid waste education, a clean water program, Conservation Camp, Environment and Teacher Inservice Workshops. Other activities will include newsletters to area schools, publicity of the environmental education program and the environmental resource library maintained by the council. Buchanan holds a BS degree in Agriculture Communications.

Liz Upchurch is serving as the Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist. Duties will include developing exhibits and displays, assisting solid waste boards, education and a promotion campaign to increase recycling and waste reduction, development of a Buy Recycled campaign and integration with the Keep America Beautiful coordinator and environmental education activities. Upchurch is a recent University of Tennessee graduate in Geography.

Mikhail Delong, Mary Russell and Jeremy Williams are serving as the Specialty Recreation and Tourism Team. While serving these individuals will be evaluating and

establishing a tourism base for the five counties served by the council. The formation of a regional advisory committee for the project and working with established tourism committees will be the basis of developing a long range tourism development plan. Russell and Williams hold MS degrees in Geography from UT and Delong is a geography graduate from U.T.

Steve Karnitz will be serving as Recycling Specialist for the Recycling Marketing Cooperative for East Tennessee, RMCEF, located in Knoxville serves thirty-four East Tennessee counties. Karnitz will be working on the inventory and database management of recycling programs, program design and materials management.

Recruitment of members and education of the public concerning market and promotions of recycling in terms of solid waste management will also be addressed by the participant. Karnitz is a Tennessee Technological University graduate in chemical engineering.

AmeriCorps participants are assigned to work 1812 hours and are eligible to serve for two years. Call the RC&D office at 828-5927 or 828-8354 to find out more about the AmeriCorps program.

"The AmeriCorps program is helping RC&D to meet important needs in the communities we serve. The talents of the AmeriCorps workers and their dedication to community service is an exciting addition to our programs," reports Lindy Turner, RC&D Coordinator.

Smyth County NEWS

MIDWEEK EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1994

MARION, VIRGINIA

Riverwalk planner coordinating grand vision

Service program will benefit conservancy

By DON SIMMONS JR., Staff

A downtown focal point where families can enjoy the beauty of Marion's own river and an educational and therapeutic tool that can be used by schools, civic groups and health facilities in the community—this is Mindy Clark's vision for the Grassroots Conservancy's Riverwalk.

The three-mile riverwalk path, which extends from beyond the old ice plant in South Marion, past the town swimming pool and along Campbell Avenue almost to the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute, is one of the first recipients of the benefits of Bill Clinton's AmeriCorps service.

Clark is part of a four-member AmeriCorps team headquartered in Wytheville. The team is assisting a variety of projects, but Clark's work will be concentrated on the riverwalk. Working out of office space donated by Bill Huber of Echols-Sparger, Clark's job is to manage the overall riverwalk project, design features for the project and to assist in negotiating easements to connect the riverwalk's three phases. She has nine-12 months to do this.

Originally from a rural community in New Hampshire, Clark holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture



Don Simmons Jr.

Mindy Clark works on preliminary sketches for the Wilderness Road Park section of Marion's three-mile riverwalk.

from Montana State University with a focus in landscape design.

With only six weeks on the job, Clark has spent most of her time familiarizing

herself with the existing features of the riverwalk.

"It's already a beautiful trail," she says. "My job will be to see exactly what people are looking for in the river-

walk. A lot of times people have assumptions that they don't communicate. I'll try to coordinate everyone's ideas and present a plan which meets their needs as closely as possible."

Soon Clark will distribute a survey to members of the Grassroots Conservancy, but she says she welcomes other input as well. There are numerous possibilities, maybe even including space for a community theater near Riverbend Park. There have also been discussions about re-stocking the river with trout.

"The goal of the trail is to serve the community as a whole," she noted.

Concurrently with her work on the riverwalk, Clark is also helping her AmeriCorps team members in a tree identification project along the riverwalk. The information gathered will be used on educational tours by Marion Middle School students and other schools in the county.

The riverwalk is divided into three parts. Phase one runs from Riverbend Park near the old ice plant to the railroad trestle at Church Street. One of the most scenic parts of the walk, this phase features the old dam and ice plant, a variety of trees and wildflowers and a quiet, removed atmosphere in the middle of downtown Marion. Clark is suggesting the addition of markers with information about the various vegetation and wildlife along the trail. Benches for quiet repose are also being considered.

Once at the trestle, walkers must now take to the street until they reach the town swimming pool, but one of Clark's tasks is to attempt to negotiate easements (or rights-of-way) so that

■ See CLARK, Page A8

AmeriCorps team begins its service in region

By ANDY KEGLEY/Staff

Take four individuals with diverse backgrounds, add their strong interest in conservation and public service, and then meld them into members of the new rural development and conservation team in Southwest Virginia.

The result: one of the newest AmeriCorps teams—the new national service initiative pushed by President Bill Clinton to tackle a wide range of critical needs across the nation. As envisioned, over 100,000 people will eventually be put to work solving a multitude of problems, and in return, receiving living stipends, health insurance, child care and an educational allowance for their

one or two year service.

This particular four member team headquartered in Wytheville (a fifth member has yet to be brought on board), falls under the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development wing, and will be specifically answerable to the New River/Highlands Resource Conservation and Development district.

As explained by Gary Boring, director of the NR/H RC&D, when the president's program was announced earlier this year, the local forestry committee applied for a grant to staff five positions to assist in the overall marketing of timber, but with the goal of enhancing the existing soil erosion and conservation programs.

And now, since this team was sworn in a Nashville ceremony Sept. 18 along with approximately 2,000 other AmeriCorps volunteers from a five-state area, the members are busily defining their tasks, and becoming familiar with new terminology and bureaucracy.

Audrey Biggs, Adrienne Perkins, Mindy Clark and Delton Alderman bring diverse backgrounds of communications, forestry and horticulture to their newly created positions. Three of the four hold degrees from Virginia Tech, while Clark completed a horticulture program at Montana State University in Bozeman.

As the team, they will be spend one day a week working out of Clark's Marion office, where their focus will be on a tree

identification program along the town's three-mile long Riverwalk and Greenway project. That project has received two other state grants, one of \$100,000 from the state Commonwealth Transportation Board's ISTEA program; and another from the Division of Forestry's Urban Forestry program. With Clark's expertise in landscape architecture, the project can move forward.

Clark may also be available to localities in the service region, to assist with park planning, Boring noted.

Separately, the team members have their own responsibilities throughout the NR/HRC&D to implement aspects of conservation.

■ See AMERICORPS, Page A11

Riverwalk provides class without blackboards

Trail merged with science curriculums

By GLENNA ELLEDGE/Staff

Marion's Riverwalk is going to school. Literally. On April 20, as part of a training session, the principal and teachers of Marion Primary School walked the Riverwalk that has been turned into an outdoor classroom.

The idea for a Riverwalk began on a Sunday afternoon three years ago when Shirley Blackwell, Martha Copenhaver, Jimmy Blackwell and Dal Brown walked the bank along the Middle Fork of the Holston River. The four were walking on a path that had been created by sewer line installation to the old waste water treatment plant. In the spring, when native trees and plants are in full bloom, the scenery in this area is beautiful, the water is clear as it rushes along and there is an audible roar as the river water spills over the old dam works. The magical environment could be wonderful to have a walk along the river all the way through Marion.

Toward this goal the Grassroots Conservancy was formed. The group took their idea to the Marion Town Council and gained support.

A drive to clean up the river bed was initiated. Boy Scout Troops, area businesses and interested citizens responded. When layers of asphalt were removed

from the streets of Marion prior to repaving, the removed gravel was recycled and used to create a walkway in the Riverbend Park portion of the riverwalk.

The Conservancy group began small: by cleaning up the river water and banks along Brunswick Lane, past the town swimming pool and recreation area and in the Riverbend Park area located in the vicinity of the old waste storage treatment plant. Tons of trash and debris were removed. Boy Scout Troops and youths involved in the summer Jobs Training Program Act (JTPA) worked hundreds of hours on the project.

In an effort to expand the program, on August 1, 1993 the Conservancy group applied for a matching grant under the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). They received \$80,000 from ISTEA. A private citizen pledged \$10,000 and the town another \$10,000 toward the required \$20,000 in matching funds. With this funding, Mindy Clark of Adwolve was hired as a temporary, full-time, coordinator for the riverwalk project.

Conservancy was awarded a second grant under the Urban and Community Assistance Act. This funding made a tie-in possible with the President's National Service Initiative and opportunities for Public Service.

The availability of this funding provided the services of Audrey Biggs, James Pratt, Adrienne Perkins and Delton Alderman through AmeriCorp.

Under the umbrella of the President's National Service Initiative and opportunities for Public Service Act, AmeriCorp is a group that provides invaluable services toward community development projects. Graduating college students may sign up to work with community enhancement and improvement projects through Amer-



TRAIL BLAZERS: AmeriCorp workers discuss a plan of action. From left are Mindy Clark, Delton Alderman, James Pratt, Adrienne Perkins and Audrey Biggs.

Glenna Elledge

iCorp. AmeriCorp assigns positions on specific projects. These positions are time-limited and require completion of 1,812 hours in community service. The time it takes to complete the required man hours may not exceed 12 months, nor involve less than nine months of service. The average is 10 months. Each position is paid a living stipend. Upon completion of the contract, AmeriCorp pays \$4,725 toward an existing educational loan. Under existing regulations, this

sum may be paid directly to the college or to the loan authority.

Clark, Biggs, Pratt, Perkins and Alderman developed the idea of turning the Marion Riverwalk into an outdoor classroom. Conservancy members approved and School Superintendent Marvin Winters was contacted. Winters not only endorsed the idea, he offered to put the AmeriCorp group in touch with the people they needed to talk with to get the idea up and going.

Eighteen species of trees native to the area were identified along the riverwalk. Information, pictures, graphs, identification marks and patterns related to each species was keyed into a computer system. An instruction booklet slowly developed. This booklet includes instructions for the teacher, definitions of the different terms used, pictures of each tree identified on the trail, a key to identifying the different types of trees, and a com-

■ See TRAIL, Page B12

Teaching class outdoors

■ TRAIL, from Page B1

plete description with additional information on each identified tree.

The booklet was then submitted to an AmeriCorp supervisor for editing of the technical information. AmeriCorp members talked with local business and government leaders to explain what they were doing and the progress being made. The booklet was submitted to the printer. Students at the Smyth County Vocational School cut and shaped posts. Students at Marion Primary and Elementary Schools stained the posts and painted in orange an identifying number on each. Youth with the JTPA planted the posts along the riverwalk trail. AmeriCorp members affixed atop each post the appropriate tree identifying plaque and a stripe of blue paint was placed

at the base of the tree being identified. Each post identifies the blue marked tree that is close to it. The plaques also provide additional information about that particular species.

According to Clark, the tree identification classes will not be taught as an individual course.

Teachers at Marion Primary, Elementary, Middle School and High School will be incorporating, on a volunteer basis, the material in such subjects as English, art, biology, botany, science and other related subjects.

"In addition," Clark explained, "the teachers will be able to bring the students to the riverwalk and the outdoor classroom so the students may experience first-hand the material they have been studying."

As they worked on the Marion Riverwalk project, AmeriCorp

members were also working on projects involving up to 17 other counties. Audrey Biggs explained that the group was required to select one of these projects as a core project on which all of them would be involved together. The Marion Riverwalk was their core project, she said.

Other members of the group explained that as the core program, they were required to work as a group at least one full day each week on the project. Pratt explained that they did this and more. Often, he said, as they worked on other community enhancement projects they would be composing the graphics for the Marion Riverwalk.

The riverwalk that began as an idea, has grown to become an outdoor classroom, and now has the potential for expanding to include all of Smyth County. □

AmeriCorps works for people and communities

By BRIAN SEALS/Staff

Audrey Biggs says that at one time the thought of sitting down and talking to a government official intimidated her. Although she earned a master's degree in communication from Radford University, dealing with government agencies was not one of her strong points.

That was before her experience as an AmeriCorps worker began about eight months ago.

"I'm a lot less intimidated in dealing with a municipal structure," Biggs said.

Part of her service has been to help organize meetings and events for agencies such as the Resource Conservation and Development, the Grassroots Conservancy and the Middle Fork of the Holston River Water Committee. She has also aided those organizations in writing press releases and speeches. This has not only given her practical experience in her field, it has allowed her to help communities such as Marion and Wytheville.

That's the goal of the AmeriCorps program — allowing individuals to perform public service while gaining experience and money to pay for college.

Joel Berg, AmeriCorps program manager from Washington, was in Marion

Thursday to see what the program has meant to the town. "You can't understand what's going on in the country sitting behind a desk," Berg said.

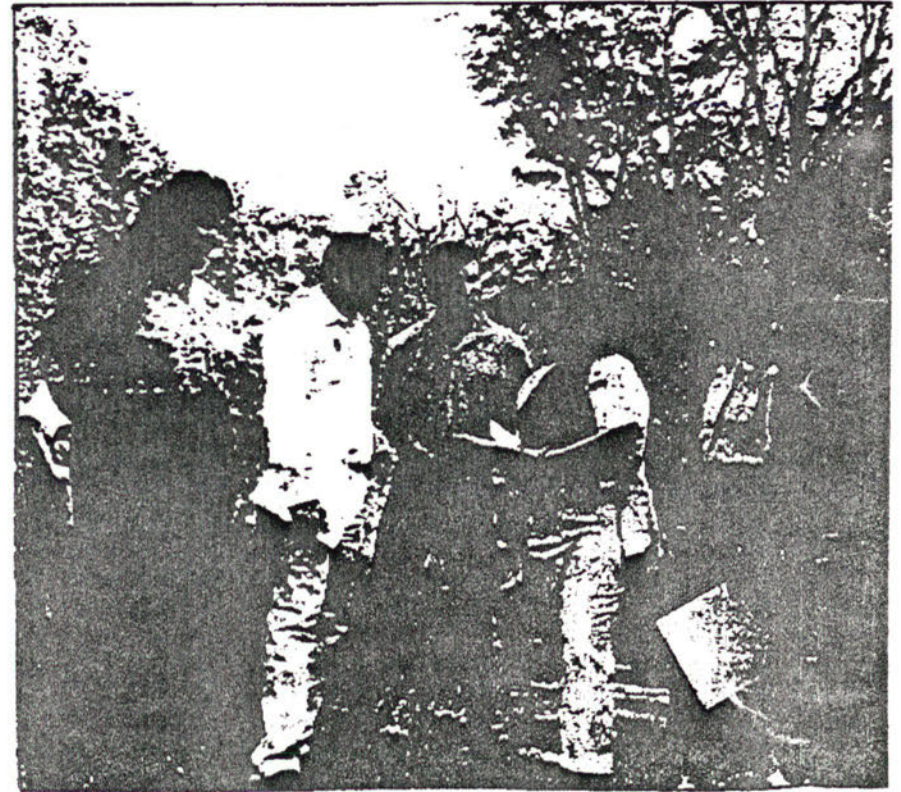
So he has been on a nine-day jaunt through Appalachia inspecting projects the program's members have been involved with.

Locally, AmeriCorps members work out of the New River-Highlands Resource Conservation and Development office in Wytheville. Biggs is one of five AmeriCorps members in that office. These members have worked on projects benefiting local communities. In Marion, the group has spent numerous hours helping the Grassroots Conservancy develop the Riverwalk along the Middle Fork of the Holston River. Mindy Clark, who serves in the program, drew plans for the walk and worked to involve local schools with the walk through an outdoor classroom project along the trail.

This is one of the needs the program addresses. "Everywhere I've gone, the program is working very well," Berg told about a dozen people gathered at the Riverwalk. "It's not make-work. It's doing the things the community needs."

It's a program that will likely need

■ See CORPS. Page A12



Adrienne Perkins, Joel Berg, James Pratt, Audrey Biggs, Mindy Clark, and Delton Alderman review the Riverwalk plan.

AmeriCorp team takes to field

■ **FIELD**, from A1
from Radford, and had been working in a management position in Harrisonburg when she learned of the AmeriCorps program. "The initial attraction? This allows me to utilize my degree to its best potential. Plus, it allows me to give back some of what we've gotten. If Uncle Sam helped us out (in student loans), I have no problem giving back to him."

Biggs will also develop four newsletters specifically targeting watershed groups in the region, including the Middle Fork of the Holston in Smyth County, Little Reed Island Creek in Wythe and Pulaski counties, Little River in Floyd, and Chestnut Creek in the Galax area.

Also bringing a communications background and degree to the team, Perkins will be serving as Forest Economics Specialist. "No," she says, "I don't have any background in forest economics, but that's why they hired me. They told me when they hired me they would train me in forestry, but they wanted my expertise in communications," said the 1992 Tech graduate.

Perkins will serve as a liaison between the forest industry, producers, and local governments, and how local forest resources can most efficiently be marketed. "I've been going to planning meetings of the Appalachian Hardwood Expo in Princeton," she noted, "and will be working on publicity."

Alderman brings over a dozen years of practical private forestry consulting to his job as Forest Engineer. After working out of his home in Mt. Airy, N.C., he says he had gotten of that aspect of the industry, and was interested in "learning something new."

His specific task is assisting with

the design and construction of low cost, low value timber bridges, "to take advantage of what there's a lot of in this area." The main benefit for timber bridges will be to loggers, who won't have to worry about stream crossings when bringing logs out of the forest. In turn, stream conservation and soil erosion will be protected, and loggers won't be in violation of state mandated Best Management Practices.

There are no timber bridges in this area yet, Alderman said, but he hopes to find some suitable cooperators to build demonstration projects on soon. The bridges are constructed by laminating timbers together, and are capable of holding a tractor-trailer load, 80,000 pounds, across spans of 20 to 40 feet. He will also be working on the dry hydrant program offered by the RC&D, and is encouraging fire chiefs to apply for grants before a December 1 deadline.

Alderman is also the tree expert on the Greenway project, and will be contributing more technical work on growth rates potential along the trail. "There is some old growth along the river, and some huge red and white oaks dead from recent droughts," he observed.

Because the local AmeriCorps team has strong a forestry emphasis, the Jefferson National Forest is cooperating in support of the team as well. The public relations office of JNF is providing video equipment for the team to film various forest facilities and recreational areas, which will then be edited into a promotional video. The equipment will also be used for assisting with the Marion Greenway project and the tree identification educational program. □

AmeriCorps team takes to the field and woods

By ANDY KEGLEY/Staff

This is the first of a series of articles on new programs, personnel and changes coming to the local field offices and programs affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture, as a result of the federal department's recently approved reorganization.

Take four individuals with diverse backgrounds, add their strong interest in conservation and public service, and then meld them into members of the new rural development and conservation team in Southwest Virginia.

The result: one of the newest AmeriCorps team—the new national service initiative pushed by President Bill Clinton to tackle a wide range of critical needs across the nation. As envisioned, over 100,000 people will eventually be put to work solving a multitude of problems, and in return, receiving living stipends, health insurance, child care and an educational allowance for their one or two year service.

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program was announced earlier this year, the local forestry committee applied for a grant to staff five positions to assist in the overall marketing of timber, but with the goal of enhancing the existing soil erosion and conservation programs.

And now, since this team was sworn in a Nashville ceremony Sept. 18 along with approximately 2,000 other AmeriCorps volunteers from a five-state area, the members are busily defining their tasks, and becoming familiar with new terminology and bureaucracy.

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Clark may also be available to localities



Don Simmons

TEAMWORK: The four new AmeriCorps service volunteers working out of the Wytheville office of the New River/Highlands Resource Conservation and Development district. From left, Audrey Biggs, Mindy Clark, Delton Alderman and Adrienne Perkins, stand in front of a section of the Riverwalk project they will be collaborating on in Marion.

in the service region, to assist with park planning, Boring noted.

Separately, the team members have their own responsibilities throughout the NR/HRC&D to implement aspects of conservation.

Biggs, for example, will serve as Outreach Coordinator, predominantly working in the 11 county region of the NR/

HRC&D, developing quarterly newsletters and press releases. "Basically, I will be working to improve the community's knowledge of the programs available," and more specifically, "whatever affects soil conservation or forestry in the area."

She earned an English degree from Tech, plus a Master's in communications

■ See FIELD, A2



Recruitment for AmeriCorps National Service

Are you interested in financial assistance toward a college education in exchange for community service? If so, then working in the AmeriCorps National Service project may be just what you're looking for. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced July 13, that recruiting has begun in Virginia for six positions that will start in September.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of \$12,000 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

Two positions are open in each location of Keysville, Tappahannock, and Wytheville. USDA's Soil Conservation Service will administer the program through its Resource Conservation and Development Councils in these areas. Work in landscape architecture, public relations, and outdoor recreation are just some of the opportunities available.

College level experience is required—a college degree is preferred. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. Applications will be accepted until Aug. 5, 1994.

To apply for the program or for more information, call the program coordinator in your area or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urged all interested to apply.

opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school—good for communities, which benefit from their service—and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic spirit."

THE VOICE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
JULY 20, 1994

NEW RIVER CURRENT

NOV. 2, 1994

Roanoke Times & World-News

VC



ALAN KIM/Staff

AmeriCorps volunteer Kristi Grass: "I'm doing something good, which makes me feel good," says the Radford University graduate student, 21, about her service on behalf of people with multiple sclerosis.

It pays to volunteer

By CRYSTAL CHAPPELL
STAFF WRITER

Kristi Grass has volunteered before, but her work in AmeriCorps is different. She is working for a cause that hits close to home — and pays off her college loan.

Grass, of Blacksburg, is volunteering with the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, helping people who have a disease that has affected her own friends and family. In return, she will receive \$2,363 for her education.

Five Southwest Virginians are enlisted in AmeriCorps, part of the Clinton administration's national service initiative aimed primarily at the nation's young people. About 15,000 people nationwide have been working in 330 programs since the national kickoff Sept. 12.

In Virginia, 132 members ranging in age from 17 to 36 are tutoring, rebuilding public housing, working with runaway and homeless youth and coordinating projects. Virginia has seven state-operated grants and is involved in at

PLEASE SEE **SERVICE/7**



COMPLETE BRIDGE WORK— From left, Brian Bates, Americorp historian, Kathryn St. John, chairman of the Historical Staunton River Foundation, park manager Jim Zanarini and Doug Spencer, Americorp landscape architect, look over the work on the new pedestrian deck at the Staunton River railroad bridge at the Fort Hill Battlefield. The park, a joint private, public venture between Virginia, Virginia Power, ODEC and the Historical Staunton River Foundation. The park will grow by 80 acres when it officially opens June 10 and Virginia Power and ODEC turn over the additional acreage. The park will include an eight tenths of a mile walking trail across the river to Randolph. The new pedestrian platform the bridge was built by park service personnel. (David Conner II photos)



Riverwalk festivities set to mark tree i.d. program

By BRIAN SEALS/Staff

For the past few months volunteers have been sprucing up an area around the Middle Fork of the Holston River in Marion.

They've been identifying species of trees along the river and setting up posts identifying and giving information about those trees.

On April 22, the Grassroots Conservancy will unveil the fruits of labor completed thus far in establishing the Riverwalk.

The event will be part of a ceremony at Riverbend Park to present this completed portion of the project to the community. Guided tours of the .6-mile section of the trail will be conducted, information booths will be set up and the "Impact Monster" will be attending. The portion is one of three sections of trail that will eventually be connected. Parking for the event is available at the Marion town pool on Chilhowie Street and shuttle service will be provided to the festival from there. Activities begin at 11 a.m.

"This event is designed to introduce people to the Riverwalk, to show them the progress we've made and to celebrate our completion of the Tree Identification lab," said Grassroots Conservan-

cy President Shirley Blackwell. "More than 40 trees have been identified and cataloged by markers along the trail. It's a great opportunity to come out and enjoy the day enjoying nature at its finest."

A Day on the trail ...

WHEN: Saturday, April 22.

WHAT: Riverwalk Tree Identification Ceremony and Field Day.

TIME: 11 A.M.

WHERE: Riverbend Park; parking and shuttle service available at town pool.

ADMISSION: Free

Activities will include conservation and information booths, special programs with historian Mack Sturgill and Conservancy member Lawrence Richardson and a photographic interpretation of the trail.

Tree identification signs mark the various species of trees and foliage found along the river, according to Mindy Clark, an AmeriCorps member assisting the Conservancy with the project. Conservancy members placed the markers with the assistance of several

community agencies such as scout troops and youth groups. AmeriCorps members assisted by workers with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Virginia Department of Forestry have worked past Saturdays to help place the markers. Incorporated into the trail will be a program for public schools to use the identifications as part of an "outdoor classroom." Teachers helped the Conservancy in developing a Tree Identification Guide which will be used in the program.

Also, an informational kiosk was recently raised near the town swimming pool. This kiosk will serve as a sort of centerpiece of the trail and offer information about the walk and community events.

Funding for the tree identification portion of the trail was funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry. Implementation of the plans will be aided by a \$115,000 grant through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA). This money will be used to upgrade the trail and make the trail handicap accessible.

The Conservancy formed in 1992, was chartered in May 1993.

SMYTH COUNTY NEWS
MARION, VIRGINIA
APRIL 14, 1995

W E D N E S D A Y

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THE  STATE

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 15, 1994

AmeriCorps volunteers lend a hand in Midlands

By MICHELLE R. DAVIS
and KAY GORDON
Staff Writers

Amy Overstreet, 22, graduated from college and had no idea what to do with her life. James Holland, 54, a retired U.S. Army major, was teaching life science at an alternative school until it closed.

Both opted to join the ranks of AmeriCorps — President Clinton's pet project that he has dubbed the domestic Peace Corps.

IS PROGRAM WORTH PRICE? B6

Overstreet and Holland are part of a five-member team working in South Carolina on rural development projects under

AmeriCorps. This week, two teams spent time in Richland and Lexington counties improving dry fire hydrants and inspecting dams.

Several South Carolina groups fall under the AmeriCorps umbrella, including City Year and the National Civilian Conservation Corps. In return for a living stipend and an educational grant, AmeriCorps members work on community projects. The 11-month program began in September.

"Our effort is to reach out to rural communities where county governments do not have staff for some projects," said Jim Wilson, AmeriCorps coordinator and district conservationist in Columbia. Among other tasks, groups have analyzed water samples, done grassland surveys



TIM DOMINICK/THE STATE

AmeriCorps volunteers James Holland and Amy Overstreet complete work on a dry fire hydrant in rural Richland County.

and mapped roads for 911 systems. The rural-development AmeriCorps project is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Statewide, four five-member teams are bas

PLEASE SEE **AMERICORPS** PAGE 1



TIM DOMINICK/THE STATE

Sherell Stevens, left, and Susan Miller, both AmeriCorps volunteers, brave the rain to check out a dam in rural Lexington County. They're taking part in a three-week program to inspect more than 80 dams in the county.

THE STATE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, FEBRUARY 15, 1995

AMERICORPS

FROM PAGE B1

in Greenwood and Newberry counties.

Sometimes Sherell Stevens has to scramble over fences to get to the water's edge and the dam she is inspecting in rural Lexington County. She checks her map, makes notes and laughs at quacking ducks as they waddle away.

In all kinds of weather, driving down dirt and farm-to-market roads, Stevens and four others continue their three-week project to inspect 83 low-hazard dams — structures located where a failure could cause minimal damage.

Low-hazard dam inspections

take place every three years.

Information the team gathers will be passed to the Department of Health and Environmental Control's Dam and Reservoir Safety Section, said AmeriCorps project leader Susan Miller.

The teams inspect the dams for signs of erosion to make sure water is flowing properly and the spillways aren't clogged. Stevens, Miller, Angi Paulus, Chris Bever and team leader Chad Weston inspect six to eight dams a day.

The data are used to update dam-ownership records and to determine which dams need to be upgraded. The information also will help communities around dams, should the structures break.

For their 11 months of work, these AmeriCorps members receive \$12,000 a year in living expenses and a scholarship of \$4,765.

But what they take away from the experience goes far beyond money, said Overstreet, who will be sent to the Ivory Coast in Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer in August.

"AmeriCorps has given me a smooth transition into the real world," said Overstreet, who was an English major at Wofford College. "I was really scared when I graduated. I wasn't ready to find a career because there wasn't anything I loved."

The program taught Overstreet that with some basic training she can tackle just about anything —

including computer research, scientific testing and carpentry.

It also put her in touch with people who have varied backgrounds and experiences.

"We purposely chose some older people to give us diversity, maturity and leadership," Wilson said. "We feel like the balance of diversity has strengthened our team."

Holland, the retired Army major, read about the AmeriCorps program in a retiree magazine.

"At first I said, 'I've had a career; I don't need one anymore,'" Holland said. "But I'm not ready to sit on the front porch."

Holland is manager for the group's dry fire hydrant project. The hydrants are actually pipes

near ponds and lakes in rural areas that allow emergency vehicles to pump water and transport it to fire scenes.

The state's goal is to have a dry fire hydrant every three miles in rural areas. To do that, 2,500 hydrants are needed and 700 have already been purchased.

AmeriCorps volunteers are painting the hydrants bright red to be seen easily and posting signs around them. When work on the hydrants is finished, homeowners nearby will have their insurance premiums lowered.

"This has given me hope for myself," Overstreet said. "I have seen a kind of beauty in people working together and getting things done."

THE AIKEN STANDARD
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA
JULY 8, 1995

The Aiken Standard, Aiken, S.C., Saturday, July 8, 1995 Page 3A

Volunteers Lend Hand In Aiken Spruce-Up

By BRIAN NEILL

Parts of Aiken will get a sprucing up over the next week thanks to a joint, volunteer effort between Americorps and the Aiken Department of Public Safety's IMPACT program.

Volunteers were busy Friday clearing overgrown shrubs and raking leaves around Schofield Middle School. Additional Americorps volunteers from Columbia are expected to arrive in the early part of next week to begin work on an octagonal-shaped

butterfly garden at Gyles Park.

Most of the those taking part in Friday's cleanup were enrolled in the ADPS IMPACT program, which provides community involvement opportunities for students considered at risk.

Despite the intense heat, the students worked diligently carrying wheelbarrows full of shrub trimmings and leaves to a pile near the front of the school.

"I like helping out and it's fun," said 14-year-old Anthony Rouse, a student at Schofield Middle School.

Travis Williams, 14, said he volunteered his time "just to have something to do."

James H. Holland, an Americorps team leader and Aiken resident, was helping to oversee the effort.

"We have specialized in conservation projects," Holland said. "This is sort of a pet project."

David Holcomb, an Americorps horticulturalist, proudly displayed a diagram of the Gyles Park project. The new butterfly park will be divided into sections

by railroad ties and will contain various bushes known to attract butterflies, as well as a variety of perennials, Holcomb said.

The Americorps project was initiated by President Bill Clinton in the fall of 1993 and is administered under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In exchange for 1,800 hours of community service, participants receive a \$12,000 living stipend for an 11-month period and also receive \$4,725 for student loans or tuition, Holcomb said.

AmeriCorps Assists School District

Have you ever wondered how much work goes into producing the food we eat everyday?

Most of us know where these products come from but have no idea how the process works. Have you ever seen how a gallon of milk or a dozen eggs get from the animals to the store and to your table?

The local AmeriCorps volunteers are working with the Newberry School District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on an agricultural curriculum for teachers.

This project is centered around the agricultural activities of Newberry County. The AmeriCorps volunteers are taking inventory at participating farms in the county to identify aspects that could be used as educational teaching materials in environmental and agricultural education.

The USDA volunteers are laying the foundation for teachers to learn about the workings of an agricultural setting. The purpose of this project is to find what activities and practices found on a farm are worth the leaders of tomorrow learning and understanding.

The volunteers are headed by Karen Kinard, the AmeriCorps leader for the farm teacher curriculum. The idea is to set up a program for select teachers to go through an agricultural training period to better understand the farming process and establish a working curriculum for other teachers to utilize.

The AmeriCorps team is taking inventory at participating farms in the county to identify aspects that could be used as teaching materials in agricultural and environmental education. The volunteers are also setting up a working agricultural resource library of available materials from numerous sources for future utilization by teachers.

The field data compiled by the volunteers from Newberry County farms will be used by the school district to create the new curriculum. A handful of teachers will take the raw data and organize an agricultural program, for other teachers to go through to adequately teach the farm curriculum.

After enough teachers have completed the program and begin to incorporate some of the material into their classes, field trips to the area farms will give the students a chance to see first-hand how the food we so often take for granted, gets to our table.

The teaching curriculum will include many aspects of environmental education and conservation techniques used to protect the quality of our existing environment for future generations. The importance of environmental education is being realized throughout the world and can be seen in everyday life. That's why we all, especially our children, need to learn and understand how processes that affect our environment work and what can be done to protect and hopefully, rebuild what we still have.

AmeriCorps Continues Work With Watershed

BY KIMBERLY M. JOHNSON

YOUR COMMUNITY AT WORK
AmeriCorps continues its commitment to rural South Carolina.

The Newberry Team II members (Amy Overstreet, James Holland, Jay Henderson, Mary Roe and Angela Brinkley) use a computer program to identify non-point source pollution in the Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

To identify potential solutions for the problem areas, team members place data such as soil type, land slope and land use into the AGNPS (Agricultural Non-point Source) computer model.

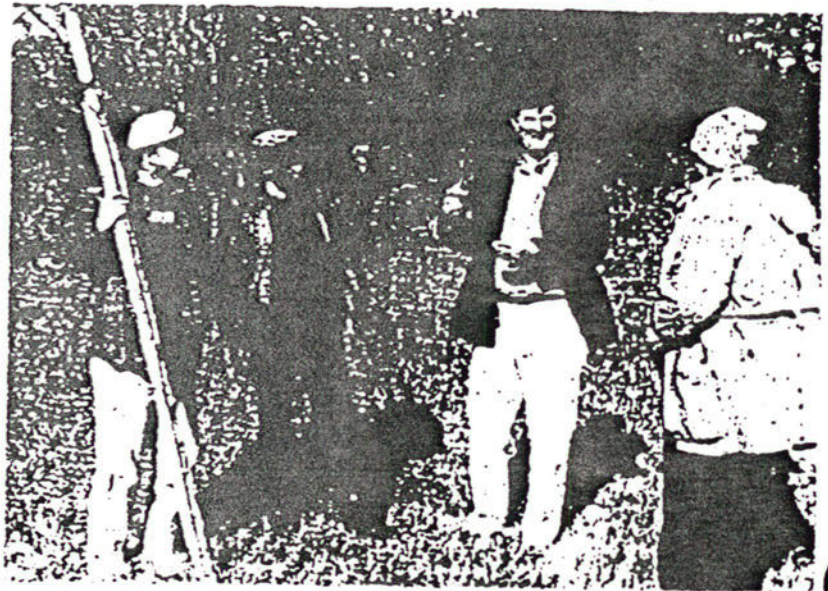
The model simulates conditions at all points within the watershed.

The AGNPS program actually runs a watershed model and spatially interprets the results.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will use the model of the two subwatersheds to pinpoint problems within the overall Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

The team has created a Lotus spreadsheet for inputting data from SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) water monitoring station. The information has been accumulating over the years and has not been analyzed.

As a result of the spreadsheet,



Newberry Team II, AmeriCorps, members receive technical training from supervisor Jim Wilson, center. Pictured, from left, are: Jay Henderson, James Holland, Jim Wilson and Mary Roe.

the data can be graphed and comparison studies can be made in order to illustrate trends and patterns over the years.

Aerial photos, topography maps, as well as a clinometer which measures the land slope percentage are some of the instruments and equipment used by the team.

As Holland and Roe use the equipment in the field, they have placed a premium on their outdoor experiences.

Holland enjoys the physical landscape such as the hillsides, the change of seasons and the well-managed farms. "For farmers, the work is right there...they live within the workplace," he said.

Roe feels a greater appreciation for the environment.

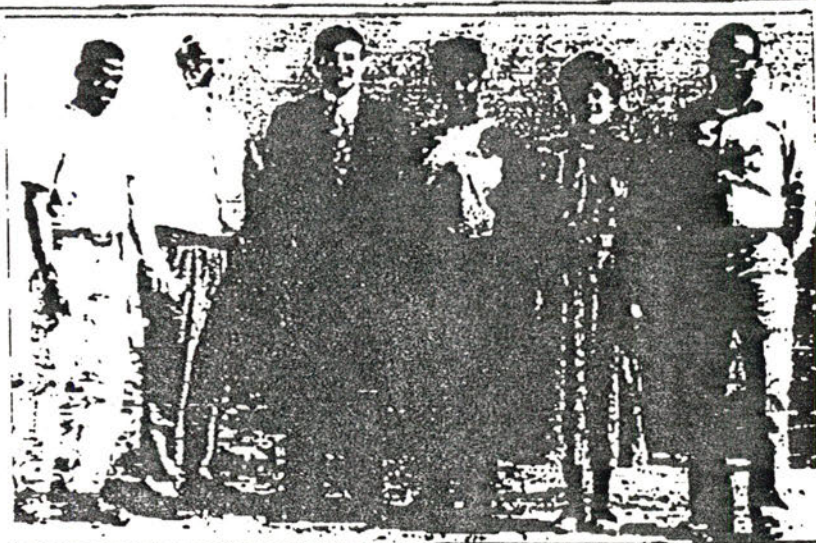
She recalls watching a PBS program about mammoths. Roe marveled how she could relate to various subjects in the program to her AmeriCorps work.

Devising a plan to cross a creek and trying to pry a canoe out of mud are some memorable tales for Amy Overstreet. Overstreet works primarily with computer data entry. She looks forward to increasing her field time.

Call 321-6222, to learn more about the team's current project.

THE NEWS
KINGSTREE, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 14, 1995

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A JOINT EFFORT enabled Williamsburg Academy to receive some new plants for the school campus. Williamsburg First National Bank donated the plants, Williamsburg Soil and Water Conservation District provided technical assistance, and local Americorps members supplied labor. Pictured from left to right are Americorps member Michael Busby, WA Headmaster Larry Berry, Alan Chandler of Williamsburg First National Bank, Americorps member Kendra Williams, June Holliday of Williamsburg First National Bank, and Willie Humphrey of the U.S. Forest Service.

Santee is scene for Americorps

By Barry Wood
Editor

Volunteers from across the state met in Santee yesterday for a two-day conference of Americorps workers and administrators. This was not a sit-down meeting. While service projects went on throughout the little town on Lake Marion, National USDA Americorps Director Joel Berg took a break from cutting the grass around Town Hall to speak to this reporter.

"This program," said Berg of Americorps, "meets the Jesse test. From Helms to Jackson, politicians approve of what's being done.

"These folks are doing great stuff. They help with 911 implementation, housing improvement, enterprise communities and a host of other projects."

Americorps is a federal program begun by President Clinton in which people volunteer their services for up to two years. They work at community projects, and in exchange receive a monthly stipend, as well as up to \$9,400 for college tuition. Locally, Gloria Richardson is working, as an Americorps volunteer, with the Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community (EOCEC).

"This program," said Berg, "is about getting things done. It produces concrete results for the community. It brings together all aspects of the community and bridges divisions. It teaches personal responsibility and provides people with an opportunity. It's a common sense program that works."

Of South Carolina's Americorps program, Berg was enthusiastic.

"Yours is among the best-functioning programs in the country. I urge you to look into it - see for yourself that it works."

Berg added a personal note on the late Josephine High, who was an Americorps worker with the EOCEC.

"I offer my deep regrets," he said, "for the passing of Josephine High. While I didn't know her personally, I understand that her work with Americorps was simply a continuation of her life's work."

Jim Wilson, project coordinator in South Carolina for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, told the *Observer* that Americorps is "a domestic peace corps." In fact, the program's \$500 million budget and 18,000 volunteers make it bigger than the Peace Corps ever was.

"Local counties come up with proposals," said Wilson, "for community improvement. Some 90 percent of it is physical work, and around 80 percent of our volunteers have college educations. They provide hands-on labor, as well as assessments, like grasslands inventories or stream coding. In return, these folks are able to work with professionals, to get exposure in a number of career possibilities. We rotate team leaders so that all are able to plan, organize and delegate.

"Workers learn to complete a project. They plan, and then produce tangible results. But most of all, they have developed a sincere desire for community service. All of them have their hearts in the right place."

The USDA Americorps meeting continues today at Santee State Park

Team focuses on curriculum

By KRISTY EPPLEY
Staff Writer

John Morgan feels like he's "getting a new job every couple of weeks" working with AmeriCorps.

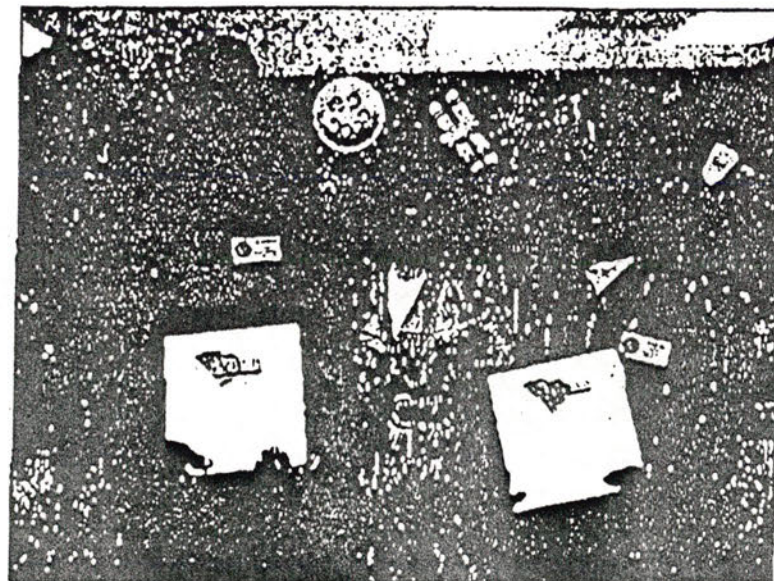
In recent weeks, his five-member, Newberry-based team has been in Columbia evaluating an environmental curriculum, Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow, created by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The team's purpose was to provide a cost analysis of materials and ideas for parallel resources. They also critiqued the lessons and suggested changes to make them flow more smoothly.

The curriculum is designed to emphasize all aspects of recycling and its importance to future generations. Teachers who want to use the 120-lesson curriculum must complete a training session. So far, 2,750 teachers in 75 school districts have been trained.

Every few weeks, the AmeriCorps team completes a project and is assigned a new one. In addition to the curriculum analysis, they have done grassland surveys, constructed nature trails, beautified parks, initiated 911 conversions, tutored and taught.

An upcoming project includes



KRISTY EPPLEY/THE STATE

AmeriCorps members, from left, John Morgan, Madeline Cislo and Diggs Hill Jr., with copies of environmental curriculum. They worked with a class that made mural behind them with recycled products.

building a barn that will become a petting zoo at Camp Spearhead, a Greenville-area camp for handicapped children.

AmeriCorps, a national program implemented by President Bill Clinton, has 20,000 members nationwide and offers a variety of programs, including education, conservation, drug prevention and law enforcement. It has been referred to as a "domestic Peace Corps."

The South Carolina Ameri-

Corps, dubbed the Rural Development Team and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to designing and implementing programs that will improve the quality of rural life in the state. The 20 members of the S.C. team are divided into four groups, with five members each. Two of the teams are located in Newberry, and two in Greenwood.

"I learned a lot about conservation practices" as a part of the

Rural Development Team, said Diggs Hill Jr., a student at South Carolina State University. "It's a lot of fun," he said.

The main goal of the overall program is personal development. Madeline Cislo, a Midlands Technical College student and a team member, said the program is designed to "build us as people." She said the program not only taught her how to be a leader, but how to be a follower as well.

Members are selected through an application and interview process. Any legal U.S. citizen 17 years of age or older who has successfully completed two or more years of college may apply. This year's team members ranged in age from 20 to 60.

Participants receive a living allowance of \$12,000 a year, health and child care benefits if needed and an education award of \$4,725 for each term of service up to two terms. The education award may be used to pay back student loans or to continue education.

Members work 40 or more hours a week for nine months to a year to complete a minimum of 1,812 hours of community service.

To apply for AmeriCorps or for more information, call 253-3977. The application deadline for the 1995-96 term of service is July 7.

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STUDENTS WORK WITH
AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS

Americorps Visits Gallman To Assist Students' Project

By John E. Morgan III

The Americorps volunteers of the Newberry Water Quality team spent Thursday, Nov. 3, at Gallman Elementary.

The Americorps representatives were working with Ms. Billie Burton, the 4th and 5th grade science teacher for the past six years, on an outdoor garden for her science class. The outdoor garden was constructed with donated crossties from CSX and topsoil purchased from Willingham and Son's Building Supply with money provisioned from The Peak Institute LAWN (Learning Agriculture Within Nature) Project.

This money was given because of a grant written by four Gallman teachers: Ms. Billie Burton, Mrs.

Anne Folk, Mrs. Jane Bagwell, and the 4-H Coordinator Mrs. Marie Bussey.

The Americorps volunteers will be conducting on-going environmental education programs with the students in the coming year, including the construction of an on-site nature trail, beautifying the school grounds by planting donated perennials and flowering shrubs, and assisting with environmental training in the classroom.

The school would like to thank CSX for the crossties, Georgia Pacific for landscaping wood chips, Wicker's Greenhouse and Nursery for bedding plants, and Leavell Azalea Farm for donating 100 azaleas. The Americorps group will be helping the

children do the work, promote teamwork, and hopefully increase their desire to learn new things.

The Americorps volunteers would like to thank the following Gallman fifth grade students for their participation in building the outdoor gardening beds on Thursday: Preston Bates, Zachary Pitts, Bruce McClurkin, Lyndell Jackson, Bryant Jeffrey, Calvin Dewalt, Mariel Clark, Stuart Turner, Johnathon Crumton, Ashley Brooks, David Bailey, Martin Sims, Sloan Garrison, Kenzie Hill, Rebecca Hamilton, B. J. Bennett, Lashawnda Deshields, Trevor Gibson, and Ruth Parr.

Abby Gage, an Americorps volunteer, said, "The degree of enthusiasm from the students was inspiring."

Tina Wright-Swinton committed to serve Marion County community through AmeriCorps pilot program

MARION COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By TODD SHIFFLET
Star & Enterprise

Tina Wright-Swinton is young, energetic and she wants to help. Even more, she has promised to get things done.

AmeriCorps, a pilot program initiated by the Clinton Administration, is allowing Mrs. Wright-Swinton the opportunity to serve her community. She can serve a one-year term of community service and for her commitment, receive money to pay off a college loan or tuition.

She is the AmeriCorps representative for Marion County and will be assisting low-to-moderate income individuals in the county to upgrade their housing. She will also be assisting school-age children in after-school programs.

"I'll be going door-to-door finding out exactly what's happening in Marion County. It's an outreach program to target low and moderate income housing residents. And I will be working at the Marion Student Enrichment Center with students in grades one to eight - to do well in school - as mentor and tutor," said Mrs. Wright-Swinton, 26.

A conservative estimate identifies over three percent of the households in Marion County with no plumbing. This is three times the national average. Marion County has one of the highest levels of sub-standard housing in South Carolina, according to her project and mission statement for Marion County.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton said she will be working with the Farmers' Home Administration as an outreach person. She will be identifying those residential homes which are in financial need and connecting them with programs which can help. She also plans to initiate an educational service for the program so that housing improvements will be long-term.

"A lot of people in rural Marion County are not apt for change,"

she said. "The challenge is going to be finding and connecting with the people out there who need resources... helping people find out what programs are out there."

She said she will primarily be working with identifying residents and connecting them with loans and other assistance programs provided by FmHA, but will also be working with the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration, Marion County government, Marion County community service and the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments. Agencies which will be helping with assistance include the FmHA, Habitat for Humanity and various other housing and urban development programs. Some of her resources include the Clemson Extension Service, the Marion County Planning Department and Marion School District 1, she said.

"I have a lot of ideas, but it's going to be difficult for one person to take on the whole community. Once I find out what specific problems there are and identify the people, I know I'm going to need the support of others. It's going to be a lot of work and a lot of challenges," Mrs. Wright-Swinton said.

She is excited and determined by the challenge. She has gone through a number of training courses with the FmHA and AmeriCorps and plans to be effective in her service.

"I think it's an excellent program - community service to pay for an education. I know I am a people-person, and having an opportunity to interact and help somebody makes me feel really blessed," she said.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton said her AmeriCorps colleagues in different counties in the country are concentrating on different projects. Each county has its own specific priority. Counties in South Carolina which have the advantage of an AmeriCorps representative include Allendale, Denmark, Orangeburg, Santee/Lynches

and the Williamsburg/Lake City area, she said.

Mrs. Wright-Swinton is also excited about working with students out of the Marion Student Enrichment Center. The center is a local non-profit agency made up of retired educators and high school volunteers. She will be working

AMERICORPS PLEDGE

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member. And I'm going to get things done.

to stem the tide of high school drop-outs in Marion County, and nurturing their desire for an education.

A Marion native, Mrs. Wright-Swinton will receive a living allowance for her one year of service, plus an educational award. She is a graduate of Coastal Carolina University with a degree in Business Administration. She has worked with the Department of Social Services, the South Carolina Employment Commission and Fleet Funding, all of which relate to her AmeriCorps service position.

Marion County Administrator Pete Rogers will act as her supervisor.

Anyone seeking more information about AmeriCorps can call 1-800-880-4183

Saluda County clears 911 hurdle

*Identifying roads
first step to service*

By KAY GORDON
Staff Writer

A giant step has been taken toward a 911 emergency service system in Saluda County, now that all the county's roads have been identified.

But the service is at least 18 months away.

That's how long it will be before the county is in a position to ask telephone companies to begin work on the system, said Paul Potts, chairman of the county Planning Commission.

But the county is on the right track.

Recently, a Natural Resources Conservation Service AmeriCorps team of volunteers spent three weeks identifying all of the county's named and unnamed roads. They developed cross references by names and numbers. Then, they made copies of the tax maps and identified road names on the maps and the property numbers.

The five-member team also noted new roads that were not marked on the 1968 highway maps they used.

The end product was an updated map of the county in four sections.

Accurate and updated road maps are critical to establishing a 911 system, Potts said. To qualify for 911, at least 80 percent of the roads must be named.

A county committee is naming the roads, but hundreds still have no names, team members said.

"We don't even come close to 80 percent being named," Potts said. "We're working toward that. There's a major push to get that completed. Then, roads have to be numbered."

The seven-member, all-volunteer planning commission asked the AmeriCorps team to inventory the roads.

AmeriCorps is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Projects are based on community-identified needs.

"They had the time and vehicles and computers," Potts said. "We're getting ready to ask them to help with indexing — numbering of streets and roads, which will lead to a numbered address as opposed to a route and box number."

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative to

address critical education, human service and environmental needs in communities.

**To qualify for 911, at least
80 percent of the roads
must be named.**

Several AmeriCorps projects are underway in South Carolina. The one for rural development in South Carolina is sponsored by the USDA/Natural Resources Conser-

vation Service.

Project area counties include Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, McCormick, Lexington, Saluda, Edgefield and Aiken. The teams, which began in September, will work on various projects in rural counties for the rest of the year.

The South Carolina Rural Development AmeriCorps project has four five-member teams, with 10 in Greenwood County and 10 in Newberry County.

A Newberry team conducted the recent project in Saluda County. It also has done projects in other areas, including building outdoor learning centers, developing related lesson plans, and water quality sampling.

NEWBERRY OBSERVER
NEWBERRY, SOUTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 12, 1995

Water Quality Becomes Americorps Priority In Newberry County

Once again, Newberry County is on the cutting edge of conservation techniques and efforts because of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the new Americorps volunteer water quality team.

Americorps is President Clinton's National Service Initiative that launched September 12, with 20,000 young men and women being sworn in nationwide. The Americorps water quality team consists of five men and women dedicated to community service with an emphasis on conservation ideals.

This team, based in Newberry at 1114 Caldwell Street, will be working closely with the SCS during the next year.

The water quality project will be aimed at non-point source pollution in Newberry County. This project is the first of its kind in the United States and will be used as a model for the rest of the country.

The Americorps team will be working in conjunction with the SCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The project concentrates on 16 Newberry County farms that are participating. Soil sampling of DHEC approved fields, and wastewater sampling of livestock lagoons from each farm will be the initial steps of this conservation action.

From these soil and water tests, the Americorps team will derive a rate for wastewater application as organic fertilizer on the DHEC approved fields. The SCS will oversee application processes using the Soil and Water Conservation District's state-of-the-art spreader, to be rotated between participating farms for application purposes. Demonstration of this new process and machinery will be held at a designated farm in mid-November.



Team Members: John Morgan, Madeline Cislo, Karen Kinard, Abby Gage and Diggs Hill.

wants the "opportunity to make a difference in our surrounding communities" while serving in Americorps.

*Team Administrator Madeline S. Cislo resides in Hopkins. She presently attends the Airport Campus of Midlands Technical College and is specializing in Medical Laboratory Technologies. For Madeline, Americorps is her way to "learn more about South Carolina's environmental status and to become more involved with community service."

*Transportation Captain Diggs Hill Jr. comes from Greenville. He is currently attending South Carolina State University and majoring in Marketing. For Diggs, Americorps is his chance to "learn more about Rural America and to help communities" in South Carolina.

*Public relations coordinator John E. Morgan III hails from Society Hill. He recently received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aquaculture Fisheries Wildlife Biology from Clemson University. Morgan, while working for from Clemson University. Morgan, while working for Americorps, plans to "diversify his environmental knowledge and skills, promote conservation efforts, improve community living, and increase community involvement and awareness in development projects" in rural South Carolina.

The final results of this project are aimed at providing a valuable service that will have a positive impact on the environment as well as the county involved.

Through sampling and applying this effluent as organic fertilizer, the team hopes to drastically cut the farmers' cost and reduce the threat of non-point source pollution caused by improper waste management and chemical fertilizer residue to the fragile watershed areas of Newberry County. From this project, the team hopes to educate and increase the awareness of Newberry County residents on the aspects of non-point source pollution and conservation practices to prevent such environmental hazards.

The Newberry Americorps water quality team is dedicated to community service and doing the finest conservation work possible to enhance the quality of Newberry County and the reputation of the National Americorps volunteer program.

Anyone interested in this program and would like more information, call the Americorps office (321-6226 or 321-6222) or the Newberry County SCS office (276-0032). Members of the team working in Newberry are:

*Team leader Abigail Ann (Abby) Gage of Cleveland, S.C. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and a masters in environmental management. For Abby, Americorps is a chance "to develop her leadership ability and gain new skills to help in the environmental

THE PRESS AND BANNER
ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
MARCH 8, 1995

AmeriCorps doing road inventory in preparation for E-911 set-up

By Henry E. Green

AmeriCorps is launching this week a project which is expected to help pave the way for the establishment of the E-911 emergency response system in Abbeville County.

A team of this nationwide service corp will be working on a project to complete the first phase of 911 implementation.

"We will ride every road in the county, taking road inventory—

signage, road type, landmarks, fire districts," said AmeriCorps project leader Angi Paulus.

AmeriCorps will be looking to see whether there is more than one resident on a road, she said.

If there is more than one resident on a road or driveway, it has to be named.

"We are just doing road inventory," Paulus said. "When we are finished, Phase Two (addressing) will

begin."

The team members are Paulus, Chad Weston, Chris Bover, Susan Miller, Sherrill Stevens.

The project, which she said Abbeville County Council is sponsoring, takes in three weeks, extending from March 6 to March 23.

Glenn Breed, director of public management with Upper Savannah Council of Governments, will provide technical support.

Breed said Thursday that the mapping by AmeriCorps will come at no cost to Abbeville County.

Breed, who said that he serves on an AmeriCorps advisory council, said that he approached AmeriCorps to do the project.

"I approached them about doing a road inventory," he said, noting that he submitted a project plan in November of last year. "They thought it would be a good idea."

An AmeriCorps team will be doing much the same thing in McCormick County, making preparations for E-911, Paulus said.

The project leader there will be David Holcombe, and the team members are Holcombe, Dawn Kendall, Greg Maxwell, Richard Eaton, and Dan Johnson.

McCormick County is sponsoring the project.

Technical support will be provided by Paul Bjorkman, McCormick County Administrator.

The duration of the project, and the work involved, will be the same.

AmeriCorps is a nationwide service project, which has been characterized as a domestic version of the Peace Corps.

AmeriCorps has worked on a number of service projects in Abbeville County, including a grasslands survey and a project in which they worked with area wildlife officials.

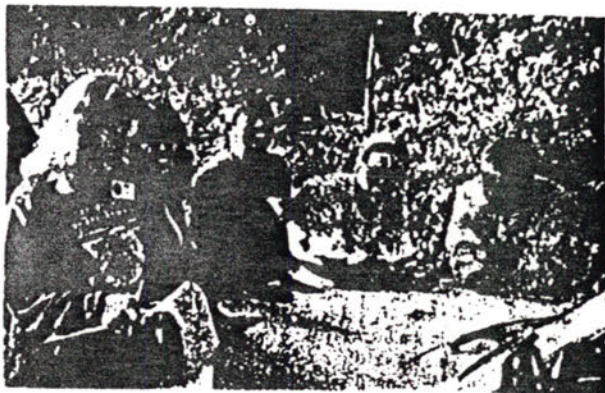
Meanwhile, launching an E-911 system, an emergency response system, in Abbeville County has long been a topic of discussion among local government officials.

The effort has been highlighted by meetings of local government officials and emergency-response related agency representatives at least as far back as December, 1993.

An E-911 committee has been established through County Council to help plan for the system, and Council is working with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments to help bring the system to Abbeville County.

E-911 is an especially sophisticated form of the 911 system, by which people can more easily gain access to emergency services through calling, by telephone, a central dispatch center.

The county mapping which AmeriCorps will be doing will be an integral step toward bringing the system to the county, since the efficient provision of services through E-911 in the event of an emergency depends on the system's ability to pinpoint the emergency's location.



AMERICORPS DOING ROAD INVENTORY—An AmeriCorps team is scheduled to launch this week a road inventory in Abbeville County, as a step toward the establishment of the E-911 system here in Abbeville County. Team members are shown here at work on another project. (AmeriCorps photo)

Road inventory will be extensive

By Henry E. Green

Some tips for the public are being provided in keeping with the coming of the AmeriCorps team which is scheduled to start a road inventory in Abbeville County, as a step toward establishing a 911 system here.

For a 911 system, each structure in the county must have a distinct street address, not a rural route number or a box number.

The road inventory is just the first

phase in a lengthy process, and the actual street addressing will be next.

Abbeville County will be addressed in different phases—each phase will consist of the different postal zip codes.

A 911 addressing team will be in various areas to make sure every structure in the county has a street style address—1418 Main Street, for example.

The 911 addressing team will leave

important information at each residence to verify the occupant's name, old address, building description, and new address.

The resident will be asked to provide their telephone number so that each street address will be connected with a phone number.

Each resident will be informed of their new address and when to start using that address.

If you have any questions concerning 911 addressing, call 459-

2955.

According to reports, the AmeriCorps team doing the road inventory will be headquartered below in the basement of the Abbeville County Library in Abbeville.

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level.

THE ABBEVILLE PRESS & MEDIUM, ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

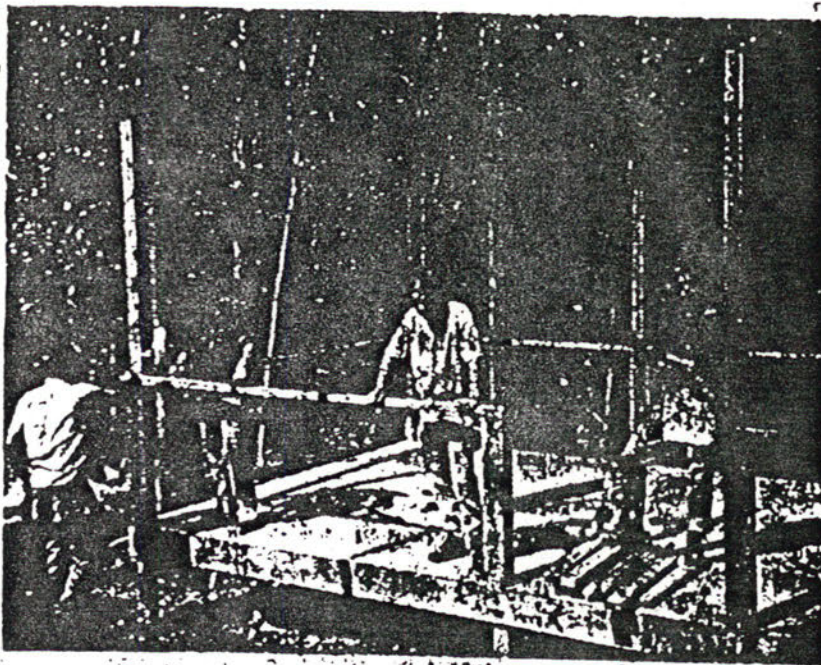
AmeriCorps team works to complete campsite

Twenty AmeriCorps members have been working hard for the past two weeks to complete a Wilderness campsite for the children at John de

la Howe, according to an AmeriCorps news release. The campsite will house a group of students participating in the wilderness Program at de la Howe.

The Wilderness Program is a very successful part of the John de la Howe curriculum. The school has several wilderness campsites available for their program. Ten students occupy each campsite with at least two counselors present at all times. The campsites are very basic, with simple structures and the essentials needed for survival. The students participate voluntarily in the four-month program, during which time communication with the outside world is monitored. The students save the program with a better understanding of themselves and the earth around them.

AmeriCorps is a new national service initiative designed to help the rural communities of America in the areas of education, human service, public safety, and environmental needs from a community perspective. They target a nine county project area in South Carolina consisting of Abbeville, Laurens, Greenwood, Newberry, McCormick, Saluda, Lexington, Edgefield, and Aiken. The program is sponsored in these areas by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to represent the state and they will be duplicated in other areas in the future.



AMERICORPS DOES PROJECT AT DE LA HOWE—
An AmeriCorps team, part of a national service initiative, has been involved in a project at John de la Howe School in McCormick County. (AmeriCorps photo)

SALUDA SENTINEL
SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 1, 1995

AmeriCorps Completes County 911 'Phase One'

By John E. Morgan, III

The white, semi-muddy, government vehicle sightings are sure to diminish as the USDA volunteers from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's, AmeriCorps have finished Phase One of the Saluda County 911 conversion!

The volunteers from the NRCS's Rural Development Team completed the road inventory of Saluda County as of Jan. 19th and concentrated their efforts to transferring the road data to a comprehensive mapping system. This mapping system and accompanying spreadsheet data will help the Saluda Road Naming committee complete their task more efficiently. Once every road has a name, it will be much simpler for Saluda County Emergency personnel to find any location in the event of an emergency.

The AmeriCorps volunteers now know your county as well, if not better, than their own. Each member of the Newberry #1 AmeriCorps Team traveled about one hundred miles a day, give or take twenty, while working on the road inventory project in Saluda County.

Many obstacles arose during the road survey project. The most colorful, no pun intended, were the "orange" mud hazards scattered throughout the maze of Saluda County roads. The vehicles driven by several volunteers became mobile impaired by the finest mixture of clay and water that Mother Nature and Saluda County could offer.

Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Coleman of Melldoro Dairy on Hollywood Road and Minick's towing for freeing our "newly-colored" government vehicles from the mucky grasp of the backroads.

Other obstacles overcome by

AmeriCorps' determination, included washed out bridges, fallen limbs, numerous new and nameless roads, countless dead ends, energetic canines, protective neighbors demanding explanations, lack of mud tires, mud, lots of mud, mud hazards, missing road signs, and reoccurring disorientation.

The second part of the AmeriCorps volunteers' responsibilities to Saluda County was to make copies of all area tax maps, about 300, for the Saluda County Planning Commission. The ultraviolet map copier in the courthouse seemed, at first, to be too copious for comprehension but was easily operated once Deborah Vance, of the Saluda County Tax Office, gave detailed instruction on its use.

The members of the AmeriCorps team would like to acknowledge the Saluda County Sheriff's Office for their diligent search and assistance in the location of a pair of volunteers that had become immobilized "in" a severely moistened clay road and missed their midday rendezvous. Special thanks go to Officer Collard for actually contacting the "mud-colored" government vehicle and its slightly muddy passengers to ensure their safety.

The AmeriCorps team concluded their involvement with the Saluda County Emergency - 911 project by "handing off" the results of their study to the Saluda County Road Planning Commission last Wednesday, the 25th. If have any questions about the Saluda 911 project, please contact the Saluda County Chamber of Commerce (803) 445-3055. If you have any questions about the AmeriCorps program please call (803) 321-6226.



Community service

Members of the new AmeriCorps national community service program take their places during Tuesday's kickoff celebration at Greenwood State Park. Guest and visiting dignitaries congratulated the 40 volunteers for accepting the call for a "season of service." AmeriCorps has 20,000 members nationally. The 40 volunteers will aid rural development in a nine-county area. (Staff photo by Jim Long)

AmeriCorps members ready to forge ahead in new program

By JIM LONG
Staff writer

South Carolina and the American spirit experienced a shared rebirth Tuesday at Greenwood State Park during a kickoff celebration for the AmeriCorps rural development project.

It was a rebirth of a grassroots "getting things done" attitude that, thanks to 40 AmeriCorps members, will resurface in the neighborhoods of nine counties in the state.

"It is like a domestic peace corps and it also resembles the old Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC," said Jim Wilson, AmeriCorps coordinator under the Department of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service.

In fact, Tuesday's kickoff, which was attended by more than 100, was centered around park shelter no. 1 which is dedicated to the CCC's early work.

The AmeriCorps program is a part of President Clinton's call for a national community service organization which aims at "giving something back" to rural America.

Nationally, there are 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers working under the U.S. Department of Agriculture who receive a stipend and an educational credit for a year's worth of community devotion.

Locally, the volunteers are split three ways between the Soil Conservation Service, the Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) and the U.S. Forestry Service.

Twenty of the AmeriCorps volunteers will be based in Newberry and 20 in Greenwood.

"It is an exciting day for our country and our state as another generation heeds the call for national community service," said Wilson.

State conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service Mark Berkland noted that the freshmen

volunteers, armed with their diverse backgrounds, will attack environmental issues, help map out towns for 911 service, provide improved public access to public lands, help establish outdoor nature classrooms for schools and a host of other community challenges.

But Berkland echoed Wilson's comment that the AmeriCorps will "not do for the communities but will help them do."

Also on hand was Bernie Wright, state director of FmHA, and Skip Starkey, a representative from the U.S. Forestry Service.

One of the program's highlights was a discussion of the 1930s CCC by Woodrow West, a former Civilian Corps member.

At the end of West's talk, he tossed a football to one of the AmeriCorps volunteers, signifying the passing of the torch of community service.

Talking with members of the AmeriCorps, under the Soil Conservation Service, who have already received two weeks of training, it's easy to see that the torch has already been passed to these bright and eager individuals.

Richard Eaton is a teacher in Laurens County who decided he needed a change from the classroom setting.

"I'm ready for work that is challenging and interesting in a different manner than the classroom. I've always been interested in environmental work,"

says Eaton.

Angi Paulus, another AmeriCorps member, is a USC student from Abbeville whose eyes dance with excitement when talking about her tenure as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

"I'm interested in giving something back that makes a long term impact on a community not just one day. This is something I've always wanted to do," says Paulus.

Paulus will be stationed in Greenwood and will work with Edgefield county in developing a systematic map for 911 service.

Chris Bever of Taylors is an elementary education major in what he calls "the middle" of college.

"I feel like a pioneer in this program. We, as the first group of volunteers, are the ones who can make this program. We will be true to the motto of 'Getting things done in rural S.C.'," says Bever.

Although many of the AmeriCorps volunteers are college age, some, like Eaton, could be termed a little older — like Danny Johnson of North Augusta.

Johnson is a veteran of 20 years in the construction industry who answered an inner call to community service and entered the AmeriCorps program.

According to project coordinator Wilson, the ready-for-action AmeriCorps team already has a full plate — close to 60 projects in the nine counties are already under consideration by the AmeriCorps advisory board.

GREENWOOD INDEX JOURNAL
GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 14, 1994

AmeriCorps Continues Work With Watershed

BY KIMBERLY M. JOHNSON

YOUR COMMUNITY AT WORK
AmeriCorps continues its commitment to rural South Carolina.

The Newberry Team II members (Amy Overstreet, James Holland, Jay Henderson, Mary Roe and Angela Brinkley) use a computer program to identify non-point source pollution in the Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

To identify potential solutions for the problem areas, team members place data such as soil type, land slope and land use into the AGNPS (Agricultural Non-point Source) computer model.

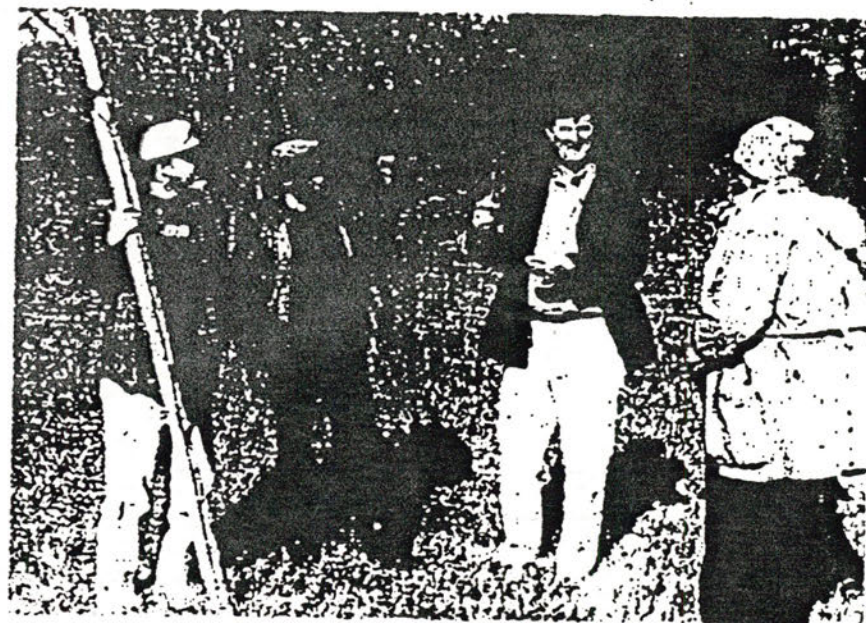
The model simulates conditions at all points within the watershed.

The AGNPS program actually runs a watershed model and spatially interprets the results.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will use the model of the two subwatersheds to pinpoint problems within the overall Bush River Camping Creek watershed.

The team has created a Lotus spreadsheet for inputting data from SC Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) water monitoring station. The information has been accumulating over the years and has not been analyzed.

As a result of the spreadsheet,



Newberry Team II, AmeriCorps, members receive technical training from supervisor Jim Wilson, center. Pictured, from left, are: Jay Henderson, James Holland, Jim Wilson and Mary Roe.

the data can be graphed and comparison studies can be made in order to illustrate trends and patterns over the years.

Aerial photos, topography maps, as well as a clinometer which measures the land slope percentage are some of the instruments and equipment used by the team.

As Holland and Roe use the equipment in the field, they have placed a premium on their outdoor experiences.

Holland enjoys the physical landscape such as the hillsides, the change of seasons and the well-managed farms. "For farmers, the work is right there...they live within the workplace," he said.

Roe feels a greater appreciation for the environment.

She recalls watching a PBS program about mammoths. Roe marveled how she could relate to various subjects in the program to her AmeriCorps work.

Devising a plan to cross a creek and trying to pry a canoe out of mud are some memorable tales for Amy Overstreet. Overstreet works primarily with computer data entry. She looks forward to increasing her field time.

Call 321-6222, to learn more about the team's current project.

Americorps Takes Young People To County's Farms

BY KIMBERLY M. JOHNSON

YOUR COMMUNITY AT WORK
Americorps provides services for Newberry County farmers.

Have you contemplated ways to carry, lift or push a canoe over a fence?

Have you donned a life jacket and taken water samples from a waste storage pond?

Have you walked around a large parcel of land, taking soil samples with a piece of equipment that resembles a pogo stick?

If the word NO entered your mind, don't be ashamed. For Abby Gage, Diggs Hill, Karen Kinard, Madeline Cislo and John E. Morgan, III, this is a typical day's work.

Along with Stephen Henry, an agriculture engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), the team takes soil samples of DHEC approved fields and wastewater samples of livestock lagoons from farms in Newberry County.

According to Henry, the team goes to provide information such as pollution reduction from non-point sources, crop recommendations and nutrient identification.

On Tuesday morning at 8 a.m., the team traveled to Lyon's Odyssey Farms, in the Silverstreet

area, to conduct samplings.

Three of the members, in this case: Abby, Diggs and John are going in the wastewater pond for samplings. Karen and Madeline perform soil samplings in another area of the farm.

Mark Lyon, owner of the dairy farm, believes the services are important for farmers.

"I think this is a very valuable thing. The short term benefit is a better knowledge on how to handle my manure and waste," he said.

"It's important that the government takes a role in helping to handle it the right way, to offer assistance. The small farmers can't do it by themselves," Lyon said.

Henry accompanies the five member team to various farms. He sees many types of waste treatment practices such as waste storage ponds or lagoons. They vary among farmers.

"The farmers have been very positive. They understand that they have a product, usually a waste, that has nutrient value," Henry said.

"The increased nutrient value of the lagoon may reduce some cost and the farmer may not have to buy commercial fertilizers," he said.



(Continued On Page 7)

Observer photo by Kimberly Johnson

Americorps members John E. Morgan, III, (l), Diggs Hill (c), and Abby Gage (standing) participate in taking samples from a wastewater storage pond. They, along with Madeline Cislo and Karen Kinard, perform soil and water quality samplings at 16 farms in Newberry County.

SANTEE STRIPER
SANTEE, SOUTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 23, 1995

EOCEC; Americorps:

Still Hard At Work And Making Progress

By E. Marie Jackson

After more than a year, Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community (EOCEC) and its Americorps representatives are still hard at work and making progress in the eastern part of our county.

Without fanfare or the spotlight, EOCEC still holds their monthly meetings and, along with Gloria Richardson and Vernell Smalls (Americorps representatives), are finding new and innovative ways to help area residents with all kinds of problems.

Some of their accomplishments include assisting the elderly with home improvement grants and low-interest loans, as well as helping other residents with home-ownership loans.

They have also worked closely with small business owners in eastern Orangeburg County, educating them about business loan programs.

EOCEC has joined forces with local police forces, U.S. Marshall's office, Office of Juvenile Justice, and school administrators to bring crime and drug prevention programs to area students.

Educational seminars have been hosted by the group on topics such as Wills and Trusts; Home Weatherization; Business and Industrial Loan Programs; Emergency Services; Drug and Crime Prevention; and Steps To Building Your Credit.

Countless hours of volunteer services have been provided to Vance Senior Citizen Centers, as well as Orangeburg School District Three.

Also to be included in their lists of accomplishments is performance of national service to the community in the town of Santee with such projects as Beautification, Daycare, Landscaping, Santee Town Hall, and Litter Pick Up.

In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of the EOCEC office, Richardson and Smalls host a community awareness radio broadcast weekly to inform the public of issues affecting their everyday lives.

As envisioned by the founders of EOCEC, the group is well on its way to carrying out their mission, which is:

The citizens of the Eastern Orangeburg County Enterprise Community plan to increase job opportunities and quality of life for all eastern Orangeburg County citizens so residents can enjoy a standard of living that is above the poverty line and have the chance to realize their dreams.

"My term as an Americorps member has been fulfilling and rewarding," Richardson said. "I've had the opportunity to work in the different capacities to bring the communities together. It gives me a great sense of fulfillment knowing that I've helped someone who really needed help and would have otherwise been forgotten."

Smalls also expressed her sincere appreciation for being able to be there for so many people in need. "The EOCEC has been a fulfilling experience for me. After coming on board for four months after the death of Josephine High, I have learned a lot. I feel that I have helped or at least tried to help my community."

Agriculture director praises AmeriCorps during visit to region

By Kristen Hebestreet

Press Staff Writer

People who condemn the AmeriCorps are speaking from ideology instead of reality, the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Service director said Tuesday.

"Challenge anyone with questions to come out and visit a site," said Joel Berg, USDA National Service director, during a discussion with nine AmeriCorps members at the USDA office in Jonesborough.

Berg toured AmeriCorps projects in Upper East Tennessee Wednesday, all projects covering anti-hunger, social services, environmental or rural development projects.

Berg, who developed the basic outline of the AmeriCorps program while working on President Clinton's election campaign, now manages the 1,200 USDA AmeriCorps members working in 33 states.

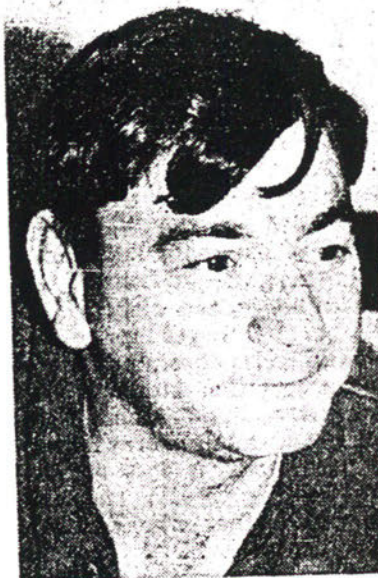
The national service initiative is intended to develop communities and protect the environment at a local level. AmeriCorps workers are provided a stipend, basic health insurance, a child care allowance and a \$4,725 education award for college or vocational training.

"The vast majority of our projects range from good to excellent," Berg said. "It's our first year, and we're already bigger than the Peace Corps was at its height."

AmeriCorps projects in this region include putting together a map of tourist attractions in Unicoi County, renovating the Sneedville jail, agricultural education work, attracting both industry and tourists to Claiborne County and working with families of critically ill patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home.

Because many of the AmeriCorps workers are in financially strapped rural communities, most projects require federal grants, loans or some type of funding, Berg said.

"We refer to the AmeriCorps



Joel Berg

workers as a 'funded nonmandate,' " Berg said, in reference to the recent conservative condemnation of unfunded federal mandates.

Berg does not feel Congress will eliminate AmeriCorps as it works to balance the budget because so many things about AmeriCorps passe what he calls the "Jesse Test."

"That means both Jesse Helms and Jesse Jackson support it," Berg said.

Clinton also has said he plans to veto efforts to severely cut funding to AmeriCorps and other job-training programs.

The total budget for AmeriCorps is \$370 million, Berg said, which breaks down to a total cost of \$20,000 per volunteer.

"This is the most cost-effective way for the federal government to serve people at the grass-roots level," Berg said. "For every \$1 of federal money, communities get back at least \$1.50."

Berg drove himself around in his Toyota on the tour of AmeriCorps projects in North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee.

"This is the best part — East Tennessee," Berg said. "And don't you believe I said the same thing in West Virginia."

**JOHNSON CITY PRESS
JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE
MAY 24, 1995**

AmeriCorps: making a difference

Of the 46 teams assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the AmeriCorps program, South Carolina is hosting three.

AmeriCorps is the new service initiative described by President Clinton in his inaugural address and put into operation shortly thereafter.

Sponsored by government agencies, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for a diverse group of members from varied ages and backgrounds to serve their country while receiving educational awards and vocational training in return.

In exchange for their year of service, the participants receive a living stipend, educational awards for college or vocational training, basic health insurance, and, in some cases, child-care allowances. The program also benefits the participants by giving them new skills, experiences and training in a variety of subjects.

Of the three teams serving in South Carolina, the Rural Economic and Community Development Service (RECD) was granted 15 members to concentrate on the southwestern Lowcountry of the state. U.S. Forest Service (USFS) received five and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received 20.

Based in Greenwood and Newberry, the NRCS put its first group to work on public safety and community development. They spent six weeks on a road inventory in Edgefield County, creating a spreadsheet database of data that supplemented an updated road map of the county.

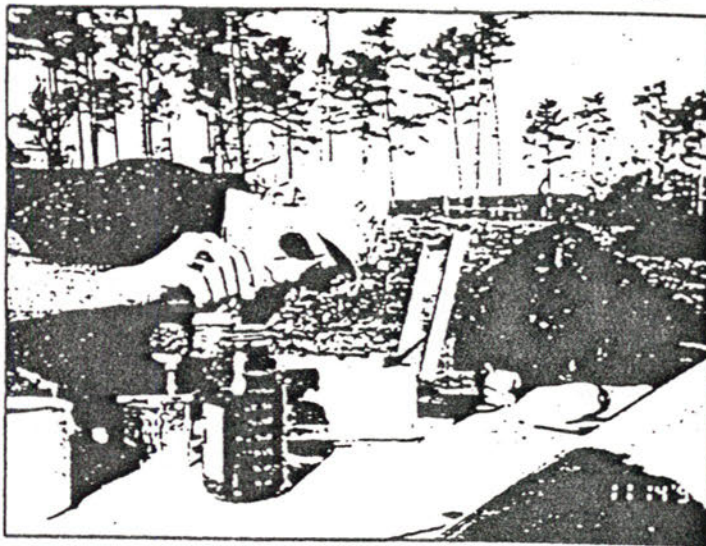
The second Greenwood group spent four weeks on a stream coding project to upgrade the state's ability to gather information about the quality of streams, rivers and lakes.

Another group conducted a grassland survey in Abbeville County, while a final group visited 16 farms to conduct water-quality surveys in Newberry County.

The RECD teams are concentrating their services on the southwestern Lowcountry. The USFS members are centering on Williamsburg County.

Qualifications

Education backgrounds vary for the AmeriCorps team members who are either



AmeriCorps volunteers John E. Morgan, III, and Karen Kinard test livestock lagoon waste water.

from the project areas or nearby counties. Mostly college and professional school graduates, the members' expertise is matched with the needs of the rural community they serve.

The teams work to empower communities to help themselves by developing local leadership needed to assure community planning activities that help them reach their goals.

These volunteers learn skills in community and coalition building, strategic planning, environmental protection strategies

and communication enhancement.

USDA

Overall, there are more than 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers in this service initiative designed to address the nation's needs in the areas of education, human service, public safety and environmental needs from a community perspective.

The United States Department of Agriculture received almost half of the 2,500 AmeriCorps slots awarded to federal agencies. Of these, the 40 members assigned to South Carolina are carrying out their assigned task.

USDA was set up by Congress as a "people's department to acquire among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture... and to procure, propagate and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants."

Rural electrification was initially set up as a part of the USDA, and continues under that agency.

"The USDA of today is leading the effort to bring the AmeriCorps service program to success," said Mark Berkland, South Carolina State Conservationist with the USDA.

"The USDA-AmeriCorps members will help to plant seeds throughout America for a future built upon volunteerism and community service," he continued. [From material gathered by Angi Paulus.]

MARCH 1995 / LIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Volunteers plan to transform three community parks

By Bernadette Adams
STAFF WRITER

A group of volunteers with a national service program has three weeks and a mission to transform three Greenville County community parks.

"We want to be able to say in the future that, no matter what happens, we did our part," said Angi Paulus, a volunteer from Abbeville and a graduate of Erskine College.

Five members of the South Carolina Rural Development Team are a part of AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. Men and women age 18 to 25 are eligible for the year of service and an educational award for school or school loans.

The team is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Its goal is to beautify the

back and help our community and give something back," said Sherell Stevens, a graduate of Benedict College and a native of Saluda.

South Carolina has about 400 AmeriCorps volunteers sponsored by different state and federal agencies, said J.J. Davis, state program director for the Corporation for National Service. The program began in September 1993.

Chad Weston, a native of Taylors, said, "It's a good opportunity to get out in the community and get my hands a little dirty." Weston is a graduate of Furman University.

Team members have gotten more than their hands dirty as they worked at the Happy Hearts Community Center.

The work can be draining, but its purpose offers a special motivation for the volunteers.

GREENVILLE NEWS
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
MAY 7, 1995

AmeriCorps surveys lakeside homes to determine possible flood damage

Homes and businesses threatened

By LEANN ECKROTH
Journal Staff Writer

Devils Lake flooding prevention efforts received a big boost last week from participants of AmeriCorps National Service program.

As part of a signature project, AmeriCorps enrollees were enlisted to survey houses near the lake. "We did it to get information on how many houses would be affected by the lakeside," explained Jessica Krumwiede, area AmeriCorps participant. "We were taking shots of the houses near the lake."

Ramsey County Emergency Manager Tim Heisler was pleased with the results. "We thought it would take weeks to complete this and we got done in one week," he said. "We were doing this to give information on time and how many houses were affected by the lakeside. This was a huge project."

That data will now be tallied and submitted to other government agencies to demonstrate just how serious the flooding situation is in Devils Lake and how much damage each lake level will cause to private property and businesses.

Heisler predicts 163 homes and four businesses are endangered by the rising waters.

Also assisting with the surveying were personnel from the Ramsey County Highway Department, the North Dakota State Water Department, the Natural Resource and Conservation Agency and Ramsey County Emergency Management.

Four people are currently enrolled in AmeriCorps in North Dakota. They are Krumwiede, Joni Hamilton, Jack Dahl and Craig Herman. They are all stationed on the eastern portion of North Dakota and all undertake projects concerning environment.

Krumwiede's experience in AmeriCorps will buy her some time and help her pay off student loans until she is certain of what major she wants to pursue. She recently received an associate of arts degree from UND-Lake region and plans to further her education to a four-year degree. She says the program has



Surveyors from the AmeriCorps program identified homes that were in danger along Devils Lake. (Journal Staff Photo by Shaun Riffe)

been a big confidence builder for her. "I've learned to stress what I mean to say more," she said. "It makes you feel good when you get the job done."

Organizing local projects has also boosted Krumwiede's leadership skills. She was responsible for organizing the recent group signature project. Krumwiede met with the right agencies and set up a time frame suitable to the others' schedules.

Hamilton is a single mom pursuing a masters in sociology. She can't say enough about the program. "I knew nothing about some of these issues. It opened my eyes," she said. "It opened a lot of doors for me. It's a big honor to be chosen."

Dahl however, has the most to gain from the AmeriCorp in employment experience and contacts he encounters. He holds an associate degree in wildlife from NDSU-Bottineau and a B.S. degree in range management. "I think we did a good job," he stated. "It's trained me and given me experience in what I want to go into."

The program assists as many as 22,000 individuals nationwide in

We thought it would take weeks to complete this and we got done in one week. We were doing this to give information on time and how many houses were affected by the lakeside. This was a huge project.

Tim Heisler
Emergency Manager

areas of education, public safety, human services and environment. Overseeing the North Dakota program is the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The program was launched by President Bill Clinton during the summer of 1993 and is likened to the efforts of Peace Corps, only this program focuses on problems in America. It is not a charity program, but rather the president's service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the community level.

North Dakota AmeriCorps participants all work in the eastern por-

tion of the state and often on flood related projects. Their projects began in September of 1994.

Participants of AmeriCorps receive a living stipend, education awards for college or vocational training, basic health insurance and child care allowance.

The group anticipates completing 13-18 more signature projects before their year is up.

But Newt Gingrich is eyeing this program as another area to cut.

"They should not pull the plug on this," stated a concerned Hamilton. "One — this improves community service and two — it helps those who cannot afford to obtain a college education."

The Daily Journal
Monday January 30 1995
Devils Lake ND

**THE ANETA STAR
ANETA, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 3, 1995**

Americorps Lends a Helping Hand!

by Joni Hamilton and Earl Erickson

After cutting down expired trees from the Community Park in Aneta, Merlin Eberhardt and Todd Whitman received a helping hand from the North Dakota AmeriCorps Team. The five AmeriCorps members assisted

Eberhardt and Mr. Whitman in cutting up the trees that have died due to the Dutch Elm disease. The clean up process was necessary to control the spread of this disease to the healthy American Elm trees. In the spring, Mr. Eberhardt plans to replace the trees that were taken down.

AmeriCorps is the new national service movement that is engaging thousands of Americans in a domestic Peace Corps to "get things done" throughout our nation's urban and rural communities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) launched the AmeriCorps program in North

Dakota in September. The North Dakota AmeriCorps participants are involved in flood recovery efforts and rural development related projects.

The five AmeriCorps members selected are Jessica Krumwiede of Crary, Jack Dahl of West Fargo, Craig Herman of Towner, Aaron Aarestad of Cooperstown, and Joni Hamilton of Grand Forks.

The AmeriCorps members are assigned to work in the SCS Field offices in Devils Lake, Wahpeton, Jamestown, Valley City, West Fargo and their surrounding areas, respectively.

The primary goals of the National Community Service Program is to improve communities by meeting their educational, nutritional, and environmental needs. A program such as this one instills the values of community service in the participants of the program, teaching them that a life of service to their community and country is not only exciting and fulfilling, but necessary.

Organizers for AmeriCorps say that the response to the program has been overwhelming. So far, about 100,000 people have called the 800 number to inquire about the program. Eli Segal, president of the Corporation for National Service, states: "At this point, there will be more than five people applying for each one of those positions that we'll be filling for."

Despite the demand, organizers say it's not too late to apply. To get more information and request an application form, call 1-800-942-2677. People can also apply directly to their local programs listed in the AmeriCorps Program Directory, which ultimately chooses the volunteers. Each local program has its own selection criteria, based on its own goals.

Eligible participants must be 17 years of age or older, a U.S. citizen or legal resident and in most cases, a high school graduate.

In exchange for one or two years of service, members receive a living allowance averaging \$7,500 to \$12,000 per year, health insurance, child care when needed, and an education award of \$4,725 per year to finance a higher education or to pay back student loans.

The AmeriCorps National Service Corporation and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or family status.

Baytown Sun

Friday, November 4, 1994

Baytown, Texas 77520

50 Cents Per Copy

Planting jobs on the bayou

*Partnership to
aid environment,
provide job skills*

By JANE HOWARD
The Baytown Sun

A relatively small group of people gathered at Baytown's Houston Lighting & Power plant on West Bay Road Thursday to mark the beginning of a very significant event.

During the informal ceremony, representatives of HL&P, the Port of Houston and the chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture signed an agreement kicking off a year-long environmental partnership to restore area wetlands.

The partnership will utilize a full-time (and long-time) USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service shoreline erosion specialist, Eddie Seidensticker, supervising an AmeriCorps team of 20 workers, ranging in age from 17 to



Photos by Carrie Pryor-Newman



Sun Advocate
Price, Utah
April 11, 1995

Tuesday, April 11, 1995—Sun Advocate, Price, Utah 9A

Students graduate from DARE

By SCOTT NIENDORF
Staff writer

Aiming to curtail drug use among Carbon County kids, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and community officials congratulated almost 300 school children who recently graduated from the 17-week prevention course.

DARE graduations in Price and Helper highlighted activities for the fifth graders and their proud parents and teachers from area elementary schools.

There were 200 students who received diplomas Wednesday evening at special ceremonies at the Price Civic Auditorium and another 83 Helper students who were honored Thursday evening at the Helper Civic Auditorium.

Price police officers were involved in teaching approximately one-hour long classes each week to local fifth graders to warn the students about the dangers and the consequences of using drugs.

Officer James Cordova taught classes at Castle

Heights Elementary. Officer Dave Cartwright taught students at Notre Regional Dume School. Officer Randy Mathis gave weekly classes at Creekview Elementary, while Officer Ed Tallerico assisted DARE instructors at all schools when law enforcement personnel needed help or were absent.

Cordova and Mathis were the DARE officers at Sally Mauro Elementary for fifth graders there.

"The DARE program is to help students recognize and resist many of the pressures that influence them to experiment with mind-altering substances," said Price Police Chief Aleck Shilaos to the large gathering in Price Wednesday.

"Project DARE offers a variety of activities which are designed to encourage students in problem solving, especially when making choices that conflict with peer pressure that is exerted on them," pointed out Shilaos.

The Price police chief said older students from the Carbon School County District were also used as role models

to the younger DARE participants during the course.

Mayor Lou Colosimo spoke to the Price group and assistant school superintendent Jim Jensen, who helped to establish and coordinate DARE instruction at all district schools, also spoke Wednesday.

Helper Police Chief Jim Robinson spoke to the Helper DARE students Thursday, as did Mayor Mike Dalpiaz.

The DARE program was the "brain child" of Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates in 1983, who contacted the L.A. Unified School District to work out a curriculum to help kids learn how to make choices not to use drugs, explained Shilaos.

The DARE program swept across the country and was initiated in Utah in 1987 in the Tooele and Ogden areas.

Local DARE officers attended a two-week training program in Salt Lake City in 1992 and began the classes in Carbon County schools, while receiving annual updated training each year.

USDA to launch national service program in state

Team USDA will launch the AmeriCorps program in Utah this month by offering opportunities to about 40 college graduates to gain work experience and tuition reimbursement while helping develop rural areas of the Four Corners region.

AmeriCorps is President Bill Clinton's new national service initiative that establishes a "domestic Peace Corps."

Job opportunities are available in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona in the disciplines of education, information, small-scale agriculture development, natural resources inventory and determining industry potential.

AmeriCorps is seeking college graduates with an interest in rural development. To request an application and learn about AmeriCorps in the Four Corners region, call toll-free at 1-800-784-1445. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30.

Participants will earn a stipend of \$12,000 for working 1,800 hours during a 10- to 12-month period. They will

also receive health insurance and reimbursement for child care if necessary. Upon completion of the 1,800 hours, an education voucher of \$4,725 will be awarded. The voucher may be used to repay student loans and/or be applied toward tuition for an advanced degree.

According to Kresha Eastman, Utah's AmeriCorps project manager, the Four Corners initiative will focus on economic development and environmental conservation.

Specifically, AmeriCorps members will conduct an analysis of the potential for natural resource based, value-added industries in the region; conduct research into the role of natural resource based industries in local economies; and assist limited resource farmers in developing small-scale agriculture enterprises. Members will also develop a database of regional demographics and assist with tourism industry management.

Eastman is a resource conservation and development coordinator for the United States Soil Conservation Service in Price.

Americorps team researches resource management plans

By SCOTT NIENDORF
Staff writer

People could say the Americorps program is President Bill Clinton's domestic Peace Corps.

Taking a page from the international program, Clinton has geared up the Americorps program to provide opportunities to give people a way to give back to their communities.

In the four-corners region of the western United States, there are approximately 40 Americorps members working together in different capacities to efficiently develop or protect the area's resources.

Six individuals in Utah are under the direction of Kresha Eastman of Green River, who oversees the Americorps program through her position with Castleland Resource Conservation & Development in Price.

Three Americorps members work out of Monticello and three work out of Price. They receive a stipend for living expenses and a voucher at the end of their service, good for continuing higher education studies or to help pay off student loans.

Locally, the three people working for Americorps are well-educated in a variety of backgrounds.

Nancy Steele, Helper, comes to the Carbon County area from Florida via Colorado. She collects economic development-related information and assists the South-eastern Utah Association of Local Governments with information related to community development block grants.

Anna Prawl came from Tucson, Ariz., and wanted to work in the Price area for Americorps after living in Salt Lake at one time. She works with economic development programs to research potential business expansion and retention in a rural setting plus seeks possible training for entrepreneurs.

Eldon Miller, Helper, is the only native to the region. He does research on natural resources indigenous to the area and the local economies dependent on them, providing important data in layman's terms on agriculture, mining and tourism for potential decision-making on how to utilize those resources.

The group is located here to

hopefully enhance and complement existing organizations to provide valuable information on resource management. Miller has a master's degree in conservation and outdoor education. Prawl has a master's in social work and Steele brings a degree in anthropology to the team.

Eastman said their variety of perspectives will help to add a different, less-technical view of resources and their impact on local communities.

The program geared up in September and the team members should be working at full speed in early 1995.

One of the valuable research goals the Americorps members would like to accomplish is to study resource management plans of various local entities, from cities to county agencies, to understand and explain their management plans and how they all interrelate—seeking to find common goals.

Eastman said they will also work with city managers to help identify issues and projects which could benefit the people at large. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities," she said.

SUN ADVOCATE, PRICE, UTAH, DECEMBER 27, 1994



From left, Eldon Miller, Nancy Steele, Anna Prawl and Kresha Eastman (front) comprise a team of researchers working locally in the

national Americorps program to promote the interests of the four-corners region.

Americorps offering openings in the Four Corners area

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is launching the Americorps program in Utah this month by offering opportunities to about 40 college graduates to gain work experience and tuition reimbursement while helping develop rural areas of the Four Corners region. Americorps is President Bill Clinton's new national service initiative that establishes a "domestic Peace Corps."

Job opportunities are available in Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona in the disciplines of education, information, small-scale agriculture development, natural resources inventory and determining industry potential.

Americorps is seeking college graduates with an interest in rural development. To request an application and learn about Americorps in the Four Corners region, call 1-800-784-1445. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30.

Participants will earn a stipend of \$12,000 for working 1,800 hours during a 10- to 12-month period. They will also receive health insurance and reimbursement for child care, if necessary. Upon completion of the 1,800 hours, an education voucher of \$4,725 will be awarded. The voucher may be used to repay

student loans and/or be applied toward tuition for an advanced degree.

The Four Corners initiative will focus on economic development and environmental conservation. Specifically, Americorps members will be conducting an analysis of the potential for natural resource based, value-added industries in the region; conducting research into the role of natural resource based industries in local economies; and assisting limited resource farmers in developing a database of regional demographics and assisting with tourism industry management.



Volunteers work to complete a landscaping project last week at Wellington's city hall and public safety building.

Volunteers complete landscaping project at Wellington city building

By SCOTT NIENDORF
Staff writer

Slowly but surely, the Wellington City Hall and Public Safety building is getting a much-needed facelift.

Doing extensive surgery outside the building last week was a diverse group of volunteers who completed a landscaping project, planting sod, trees and shaping up the general appearance of the facility.

"I've been dreaming about this day," said city recorder Ken Powell, "and now it's finally here."

Powell, who oversaw the

volunteer group during the beautification project, said he was excited to finally see some outward progress being made on the renovation project that has drastically changed and improved both the interior and exterior of the building.

Wellington secretary Carol Sparks said, "I think this is wonderful. It'll help the image of our city a lot."

Wellington Mayor Paul Childs agreed, saying, "It's terrific. The citizens appreciate what the group did and I hope it encourages (citizens) to improve their own lots and yards."

Volunteers included Boy Scout Troop 271 from Helper, Price's Soil Conservation Service employees, Wellington citizens, Castleland Resource Conservation and Development and Americorp team members.

Volunteer Betty Anderson said, "It looks nice. It's nice for our city to have a nice looking city hall— inside and out."

One of the final steps in the renovation project will be a complete parking lot resurfacing, which is reportedly planned to be completed sometime soon.

Opinion

Saving funding, food

Respectful, open-minded, community based, worthy. No, this is not the new creed of the Boy Scouts. These are some of the values embodied by the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, a program to feed disadvantaged Vermonters that is worth watching.

The year-old effort is part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps services program, his domestic version of the Peace Corps. In exchange for a small wage and later money for college, volunteers work in community service projects. In this case, the winners are hungry Vermonters.

Though the program is now a target for Washington's budget cutters, including the \$850,000 that goes to Vermont's effort, its attributes are precisely what government should be doing for disadvantaged people.

■ **Respectful.** The corps does not just give food away. Respecting the people it serves, the anti-hunger effort joins with city recreation in St. Albans, for example, and then provides lunch for the kids who come to swim.

■ **Open-minded.** The corps has tapped into whatever resources will feed whoever needs to be fed. The inmates' garden at the Northwest State Correctional Center in St. Albans — already a provider of 30,000 pounds of food to hungry Vermonters each year — has been a focus for one corps volunteer.

■ **Community based.** Far from using a federal know-it-all approach, the corps devises local solutions to local problems. Many of the workers are volunteers, and the food is often grown at community gardens.

The merit of this strategy is that the program's beneficiaries — often the rural poor — learn skills and develop systems that they can sustain themselves, without outside help. It also means the corps' work fits the community's needs.

■ **Worthy.** Some of the program's local ideas may be duplicated statewide, for example teaching proper nutrition to furloughed prison inmates. The anti-hunger effort has also won Vermont recognition and a chance to serve as a national model — "not by giving more handouts but by building opportunity and responsibility among the people they are working with," said Joel Berg, Agriculture Department director of national service.

These goals replicate those of many of Washington's fiscal conservatives, yet they do not place the corps above budget cuts. The federal government's debt is more than \$4.5 trillion, and growing. AmeriCorps' status as a pet Clinton initiative makes it particularly vulnerable.

So are the people it serves. The program's values are so Boy Scout-laudable, it deserves better. Its return on federal investment is high, too, for the hungry and for the participants.

The state's Congressional delegation should help it survive. Meanwhile Vermonters should continue to expand the program's volunteer supporters. Good ideas should survive no matter who is paying for them.

THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
JUNE 27, 1995

Clinton's Domestic Peace Corps Is Hard At Work in Vermont

By KRISTIN BLOOMER
Herald Staff

One young person is helping Vermonters fight hunger. Another is teaching visually impaired people to cope with their vision loss. Another is working to control erosion along the Winooski River.

They are three Vermont members of AmeriCorps, otherwise known as the Clinton administration's domestic Peace Corps. The national service program has more members per capita in Vermont than in any other state, according to the Corporation for National Service in Washington, D.C.

With 130 members serving a population of 562,768 (1990 census), Vermont's AmeriCorps has one member for every 4,328 residents. Rick Allen, the corporation's deputy assistant to President Clinton, said only Montana rivals those numbers. Montana's AmeriCorps has 179 members serving a population of 799,065, has one member per every 4,464 residents.

There are six AmeriCorps programs in Vermont:

- > The Northeast Kingdom Initiative, run out of Lyndon State College, offers services ranging from tutoring to economic development assistance.

- > The Independent Living Project, based in Brattleboro, assists the elderly and Vermonters with disabilities to remain in their

homes and stay connected with their communities around the state.

- > USDA Rural Development Teams are working on soil conservation projects — such as one along the Winooski River — and on helping rural communities like Mendon get fire protection.

- > USDA Public Lands Teams are working with the Green Mountain National Forest and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to rebuild long-neglected parks, recreation areas and miles of hiking trails.

- > The USDA Anti-Hunger Corps is working to help communities locate their own hunger needs and realize or improve projects they deem important, such as food co-ops, community gardens, and school lunch programs.

Many of these programs had already existed through USDA funding. But they were able to extend their services on the strength of their applications, Allen said.

"They were very clear about the beneficial change they were going to make for their communities," Allen said. "Vermont programs proved they were going to get things done in Vermont."

"Getting things done" is the motto for AmeriCorps. Members are selected from applications and receive a small living stipend, health care benefits and, if necessary, child (See Page 18: AmeriCorps)



Staff Photo by Peter Carver

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Rutland area with the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps.

AmeriCorps

Continued from Page 15

care. Vermont's AmeriCorps members range in age from 19 to 67.

At least three programs — the Public Lands Team, the Anti-Hunger Corps and the Independent Living Project — are still accepting applications.

For 1,700 documented hours of service and training, "full-time members" receive about \$600 a month and a \$4,725 voucher that can be used for college, graduate school or vocational training, or to pay back college loans. "Part-time members" receive travel allowance, no stipend and an education voucher of \$2,363.

Kathleen Furgeson, executive director of Vermont's Commission on National and Community Service, is in charge of the six programs. She said Vermont's relatively small

population helped groups cooperate during the grant-writing process in a way that made Vermont's proposals especially powerful.

"I don't think the decision (to fund Vermont's programs) was based on our being any more or less needy than any other state," Furgeson said. "It was based on whether we were able to best meet the needs of our particular state."

And the needs are there. Bari Gladstone, program director of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, said the Vermont Food Bank served 100,000 people last year — a fifth of the state's population and a significant increase over last year.

"There's a growing population of working people living right on the edge," she said. "Many don't consider themselves eligible for food

stamps, for example, when in fact they may be."

Zebediah Kellogg-Roe is a member of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps southwest team, whose six members live together in Sudbury and whose current work is to take "climate surveys" of the region.

The work has nothing to do with weather. The purpose is to collect information about the community's food and nutritional needs before moving into actual "project work," Kellogg-Roe said.

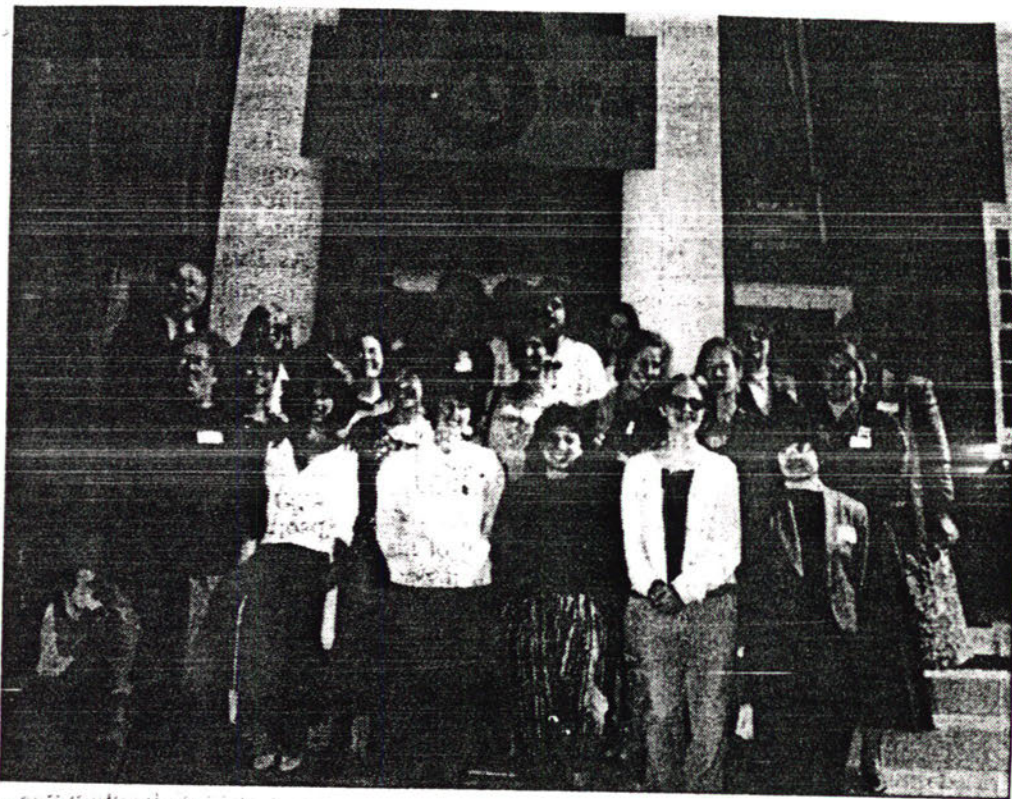
"We don't want to come in as Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps or some outside group and tell Rutland, 'This is what you should do,'" he said. "That's not going to fly. It has to be grass roots. It has to come from people who are affected by the problem."

So Kellogg-Roe is meeting with groups such as the Rutland-Area Co-Op, a group that has 77 members and needs 300 in order to get started, he said. He plans to help them with grant-writing and membership drives, and hopes to help revitalize a community garden in Bennington, he said.

The idea is to empower local communities, he said.

"I'll leave eventually," he said. "At the end of September our term will roll over. It's important that what we do has the potential to carry past us. We don't want to come in and fill a gap as a volunteer, and when we leave have it open again. We want to create a system, so that when we leave, the system is still there."

The World
Burlington, Vermont
September 15, 1994



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON SWORE IN Vermont's first AmeriCorps volunteers via satellite as part of a ceremony on Sept. 12, in the Vermont College gymnasium. AmeriCorps is the new effort to mobilize the nation's historic commitment to community service. On hand to take the oath was the first of 130 recruits in five programs that have already been funded in Vermont. Volunteers in VISTA, RSVP and other existing community volunteer programs that will continue under the AmeriCorps umbrella will also be sworn in Monday. The five new Vermont programs will send AmeriCorps members into the homes of blind Vermonters through the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and put members to work with eight social agencies through the Northeast Kingdom Initiative, a new program funded through Lyndon State College. Three other programs will come to Vermont through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help tackle hunger, improve the state's environment and work on rural development. WORLD photo by David Heath.

One of first states to benefit from national service initiative

Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps to be located in Bellows Falls

BELLOWS FALLS

by Robert F. Smith

BELLOWS FALLS — President Clinton signed into law a bill creating AmeriCorps on September 21, 1993, a domestic version of the Peace Corps. This program will use a broad spectrum of citizen volunteers to work in the areas of education, public safety, environmental programs and meeting human needs. Vermont, through the efforts of Senator Patrick Leahy, will be one of the first states to benefit from this national service initiative in a program titled the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Bellows Falls has been chosen as the center from which the local members of the program will work in Windham and Windsor counties.

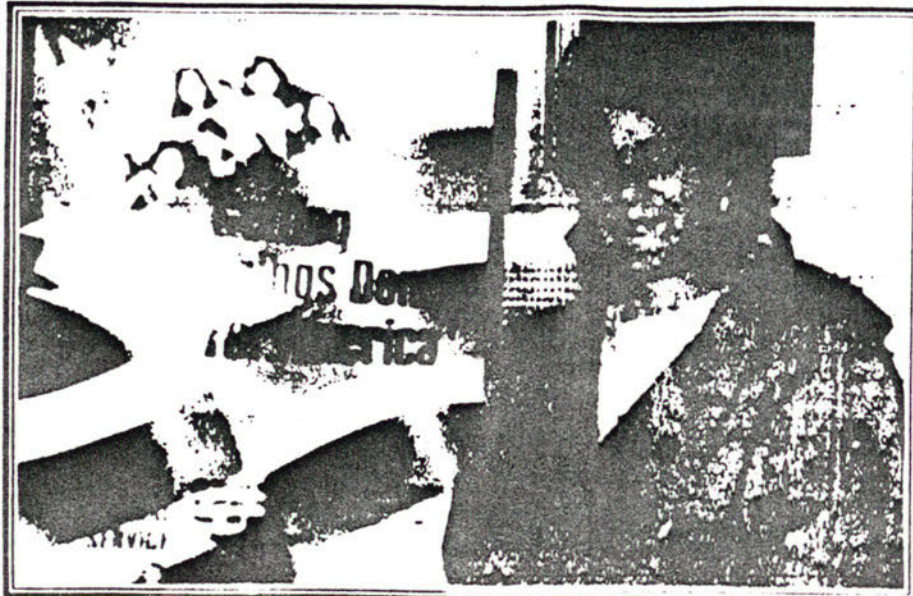
Holly Hammond, the Team Leader of the Anti-Hunger Corps in southeastern Vermont, held a meeting on November 16 at the Lockington Memorial Library to explain the local program to any interested parties.

In five geographic regions of the state, groups of eight individuals

will live and work together in a variety of programs to help reduce

the problem of hunger in Vermont. Volunteers must be age 18 or older,

and make a commitment to work for one year full-time in the pro-



Robert F. Smith

Holly Hammond, Team Leader of the Anti-Hunger Corps in southeastern Vermont, the domestic version of Peace Corps

gram. In return they will be provided with a \$7,660 annual living allowance, health insurance, work related transportation and a child care allowance, if needed. At the end of the year of service they will receive a \$4,725 education or training voucher that can be used for vocational, college and university courses, or towards paying off student loans.

Hammond said that the program, which began this month, is in its recruiting and training stage. Suitable housing for the eight local team members is being sought in Bellows Falls, which is centrally located for their assigned area.

"During this first year we want to work out programs that will not be just Band-Aids to the problem of hunger in this part of Vermont, but some real solutions," said Hammond. "We'd like to work with advisory groups from the local communities made up of parents, educators, clergy, the homeless and others. We need their help in deciding what the priority areas are that we should concentrate on."

Part of the purpose of the Anti-Hunger Corps is to collaborate with already existing groups and programs, providing extra hands and technical assistance as needed, with the long-term purpose of making

those groups and programs more effective on their own. For instance, Hammond explained that they would be working with Southeastern Vermont Community Action in its food distribution program, helping SEVCA create a better program with more community distribution centers and more regular volunteers. Other areas that the local group may become involved with are nutritional education programs in the schools and elderly housing projects, school lunch programs, community meals projects, summer feeding programs, food shelves and food banks.

"There are a lot of possibilities," explained Hammond. "Because we're in the start-up phase right now, it's impossible to say exactly what we'll be doing and what programs we'll become involved in. But this is a tremendous asset for the communities in this area to take advantage of."

Those interested in working in this program can write to the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, c/o Office of Economic Opportunity, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1801, or call 1-800-360-2577. While applications are being received to fill the 40 positions open throughout the state, more volunteers are needed.

Post 798

VFW takes over Newport Community Meal Site

by Ralph Heymsfeld

NEWPORT — The Newport Community Meal Site has found a new sponsor in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 798 in Newport. Founded eight years ago at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the meal site has operated from the VFW Hall under the supervision of North East Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) since 1990. Now the post has formally adopted the project, which helps meet the needs of hungry Vermonters in our area.

The meal site, which served 4,442 meals in 1994, is one of several community service projects that NEKCA has either privatized or is in the process of privatizing. Fearful of a substantial loss of federal funds, NEKCA officials say that they would like to see as many programs as possible supported by the communities in which they serve.

The changing of the guard at the meal site coincides with the first annual National Day of Service, April 25, which is the highlight of National Service Week, April 22-29. President Clinton has designated these dates as a time to honor service and citizenship, as well as an opportunity to expand services to the needy. The Northeast Kingdom Initiative Americorps program is celebrating National Service Week by participating in a series of events throughout the week, including the preparation of a special meal which was served at the Newport site on Monday. Some other activities in this area were marigold planting on Monday at Pine Knoll Nursing Home in Lyndonville and a canned food drive this past Friday at Lyndon State College.

Americorps, a newly formed nationwide program, is described by its members as a "stateside Peace Corps," dedicated to public service. The Northeast Kingdom Initiative is one of five Vermont teams. It is made up of 21 members who are focused on improving services in the area of education, human needs, public safety, and the environment.

Americorps has been working with the VFW



At the Newport Community Meal Site on April 24, Betty Chalfoux of Americorps, Steve Austin, one of two NC high school students who work at the site, Theresa Tessler of Vermont Associates, who also works at the site, and Frank Huard of Americorps helped prepare and serve a special meal as part of National Service Week.

Photo by Ralph Heymsfeld

post as "facilitators of the transition," according to Americorps worker Betty Chalfoux, who was on hand Monday. She said that her organization targeted the meal site as one of its major projects after an exhaustive survey of the area revealed the program was in danger of collapse.

"We found out that there wasn't really any group or organization whose mission included maintaining a soup kitchen," added Americorps worker Frank Huard. Americorps arranged for the post to take over the operation of the meal site.

The VFW has also donated \$100 to start a fund which they hope will enable the program to be self-supporting. Several fund-raising efforts are already under way. Raffle tickets costing \$10 apiece are on sale; a \$4,000 vacation will be awarded on August 20 at the Orleans County Fair. In addition, 310 letters requesting support have been mailed to area businesses and other organizations. Those interested in either volunteering or making a donation may call 888-8910 or 888-5702.

NEWPORT, VERMONT
APRIL 26, 1995

HUNGER: Prison garden yields 15 tons of food

Continued from Page 1A
The pair covers Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

The pair's first big project was an eight-week nutritional program they taught to furloughed prison inmates.

The program — which includes classes on nutrition and cooking — might be used statewide.

"That's a part of everything we do: sustainability," Does said. "And that is one of the aspects that drew me into AmeriCorps."

The pair also helped feed new life into a St. Albans community garden and an inmate garden at the Northwest State Correctional Facility, also in St. Albans.

Jones helped launch a St. Albans summer lunch program for several dozen low-income children. The city's recreation department will let kids in the program have free use of the pool and the lunches will be served in a nearby tent. Jones hopes that number will grow.

"This gives the kids an activity to come to other than the lunch. And, it helps take away the stigma for the parents," Jones said.

Does has spent much of his time working on the prison garden, which includes picking up donated plants from local greenhouses and farms.

Last year, the garden supplied 30,000 pounds of fresh vegetables to area food shelves and community kitchens and may produce more this year.

But, the sweat and service of volunteers like Does and Jones might not last for long. AmeriCorps funding, about \$850,000 in Vermont, may be wiped out under current proposals in Congress. AmeriCorps volunteers work in a variety of mediums

Corps marches against hunger

By Shay Totten
Free Press Staff Writer

Volunteers in a year-old program designed to feed and empower low-income Vermonters are gaining national attention for their work to help the rural poor.

Under the banner of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps, roughly 40 volunteers have fanned out over the state's counties to set up community gardens, nutritional programs for the elderly, and summer hot lunch programs, among other programs.

Their work is being recognized by the U.S. Agriculture Department and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Two Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps members will travel Tuesday to a Washington, D.C., seminar on childhood nutrition hosted by the first lady. The USDA, which funds part of the anti-hunger project, may use Vermont as a model for how to get the rural poor involved in self-sustaining nutritional programs.

The fuel behind the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps is AmeriCorps volunteers, a program started in 1993 by President Clinton. AmeriCorps workers are paid about \$800 a month and after 1,700 hours of service they get \$4,725 for educational use.

"We have to get people into the self-sufficient mode and I think that's crucial among the low-income population," said Laurie Larson, leader of the the corps' Northwest Vermont team, which covers Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties. It's the corps' largest coverage area and has six volunteers.

Two of the volunteers are Jamie Does, 26, and Emily Jones, 21, both of Burlington.

See HUNGER, 5A

Feeding the hungry

One out of every seven meals served at community kitchens is going to a child under the age of 18. In 1994, 78,534 children were served a meal. More than 9,000 children rely on private emergency food services. More than half of the two million meals provided annually by food shelves and community kitchens go to children under the age of 18.



Source: Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity

ranging from the environment to literacy.

If the budget cuts are approved, the program will end Oct. 1, the start of the federal fiscal year. Volunteers and program leaders are confident that the program's elimination will not end the anti-hunger projects.

"Our focus has been to work with the community so it can continue the project after we're gone," said Bari Gladstone, program director for Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps. "We help them with the agreement that they will take it over after we leave."

Vermont's hard work is paying off and may give federal officials fodder to keep the program, and similar ones, funded.

"The Vermont project is one of the most outstanding projects in the country. It seems to be leading the country in getting things done, not by giving more handouts but by building opportunity and responsibility among the people they are working with," said Joel Berg, USDA's national service director.

Lend a hand

■ The Vermont Anti-Hungers Corps is looking for AmeriCorps volunteers. The deadline is June 30.

AmeriCorps was created by President Clinton in 1993 to act as a domestic Peace Corps in which people receive a bi-weekly stipend and a lump sum after completing 1,700 hours of service. The lump sum can be put toward college tuition or other educational uses.

For information, call the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps office at (800) 360-2577 or 241-2577.

■ More than 100 of Vermont's AmeriCorps members and program staff will come together today and Tuesday at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. The meeting will be the first statewide AmeriCorps conference.

Participants will attend workshops on life after AmeriCorps and look at local AmeriCorps projects, among other things.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. today and 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

VALLEY NEWS
RANDOLPH, VERMONT
DECEMBER 15, 1994



Valley News - Medora Hebert

Borchardt stands next to a new hydrant put in by AmeriCorps workers.

AmeriCorps Fans Hope Program Can Survive Cuts

By JEREMY PEARCE
Valley News Staff Writer

RANDOLPH — With new hydrants in place, they say, residents of rural Vermont will have a fighting chance against fires. The hydrants in place, they say, will prove that at least one AmeriCorps project has succeeded.

But after four months on the job, members of an AmeriCorps team based in Randolph also say they hope there's time left to complete the project.

"I think they'll be a lot of upset people if this program comes to an end because we're out there to help the people we live with. It's a bit more than a job," said Sharon Quinlan, who left a 25-year career in marketing to become an AmeriCorps member in Randolph.

"This is not busy work or the kind of work that uneducated people can just go and do," she said earlier this week.

Wrangling between Congress and the Clinton administration over proposed cuts to the federal budget has placed AmeriCorps' future in question. Although President Clinton in his State of the Union speech defended the program just as vigorously as House Speaker Newt Gingrich has attacked it, officials are now trying to decide whether AmeriCorps is a valuable national initiative or another \$1.5 billion government indulgence.

Tagged by the Clinton administration as a new "domestic Peace Corps," AmeriCorps now involves about 20,000 members enrolled in 300 projects across the country. As part of the National Service Act passed last year, the federal program was established with a \$1.5 billion budget to last for its first three years.

Nearly 250 AmeriCorps members are at work on projects in Vermont and New Hampshire, according to state officials, and at least six of those members are based in the Upper Valley. Other projects operate statewide and

(Continued on page A6)

— CORPS



Top: The author (second from left) and team at "spike camp" on the Olympic Peninsula.

THE ISLAND INDEPENDENT, OLYMPIC PENINSULA, WASHINGTON STATE
MARCH 2, 1995

Spike Camping & Other Thrills on the Olympic Peninsula AmeriCorps: Getting Things Done

By Cherie Ude • Photos by Erik Kvilaas

Welcome to the first year of AmeriCorps, a federally-funded program designed to help our communities and environment through "national service" (*a la* the Peace Corps). This gives a chance for young people to give (and receive) education and job skills, while developing a sense of pride in the nation in which we live. For the public, this

means upgraded campgrounds and trails that conform with the American Disabilities Act, an improved logging economy through pruning trees for selective lumbering, preservation of old growth and endangered species with projects like habitat surveys, and building and installing bird and bat boxes. It's a program from which all of us benefit —



environmentalists and loggers, hikers and fishers, Forest Service and the volunteers of AmeriCorps. The program is nationwide; more than 22,000 people are involved in programs set up across the US, doing work in a variety of environmental, public safety, education, and human services. The AmeriCorps motto is "getting things done" — and that's exactly what we're doing!

I am one of the many thousands of guinea pigs in this new program. I first became aware of AmeriCorps from a newspaper ad looking for people interested in environmental issues and willing to work out of Port Townsend. My interest quickly aroused, I called and soon received information and an application.

The Olympic Peninsula program (operated by the Oregon-based Northwest Youth Corps, contracting under the AmeriCorps umbrella), offered housing at the Fort Worden State Park, a small living stipend, and a college award of \$4,725 after 1,812 hours of service — about ten months. It all sounded too good to be true: Port Townsend was close to my home on Whidbey Island; I enjoy working outside and have always been concerned about the environment; I needed a job because I'd been traveling for an extended period, and I haven't been to college, so the education award was appealing.

After sending in the extensive application and enjoying a positive preliminary phone interview, my next month was spent hovering expectantly over the phone. As time dragged on, though, I became convinced I hadn't gotten the job; I spent my hours pestering and complaining incessantly to my parents. Imagine their relief when, two weeks before the job's starting date, the call came asking me to report to Fort Worden on November 1. The call was followed by a brief note, describing what to bring and where to go on the first day. My next two weeks were spent frantically packing, re-packing, and running around buying new things (a new job means it's time to shop, right?).

The day finally came when I took the ferry over to Port Townsend to begin our first weeks of orientation. I still believe that first impressions are important, but I no longer believe they're always accurate. The AmeriCorps volunteers that showed up that day were diverse, I had my doubts as to whether any of us had *anything* in common. There were huge intimidating people and petite people who looked like a gust of wind would blow them over; there were shaved heads and hair to the waist, loud, high-energy people and quiet ones in the corner. How could we really expect to work and live together?

We were taken up to one of Fort Worden's old houses, where all 40 of us were to live. Perhaps predictably, some of our first lessons were in conflict resolution and space management. We had to figure out special hours for the hackey-sack players to do their thing without disturbing the readers and sleepers downstairs; quiet hours in the evenings were and sometimes still are, a major source of conflict. Keeping the kitchen and the common rooms clean, too, was a problem at first.

Orientation was a good time for us to scope out potential problems and get them solved. We had many workshops on functioning together as a team, developing leadership skills, and maintaining equality — lessons that help a diverse group live and work together efficiently. We also played a lot of "get to know each other" games; we took several field trips — exploring Port Townsend and Fort Worden, traveling to nearby ranger stations, doing trash cleanups, and taking couple hikes to learn about old-growth forests and resident animals. Our first two weeks

Thursday, June 23, 1994 — 6A

Klickitat project funded

A Klickitat County salmon habitat restoration project has been named one of 57 recipients nationwide for federal funds through President Clinton's AmeriCorps program.

Known as the "domestic Peace Corps," Clinton signed the AmeriCorps national service program into law last September. The program will employ about 20,000 people nationwide by the end of this year.

Dave Kreft, a Klickitat County district conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, said the Mid-Columbia Salmon Restoration Project will receive about \$225,000 through AmeriCorps. The money will be used to hire 10 people and a supervisor whose main goal will be to work with private landowners to restore and maintain streams for spawning salmon.

Kreft said the project will last one year. People hired for the project will be paid \$7,500 for the year. They also will receive a \$4,725 education voucher that can be used to pay off college loans or future tuition expenses.

The salmon habitat project also is supported by the Yakama Indian Nation, the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners, the state Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts.

The Goldendale Sentinel
Goldendale, Washington
July 21, 1994

— July 21, 1994 —

THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL
Your Hometown Newspaper

AmeriCorps seeks recruits

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service project, which will be organized in Goldendale starting in September.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows participants to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a living stipend of \$12,000 plus health benefits. Participants will also earn an educational award worth \$4,725.

The 15 participants in the Mid-Columbia Salmon Habitat Restoration Project will be involved in planning, designing and installing conservation practices to improve salmon spawning-habitat. Part of this effort will involve planting trees and shrubs along streams and rivers to help cool the water and reduce evaporation losses. In addition, the participants will build structures to improve stream-bank stability and

reduce sediment flow into streams and rivers.

Any U.S. citizens, age 17 or older, are eligible to apply for the program. Applicants should have a high school diploma or be actively pursuing their GED. There is no maximum or minimum family income restriction. Applications will be accepted until Aug. 5. The project will be based out of Goldendale and participants must be willing to relocate if necessary.

To apply for the program, or get more information, call the Goldendale Soil Conservation Service office at 773-5822, or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hotline at 1 (800) 880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urges all interested Americans to apply.

"AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility and opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school — good for communities, which benefit from their service — and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic spirit," Espy said.

THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL
GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER 24, 1994



FEDERAL DOLLARS AT WORK — An AmeriCorps group was busy last week clearing down and dying timber on Observatory Hill. The logs were cut into firewood for distribution in the Goldendale area. People in need of firewood must be referred through Klickitat County Senior Services, the Interfaith Fellowship or the Klickitat/Skamania Development Project.

THE GOLDENDALE SENTINEL
GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON
JUNE 30, 1994

Soil Conservation Service joins in salmon recovery

The first wave of AmeriCorps programs, announced by the White House this month, includes more than \$200,000 allocated to the Mid-Columbia Salmon Restoration Project located in Klickitat County.

AmeriCorps, the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton last September, establishes a "domestic Peace Corps," involving thousands of young Americans who will work through AmeriCorps programs to perform critical service in urban and rural communities nationwide.

In Klickitat County, AmeriCorps participants will work under the leadership of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The project involves planning, designing and installing conservation practices on private land to improve water quality on a sub-watershed basis. The goal is to provide suitable habitat and water quality for salmon spawning in streams and rivers capable of doing so. The SCS, and the Central and Eastern Klickitat County Conservation Districts, work with landowners on a voluntary basis.

Local SCS District Conserva-

tionist Dave Kreft put together the proposal based on the emerging Columbia River salmon issue and the need for local employment opportunities.

"Another important factor was the recent ground work laid by the Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts," Kreft said. "The districts recently completed a 2-year grant to create a demonstration site along the Little Klickitat River west of Goldendale. The AmeriCorps program will basically continue that work, but on a broader scale."

"This is absolutely a brand new program. We will be getting the details over the coming weeks on when we can start recruiting people for the local team," he said.

AmeriCorps will be launched in September and will eventually engage up to 20,000 AmeriCorps members. In exchange for one or two years of service, AmeriCorps members will receive a living expense of about \$7,500 per year and an educational voucher worth \$4,725. These educational awards can be used to finance higher education or pay back college loans.

Local news

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL Thursday, December 29, 1994 5A

ANTI-HUNGER PROGRAM

United Way given \$25,000

United Way of Greater Milwaukee has received a \$25,000 grant from the General Electric Fund to support a local initiative to hire and train 38 young people to work with an anti-hunger program.

The grant will be used to support the Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger, Nutrition and Empowerment Project coordinated by the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps.



The two coordinating organizations will recruit, hire, train and educate 38 people between the ages of 18 and 23 for the program.

AmeriCorps teams then will implement activities in four focus areas: community outreach; constructing and renovating buildings for food sites and meal programs; helping local farmers with neighborhood farmers markets; and working with food pantries, meal programs and food drives to collect, sort and assist at the Hunger Task Force warehouse.

JOPPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL third graders recently presented a program for the residents and staff of Ridgeview Terrace Nursing Home in Rutledge. The students dressed as pilgrims and Indians in commemoration of the Thanksgiving holiday around which the program was planned. (Photo by Karen Long)

Clinch-Powell Employs Workers

The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council has employed six AmeriCorps participants.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows young people to earn money for school and loan repayments while serving critical needs in their communities. The Clinch-Powell RC&D AmeriCorps are sponsored by the United States Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to aid the rural community.

Participants will be working in the five counties served by the council, Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and

Union. The AmeriCorps personnel are Sarah Buchanan, Liz Upchurch, Mikhail Delong, Mary Russell, Jeremy Williams and Steve Karnitz.

Buchanan is serving as the environmental education coordinator. She will work in the school conducting various programs and activities on solid waste education, clean water, Conservation Camp, Envirothon and teacher in-service workshops. Her other activities will include newsletters to area schools, publicity on the environmental education program and the environmental resource library maintained by the

council. Buchanan holds a B.S. degree in agriculture communications.

Upchurch is serving as the solid waste and recycling specialist. Her duties will include developing exhibits and displays, assisting solid waste boards, education and a promotion campaign to increase recycling and waste reduction, development of a Buy Recycled campaign and integration with the Keep America Beautiful coordinator. She is a recent University of Tennessee graduate in geography.

Delong, Russell and Williams are serving as the specialty recreation and tourism team. They

will be evaluating establishing a tourism base for the five counties served by the council. The formation of a regional advisory committee for the project and working with established tourism committees will be the basis of developing a long range tourism development plan.

Russell and Williams hold M.S. degrees in geography from UT and Delong is a geography graduate from UT.

Karnitz will be serving as a recycling specialist for the Recycling Market Cooperative of East Tennessee. RMCET, located in Knoxville, serves 34 east Tennessee counties.

Katnitz will be working on the inventory and database management of recycling programs, program design and materials management as well as recruitment of members and education of the public concerning markets and recycling. He is a Tennessee Technological University graduate in chemical engineering.

AmeriCorps participants are assigned to work 1812 hours and eligible to serve for two years.

"The AmeriCorps program is helping RC&D to meet important needs in the communities we serve. The talents of the AmeriCorps workers and their dedication to community service is an exciting addition to our programs," reports Lindy Turner, RC&D coordinator.

For more information about the AmeriCorps program, call the RC&D office at 828-5927 or 828-8354.

Food Stamps Aid With Holiday

The holidays are quickly approaching and many people are looking forward to the good times and good foods that go with the season.

However, there are many people in area communities who may not be able to enjoy these times because they are struggling to make ends meet. The Douglas

Authority's Food Stamp Outreach Project may be able to help those in need of assistance.

This program serves Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Scott, Sevier, and Union Counties. Anyone interested in applying for food stamps may simply call 1-800-673-4458. This call is free

ask a few simple questions. If a caller meets certain guidelines, an application will be sent.

The program targets four groups: the elderly, working poor, homeless and single parents. However, anyone interested in applying for benefits may call.

Senior citizens are living on fixed incomes as the

cost of living increases. The elderly also tend to have high medical bills or high prescription costs. A number of older people spend 1/3 or more of their income on medicine.

Eighty-five percent of people over retirement age suffer from at least one chronic disease that affects what they need to eat. Food Stamps can help buy those foods

School and then privileges revoked year.

Todd Kincaid was placed on probation for 11 months and 29 days on each of the charges of theft under \$500 and vandalism.

Frank Smith was fined \$250 and costs for driving on a revoked license and given a 30-day suspended sentence. He also was fined \$10 and costs for violation of the seat belt law.

Bobby Lynn Atkins was fined \$50 and costs for reckless driving.



Oh my Lordy,
Is Kathy
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Rt. 2, Box
Rutledge.



Susan I.

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Don't Forget!

THURSDAY,
DEC. 8

6:00 P M

