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THE CREIGHTON NEWS
CREIGHTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 27, 1995

The Creighton News..... Wednesday, September 27, 1995- 3

AmeriCorps Recruits Being Recruited For 3 Nebr. Sites

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is continuing their recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service program.

According to Jan Jorgensen, NRCS State Program Director, applications are still being accepted for the northeast location sites of Ponca, Plainview and O'Neill. She said that the application deadline has been extended to Friday, Oct. 6.

"AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of diverse backgrounds to help communities meet some of their needs," explains Jorgensen. "In return, AmeriCorps members receive an educational award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. Most AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations."

USDA has three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: An Anti-Hunger Team; a Public Lands and Environment Team; and a Rural Development Team.

"Many of the AmeriCorps projects will be sponsored by community-based organizations," she said. "In Nebraska, Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) are participating with NRCS."

According to Jorgensen, the five participants at the northeast Nebraska USDA sites will work individually with rural development issues in communities located within RC&D areas.

"They'll be involved in tourism development, recreational trail construction, starting recycling programs

where none now exist, and working to educate people on proper handling and disposal of household hazardous wastes, as well as, other projects identified by RC&D Councils and DED," she adds.

Those with a college degree, two years of work experience and/or a high school diploma may apply.

"A sincere desire to perform national service, as well as, learning about, training in and working with rural communities is a must," she said. "Participants will work full-time for a year to earn a stipend of \$7,945 to \$12,000 and an educational award of \$4,725 for successful completion of 1,700 hours of direct community service."

For more information about the program call Jan Jorgensen, Program Director at 402-582-4866. To request an application call Shelli Moore at 402-437-5309 or the toll-free national USDA/AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183.

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 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 Talbot, R-Chesterfield, said in a press release. "Although the initial concept AmeriCorps may have been noble, this program has become a system of paid 'volunteerism' for political causes."

Adopt-a-Stream program planned for schools in Fish River lakes area

By Dawn Gagnon
Of the NEWS Staff

VAN BUREN — The homeowners and camp owners of tomorrow will soon be armed with the knowledge and skills they will need to insure a healthy future for northern Maine's streams, rivers, lakes and ponds.

Raymonde Violette of Van Buren, an AmeriCorps volunteer working with the Fish River Lakes Water Quality Association, is gearing up to pilot an Adopt-a-Stream program in selected schools in the Fish River watershed.

The concept of focusing water-quality education on an "adopted" body of water is not new, Violette noted. The model originated in the Pacific Northwest in 1991 and has since spread eastward.

The program has not only generated a better understanding of the fragility of watersheds, but also as prompted some to take action, such as monitoring water quality and holding cleanup days.

The Adopt-a-Stream program Violette will unveil in February is patterned after one being implemented now in southern coastal Maine by Holly Sheehan, a fellow AmeriCorps recruit.

Sheehan's program involves ma-

rine or coastal estuaries. Violette's will address northern Maine's inland waters.

Violette plans to pilot the program in about four schools located in the Fish River lakes watershed in north-central Aroostook County. The schools will be named shortly.

The program initially will be offered to fourth-graders and to eighth- or ninth-graders, depending on which grade level is being taught environmental studies at selected schools.

Violette hopes the curriculums she's developing will eventually be used in schools throughout the county.

She has enlisted the aid of Amanda Smith, an AmeriCorps volunteer working with salmon enhancement groups in the region, and Chad Bourgoin, an environmental studies major at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Smith and Bourgoin will help Violette deliver the program.

The Fish River lakes watershed has a drainage area of about 890 square miles, 69 lakes and ponds and a multitude of tributaries.

The major lakes in the chain are Fish River, Portage, St. Froid, Eagle, Square, Cross, Mud and Long.

The waterways that classes

adopt will serve as departure points for study in four broad areas: geography, ecology, human impact, and prevention of further waterway degradation.

In the geography component, students will explore how their chosen body of water fits into a larger ecosystem, or watershed. They will locate their adopted waterway on topographical maps and aerial photos and see where it lies in relation to their school and perhaps their homes.

In the ecology portion, students will explore food webs in their waterway. Species of plants and animals living in or near it will be identified. Lessons and activities will help them learn about fish habitats.

Students also will learn how human activity affects their adopted waterway. They will learn about types and sources of pollution and the causes and effects of erosion, among other things.

In the final component, students will visit their adopted waterways for research. They will attempt to identify sources of pollution and gain firsthand experience in water-quality monitoring as they test pH and oxygen levels, transparency and temperature.

AmeriCorps members underway

Having recruited only nine persons previously for the possible 10 positions available for the Nebraska AmeriCorps/Team USDA Program, the Plainview position has now been filled by Nadene Chavet of Plainview.

AmeriCorps is the president's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the community level.

Of the 10 positions filled by the program, five are located in southeast Nebraska and five in northeast Nebraska.

Chavet was recently added to the northeast's staff and will be located at the Plainview Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) office.

Chavet graduated from Wayne State College in December with a BS degree in Business Administration and is beginning to work on a MBA program this month.

The other four in northeast Nebraska are Mary Rose Backhaus of Randolph and Stephen Wilson Cook of Sioux City at the Ponca site, Carmen Shaffer of Randolph at the Plainview office and Bonnie Tyrrell at the North Central RC&D office in Bassett.

AmeriCorps members are available to assist communities and their volunteers with rural development projects. Community projects considered can be in areas other than the three main objectives of the group. The three objectives are:

1. Identify and reduce the volume of solid waste reaching landfills by 20 percent through establishment of five community programs.

2. Initiate the collection and recycling of household hazardous waste by the establishment of one collection center, and



Members of the AmeriCorps/Team USDA are, front row, left to right: Mary Rose Backhaus and Nadene Chavet; back row: Stephen Wilson Cook, Bonnie Tyrrell and Carmen Shaffer.

3. Develop and implement a recreational trail.

Each member of AmeriCorp also will have an individual community service objective.

Shaffer has set a goal of updating or establishing eight community profiles. A community profile is information about a town. Each profile will list a variety of information, like housing, transportation, health facilities, education, among other items.

Chavet, who is the newest member, has yet to set up her individual goal.

Other goals being looked at are recycling in five communities, hazardous waste collection day in three RC&D offices, a strategic plan for

economic development of multiple communities along the Cowboy Trail, establishment of park restrooms and flower gardens in Chambers, develop an educational presentation on the importance of recycling and develop an extended database of recycling resources and providers.

The Ponca group has already accomplished one of their goals, which was a photometric index of Ponca.

With the help of Ponca High School students, Wilson and Backhaus mapped and photographed areas of Ponca to watch the increase or decrease of waste material in parts of town.

JENNINGS DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

November 23, 1995

Serving Jefferson Davis Parish Since 1896

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RC&D honors hydrant planner

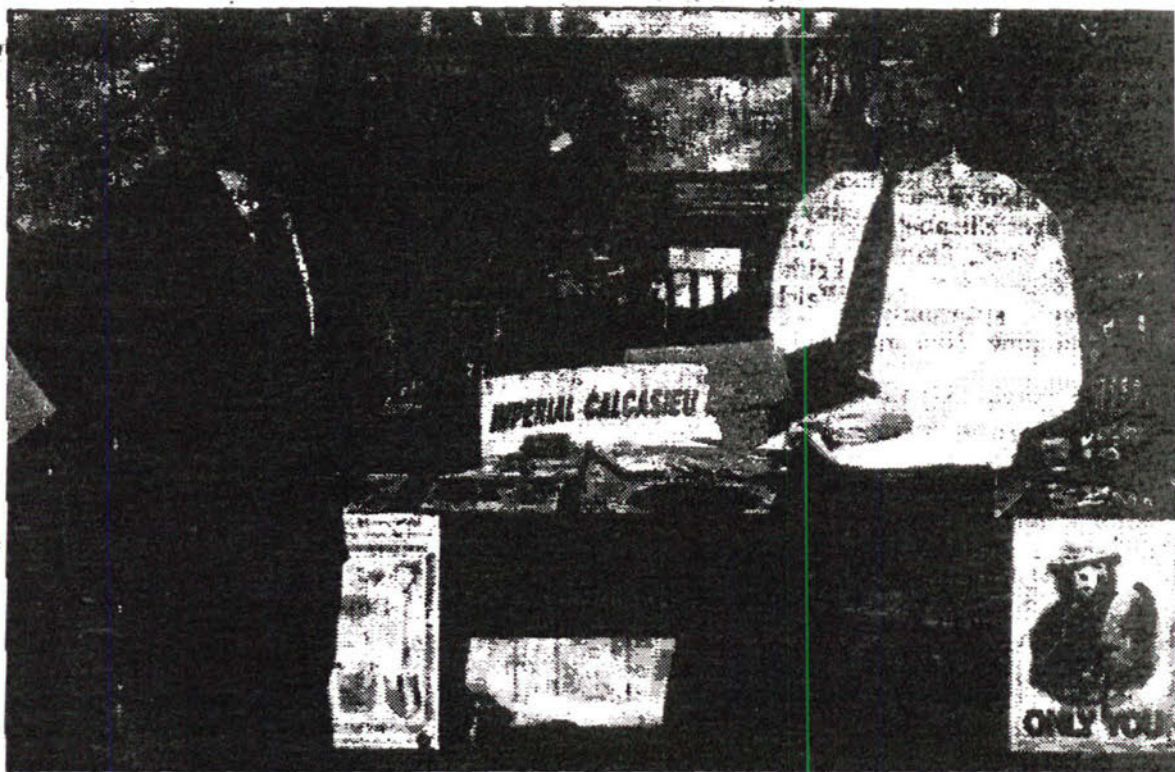
By JOHN ST. ORES
Daily News Staff Writer

At a recent Executive Council meeting of the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D, Dominic Beggan was honored with a plaque.

Charles Achane, president of the Council, presented the token of appreciation to Beggan for outstanding service in his participation in the Dry Fire Hydrant Project (DFH).

Beggan, a 1993 graduate of McNeese State University, became an Americorps member in July, 1994. He worked at the Northeast Delta RC&D until January of 1995 when he came to Imperial Calcasieu RC&D.

He headed up the DFH program and established the locations of the 175 DFH allocated for the 5 parishes represented by Imperial Calcasieu RC&D. His schedule included meeting with local fire districts and fire



Charles Achane, left, President of the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D, presents Americorps volunteer Dominic Beggan, left, with a plaque of appreciation at a recent Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Executive Council meeting. (Photo submitted.)

See RC&D on Page 5

RC&D

Continued from Page 1

chiefs, locating sites for the DFH with them, getting easement applying for the 404 and coast use permits, and submitting the project application to Trailblaze RC&D.

Beggan also assisted the parishes of Acadiana RC&D their DFH project. He concluded his tour of duty on July 8.

"We were privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such

Presid
Impr
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also welcomed on board Don Haydel as its new Americorps member.

Haydel is a Jennings resident, a graduate of Jennings High School, and is in her third year at McNeese State University, majoring in elementary education. She met the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D staff on Nov. 14 and, Beggan, will be working with the DFH project, both locally and with the Acadiana RC&D.

"We are glad to have Don with us and feel she will be an asset not only to the Americorps program, but to the RC&D," President Achane. "Her knowledge of the area and people will help her in her new duties."

JENNINGS DAILY NEWS
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 23, 1995

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

National leader visits Cheyenne...

AmeriCorps team looks for renovation projects

AmeriCorps/USDA projects celebrated the beginning of the second year of participation in the country's national service program during October with swearing ceremonies nationwide.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

U.S. Department of Agriculture will sponsor approximately 1,350 members in 45 states during 1995-96. Members will continue to serve on one of three types of teams: Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development.

On November 29th the AmeriCorps Team stationed at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cheyenne was visited by Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA) Washington, D.C. Berg's goal for his trip to Oklahoma was to personally meet and work alongside



AmeriCorps Team Leader Brant Rogers (left) and Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA), Washington D.C., clean up an old shelterbelt in Roger Mills County.

AmeriCorps members. During his visit to the area Berg helped the team renovate a tree row in western Roger Mills County. Renovations involved removing old, dead and diseased trees and planting new seedlings in the spring.

The team members are Octavio Villa, Jr., Elk City; Jeremy Moler, Charles Hughes, Robert

Jencks, all of Cheyenne; and Brant Rogers, Reydon.

The AmeriCorps Team will be looking for renovation projects throughout the next nine months. If you are an interested landowner, please contact your local USDA-NRCS office. The Cheyenne Team will be working in Roger Mills, Beckham, and Custer Counties.

**CHEYENNE STAR
CHEYENNE, OKLAHOMA
DECEMBER 3, 1995**

THE LAFOURCHE GAZETTE
LAROSE, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 15, 1995

THE LAFOURCHE GAZETTE
LAROSE, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 15, 1995

Environmental team begins work at plant center

On November 13, 1995, a team of ten USDA-AmeriCorps members began work at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, Galliano, Louisiana, as part of a Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Corps project.

The USDA-AmeriCorps team will be working in conjunction with the Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water District to establish vegetation along the shoreline of Bayou Lafourche and help in barrier island restoration and stabilization using native vegetation. While at the Plant Materials Center, team members will assist with research in plant development, cultural techniques and plant propagation.

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partnership with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger team, a Public Lands and Environmental team and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Plant Materials Center manager, Gary Fine, will supervise the project and Peggy Lockhart, of Larose, has been selected as team leader. Local area residents that make up the team members are Rebekah Richoux and Susan Terrebonne of Galliano, Eric Arable and Penny LeBoeuf of Raceland, Clay Hebert of Cut Off, Branden Goldman of Grand Isle, Jean Eymard of Lockport, Sean Bourg of Bourg and Tiffany Arable of Mathews.

For more information on the USDA-AmeriCorps project, contact Gary Fine or Peggy Lockhart at the Plant Materials Center at 475-5280.

Russell County Welcomes New Conservationists

By Richard Fulgham

No one argues that the state of our environment is crucial to the happiness and health of Russell Countians. So it's no surprise that two new ecologists

have been stationed here, nor that they play a vital role in guaranteeing that our quality of life -- dependent on uncontaminated water, air and soil -- will remain at least as wholesome as it is now and hope-

fully be improved.

Marlene Salyer Fields of the Castlewood section is a water quality specialist from *Americorps* who maintains an office in Lebanon under supervision of the Black Diamond Resource Conservation District.

Americorps is the national-service initiative signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994. At this time, there are about 20,000 individuals of all ages and backgrounds performing critical services to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, it provides its volunteers with a \$4,725 voucher per year for educational tuition, vocational training or repayment of student loans.

Fields, who already holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental science, intends to use her voucher to work to-

ward her master's degree.

Marlene's major duty is to educate people about environmental concerns and solutions in six counties: Russell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Scott and Wise (including the City of Norton).

Besides presenting school programs in class and taking children on "hands-on" field trips, Fields works with other specialists on improving the quality of water in Big Cedar Creek.

When not working on her *Americorps* duties, Marlene drives a Russell County school bus. She has two adult children: 22 year old James, and Jennifer, who is currently a freshman at Nortre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland.



Conservation Intern Jennifer Miller; Environmental Specialist Beth Leonard and *Americorps* volunteer Marlee Salyer Fields.

LEBANON NEWS
RUSSELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA
FEBRUARY 2, 1996



A helping hand

Joel Berg, at center, head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps program, helped AmeriCorps members Bree Enderle, at left, and Milton Nokes build a retaining wall Tuesday along the

—Chris Ochsner/The Capital-Journal

Shunga Trail. Berg said he makes an effort to visit all of the AmeriCorps projects. The AmeriCorps members serving on the Topeka team have taken on the Shunganunga Creek area as their project.



SAFETY FIRST — Katrina Hine, of Moline, talks with Rita and Jim Foster, of Edna, about

farm safety during the John Deere Expo at O'Malley's Thursday afternoon.

(Photo by Julia Clarke)

DAILY REPORTER
MOLINE, KANSAS
JANUARY 12, 1996

AmeriCorps worker pushes safety

By **HAROLD CAMPBELL**
Staff Writer

Whether it's testing water quality or organizing classes for volunteer rural firefighters or preaching the message of farm safety, training others has become a way of life for Katrina Hine.

A rural Moline resident, Hine serves as the new U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps program director for southeast Kansas. A member of the USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Team, her duties are to provide safety training for farm families and to educate the public about rural issues.

"There are a lot of little kids who don't know that hamburger doesn't come from a grocery store," she said, "and there are a lot of older folks who need education, too."

An example of a recent project she organized was a water quality clinic in Chautauqua County. As part of the project, water samples from rural wells were tested for coliform, e coli bacteria and nitrates, common elements found in water supplies in rural areas.

Results of the tests are expected to be released during a meeting on Jan. 22.

"At first, I thought no one would be interested in this, and maybe eight people would show up," she said. "However, I was surprised at the

amount of interest people showed. I think people are beginning to realize that pesticides, livestock and other different things need to be managed."

She said that Elk and Montgomery counties have expressed interest in having water testing there, while Labette County officials also have said they might like to have a testing program in their county.

Although it was not in her original plans when she assumed her position last October, Hine also has begun arranging training surveys and classes for rural firefighters, especially for handling hazardous materials.

"When you think of what kinds of chemicals are on farms, such as acetylene, ammonia, gasoline, diesel, there are a lot of potential hazardous materials," she said. "Rural firefighters have the awareness they are out there, but they don't have the training to deal with them."

As a result, she has arranged for a representative from the state firefighters association to conduct a hazardous materials training workshop on the first weekend in March at a still-to-be-determined location in Elk County. Rural firefighters from neighboring counties, as well as farmers or anyone else dealing with chemicals also would be invited to attend.

"This is a way for rural firefighters to provide services for someone else and protect themselves, too," she

said. "I'm concerned that these guys are putting their lives on the line for something they don't have the training to handle."

Saying more accidents happen in agriculture than in any other occupation, Hine also has begun speaking to 4-H clubs, family and community education units and other groups about farm safety.

The focus of her safety talks, she said, are farm wives and children.

"They pick at dad until he listens," she said.

Her territory consists of 12 southeast Kansas counties, stretching from Chautauqua to Greenwood counties to Bourbon to Cherokee counties, which she covers while taking care of her three children, Courtney, 12, Holle, 10, and Caleb, 5. Her husband, Randall, works at Beech Aircraft in Wichita.

Congress approved funding for the AmeriCorps program, which President Clinton began as a way to encourage volunteer service throughout the country, through the 1996 fiscal year, but no funding has been approved for 1997.

Yet, armed with her previous experience as administrative assistant of the Elk County Council on Aging, she said she plans to continue serving others.

"I've always enjoyed working with people and helping people," she said.

Protect your well water

How safe is your drinking water? If you're like most rural homeowners, farmers or ranchers, you're concerned about protecting your own drinking water. Did you know that your farmstead, depending on your management, can be a major source of groundwater contamination? This means that your family, livestock and neighbors could be at risk.

How can you find out if there is a danger or if you have a problem? Glad you asked! Currently there is only one major program available to assist private well owners in protecting groundwater.

The Farm*A*Syst program uses easy, step-by-step worksheets that rank each farmstead activity or structure that could cause ground water contamination.

After going through the easy worksheets, you will use these rankings and the additional informational brochures to develop an overall action for protecting your drinking water. Farm*A*Syst is a confidential assessment that you can use on your own, or by talking with local experts.

You decide what to do with the results of your assessment of your farmstead and rural residence at little or no cost and best of all, you are in control because the intent of this program is educational.

Today Louisiana is playing an important part in the Farm*A*Syst program by being a pilot study program stat for the University of Wisconsin. Louisiana is the very first state to help conduct a cost/benefit analysis of Farm*A*Syst. With the combined efforts of AmeriCorps members assigned to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana can be a pioneer in this progressive program.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

The majority of AmeriCorps

Members are working in partnerships with state, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 88 states, composed of approximately 1,200 teams and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

If you would like to participate or find out more about the Farm*A*Syst program, please contact your local district conservationist. In East Carroll Parish, please contact Floyd Hooker our Lake Providence Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, at 318-659-2604 or call Steve Nipper in Monroe at 318-387-8683.

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Water—

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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, DC, 20250, or call 202-720-7227 (voice) or 202-720-7808 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity

Bowling for Virtue

Kill the welfare state, but save national service

BY JOE KLEIN

WEEKS LATER, LIBERALS REMAIN MYSTIFIED BY NEWT Gingrich's inaugural speech to the House of Representatives. Why all the compassionate talk about the poor? (No Democrat could get away with that.) Has Gingrich changed his stripes? Has he moved to the center? Become a statesman? In a word: no. He's been talking this way for years, outraged by the violence, anarchy and despair in the slums—which he believes are largely caused by liberal programs. He wants to eliminate the "bureaucratic welfare state." He wants to replace it with... charity. He really means to do this. He proposes a "Wesleyan revival," in which virtuous Americans would feel morally reinvigorated, and give time and money to uplift the poor. "If every American spent three hours a month helping someone who needed it," he said last week, "a lot of these problems would disappear."

Gingrich, as always, offered a reading list: "The Tragedy of American Compassion," by Marvin Olasky, which chronicles an explosion of charitable giving in the late 19th century. He might easily have added Gertrude Himmelfarb's new book, "The De-Moralization of Society," which argues that Victorian attitudes toward charity—and poverty—were not only admirable but quite successful. Such views are easily mocked. Dickens trumps Himmelfarb. But one wonders what Dickens would have done with Joycelyn Elders, Donna Shalala and your local, insensate welfare office. Poverty seems more desperate, intractable and amoral now than it did a hundred years ago—when, as Himmelfarb shows, rates of pauperism, crime and illegitimacy were in steady, long-term decline. The old ways—a society-wide insistence on moral behavior and exemplary acts—may be the best way to lift the poor. But there is a problem: the Victorian charitable explosion occurred at a moment when living standards were soaring and when there were far fewer distractions. We don't seem to have the time, or the inclination, for altruism anymore.

Indeed, we seem to be moving in the opposite direction: the number of volunteers for groups like the Boy Scouts and Red Cross has plummeted in the last 20 years. PTA participation is way down. The fraternal orders are waning. Even bowling leagues are in decline—people prefer to bowl alone—Harvard professor Robert Putnam writes in an elegant article for the *Journal of Democracy*. Putnam attributes these phenomena to several factors: less time (women go to work now), increased mobility (people are less likely to put down social roots) and of course—television. Gingrich disagrees. He believes the aggrandizement of the bureaucracy has made families and communities less relevant. "People don't go to PTA meetings," he says, "because they don't like professional bureaucrats telling them how useless they are. When you emasculate citizens, you can't expect them to be very enthusiastic about participating."

But even if you empower citizens—as Gingrich might say—Putnam's other factors won't go away. This isn't the 19th century. And where's Wesley? If the welfare state is to be scrapped and privatized, civil society will need steroids. Gingrich wants a tax credit for charitable contributions. Fair enough. But more will be needed. No doubt, state and local governments can "nonprofitize" many services—that is, pay private charities to do things formerly done by bureaucrats. There is no reason social workers need to be public employees. But perhaps the most creative—indeed, virtuous—role government can play would be to provide charitable institutions with a steady stream of young, altruistic, energetic, exemplary (and cheap) workers. In fact, a government program recently has begun to do just that, and with great promise: national service.

"Everyone talks about unfunded mandates—things Washington requires the states and cities to do," says Eli Siegal, the director of Americorps. "We're the exact opposite: a funded nonmandate." The states decide whether to participate, and which local programs to fund. There are now about 20,000 young people working (at minimum wage, while repaying \$4,725 in college loans per year of service) in 350 nonprofit programs nationally.

Last week, I called around to various private groups who've been using the volunteers, and their reports were uniformly enthusiastic. "They've come into the community and done far more than we asked or expected," says Dawn Taylor of the Storm-break Youth Shelter in State College, Pa. (which runs, among other things—Newt

should note—a group home for troubled teens). "Their job is to tutor the young people, but they're not content with that. They've helped with fund-raising telethons and lots of other programs," expanding the scope of charitable activities in the county. "They are so enthusiastic and energetic. And there are a lot more ways we'd like to use them, if we could." Unfortunately, she can't: Americorps volunteers can't supplant existing public employees, a regulation that Republicans should jettison if they

choose to continue this program. (There is no reason why national service shouldn't bite off great chunks of the civil service.)

But the Republicans may not continue it. "I am totally, unequivocally opposed to national service," Gingrich says. "It is coerced voluntarism... It's gimmicky." These are spurious, knee-jerk arguments. National service is induced—not coerced—voluntarism, just as his tax credit for charity would be. And, gimmicky? As if term limits and balanced-budget amendments weren't polyester legislative shortcuts. Programs that work are miracles, not gimmicks. There will be a fight over this. But expect the House Appropriations Committee to follow the speaker's lead and kill national service—which seems the political equivalent of drowning a puppy.



RAY F. HILLSTROM JR.

Beleaguered: No time for society?

Conservatives seem to want Victorian charity, but who has the time?

Clinton Says Service Plan Can't Be Cut

113

Defends His Venture From G.O.P. Critics

By DOUGLAS JEHL

Special to The New York Times

DENVER, Jan. 16 — President Clinton today mounted a defense of his \$500 million program that encourages young people to take part in national service, an idea that Congressional Republicans have in their budget-cutting sights.

The program, known as Americorps, now includes 20,000 young people who work full or part time at minimum wage in one of 300 different programs in communities around the country, in return for Government help in repaying their college loans. In an address here today, the President proclaimed that its establishment had been perhaps his proudest achievement.

But the new Republican leaders in Congress have suggested that the program be eliminated to help finance a new tax cut. Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia was quoted in Newsweek magazine as saying that he was "totally, unequivocally opposed" to the Clinton program, which he labeled "coerced voluntarism" and "gimmickry."

In a careful response today, Mr. Clinton took pains to insist that the national service program was "not a bureaucracy." He said the program should be spared from the spending cuts that the White House has vowed to work with Republicans to bring about because the program is already "changing the way that government works."

"The purpose of all this is not to wreck the Government, not to give us a mean-spirited government, but to give us a lean government that will work with us to solve all our problems," the President said.

After two months in which the White House has embraced substantial parts of the Republican agenda, today's defense served notice that the national service program would be among the features of Mr. Clinton's program for which he remained determined to fight.

As the President began a two-day Western trip here by commemorating the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before flying to California to pay tribute to the state's latest efforts to contend with natural disaster, aides said he had already planned the encourage community service as a proper way to honor the slain civil rights leader.

But after Presidential aides learned over the weekend about Mr. Gingrich's remarks, the White House moved quickly this morning in what a senior Administration official described as an effort to "draw the line" around the national service program and to portray its critics as wrongheaded.

Mr. Clinton's remarks here were preceded by an impromptu briefing on in a rear compartment of Air Force One in which senior officials who insisted on anonymity professed disbelief at Mr. Gingrich's stance. Later, Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman, ventured

into a room here where reporters were working to volunteer one last word. "It's an effort that deserves support and not a meat cleaver," Mr. McCurry said of the national service program.

The President himself did not mention Mr. Gingrich by name in his speech to a vast crowd of local residents who gathered in Denver's outdoor downtown amphitheater to commemorate Dr. King's birthday and to celebrate the Federal holiday in his name.

Mr. Clinton's aides were similarly choosing their words carefully, saying they hoped that Mr. Gingrich could be brought around. But throughout the day, the President and his aides spoke from a common script in insisting that the program deserved protection.

In campaigning for the Presidency, Mr. Clinton made his support for a national service program a central theme, and he and his aides were able to celebrate less than eight months later when Congress, with some Republican support, adopted legislation authorizing the program in 1993.

At the time, Mr. Gingrich expressed mixed feelings about the program but voted against it, and his comments over the weekend appear to make it likely that fellow Republicans may follow his lead as the House Appropriations Committee begins its search for spending cuts.

In its first year, the Americorps program cost \$300 million. It has grown to \$500 million in the current fiscal year and, while the White House has not yet submitted its budget request for the fiscal year 1996, its plans have called for the program to continue to grow.

*Drawing the line
with budget cutters
who have attacked
national service.*

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

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THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

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Can service corps survive politics?

SOME government programs are hard to defend. The fledgling AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service plan, is not one of them. It's a splendid way to revitalize communities, encourage social responsibility and expand educational opportunities — causes that conservatives and liberals alike can embrace.

So why are congressional Republicans trying to kill off AmeriCorps? House Speaker Newt Gingrich calls it "coerced voluntarism." Huh? Last time we checked, no one was forced to join. The service corps' 20,000 members aren't even volunteers. They get the minimum wage, health benefits, child care and an annual grant of \$4,725 to pay for college or vocational training.

An expensive bureaucracy? Come on. The program costs just \$500 million a year, a pinprick in the \$1.5 trillion federal budget.

Even so, critics complain that the cost per participant — about \$20,000 a year — is too high. That's in the eye of the beholder, of course. But the federal dollars leverage much more in private contributions — exactly the sort of public-private alliances that Republicans say they want to encourage.

Gimmickry? So says Gingrich. The facts argue

otherwise. AmeriCorps' 300 projects around the country plug into existing programs in public safety, health care, the environment and human services. In Austin, Texas, for example, participants clean up graffiti, immunize needy children and work to improve relations between police and the community. Nitty-gritty stuff that might not otherwise get done.

There's another aspect to this modest program that conservatives ought to like: It revitalizes the social contract between citizens and government. In contrast to entitlements, which demand nothing in return, national service marries benefit to sacrifice, individualism to community. Participants gain support for their schooling. But society, too, comes out ahead when the urban fabric is strengthened and the work force is better educated.

So really now, what's not to like? It's hard to avoid the conclusion that the GOP objections to national service are not about voluntarism or big government but rather about embarrassing Clinton: Get rid of a probable domestic success story and deny him something to brag about in 1996. If that's the aim here, it's a victory for political spite, not enlightened government.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	1/25/95	# of pages	1
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DM Register 11/15 Editorial

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How AmeriCorps is helping Iowans

The cost of supporting an AmeriCorps member is an investment wisely made.

What is AmeriCorps? According to Senator Charles Grassley, whose condemnation of the program appeared in *The Register* on Nov. 4, AmeriCorps is an inefficient and ineffective program, doomed by bureaucracy and misguided principles, and which will have little, if any, effect on lower and middle-class Americans.

This picture does not provide the truth.

The cost of supporting an AmeriCorps member is an investment wisely made. (The senator said it costs \$30,000, but the actual cost is less than half that amount and includes a \$4,725 post-service award to help pay for college.)

According to the Family Violence Prevention Fund, every nine seconds in this country a woman is beaten by her partner.

With this AmeriCorps grant, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence has hired and trained 20 AmeriCorps members to work as victim advocates in domestic-violence projects across the state. Despite Grassley's allegations, the people joining this program are not the children of millionaires who are looking to pad their

resumes while getting easy help with college bills. AmeriCorps members serving in the domestic-violence project will receive less than \$8,000 for their year of service.

Many have joined this program with little regard for the minimal benefits provided. They have joined because AmeriCorps represents an opportunity to give back to their communities and to work for a cause in which they strongly believe.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence is not the only Iowa program strengthened by AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps members with the Department of Public Health are conducting an immunization drive for Iowa families of modest means. Others with the "I Have A Dream" program have "adopted" Des Moines schoolchildren at risk of dropping out to help them stay in school. More AmeriCorps members working with 17 Iowa colleges will fix up homes of older Iowans who are hit by hard times and teach kids how to talk things out rather than shoot it out.

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence's AmeriCorps members represent a wonderful diversity among the people of Iowa and the Mid-

west. They range in age from 20 to 57, and many are survivors of some form of domestic violence. They come from different backgrounds and from various types of families. Several are single mothers looking to set examples for their own children as well as working to create opportunities for themselves. Most AmeriCorps members are working toward college degrees or holding other part-time jobs, carrying the 1,700-hour service requirement in addition to these other demands.

In operation since Oct. 1, 1994, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence has set very specific goals for AmeriCorps members. These 20 members will provide 8,000 contacts with victims of domestic violence, assist more than 1,000 battered women to obtain protective orders, and provide a minimum of 2,080 hours of educational programs to their communities.

Such results do not begin to touch upon the effect of this work on the AmeriCorps members themselves. Because of this program, 20 people will have a chance to create their own opportunities through the skills they learn, the contacts they make, and the educational stipend. The most important result of this program occurs

when a battered woman has found her voice, speaks about her abuse, and is believed.

One of the coalition's AmeriCorps members said: "Someone once said, when asked if she really thought she could save the world, 'No, but I hope to at least be able to tip the scale.'" This represents the ultimate goal of AmeriCorps: to tip the scale by getting things done that can be seen and felt by others.

I strongly encourage every reader to find one such AmeriCorps member and to ask them about their commitment to this year of service. I doubt their answers would fail to touch and inspire every reader in some way.

In the few minutes that it took to read this, at least 20 more women have been beaten by their partners somewhere in this country. With the help of the AmeriCorps program, maybe one woman has been helped, and the scale has been tipped, at least by a small margin.

SANDRA TIBBETTS MURPHY is AmeriCorps program coordinator, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines.

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AmeriCorps program is effective

After reading Senator Charles Grassley's essay, "Why AmeriCorps Program Is Flawed" (Nov. 4), I, as an AmeriCorps VISTA, would like to respond with why Grassley is flawed.

I called Grassley's office to discuss his essay and to invite him to spend a day with me and see what AmeriCorps VISTAs do. His receptionist said he only stops in his Des Moines office to say hi, but she promised to relay the message.

Grassley argues that AmeriCorps is too costly, inefficient and bureaucratic. He says that it is political, noting an AmeriCorps project in Los Angeles that rallied against a piece of legislation. He then brought his argument together by quoting some findings from Rolling Stone magazine.

I suggest Grassley do his homework a little better. How costly are the poverty, gangs, teen pregnancy, battered women and declining moral values to America? Apparently Grassley thinks my \$7,400 a year living allowance (I'm not allowed to have a job outside

AmeriCorps because I'm on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week), and my \$725 educational award are too much for the 40-50 hours a week I dedicate to eliminating these societal ills.

As for being inefficient, you can't quote Rolling Stone magazine's look at one project, in one state and think it is accurate and the norm.

And as for being bureaucratic, it is no more so than any other government job or program. The political rallying is disturbing. At orientation it was drilled into our heads that under no circumstances were we to be political as members of AmeriCorps. One project, located 10 states away, broke a rule. Why condemn the thousands of others that dedicate their lives so that others may live a little better?

The bottom line is this: I know, regardless of what Grassley thinks, that because of AmeriCorps, our country is a better place.

— Rachel E. Brandy,
2800 Fleur, Building I Apt. 213,
Des Moines.

Unlike many other expensive, bureaucratic government programs, AmeriCorps will have an impact on many Iowa communities. For example, one of Iowa's AmeriCorps projects is a joint effort among 16 of Iowa's colleges and universities. Students will assist rural and urban areas by providing respite care for families with disabled children, after-school intervention programs and a mentor program for senior citizens and youth. Those programs are just a small part of what AmeriCorps will provide to Iowa communities.

Financial aid for college is becoming more of a loan system than grant funding.

College students are leaving higher education with more debt than any other generation. This program provides funding for college students as well as work on many needed community programs.

— Janet Lee,
3609 Peters Ave., Sioux City.

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Editorial

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Beyond AmeriCorps

A MERICORPS "is what Americans are for," a White House aide was quoted as saying the other day. How's that again? The corps, in case you somehow forgot or never knew, is the national service program President Clinton advocated in the 1992 campaign and then pushed through Congress in truncated form his first year in office. It does indeed appear to be a tidy and worthy though hardly an essential program. It deserves support. But isn't it awfully grand to designate it "what Americans are for?"

Mr. Clinton and his aides appear to think they can define the president and his differences with the Republicans to some considerable extent in programmatic terms. Newt Gingrich had said a day or two before that he wanted to starve the service program, kill it by appropriating no funds. The president was said to be prepared to use his veto power in its defense. The aides who seem ever ready to drain every presidential act of significance by explaining at length in tactical and political terms what it was meant to signify suggested the president was drawing a fundamental distinction with this one. Here was a point beyond which he would not go in shrinking the government; Mr. Gingrich would go further; let the public, which no doubt is seized by the issue, decide.

But AmeriCorps isn't what the present fight between the parties is or ought to be about. Not

close. Sure, programs are important, and positions on programs add up, but only to the extent that they can be fit within broader themes. It's the themes, the goals, that this president continues to have trouble enunciating. What is it, fundamentally, that he's for? What does he think is right and wrong about the country? What are its prospects? What are the problems ahead? Where does he mean to lead it—in economic policy, social policy, foreign policy?

Mr. Clinton has spent a fair amount of time trying in recent days to re-legitimize government. He took the occasion of Martin Luther King's birthday to speak against the notion that "everything we do as a government is intrinsically bad. That idea is wrong." The next day in California he was calling the government a "partner." "My simple belief is that in this time, we know that the government cannot really solve problems for people, but I think we know that the government cannot walk away, either." Now there's a stirring formulation. Walk away from what? What does he want the government to do besides provide the earthquake and other natural disaster relief that were his California topics? What do the Democrats generally want the government to do, and not do? You hear an awful lot of talk, but you listen in vain for that one.

no mention of
Americorps
or
USDA

Fire Support Team to Aid Communities

Item 5.

Vermont's Fire Technical Support Team (VFTST) has been formed in cooperation with; the George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council and Soil Conservation Service, in order to provide fire prevention assistance to rural communities.

The three person team consists of Engineering Technician, Matthew J. Calcagni, Education and Marketing Specialist, Sharon S. Quinlan and Thomas A. Page, Team Coordinator.

Matthew Calcagni will evaluate and design water withdrawal facilities, assist with adherence to engineering standards and specifications. He will also be assisting with the installation of dry hydrant systems. A dry hydrant system is a permanently installed suction pipe, that extends from the water supply to the hydrant (a point above the ground). Dry hydrant systems allow fire department pumpers to have year round access to bodies of water strategically placed throughout the community.

Matt is a native of Barre, and has recently obtained an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Vermont Technical College.

As Education and Marketing specialists, Quinlan will develop educational information and training tools; will provide marketing support for the team program and for individual fire departments. She has lived in Vermont for 13 years, has a B.A. from the University of Maryland and has been in design and marketing for over 25 years.

Page is the person responsible for the coordination, scheduling and plan development for the team. He has a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from the Pennsylvania State University and currently resides in East Braintree. He has extensive experience working on environmental site assessments; wetlands delineation, identification and mitigation; and asbestos consultation.

Stephen Wilbanks, a Strafford Select Board member, will be working with VFTST. Wilbanks feels Strafford needs a systematic approach to installing dry hydrants and reliable water supplies. Wilbanks said, "A fire in a remote location can be a nightmare. Simply locating the burning structure is a considerable challenge and then finding a dependable source of water to refill tanks can waste precious time." In recent years, we have lost several structures for just these reasons."

Tunbridge Fire Department has



HERALD / ROBERT EDDY

Members of Vermont's Fire Technical Support Team are prepared to provide fire prevention assistance to rural communities throughout the state: (from left) engineering technician, Matthew Calcagni; team coordinator, Thomas Page; education and marketing specialist, Sharon Quinlan.

recently completed their rural fire protection plan which include dry hydrant installations. Dan Patane, Fire Chief says, "Tunbridge has a lack of accessible water in an emergency. We need to install dry hydrants in key locations in our town." A committee from Tunbridge will be working with VFTST to help them fulfill their water supply needs.

The Vermont Fire Technical Support Team has been formed in order to reduce loss of life and property, improve personal security and to reduce the cost of fire insurance in rural areas of Vermont. The team responds only at the request of the volunteer fire departments and/or the communities.

Objectives for VFTST are:

To provide the skills and technical information to help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop

innovative fire protection plans for their communities.

To have 40 rural fire departments in Vermont fully understand water supply needs and management principles.

To assist 20 Vermont communities find innovative ways to carry out planned improvements.

To have 10 rural fire departments in Vermont create and implement a comprehensive educational fire prevention plan with their citizens.

Because of the rural nature of Vermont's communities and their inaccessibility to adequate water supplies, citizens currently have inadequate protection from loss of life and property. Rural property owners pay higher insurance premiums and experience less personal security than their city cousins.

October 20, 1994 B-15

The Herald



Associated Press

President Clinton greets AmeriCorps member at White House ceremony launching the service program.

Youths in National Service Plan Sworn In

■ **AmeriCorps:** Young recruits in domestic version of Peace Corps will work in schools, hospitals, environment to help pay their college tuition.

By ROBERT L. JACKSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—President Clinton inaugurated his national service program for youth Monday, swearing in thousands of young recruits across the country who will work in schools and hospitals and help clean up the environment.

The program, dubbed AmeriCorps, was approved by Congress

dreds of recruits gathered on the White House lawn in a ceremony beamed by satellite to thousands of others.

"Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future and your generation is no exception."

The ceremony, attended by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and leading congressional sponsors of the national service legislation, was delayed several hours and later moved to the front of the White House from the larger South Lawn because of the crash of a small aircraft on the grounds of the Executive Mansion.

Fulfilling a key pledge of Clinton's presidential campaign, AmeriCorps is a domestic version of the Peace Corps, which was created by President John F. Kennedy, the chief executive whom Clinton most admires.

At Clinton's request, Congress approved \$360 million to pay 20,000 Americans to work in the areas of health, education and human needs, public safety and the environment. Mostly in their late teens or early 20s, the recruits will be paid minimum wages and will receive health benefits and a \$4,725

voucher for one year of work that can be used for college or vocational school tuition or to pay off a college loan. So that benefits may extend to as many as possible, recruits will be limited to two years' work.

Citing examples of the work that will be done, Clinton said that youths will be "saving babies in south Texas, walking police beats in Brooklyn, working on boats to reclaim the Chesapeake Bay . . . taking seniors safely to the doctor in St. Louis and helping children to read in Sacramento."

For most, their work "will mark the beginning of a journey that will change their lives forever—it will also change the life of this nation for many seasons to come," the President said.

Depending on the success of the initial program, the White House is asking Congress to appropriate \$1.5 billion for a three-year program reaching 100,000 persons. Several months of pilot projects already have been completed.

The President paid tribute to the spirit of volunteerism and community service that has strengthened the nation. "Every one of you represents the oldest and best of America's traditions," he said.

■ LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

The one thread uniting Southland participants is idealism. B1

last year to allow youths to earn college tuition or to pay off tuition loans by performing community service.

"Service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty," Clinton told hun-

METRO



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

AmeriCorps volunteers are sworn in by President Clinton Monday via satellite link at the Universal Amphitheatre.

Dream Team

■ **Public service:** The thread uniting nearly 1,000 Southland volunteers sworn in to AmeriCorps is idealism and the belief they can change things.

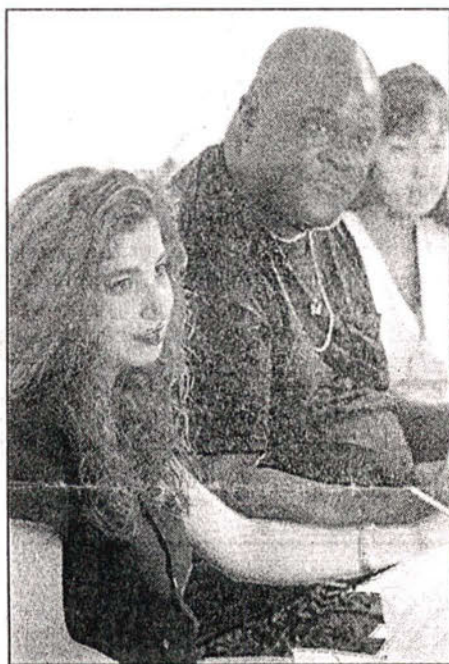
By JOCELYN Y. STEWART
TIMES STAFF WRITER

With an economics degree from UCLA and a resume laced with honors, 22-year-old Anna Ouroumian figures she could easily command a higher salary, complete with impressive business cards and a lofty title.

Instead, the young Glendale woman is content to spend this year working with a local anti-hunger project, earning a modest income.

Her co-workers will be people such as Garland Robinson of South Los Angeles, who temporarily put off a master's degree to fulfill a lifelong dream of "working with the people."

Along with thousands of others across



RICK MEYER / Los Angeles Times

From left, inductees Anna Ouroumian, Garland Robinson, Dawn Takeuchi.

the country, Ouroumian and Robinson have signed up for a "season of service" in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. On Monday, the two gathered with nearly 1,000 other participants at the Universal Amphitheatre for the mass swearing-in of the nation's first AmeriCorps class.

In Los Angeles, the one thread uniting an otherwise disparate group of AmeriCorps members—young and old, middle-class and poor—is an idealism reminiscent of a bygone era in American history: the belief that they can be the agents of change.

Like a domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps members will combat problems ranging from hunger and crime to illiteracy and pollution.

"I'm interested in community empowerment and . . . showing people that things can be done," said Ouroumian, who grew up in Glendale. "I know it sounds cliché-ish, but I believe anything is possible."

At the ceremony, AmeriCorps members listened to a string of speeches—

Please see VOLUNTEERS, B3



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

President Clinton, addressing recruits to service program, tells them he knows they are "a generation of doers."

VOLUNTEERS: National Service Program

Continued from B1

laced with words of encouragement and praise—by Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie L. Williams and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, as well as past and present members of other service organizations.

"AmeriCorps will rise or fall with your success this year," Cisneros said.

Speaking via satellite in a speech that was simulcast to AmeriCorps members nationwide, Clinton applauded members for their commitment to changing America and "getting things done."

"Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future, and your generation is no exception," Clinton said. "We look at you now, and we know you are no generation of slackers. Instead, you're a generation of doers."

For all its seriousness, the event—hosted by actor Andrew Shue, a star of the "Melrose Place" television series—felt like a pep rally at times, with members breaking out in impromptu chants ("We want Bill!") and songs ("Lean on Me") while waiting for the satellite hookup.

Performers Patti LaBelle, who donned a black AmeriCorps cap, and the R&B group Immature brought the crowd to its feet.

"I like what you're doing," LaBelle said as the crowd cheered wildly. "Keep on striving for the positive things in life."

The centerpiece of the event was the pledge that all AmeriCorps members took.

Standing in front of a screen, right hands held high, they listened to the words spoken by Clinton, then repeated them:

"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. . . ." In return for their

pledge, they will receive a living stipend—often minimum wage, though some team leaders will make up to \$1,200 a month—along with basic health insurance, a child-care allowance and a monetary award for college, vocational training or to pay off a previous educational loan.

Trial runs of the program this summer have received mixed reviews, and participants say they know the work will be difficult, especially for the pay they will receive. But for some, at least, the compensation is secondary to the life-changing experiences they expect to have during their year of service.

Robinson, for instance, sees his year as a way to help and to lay the foundation for a career in social work.

But with a degree in political science from USC, and no experience, he could not find anyone to hire him. "I asked, 'How can I get the training if I'm not given a chance?'" he said. "I just wanted the chance to prove myself."

A self-proclaimed "product of the '60s," Robinson grew up on 27th Street between Central Avenue and Naomi Street and remembers "a brighter time in Los Angeles," when people knew and cared for each other, he said.

Robinson, 44, has reason to believe in the possibility of change. In May he became the only one of his parents' seven children to graduate from college.

"I have a story to tell because I've been there," he said.

Like Robinson, who was active in student government and other organizations, many AmeriCorps members are no strangers to community work.

Ouromian, who graduated magna cum laude from UCLA in June, spent her extra time outside the classroom planting trees at the Nickerson Gardens housing project, promoting environmental awareness, helping with earthquake relief and working with a number of service organizations.

Last year, she spent her summer break working with residents of the Pico-Union area, organizing community members in Summer of Service, the pilot program for AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is open to anyone over

17, including high school dropouts, college graduates, students and professional school graduates. Thus the program attracts individuals from varying backgrounds—some of whom might have been overlooked by other employers.

Before coming to this country four years ago, Mayra Perez volunteered with the American Red Cross, assisting the victims of war in her native El Salvador.

A clerk at a shoe store, she is studying for her high-school equivalency degree and will spend her AmeriCorps year working with an anti-hunger project.

David Guizar, 21, was once in a gang and lost a brother in a gang killing. He will spend a year working in his neighborhood in South Los Angeles, trying to help the kinds of young people he once fought with and against.

"I finally got my chance," Guizar said. "This is my first job. I'm part of staff. It feels pretty good, you know?"

Guizar will be working in the same program as Aqeela Sherrills, 25. When a fire at Jordan Downs housing projects sparked racial tension three years ago, Sherrills, a resident of Watts, stepped in and served as a mediator.

Sherrills will spend a year with Building Up Los Angeles, where he will work to establish tutoring programs, a public safety project, gang prevention and conflict mediation in the schools.

Beginning next week, 40 AmeriCorps workers—including Ouromian, Robinson and Perez—will be added to the Interfaith Hunger Coalition, which administers anti-hunger programs in the region. Its annual budget of \$320,000 will increase to more than \$1 million.

One of the biggest assets AmeriCorps members will bring with them is familiarity with their communities, organizers say.

Along those lines, Robinson said he will offer a basic message to the people he works with:

"I understand and I am one of you," he said. "I'm just a regular person who cares and wants to help."

Clinton's First Year

It's fortunate for the Clinton Administration that ideas are cheap. Coming into office with a strong education track record, Clinton and his education policy team were full of ideas. In the first year, the senior education staff proposed five major pieces of legislation to Congress, jettisoned ideas associated with conservative ideologies, and refocused policy on equity issues.

But in one year only one bill passed—the National and Community Service Trust Act—with only one-fourth of the requested funding. Goals 2000 and the School-to-Work Opportunities Act are on hold, with passage expected early in the second session; and the Safe Schools Act may be combined with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which Congress won't finish until late spring. What happened to all the ideas on the way to a new age of federal education policymaking? Education officials say Congress faulted their early proposals for requesting too little additional funding, and by the time revisions were made, Congress had adopted a budget-cutting mentality—and their ideas cost too much.

Various education groups fault the administration for failing to push its economic stimulus package hard enough. Education programs would have benefited greatly from that package, especially Head Start and Chapter 1. "They promised that 1994 would be a banner year for education,"

says Nick Penning, legislative aide with the American Association of School Administrators. Then he points out the proposal to freeze discretionary programs at current levels.

Such realities obviously influenced Department of Education officials as they put together the reauthorization framework for ESEA. Anticipating very limited funding, they propose some increase but pin hope for reforms on targeting monies at the neediest schools. Currently, 76 percent

of school districts or types of programs now receiving aid from both Chapters 1 and 2. Otherwise, these key components of the administration's strategies won't make it to President Clinton's desk.

However, repeated funding disappointments shouldn't overshadow the importance of the ideas behind the administration's first-year strategies. With Goals 2000, the Clinton Administration would formally endorse the National Edu-

focusing on individual students, and teachers would design their own staff development programs. And, although no longer launching a full national transition system for the non-college-bound, the administration's School-to-Work Act would focus on using the Goals 2000 skills standards in vocational programs. These ideas already are being funded as pilot projects. Like a row of dominoes, if an important policy move fails to line up, the whole system will be out of balance.



The new administration: full of ideas, short on funding.

of all elementary schools receive Chapter 1 funds; as a result, poorer districts cannot serve all of their eligible children, while wealthier districts get funds regardless of need.

Funding difficulties also caused a merger between Chapter 2 and a program to re-educate math and science teachers—together, they will re-educate teachers in all subjects. Based on reactions to these plans, the administration or Congress must come up with funding to cover new policies and protect the num-

ber of school districts or types of programs now receiving aid from both Chapters 1 and 2. Otherwise, these key components of the administration's strategies won't make it to President Clinton's desk.

However, repeated funding disappointments shouldn't overshadow the importance of the ideas behind the administration's first-year strategies. With Goals 2000, the Clinton Administration would formally endorse the National Edu-

Specific legislation aside, the administration is emphasizing collaboration and coordination among programs. For example, it would require all Chapter 1-eligible children to have full medical exams at least twice before leaving elementary school, combining Education with Health and Human Services. Officials are also interested in education technology; the Department of Education now has an office for technology, as well as plans for an electronic superhighway.

The administration's first year resulted in numerous promising ideas. But ideas accomplish only so much. On the financial side, the administration was reactive. "What if he had gone all out for the economic stimulus like he did for NAFTA?" Penning wonders about Clinton. We'll never know. Depending on who wins the funding fights in 1994, maybe all those "cheap" ideas will begin to pay off.

—Anne Lewis

Is Youthful Idealism Dead in the '90s?

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENCE

BY AMY WU

The road to AmeriCorps, President Bill Clinton's national-service program, begins with an invitation to embark on a journey to help fellow citizens, to better the community, to change the world. I was tempted to apply for a less noble reason—I wanted the money.

Remember the days when idealistic young people got down and dirty because they wanted to change the world? These days, money means more to college students than making a difference. National service is self-service.

My roommate at New York University flipped on a calculator and figured that AmeriCorps wasn't worth her time—\$2,100 a year for three years, followed by \$2,363 in tuition grants. A young man with cornrow braids bragged he could make \$5,000 bagging groceries in one year. A young woman said that the 900 required hours were too many.

The applications that flowed into AmeriCorps at the 11th hour did not mark an outpouring of do-goodism. For applicants, it was the money, an admirable entry on their resume, work experience or a stepping stone to a career.

How important was the money? A college nearby with an AmeriCorps pro-

Please see SERVICE, M6

Amy Wu is a junior at New York University majoring in American History.

Los Angeles Times

Service

Continued from M2

gram didn't offer students a living stipend; getting kids to apply was like pulling teeth. At NYU, the money made all the difference.

It's said that today's young people have to be bribed to be genuine. On a recent afternoon, I ventured into the NYU student lounge and chatted with young people about the President's program.

Many were enthusiastic when I told them about the money, but their excitement waned when they heard about the three-year, 900-hour requirement. "Isn't that like joining the army?" one kid asked.

Some frowned when they heard about helping inner-city high school students. "They can't pay me enough to do that," a young woman said bitterly.

When you're 18 or 19 years old, you live in a world without consequences. Commitment is frightening, especially if you're doing it more for the money than making a difference.

I was tempted to apply because it sounded exciting, kind of like a trip to the moon. I asked myself what was in it for me. I was haunted by what a classmate had said after I had chastised him for applying just for the money: "Our whole society is based on money; you have to live with it."

In the end, my hopes, along with the application, went into the dump, and I was left to wonder what national service would really accomplish, and who would benefit. It seems the President's program was made for the wrong generation. □

Vaterloo
Courier

1-1-94

Tuesday
November 1, 1994

James Lewis, Publisher David Tans

Editorial

AmeriCorps is a feel-good boondoggle

Add "paid volunteer" to the list of government oxymorons as "military intelligence" and "non-essential employees."

Unfortunately, this time, the joke seems to be on the American taxpayer as the Clinton administration's new paid volunteers follow in the footsteps of another federal government tradition — low results at a high price.

Sen. Charles Grassley knows a boondoggle when he sees one. That's why the conservative Iowa Republican, whose attacks on military spending during the 1980s wowed liberal doves, is now pointing out the inherent flaws in the paid volunteer program known as AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is the domestic version of the Peace Corps, created by Clinton's hero, President John Kennedy.

The difference with Clinton's feel-good attempt and the genuine article is that Kennedy knew how to get a lot more from the taxpayers' buck. As things stand, AmeriCorps is well on the road to becoming another monument to government's unsuccessful social programming.

The goal of AmeriCorps, as with similar efforts, is well-intentioned. Young people to develop a social conscience and help others while earning cash for college. But here is where theory and reality part ways.

Under its current structure, AmeriCorps spends \$30,000 for each and every so-called volunteer to fulfill their service obligation.

"Roughly half goes toward salary and benefits for the participant, the rest is overhead and administration," Grassley has noted. "Given directly to families, the money spent on one AmeriCorps

years of tuition and fees for three full-time students at the University of Iowa."

Grassley has reason to be unimpressed with AmeriCorps' overhead — and taxpayers should be, too. The state of Nebraska, for instance, received a \$457,622 to recruit 23 AmeriCorps members. That was a fraction under \$20,000 per person — just to sign them up.

Grassley also quotes a Rolling Stone magazine article about the volunteers in action as evidence that his criticisms are on track. "In a little more than four hours, 10 corps members and a supervisor have measured one window, installed another and put one lock on a door."

While it would come as a real surprise that Grassley, a New Hartford farmer, actually reads Rolling Stone, the illustration clearly drives home his point.

Furthermore, the new volunteer corps is not very discriminating, which is politically correct but fiscally questionable.

"AmeriCorps is not a program for the needy. It does not exclude by income level even millionaires. In fact, AmeriCorps provides a perfect opportunity to play the political patronage game, rewarding political allies by giving their constituents money for college through a 'volunteer' program," Grassley said.

And here's the kicker: President Clinton sought to increase AmeriCorps' budget by two-thirds in fiscal year 1995.

No doubt his thought is to make up for the inefficiencies with volume.

Grassley's point is that there's nothing wrong with a government program to encourage young people to become more involved in their communities. It's just that taxpayers and working families struggling to send their youngsters to college without government assistance deserve a "far less costly and dramatically more effective" approach. The alternative, he contends, should be earmarking money to go directly toward helping young people get a college education.

A better option is for Congress to revisit the AmeriCorps question and write bureaucrats and red tape out of the system.

Volunteerism shouldn't cost taxpayers an arm and a leg.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 1 of pages 1

To: <u>Ken [unclear]</u>	From: <u>Diane Sand</u>
Co: <u>[unclear]</u>	Co: <u>SoS</u>
Dept: <u>[unclear]</u>	Phone: <u>234-4867</u>
Fax: <u>515-254-1573</u>	Fax: <u>319-334-8728</u>

Charles GRASSLEY

Why AmeriCorps program is flawed

Taxpayers across the country were rightfully outraged 10 years ago with the Reagan Pentagon's \$7,600 coffeepot. Today, the Clinton administration brings taxpayers the \$30,000 "volunteer."

That was the price for a single participant in a 1992 demonstration of President Clinton's new AmeriCorps program, billed as a domestic version of the Peace Corps designed to get more young people to volunteer for community service.

AmeriCorps is one of the few initiatives the Clinton administration proudly points to as a success. After all, who can criticize a program that not only encourages America's youth to help their neighbors, but helps them pay for college at the same time?

Nevertheless, after two years in operation AmeriCorps stands in danger of joining a long list of unsuccessful Great Society programs. Costly, inefficient and bureaucratic, AmeriCorps is neither the best way to help working families with education costs nor a true embodiment of America's tradition of voluntarism.

The way AmeriCorps is set up, it takes \$30,000 for each "volunteer" to complete his or her term of service. Roughly half goes toward salary and benefits for the participant; the rest is

overhead and administration. Given directly to families, the money spent on one AmeriCorps volunteer would be enough to cover four years of tuition and fees for three full-time students at the University of Iowa. At least five Pell Grants could be awarded to needy students for the cost of just one AmeriCorps participant.

Then there's the way the program is being administered. An Omaha World-Herald editorial recently reported that the state of Nebraska received a grant of \$457,622 to recruit 23 AmeriCorps members. That's almost \$20,000 per member — just to sign them up.

It also has come to light that AmeriCorps paid a corporate public-relations firm \$1.7 million in 1994 to promote the program nationally. This is nearly double the budget money the Clinton administration requested for the Office of Inspector General that is supposed to keep tabs on how AmeriCorps is spending its money.

AmeriCorps is not a program for the needy. It does not exclude by income level even millionaires.

In fact, AmeriCorps provides a perfect opportunity to play the political patronage game, rewarding political allies by giving their constituents money for college through a "volunteer" program.

Not surprisingly, politics already may have infected AmeriCorps. The Los Angeles Times reported on Sept. 11 that a Summer of Safety program in San Francisco "organized 40 groups for a rally against the crime bill's 'three strikes and you're out' provision." As a project of AmeriCorps, Summer of Safety gives new meaning to community service: using taxpayer dollars to fund a political rally.

Nor can we expect AmeriCorps to do much better with traditional service work. After Rolling Stone magazine observed the "volunteers" in action, it reported on Sept. 22, "In a little more than four hours, 10 corps members and a supervisor have measured one window, installed another and put one lock on a door."

Despite AmeriCorps' exorbitant cost and minimal program experience, the White House sought to increase its budget by two-thirds for fiscal year 1995. In the coming year, 20,000 AmeriCorps "volunteers" will receive salaries and educational awards worth \$7.27 an hour, plus medical benefits and free child care.

There are more effective ways to encourage community service. One suggested approach would allow states to award federally funded college scholarships to needy students nominated

by civic groups, hospitals, churches and others in recognition of successfully completed volunteer work. Such an approach would honor those who have served and eliminate layers of costly bureaucracy.

Moreover, communities would have more control over local service programs than federal bureaucrats. Rewarding students who already have served might better teach the intrinsic value of voluntarism than the lesser implicit in AmeriCorps: that you don't need to volunteer when you can do the same work for a paycheck.

If the federal government is to sponsor a program to encourage young people to get involved in their communities, then taxpayers and working families struggling to send kids to college without federal assistance deserve a far less costly and dramatically more effective approach.

Otherwise, any money spent should go directly toward helping young people get a college education.

CHARLES GRASSLEY is a Republican senator from Iowa. This is adapted from a speech he delivered at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.



The Clinton administration brings taxpayers the \$30,000 "volunteer."

Richard COHEN

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and a senior fellow at the Hoover
Institution, is a nationally syndi-
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Introduction to the \$30,000 'volunteer'

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Sen. Charles Grassley is an Iowa Republican. This article was adapted from a speech he delivered at the Heritage Foundation.

Trout Lake's Northwest Service Academy lives up to its name

Diverse group of 31 at Mt. Adams Ranger District among 700 AmeriCorps participants in Washington.

**By JESSE BURKHARDT
The Enterprise**

The Northwest Service Academy has its priorities in order. In what is truly a case of first things first, 10 of the district's 31 members are building a snowshed for the newly-formed group's headquarters, which is located in a trailer at the Mt. Adams Ranger

by President Bill Clinton in September 1993.

AmeriCorps' mission is "learning civic responsibility by providing service to the community and the environment."

Participants earn a \$4,725 educational voucher in exchange for 1,700 hours of community service. They also receive \$150 a week as a living allowance.

According to Jerry Gabay, director of the Mt. Adams center, the NSA is already getting started on several key projects.

One team of 10 is building an "exclosure" fence around Glacier Springs, the city of Trout Lake's

set up three 20-acre study plots to help silviculturists try to reverse the encroachment of conifers.

In a project of special interest to the citizens of White Salmon, the NSA will soon be rebuilding Hope's Place, which was the only domestic violence shelter in the mid-Columbia region until it burned down in May 1994.

NSA participants have also been trained to be firefighters — a good group to have around in an intense fire season.

The NSA is half funded by the federal government and half funded by money raised by the local franchises. No state money is



Photo by Jesse Burkhardt

ON THE FENCE — Two well-known White Salmon residents are members of the Northwest Service Academy team building a fence designed to protect the purity of

Trout Lake's water supply. Troy Webster (left) and Chad Walker were all-star players on the 1993 Columbia Bruins football team.

District in Trout Lake.

"There's a real deadline we're working under, and we've got to get it done," says Steve Bean, 26, one of the team stewards for the group. "This trailer won't stand four feet of snow on it."

The Northwest Service Academy (NSA) is one of the "franchises" of AmeriCorps, a nationwide community service program with approximately 20,000 members.

Congress created AmeriCorps with passage of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, which was signed into law

water supply. The fence is designed to protect the water's purity by keeping out domestic and wild grazers.

Another project is designed to protect the Sawtooth Huckleberry fields. At the north end of the Indian Heaven Wilderness, fires have been suppressed for so long that conifers have begun encroaching on the berry fields, sacred ground to the Yakama Indians. The berries don't thrive in an enclosed canopy setting, so the Yakama Tribal Council and the Forest Service are combining to help fund the NSA, which will

involved.

"We have to raise our share," explains Gabay, "and we welcome corporate sponsorships."

There are approximately 700 AmeriCorps participants in Washington, and 400 in Oregon. Ages of crew members range from 18 to 50 years.

"If it seems like we're still learning, it's because we are," says Tobie Wright, one of those assigned to help with the Trout Lake fence project.

Before coming to Trout Lake,

See ACADEMY, Page 5

Academy

(Continued from Page 1)

she had been studying environmental science and engineering at St. John's College in New Mexico. Her parents live in Timber Valley.

"It's great to do something that means something instead of working in a grocery store," says Wright. "This gives me a hands-on in environmental engineering."

Gabay points out that the AmeriCorps funding is set for only one season, and he is concerned that it might not win congressional approval next time around.

"The NSA is a marvelous experiment in trying to revitalize the mid-Columbia region," Gabay explains. "The more local support we have, and the more our political representatives are aware of us, the higher the odds that we get refunded."

"There just isn't anything like this for rural youth or adults, and I think it's great," says Chris Nielsen, a team steward. Nielsen has lived in Trout Lake for 17 years.

Sharon Wright, 50, is the elder member of the Trout Lake team. She is interested in finishing her degree in psychology, which she started at Ohio State University.

"I think she is a good morale builder for our team. She's a mother

and a grandmother, so she's a wonderful addition," says Nielsen.

Wright appreciates the family atmosphere. "It's nice to be accepted as yourself," she says. "These are nice people to work with. I'm impressed with their ability, the way they take hold and do stuff."

Upon hearing that Wright is 50, Steve DePriest, who has been up on a platform working on the snowshed, calls down teasingly. "I wouldn't have thought a day over 31!"

DePriest says he plans on studying to be either a police officer or a game warden after he earns his educational voucher.

DePriest admits that he is enjoying being able to work outdoors.

"Until winter," he adds with a grin. Gabay, who worked for the Forest Service in Mosier before taking the NSA position, believes the AmeriCorps program holds a lot of promise for the future.

"People who come out of a year of national service will go back to the communities, and the community will be better for it," he says. "They are people who will work to make things better. These will be the leaders on the county commission and the city council. It's an amazing opportunity that hasn't been around before."

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE ENTERPRISE
BAINBRIDGE-CLINTON SALMON WASHINGTON

10-13-94

THE ENTERPRISE

10-13-94

BINGIN-WHITE-SALMON, WASHINGTON

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Opinion

October 13, 1994

Trout Lake's good citizens

On Sept. 12, the AmeriCorps community service program celebrated its genesis with rallies in Seattle and Portland. Created by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993, AmeriCorps is designed to help revitalize communities with projects that will serve the health, education, environmental and public safety needs of citizens.

Participants in the program — there are about 1,100 in Washington and Oregon — are not paid; rather they receive educational vouchers to the tune of \$4,725 for a year of service (approximately 1,700 hours), which can be used to pay for schooling at virtually any accredited institution. Participants also receive a weekly stipend to cover living expenses.

Up the road in Trout Lake, a group of individuals of all ages are at work trying to do what they can to rebuild the infrastructure of rural communities in this area while earning their scholarships.

Known in the region as the Northwest Service Academy (NSA), the team has begun to tackle a previously neglected list of environmentally-supportive and community-oriented projects.

There are 31 people, 18 men and 13 women, headquartered in Trout Lake. Most of them are living in old Forest Service crew dorms at the Mt. Adams Ranger District. They come from all over the area, and have a lot of different ideas about what they want to do with their lives. But most have a common dream: they want to further their education and expand their opportunities while serving the region in which they live.

Projects currently on tap include construction

of a fence to help protect Trout Lake's water supply; rebuilding Hope's Place, a domestic violence shelter in White Salmon; and just over the border in Skamania County, setting up study plots to find ways to protect the Sawtooth Huckleberry Fields. These are extremely worthy causes.

Jerry Gabay, director of the Mt. Adams Center of the NSA, has the right idea. He talks about the eyes of the people he oversees, how they light up when they learn something new or see one of their projects take shape. He talks about how NSA participants are likely to become community leaders in the next few years. And because of all these positive outcomes, he talks about how good he feels about what the NSA is accomplishing.

Gabay sees cause for concern, however, in the fact that AmeriCorps has been funded for only one year. Since AmeriCorps and its network of local organizations are partially funded through the federal government, Gabay sees a very real threat that the federal government could withhold funding in the future. It's conceivable that the noble concept could die after just one year.

That would be a travesty.

The AmeriCorps project appears to have the potential to create a whirlwind of positive results, not only in the lives of the people making the investment in their futures, but also for countless communities.

The hope here is that AmeriCorps and the NSA will receive the recognition it deserves, and in the process win some champions in Congress.

JB

FARM FOCUS

Americorps group sponsors Farm-a-Syst program

If you're like most farmers, you're concerned about protecting your drinking water. And you may know that the farmstead, your house, building and the facilities around it can be a major source of groundwater contamination, depending on your management. This means that your family, livestock and those living down the road could be at risk.

Knowing these facts may provide the motivation for action. But many rural residents aren't sure where to go for help. Now there's a voluntary farmstead assessment system designed to give you the answers you need to protect your groundwater.

The Farm-A-Syst program

uses easy, step-by-step worksheets that rank each farmstead activity or structure that could cause groundwater contamination. The assessment also rates soil, geologic and hydrologic features of the farmstead to give an overall picture of potential and actual water quality problems at the site. You'll use these rankings and companion informational brochures to develop an overall action plan for protecting your drinking water. Farm-A-Syst also provides information on technical, educational assistance for carrying out your plan. Farm-A-Syst is a confidential assessment that you can use on your own, or with the help of the Americorps Mason County Team. You decide what

to do with the results of your assessment and keep your action plan in your private records.

The Farm-A-Syst program provides a comprehensive, practical approach to protecting our groundwater, a resource we cannot afford to lose.

For more information on this free program, or to schedule your assessment, please call the Mason County FSA at 543-2582, and ask to speak with an Americorp Member.

Americorps is President Clinton's national service initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human service, public safety and environmental needs at the community level.

National leader visits Cheyenne...

AmeriCorps team looks for renovation projects

AmeriCorps/USDA projects celebrated the beginning of the second year of participation in the country's national service program during October with swearing ceremonies nationwide.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

U.S. Department of Agriculture will sponsor approximately 1,350 members in 45 states during 1995-96. Members will continue to serve on one of three types of teams: Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development.

On November 29th the AmeriCorps Team stationed at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cheyenne was visited by Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA) Washington, D.C. Berg's goal for his trip to Oklahoma was to personally meet and work alongside



AmeriCorps Team Leader Brant Rogers (left) and Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA), Washington D.C., clean up an old shelterbelt in Roger Mills County.

AmeriCorps members. During his visit to the area Berg helped the team renovate a tree row in western Roger Mills County. Renovations involved removing old, dead and diseased trees and planting new seedlings in the spring.

The team members are Octavio Villa, Jr., Elk City; Jeremy Moler, Charles Hughes, Robert

Jencks, all of Cheyenne; and Brant Rogers, Reydon.

The AmeriCorps Team will be looking for renovation projects throughout the next nine months. If you are an interested landowner, please contact your local USDA-NRCS office. The Cheyenne Team will be working in Roger Mills, Beckham, and Custer Counties.

**CHEYENNE STAR
CHEYENNE, OKLAHOMA
DECEMBER 3, 1995**

Protect your well water

How safe is your drinking water? If you're like most rural homeowners, farmers or ranchers, you're concerned about protecting your own drinking water. Did you know that your farmstead, depending on your management, can be a major source of groundwater contamination? This means that your family, livestock and neighbors could be at risk.

How can you find out if there is a danger or if you have a problem? Glad you asked! Currently there is only one major program available to assist private well owners in protecting groundwater.

The Farm*A*Syst program uses easy, step-by-step worksheets that rank each farmstead activity or structure that could cause ground water contamination.

After going through the easy worksheets, you will use these rankings and the additional informational brochures to develop an overall action for protecting your drinking water. Farm*A*Syst is a confidential assessment that you can use on your own, or by talking with local experts.

You decide what to do with the results of your assessment of your farmstead and rural residence at little or no cost and best of all, you are in control because the intent of this program is educational.

Today Louisiana is playing an important part in the Farm*A*Syst program by being a pilot study program stat for the University of Wisconsin. Louisiana is the very first state to help conduct a cost/benefit analysis of Farm*A*Syst. With the combined efforts of AmeriCorps members assigned to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana can be a pioneer in this progressive program.

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Members are working in partnerships with state, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 teams and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity and responsibility.

If you would like to participate or find out more about the Farm*A*Syst program, please contact your local district conservationist. In East Carroll Parish, please contact Floyd Hooker our Lake Providence Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, at 318-559-2604 or call Steve Nipper in Monroe at 318-387-8683.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, reli-

(Continued to page 14)

Water—

(Continued from page 13)

gion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communications of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communi-

cations 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, DC, 20250, or call 202-720-7827 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Farm*A*Syst program to aid testing drinking water

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If you would like to participate or find out more about the Farm*A*Syst program, please contact your local district conservationist. In Union Parish, please contact Jerry Shows in our Farmerville Natural Resources Conservation Service field office, at (318)368-8021 or call Steve Nipper in Monroe at (318)387-8683.

THE GAZETTE
FARMERVILLE, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 14, 1995

JENNINGS DAILY NEWS
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 29, 1995

RC&D

Continued from Page 1

RC&D honors hydrant planner

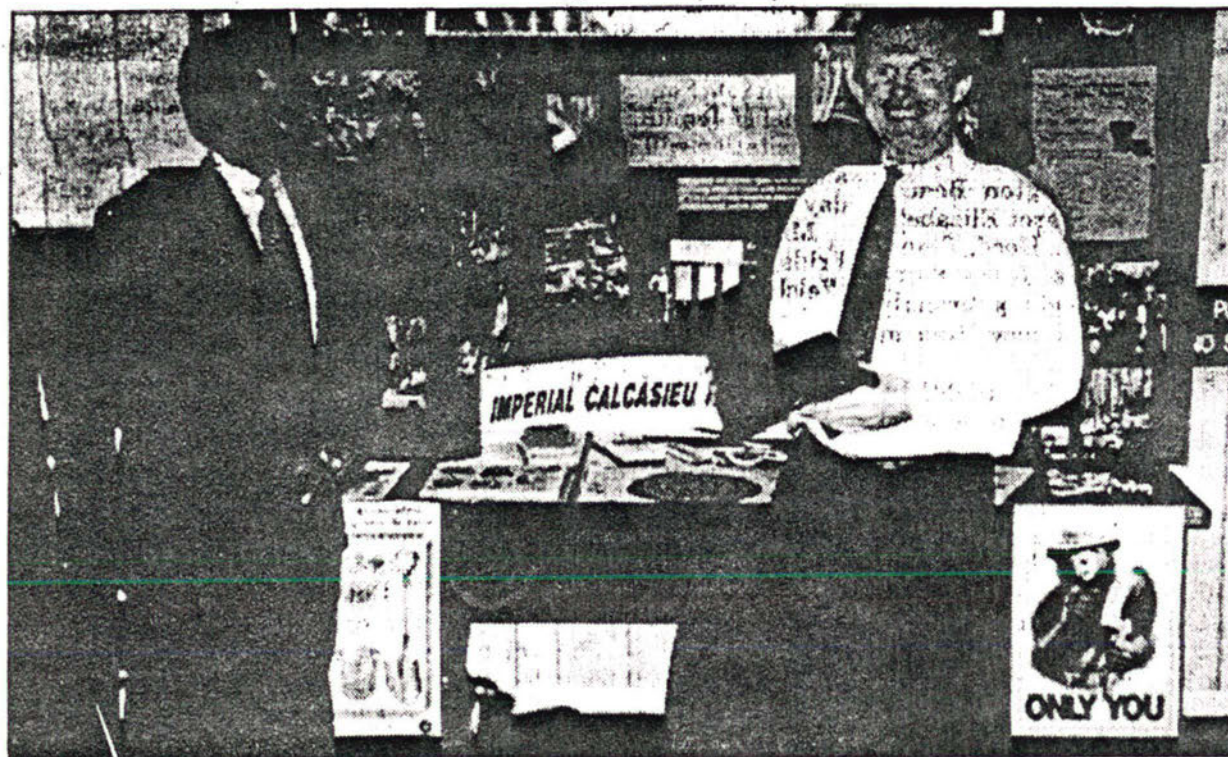
by JOHN ST. ORES
Daily News Staff Writer

At a recent Executive Council meeting of the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D, Dominic Beggan was honored with a plaque.

Charles Achane, president of the Council, presented the token of appreciation to Beggan for outstanding service in his participation in the Dry Fire Hydrant Project (DFH).

Beggan, a 1993 graduate of McNeese State University, became an Americorps member in July, 1994. He worked at the Northeast Delta RC&D until January of 1995 when he came to Imperial Calcasieu RC&D.

He headed up the DFH program and established the locations of the 175 DFH allocated to the 5 parishes represented by Imperial Calcasieu RC&D. His schedule included meeting with local fire districts and fire



Charles Achane, left, President of the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D, presents Americorps volunteer Dominic Beggan, left, with a plaque of appreciation at a recent Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Executive Council meeting. (Photo submitted.)

chiefs, locating sites for the DFH with them, getting easements, applying for the 404 and coastal use permits, and submitting the project application to Trailblaze RC&D.

Beggan also assisted the parishes of Acadiana RC&D with their DFH project. He concluded his tour of duty on July 8.

"We were privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a fine young man," said President Achane.

Imperial Calcasieu RC&D has also welcomed on board Donna Haydel as its new Americorps member.

Haydel is a Jennings resident, a graduate of Jennings High School, and is in her third year at McNeese State University, majoring in elementary education. She joined the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D staff on Nov. 14 and, like Beggan, will be working with the DFH project, both locally and with the Acadiana RC&D.

"We are glad to have Donna with us and feel she will be an asset not only to the Americorps program, but to the RC&D," said President Achane. "Her knowledge of the area and people will help her in her new duties."

Environmental team begins work at plant center

On November 13, 1995, a team of ten USDA-AmeriCorps members began work at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, Galliano, Louisiana, as part of a Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Environmental Corps project.

The USDA-AmeriCorps team will be working in conjunction with the Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water District to establish vegetation along the shoreline of Bayou Lafourche and help in barrier island restoration and stabilization using native vegetation. While at the Plant Materials Center, team members will assist with research in plant development, cultural techniques and plant propagation.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in

partnership with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: an Anti-Hunger team, a Public Lands and Environmental team and a Rural Development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Plant Materials Center manager, Gary Fine, will supervise the project and Peggy Lockhart, of Larose, has been selected as team leader. Local area residents that make up the team members are Rebekah Richoux and Susan Terrebonne of Galliano, Eric Arable and Penny LeBoeuf of Raceland, Clay Hebert of Cut Off, Branden Goldman of Grand Isle, Jean Eymard of Lockport, Sean Bourg of Bourg and Tiffany Arable of Mathews.

For more information on the USDA-AmeriCorps project, contact Gary Fine or Peggy Lockhart at the Plant Materials Center at 475-5280.

...



A collaborating effort was made to continue the improvement of the land lab at Elkton Elementary School. North County Economic Development provided money for the bark mulch and Boyce and Sons of Cottage Grove provided more bark mulch than the funds could purchase. Bill and Roxy Long picked up the mulch and hauled it to Elkton. Volunteers from North County Economic Development, AmeriCorps, and

Elkton Elementary School all worked together to shovel and spread the bark.

Pictured left to right were: Lee Russell, North County Economic Development; Tim Wilgus, 6th grade student, Ron Owings, 6th grade teacher, right front, Paul Vincent, 8th grade student, right back, Ryan Brownson, 6th grade student, J.R. Van Slyke, AmeriCorps.

Elkton hosts group, visits Brush Creek, works on land lab project

The City of Elkton hosted an AmeriCorps Team meeting Feb. 2 at the nearly completed Community Center/City Hall. Mayor Alfred Tyson and City Manager Linda Higgins welcomed the group and gave a tour of the facility. They explained the project will be completed in February for an open house in March.

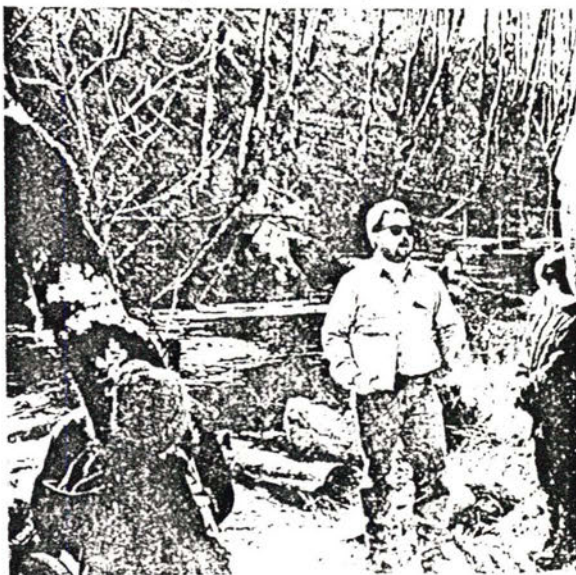
Dave Harris, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) gave a brief but informative field trip to Brush Creek. The area is a showcase of a variety of ecosystem management projects. Ron Yockim and Doug McVean (BLM) both with the Umpqua Basin Fisheries Restoration Initiative (UBFRI) gave input on projects, which was a collaborative effort between state and federal agencies, private landowners and non profit organizations and citizen volunteers.

In the afternoon AmeriCorps members joined forces with North County Economic Development group to assist Elkton teacher Ron Owings and students to shovel bark mulch into wheel barrels, haul to the land lab trail and spread with rakes. A variety of trees were planted around the perimeter of the trail. Donations were made by North County Economic Development, Boyce and Sons of Cottage Grove, Coquille Water Shed Association and Bill and Roxy Long.

Sixth graders working on the land lab trail were: Jennifer Baird, Carrie Ball, Brenton Breed, Ryan Brownson, Sarah Compton, Rebecca Duncan, Jody Folkedahl, Darin Hammons, Tyree Koester, Samuel May, Jenna Osekowsky, Teresa Saddler, Heath Shelton, Jenna



AmeriCorps member Pat McVean introduces Mayor Al Tyson and City Manager Linda Higgins. They welcomed the group and gave a tour of Elkton City Hall/Community Center. The facility will be completed at the end of February for the open house planned for March.



In the Heart of the Douglas Fir Region—Gateway to the Pacific Coast
THE DRAIN ENTERPRISE
SERVING ALL NORTH DOUGLAS COUNTY

VOL. 73 DRAIN, OREGON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1996 No. 40 30¢



Amy Wilson, Southwest Oregon Resource Conservation and Development AmeriCorps Supervisor and Brad Pearce, AmeriCorps member spread bark mulch on the trail around the perimeter of the land lab which is

located west of the Elkton Elementary School in the wooded area next to the Umpqua River. A variety of trees donated by Coquille Watershed Association were planted for a tree identification project.



Attendance at the AmeriCorps meeting included: Back row, left to right, Jim Collins, Brad Pearce, Dave Jacobs, J.R. Van Slyke, Marcus Kauffman, Mayor Al Tyson,

Ronald Yockim; middle row, Lee Russell, Amy Wilson, Dave Harris, Leigh Baker, Linda Higgins, Denise Troxell; front, Ed Cooley, Pat McVean.

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
NOVEMBER 17, 1995

2B

Lincoln Journal Star
Friday, November 17, 1995

AmeriCorps begins 2nd year of work in S.E. Nebraska

Trail development, recycling and producing a catalog of resources will be among tasks the area's second AmeriCorps crew will be tackling in the next year. But to start things off, the team is wondering whether its funds will survive the federal budget impasse. AmeriCorps is the federally funded program started by President Clinton.

The southeast Nebraska crew will be working out of the Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Council office in Tecumseh. The five-person team will work together and separately on a range of projects.

AmeriCorps volunteers work for one year and are paid a stipend. Volunteers get credits for paying future bills or paying off old student loans.

Volunteer Jeff Gorgen of Lincoln will be working with the Crete Chamber of Commerce to develop and market a recycling program.

"I wanted a chance to get into community service and redirect my career path," Gorgen said. He has previously worked for a finance company and a mail preparation company.

For more info

Communities may apply for assistance from the AmeriCorps team at: Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development, P.O. Box 626, Tecumseh, NE 68450, or call 1 (402) 335-3347.

CRETE NEWS
CRETE, NEBRASKA
DECEMBER 18, 1995

Local AmeriCorps Members Make Presentation at Bloomfield

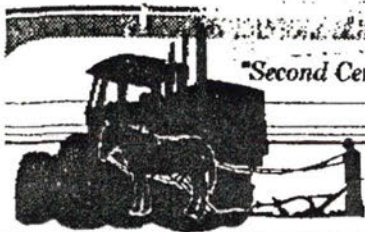
The Northeast Nebraska RC & D held its annual meeting and election of officers Monday, Nov. 27, at the new Bloomfield Community Center. Their hosts for the evening were outgoing president, Ryan Bloomquist and his wife, Janice. The evening began with a meal provided by the Bloomquists, followed by a tour of the new facility.

A presentation was made by AmeriCorps members; Mary Rose Backhaus and Stephen Wilson Cook from the Ponca site, and Carmen Shaffer from the Plainview site. Information was presented on the AmeriCorps program in Nebraska, particularly Northeast Nebraska.

During the business meeting several trivia questions, relating to various projects of the RC & D, were asked of those present and various appropriate prizes were awarded. Election of officers was

held with Garry Anderson of Dixon, president-elect; Carmen Shaffer of Randolph, vice president; Kate Boswell of Allen, secretary and Ardith Carr of rural Elgin, treasurer. A slate of board members was accepted for vacancies of the RC & D, they are Leonard Beckman for Antelope County; Carmen Shaffer, Cedar County; Dave Krusemark, Dixon County; Bob Lundholm and Bill Stonacek, Pierce County and Susan Gilmore, Wayne County.

Following the election of officers, Linda Kastning, outgoing vice president, presented a desk-pen set to Ryan Bloomquist with the inscription *1st President of Northeast Nebraska RC & D - 1992-1995*. Donna Christiansen, an Earth Team volunteer, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and gift for volunteering over 84 hours, for fiscal year 1995, at the RC & D office.



"Second Century of Growth and Progress"

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 49

The Messenger

SERVING MARSHALL COUNTY AND THE COMMUNITIES OF ARGYLE AND STEPHEN

MESSENGER - BANNER

Stephen, Minnesota 56757

Thursday, November 30, 1995

AmeriCorps Looking For Volunteers

AmeriCorps members stationed in Warren are seeking volunteers to help with a river beautification and flood control project in Marshall County. An outbreak of Dutch Elm disease is responsible for downed trees in the county. The project will include the removal of tree debris from the Snake, Middle, and Tamarac Rivers. Some of the tree materials removed from the rivers will be used to construct wildlife shelters for small animals.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer assisting local projects, contact AmeriCorps in Warren at (218)745-435. Hours flexible. For volunteer opportunities in other parts of the state, call your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

WARREN SHEAF

NUMBER 46

(USPS 666-420)

WARREN, MARSHALL COUNTY, MINNESOTA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1995

18 PA



AMERICORPS CREW AT WARREN READY TO GO

—Members of the newly formed AmeriCorps at Warren are, from the left, Steve Fellman of Thief River Falls, Liata Hurst of Pelican Rapids, Joy Swenson of Fargo, Shawna Freyholtz of Cook, Donna Myhrer of St. Hilairo, Linda Fellman of Thief River Falls and Boyd Rasmussen of Canton. The AmeriCorps crew works under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and has as its primary mission beautifica-

tion and flood control work on the Snake, Middle and Tamarac Rivers in Marshall and Polk Counties. During the next nine months the crew also will be working on a number of local community service projects and have already begun contacting local interests to find and develop appropriate projects. The crew also has been receiving training on the use of chainsaws and other tools in preparation for its major river clean-up work.

—Sheaf Photo

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
NOVEMBER 17, 1995

2B

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BRATTLEBORO REFORMER
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT
NOVEMBER 30, 1995

Rockingham students decide to put money where mouth is

By SUSAN REING
Reformer Staff

SAXTONS RIVER - For years the students in the Rockingham elementary schools have been learning about the importance of a clean environment while, at the same time, throwing out a mountain of styrofoam trash after every meal.

This morning, children at all three schools will sit down to breakfast in celebration of the fact that they have real plates and silverware to eat with, thanks to a grant written by two local parents.

Ellen Tenney of Saxtons River said the idea of buying re-usable plates and utensils first came to her when she joined her son, Ryan, for lunch one day soon after he started first grade three years ago. Virtually everything used for the meal was disposable, she said, and she thought it would be nice to

someday buy a dishwasher for the school.

Tenney later hooked up with another mother at Central Elementary School in Bellows Falls, Virginia Voronin, who was also interested in cutting down on the use of styrofoam, and this year the two wrote a grant proposal on behalf of their respective parent-teacher groups to finance the purchase of dishwashers and real plates and forks.

The two applied for a \$12,000 SOS - Save our Schools - grant, funded through the American Express "Charge Against Hunger" program, and also won a state grant for \$3,560. The women also solicited donations from a number of Vermont businesses, but trash giant Browning-Ferris Industries was the only one to respond with a \$100 donation, Tenney said.

The funds were used to buy sil-

verware and bowls, re-usable trays, and two commercial dishwashers - one for Central and the other for Saxtons River.

Today, Tenney, Voronin and a group of volunteers will serve breakfast to approximately 550 students at all three elementary schools, with the emphasis on nutrition. Children will feast on whole-grain bagels, peanut butter, vanilla yogurt, rainforest granola, and organic wild Maine blueberries. Volunteers from the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps will also be on hand at all three schools to talk about nutrition and healthy choices.

Tenney is hopeful that in the coming months enough money can be found to buy mugs for the lunchrooms, so that the disposable plastic cups can be retired.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY STAR
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 28, 1995

Pesticide Containers Recycled In County

Farmers and custom applicators in Dakota County and the surrounding area recycled nearly 2,800 plastic pesticide containers this year at the Emerson and South Sioux City collection sites.

The Solid Waste Management Task Force of The Nebraska Loess Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council identified the need for more pesticide container collection sites in the area.

A committee was appointed which secured the cooperation of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Cooperative Extension Service, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD), Farmers Cooperative Association of Emerson and South Sioux City, AmeriCorps Team from Norfolk and the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D to establish collection sites at the Emerson and South Sioux City Farmers Cooperative Association business locations.

The collection sites were staffed by AmeriCorps Team

members and NRD employees at specified times each Wednesday during June and July to inspect the pesticide containers brought in for recycling. The containers needed to be triple rinsed or power-washed and the plastic caps and wrappers removed to be suitable for recycling.

The pesticide containers were transported from the collection sites by the Papio-Missouri River NRD to a warehouse in Walthill owned by the Omaha Tribe. Greg Phillips of Environmental Services for the Omaha Tribe indicates that there are over 4,400 pesticide containers in the warehouse waiting to be shredded and used to manufacture new pesticide containers.

Greg operated collection sites at Pender, Walthill and Macy which the Tribe has made available for several years. This cooperative effort to collect and recycle plastic pesticide containers will help to protect water quality in the area.

Work begins on Roosevelt trail

Volunteers being
sought to help with
milelong project

BY BRIAN DONAHUE

Staff Writer

ROOSEVELT — Borough officials have found a way to take advantage of the area's greenbelt in a way that will help keep the natural environment safe and give local admirers a better glimpse of their own ecosystem.

The borough recently matched a \$2,500 state Department of Environmental Protection grant to design a milelong nature trail in the woods around South Rochdale Avenue, according to public works employee Gayle Donnelly. The total sum of \$5,000 was used for analysis and design. Officials will decide how to fund construction or work fees in the future.

In the meantime, Donnelly and interns from state and federal environmental groups already are getting started at no extra cost to the borough.

The trail, which will begin near the post office, will contain several different resources depending on the land on which it is built. For example, in the wet portions of the forest, boardwalks will be designed. Other areas of the trail will be made of crushed stone or woodchips.

"This will allow the trail to be preserved and will also give access (to the forest). It is all part of a master plan report," according to Alan Goodheart, a Princeton-based landscape architect who, along with the borough's environmental commission, designed the trail over the past year.

"Signs will mark the trail and certain features, and there will also be tree markers," Goodheart said.

Last week, Donnelly and a student intern from AmeriCorps, the nationwide volunteer program, began cutting "invasive species" from the trail. "Invasive, exotic plants come and take over (the natural vegetation)," Donnelly said. "And the area loses its biodiversity."

Donnelly said future work will include digging holes for small amphibian ponds, and just "making the area accessible to learn about the environment." The project, she said, is designed to be more educational than anything else.

Goodheart said officials did not have to worry about regulations from state or federal environmental groups because the area of the trail was cleared recently to repair a sewer line that runs through the woods.

The job now for the borough is to find ways to get the construction done, according to Mayor Lee Allen.

"The funding of the construction is up to the borough," he said.

For now, he said, the borough is accepting interns to work on the project at no cost to taxpayers.

AmeriCorps making mark

By DAVE MILLER
Hill Country Staff Writer

MORONGO VALLEY— It's new and already making its mark on the local community.

AmeriCorps, the new domestic peace corps created by President Clinton, has desert residents and others with the lofty goals of young Americans filling its ranks and working on projects in the Morongo Basin.

AmeriCorps Crew 13 has been working on environmental projects within the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park.

The Preserve was formerly private ranching land until The Nature Conservancy started purchasing land in the canyon in 1968. The Nature Conservancy has since relinquished its holdings in Morongo Valley and the Preserve is presently under Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management.

Joshua Tree became a national park this year after years as a national monument.

Although AmeriCorps is headquartered on the San Bernardino National Forest and administered by the U.S. Forest Service, members of Crew 13 meet at the BLM's North Palm Springs office.

The 14-person crew has been working on the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve for the past three weeks building new trails and maintaining and restoring existing trails that were damaged by a 50-acre brush fire two years ago, and the floods which followed.

They are also rebuilding bridges and boardwalks within the Preserve.

In Joshua Tree National Park, Crew 13 did projects like cleaning up an old mining area, maintaining trails and removing old scaffolding from the Key's Ranch Dam.

Taking a few minutes from her task of painting Preserve signs Thursday afternoon, crew member Angie Savio, 19, of Palm Springs, said, "This is our third week here, that leaves another week for us. It has been a lot of fun."

"Four days before the crew started working here, my boyfriend and I came up and hiked down Big Morongo Canyon. At that time, we didn't know we'd be working here."



Angie Savio of Palm Springs was one of several Morongo Canyon Preserve in Morongo Valley. AmeriCorps Crew 13 members working at the Big (Star photo by Tim Bulone)

Savio's boyfriend is another member of the crew, Duke Janis, 26, of Palm Springs.

Crew members get a living allowance which adds up to \$4.23 an hour, basic health care coverage, and child care, but the big chunk is an educational grant totaling \$4,725 at the end of a 1,800-hour stint in AmeriCorps.

"I plan to go to college in Colorado and pursue something to do with botany or soil science," Savio said. "My goal is to open a nursery or be a farmer one day."

"We have seven years to use the money for college. If we can't use it, the grant money goes back into the pot for others."

According to the Forest Service, the educational grant can be used for college, vocational schooling, or paying off existing student loans.

Four other members of the crew were busy Thursday building an enclosure around a well and tank

which supplies the Preserve and neighboring Covington Park with water.

All four have collegiate goals:

- James Gammon, 26, of Cherry Valley, plans to attend college and major in wildlife management;

- Jason Valdez, 18, of Beaumont, plans to attend a junior college and gain a basic Associate in Arts degree;

- Beth Anglin, 19, of Yucaipa, has a goal of community college and being a fish and game warden, and

- Ruben Contreras, 19, of Yucaipa, will use the educational grant funds to go to a community college — possibly Chabon Hills — where he will study fire science and take emergency medical technician (EMT) courses.

Crew member Patricia Olvera says she likes the project because, "We're making it better to use and lots of people have noticed the work we've done."

Of the Preserve job site, Olvera

adds, "It's really pretty and in the spring I bet it will look beautiful."

Another member of the crew, John Soto, has a deeper interest in the Preserve because he thinks his father might have grown up there.

"He told me he grew up in Morongo Valley and started to describe where he lived. It sounds the same as the Preserve," Soto said.

Soto and his father are planning a trip to the Preserve to confirm these suspicions.

"My crew is very enthusiastic about the work we're doing here," said Oscar Montijo, crew supervisor. "They feel we're making a big difference as far as giving people better access to the Preserve."

"Everything they're touched, they've left better than they found it," said Robin Kobaly, a BLM biologist and Preserve manager. "This (the crew's work) is on the order of dreams where money falls out of the sky; impressed is an understatement."

Federal program to help Waldoboro's environment

By Art Mayers

While the public views federal programs with mistrust and sometimes with loathing, Waldoboro has taken on a federally funded volunteer who has expertise needed to help various parts of the town's environmental program.

Local resident Hollis Tedford will work with town and school officials to set up marine related programs that should be of benefit to fisheries, clamdiggers, and to the public at large. He was hired through AmeriCorps, the federal agency that came out of the consolidation of the combination of Vista and the Peace Corps.

Tedford is contracted to work for the town for 1700 hours over the next year conducting a shoreline survey, coordinating water quality testing, assisting in aquaculture initiatives, and training high school students in environmental monitoring techniques. The cost to the town is \$1800, funds which the conservation commission already had available.

"It affects the local economy directly," said Tedford, a former Miller School science teacher.

The portion of his job that will take him along the Medomak River estuary looking for possible pollution sources is a service that the town recognizes as necessary for the opening of additional clam flats.

Shoreline survey

Tedford will be extending a shoreline survey in the Merrymeeting Cove and the Western Branch area of the river that is required before the Dept. of Marine Resources will open up new areas for shellfish harvest, he said.

According to DMR regulations, the survey must be conducted every 12 years with updates every three years.

Luckily, Tedford, who holds a master's degree in environmental education from the University of Maine, is fully certified to conduct shoreline surveys.

In fact, he has served as a trainer to volunteers both in the areas of shoreline surveys and water quality monitoring for the AmeriCorps program. In Maine, AmeriCorps is cooperating with the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension Service which has developed the "Partner's in Monitoring" program.

"AmeriCorps was highlighting water quality and fisheries," he said.

Tedford will be aided by previous work done by graduate students who in 1991 completed a baseline study for a continuing water quality monitoring project.

"They did a lot of base work," he said

Student participation

Tedford fully expects to complete the survey work on schedule but for the winter months, when the site is buried in snow, he will be working on several other projects, including training of Medomak Valley High School students to carry on water quality monitoring efforts.

"They are doing something that is helpful," he said of the students who are learning the techniques needed to identify pollution problems in the watershed. Tedford credits teachers Neil Lash and Pam Ramsey in establishing a core of interest at MVHS in the water quality monitoring project.

One of Tedford's goals is to develop sufficient data to determine whether the one inch rule, which requires that clam flats be closed following one inch of rain, is now needed in the Medomak River. To collect the data needed to present a case before the DMR, he will need to enlist the help of students, landowners, and the adult volunteers that have been the mainstay of the conservation commission's water quality project.

Tedford also hopes to assist the shellfish committee with efforts to seed portions of the river with baby clams, the alewife project, and Sam Chapman with his efforts to restore shad to the river.

When he finishes his work next August, Tedford hopes that there will be enough volunteers in place so that no new paid positions will be necessary to carry on the job.

"I am setting this up so there won't have to be another me," he said.

The federal agency which administers the AmeriCorps program is the USDA Soil Conservation Service, he added.

11/10/94

THE LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS, DAMARISCOTTA, I



Hollis Tedford takes a water sample in the Medomak River in Waldoboro.

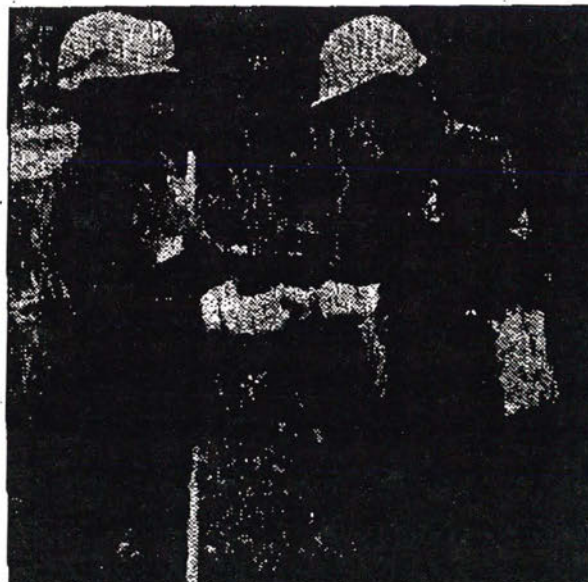
Getting

the job



Putting teeth in it

AmeriCorps crew members Tim Paye, Metin Kanikaynar and Candice Chavez joined in chainsaw training in Idyllwild last week.



Gearing up for work

Crews from AmeriCorps prepare to work on the Chapparal Neighborhood interpretive site at the US Forest Service Lytle Creek Ranger Station.

Done

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Americorps Workers Guests at Holly Grove Woman's Club

Three members of the Americorps program were guests at Tuesday's meeting of the Holly Grove Woman's Club. Renee Spurlock, Jana Coleman, and Audria Coleman discussed their various responsibilities with the Americorps program. They stated they work in helping communities find funding for needed projects. In Holly Grove, Americorps has been instrumental in securing funding for a flood plain buyout and are working for improved housing in the area. Under the direction of Americorps, the community interest committees have been reestablished and are making plans for improvements in many areas for the City of Holly Grove.

In other business during the meeting, the club voted to sponsor an art contest at Marvell Academy. The contest will be divided in two parts, one division for grades nine and ten, and another division for grades eleven and twelve. Entries may be either in photography or painting. The winners will be submitted to district competition.

The meeting was held in the home of Mary Ann Reynolds who served as hostess. Serving as co-hostess was Willa Lambert. Mickey Calloway was in charge of the program. Introducing the Americorps coordinators was former Mayor Donna Hill. Following the meeting and program, the ladies were served refreshments.

The club will meet again on Tuesday, March 21.

Thursday, March 23, 1995

Baker and Christian Hired As Holly Grove Employees

The Holly Grove City Council has voted to hire two new city employees. David Baker has been hired as the new Water and Sewer Department manager. Baker has a Class B water license and a Class II wastewater license. Baker was started at an annual salary of \$20,000. Baker fills the vacancy left by Jimmy Stephens who resigned due to health reasons.

The council also voted to hire Floyd Christian as full time Street and Grounds Keeper. This is a new position. Christian was started at an annual salary of \$11,500. Alderman Pat Chastain was put in charge of the department.

Judge Ralph Abramson spoke to the council concerning the new law which abolishes police courts. Holly Grove operates under a police court system. Abramson stated that a municipal court would have to be established. Abramson noted that a municipal court would have increased jurisdiction and this could translate into increased revenue for the city. The council passed a motion to establish a municipal court.

A good report of fine collections was given. Clerk Rosemary Abramson stated that in 1994 the court collected \$18,080.68. In January of 1995, the court took in its largest collection ever totaling

\$3,221.25. Just over \$1300 was collected for the month of February.

Officer James Nolen spoke to the council concerning holiday pay for police officers. He requested that the council provide payment. The council stated they needed time to review the policy before determining a course of action.

Americorps member Audria Coleman reported that property appraisals were being done in areas of the 100 year flood-plain. The listed assessed values were too old and not considered fair market value. An Americorps member from Jonesboro reappraised the properties in question. The Federal Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the state office of Emergency Services and the City of Holly Grove will be exercising a buy-out for all residents in the 100 year floodplain with the Dial Creek floodplain.

Americorps Member Jana Coleman reported that she has been meeting with the telephone company about updating the city phone system. No decision has been reached. She has also been working with the Crime and Drug committees surveying the town and assessing needs of improved lighting.

(Continued on Page 6)

Baker and...

(Continued from Page 1)

Renee Spurlock of Americorps has been working with the City Beautification Committee in listing properties which need cleaning up. She has requested assistance from the National Guard in providing help in cleaning sections of Dials Creek. Spurlock is also working with committees to improve health care and housing.

The council met in executive session for 37 minutes. No action was taken following the session.

On February 24 the council met in called session without any public notification. Monroe County Sun Editor Marty Harper reminded the council of the Freedom of Information Act which requires such organizations to give at least two hours notice to the news media.

All council members were present for the meeting. The council will meet again on April 20.

AmeriCorps Survives at Stunted Level

■ **Budget:** The program Clinton is 'most proud of' avoids elimination. But the GOP's allotment prevents any growth in national service plan.

By JOHN M. BRODER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—President Clinton's national service program appears to have survived elimination at the hands of Republican budget-cutters but the volunteer program's growth has been permanently stunted by the new GOP majority in Congress.

While the recent debate over the future of AmeriCorps has been couched in fiscal terms, the real battle is ideological and political. The President, for the time being at least, has lost.

Clinton describes national service, which provides higher education grants and a small stipend in exchange for a year of volunteer service, as "the program I'm most proud of."

He has proposed spending nearly \$2 billion over three years to bring 100,000 young volunteers into AmeriCorps. It now appears that the program will receive about half

the requested funds as Congress scours the federal government for politically acceptable budget savings.

Clinton has vowed to resist efforts to gut the national service program but it is not certain whether he will veto a \$13-billion package of budget cuts now before Congress that includes a large cut in the volunteer program.

"The AmeriCorps program is giving thousands of young Americans a chance to serve their communities, serve their country and earn money for higher education," the President told visiting college students Thursday. "I don't believe we need to trade in our future for what is a piddling amount on the deficit but will have an enormous negative symbolic and substantive impact on what we're trying to do in this country."

But Clinton's very enthusiasm for national service and the high cost of the untested idea have made the program a too-tempting target for Republican opponents.

"Because the President and his people made it so high-profile, it became an easy target for attack," said Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands), who chairs the House Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the program. He made it plain that Republican objections to AmeriCorps are at heart

political rather than fiscal. "They talked too loudly and too early. They got what they asked for."

On Friday, the Senate Appropriations committee voted to cut \$210 million from the current year budget of the Corporation for National Service, AmeriCorps' parent, essentially freezing it at last year's spending level of \$375 million.

The chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees national service said Friday that the Administration should expect no growth in the program next year.

Eli Segal, chairman of AmeriCorps, said that the budget freeze will cripple national service and represent a breach of contract with the program's volunteers and would-be volunteers.

"Six months after it first opened its doors," Segal told the House panel at a hearing Friday, "national service is facing a lockout." He said that 1,000 volunteers would have to be sent home immediately because of the cuts in this year's budget and that many thousands of potential participants would have to be turned away in the coming months.

He said that corporations, private charities and local governments, which have been planning to participate in AmeriCorps as sponsors of volunteers or as sites for service programs, would have

to scale back their plans drastically or abandon them.

Segal warned that AmeriCorps-sponsored programs to tutor children, plant trees, assist police, counsel crime victims, feed the hungry and house the homeless would be halted. "These are devastating cuts," he said.

But Lewis said that national service has been growing too big too fast and should be frozen in place until it proves its worth.

"There are serious questions to be raised as to who are the beneficiaries of this program and who we should really be helping in times of economic difficulties," Lewis said. "Budgets are strained everywhere and there are trade-offs to be made everywhere."

The result: Instead of receiving \$579 million this year and \$828 million next year as Clinton has requested, national service will plateau at roughly the \$375 million spent in 1994, Lewis said.

Projected participation of 33,000 volunteers in September and 47,000 next year would have to be scaled back to the current level of 20,000.

By comparison, there currently are 6,500 volunteers serving overseas in the Peace Corps, a 15-year high for the program launched by President John F. Kennedy, which was the model for Clinton's AmeriCorps.

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THE SENTINEL ECHO
LONDON, KENTUCKY
MAY 29, 1995

AmeriCorp workers building new home for WWII veteran

By Eddie Arnold

Keavy resident Bertress Feltner served his country during World War II — now, the government is getting a chance to help him.

Feltner will soon have a new home thanks to the efforts of local AmeriCorp workers and other local community service agencies.

Local AmeriCorp worker Tina King, who is assigned to the London Rural Economic Community Development office (formerly the Farmers Home Administration), has been working to make the Feltner project a reality for more than seven months.

When King first visited the

Feltner home to do a health and safety assessment, she found that the elderly man, who has numerous health problems, was living in conditions that were less than adequate.

Walking through Feltner's frame home, King explained that the house was extremely cold in the winter. His only source of heat was a coal-fired stove which left a layer of coal dust throughout the house.

King said that she worked with members of London's Heavenly Helpers to get a cook stove for Feltner to allow him to cook meals at home.

"I bet I've made 50 trips out here," King said, adding that she

► COMMUNITY SERVICE

High desert residents moving forward, thanks to AmeriCorps

By Julie Johnson
Daily Press

Valli Andreasen knew she needed a change.

The oldest of her six sons was entering 10th grade, so she would soon have to get a job to help send the children to college.

But because she had dropped her goal of a degree in zoology to spend 17 years as a homemaker, Andreasen didn't know what she should do.

An advertisement for AmeriCorps changed that.

Now the 37-year-old is three months from completing her one-year portion of a project to survey soil at Fort Irwin. When she finishes she will have \$4,725 in scholarship money waiting for her.

"It's nice to be able to contribute to the community," Andreasen said of the project. "And I earned an education award so I can continue school."

AmeriCorps is a federally funded program that pays for community ser-

vice throughout the nation. This was the first year money went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Apple Valley, said district conservationist Rick Aguayo.

The program gave him enough money to start soil surveys at Fort Irwin, Edwards Air Force Base and the Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms. Six people of various ages are currently enrolled.

Soil surveys map the different types of soil in a region, said Crisand Giles, a 24-year-old participant from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. If the type of soil is known, scientists can determine, for instance, where desert tortoises might live or how to treat a hazardous spill, she said.

Aguayo's five-year project is unique to AmeriCorps. Most are short-term, such as planting trees or diverting a stream.

Aguayo's six participants have also worked in the community, teaching school children about soil and conser-

Please see AMERICORPS, B4►

► AMERICORPS / From B1

vation.

In addition to a scholarship, AmeriCorps pays workers, who must be at least 17 years old and U.S. citizens, a living stipend of about \$12,000 for the year they spend in the program.

Aguayo said he hopes to get the soil survey funded again next year. He also wants to expand the project to the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, across the Colorado River from Havasu

City, Nev. Participants would work with the tribe to plant traditional crops and help them apply for grant money.

"I think it's a win-win situation," he said. "These folks are providing community service and will be able to pay for school."

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 Woshio 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 committees discussed creating a new Police Jury logo, giving the president authority to issue proclamations for historical events and to recognize outstanding citizens.

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 com-

puterized 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

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 are 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 \$7,680, 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.

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 \$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 \$7,600 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/PHOTO COURTESY

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."

Tuesday

November 29, 1994

Serving Oregon's Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Hood River counties and Kl

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 forest project shows what can be done

At the top of Morton Street in Ashland is a unique neighborhood of big beautiful homes with grand views, where residents can relax on their decks and watch the shadows play on the eastern hillsides and follow the spring squalls as they sweep through the valley. It's also one of Ashland's neighborhoods in the forest interface - known for both its beauty and potential fire danger. Last week a crew of young people in the AmeriCorps program braved wet, steep slopes and wrestled with downed logs, dying trees and poison oak to help make this area less of a fire danger.

The city of Ashland owns about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land, so the four acres of city land cleaned up by the Forest Service and AmeriCorps crew will not have a major impact on our city's vulnerability to fire. But the clean-up does illustrate the value of this national service program. AmeriCorps/USDA has three broad programs: Empowerment and Anti-Hunger, Rural Development, and Public Land and Environment. The work done in the Ashland watershed was part of the latter program, and the work is dispatched out of the Applegate Ranger District. Members of this hard-working and enthusiastic team live at the Star Gulch facility and are paid the equivalent of about \$1,200 a month for living expenses and tuition credits. In addition to watershed work, the crews protect wetlands, restore recreation areas, increase handicap accessibility, and much more.

The AmeriCorps program has been criticized by Rep. Newt Gingrich and others as being too expensive, but important work is being done and the long-range benefits are great in learned job skills and educational incentives. Investments in education pay big dividends, as we have witnessed with the GI Bill.

The local project also serves as an example of what can be done to reduce fire danger even on steep slopes with decades of accumulation of dead fuel. The slash was piled up and covered with tarps for burning next fall, and enough dead and dying trees were hauled out of the area to generate \$2,000 for the city's forest land clean-up fund.

So private forest land owners take note. Even difficult property can be managed to reduce the danger of forest fires. You won't be able to get an AmeriCorp team for private projects, but a lot of good ideas and direction are available through the Ashland Fire Department and the local Forest Service ranger station.

**MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON
FEBRUARY 15, 1995**

AmeriCorps update

The last time we wrote defending President Clinton's national service program, AmeriCorps volunteers were up in Butte Falls, hammering away on improvements to the Butte Falls community hall.

They're still in Butte Falls, working at the county library branch building, the fire hall and restrooms at the park. Earlier, they maintained national forest trails, planted trees, and worked on erosion-control projects.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE program provides young workers with a living stipend and money for college. But the GOP Congress is still eager to make AmeriCorps an example of its willingness to spare no "liberal" program (although it wants to spend more money for young soldiers to do make-work on obsolete military bases) — especially a program that President Clinton can properly be proud of.

Anyway, since that last editorial AmeriCorps crews are now helping improve the popular but heavily worn trail on Upper Table Rock. Literally, your tax dollars at work.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages » 1
To	JOEL BERG	
From	JIM EARSOM	
Co.	USDA	
Co.	USDA - NRCS	
Dept.	1131	
Phone #	509-789-7407	
Fax #	509-789-1438	
Fax #	202-690-3444	

B4/ The San Bernardino County Sun FRIDAY, May 3, 1996 •

Chief of AmeriCorps lauds Redlands, Ontario projects

By ALISA SLAUGHTER
The Sun's Redlands Bureau

REDLANDS — Programs helping farmers and rural residents solve water run-off, soil erosion and other problems give the federal government a personal touch, the head of AmeriCorps national service said Thursday.

"Typically, a lot of government programs are regulatory — we're often the bad cop, saying here's the subsidy you'll lose, here's the fine you'll pay," said Joel Berg, as he reviewed projects in Redlands and Ontario.

"With this, we can tell the farmers that instead of fining them, we'll work at no cost to them to help the family still make a living and protect the groundwater at the same time," he said.

Last year, 85 AmeriCorps par-

ENVIRONMENT

ticipants worked on a major U.S. Department of Agriculture project in the San Bernardino National Forest, making campgrounds and trails accessible to handicapped people and completing other tasks. Now that the U.S. government approved a budget, a similar project is scheduled for this year with another 100 workers, Berg said.

Since last year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service has had nine long-term AmeriCorps workers assisting farmers and rural residents in Redlands and Ontario.

It's a valuable service, especially since the government has little money to spend on education or other aid, Berg said.

One project last year me-

diated a dispute between homeowners and horse owners in the Chino area.

"Some of the problems of the city are working their way to rural and wilderness areas," Berg said. "In some areas, people move to an area and discover that the nice, cute, scenic horses their neighbors have produce manure that produces an odor."

Small-scale projects suit Bang Ta, a recent Cal Poly Pomona graduate, just fine. Ta works out of Redlands and assists dairy farmers on water-management programs. The corps helps him pay off his student loans as he performs volunteer work.

"After this, I want to go to dental school and then volunteer some more," Ta said.

Clinton rep: Looks at watershed projects

• **Cont. from front page**
Meisenbach said.

Both Auld and Berg said they were impressed by the contest and its participants. Auld said, "It's hard to pick a winner when they're all so good."

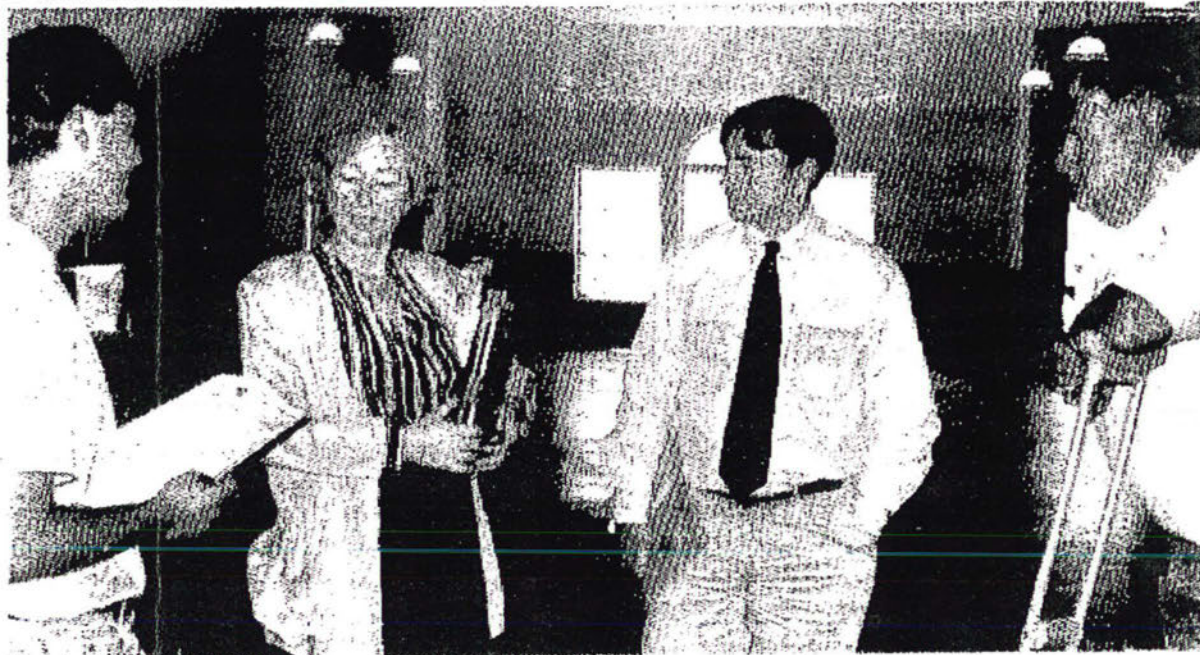
Next, Berg traveled from Lower Lake to Middletown with environmental representatives to see a streambank erosion project completed at St. Helena Creek. One of the purposes of Berg's visit was to view that project and give credit and attention to the Upper Putah Stewardship (UPS), an organization dedicated to improving the condition of the Upper Putah Creek Watershed.

According to Whitney, the UPS

has approximately 30 members, including both private citizens and government agency representatives. Organized in January, the UPS is sponsored by the East Lake Resource Conservation District.

Berg said he was impressed with how the UPS, with no funding dollars, was able to put together an erosion project using only planted willows, volunteers, and donated machinery. Part of the project's purpose was to protect a nearby home endangered by creek erosion.

Berg also said it was great to see Auld and Whitney, who are acting as project coordinators for the UPS, making efforts to help their local communities.



Watershed advocates flow together —

Joel Berg, President Clinton's appointee to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited Lower Lake and Middletown Thursday. From left, the group included AmeriCorps member Chris Auld, Lake County Supervisor Helen Whitney, Berg, and Frank Meisenbach, the director of East Lake Resource Conservation District.

National volunteer leader spreads word in Midcoast

by Judy Lindahl

ROCKLAND — Whether the AmeriCorps national service program succeeds or fails will depend on the quality of work and local impact of programs corps members are involved in, according to a federal official whose agency sponsors volunteers working in the Midcoast.

Joe Berg, director of national services for the United States Department of Agriculture, visited Maine June 28 to see how AmeriCorps personnel working in the Clean Water quality monitoring program statewide were doing, including the Midcoast from Wiscasset to Camden.

Berg said that such programs let local communities set priorities, and how they succeed will be the final test of the worth of AmeriCorps. Its goals, he said, include the idea of "building community." This effort emphasizes that "government is a two-way street" and allows people to serve their country while building their personal experience, he said.

Berg said that because the projects are all voluntary, "they have to meet the market test" of local need.

Members of the federally-funded program have been added to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension sponsored water moni-

toring, giving the program a boost of about \$75,000 in personnel help.

Esperanza Stancioff, water quality biologist who runs the program statewide, detailed the effort in a meeting with Berg in Rockland.

She and Lee Humphreys, whose position is funded through USDA, told Berg about teachers, students and residents in communities who are becoming concerned about water quality.

Stancioff cited two groups where local people have become active in the water quality program.

People on Islesboro, she said, concerned about their shellfish resource, are becoming aware of the impact of the Penobscot River water's condition on their shore. By helping people take care of the environment in their local communities and educating them on issues involved, she said, they become aware of the larger picture, which includes the entire Gulf of Maine.

Discussing a group in Camden where 45 students helped train residents in water quality monitoring programs, Stancioff praised the involvement of schools. Humphreys echoed her comment, and noted that she has worked with "some amazing teachers" who are helping students.

Humphreys, who will use her grant to pay for her education, feels that AmeriCorps "connects you

with government in a very positive way."

Stancioff also said that AmeriCorps allows people "to get out there and see the real world."

The water monitoring program was begun on the St. George and Damariscotta rivers in 1988. Last year, Stancioff saw getting AmeriCorps volunteers as an opportunity to add people with background in the subject as advisors and supporters for community groups.

Berg, who toured several sites in Maine, said President Bill Clinton is committed to keeping funding for the program alive. "I think it will continue and expand," Berg said, noting that depends on decisions involving appropriations.

The real fate of AmeriCorps, he said, "rests on the quality of work performed." It will be judged by whether the work is done well, performs needed community services, and contributes to the education of volunteers.

For Stancioff, having two volunteer supervisors (Humphreys and Charlie Parker) funded by AmeriCorps has helped her train and give support to groups of 35 to 40 volunteers.

For the first year of the program, Berg said, there were about five applications for each of the 20,000 positions available nationwide; indications are that this year there will be 10 to 15 applications for each slot.

People accepted receive an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back students loans. The majority work in partnerships with states, local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

The USDA is running teams of AmeriCorps volunteers which include about 1,200 people in 38 states.

In Knox and Lincoln counties, water monitoring groups are functioning in Wiscasset, Waldoboro, Damariscotta, St. George, Boothbay Harbor, on the Georges River, in Camden, and on the islands of North Haven, Vinalhaven and Islesboro, Stancioff said.

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AmeriCorps begins Maine work

Group involved
in many projects
throughout state

By Dawn Gagnon
Of the NEWS Staff

In the year ahead, AmeriCorps members will get things done in Maine that for too long have fallen by the wayside for lack of human or monetary resources. Fifty-six men and women sworn in by President Clinton in Maine via satellite last month have already begun work in national and community service programs aimed at meeting human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Maine's AmeriCorps assignments run the gamut from building and rerouting trails and resolving neighborhood conflicts to arming refugees, seasonal farmworkers, at-risk youths and low-income people with the skills they need to improve their prospects.

Others aim to stamp out illiteracy, improve water quality, deliver AIDS-HIV awareness and education, and assist agriculture and fisheries agencies to inventory natural resources and conduct conservation education programs.

Touted as the Clinton Administration's domestic Peace Corps and the heir of the work legacy handed down by the Depression-Era Civilian Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps will engage thousands of Americans in similar work across the country that might not otherwise be done.

Participating programs represent a mix of projects, some that existed before and became part of AmeriCorps, and others that arose because of it.

Most of the funding for the effort comes from the Corporation for National and Community Service, established under provisions of the National Community Service Trust



AmeriCorps worker Rob Klimas Jr. of Millinocket, a marine studies student at the University of Maine at Machias, injects a scallop with a relaxant to encourage spawning. (NEWS Photo by Scott Haskell)

See AmeriCorps, A3, Col. 1

Bangor News
Bangor, Maine
Sept 12, 1994

Color

Director lauds AmeriCorps program



Mail Tribune / Bob Pennell

HELPING HAND — Joel Berg, national director of the AmeriCorps program, helps Rogue Valley AmeriCorps members create fish habitat at Applegate Lake Thursday. Berg visited southern Oregon as part of a tour of Northwest programs.

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE — The mud-spattered young man wearing the yellow hard hat grinned into the cold wind blowing across Applegate Lake.

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality," Joel Berg said. "To work alongside these people is really something."

Berg was among a dozen AmeriCorps members Thursday who dragged manzanita brush down into the muddy basin of the lake's Squaw arm, where the brush was attached to a cable. Come spring when the lake is full, the brush will serve as fish habitat.

But Berg, 30, wasn't a member of the young national service crew based at the old Star Gulch facility of the Applegate Ranger District. Rather, he is national director of the program, appointed by President Clinton in early 1993.

He stopped by the Rogue River National Forest program, one of nearly 40 nationwide, as part of a tour of Northwest projects. In the program that began this fall, people in their late teens and early 20s earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher of \$4,725 for 10 months of work.

In addition to a variety of environmental tasks, they are also doing rural development work, including projects expected to start soon in Prospect and Butte Falls.

A longtime supporter of the program, Berg noted that it has components similar to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Great Depression.

"But there is the educational benefit that didn't exist before," Berg said. "Not only is the government asking something of young people, but we're giving something back."

"The reason Clinton believes in it so

strongly is that it's kind of a GI bill without the GI," he added. "This is an alternative way for young Americans to do service for their country without joining the military."

Nationwide, there are about 20,000 members, but he expects the ranks to grow.

"I think it's working even better than expected," he said. "This is work that either wouldn't get done or work that taxpayers would have to pay about five times as much if private contractors were to do it."

In addition to learning good work ethics and gaining experience, many

participants will go to college and continue to add to the economy, he said.

Many young people would have a bleak future without the program, he said.

"They are doing things government

couldn't do, or doing it better for a lot cheaper," he said. "The president hopes this goes beyond party politics. A lot of Republicans supported this."

Because of that bipartisan support, Berg expects AmeriCorps to survive future political battles.

"We need members of Congress to come up and see what these people are doing," he said. "If they think they are young, lazy people being overpaid, then they can kill the program."

But he figures that most observers will come to the conclusion the work is important, along with the training.

"These people are working darn hard, and the money they are getting is actually pretty measly," he said.

The program offers a future for many young people, he said.

"They are doing things that need to be done," he said. "This is not make-work. The president's goal is to get up to 100,000 members by the end of four years."

"It's really exciting to move from the theory phase to making this a reality. To work alongside these people is really something."

— Joel Berg,
AmeriCorps director

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

the tecumseh chieftain

Thursday, November 16, 1995

TECUMSEH, NEBRASKA

Second group of AmeriCorps workers begin area projects

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service began its AmeriCorps program the last week of October at Niobrara State Park. Members from South Dakota and Nebraska took their oath of service, received basic training about the program, learned CPR, and completed personality assessments in readiness to begin helping communities and others with important rural development and environmental projects.

Those selected for the program in Southeast Nebraska include: Jo Anne Britt of Peru, Travis Dunekacke of Elk Creek, Jeff Gorgen of Lincoln, Dawn Kirkwood of Steinauer, and Michelle Hummel-McCaslin of Talmage. They will be working out of the communities of Nebraska City, Tecumseh and Crete.

AmeriCorps members will work with Resource Conservation and Development (R, C and D) Councils throughout the state and with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Chambers of Commerce in their host communities.

Area communities will be able to access AmeriCorps assistance by submitting a request through the R, C, and D Councils, P.O. Box 626, Tecumseh, NE. 68450 or by calling 402-335-3347.

These AmeriCorps members will work mainly in the areas of tourism development, recreational trail construction, recycling program creation and household hazardous waste disposal.

(Continued on page 2-A)

AmeriCorps...

(Continued from front page)

According to Merri Johnson, representative of the Five Rivers Conservation and Development Area, in Tecumseh, the above workers have the educational knowledge and experience in doing community development types of projects are are completely focused on projects in this area.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, engages Americans of diverse backgrounds to help communities meet some of their needs. In return, they receive a living stipend and an educational award which can be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. AmeriCorps gives back to America by performing critical services daily. AmeriCorps members help by getting things done while building community, opportunity and responsibility.

AmeriCorps workers are paid on an hourly basis. They receive wages on an annual basis of \$12,000. The workers are required to work a total 1812 hours over the course of their year.

The above workers are currently working on development of a resource manual for a workshop for small communities which is scheduled for early 1996. With this manual, leaders in small communities will be able to know what resources are available and where to find those resources.

Another project these workers will be instrumental in achieving is a recreational trail along the Missouri River between Nebraska City and Brownville.

This is the second group of AmeriCorps workers to assist with projects in Southeast Nebraska. In 1994, AmeriCorps workers concentrated on removing debris in recreational areas which occurred during the 1993 floods. The AmeriCorps workers assisted with projects in Nebraska City, Brownville, Falls City, and Pawnee City.



These are the new AmeriCorps workers who will be working in the Crete, Nebraska City and Tecumseh areas this year on community development projects. Members from l-r, Michelle McCaslin, Dawn Kirkwood, JoAnne Britt, and Jeff Gorgen. Not pictured, Travis Dunekacke.

THE QUINCY HERALD-WHIG

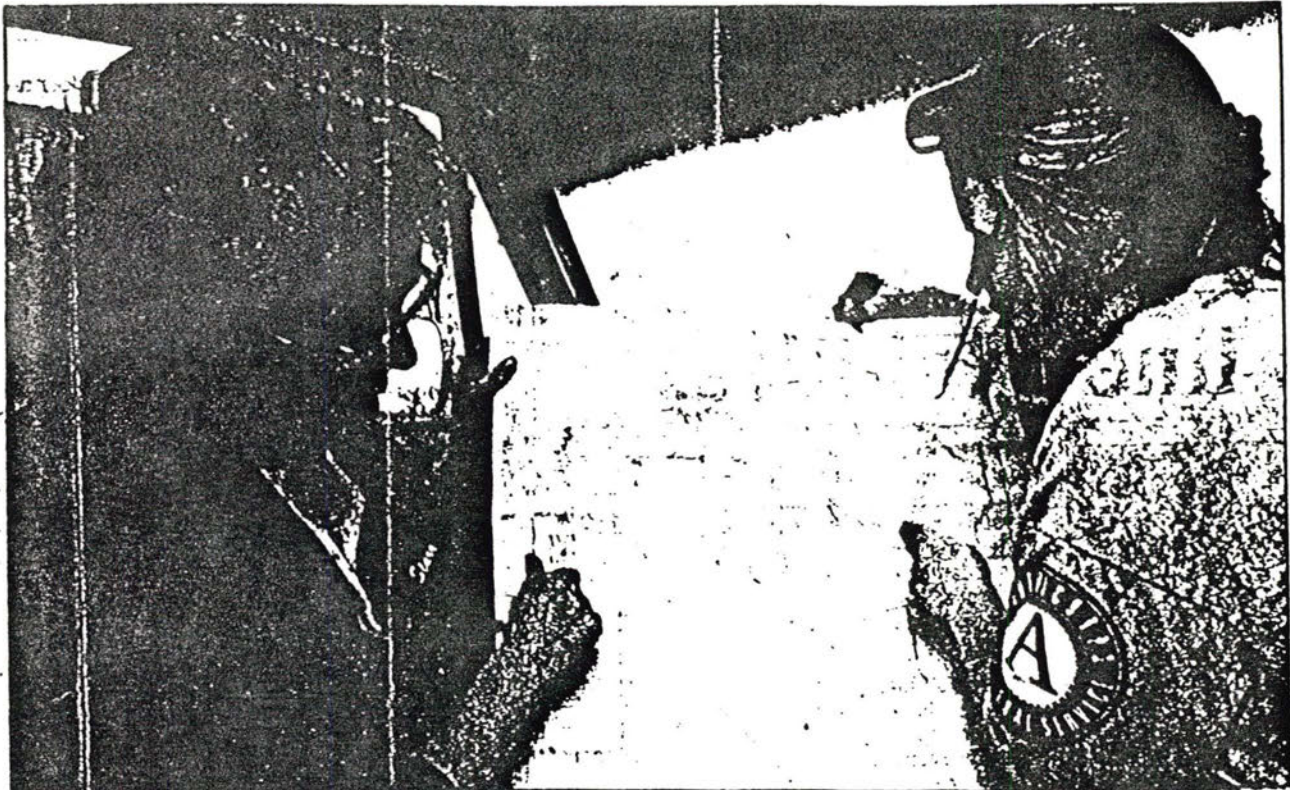
Vol. 161, No. 118

Friday, April 28, 1995

Quincy, Illinois

50 Cents □

Mapping the County



H-W Photo/Michael Kipley

AmeriCorps crew members Starr McDaniles, left, and Darlene Ivarson check their progress in "mapping" building addresses in Adams County townships. The work is a step toward an enhanced 911

system that would supply the addresses of emergency sites.

Team maps rural part of county

Starr McDaniles and Darlene Ivarson attract some attention as they drive slowly through rural Adams County townships and study each building.

People ask if they're out looking for mushrooms or if they're lost and need help.

Sometimes the situation is reversed. "We get flagged down and asked for directions," Ivarson said.

Whether they can answer the question or not, they're working to make sure people get to the right place in emergency situations.

McDaniles and Ivarson are part of a five-member AmeriCorps team "mapping" each building

and its address throughout Adams County. They're taking the first steps toward an enhanced 911 system that automatically supplies an address for the emergency site.

The crews first mapped existing addresses for homes and buildings in the county's 13 incorporated villages and some townships.

"It lays the groundwork to assign addresses to everybody in the county," said Mark Warren with Klingner & Associates. "All addresses will be street-style addresses like in Quincy."

The work is tedious and time-consuming. It requires a great deal of concentration," said crew member Bob Gillespy. "After a while my vision blurred from marking little houses on the map and looking ahead, then going back to check stuff."

Editorial

Americorps may offer many benefits

Natchez has the honor of hosting Shelly Foutz-Lowe, a Pascagoula native, who is among the first wave of volunteers with Americorps, President Clinton's program to encourage young men and women to serve their country.

In exchange for a stipend and money to fund education, young people spend their time trying to make life better for those around them.

Foutz-Lowe, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, is among 67 Americorps volunteers in Mississippi. The president created Americorps to address needs in education, human services, public safety and the environment on the community level. Any community can benefit from that type of assistance.

We applaud the spirit behind the Americorps program. If administered correctly, it has the potential to serve the people of this country in countless ways through the coming years.

If the program survives budget cuts and presidential election years, its benefits will be many fold.

Individuals will benefit directly from the assistance provided by volunteers.

The volunteers will benefit not only from the stipend and college money, but by coming to know the joy of helping others. We don't expect many volunteers to complete their terms without having their personal horizons expanded at least a little bit.

And whenever there is an honest effort to improve the quality of life of needy people, everyone benefits. Good deeds create goodwill, which anyone may enjoy.

President Clinton spoke about this program often during his campaign for election. Since his inauguration, it has received little press.

Perhaps that is best. The program will succeed or fail on its own merits, which means it will succeed or fail on the merits of people like Foutz-Lowe.

We wish Foutz-Lowe good luck in her work here, and we encourage her to remember she is in on the ground level of what may someday, years from now, be considered a grand tradition.

THE CREIGHTON NEWS
CREIGHTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 27, 1995

The Creighton News..... Wednesday, September 27, 1995- 3

AmeriCorps Recruits Being Recruited For 3 Nebr. Sites

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is continuing their recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service program.

According to Jan Jorgensen, NRCS State Program Director, applications are still being accepted for the northeast location sites of Ponca, Plainview and O'Neill. She said that the application deadline has been extended to Friday, Oct. 6.

"AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans of diverse backgrounds to help communities meet some of their needs," explains Jorgensen. "In return, AmeriCorps members receive an educational award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. Most AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations."

USDA has three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 members: An Anti-Hunger Team; a Public Lands and Environment Team; and a Rural Development Team.

"Many of the AmeriCorps projects will be sponsored by community-based organizations," she said. "In Nebraska, Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) are participating with NRCS."

According to Jorgensen, the five participants at the northeast Nebraska USDA sites will work individually with rural development issues in communities located within RC&D areas.

"They'll be involved in tourism development, recreational trail construction, starting recycling programs

where none now exist, and working to educate people on proper handling and disposal of household hazardous wastes, as well as, other projects identified by RC&D Councils and DED," she adds.

Those with a college degree, two years of work experience and/or a high school diploma may apply.

"A sincere desire to perform national service, as well as, learning about, training in and working with rural communities is a must," she said. "Participants will work full-time for a year to earn a stipend of \$7,945 to \$12,000 and an educational award of \$4,725 for successful completion of 1,700 hours of direct community service."

For more information about the program call Jan Jorgensen, Program Director at 402-582-4866. To request an application call Shelli Moore at 402-437-5309 or the toll-free national USDA/AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183.

Holt County Independent

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Box 360, O'Neill, Nebr. 68763

USPS NO. 211-060 24 Pages, 3 Sections Plus 2 Inserts. SINGLE COPY 50¢



AMERICORPS -- Chamber of Commerce manager Pat Fritz works with Americorps volunteer Bonnie Tyrell on one of the projects that will develop working partnerships within communities in Region 24.

Americorps Volunteer Aims To Build Working Partners

Helping to develop working partnerships within communities is the goal of the new Americorps volunteer in O'Neill.

Bonnie Tyrell, an Amelia native, began work this month as the Americorps volunteer for the area.

Her primary responsibility will be to coordinate and help develop projects in the Region 24 area of Holt, Boyd, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock and Cherry counties.

Among projects already in the workings are compiling a community resources manual, helping with the Cowboy Trail and helping to develop a Holt County Visitor's Brochure.

She plans to meet with the chambers of commerce in each of the communities in the area and will also help with projects for schools and organizations.

Tyrell is one of five people in northeast Nebraska accepted for the Americorps program which

was set up by the Northeast Nebraska RC&D at Plainview.

Originally, two Americorps volunteers were to be assigned to the O'Neill area and the second position may be filled next year.

Pat Fritz, manager of the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, is the site supervisor for Tyrell's 9-12 month assignment.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Hansen of Amelia, she moved to Atkinson from Lincoln where she has lived with her family for 23 years.

Her husband, Stan, is a rancher and works for JTI Trucking.

The couple has two children, Tyson, 20, a student at Drury College in Springfield, MO., and Tracy, 16, a junior at West Holt.

Mrs. Tyrell is the former quality assurance director at the Lincoln Regional Center and is a pre-occupational therapy major at Southeast Community College - Beatrice.

She plans to continue her education in occupational therapy at the College of St. Mary in Omaha after her Americorps stint is completed.

Tyrell signed a 1,700 hour

agreement with Americorps in return for a living allowance, education award and health insurance.

She found out about the Americorps program in college and said it has made her family's move back to Atkinson possible.

The family wanted to move to a rural area for four years, she said, and returning to Holt County is a dream come true.

"I'm excited about the program and excited to be in O'Neill," she said.

"Pat (Fritz) is helping me to learn more about O'Neill and the area. There are a lot of very positive people here and I'll really enjoy working with them."

Tyrell said she was concerned when she moved to the area that she might not know many people but she was surprised at the people still in the area who know her.

There are two parts to the Americorps program, she said, an action-based program which works with youth and an environment-based program which works with rural development.

She chose the environment-based program because of her concern for the environment.

Americorps grew out of the national and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

That act created the Corporation for National and Community Service to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service to address educational, public safety, human and environmental needs.

Other Americorps programs include VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) and NCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

The program is open to volun-

teers, age 17 and older, regardless of their educational level.

Members go through a training program before they are assigned to a community.

People wishing to learn more about the program and the service offered by Mrs. Tyrell may contact her through the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, 336-2355.

Jacobs murder trial is postponed

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The Daily News

VOL. 84 NO-100

MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1994

10 Pages, 35 Cents

LOCAL

Blues band to perform in Gap

Darrell Garnett & Horizontal Blues will be performing from 5-7 p.m. Saturday at Festival Park at Cumberland Gap, Tenn. In case of rain the concert will be held at Berkau Park.

Seating is limited at both parks, so bring your own lawn chair. The concert is free and open to the public.

Jobs will help students fund education

AmeriCorps is seeking prospective workers to fill five temporary full-time positions to work on a rural development effort in parts of Campbell County, Tenn., and Bell and Whitley Counties in Kentucky. AmeriCorps is one of several community service projects initiated by the Clinton administration to bring America back to a spirit of volunteerism.

Anyone age 17 or over from Tennessee or Bell or Whitley Counties in Kentucky is eligible to apply for the program. All positions are full-time and participants will work for a nine to ten month period. After completion of the term of service the AmeriCorps participant will receive an educational award worth \$4,725 to be applied to the college or vocational school of their choice.

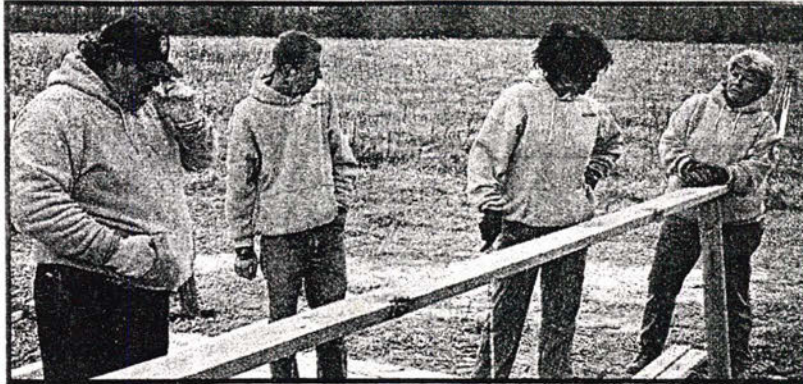
Specific placements in Campbell, Bell or Whitley Counties will be coordinated through the National Congress of Neighborhood Women. Placements will be made with Woodland Community Trust in Roses Creek, Henderson Settlement in Frakes, and Whitley Small Farms Project in Williamsburg, Ky. Tasks in Whitley and Bell County are related to sustainable agriculture and intensive grazing. Campbell County community service workers will focus on sustainable forestry.

There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. Applications will be accepted until Aug. 5. For further information contact Marie Cirillo at 615-784-6832, or Tim Crawford at 337-3613.

Number 18. (37C)

NC (NRCS)

4



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN JACKSON

(From left to right) Frederick Measmer, David Bateman, Sherri Midgette and Joan Mansfield, team members of Americorps, judge the height of a bridge railing at Fun Junktion, the planned recreational park at the old Pasquotank County landfill. The team is building bridges and cutting trails for the instructional forest.

Americorps workers help build Fun Junktion

By JOHN JACKSON
Staff writer

The project to refurbish the old Pasquotank County Landfill into Fun Junktion, a new playground and recreational facility, has gotten some help from four participants of President Clinton's Americorps program.

Rodney Johnson, the 10 county project coordinator for the Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council, said the crew members will cut trails, build bridges and plant trees on the 150 acres to be used as an instructional forest adjacent to the playground area.

Each of the team members, contracted to work for one year, work between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In exchange for their help, Johnson said the members are paid an

\$8,000 living stipend plus another \$4,700 which must be used for educational purposes.

"They can go back to college or pay off their loans," Johnson said. "That's a pretty good deal."

Each of the team members said they applied to work after seeing an Americorps ad in the newspaper.

"I wanted to work outside because I was somewhat concerned about nature," Perquimans County resident David Bateman said. "Nature is the closest thing to truth."

"It's kind of exciting," Joan Mansfield said of the project. "Can you imagine someone giving you the opportunity to do the best job you can do?"

After attending a statewide orientation conference in Burlington, the team started work at the landfill on Nov. 27.

National leader visits Cheyenne...

AmeriCorps team looks for renovation projects

AmeriCorps/USDA projects celebrated the beginning of the second year of participation in the country's national service program during October with swearing ceremonies nationwide.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

U.S. Department of Agriculture will sponsor approximately 1,350 members in 45 states during 1995-96. Members will continue to serve on one of three types of teams: Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development.

On November 29th the AmeriCorps Team stationed at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Cheyenne was visited by Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA) Washington, D.C. Berg's goal for his trip to Oklahoma was to personally meet and work alongside



AmeriCorps Team Leader Brant Rogers (left) and Joel Berg, Director of National Service (USDA), Washington D.C., clean up an old shelterbelt in Roger Mills County.

AmeriCorps members. During his visit to the area Berg helped the team renovate a tree row in western Roger Mills County. Renovations involved removing old, dead and diseased trees and planting new seedlings in the spring.

The team members are Octavio Villa, Jr., Elk City; Jeremy Moler, Charles Hughes, Robert

Jencks, all of Cheyenne; and Brant Rogers, Reydon.

The AmeriCorps Team will be looking for renovation projects throughout the next nine months. If you are an interested landowner, please contact your local USDA-NRCS office. The Cheyenne Team will be working in Roger Mills, Beckham, and Custer Counties.

**CHEYENNE STAR
CHEYENNE, OKLAHOMA
DECEMBER 3, 1995**

Agriculture

Serving, learning and earning in the AmeriCorps

In North Dakota this year the program's object is to increase awareness of the need for protecting ground and surface water

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**
Staff Writer

Kelly Bosch and Jessica Krumwiede both were looking for a way to finance their college educations. They found it in a relatively new program similar to the Peace Corps, and their experience is paying off in more ways than just financially.

Bosch and Krumwiede, both of Devils Lake, signed up for AmeriCorps, a national service program started by President Clinton in 1994. Bosch is in his first year of service, Krumwiede in her second. They don't regret postponing their educations to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's a worthy project — I really believe in it," Bosch said. "It's good for the experience and the scholarship."

Those who complete 1,700 hours of community work during nine months in the program earn a \$4,725 grant, said Jay Mar, manager of the Natural Resource Conservation Service Lake Agassiz Regional Council in Fargo. Mar is directing the AmeriCorps project in North Dakota this year.

The grant can be used to pay tuition or to pay off student loans.

Bosch, 19, and Krumwiede, 21, are two of five people in North Dakota working in AmeriCorps this year. Mar said they all want to go back to school but can't

afford to without some help.

Fulfilling a need

In North Dakota, AmeriCorps is run through the conservation service. The program's main objective this year is to increase awareness in rural communities and on farms — particularly in the southeastern part of the state — of the need for protecting ground and surface water from contamination.

That involves identifying potential sources of contamination both on farms and in towns, and documenting those sources, Krumwiede said.

"We put all that on a map, in case there was ever an accident," she said. "The town would then come up with a plan of what they would do in that situation."

Identifying possible sources of contamination means a lot of knocking on doors and asking questions, Bosch said.

"A lot is with farmers, and I can relate there," said Bosch, who grew up on a farm. "That

helps. If a vehicle with government plates pulls up, you never know what farmers will think. So it's nice to be able to relate."

The AmeriCorps members are also helping ranchers in the southeastern part of the state implement proper grazing management plans. They're doing that by sponsoring workshops and by doing inventories of field plant species for ranchers.

Communities also can request the AmeriCorps workers for a local project, Mars said.

"These are services that are not offered by anyone else," he said. "There's kind of a void, and that's where AmeriCorps comes in and provides assistance. And the beauty of the program is ... AmeriCorps does not charge the community."

For example, this year the AmeriCorps workers, who often work separately, teamed up to shore up the banks of the Turtle River in Grand Forks County using a method called bioengineering. The workers used willow cuttings and old evergreens to shore up the bank.

The AmeriCorps team will likely be undertaking a similar project on Brekken Lake in McLean County late next spring, Mar said.

Money and experience

For Bosch and Krumwiede, their experience with AmeriCorps has been nothing but beneficial.



Krumwiede



Bosch



Submitted photo

BANK WORK — Members of the AmeriCorps team shore up the banks of the Turtle River in Grand Forks County last fall. Next spring they'll probably be doing a similar project on the Brekken River in McLean County. "We don't call it working, we call it performing a service," said Jessica Krumwiede, a member of the team.

"It's given me confidence in myself and given me a great learning experience" said Krumwiede, who works out of the conservation service office in Fargo. "And the college scholarship will help immensely."

Krumwiede is planning to attend the University of North

Dakota in Grand Forks after her time with AmeriCorps ends next August. She's considering majoring in anthropology.

Bosch, who works out of the conservation service office in Wahpeton and plans to attend the North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, said he

would like to work two years in AmeriCorps.

"It's real interesting work," he said. "I'm getting a lot of experience, and the scholarship does help a lot."

"It will help out with college, and it'll look real good on a resume."

The Muskegon Chronicle

• 981 Third Street • P.O. Box 59 • Muskegon • Michigan • 49443 •

MARCH 16, 1996

AmeriCorps director says the program does what government should be doing

By NICOLE DURAN

Chronicle staff writer

One of the heads of President Clinton's controversial AmeriCorps project came to West Michigan Friday to check up on volunteers who are working with area farmers to help keep their groundwater clean.

Joel Berg, director of the USDA's AmeriCorps Program, said the criticism the program has drawn is politically motivated and has nothing to do with the quality or value of the volunteers' efforts.

Berg said that if more Americans were just familiar with AmeriCorps, they would have a positive reaction. "(They would say) 'this is great, this is finally what a government program should be doing. It gets things done, it strengthens communities and expands educational opportunities and says you don't get a dime unless you serve' — the conservative idea of personal responsibility," Berg said.

AmeriCorps is working in con-

MUSKEGON

junction with the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Muskegon County Soil Conservation District to run Farm-A-Syst evaluations.

Farm-A-Syst workers check abandoned well closures, test water for nitrates and herbicides, examine fertilizer and pesticide storage. They also look at livestock runoff and evaluate locations of wells and fuel tanks.

Statewide, the USDA has 16 AmeriCorps volunteers. Nationally, AmeriCorps has about 25,000 volunteers; 1,300 work under the USDA's guidance.

A Michigan State University agriculture student from Montcalm County has been working in Newaygo County to help West Michigan farmers.

Brett Bartlett, the MSU student stationed there, said the people he helps usually take his advice and

the necessary steps, which are often simple, toward keeping their groundwater clean.

"A lot of the time they say, 'Why didn't I think of that?,' " Bartlett said.

Preventative measures can be easy, Bartlett said. He also emphasized that all AmeriCorps assessments of farmland within the area are confidential.

Bartlett receives a \$12,000 stipend for his service, along with a \$4,725 educational grant that, without which, he says he probably could not afford to attend college.

Berg said in response to criticism of the program, "If Ronald Reagan proposed a program and said that two-thirds of the money goes to state commissions appointed by governors, (that) the projects are picked by local communities, not Washington bureaucrats, and it's not just for low income people ... oh, and you don't get a cent unless you work ... everyone would say what a grand conservative idea."

S.D. Newspaper
Services, Inc.
Clipping Bureau
Box 2230
Brookings, SD
57007

OCT 3 1996

Eagle Butte News



REBECCA HADDAD is from Minnesota and is currently on the AmeriCorps program with the Sioux YMCA, which is located in Dupree. While here in Eagle Butte Rebecca is helping out at the CEB Junior High, the CEB Dorms and with the JDC. She will be here for the school year. her initial comments on Eagle Butte are "A strong community with many friendly people. I look forward to working in Eagle Butte this year."

REFERENCE SLIP

TO

Katherine Gibney
Coordinator of Communications
USDA/AmeriCorps
Washington, DC

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ ACTION | ☐ NOTE AND RETURN |
| ☐ APPROVAL | ☐ PER PHONE CALL |
| ☐ AS REQUESTED | ☐ RECOMMENDATION |
| ☐ FOR COMMENT | ☐ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE |
| ☐ FOR INFORMATION | ☐ RETURNED |
| ☐ INITIALS | ☐ SEE ME |
| ☐ NOTE AND FILE | ☐ YOUR SIGNATURE |

REMARKS

FROM

Joyce Watkins, Comm. Officer
NRCS - South Dakota

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

IF I HAD A HAMMER



Photo by Ross D. Franklin/The Washington Times

AmeriCorps volunteer Yolanda Courtney (right) talks with resident Blanche Easley at a news conference marking the renovations of the Arthur Capper Apartments.

PHOTOGRAPHY
ILLUSTRATION

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 or 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.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
JUNE 22, 1994

Service corps recruits dig in to help neighborhoods, themselves

By Ray Quintanilla
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Holding a shovelful of dirt, with manicured designer fingernails studded with rhinestones, Carrie Potts on Tuesday began working toward her goal of becoming an accountant.

"It starts right here, like this, digging and shoveling. But you know, when I'm into my career, I'll be making the money for me and my son," said Potts, 20, a single parent with a 7-month-old baby.

For the summer, Potts will be earning \$147 a week with the promise of an additional \$1,000 for college under a 10-week model of President Clinton's AmeriCorps, a national service program billed as a domestic Peace Corps. AmeriCorps won't officially start and accept its one-year recruits until fall.

Potts was among 50 summer recruits, whose ages range from 16 to 22, who cleaned up a South Side neighborhood flower garden Tuesday at Homewood and Monterey Avenues. Nearly half of the Summer of Safety participants come from poor backgrounds.

"It's not exactly the kind of work I would want to do all the time, but it's better than hanging out," said Potts, who plans to attend Northeastern Illinois University in the fall.

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Science, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chicago Housing Authority shaped



Tribune photo by John Dzekan

Some of the 50 summer recruits working for an urban service corps clean up a South Side neighborhood flower garden Tuesday.

the local plan and devised duties for the recruits.

It started with some weed pulling, but before it's over, the recruits will fight illegal activity in one of Chicago's neighborhoods.

"These kids are very eager to help people, and I know they will

get a lot out of it," said Karen Cole, 35, an Agriculture Department employee who supervises the workers.

Gardening is light work compared to the task the recruits will face in two weeks: cleaning up the Ida B. Wells housing development

and helping the South Side area's residents form a neighborhood watch program.

"I'm not afraid. I've heard all the horror stories, and no matter how you see it, these are people who need help," said Quinn Leonard,

17, a Beverly resident and a graduate of St. Ignatius College Preparatory School. "I'm here to try and help them out."

Joel Berg, national service director for the Agriculture Department, said Chicago and CHA po-

lice will increase their presence to ensure the recruits are safe between the work hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"If you want to make a difference, you've got to go into areas of high crime," Berg said. "We've taken precautions, but no one can guarantee 100 percent safety for them."

But the combination of improving neighborhoods, steady summer employment, and the bonus for college or vocational school training was enough to keep the recruits from entertaining thoughts of leaving the program.

Some recruits said they'll spend time trying to get Wells residents involved with improving their area.

"It's their neighborhood. The big part will fall on the residents, and I'll help out," said Barbara Wilson, 18, who was raised at the Cabrini Green development and now lives a few blocks away with her mother.

"Maybe some day the place can be a wonderful place to live," Wilson, a premed student at Western Illinois University, said of Wells. "We'll work together."

Potts, who was raised at Wells and still lives there, said she'll introduce her work friends to some neighborhood friends. "Everything's going to be fine. I'll talk to some friends of mine and get them to help us, so everyone works together," she said. "We'll have fun."

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO
MARCH 1995

The Aztec Local News

AmeriCorps in San Juan County

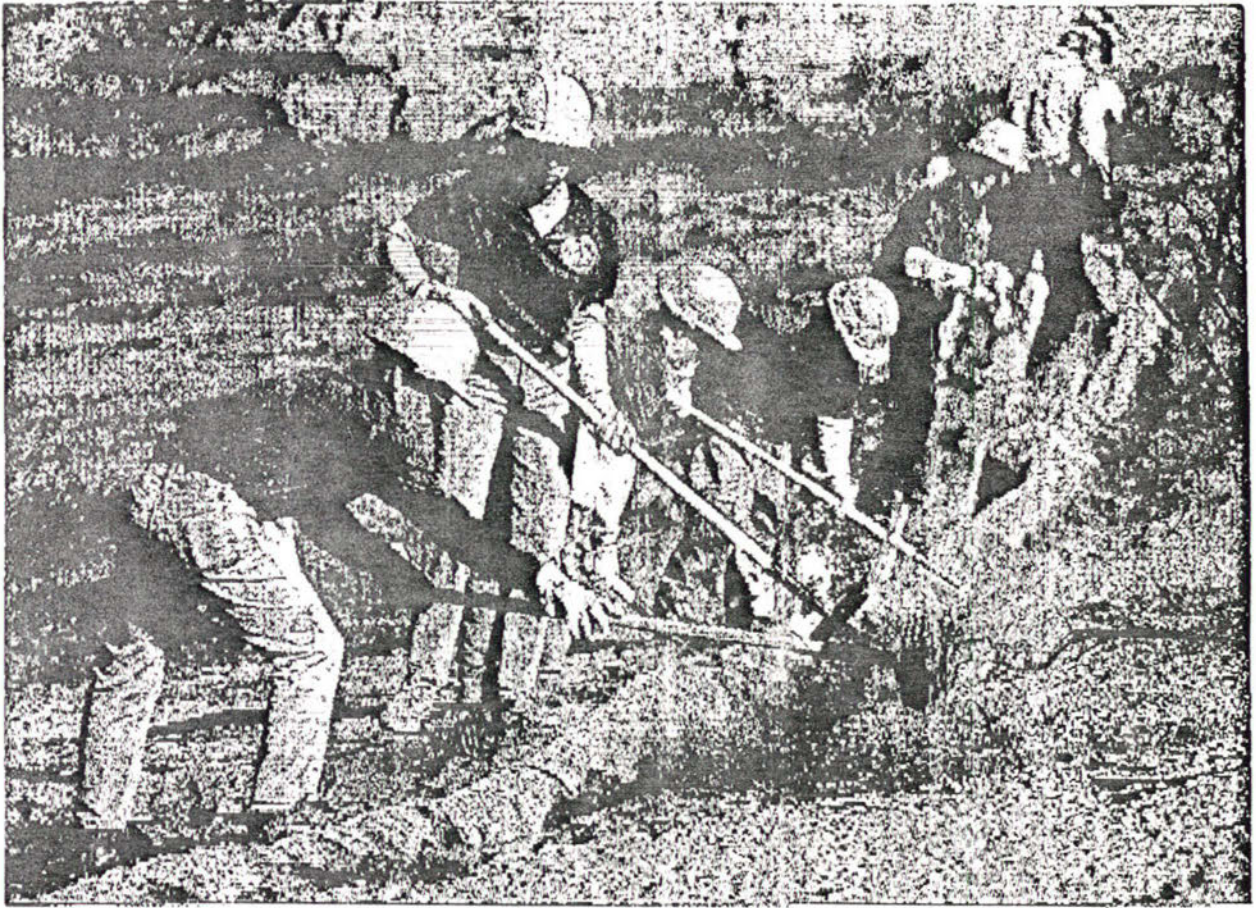
Since early 1989, the Aztec Theater has been the home of the San Juan Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The building was a shambles when it was donated to the DAV. Since then, with patience, their own and donated funds, and lots of ingenuity, DAV members have been renovating the building. 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. ♣

SAN BERNARDINO SUN
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 27, 1995



DAVID CREAMER/The Sun

AmeriCorps workers help to prevent erosion following last summer's Devil Fire

AmeriCorps member happy to see president

FEB 27 1995

FEB. 16

On Feb. 13, I heard about our esteemed president's plans to visit San Bernardino Valley College. Being an AmeriCorps member and deeply interested in its political future, I dreamed of a chance to see or speak with him. I began my quest by calling my supervisor. Soon, calls to the campus hosting the event left me with no official ticket or person to contact.

I thought of Joel Berg, the national director for AmeriCorps. I faxed him, begging to know if my department had even been considered. With no response, my hope was waning.

On Feb. 14, after lunch, I pursued the destination of the president's speech, hoping against hope that, once on the grounds, Clinton's entourage would not reject me.

Well now, you can say you know someone who's seen the president live. Yet as fate would have it, I'd forgotten my camera, but I got in with people (AmeriCorps members) who hadn't forgotten theirs. So, any photos you see are compliments of the U.S. Forestry Service AmeriCorps.

The crowd went wild when he arrived, so glad to be in from the cold and rain, plus very happy to see the goal of our efforts realized.

President Clinton is certain that by empowering young adults to behave responsibly, and giving them the tools to be competitive, the hard work and sacrifice for their degrees can be shared by society.

JAMI FISHER
Ontario

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

Lujan Preparing Area Calendar

Leticia Lujan is the America Corp volunteer working at the Eloy Chamber of Commerce. Lujan's job is to promote economic development.

Lujan's job is similar to that of a VISTA volunteer. Her job will end Sept. 30. She saw a flier about the America Corp program and that a meeting was scheduled at city hall.

After that she applied for the position. At the end of her term she will get a \$4,700 education grant and this is the reason she is working hard.

She is an Eloy native. Lujan graduated from the Santa Cruz Valley Union High School in 1987.

Lujan already has an associate degree from Central Arizona College. She wants to go to the University of Arizona in Tucson to complete her education. Although she has not decided, business administration is a possibility for her major.

At Santa Cruz she played softball and was in the Spanish Club.

She is married to Marcelo, and they have four young children.

Her main project is coordinating a community calendar. On the south side of the Eloy Chamber of Commerce office is a window that displays her initial efforts.

Lujan is also working on a labor survey in Eloy for the Greater Casa Grande Economic Development Foundation. This is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks.

She is also preparing a business proprietor survey for the chamber. This is to gain information about local business and who they do business with. "We want to see if we can attract businesses that they might need nearby."

This survey is scheduled to go out at the end of the month, Lujan said.

Another project is about illegal dumping. "I'll be researching ways on how to develop projects to stop illegal dumping," Lujan said.

Water conservation is another project she is working on in cooperation with the city.

"The community calendar is not as good as Eleanor's Brown-

yet," Lujan said, referring to It's A Date column in *The Eloy Enterprise* sponsored by Hodges Rexall Mart. Both Lujan and Brown will be working cooperatively.

"Eleanor gave me a lot of information and people to contact," Lujan said.

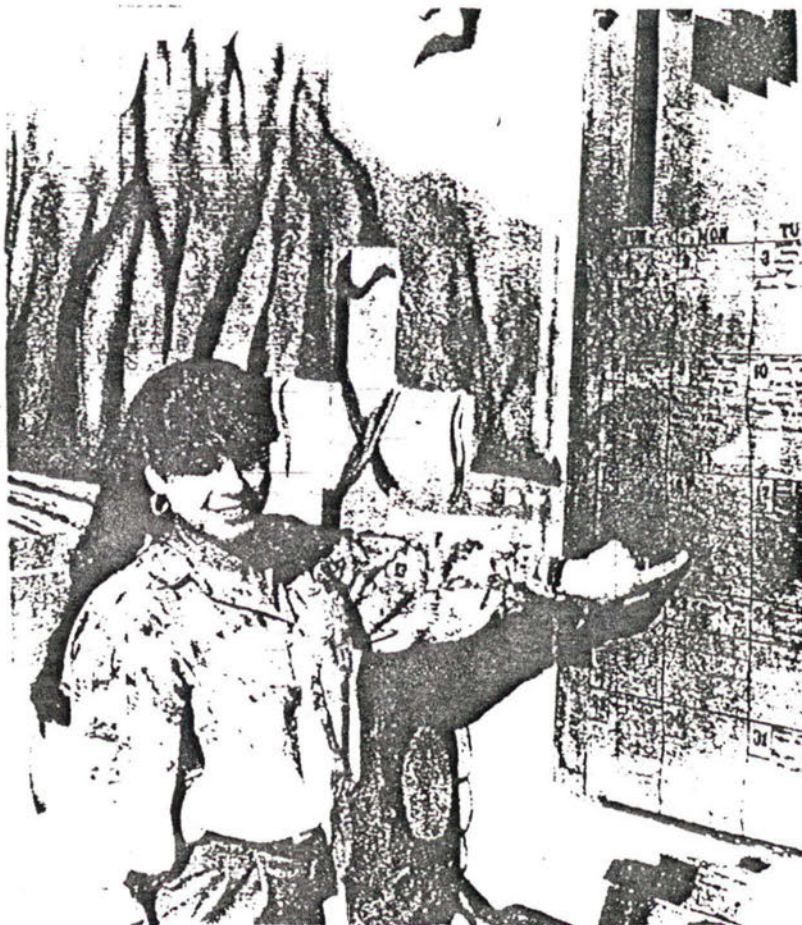
Groups are encouraged to contact her if they want to be in the calendar at 466-3411 at the chamber office.

"This is something that came out of the Focus Future effort. What they want is an actual calendar to put up," Lujan said. The calendar is designed and after it is erected at the chamber office they may add lights to it.

January is the first month. "They gave me this window to work with (temporarily)," Lujan said.

I want it to look like an actual calendar. It's going to have to be big to put everything for a while month," she said.

"If anyone has ideas they want to share with me how to get the calendar put up, please contact me," Lujan said.



**ELOY ENTERPRISE
ELOY, ARIZONA
JANUARY 19, 1995**

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.

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.

RED WING REPUBLICAN EAGLE
LEWISTON, MINNESOTA
NOVEMBER 5, 1994

Agriculture
BRIEFS

AmeriCorps members begin work with Soil Conservation Service

LEWISTON, Minn. — Four AmeriCorps members including Shelly Eckblad of Red Wing have started work with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. They are among 20 AmeriCorps members selected to work in Minnesota for one year. They will be working on a project designed to improve water quality of the Whitewater River Watershed including improved nutrient and pesticide management.

SALINA JOURNAL
SALINA, KANSAS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1994

**Kansas to receive 48
AmeriCorps volunteers**

TOPEKA — Officials announced Friday that 48 AmeriCorps volunteers will work in flood-damaged areas and for agricultural projects.

Joel Berg, director of national service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said the volunteers will work in rural areas to renovate windbreaks and clean federal parks in Kansas.

Two teams of five volunteers, based in Oakley and Scott City, will do windbreak renovation.

Another five teams, each with three members, will work on wetlands projects. They will be based in Topeka, Emporia, Manhattan, Hays and Hutchinson.

Another 20 people will work to restore federal and state parks damaged by the 1993 flood.

Among other things, they will pick up debris, paint signs and picnic tables, remove dead trees.

Three other volunteers will work in watershed and agricultural projects.

Portland, Oregon

JUNE 7, 1995

THE SKANNER

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



PHOTO BY JILL N. 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.

Corps

from Page 1A

said. "We want to do something for communities here."

It is one of 42 AmeriCorps projects throughout the nation announced this week by the Department of Agriculture. The projects are funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal corporation created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The national programs include everything from working in national forests to promoting rural development, even helping with flood-relief projects in the Midwest.

Some \$200,000 is expected to be available for the local AmeriCorps project through Clinton's economic-adjustment initiative, Dew said.

The base for the project will either be in Prospect at an old Boise Cascade Corp. nursery or in the Applegate Ranger District, Dew said. Negotiations continue with Boise Cascade on leasing the old nursery known as Camp Katydid, he said.

"We haven't finalized that yet," he said. "We prefer the Prospect area. But no matter where we put the base facility, we would run spike camp elsewhere."

Meanwhile, an unrelated eight-week forest work camp for teenagers operated by the nonprofit Northwest Youth Corps based in Eugene is set to open Monday in the Prospect Ranger District. The 33 youths from timber-dependent communities will be housed in tents in the district, unless the lease agreement is signed with Boise at the Katydid site, he said.

Those participants will be paid \$4.75 an hour, working 38 hours a week on forest projects, Dew said.

In addition to creating employment for youth, the camp will provide education while promoting teamwork, discipline, responsibility and self-confidence. That camp will be funded by the Forest Service as part of a \$225,000 package that also includes the cost of the projects, he said.

The AmeriCorps project, which begins a month after that camp ends, is expected to expand beyond the borders of the national forest to include work with the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and other agencies, Dew said.

"It could also include work in rural communities," he said, noting the economic problems faced by timber-dependent communities. "We want to be able to help rural communities as well as area youth."

Rogue forest selected for youth service project

By PAUL FATTIG
of the Mail Tribune

The Rogue River National Forest has been selected as a site for one of President Clinton's national service projects.

The local AmeriCorps project, in which youth will earn at least \$7,500 and an educational voucher of \$4,725 for 10 months of work, will begin in late September or early October, said Rogue forest spokesman Tom Dew.

"This is going to be a real benefit for the region," Dew said. "We have a lot of projects on the forest that need to be done that are labor intensive — trail maintenance, recreational

projects, fence building — all kinds of things. We're really excited about it."

Moreover, it will provide local youth an opportunity to gain work experience and earn an educational voucher for college or trade school, he said.

"This program isn't targeted to any one group," he said. "The only requirement is to have a high-school diploma, a GED or a willingness to work toward one."

Anyone 17 or older may apply by calling 1-800-880-4183. It isn't known yet how many will participate in the local project.

"We hope a lot of them will be coming from this area," Dew

see CORPS, Page 4A

Mail Tribune
Serving Southern Oregon & Northern California

CITY/STATE



AMERICORPS GETTING THINGS DONE

In Rural South Carolina



"There is no member of the U.S. Congress more committed to the AmeriCorps program than I am. I feel very strongly about volunteerism," 6th District Congressman James Clyburn on Tuesday tells the 40 South Carolina members of the national service program begun by President Clinton. The AmeriCorps members are in Santee for a two-day training session. (T&D photo by David R. Phillips)

AmeriCorps builds spirit to fight hate of Oklahoma City, Clyburn says

By GENE CRIDER
T&D Staff Writer

SANTEE, S.C. — It was a day when AmeriCorps members showed what they can accomplish by working together.

And they received encouragement from 6th District Congressman James Clyburn, who said experiences such as theirs can prevent occurrences such as the Oklahoma City bombing by teaching people to work together.

The 40 South Carolina members of the national service program started by President Clinton spent much of the morning Tuesday cleaning the town of Santee — painting the town police department, cleaning the roadside along Highway 15 and making repairs to a nearby day care center.

The AmeriCorps members are in Santee for a

two-day training session. Besides attending workshops on everything from using time wisely to serving customers, members also heard Clyburn express his support for the program.

"There is no member of the U.S. Congress more committed to the AmeriCorps program than I am," Clyburn said. "I feel very strongly about volunteerism."

Everyone ought to find something to do with their energy and enthusiasm, for which they are not paid, Clyburn said. Every meaningful job he has had has not paid a salary, he said.

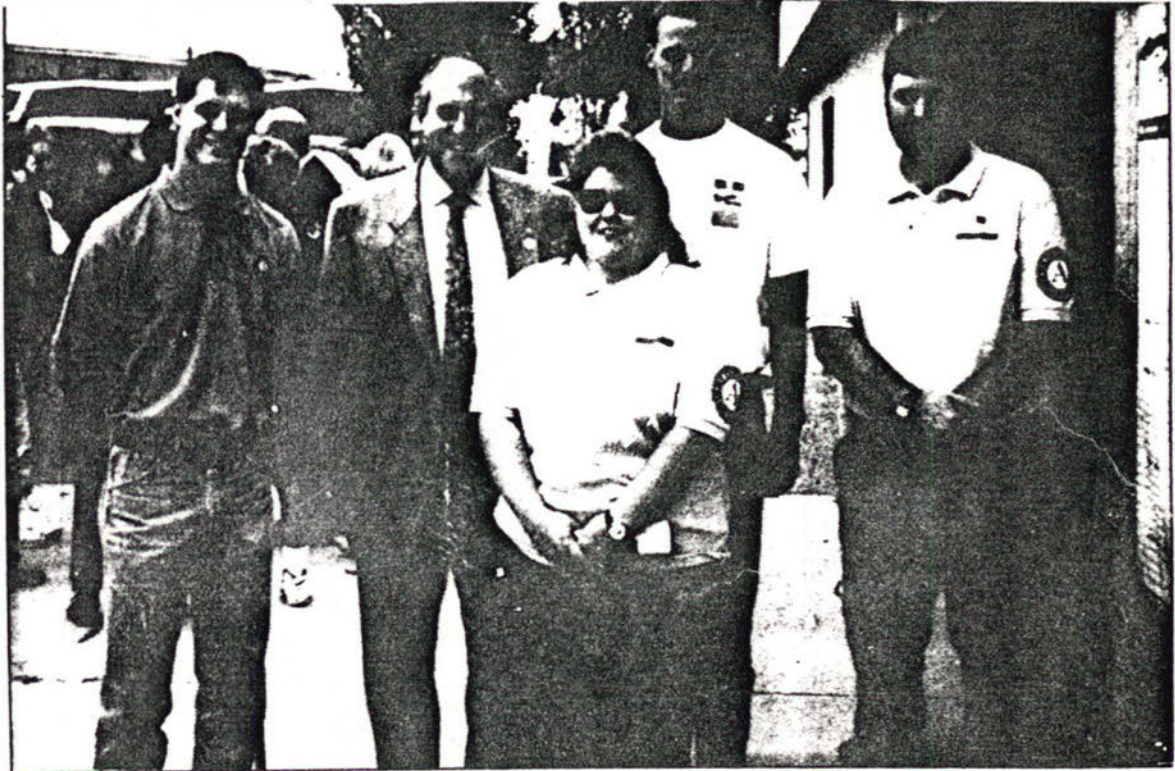
And volunteerism does not go unnoticed, he said, relating the story of how his volunteer efforts while he was a school teacher led to his becoming director of an area Neighborhood Youth Program.

Please see AmeriCorps, 2B

THE McPHERSON SENTINEL

McPHERSON, KANSAS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1995



AmeriCorps member Ryan Webster, left, was recently honored for his part in saving the life of a Louisville man. With him are Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Melinda Owens, Rick Martin and Scott Kolling (McPherson and Marquette EMS member who trained Webster in life-saving techniques).

AmeriCorps member helps save man's life

Kansas USDA/AmeriCorps Member Ryan Webster, while providing extra hours of service on July 23, helped save the life of Clyde Wheeler, 44, Louisville, at Tuttle Creek Reservoir.

Webster received his CPR/first aid training from AmeriCorps member Scott Kolling, EMT-I/C who is with the McPherson EMS and director of the Marquette EMS.

Both Webster and Kolling were honored by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman during the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

At about 4 p.m. on the day of the accident, Webster and Tuttle Creek State Park Conservation Officer Randy Conrad were near the Big Dog Marina when they heard screaming. When they investigated, they found Wheeler, who had been in an inner tube being pulled by a Ranger bass boat.

The boat slowed to an idle to turn around to pick up Wheeler. When the driver was unable to steer away, the rear propeller of the boat caught Wheeler's feet, inflicting severe injuries. Two park employees in a boat

"I was thankful that I was there. But I wished that I hadn't been ... anybody in my position would have done the same thing ..."

Ryan Webster

With Wheeler on shore, Webster, along with Conrad began giving first aid. Webster said that he was able to use the first aid training given to him and the other USDA/AmeriCorps members by Kansas Health and Safety Extension Council (KHASEC) AmeriCorps.

Webster said they worked with the victim for about 25 minutes even though it "seemed like an eternity." After pulling on latex gloves, the first thing they did when in the boat was to elevate the victim's legs and stop the bleeding. The injury extended from the waist to the knee with a

Member

From MEMBER, Page 1

three to four inch wide wound exposing the leg bone, muscle and tendons. The bones in the ankle of the other leg were also exposed. Webster said he kept talking to the victim to keep him from going into shock.

The first Responder and EMT to arrive at the scene was Joe Clark. When he arrived, he discovered that Wheeler had lost half a foot, had severed an artery, along with other injuries. Clark said the "kid" (Webster) had a towel over the wound and was applying pressure. "He was doing a fine job...I was glad they were there."

Clark said the victim had lost 85 to 90 percent of his body fluids and they were having trouble getting a blood pressure reading. Clark said the action of Webster and Conrad "saved the victim's life."

Webster said he had learned the man's injuries were too severe for the Manhattan hospital to handle, and the man was flown to the University of Kansas Medical Center.

When Webster was praised for his actions he said, "I was thankful that I was there. But I wished that I hadn't been ... anybody in my position would have done the same thing ... the incident has crossed my mind every night before I go to sleep."

A letter from district school principals stating the day will not be observed has out- our dismay and outrage that a day . . . de- woman to be recognized as equals in society.

TREES OF REMEMBRANCE



Photo by Steve Klaver

Sue Andersen and Matt Hall plant a silky dogwood along the Musconetcong River in Asbury. Thousands of trees and shrubs are being planted this week in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing victims and to commemorate Earth Day as part of Americorp National Week of Service.

MARKETPLACE

SUNDAY
JULY 21, 1996
THE STATE
JOURNAL-REGISTER
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
PAGE 47



Chris Young/The State Journal Register

Retired farmer Wes Hilst of Manito volunteered to help AmeriCorp workers glean beans from a patch too weedy for harvesting equipment. The beans were later delivered to needy residents in the area.

Harvesting Hope

Attempt made to keep from wasting food

By ROSALYNNE HARTY
REGIONAL EDITOR

HAVANA — Harvest season comes early and often in Mason County. The pea harvest comes in June, and green beans are ready by July.

Typically, convoys of mechanical pickers move in and make quick work of the harvest, giant headlights moving up and down the fields all night so as to gather vegetables at their peak.

But on this particular day, the harvest looks much as it might have 100 years ago, pod by pod, bean by bean, from hand to sack. The familiar thud-thud of green beans hitting the bottom of brown grocery bags makes the field seem kitchen-friendly instead of the starting point in an international food business.

Holding an uprooted plant upside down by its claw-like roots, Pam Wingerter giggles softly.

"I wonder if this is what it would be like to pluck chickens" she mused, plucking bean after bean from the tangled canopy of leaves.

Wingerter was part of a small crew of volunteers painstakingly harvesting green beans from a sunflower-choked patch that mechanical harvesters had skipped. Dubbed Harvesting Hope, the Illinois River Valley

AmeriCorps program connects needy families with fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste.

While there are other AmeriCorps gleaning programs gathering surplus foods from restaurants and other sources, the Mason County program was the first of its kind.

"We're unique in that we grow these vegetables," explains Mason County Farm Service director Rod Atterberry, who is also serving as AmeriCorps project director. "I thought, why not try gleaning these?"

Crops can be abandoned for a variety of reasons, explained Atterberry, who grew up in the area. Some crops are left standing because they're in hard-to-harvest spots, such as a low spots or weedy areas that might jam expensive equipment. Other crops may not quite meet the size or pic-

ture-perfect standards set by commercial canners such as Del Monte or Green Giant, but are still edible.

"One thing you learn is how much goes to waste, and it's a lot," says volunteer Janice Newman, whose husband Bryan is pastor at First Baptist Church of Havana.

In this case, the green beans and sunflowers alike would have been disked under by noon, to clear the field for a second bean crop, according to farmer Ron Vance.

"I'm glad to see someone get the benefit," Vance said.

In some cases, AmeriCorps worker Mary Catherine Peters said, growers are going out of their way to help the

See HOPE on page 48

FROM THE
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HPR Automotive Superstore-West opening on Aug. 1

Springfield will soon have its first
1994 and bought the Mazda dealership
and Mark Brown Motors last year

Hamlin said he would have preferred to
establish a west side service facility first,

car-rental agency and will run shuttle
buses to shopping areas. Customers will

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

HOPE

From page 47

food-gathering effort, leaving harvestable end rows or lending equipment and sometimes workers. The Illinois Conference of Churches has also gotten involved in a major way, chipping in money, volunteers and a promise to try and keep the gleaner effort going next year, according to Atterberry.

"The community has backed us 100 percent," said Atterberry. "No one has told us no."

The food-rescue effort is a daunting task, involving recruiting and transporting volunteers on short notice, hours of manual labor, and racing against the clock to get quickly perishable vegetables to families and social agencies that can use them.

"Our biggest problem is finding transportation to take them," said Peters.

Everyone from the Mason County Sheriff to car dealers to a local tavern owner has gotten involved in the project, either driving, picking, or storing vegetables in coolers until they can be distributed.

Retired farmer Wes Hilst of Havana and Manito has lent both trucks and time to the project.

"I saw they were doing something for the people who really need some help," said Hilst, deftly making a mountain of beans. "You've got to keep your mind occupied and stay

The low-income recipients had to take classes in freezing and food safety in order to receive the produce.

busy, that's all it takes."

At a gleaner field, the volunteers always post a sign explaining the project. Most wear special T-shirts — "Feeding All, Wasting None" — to show they are part of Harvesting Hope.

"We have an agreement with the farmers," explains Peters, a recent college graduate from Iowa City who joined AmeriCorps to help repay college loans. "They know we're here for a reason, to help the community, but they don't want just anyone in their fields."

Both Peters and fellow AmeriCorps worker Jennifer Clark of Lewistown come from farm backgrounds and said the field work was actually a welcome change from sitting in classrooms — or past farm summers walking beans.

"Jennifer was saying it was a lot more fun picking the produce than picking weeds," Peters laughed. "It's a lot more encouraging to see what you're actually getting."

One thing the group learned, ac-

cording to Atterberry, is that traditional food pantries are not set up to handle fresh vegetables. Instead, the harvest typically goes to coolers at local stores until recipients can pick it up, as well as to agencies that can quickly utilize the produce in lunch programs.

The low-income recipients had to take classes in freezing and food safety in order to receive the produce.

Wingter is one of the food recipients along with her mother. The training even included donated freezer bags, she explained.

"So many of the recipients are older and can't come and do this," she explained, between thuds of beans. "I thought I should try to do what I can."

The vegetables are a welcome addition to the family menu and a budget stretcher, she said. "It's really been a blessing," she said.

On this particular day, Wingter and a handful of other volunteers — ranging from Hilst to Newman's 16-year-old daughter, Carrie, and friend Michelle Hood — hand-harvest 450 pounds of beans. The produce quickly found its way to 41 low-income families, a senior citizens lunch program, and area nursing homes.

An earlier gleaner project, with assistance from Del Monte, yielded 1,000 pounds of peas. Later in the summer, the harvest will include potatoes and sweet corn.

The initial goal was just to supply fresh vegetables to about 15 local families, according to Atterberry.

But the harvests have been abundant enough they had to cast a wider net, sending shipments as far away as Contact Ministries in Springfield and the Salvation Army in Pekin. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman also received a sample of Mason County peas when he visited Chicago to promote restaurant-gleaning efforts there.

Mason County, while rich agriculturally, has 17 percent of its households living in poverty, Atterberry points out.

With quick-drying sandy soils and an aquifer that lends itself to irrigation, the county has become a major grower of popcorn, sweet corn, and is renowned for the juiciness of its melons. Consistently among the top ten counties in Illinois for overall vegetable production, according to the 1992 Census of Agriculture, Mason County also ranks among the top 50 counties in the nation in production of snap beans and cucumbers, and among the top 75 counties for production of peas.

Modern harvesting methods no longer leave a few beans or ears of corn in every row, the way Atterberry remembers fields from his youth.

"Something like sweet corn, there's nothing left" after a combine rolls through, he says.

Nonetheless, the pockets of leftover vegetables add up.

"We can't get to every patch," Atterberry says. "But we can make a start."

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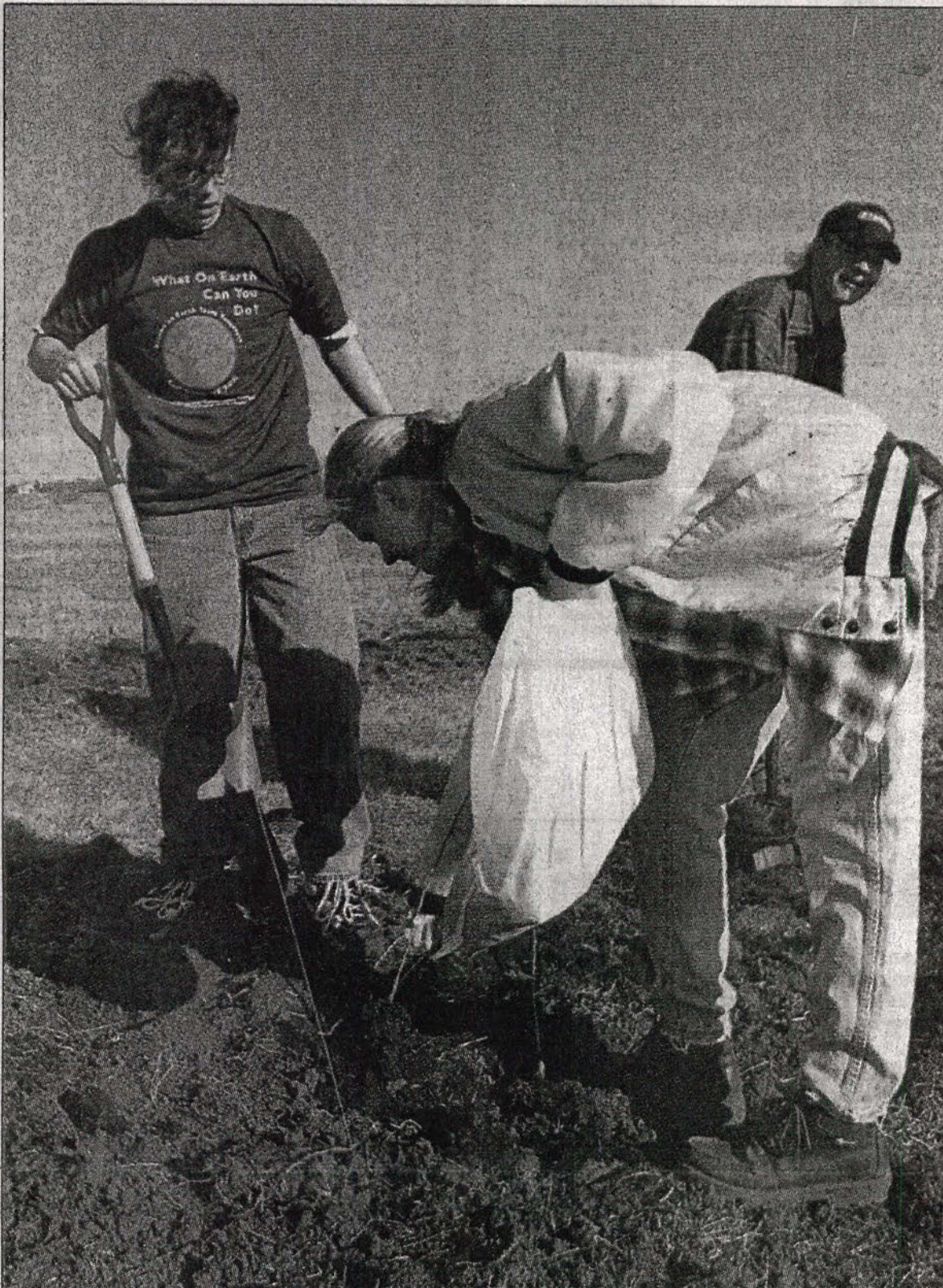
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Matt Sibley, left, Huron High School 10th-grader, and Wendie Johnson, HHS 11th-grader, along with other students and members of the community, plant willow trees at Gibbs Park in Huron early Friday morning for Arbor Day.

A living memorial

Oklahoma bombing victims honored in Arbor Day event

BY ROBERT PORE
OF THE PLAINSMAN

The memory of the 168 people who died in the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City a year ago was honored at an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at Huron's Gibbs Park Friday.

"Nationally, all federal employees and the Americorps program have taken the time during the week to remember the employees and people that lost their lives in that tragedy," said Joyce Watkins, communications officer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"These trees that we plant in their memory will be a benefit for many, many years," she said.

"It's a fitting way to honor their memory."

The one-year anniversary was April 19. During that day employees at the federal office building in Huron observed 168 seconds of silence in memory of the dead.

The manager of the Beadle Conservation District said the trees that will take root at Gibbs Park will be a living memorial to the bombing victims.

"By planting trees we leave a lasting legacy for generations to come," said Judy Tschetter.

Joining NRCS members were Earth Team volunteers, Retired & Senior Volunteer Program members and 16 members of Huron High School's natural resources class.

Watkins said the 200 willow seedlings were planted to mark the closing of Gov. Bill Janklow's "Year to Celebrate the Land."

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PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESERVATION

TREES/

from page 1

The trees were donated in honor of Lila and Robert Banks of Rapid City and Will and Ollie Ruppel by Dick and Joan Hart of Sturgis.

"The 200 trees that were donated for the planting today are part of a program designed to help save the state tree nursery in Watertown," Tschetter said.

Under the program, South Dakotans could donate \$50 and have 100 trees planted in the county of their choice.

Last year, Watkins said, Americorps members in cooperation with Beadle Conservation District and the city of Huron Parks and Recreation Department planted trees in Gibbs Park.

Friday, Mike Knigge, a 1995 Americorps graduate, and Earth

Team members Grace Hale, Odie Butler and Gene Kingdon unveiled a plaque commemorating continued community involvement and cooperation in conservation projects.

"As well as recognizing Arbor Day, this commemorative tree planting is part of a long-range plan to develop and enhance Gibbs Park," said Huron Commissioner Jeff Boyd.

The park is located 1.5 miles south of Huron Mall on the east side of the road.

In other Arbor Day activities, state district forester John Hinners of Huron and Parks and Recreation director LaRon Klock were taking trees to Huron third-graders. Tschetter plans to do the same next week for Heartland area third-graders.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

FARM FOCUS



Left to right: Roger Fahnestock, Jennifer Oxford, Suzanne Abouchahine, Jennifer Clark, Ag Secretary Dan Glickman, Michael Mulqueen, Director of Greater Chicago Food Depository, Rod Atterberry.

AmeriCorps kicks off summer gleaning

On June 7, the Illinois River Valley AmeriCorps team traveled to Chicago to kick-off a summer of gleaning with Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Stephen Scates, executive director of the Illinois Farm Service Agency, accompanied the five AmeriCorps members along with county and project director, Rod Atterberry.

The AmeriCorps members developed the gleaning program Harvesting Hope for the residents of Mason and southern Tazewell counties to rescue vegetables that might otherwise go to waste and distribute them to families in need of fresh produce. The vegetables may go unharvested due to a variety of reasons including: market cosmetics, weather problems, cost-effectiveness of additional harvests and surplus.

While in Chicago, Secretary Glickman and the Harvesting Hope program donated 20 pounds of fresh gleaned peas to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

"These peas demonstrate how AmeriCorps members have put their energy and enthusiasm into these efforts to help community members who are hungry," stated Secretary of Agriculture Glickman.

Atterberry presented the peas by stating, "Secretary Glickman's support of AmeriCorps and commitment to food rescue has made programs like our Harvesting Hope fresh vegetables gleaning program possible."

AmeriCorps members also toured the newly constructed Mother's Cupboard Food Pantry located in the Robert Taylor homes.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or existing student loans. USDA sponsors rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger projects that engage up to 1,350 of the 25,000 members in the overall AmeriCorps program.

Volunteers help Harvest Hope begin successfully

Members of the Illinois River Valley Farm Service Agency AmeriCorps team kicked-off the Harvesting Hope gleaning project in Mason and southern Tazewell counties. Volunteers gleaned and distributed over 300 pounds of peas to 41 families in the area and over 700 pounds to the Contact Ministries, Springfield, the Salvation Army and Christian Civic Outreach in Pekin.

Harvesting Hope was developed by the Illinois River Valley AmeriCorps team to rescue vegetables that would otherwise go unharvested due to unsatisfactory market cosmetics, weather problems, cost-effectiveness of additional harvests and surplus.

The success of the Harvesting Hope program stems from the involvement of local volunteers. Bryan and Janice Newman and their daughter Carrie of the First Baptist Church of Havana participated in the first day of gleaning.

"We felt it was a good opportunity to give a little time to something that was so different for us," Bryan Newman said of the gleaning experience. "It is amazing how many people you can help in such a short period of time--a small sacrifice you can make for others."

Other volunteers for the first day of gleaning included: Lori Thiessen, Duane Himmel, and Kevin Donoho from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and volunteers from Del Monte.

On June 12, another group of volunteers donated their time to glean over 700 pounds of peas. The volunteers included Duane Carr, Dennis Carr, Adam Houghton, Andrew Houghton, and Robert Hanson from Boy Scout Troop 166; Eric Stelter, a local grower; Louis, Loren, Logan and Lydia Kunz and Ancil Blodgett of the Havana Southern Baptist Church; Teresa and Lauri Bortell, Sarah Owens, and Harold Winsor, all area residents.

The harvested pea vines were taken to Del Monte headquarters in Manito by trucks donated by Havana Chrysler and B&B Motors. Del Monte volunteered a pea harvested to separate the peas from the pods and vines. Gary Molid, a field rep of Del Monte, advises AmeriCorps members on harvesting dates and by-passed fields.

Sheriff Walker of the Mason County Sheriff's Department and other area residents transported the cleaned and packaged peas to outlying distribution sites where recipients could receive them. Wareco of Havana and Mason City provided ice water for the volunteers and freezer space to cool the vegetables. The Brick in Bath and the Green Valley Food Pantry also donated their facilities as distribution sites.

Through the combined effort of local volunteers, Harvesting Hope will continue to feed families in need of fresh vegetables in Mason and southern Tazewell counties. The Illinois Conference of Churches, a project co-sponsor, provided monetary donations to Harvesting Hope to purchase necessary materials for volunteers.

Food recipients will also receive green beans, potatoes, and sweet corn throughout the summer.

If you would like more information or want to get involved with the Harvesting Hope program, please contact an AmeriCorps member at (309)543-2582.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with a bi-partisan support from Congress, that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or existing student loans. USDA sponsors rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger projects that engage up to 1,350 of the 25,000 members in the overall AmeriCorps program.

Mosquitoes

Itchy and scratchy red welts toll the bells of mosquito time in our county. This year has proven to be yet another wonderful season for these pests. The adult female mosquito, the only one that bites and sucks human blood, lays her eggs in or near bodies of water. Thus, this year's excessive late spring/early summer rainfall has proven to be quite positive for mosquito development.

Eggs are laid in clusters of 50 to 200 and turn black or brown in color close to hatching. The resulting larvae can live only in water where they float along with their large heads floating near the surface.



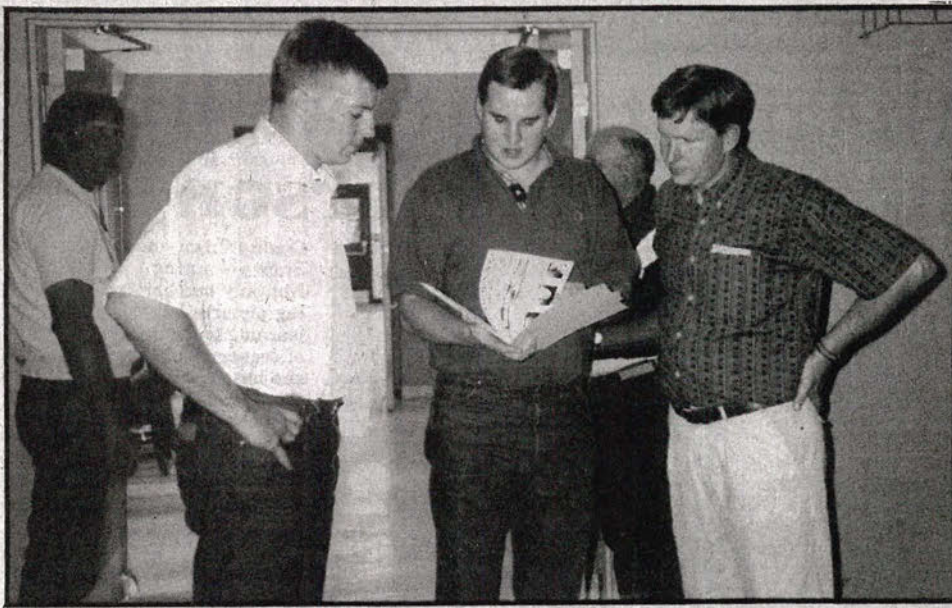
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CALL FOR RES

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PRESCRIPTION
PRESERVATION



Lynn Coers, Manager of Rickett Grain Company of Forest City and Manito, greets Kyle Kuepker and Tim Davis from Continental

Grain of Havana at the 50th anniversary celebration of Rickett Grain at the Forman Center on Wednesday.

Registering for the dinner catered by Becky Woods were 235 customers and friends.



Kevin Donoho, Lori Theisen, Rod Atterberry, Suzanne Abouchahine, Mary

Catherine Peters, Jennifer Clark, Jean Stufflebean, Carrie Newman, Bryan New-

man, Jennifer Oxford, Janice Newman, Roger Fahnestock.



Front: Suzanne Abouchahine, Jennifer Clark, Ag Secretary Dan Glickman,

Stephen Scates, Rod Atterberry. Back: Jennifer Oxford, Jean Stufflebean,

Roger Fahnestock, Mary Catherine Peters.

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PHOTOGRAPH
PRESERVATION

AmeriCorps volunteers help Habitat for Humanity

By Elizabeth P. Zach
Staff reporter

Susan Mattox wore her navy T-Shirt proudly Friday. Emblazoned across her front, it read, "Getting Things Done."

And such was the motto of the AmeriCorps volunteers as they became partners for a day with Habitat for Humanity, an ecumenical, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing.

"I'm proud to be here, even in the heat," said Ms. Mattox, who works in Monroe as a natural resources conservation educator, as she took a break from painting the outside of a house on 136 Kathryn Street.

Nearly 20 AmeriCorps volunteers like Ms. Mattox from around the state gathered in Alexandria for the monthly cluster meeting and to work on a Rapides Habitat for Humanity work site for an afternoon.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program that currently has 20,000 Americans working in underserved rural and urban areas.

In return, the volunteers receive an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, or graduate school, or to pay back student loans.

"I joined because my mom works for the government and she told me about AmeriCorps and said I would be good at it," said Jessica Dean, 18, an AmeriCorps volunteer who organized Friday's project with Habitat and who works in

Lafayette.

Ms. Dean started organizing the project two weeks ago. Mark Carrol, Executive Director of Rapides Habitat for Humanity, found the house on Kathryn Street suitable for the group's interest.

"We want to

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

July 19, 1996

something done.

The AmeriCorps volunteers started scraping the outside of the house about 11 a.m. They then put on a single coat of a grayish blue paint.

Rachel Rivers and her son Larry, who live in the house, remained indoors, occasionally peering out to see how the work was coming along.

Habitat owns the house and rents it to Ms. Rivers and her husband, but the goal is to get the family to own their home.

"The tenants are required to attend a series of meetings where they learn about budget management, home and community safety, home maintenance and upkeep and credit," said Carroll.

Rapides Habitat has built 25 houses since its inception and has built six houses since January.

Approximately 75 people in Rapides Parish have been housed as a result of the work of those volunteering with the organization.



Group seeds clam beds

Americorps members set up growth experiments

By Bruce Kyle
Of the NEWS Staff

WALDOBORO — It's a long way from the azalea gardens of Augusta, Ga., to the mud flats of Waldo-boro, but for Americorps's Marjorie Goldberg, a day seeding clam beds was a truly "oozesome" experience.

"This is my first time on a flat — we don't have anything like this in Georgia," the Americorps team leader said through a mask of muck Tuesday. "I never anticipated being in mud halfway to my knees when I signed up, but it's great. It's kind of fun to play in, plus we're doing something worthwhile."

What Goldberg and 20 other Americorps members were doing wallowing about in Arthur's Cove at low tide was setting up protected clam beds and growth experiments, part of the Seeding For Maine's Future program going on along the coast on the designated National Day of Service.

Americorps, called the domestic Peace Corps, has more than 100 members in Maine, working in projects in conservation, outdoor recreation, agriculture, public health, homelessness, education and youth programs. Members commit to a year of service and receive a living allowance, health insurance and a financial award for education.

Also on Tuesday, Americorps members and other volunteers were in Lubec's Cobscook Bay, seeding 20,000 clams in two nets and 5,000 clams in each of five protector pockets. In Casco Bay, volunteers in South

See Clams, B3, Col. 1



Marjorie Goldberg

TREES OF REMEMBRANCE



Photo by Steve Klaver

Sue Andersen and Matt Hall plant a silky dogwood along the Musconetcong River in Asbury. Thousands of trees and shrubs are being planted this week in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing victims and to commemorate Earth Day as part of Ameri-corp National Week of Service.

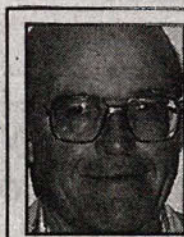
AmeriCorps deserves funding

Value of volunteer program can't be measured in dollars

AmeriCorps is one of President Clinton's favorite programs. It is on a Republican chopping block. According to an opponent, it is not a volunteer program since the "volunteers" are paid. That politician is ignorant of how the program works or wants to confuse by simplification. Sound-bite journalism, I think it's called.

Attending numerous watershed council meetings and agricultural field days, I have been struck by how often the most worthwhile innovations in technology, applicable science and productive community interaction depend on grant funding from a variety of sources to have a chance at implementation.

AmeriCorps is one example of such funding. Here on the Oregon south coast, the volunteer I know best is J.R. Van Slyke. His assignment is watershed restoration. His year of work has resulted in 150 Brookings Middle School students learning about watershed



Guest Comment

Milt Nelson

ecology. He has improved the accuracy of data gathering so the threatened listing of coho salmon as endangered can be forestalled. He has organized the environmental science teachers of every Curry County school district into a permanent relationship to exchange ideas. He is a volunteer.

How can that be, since he is supported by federal government funding? He is "earning" approximately minimum wage, but his expertise is worth two or three times that amount. How do I know this? Because I directed the work of over 100 Vista Volunteers in a seven-year period in the

1970s. The programs work the same way.

To be effective, each participant must be a self-starter and like to work independently. At the same time, one must communicate with many types of people. In J.R.'s case, that means students, teachers, administrators, farmers, fishermen, workers, Oregon State University scientists and politicians. In an ordinary job, one does one set of tasks: line worker, secretary, organizer, leader or publicist. J.R. did all of these and more.

If he could have landed a regular job, he would have. But because he had a degree in history and environmental science from the University of Wisconsin and could work at his assignment full time, he could be effective. He was able to work on a base built by a preceding AmeriCorps volunteer.

He isn't being paid what his skill level should command, but he is rewarded. Direct payments

at the end of his year can be applied to his student loan obligation, or help fund graduate school. And should he try again to land a regular job, who would not hire him, since he has such a variety of valuable experience? Oh yes, he has 20,000 brothers and sisters doing similar projects across the land. And some politician thinks it all a waste.

Farmers know best when projects are effective, because Mother Nature rewards or punishes. Stipended volunteer programs such as AmeriCorps see results judged in the same harsh way. If the product of programs begun by politicians were to be evaluated in such a light, they would be maintained or ended on merit, not on partisan grounds.

Milt Nelson is a freelance writer who corresponds for the Capital Press from the south coast of Oregon. He worked 25 years in human resource agencies.

Lifestyle

Page —B-6

Thursday, May 16, 1996

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MAY 16 1996

Corps of the solution

Assembled from all over U.S.,
AmeriCorps team takes on
variety of projects in county

By FRANCES BORSODI ZAJAC
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

Since its members began arriving here last October, the first Fayette County AmeriCorps Team has tackled projects ranging from heritage preservation to cleaning up illegal dumpsites to organizing a food project for the hungry.

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing," said Adam Baake, 22, of Bellingham, Wash. "You see direct benefits to the community — now and long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

The team, which has a commitment to work through the federal fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, consists of five young adults with diverse backgrounds.

Baake, who has a history degree from Cornell University, is among the youngest of the group. The other is local woman Jaime Fecsek, 22, of Brownsville, who has a degree in public relations from California University.

Team coordinator Susan Thagard, 28, of Pittsburgh, has a degree in fine art and a certificate in planning from the universities of Maryland and Utah.

Craig Kelso, 25, is a native of Springfield, Mo., who has a bachelor's degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University. Last summer, he moved to Morgantown and is working on a master's degree in public history at West Virginia University.

Amy Myers, 28, is a native of Atlanta, Ga., who has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Maryland Law School.

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing...You see direct benefits to the community — now and long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

—ADAM BAAKE
Fayette County
AmeriCorps Team member

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which engages 20,000 Americans in performing service that meets community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back student loans. The mission of AmeriCorps

societies and developed a survey form (for the historic sites). I'm trying to develop a data base for anyone who comes into the area and is interested in the heritage," said Kelso.

The survey is expected to be completed by the end of the summer and copies will be given to the Regional Trails Corp. and all historical societies along the trail, including Connellsville Historical Society, Tri-Town Historical Society and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society.

Improving sewage systems: Kelso has been working with USDA Rural Development and Yough Sewage Authority to link funding sources with individuals not connected to any sewage system in the Dawson-Vanderbilt area. He has hosted two town meetings for the project which could affect up to 1,500 people.

Kelso noted federal funding is available on a limited basis, but there is usually a five-year waiting period.

"My goal is to let them know there are options available and a possible source of funding," he said.

National Road Heritage Park — Flat Iron Building: Kelso is working on a brochure for the Flat Iron Building in Brownsville which is expected to be opened to the public this fall as an interpretative and welcome center for the National Road. The brochure, which will be available on-site and through mailings, will include information on Brownsville and area sites. Kelso said Brownsville area artifacts, such as old photographs and postcards, can be donated to the interpretative center by contacting the Brownsville Historical Society at Nemacolin Castle.

East End Community Center: On May 11, Myers led a team that included community members and other volunteers as they made cosmetic improvements to the Uniontown center, located at 395 E. Main St. The center provides a safe haven for children to learn social and academic skills through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring programs. About 285 students participate each year.

Farris Carpets and K-mart donated paint and other materials for the project, which included painting both the interior and exterior of the center.

"Ultimately, the roof needs repaired and they need shelves," said Myers.

Fecsek and Thagard were also involved with the project.

Junk yards: Myers is producing an inventory of junk yards along the National Road in Pennsylvania with a goal of cleaning them up.

"I've talked to three owners and they've been cooperative," said Myers.

Myers said two junk yards in Brier Hill near the Peter Colley Tavern and Brownsville Drive-in were recently purchased and the new owners are going to clean them up.

She also said there is a plan to replace a fence at Shartzler's Auto Wreckers near Nemacolin Woodlands and that school children will be recruited to paint a mural on the new one. Funding for the Farmington project will be made through the National Road Heritage Park.

[Herald Standard, Lifestyle,
May 16, 1996, page B-C]

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing," said Adam Baake, 22, of Bellingham, Wash. "You see direct benefits to the community — now and long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

The team, which has a commitment to work through the federal fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, consists of five young adults with diverse backgrounds.

Baake, who has a history degree from Cornell University, is among the youngest of the group. The other is local woman Jaime Fecek, 22, of Brownsville, who has a degree in public relations from California University.

Team coordinator Susan Thagard, 28, of Pittsburgh, has a degree in fine art and a certificate in planning from the universities of Maryland and Utah.

Craig Kelso, 25, is a native of Springfield, Mo., who has a bachelor's degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University. Last summer, he moved to Morgantown and is working on a master's degree in public history at West Virginia University.

Amy Myers, 28, is a native of Atlanta, Ga., who has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Maryland Law School.

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—ADAM BAAKE

*Fayette County
AmeriCorps Team member*

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which engages 20,000 Americans in performing service that meets community needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

Locally, the Fayette County team is working through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission's internship program and is based in the National Road Heritage Park headquarters in Farmington.

The heritage preservation commission put together the team, searching for members who were interested in heritage development.

AmeriCorps sites are selected because they meet any of three criteria: empowerment, enterprise or champion zones. Fayette County is a champion community, meaning it has met specific income and unemployment levels.

Here is a breakdown of the various projects that involve the Fayette County AmeriCorps Team:

Youghiogheny River Trail: Kelso is compiling an inventory of historical sites that can be seen from 43 miles of the Yough River Trail North, which runs from McKeesport to Connellsville. Kelso estimated, there are 30, including coke ovens, patch towns, the Overholt Distillery. He will then develop interpretative materials for the sites. Funding to produce the materials (possibly plaques) is not available at this time, but the program will be ready should funding become available.

"I've been going to various historical

Connellsville Historical Society, Tri-Town Historical Society and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society.

Improving sewage systems: Kelso has been working with USDA Rural Development and Yough Sewage Authority to link funding sources with individuals not connected to any sewage system in the Dawson-Vanderbilt area. He has hosted two town meetings for the project which could affect up to 1,500 people.

Kelso noted federal funding is available on a limited basis, but there is usually a five-year waiting period.

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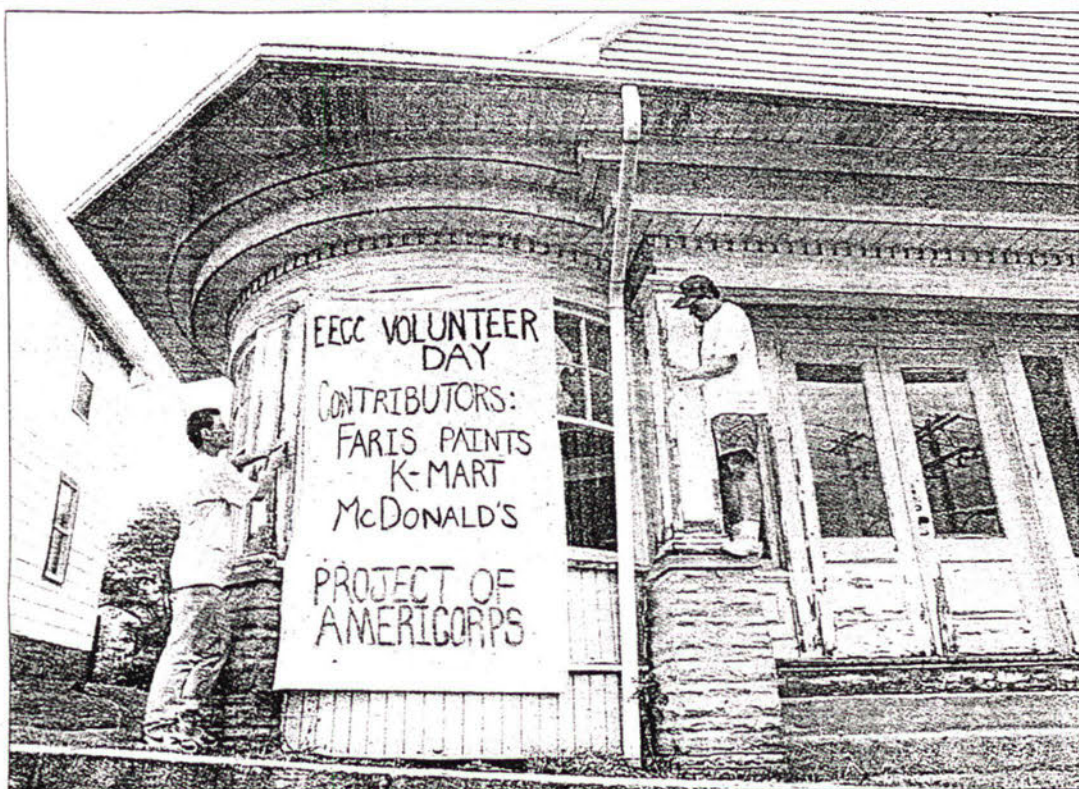
Planting historic trees: A tree-planting ceremony will take place from Connellsville to Dawson May 25 along the Yough River Trail using seeds from famous trees. The work is being done in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp. and Allegheny Power, which is supplying the trees.

Myers said local officials can choose up to 20 trees from a variety of historic sources, such as a white ash from the Cincinnati home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin;" a paper birch from the Portsmouth, N.H., boarding home where father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones, lived; a honey locust from the tree that provided shade to President Abraham Lincoln when he delivered the famed Gettysburg Address; a chestnut oak from Stratford Hall, Va., the birthplace of Robert E. Lee; an eastern redbud from the Glen Echo, Md., study of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton; and sycamore seeds that were part of the official payload of Apollo 14 in 1971.

Improving houses: Baake is working with USDA Rural Development to inform rural home owners about a grant-and-loan program for improvements to their property. One percent loans of up to \$15,000 are available for low-income applicants while property owners 62 and older may be eligible for grants up to \$7,500. Baake has assisted at information meetings in Vanderbilt and Dawson.

"We've had small turnouts but positive results. I think we've had five applicants.

[Harold Standard, Lifestyle,
May 16, 1996, page B-6]



We plan to do more meetings," Baake said.

Developing a local loan program: Baake is working with three local banks — Integra Bank of Fayette County, Fayette Bank and Integra Bank of Washington County — to develop a local low-interest program for property owners along the National Road. The program is a partnership with the National Road Heritage Park to provide loans at an interest rate under the prime rate. Owners who wish to rehabilitate historic homes or businesses along the National Road can make application to the heritage park. There are no income guidelines. Their requests will be reviewed by a committee of community members. The program will begin in early summer.

"The program serves two purposes: it's a catalyst for community development and it improves the desirability of the National Road as a tourist destination," said Baake.

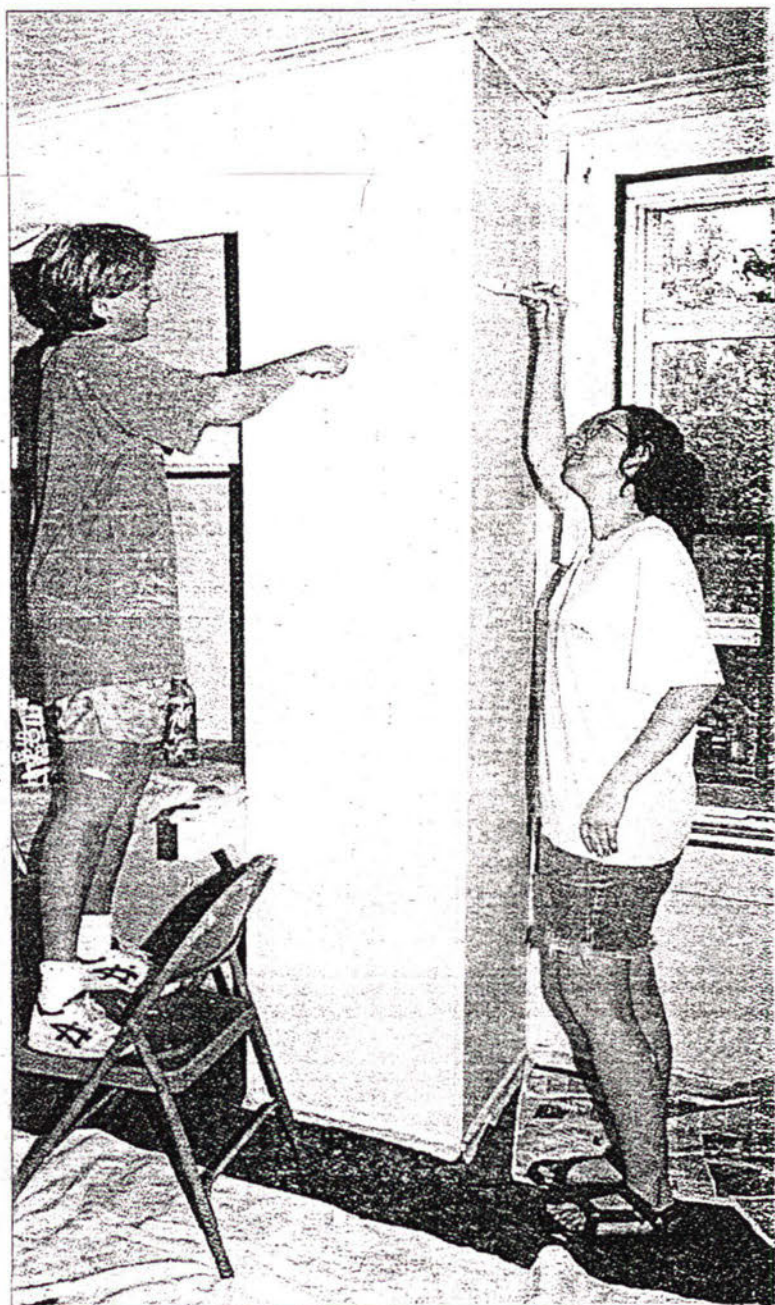
New interpretative center and headquarters: Baake is also working on a project to convert one of the oldest garages on the National Road into an interpretative center on 20th century uses of the road. Baake will not yet reveal the location but said it will be an adaptive use of a now-vacant structure. It will be restored into a 1920 garage which includes the interpretative center and National Road Heritage Park offices when completed. Artifacts pertaining to automobile travel and early 20th century will be accepted at a later date. Funding for phase 1 will be available this summer. Baake said the project will not be completed until at least 1998.

National Pike Festival: Baake is organizing an art-and-essay contest for elementary- and middle-school students along the National Road, using the theme, "Life Along the National Road." Thagard is working with officials to coordinate festival events, including entertainment and the wagon train.

National Register of Historic Places nominations: Baake completed nominations for Centerville and Scenery Hill which will be placed before the state committee for review in June. If the nominations pass, the communities could expect to be on the National Register before the end of the year.

Baake is also submitting applications for two additional properties — the Josiah Frost House at Searights, which is associated with the Searights Tavern, and the Dougherty Tavern in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County.

Supervising interns: Baake will supervise two interns obtained for the National Road Heritage Park from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, who are developing an interpretative plan for the S-Bridge, located in Washington County along the National Road. The bridge, one of four surviving bridges



(Herald-Standard Photos by Rosie Jordan)

In top photo: Adam Baake and Craig Kates

[Herald Standard, Lifestyle,
May 16, 1996, page B-6]

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Baake, Kelso and Ann Safely, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as well as a National Road Heritage Park board member, are supervising four interns obtained from the heritage commission for the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority who will be conducting a survey of potential historic districts. They begin work in June.

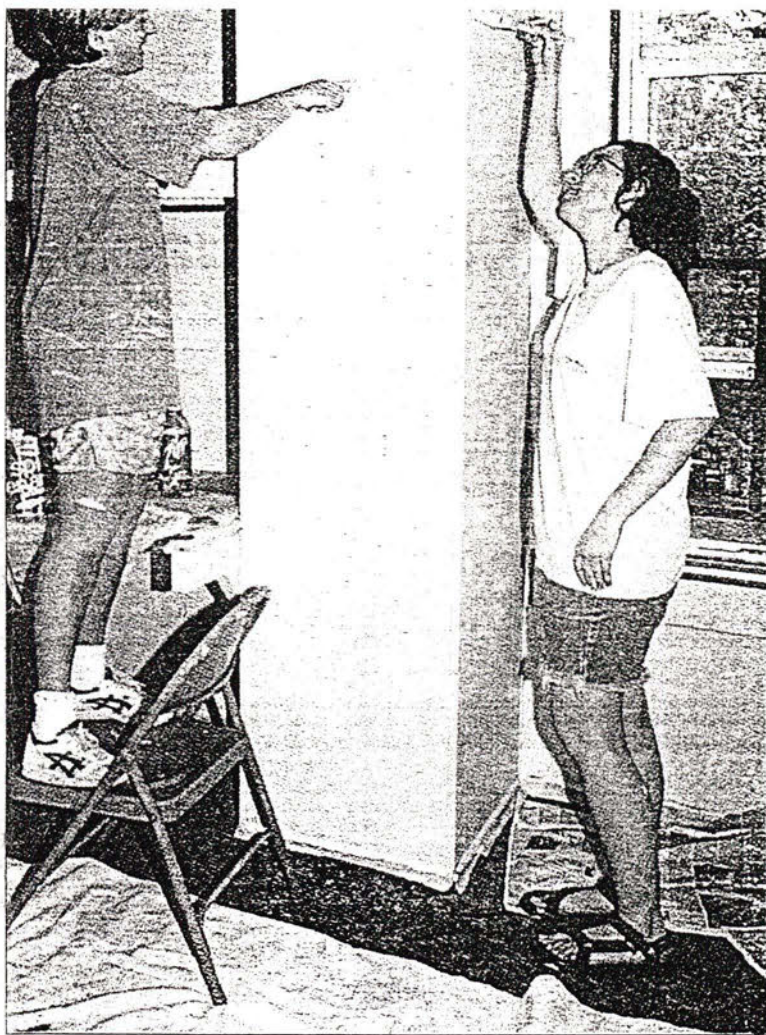
Rails to Trails: Thagard is working as a liaison with the Pennsylvania Corps of Rails to Trails and the Allegheny Trail Alliance on a rail-trail maintenance study. It's a how-to guide on building and maintaining the trails that is aimed at assisting future projects.

"The idea is to be used by all trail groups across the country," said Thagard who is concentrating on the Pittsburgh-to-Cumberland segment.

Thagard is also helping the Pennsylvania director of Rails to Trails on his greenway implementation program, which establishes a criteria for prioritizing efforts to build a trail.

When her current projects are completed, Thagard will continue to assist these groups.

Cleaning up: Fecek recently organized a cleanup with students and teachers from the Frazier School District and other volunteers



(Herald-Standard Photos by Rosie Jordan)

In top photo: Adam Baake and Craig Kelso help clean up the outside of the East End Community Center, while Sarah Endriss (left) and Alex Rogers, both from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, help freshen the inside (photo above).

to pick up trash along six miles of the future Yough River Trail North near Perryopolis. The group worked in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp., Pennsylvania Clean Ways and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society to clean an area from Wickhaven to Round Bottom, and cleared 68 acres of George Washington Grist Mill Park in Perryopolis. The group hauled six dump-truck loads of trash from the area.

Fecek explained the students were able to obtain community service credits from Frazier for the project. Students who complete a certain number of hours receive a certificate and an invitation to a banquet. Fecek prepared for the effort by speaking at the high school along with a state geologist.

"It was a big success," said Fecek.

USDA Summer gleaning project: Fecek is also organizing a project to rescue food that might otherwise be wasted from area restaurants, schools, catering services and grocery stores to be donated to the Fayette County Community Action Foodbank in Uniontown.

Fecek will lead a team of five additional AmeriCorps volunteers. Only eight states will receive teams for this program, which is new for the USDA and predominantly done in the South.

"This team wants to make sure that the project lasts once they're gone," said Fecek.

Major partners are Linden Hall near Dawson and Nemaquin Woodlands in Farmington as well as Threshold Housing. The latter is providing office space for the gleaning team.

Education: Fecek attempted to work with schools on an education project that fell through due to weather and teacher schedules.

However, she created a brochure on field trips to historical sites in Fayette County for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

All members of the team said they have enjoyed their work in the AmeriCorps programs so far.

"It's been very fulfilling," said Thagard.

"For me, it's a great learning experience. I'm growing in leadership skills," said Kelso.

"You're learning how the world works," said Fecek.

"It's an excellent opportunity to work with community leaders," said Baake.

Noted Thagard, "It's nice to take on projects that people always wished could be taken on but never are."

Members say it's likely another AmeriCorps team will be assigned to Fayette County in October.

For more information on any AmeriCorps projects, members can be reached at the National Road Heritage Park at 329-1560.

[Herald Standard, Leesport,
May 16, 1996, page B-6]

PHOTOCOPY
REPRODUCTION

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.

METRO



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

AmeriCorps volunteers are sworn in by President Clinton Monday via satellite link at the Universal Amphitheatre.

Dream Team

■ **Public service:** The thread uniting nearly 1,000 Southland volunteers sworn in to AmeriCorps is idealism and the belief they can change things.

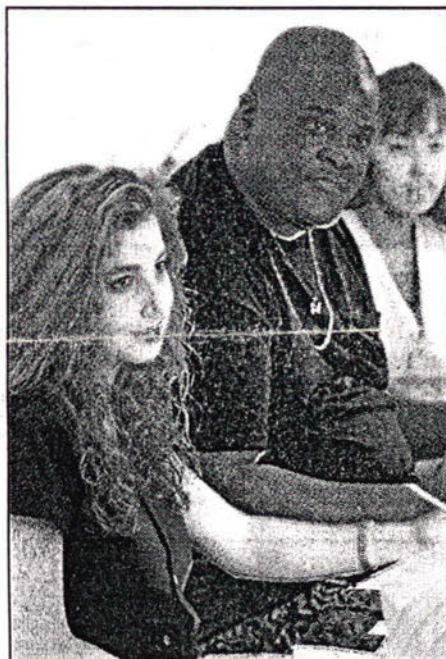
By JOCELYN Y. STEWART
TIMES STAFF WRITER

With an economics degree from UCLA and a resume laced with honors, 22-year-old Anna Ouroumian figures she could easily command a higher salary, complete with impressive business cards and a lofty title.

Instead, the young Glendale woman is content to spend this year working with a local anti-hunger project, earning a modest income.

Her co-workers will be people such as Garland Robinson of South Los Angeles, who temporarily put off a master's degree to fulfill a lifelong dream of "working with the people."

Along with thousands of others across



RICK MEYER / Los Angeles Times

From left, inductees Anna Ouroumian, Garland Robinson, Dawn Takeuchi.

the country, Ouroumian and Robinson have signed up for a "season of service" in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program. On Monday, the two gathered with nearly 1,000 other participants at the Universal Amphitheatre for the mass swearing-in of the nation's first AmeriCorps class.

In Los Angeles, the one thread uniting an otherwise disparate group of AmeriCorps members—young and old, middle-class and poor—is an idealism reminiscent of a bygone era in American history: the belief that they can be the agents of change.

Like a domestic Peace Corps, the AmeriCorps members will combat problems ranging from hunger and crime to illiteracy and pollution.

"I'm interested in community empowerment and . . . showing people that things can be done," said Ouroumian, who grew up in Glendale. "I know it sounds cliché-ish, but I believe anything is possible."

At the ceremony, AmeriCorps members listened to a string of speeches—

Please see VOLUNTEERS, B3



JILL CONNELLY / For The Times

President Clinton, addressing recruits to service program, tells them he knows they are "a generation of doers."

VOLUNTEERS: National Service Program

Continued from B1

laced with words of encouragement and praise—by Mayor Richard Riordan, Police Chief Willie L. Williams and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, as well as past and present members of other service organizations.

"AmeriCorps will rise or fall with your success this year," Cisneros said.

Speaking via satellite in a speech that was simulcast to AmeriCorps members nationwide, Clinton applauded members for their commitment to changing America and "getting things done."

"Every generation in our history has learned to take responsibility for our future, and your generation is no exception," Clinton said. "We look at you now, and we know you are no generation of slackers. Instead, you're a generation of doers."

For all its seriousness, the event—hosted by actor Andrew Shue, a star of the "Melrose Place" television series—felt like a pep rally at times, with members breaking out in impromptu chants ("We want Bill!") and songs ("Lean on Me") while waiting for the satellite hookup.

Performers Patti LaBelle, who donned a black AmeriCorps cap, and the R&B group Immature brought the crowd to its feet.

"I love what you're doing," LaBelle said as the crowd cheered wildly. "Keep on striving for the positive things in life."

The centerpiece of the event was the pledge that all AmeriCorps members took.

Standing in front of a screen, right hands held high, they listened to the words spoken by Clinton, then repeated them:

"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. . . ." In return for their

pledge, they will receive a living stipend—often minimum wage, though some team leaders will make up to \$1,200 a month—along with basic health insurance, a child-care allowance and a monetary award for college, vocational training or to pay off a previous educational loan.

Trial runs of the program this summer have received mixed reviews, and participants say they know the work will be difficult, especially for the pay they will receive. But for some, at least, the compensation is secondary to the life-changing experiences they expect to have during their year of service.

Robinson, for instance, sees his year as a way to help and to lay the foundation for a career in social work.

But with a degree in political science from USC, and no experience, he could not find anyone to hire him. "I asked, 'How can I get the training if I'm not given a chance?'" he said. "I just wanted the chance to prove myself."

A self-proclaimed "product of the '60s," Robinson grew up on 27th Street between Central Avenue and Naomi Street and remembers "a brighter time in Los Angeles," when people knew and cared for each other, he said.

Robinson, 44, has reason to believe in the possibility of change. In May he became the only one of his parents' seven children to graduate from college.

"I have a story to tell because I've been there," he said.

Like Robinson, who was active in student government and other organizations, many AmeriCorps members are no strangers to community work.

Ouromian, who graduated magna cum laude from UCLA in June, spent her extra time outside the classroom planting trees at the Nickerson Gardens housing project, promoting environmental awareness, helping with earthquake relief and working with a number of service organizations.

Last year, she spent her summer break working with residents of the Pico-Union area, organizing community members in Summer of Service, the pilot program for AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps is open to anyone over

17, including high school dropouts, college graduates, students and professional school graduates. Thus the program attracts individuals from varying backgrounds—some of whom might have been overlooked by other employers.

Before coming to this country four years ago, Mayra Perez volunteered with the American Red Cross, assisting the victims of war in her native El Salvador.

A clerk at a shoe store, she is studying for her high-school equivalency degree and will spend her AmeriCorps year working with an anti-hunger project.

David Guizar, 21, was once in a gang and lost a brother in a gang killing. He will spend a year working in his neighborhood in South Los Angeles, trying to help the kinds of young people he once fought with and against.

"I finally got my chance," Guizar said. "This is my first job. I'm part of staff. It feels pretty good, you know?"

Guizar will be working in the same program as Aqeela Sherrills, 25. When a fire at Jordan Downs housing projects sparked racial tension three years ago, Sherrills, a resident of Watts, stepped in and served as a mediator.

Sherrills will spend a year with Building Up Los Angeles, where he will work to establish tutoring programs, a public safety project, gang prevention and conflict mediation in the schools.

Beginning next week, 40 AmeriCorps workers—including Ouromian, Robinson and Perez—will be added to the Interfaith Hunger Coalition, which administers anti-hunger programs in the region. Its annual budget of \$320,000 will increase to more than \$1 million.

One of the biggest assets AmeriCorps members will bring with them is familiarity with their communities, organizers say.

Along those lines, Robinson said he will offer a basic message to the people he works with:

"I understand and I am one of you," he said. "I'm just a regular person who cares and wants to help."

Home economics – in two languages

*AmeriCorps
volunteer
helps students
understand*

By Jonathan Bethely
Star Tribune Staff Writer

At Folwell Middle School in Minneapolis, home economics is taught both in English and Spanish. Maria Diaz, an AmeriCorps volunteer, helps teachers who only speak English teach children who only speak Spanish.

"The Spanish kids understand the gist of what [the English-speaking teacher] is saying, but once we get into groups, they can ask questions if they don't understand," Diaz said. She splits her day at the school between bilingual classes and classes in which all children speak Spanish.

When the teacher is done explaining the day's task, for instance, the bilingual class divides into two groups. The first group dives into the project while the second group listens to Diaz, who repeats what was said.

AmeriCorps volunteers are valuable to a school such as Folwell, only half of whose students are fluent in English. Diaz said AmeriCorps volunteers provide a service that schools may not be able to afford otherwise.

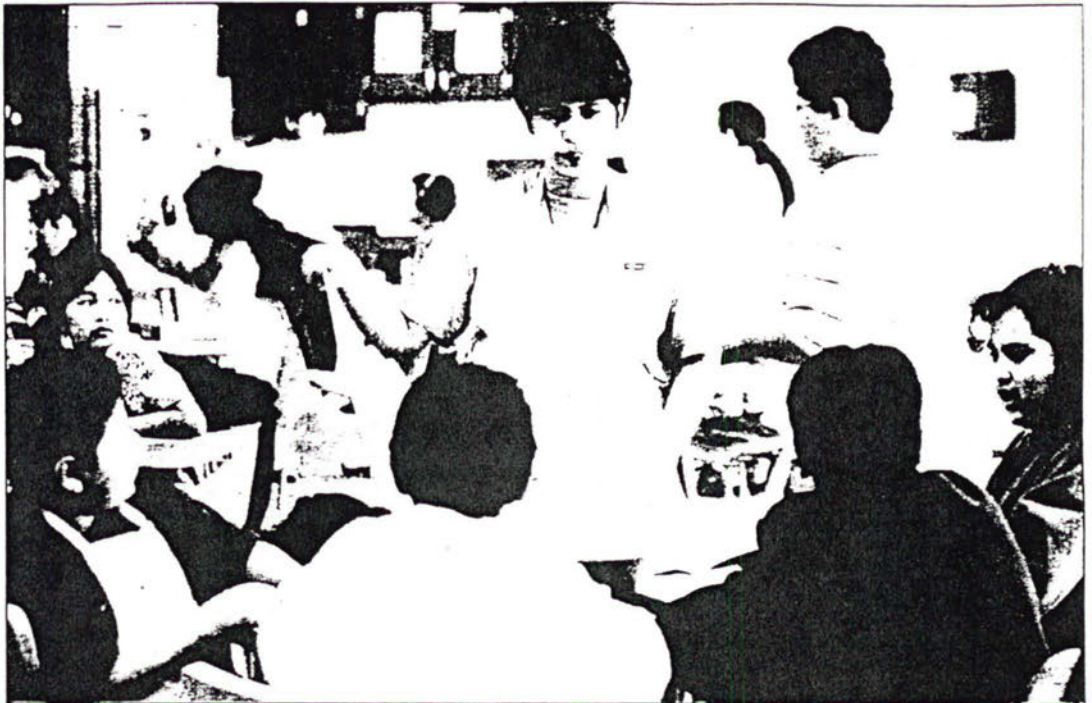
Without her, half of the 35 home economics students might not understand something as simple as putting apples in a blender.

Diaz is one of 30 AmeriCorps members based at the Brian Coyle Community Center in Minneapolis. They range from college graduates to high school dropouts.

"AmeriCorps is made to provide people with an opportunity to serve their community and help themselves. It's about belonging to an organization that supports you," Diaz said.

Someday the University of Minnesota senior hopes to be a teacher. The program was the perfect opportunity for her to volunteer while still in school.

For some young people, the road to college after high school has more detours than freeways under-



Star Tribune Photo by Jerry Holt

AmeriCorps volunteer Maria Diaz helps in a home economics class at Folwell Middle School in Minneapolis. "The Spanish kids understand the gist of what [the English-speaking teacher] is saying," Diaz said, "but once we get into groups, they can ask questions if they don't understand." There are about 350 AmeriCorps members in the state.

going summer construction.

If Tangene Hayslett's road hadn't led him to the AmeriCorps program after graduating from Washburn High School in Minneapolis, he said, he's not sure what he'd be doing. At 18, Hayslett coordinates all youth activities at the Coyle Center.

"You're getting a lot more than just a check every two weeks — you're getting a lot of different skills that you can't put dollar bills on," he said. In addition to serving 40 hours a week at the Coyle Center, Hayslett holds a part-time job at Rainbow Foods to help make ends meet.

In high school, Hayslett didn't spend that much time worrying about his education. At one point he was enrolled in an alternative school for "problem kids." But at this school, Hayslett excelled in academics and found the incentive to finish high school. Now he sees kids at the community center who look up to him.

"That's kind of weird because I've never seen myself as a role model or mentor. I really didn't think I was that important to the world until I

Some facts about AmeriCorps

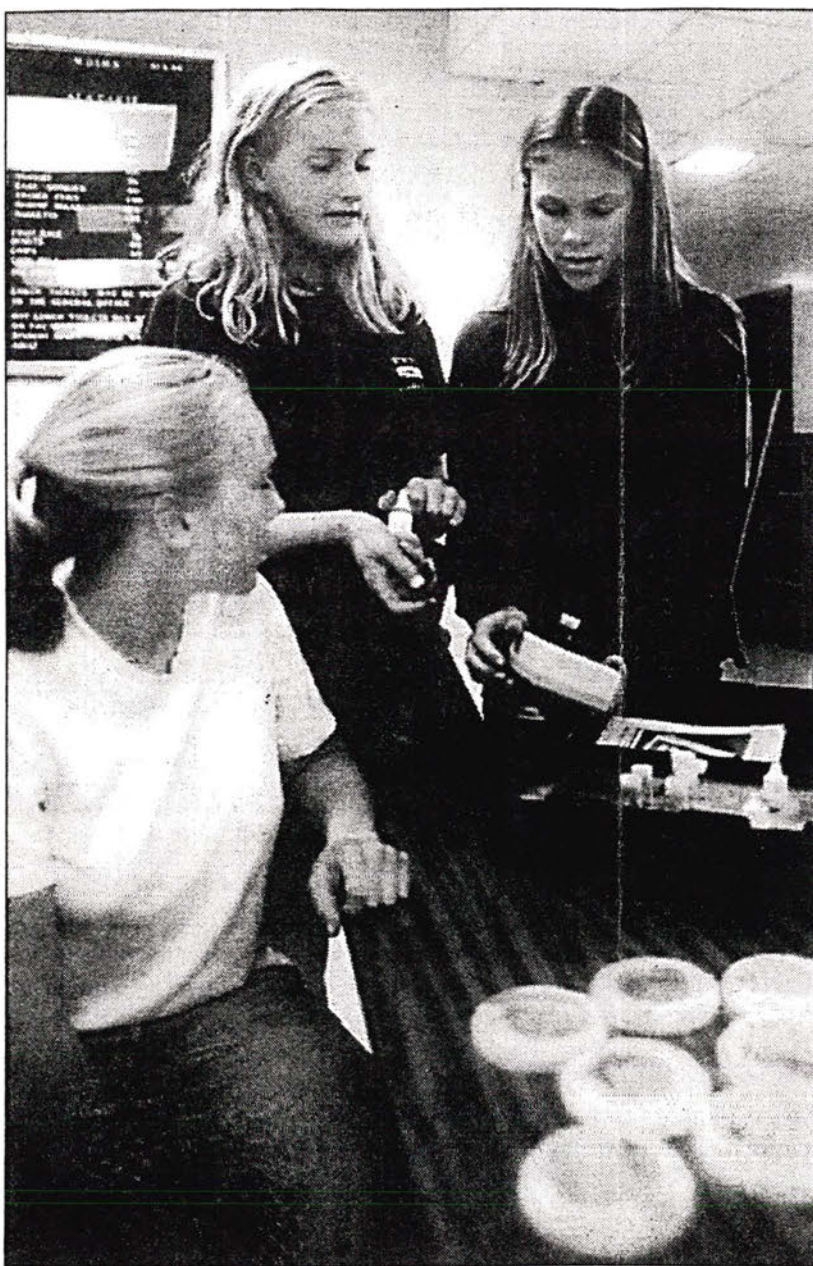
- **Origin:** One of Bill Clinton's leading ideas in his 1992 campaign for the presidency. It's a kind of Peace Corps for America, a national service project. It started in 1993.
- **Minnesota angle:** There are about 350 people working here, in eight programs.
- **The cost:** Full-time volunteers get a \$4,700 education voucher and \$660 a month to cover living expenses and medical benefits. In 1994 it cost \$301 million nationwide, growing in 1995 to \$470 million.
- **Critics say:** It costs too much and duplicates the work of the private sector.
- **Supporters say:** "It's a successful program that I think is beneficial," said U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento, a DFLer from St. Paul. "It helps build a network that isn't available in most communities. You need volunteers to help build a framework for other volunteers."

A 1995 University of Minnesota study found that Minnesota's program had an "impact on individuals, organizations and communities." The state gets back in volunteer time twice the money it provides when it matches federal funds, it said.

came over here," Hayslett said.

AmeriCorps members meet twice a month to share information about projects, but they also receive skills training in conflict resolution, résumé writing, diversity training and public speaking.

Hayslett said he learned organizing and coordination skills at the Coyle Center. "I'm constantly trying to run programs to make sure everything is falling in line. [from] structuring programs to making reservations," Hayslett said.



From left, Alana Beard, Josie Lawlor and Emily Henry at Mount Desert Island High School showcase their hard work and research findings at a public science fair on June 4.

PETER TRAVERS PHOTO

MDIHS students study water quality

by Nancy Richards

BAR HARBOR — *Upon this gifted age in its dark hour,*

Falls from the sky a meteoric shower

Of facts ... they lie unquestioned, uncombined.

Wisdom enough to leech us of our ill

Is daily spun; but there exists no loom

To weave it into fabric.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay

This poem caught the attention of Dr. Jane Disney's sophomore biology class at Mount Desert Island High School, as they wrestled with field data during a water quality monitoring project this spring.

They had the *facts*, but they needed a *loom*, a way to make sense of these facts. A water quality fair, by which students presented their findings to the public, turned out to be just the loom they needed to begin to weave the scattered data into useful information.

Students began their research by collecting water samples at sites on Mount Desert Island identified by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) as sufficiently contaminated to close the adjacent clam flats. Testing sites were chosen to help the DMR

pinpoint sources of contamination. Students test for coliform bacteria, salinity and dissolved oxygen, all measures of the ability of water to support life.

The project is being done in partnership with the Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), the DMR, Cooperative Extension, and the state planning office. In 1993, FBC received \$3,500 from the Shore Stewards partnership to develop a five-year water quality monitoring project with Dr. Disney's Honors Biology classes at the high school. MDIHS science teacher Lynne Gould helped write the grant, which is a joint venture of the state planning office's Maine Coastal Program and the Maine Community Foundation.

This year marked the third year of the program.

Past classes focused on

sampling water from the Stanley Brook/Seal Harbor Beach area. This year, students added chlorine level studies to their research at the beach. This area is not a DMR testing site, because the presence of a sewage treatment plant near the brook prevents the clams flats from ever being opened, according to a March 1996 FBC article. But because the beach is used publicly for picnicking and swimming, healthy water quality remains an issue, said Dr. Disney.

Other testing sites have been added this year.

One of these is at Western Bay (Clarks Cove), where high coliform bacteria counts have recently appeared in this formerly clean area, causing the DMR to close the site to clamming this year.

Shoreline surveys are also being conducted along Somes Sound,

with the help of John Fendl from DMR and an Americorps volunteer. The clam flats there have been closed for some time, but DMR tests have been clean for three years, according to the FBC. Students surveyed area residents, checking on their septic systems, hoping their work might hasten the re-opening of the area to commercial clamming.

The June 4 fair drew interested individuals from Mount Desert Island municipalities, Acadia National Park, and other organizations.

The exhibit on Western Bay suggested that livestock in the area may be responsible for the contamination — a possibility which caught the interest of Bar Harbor Harbormaster Ed Monat.

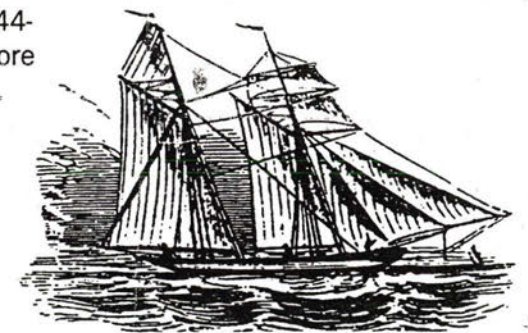
"This is great," he said. "A

■ see **QUALITY** page B2

Harbor House boating school set

SOUTHWEST HARBOR — The Harbor House Boating School opens Monday, June 24, for three half-day sessions throughout the summer. Children ages 9 to 14 are encouraged to apply. Scholarships and financial aid are still available. Call Harbor

House at 244-3713 for more information.



Bar Harbor Times, June 20th

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

QUALITY ■ from page B1

month ago, the DMR came to the harbor committee and said there was a problem in Clark Cove, but they didn't know where it was coming from — and they wanted us to try to find out. The kids may have done that for us. Now we still have to figure out what to do, but at least we have a good idea of what the problem might be."

Information from the FBC noted that the presence of livestock, even very close to a water source, does not automatically produce a water quality problem.

The Somes Sound survey group interviewed approximately 35 homeowners this year, gathering data they hope will help to open the clam flats, reported Dr. Disney. The group identified some additional areas along the sound that they would like to see sampled, a job that will likely be delegated to next year's class.

Students also found high

chlorine levels at some points in Seal Harbor. Although the data is incomplete, students observed a boat being washed on shore and a swimming pool being emptied into a street drain. They do not know if the boat was being washed with chlorine, or if the street drain goes into the sewage treatment plant that dechlorinates its effluent, said Dr. Disney.

In addition to taking water samples, other student jobs included communicating by computer with other Shore Steward programs via the ALICE network, studying traditional versus alternative wastewater treatment plant designs, organizing the

classroom data, and doing public relations.

"The kids approached the work with a lot of independence," said Dr. Disney. "They did what needed to be done," she said, noting that at times she felt as if the students were ahead of her.

But some of the lessons they learned were life skills, not simply data collection and interpretation.

"It was easy for them to point fingers of blame for small mistakes," said Dr. Disney. Some of these mistakes included not leaving a note for a volunteer who was late to arrive, and arriving at a testing site only to find the

chemicals for sampling had not been refilled. "I told them, 'I am willing to take some of the blame. Who else is willing to accept some?'" said Dr. Disney.

Another challenge was helping students to understand their part in the overall scheme of the project, she said.

"Both the students and the community benefit from this program," said an FBC article. "The students get some hands-on field experience, doing what water quality professionals really do. They also learn to be aware of how their activities affect water quality, and they will carry that awareness with them wherever they go." ■

DAUNTLESS ■ from page B1

classier for their commute to the island, the Southwest Harbor couple were referred to Mr. Schlaefer by two of the area's longtime boat business notables.

has designed. It is a compact project complete with fold-down bunks, storage and lighting, "but he scratched his head and did it," Mr. Kenway recalls admiringly.

another goal — ease of maintenance.

Eyeing the gleaming white hull with "Gotts Island blue" trim — a phrase coined across the water in

PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESENTATION

Nat'l. Volunteer Week To Be Observed By Ameri-Corps Team USDA

National Volunteer Week, is an opportunity to highlight the service of Nebraska's volunteers and to encourage others to get involved, according to Carmen Shaffer and Nadene Cavet of the AmeriCorps/Team USDA in Plainview.

"It is a time to celebrate and honor what Nebraskans of all ages are doing to serve their communities," they stated in a press release.

This year the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service, as a local sponsor, is encouraging Nebraskans to dedicate some time to their neighbors and communities during this special week.

The group will enlist community volunteers to join them in tree-planting projects at sites nationwide to commemorate the

victims of the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK.

The AmeriCorps team will be coordinating tree-plantings, in their memory, on April 23 at 10 a.m. in Center and at 1 p.m. in Pierce.

They will also participate in the Arbor Day program at Creighton at 2 p.m. on April 26, planting a tree in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing victims.

On April 29, at 2:30 p.m. AmeriCorps will be in Neligh to participate in a tree-planting in memory of Bob Chilvers and to plant a tree in memory of the bombing victims.

The National Day of Service is celebrated annually to focus attention on AmeriCorps and the community service of non-profit and private organizations.

Creighton News 4/17/96

PHOTO
PRESERVATION

Educating all ages the focus of AmeriCorps

Farm Talk Page 12 May 22, 1996

by Lori Maude
Since October of 1995 there has been a quiet, behind-the-scenes force educating adults and children across southeast Kansas about water quality, farm safety, CPR, emergency medical treatment and a host of other topics.

That force is Katrina Hine

and the other AmeriCorps members in southeast Kansas. AmeriCorps is the national service program initiated by President Bill Clinton to address critical needs at the community level.

AmeriCorps members are at least 17 years old, willing to make a commitment to the program and want to

help people improve their lives.

In return, the AmeriCorps members receive a living stipend and, at the end of their term of service, receive an educational award to be used toward college or vocational training. If the member already has a college degree, then the educational award may be used toward a student loan.

A full-time AmeriCorps member receives basic health insurance and child care assistance if they qualify.

Hine is based in Howard, KS, which is the western edge of her 12-county area. Her AmeriCorps group is sponsored by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office out of Manhattan, KS. Other AmeriCorps groups are sponsored by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Wildlife and Parks, or any number of other groups.

When Hine started with AmeriCorps in October of 1995 she was the only member in southeast Kansas. Other groups started up at the same time in other areas. She added a part-time student member to her group in January 1996.

Tisha McNee of rural Chautauqua County joined Hine in helping present

educational seminars throughout the area. McNee is a student at Coffeyville Community College and comes from a ranching background.

When Hine began evaluating the needs of the area, she saw a need for many educational programs, especially in Elk County. "Our projects are more education-based and deal directly with people in an effort to improve their lives," stresses Hine.

She has presented many water quality programs and has worked with getting rural residents to test their well water. Hine takes many of her programs into area schools.

Since April 22, Hine has spoken to 1,646 students in area schools. Other programs in schools have included CPR and First Aid for fifth and sixth graders in Moline and animal safety for first and third graders in Coffeyville.

Katrina also participated in the Earth Day activities in Labette County and talked with nearly 1,200 students in one day, along with distributing agricultural information to more than 70 teachers. The program was sponsored by Labette County Farm Bureau.

Not all of Katrina's programs focus on the schools and children. Recent programs have included a farm equipment extrication seminar in Elk County for area Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), First Responders, nurses, volunteer fire fighters and other community members. Forty-five professionals representing five counties attended the seminar.

"We are in such a remote area that every minute counts and we need to know how to help ourselves until we can get to medical help," says Katrina. "That's why we stress the education of young and old alike."

AmeriCorps also organized a seminar for rural volunteer fire departments on handling hazardous materials.

In most cases the seminars are free to the public because of donations from area businesses and volunteer help.

Hine admits her programs started out to be agriculturally-based and evolved to looking at environmental issues. Now, the programs are developed to meet any need that will help the rural areas of the state.

"My job is not to preach and condemn people's actions. My job is to educate the public," says Hine. "Education is the key to success."

The experience with AmeriCorps is one Katrina won't soon forget but the time demand has taken her away from her three children and her husband

more than she likes, so she is leaving the AmeriCorps program.

However, the funding is available to continue the AmeriCorps program in southeast Kansas for the next fiscal year beginning October 1, if the program

can find people interested in continuing the effort.

The address and phone number for information is: Jim Mesinheimer, USDA / AmeriCorps, Natural Resource Conservation Service, 760 S. Broadway, Salina, KS 67401-4642 or call (913) 823-4500. □



Katrina Hine of AmeriCorps spoke to nearly 1,200 students at a recent Earth Day program sponsored by Labette County Farm Bureau.

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Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Slaughter Cow Auction
Mon. & Tues. 9:30 a.m.

May 15 Market Report

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: 1958

WEEK AGO: 1399 YEAR AGO: 2320

Compared to last week, demand moderate, steer calves under 500 lbs. \$2-\$4 higher, over 500 lbs. steady, heifer calves under 550 lbs. steady, over 550 lbs. \$1 to mostly \$2 higher, Holsteins steady to \$3 higher, supply moderate, with near 23% Holsteins & 34% of the receipts over 600 lbs.

STEERS:		
Medium & Large Frame 1	•420-455 lbs...	\$38.50-\$41.75
•380-400 lbs...	•500-600 lbs...	\$35-\$42
•400-500 lbs. thin	•600-700 lbs...	\$36.85-\$39.50
•\$63.60-\$65.75	•700-800 lbs...	\$35.25-\$38
•400-460 lbs...	•800-900 lbs...	\$36.35-\$38.60
•Fleshy/full	•900-950 lbs...	\$37-\$38
•500-600 lbs...		
•500-550 lbs. fleshy/full		
•\$53.50-\$57.50		
•600-700 lbs...		
•\$55.60-\$59.75		
•700-800 lbs...		
•\$62.75-\$58.25		
HOLSTEINS:		
Large Frame 2		
•345 lbs...		\$42.50

May 14 Sheep & Goat Sale Report

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: 1431

LAST MONTH: 652 YEAR AGO: 30

Supply moderate with near 53% feeder lambs, 2% slaughter lambs, 11% slaughter ewes, 2% slaughter bucks, 11% replacement ewes & balance goats.

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•125-145 lbs...		\$30-\$39/cwt.
•\$84-\$90	•70-120 lbs. yearling	\$36-\$45
FEEDER LAMBS		
•Medium & large 1-2, new crop, 30-50 lbs...		\$81-\$88
•50-100 lbs...		\$85-\$91.50
•Lot 56 lbs...		\$96
•Old crop 70-90 lbs...		\$74.50-\$80
•Small & medium 1-2, 30-55 lbs...		\$75-\$80
SLAUGHTER EWES		
•Good & Choice		\$18-\$24
•Utility & Good		\$25-\$32
SLAUGHTER BUCKS		
•140-275 lbs...		\$19-\$23.75
•Fleshy		\$12-\$18
REPLACEMENT EWES		
•Medium & large 1-2, 100-155		

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Elk Falls and Sedan are greatly helped by the Americorps summer work program

It seems there's always a shortage of young, strong workers when it comes to any community service project. That's why, when a group of nearly 30 college-age folks showed up in Elk Falls and Sedan late in May to help, they were very welcome.

They're called *AMERICORPS* and when they undertake projects, which meet certain requirements, they receive credit against their college tuition and books.

The group worked in Elk Falls on May 21 and 23, Monday and Tuesday. Then they went to Sedan on Wednesday and Thursday, May 22 and 23.

In Elk Falls they did a variety of work. They removed a dead tree from the Prudence Crandall marker site, painted the exteriors of the Community Building and the Visitors Center, did repair work at the cemetery, and replaced some of the planking on the old, historic iron bridge.

The job in Sedan included doing a lot of heavy lifting and pushing in the Hollow where a sandstone walkway has been an ongoing project. Elton Bowman and Gary Cude donated large rock suitable for that use. Some of the rock had to be loaded and moved to the Hollow. Some of it simply had to be moved from one part of the Hollow to where the walk was being laid. The thing was, it was all manual labor.



Tisha McNee and Aimee Tabor move a big rock onto the pathway.

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Crystal Thayer
112 East Main in Sedan

Sometimes volunteers just don't contribute much to the overall project. That's why we were anxious to talk to Don Armstrong, the man who has been the main force behind manual labor at the Hollow. "Just how much work did they do in those two days?" we asked.

"About four months of my time," he replied.

Since Don can be found in the Hollow about any time on most any day, we knew the young people had really done a great job!

We watched these dedicated workers, young men and women, as they lifted slabs of sandstone rocks and pushed wheelbarrows full of gravel and dirt. We saw them set the stones and put cement between them. One of the workers was Tisha McNee, of Moline, who was seen wrestling a large rock which could have outweighed her.

The workers did a tremendous amount of work. All of the work wasn't as strenuous as manhandling rocks or wheelbarrows. There were flowers to be planted and plants to be set out. Dr. Joan Rajacich, of Sedan, worked with those who labored in that area. We'll be anxiously waiting to see the blooms later on in the year.

Several AMERICORPS members walked the nature trail between the old and new city lakes and got an idea of what needed to be done there. That's a project that hasn't yet received a lot of attention, but we understand that Rick Robbins and David Glynn are very interested and making plans.

On Wednesday evening the Hollow Project members hosted a fish fry for all the members and workers. Elizabeth Wolfe was responsible for getting the all the food prepared. She got help from her husband Larry and he fried all the fish. *The Last Jazz Band*, which is basically a local group, provided some great music during the meal. Members are John Ed Warring, Henry Gardner, Kenneth Webb,



AMERICORPS workers fill their plates after a day of hard work in the Hollow.



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Everett Ray Call and Rick Robbins.

Of course this doesn't mean the Hollow is complete—perhaps it never will be. Some projects are just right for perpetual improvements. The Hollow Project takes the combined efforts of a number of volunteers. Don says he appreciates their help. One such volunteer is De Wayne "Barnie" Barnett who mows the east side of the Hollow, which is a difficult job.

Don is always on the lookout for limestone of the right size for building walls or other projects.

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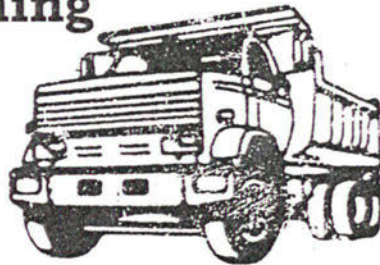
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Some people have donated rock from old barns houses to help Don in his efforts of beautifying Hollow.

All in all, it was a highly successful project. Part of the credit for that success has to go to Katrina Hine, of Moline, who served as the project coordinator. On the evening of the fish fry, weather fully cooperated and provided a beautiful evening. Sometimes things really do work well!



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VOL. IV, No. 82 JUNE 1996

page 4

UPDATE ON SNI AND AMERICORPS CONTINUE LOCATING GAS WELLS

Have you seen your local abandoned gas well? SNI staff and AmeriCorps are making good progress locating abandoned gas wells on the Cattaraugus Reservation, thanks to the help from many people who remember having gas wells near their homes or seeing them in the woods. SNI staff and AmeriCorps have also relied on old maps, well records, metal detectors, and a global positioning system (GPS) receiver. Over 50 of the approximately 150 gas wells on Cattaraugus Reservation have been located since December 1995. The locating project also includes approximately 120 gas or oil wells on Allegany Reservation and four wells on the Oil Spring Reservation.

SNI staff and AmeriCorps have been locating these wells, an effort that involves lots of time, leg work, and eagle-eye vision. Several people have helped a great deal by guiding the field crew to the wells. Old maps showing the approximate location of the well are frequently consulted. The GPS receiver is often used to guide the field crew to the mapped location. Once in the mapped location, gas detectors and metal detectors are used to help find the well. From a distance, many of the wells are indistinguishable from tree stumps. A few wells have been found in relatively good condition with all associated hardware intact. In most cases all that remains of the well is a 10-inch diameter pipe that is standing open or sometimes has a cap bolted on. Often a strong sulfur smell signals that methane gas is rising out of the well. Sometimes methane can be seen and heard bubbling through water standing in the open pipe. In the Cattaraugus Creek Valley, shallow groundwater under artesian pressure flows out of some of the gas wells.

When the well or evidence of the well is found, it is flagged with surveying tape and its location (latitude and longitude) is measured with the GPS receiver. In some cases, all evidence of the well has been obliterated by old abandonment procedures, vandalism, logging, or dense vegetation. These well sites may ultimately require more extensive investigation with backhoes and other excavating equipment. A number of wells could be re-developed for gas production. The remaining wells should be closed to eliminate environmental and safety hazards. Knowing the precise number and location of wells is the first step in planning for re-development or proper well closure.

Jody Clark, Surveyor/Manager of the SNI Department of Maps and Boundaries, is coordinating the well location effort. Lelf Twoguns, Gas and Utilities Department, is

leading the field work. Other SNI staff involved with the project include Armand Maybee, Bruce Abrams, Tim Stevens, Lana Watt, and Carol Guinane. Technical assistance is provided by a team of five AmeriCorps members from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) field office in East Aurora. The AmeriCorps members are Scott Barnwell, Chris Castiglione, Joe Ghosen, Gayla Gross, and Lisa Matthies.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program designed to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages to help local communities meet critical social and environmental needs. The East Aurora AmeriCorps team is directed by John Whitney of the USDA NRCS. John, along with other NRCS staff, Earth Team volunteers, and last year's AmeriCorps members, has been helping SNI staff develop geographic information system records that support the Nation's planning and environmental protection needs.

Please call Lelf Twoguns @532-4900 if you have information about a well location or if you have any questions about the project.

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages ▶

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5089-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

St. Johnsbury

New Food Shelf Coming To Town

By GAIL P. MONTANY

Beginning May 15, area residents in need of a helping hand will have a new community-based food shelf to access.

The Kingdom Community Food Shelf will replace, at least to some extent, the one currently being operated on Cherry Street by Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA), said NEKCA Executive Director Dave Tucker.

Sometimes people find themselves short through no fault of their own and there needs to be some system to help with that.

Lunch program director
MIKE MCCOY

The new food shelf will run in conjunction with the free Community Lunch Program held three days a week at St. Johnsbury churches, said lunch program director Mike McCoy. On the days lunch is not being served (Tuesday and Thursday), its home base will be Grace United Methodist Church.

"We will try as much as possible to operate out of and direct people through the lunches and help bridge the gap on the other days," he said.

Tucker said due to limited staff resources, budget cuts and funding cutbacks, NEKCA is encouraging community groups to operate and maintain food shelves.

"We're supportive of Mike's efforts

to give the food shelf a community base," he said, adding that NEKCA will also maintain a limited food shelf for emergencies and will be marginally involved in the Kingdom Community Food Shelf as well.

"We feel (a community base) should strengthen the food shelf program," said Tucker.

With the help of Mary Hall and Audrey Whitehill of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps (which is helping to get the new food shelf started), and other volunteers from the community, McCoy will seek food donations from area businesses, churches and community groups. Donations of all types of food, principally the non-perishable variety, will be welcome.

Also needed are volunteers to stock the shelves, perform administrative duties and hand out food.

"There is no interest in getting government funding or assistance for the program," McCoy said.

McCoy said volunteer caseworkers will also help determine why a particular family or individual is persistently falling short of food and whether the family should be referred to other social services agencies.

"Sometimes people find themselves short through no fault of their own and there needs to be some system to help with that," he said.

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE CHRONICLE
NEWPORT, VERMONT
MAY 15, 1996

At Newport Town School Students to build wood-fired oven

The students at Newport Town School, in conjunction with Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps (VAHC) members, will begin construction on a clay, Quebec-style, wood-fired oven on Thursday, May 23. The oven will be located on the grounds at Newport Town School. The members of the VAHC, in collaboration with the faculty at Newport, have come up with the oven idea as a unique way of turning the produce that is harvested from the Common Roots Gardens into food that is fun to make and eat. The oven will be used as a part of the eighth-grade graduation ceremonies this year and will be tied in with the school curriculum when school resumes in the fall.

The actual construction of the oven will consist of making a four-inch by six-inch cribbing out of hemlock ties. On top of this cribbing a cement pad or hearth will act as the baking surface. A frame constructed of small alder trees are then woven like a basket to form a shape that looks like a "crouching beaver." The doors of the oven are in the shape of an arch. The woven structure is then covered with a mixture of river clay, wood ash, hay, and water. The clay takes about five days to harden and then the oven will be ready to use. from Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps.

Maine AmeriCorps - USDA

Water Quality Times

January, 1995

Volume I, Number 1

QLF Provides Training and Development for Maine AmeriCorps - USDA

Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA

From Casco Bay to Fort Kent, twenty men and women are volunteering forty hours a week for ten months to improve water quality in the state of Maine. These dedicated, environmentally concerned individuals are participants in AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national community service program and have been selected from a large pool of applicants to serve on a variety of U. S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service projects.

Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA members are "getting things done" on rural community-based projects ranging from aquaculture to erosion control. Participants are assisting communities by providing technical support, environmental education, data collection and other research. In all cases, the AmeriCorps volunteers serve as catalysts to bring citizens around the table to talk about water quality issues.



Lisa Taylor shares about her experience on the Casco Bay Watershed resource inventory and monitoring project.

Fostering Leadership

The Quebec-Labrador Foundation/Atlantic Center for the Environment is providing essential training to the AmeriCorps volunteers. Through a year-long series of group and one-on-one interactions QLF is helping these emerging conservationists to develop essential leadership skills, infusing greater self confidence to tackle the difficult issues that their communities face today.

Team Building

On Tuesday, November 29, 1994, thirteen AmeriCorps volunteers, community leaders and Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery staff met at the Stahl's Bar clam flats in Waldoboro. The group's mission was to assist with the removal of protective nets from and sampling of 14 experimental, seeded clam plots. The volunteers came from up and down the coast to help with the arduous task of mucking on the flats at low tide. The group worked to support one another as footing was extremely difficult and the nets just as heavy.



Karen Malley (right) assists her team members as they work together to cross the "Acid Swamp."

It was a beautiful day on the Maine coast. There was a distinct atmosphere of camaraderie and supportive team work as the group learned about the crash of the local clam population and advances in shellfish aquaculture.

QLF, in cooperation with Maine's AmeriCorps partners, organizes and participates in team building and community, group work projects activities such as the one described above. These activities encourage an attitude of "getting things done" by working together

Site Visits and Coaching

With over thirty years of experience in training pre-professional and professional conservationists, QLF has learned first hand the value of mentoring through close contact and site visits. Staff maintain phone contact with Maine AmeriCorps participants, providing the support and guidance necessary for project success, and personal and professional development. Environmental professionals trained in community development, they visit Maine AmeriCorps project sites to spend time with participants, listening and offering feedback on their projects.

In response to a recent visit by QLF's Community Conservation Leadership Coordinator, Kate Noonan, Charlie Parker, North Coast Fisheries Coordinator said, "It means so much to us to have you come all the way out here to see what we are doing. The feedback is helpful and knowing that you know what we are doing first hand really helps". Barbara Coffey, St. Croix River Watershed coordinator, stated "I can use all the help I can get in learning how to work with the community, and the environmental education resources that you have to offer make a big difference and help to save time."

A Brighter Future

As New England and eastern Canada respond to the crash of the groundfish industry, high unemployment, and changing land use practices, the need has never been greater for leaders who can provide both solutions and hope for their troubled communities. AmeriCorps members develop personally and professionally through service and training and will continue to give of themselves as civic-minded, environmentally-aware citizens. They are the community leaders who will facilitate sound decision-making as the region enters the 21st Century.

• • •

For more information, please contact:

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55 South Main Street
Ipswich, MA 01938

Voice: (508) 356-0038
FAX: (508) 356-7322
E-mail: atlanticctr@igc.org



Maine AmeriCorps/Team USDA: (top left to right) Charlie Parker, Iver McLeod, Mark Chellis, Amanda Smith Hatch, Karen Malley, Greg Lord, Karen Mushrall, Gary Marquis, Richard Baird (Director), Barbara Coffey; (bottom left to right) Rob Klimas, Nicki Violette, Teresa Simeone, Lisa Taylor, Holly Sheehan, Liz Frederic. Missing: Jane Lamson, Denise Perry, Karen Bert, and Hollis Clinton Tedford III.

12TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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HEADLINE: EAST VALLEY FOCUS: NORTH HOLLYWOOD;
BREAKFAST GETS TOP BILLING AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLY SHOW

BYLINE: By MAKI BECKER

BODY:

"What's the most important meal of the day?" Dave Skale, the Nutrition Magician, asked several hundred squealing students in the Burbank Boulevard Elementary School auditorium in North Hollywood.

"Breakfast!" they yelled in unison.

Friday's assembly stressing the importance of breakfast was part of a campaign by the Interfaith Hunger Coalition called "Start Your Head, Eat Breakfast." During the presentation, the children were urged to eat at home or take advantage of the free breakfast program at school.

"It's very important that kids eat breakfast," said Carolyn Olney, associate director of the coalition. Children "do much better in class and on tests and they suffer less from headaches," she said.

The "Start Your Head" campaign was aimed initially at high school students but has been broadened to include children, said Frank Tamborello, an advocate for the coalition. "As kids get older, they stop eating breakfast," he said. "We try to show that eating breakfast is cool."

The show was put on by participants in AmeriCorps, who are from 18 to 53 years old. A series of videos touting the coalition's campaign began with one featuring a teen-age boy making himself a breakfast shake of milk, leftover pizza, a hot dog and a tomato.

The next one showed a classroom of students who did not eat breakfast. Their stomachs growl and contort as the teacher scowls at them. The third clip depicted the daydreams of a young woman who is so hungry that she keeps imagining breakfast foods popping up around her.

The next part of the program was a sing-along. The final act was a magic show, where a secret recipe transformed motor oil, a flower and spinach juice into a healthy breakfast of an apple, a small box of cereal and a bagel. MAKI BECKER

GRAPHIC: Photo, COLOR, Burbank Boulevard Elementary students react with glee to a trick by Dave Skale, the Nutrition Magician during Interfaith Hunger Coalition program. At right, 7-year-old John Gralyan giggles after apparently breaking the magic fan. SCOTT RATHBURN / For The Times; Photo, COLOR, (B1) MAGIC MEALS: Dave Skale, as the Nutrition Magician, cooks up a nutritious breakfast at the

Cleanup begins at Homestead

Americorps volunteers begin cleaning up boards, nails, shingles, other debris

By Stephanie Geery-Zink
Daily Sun staff writer

Boards stuck in the ground which couldn't be budged. Hundreds of house shingles. Nails hidden in the prairie grass.

These were just some of the items Americorps workers and other volunteers had to contend with during the past week as they began the task of clearing away from the Homestead National Monument of America prairie the debris left by the May 8 tornado.

At least three groups of Americorps volunteers were at Homestead Friday picking up

assorted debris on the prairie. There was also a group of youths from a residential program in Lincoln which volunteered to help.

"We knew about the tornado and wanted to help out in the community," said Jaimie Anderson, a member of the Americorps Lincoln Action Program.

Americorps is a nationwide program in which people can serve their communities and earn a stipend and money to be used for the cost of getting a higher education, said Charity Jogi of Lincoln, a member of the LAP group.

It wasn't until the Lincoln volunteers reached the Homestead area

that "we realized it really hit hard," Jogi said.

She said the debris can damage the prairie grass.

"We're really concerned about that," she said.

LAP usually works with conflict resolution in the schools to encourage children to use methods other than violence to solve their problems, so picking up debris wasn't their usual activity.

Jogi, Joleen Podtburg and Francine Blythe, however, said they enjoyed coming out and helping the community.

Mary Rose Backhaus, Nadene Chavet and Carmen Shaffer came from the Americorps-U.S. Department of Agriculture group in northeastern Nebraska, and spent Wednesday through Friday at the

Homestead.

They were most amazed by the debris they came across on and off the trails of the prairie.

They came across several 2-by-4 boards stuck in the ground. One which was pulled out was at least five feet long, with another three feet stuck in the ground.

Backhaus said there was one board no one could pry out of the ground, it was lodged so tight. She said boards they couldn't remove are being flagged so crews can go back later and get them out.

She said they found broken antique Fiesta dishes in four colors on the prairie, and said there must have been someone into crafts who lost belongings because they found

Please turn to A-2

Homestead

From Page A-1

some craft books.

Chavet said that if any volunteers found any photos they were to save them and give them to Homestead staff, who would try to match them up with their owners.

Backhaus said there were a lot of tools, such as rakes, found in the prairie grasses, and boards 10 to 15 feet long with electrical wire and outlets connected, which may have

been from a garage.

Adolescent and Family Services occupational therapist Paula Allen and recreation therapist Tony Sanchez brought a group of eight youths from Lincoln from a residential program to help at-risk teenagers.

Allen said part of their program is to volunteer in the community. One of the teens suggested helping out in Beatrice, so the group took half a day off of school to volunteer

their time to help clear the prairie.

John Seger, maintenance worker leader at Homestead, said he appreciated the help.

"It was a mess. It was a disaster," he said.

Already there have been eight truck loads taken to the city landfill, mostly filled with plywood, roofing materials and shingles.

There is still a lot of work to do at Homestead, and Homestead park secretary and volunteer coordinator Susan Cook said she already knows

of at least seven people coming in Saturday to volunteer.

She said three Beatrice men with chainsaws and four people from Lincoln who saw Homestead superintendent Constantine Dillon on the television news Thursday night appealing for volunteers are coming.

Other volunteers from the Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln and the National Park Service field office in Omaha are coming next week to help out.



Clearing the prairie

Americorps volunteers Charity Jogi, left, and Francine Blythe, right, pick up roofing debris on the Homestead National Monument of America prairie Friday afternoon. Homestead had 32 registered volunteers helping to clear the prairie on Friday.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GEERY-ZINK

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Lifestyle

Corps of the solution

Assembled from all over U.S.,
AmeriCorps team takes on
variety of projects in county

By **FRANCES BORSODI ZAJAC**
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

Since its members began arriving here last October, the first Fayette County AmeriCorps Team has tackled projects ranging from heritage preservation to cleaning up illegal dumpsites to organizing a food project for the hungry.

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing," said Adam Baake, 22, of Bellingham, Wash. "You see direct benefits to the community — now and

societies and developed a survey form (for the historic sites). I'm trying to develop a data base for anyone who comes into the area and is interested in the heritage," said Kelso.

The survey is expected to be completed by the end of the summer and copies will be given to the Regional Trails Corp. and all historical societies along the trail, including Connellsville Historical Society, Tri-Town Historical Society and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society.

Improving sewage systems, Kelso said.



We plan to do more meetings," Baake said.

Developing a local loan program:
Baake is working with three local banks —

long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

The team, which has a commitment to work through the federal fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, consists of five young adults with diverse backgrounds.

Baake, who has a history degree from Cornell University, is among the youngest of the group. The other is local woman Jaime Fecek, 22, of Brownsville, who has a degree in public relations from California University.

Team coordinator Susan Thagard, 28, of Pittsburgh, has a degree in fine art and a certificate in planning from the universities of Maryland and Utah.

Craig Kelso, 25, is a native of Springfield, Mo., who has a bachelor's degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University. Last summer, he moved to Morgantown and is working on a master's degree in public history at West Virginia University.

Amy Myers, 28, is a native of Atlanta, Ga., who has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland and a law degree from Maryland Law School.

"It's been very fulfilling because of the kinds of work we are doing...You see direct benefits to the community — now and long term. There's not many jobs out there where you feel every action has a concrete benefit."

—ADAM BAAKE
*Fayette County
AmeriCorps Team member*

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, operated by the United States Department of Agriculture

been working with USDA Rural Development and Yough Sewage Authority to link funding sources with individuals not connected to any sewage system in the Dawson-Vanderbilt area. He has hosted two town meetings for the project which could affect up to 1,500 people.

Kelso noted federal funding is available on a limited basis, but there is usually a five-year waiting period.

"My goal is to let them know there are options available and a possible source of funding," he said.

National Road Heritage Park — Flat Iron Building: Kelso is working on a brochure for the Flat Iron Building in Brownsville which is expected to be opened to the public this fall as an interpretative and welcome center for the National Road. The brochure, which will be available on-site and through mailings, will include information on Brownsville and area sites. Kelso said Brownsville area artifacts, such as old photographs and postcards, can be donated to the interpretative center by contacting the Brownsville Historical Society at Nemaquin Castle.

East End Community Center: On May 11, Myers led a team that included community members and other volunteers as they made cosmetic improvements to the Uniontown center, located at 395 E. Main St. The center provides a safe haven for children to learn social and academic skills through one-on-one tutoring and mentoring programs. About 285 students participate each year.

Faris Carpets and K-mart donated paint and other materials for the project, which included painting both the interior and exterior of the center.

"Ultimately, the roof needs repaired and they need shelves," said Myers.

Fecek and Thagard were also involved with the project.

Junk yards: Myers is producing an inventory of junk yards along the National Road in Pennsylvania with a goal of cleaning them up.

"I've talked to three owners and they've been cooperative," said Myers.

Myers said two junk yards in Brier Hill near the Peter Colley Tavern and Brownsville Drive-in were recently purchased and the new owners are going to clean them up.

She also said there is a plan to replace a

Integra Bank of Fayette County, Fayette County — to develop a local low-interest program for property owners along the National Road. The program is a partnership with the National Road Heritage Park to provide loans at an interest rate under the prime rate. Owners who wish to rehabilitate historic homes or businesses along the National Road can make application to the heritage park. There are no income guidelines. Their requests will be reviewed by a committee of community members. The program will begin in early summer.

"The program serves two purposes: it's a catalyst for community development and it improves the desirability of the National Road as a tourist destination," said Baake.

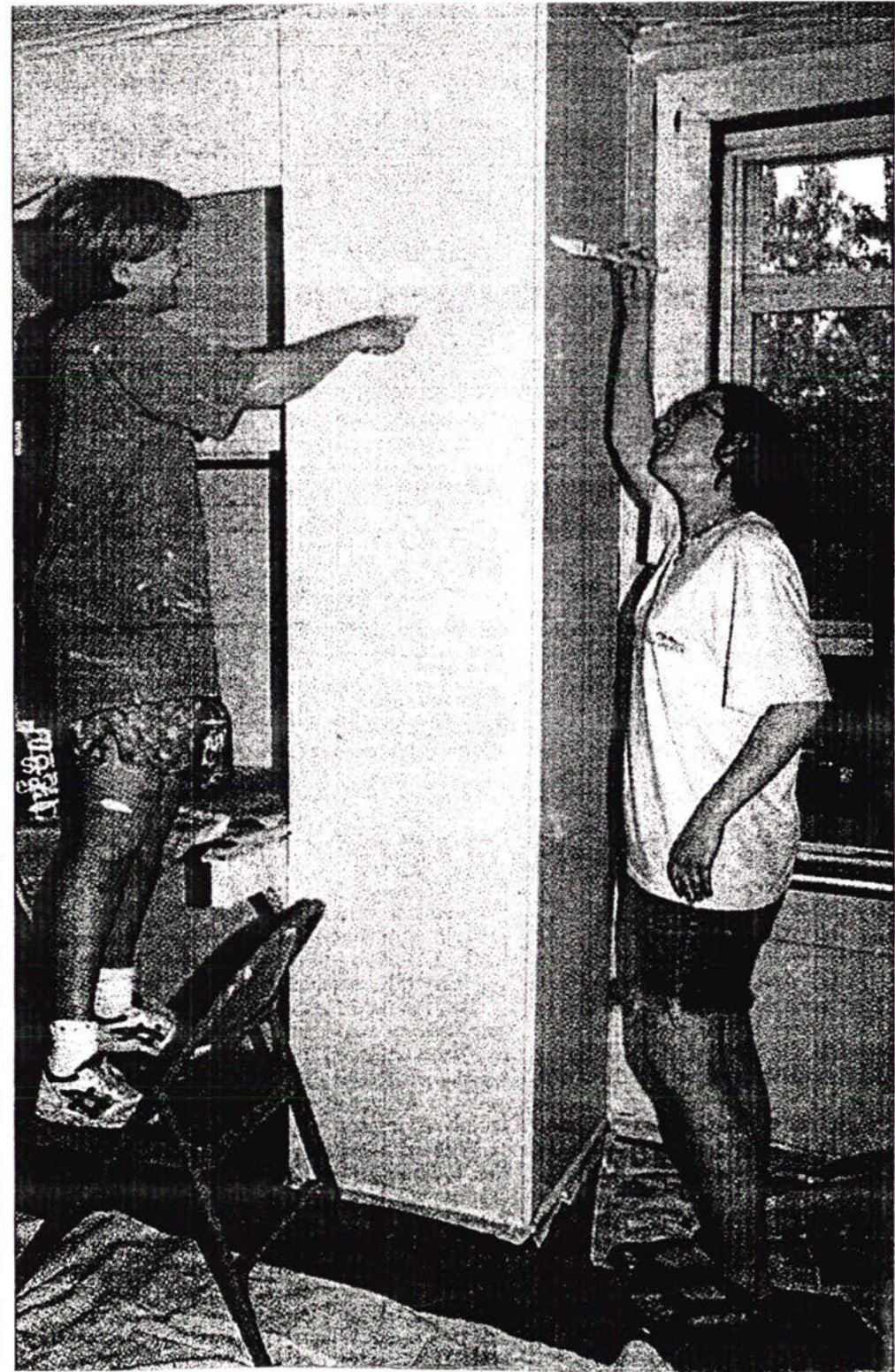
New interpretative center and headquarters: Baake is also working on a project to convert one of the oldest garages on the National Road into an interpretative center on 20th century uses of the road. Baake will not yet reveal the location but said it will be an adaptive use of a now-vacant structure. It will be restored into a 1920 garage which includes the interpretative center and National Road Heritage Park offices when completed. Artifacts pertaining to automobile travel and early 20th century will be accepted at a later date. Funding for phase 1 will be available this summer. Baake said the project will not be completed until at least 1998.

National Pike Festival: Baake is organizing an art-and-essay contest for elementary- and middle-school students along the National Road, using the theme, "Life Along the National Road." Thagard is working with officials to coordinate festival events, including entertainment and the wagon train.

National Register of Historic Places nominations: Baake completed nominations for Centerville and Scenery Hill which will be placed before the state committee for review in June. If the nominations pass, the communities could expect to be on the National Register before the end of the year.

Baake is also submitting applications for two additional properties — the Josiah Frost House at Searights, which is associated with the Searights Tavern, and the Dougherty Tavern in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County.

Supervising interns: Baake will supervise two interns obtained for the National Road Heritage Park from the Southwestern



needs in return for an educational award, which may be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

Locally, the Fayette County team is working through the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission's internship program and is based in the National Road Heritage Park headquarters in Farmington.

The heritage preservation commission put together the team, searching for members who were interested in heritage development.

AmeriCorps sites are selected because they meet any of three criteria: empowerment, enterprise or champion zones. Fayette County is a champion community, meaning it has met specific income and unemployment levels.

Here is a breakdown of the various projects that involve the Fayette County AmeriCorps Team:

Youghiogheny River Trail: Kelso is compiling an inventory of historical sites that can be seen from 43 miles of the Yough River Trail North, which runs from McKeesport to Connellsville. Kelso estimated there are 30, including coke ovens, patch towns, the Overholt Distillery. He will then develop interpretative materials for the sites. Funding to produce the materials (possibly plaques) is not available at this time, but the program will be ready should funding become available.

"I've been going to various historical

sites and been recruited to paint a mural on the new one. Funding for the Farmington project will be made through the National Road Heritage Park.

Planting historic trees: A tree-planting ceremony will take place from Connellsville to Dawson May 25 along the Yough River Trail using seeds from famous trees. The work is being done in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp. and Allegheny Power, which is supplying the trees.

Myers said local officials can choose up to 20 trees from a variety of historic sources, such as a white ash from the Cincinnati home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin;" a paper birch from the Portsmouth, N.H., boarding home where father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones, lived; a honey locust from the tree that provided shade to President Abraham Lincoln when he delivered the famed Gettysburg Address; a chestnut oak from Stratford Hall, Va., the birthplace of Robert E. Lee; an eastern redbud from the Glen Echo, Md., study of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton; and sycamore seeds that were part of the official payload of Apollo 14 in 1971.

Improving houses: Baake is working with USDA Rural Development to inform rural home owners about a grant-and-loan program for improvements to their property. One percent loans of up to \$15,000 are available for low-income applicants while property owners 62 and older may be eligible for grants up to \$7,500. Baake has assisted at information meetings in Vanderbilt and Dawson.

"We've had small turnouts but positive results. I think we've had five applicants.

and plan for the S-Bridge, located in Washington County along the National Road. The bridge, one of four surviving bridges in Pennsylvania and Ohio, is being restored through a federal program administered by PennDOT. Interns Renu Pavate, a graduate student majoring in architecture from Washington State University, and Molly Miller, a historian from Hiram College in Ohio, arrive May 20.

Baake, Kelso and Ann Safely, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as well as a National Road Heritage Park board member, are supervising four interns obtained from the heritage commission for the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority who will be conducting a survey of potential historic districts. They begin work in June.

Rails to Trails: Thagard is working as a liaison with the Pennsylvania Corps of Rails to Trails and the Allegheny Trail Alliance on a rail-trail maintenance study. It's a how-to guide on building and maintaining the trails that is aimed at assisting future projects.

"The idea is to be used by all trail groups across the country," said Thagard who is concentrating on the Pittsburgh-to-Cumberland segment.

Thagard is also helping the Pennsylvania director of Rails to Trails on his greenway implementation program, which establishes a criteria for prioritizing efforts to build a trail.

When her current projects are completed, Thagard will continue to assist these groups.

Cleaning up: Fecek recently organized a cleanup with students and teachers from the Frazier School District and other volunteers

In top photo: Adam Baake and Craig Kelso help clean up the outside of the East End Community Center, while Sarah Endriss (left) and Alex Rogers, both from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps, help freshen the inside (photo above).

to pick up trash along six miles of the future Yough River Trail North near Perryopolis. The group worked in cooperation with the Regional Trails Corp., Pennsylvania Clean Ways and Perryopolis Area Heritage Society to clean an area from Wickhaven to Round Bottom, and cleared 68 acres of George Washington Grist Mill Park in Perryopolis. The group hauled six dump-truck loads of trash from the area.

Fecek explained the students were able to obtain community service credits from Frazier for the project. Students who complete a certain number of hours receive a certificate and an invitation to a banquet. Fecek prepared for the effort by speaking at the high school along with a state geologist.

"It was a big success," said Fecek.

USDA Summer gleaning project: Fecek is also organizing a project to rescue food that might otherwise be wasted from area restaurants, schools, catering services and grocery stores to be donated to the Fayette County Community Action Foodbank in Uniontown.

Fecek will lead a team of five additional AmeriCorps volunteers. Only eight states will receive teams for this program, which is new for the USDA and predominantly done in the South.

"This team wants to make sure that the project lasts once they're gone," said Fecek.

Major partners are Linden Hall near Dawson and Nemacolin Woodlands in Farmington as well as Threshold Housing. The latter is providing office space for the gleaning team.

Education: Fecek attempted to work with schools on an education project that fell through due to weather and teacher schedules.

However, she created a brochure on field trips to historical sites in Fayette County for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

All members of the team said they have enjoyed their work in the AmeriCorps programs so far.

"It's been very fulfilling," said Thagard.

"For me, it's a great learning experience. I'm growing in leadership skills," said Kelso.

"You're learning how the world works," said Fecek.

"It's an excellent opportunity to work with community leaders," said Baake.

Noted Thagard, "It's nice to take on projects that people always wished could be taken on but never are."

Members say it's likely another AmeriCorps team will be assigned to Fayette County in October.

For more information on any AmeriCorps projects, members can be reached at the National Road Heritage Park at 329-1560.

(Herald-Standard Photos by Rosie Jordan)

PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESS. ION

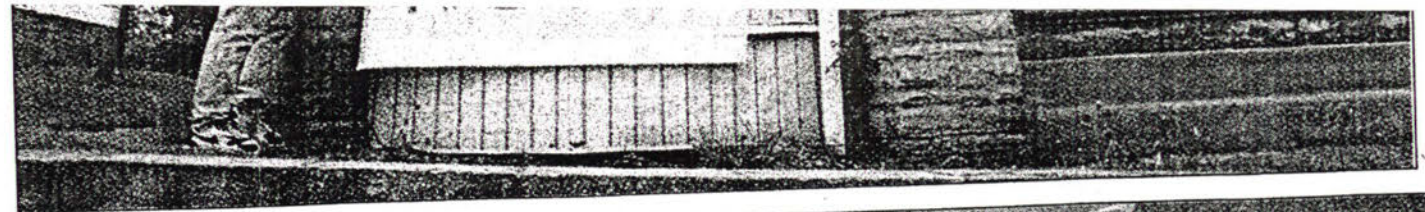
By **FRANCES BORSODI ZAJAC**
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

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We plan to do more meetings," Baake said.
Developing a local loan program:

Lake County Record-Bee

Friday, May 10, 1996

Clinton representative visits to study watershed programs

Lake County officials spread news of watershed concerns

By BOB CARROLL
for the Record-Bee

LAKE COUNTY — Watershed awareness, which has generated environmental work by schoolchildren, agencies, and volunteers, also brought a representative of President Clinton to the county Thursday.

Joel Berg, a Clinton appointee to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited Lake County and learned about local watershed organizations, projects, and activities. County, state, and federal agencies, along with concerned individuals, were on hand Thursday to show Berg that county residents value their watershed environment.

Lake County District 1 Supervisor Helen Whitney, who was at Lower Lake Brick Hall to

greet Berg and to judge some student watershed projects on display there, said she believes county residents are growing more aware of the county's invaluable watershed systems. "Groups working on watershed concerns are coming together here for the first time," Whitney said, adding that a spirit of cooperation and stewardship has been growing for years.

Len Kashuba, the district conservationist for Natural Resources Conservation Services, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, offered praise for one of Clinton's programs — AmeriCorps. A domestic program that uses young people in many service roles, AmeriCorps is partially modeled on the Peace Corps. "I've been a federal employee for 25 years, and of all the conservation programs I've seen, AmeriCorps works the best," Kashuba said. "It's a hands-on, people-oriented program aimed at meeting the needs of rural communities."

AmeriCorps representatives Chris Auld and

Christie Tanner were at the Brick Hall to meet Berg, who is the national AmeriCorps leader.

According to Olga Clymire, Lake County Office of Education environmental specialist, the 23-year-old Auld, who directs the environmental part of the local AmeriCorps program, has played a major role in consolidating the watershed groups in the county. "AmeriCorps is a wonderful opportunity for young people to do something positive for their community," Clymire said.

Earl Brown is another major player in watershed stewardship. Brown, who works for the Lake County Career Center, smiled when asked his formal job title. "I'm the Ecosystem Management Project Coordinator," he said. "So I work with and train 18 employees on environmental projects."

Using Department of Labor grant funds, the career center has employed the 18 county residents for a variety of tasks. Although some of

those people are now planning careers in the more technical aspects of environmental science, the group does a tremendous amount of hands-on work around the county. "Our people complete 200 hours of classroom instruction, and 1,040 hours of on-the-job training," Brown said. Besides classroom and technical studies, the group does stream cleanout, flood cleanup, erosion control, roadwork, tree planting, and campground preparation at local parks, among other projects.

During his tour, Berg looked at dozens of watershed educational projects — drawings, posters, and essays — completed by local students for the 1996 Education School Contest. Organized for the past eight years by Frank Meisenbach, the director of East Lake Resource Conservation District, the contest gives young people from kindergarten through high school the opportunity to win savings bonds and other awards.



Attending the AmeriCorps ceremonies in Riverfront Park on Tuesday were: Standing left to right, Jeff Clark (COC), David King (RC&D), John Schaffer (COC), Kevin Donoho (NRCS). Seated, Joyce Matthews, chairperson of Illinois State FSA Committee and Lori Theisen, administrative coordinator.



Mason County Soil and Water Conservation District accepted its certificate of appreciation at the AmeriCorps ceremony on Tuesday. Administrative coordinator Lori Theisen, Resource Conservationist Duane Himmel, SWCD Chairman Randy Fornoff and District Conservationist Kevin Donoho accepted the certificate.



The U.S.D.A./F.S.A. Illinois Valley AmeriCorp team hosted closing ceremonies on August 20 at the River Park Bed and Breakfast in Havana. Members Mary Catherine Peters (left) and Jennifer Clark (right) presented Wes Hilst, owner of the River Park facility with a plaque. Hilst and his wife, Dixie, have been most supportive of the AmeriCorps team in numerous capacities.

PHOTOCOPIED
PRESERVED



**Rod Atterberry, Illinois
FSA AmeriCorps Coordina-
tor, was assisted at the clos-**

**ing ceremonies on Tuesday
by his daughter, Chantel.**

[The Mason County Democrat, August 28, 1996,
Sec. 2, Page 3]

PROJECT
PRESERVATION

retires, 8B

Exchange Club eases abuse, 8B

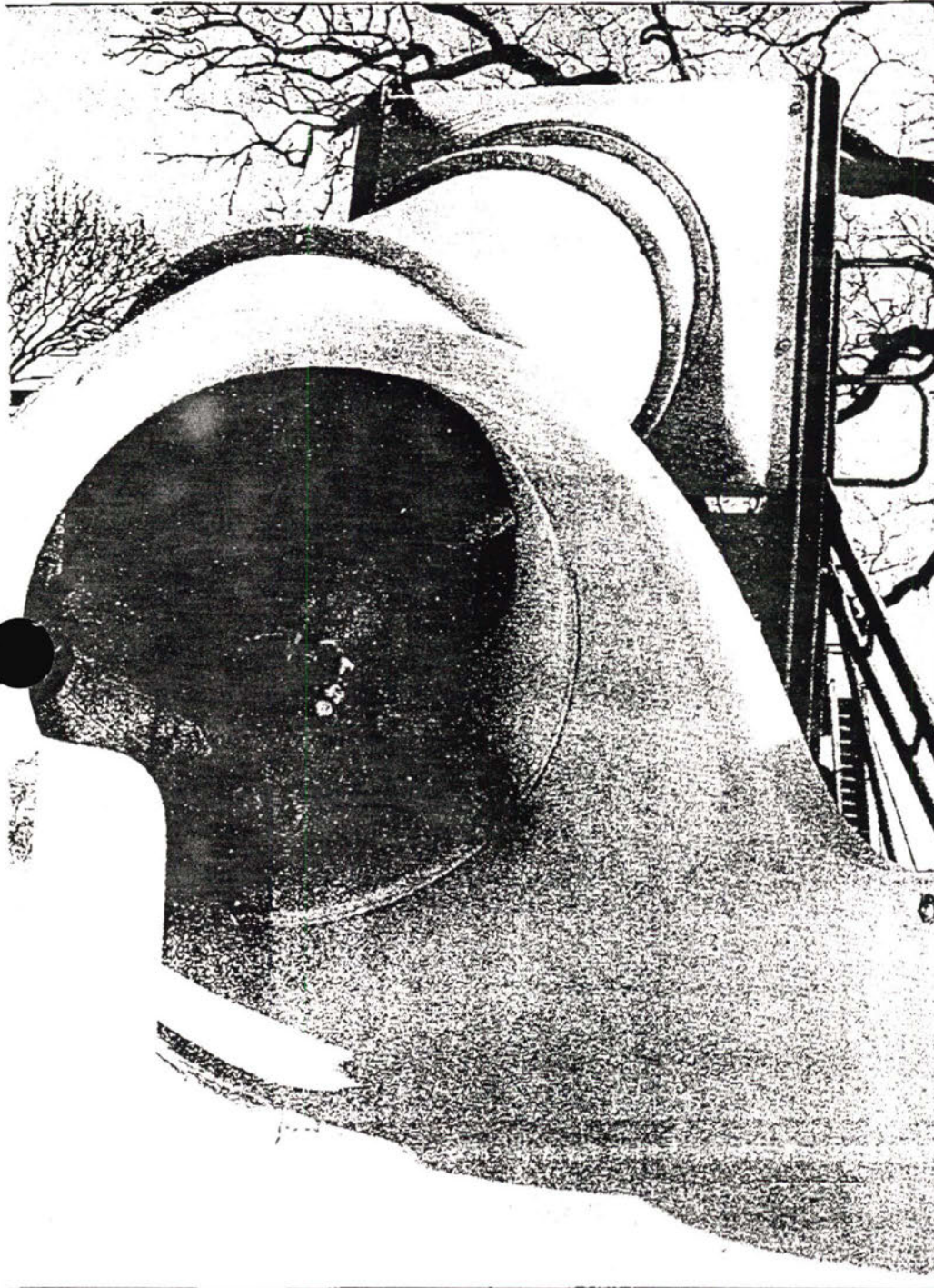
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County News/Cathy Bernardy

Tree planted in Blowers Park for each Oklahoma City victim

BRAD DAVIS
Staff Reporter

With the memories of last April's Oklahoma City bombing still fresh and vivid, Ann Turner said Tuesday she wanted to plant the first tree at Blowers Park.

"It meant a lot to me," she said while pointing her muddied gloves toward a small fir seedling.

When Turner, a Tennessee-native, heard about the explosion of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building one year ago, she wondered about her sister-in-law who works for the government in Oklahoma City.

*'I'm really proud to be
a part of this project.'*

—Ann Turner,
AmeriCorps member

"I wasn't sure what building she worked in," Turner recalls. "And then I remembered that she brought her kids to a day-care center. That's when I really started worrying."

As it turned out, Turner's relative worked at a different location, but the memories of that event are still with her. Last Friday, mourners from across America marked the event with moments of silence and

spring

spend some time out from visiting with Waseca relatives to try out the slides and equipment at Clear Lake Park on Tuesday afternoon.

See TREES, Page 3A

or rescue work

Testimony wraps

tolling bells.

In Waseca County, the memorial continued this week, as members of the AmeriCorps set out Tuesday morning to plant 168 trees—one for each person killed in the explosion—at Blowers Park.

Turner, who works out of the Fairmont office, was one of eight AmeriCorps members planting spruce, fir, balsam and hawthorn seedlings along a hillside in the park.

"It's a wonderful remembrance," said Waseca member Jamie Berndt.

The trees were donated by the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. The group also plans to erect a sign commemorating the tree grove.

"I'm really proud to be a part of this project," said Turner.

Right: Ann Turner plants one of the 168 memorial seedlings Tuesday at Blowers Park.



County News/Brad Davis

Waseca likely will not pursue housing grant

BRAD DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Two Minnesota foundations have teamed up this month to establish a \$25 million fund to help finance development of affordable housing in rural parts of the state.

The McKnight Foundation committed \$20 million while the Blandin Foundation kicked in \$5 million to create the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund. This fund

will provide economic growth, where a shortage of housing is hindering business expansion.

"Affordable housing is critical to attracting jobs and people to keep our economy growing," said Gov. Arne Carlson in a recent news release. "Many companies want to expand in Minnesota but will not do so unless potential employees can find suitable homes."

In Waseca, community development director Pam Lazaris said

that the city didn't think the city will seek this grant money to build new homes.

"I'm sure there's not the amount of affordable housing that consumers care to see," said Lazaris. But she said the value of existing homes in Waseca is a little lower than state average, making the local housing market affordable compared to other rural communities.

The issue of affordable housing in the state Minnesota was high on the list of last year's state Economic

Vitality and Affordable Housing report, which found that growth in rural parts of the state over the last five years has led to a shortage of housing for entry-level and lower-paid workers.

The report stated that an estimated 5,600 new affordable housing units are needed around the state, with another 6,700 single-family units in need of rehabilitation.

Ch. jail escape

The Waseca County office has filed a for against a Waseca man turning to jail last week

Ricky Lee Engstrom allowed work release w a 90-day sentence. He a job, though, but was leave jail the morning April 15, to drop off ployment applications. dered to return by noon once he was done.

Engstrom did not ret not found by local law officials until last Thur

Engstrom had been s third-degree criminal conduct and placed on September. He was g day sentence March 27 ter he admitted to ne conditions of his proba Minnesota Department tions. Those included r a sex offender as requ consuming or possess hol; and completing c pendency treatment ar recommendations with the September senten

School ba rollerblac on prope

Rollerblading on School District grou ited.

The School Boar ro ng addendu

AmeriCorps ^{1/3/96} deserves support ^{Free Press}

In my judgment, AmeriCorps is an efficient and productive program that deserved the serious support of all political parties.

AmeriCorps combines the desirable characteristics of two previous federal programs that are almost universally acclaimed.

First, the CCC program of the 1930s employed young people in environmentally productive programs. This economist is still thrilled each time he sees the beautiful facilities constructed by the CCC at Itasca State Park, and at such a low opportunity cost.

Second, the GI bill following World War II proved to be a highly productive investment in human capital.

Last week, it was my privilege to work closely with a multi-racial team of hard-working AmeriCorps volunteers. They vigorously bounded into the mud and water of the Le Sueur River, removing obstructions from the stream. It was obvious that they had learned to love and respect one another and that they felt a pride in their accomplishments of environmental improvement.

They spoke to me about their dreams

of gaining an education with the help of their AmeriCorps educational support. One young black man who was born and raised in New York City spoke with excitement about gaining an education so that he could become a positive role model. He indicated that in his childhood, he had seen far too many negative role models, individuals who had achieved financial success via socially destructive endeavors.

During nearly four decades of serving as a professor of economics, thousands of young people have enrolled in one or more of my classes. The AmeriCorps volunteers who worked with me last week clearly would rank very highly in terms of enthusiasm and commitment to achieve academic success.

I urge support for the continuance of this outstanding program.

Paul Thompson
211 Beech St.
Mankato

Students offer hope for Bear Creek

By ALBERTO ENRIQUEZ
of the Mail Tribune

A lengthening list of hands-on research and cleanup projects by students along Bear Creek could prove a watershed in the checkered history of one of the state's most polluted streams.

Those working with the students say today's papier-mache creek modeler could well be the informed citizen policy-maker of tomorrow.

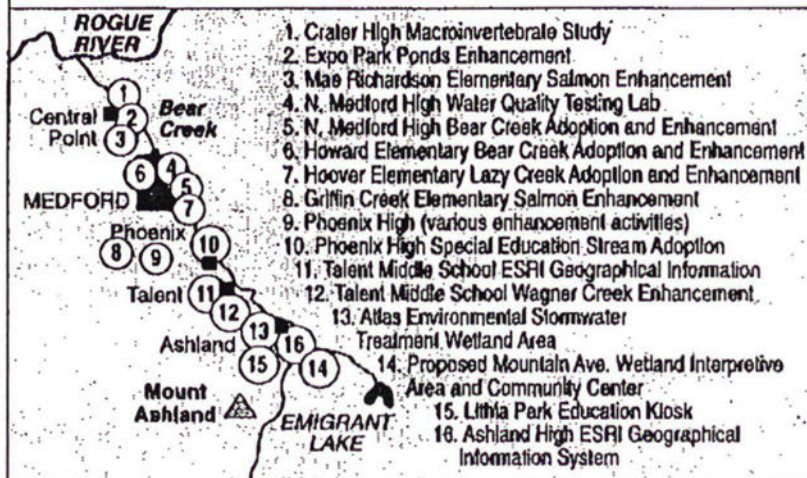
At last count, the Bear Creek Watershed Council says students ranging from third grade through high school in four different school districts are involved in no less than 16 individual projects, coordinated through the council's 2-year-old Committee for Public Information and Education. Students are raising and releasing salmon fingerlings, planting trees, cleaning up old tires and shopping carts, and learning about the complicated balancing act of resource management.

Committee chairman Richard Barbara, a fifth-grade teacher at Hoover Elementary, which this year "adopted" Lazy Creek (a Bear Creek tributary near the school) says the committee's chief aim is to make a difference for both children and the creek.

"Our goal is not only to get kids involved in real science but to make an improvement," Barbara said, "because Bear Creek is in sore need."

Barbara's fifth-grade students are focusing on measuring and

BEAR CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL SITES



Source: Bear Creek Watershed Council

Mail Tribune

charting stream-flow rates and drawing connections to local agricultural practices. Because Bear Creek also functions as a conduit for irrigation water, its greatest flows are typically in the summer, not the winter as would normally be expected. Making real-world connections has dramatic educational impact.

"They get a lot more enthusiastic in science class when they're doing science that means something," Barbara says.

But the committee's work stretches far beyond individual school teachers and one-time field trips.

Committee member Pam Zaklan, who teaches at Medford's Howard

Elementary School, says interested teachers can benefit from the shared experience of others who have tackled Bear Creek projects with their students.

Zaklan's fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students also benefit from the perspectives gleaned from other schools, and even other districts. Students from Crater High's "Land Lab" regularly visit Zaklan's classroom.

In the past year, Zaklan's students have raised and released salmon fingerlings, taken water-quality samples, made rubbings of streamside tree leaves and bark, "adopted" a stretch of Bear Creek north of the McAndrews Road Bridge — and committed to twice-

yearly cleanups.

"The kids see the shopping carts and the old tires and they don't like it," Zaklan says. "This gives them a sense of pride and ownership in the creek."

Elsewhere in the Bear Creek watershed, students are tackling projects reflecting local concerns. Talent Middle School has adopted Wagner Creek, sampling its flow from forest, through farm, then city and finally into Bear Creek. Ashland students are involved in projects ranging from a proposed wetlands to treat storm-drain water, to a Lithia Park educational kiosk on Ashland Creek.

These programs at the elementary-, middle- and high-school level are more than just academic. Bob Pierce, who coordinates the watershed council's activities for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, says the education committee is the official education arm of a long-term Bear Creek cleanup effort.

Bear Creek has been rated second worst in the state in terms of its average daily load of ammonia, phosphorous, organic matter and other fish-killing, oxygen-robbing substances. (The dubious honor of being first goes to suburban Portland's Tualatin Creek.)

Public-education efforts — carried out by the education committee — are a required part of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's strategy to clean up the creek.

ALT

Roof to Garden

Diane Mangham, left, and Lenolia Talton disconnect a downspout on Northeast Ainsworth Street as part of a Portland program to keep rainwater out of the city's wastewater treatment facilities.



The Asian Reporter

International & Local NewsWeekly □ Pacific Northwest □ Volume 6 Number 19 □ May 8-14, 1996

EnviroCorps members disconnect downspouts for clean rivers

Members of EnviroCorps disconnected downspouts at several homes in Northeast Portland in April.

Their efforts were part of a Bureau of Environmental Services project to reduce combined sewer overflows to the Columbia Slough and the Willamette River.

Many downspouts drain directly to the combined sewer system, where the stormwater mixes with sewage and overflows to the river or slough. Disconnecting downspouts allows water to be sent to gardens or lawns instead.

Environmental Services launched the program this spring with the goal of disconnecting downspouts at over 12,000 homes over the next several years.

In addition to EnviroCorps, neighborhood and community groups are canvassing Northeast Portland to sign homeowners up for disconnection.

They've also formed volunteer



EnviroCorps member Cheng Cha disconnects a downspout in Northeast Portland to help keep pollution out of the Columbia Slough.

work teams to disconnect some of the downspouts and earn money doing it.

Homeowners may choose to disconnect their own downspouts or have the community groups do it. Community groups earn \$13 for each downspout they disconnect for homeowners who choose

to have them do the work.

EnviroCorps has been trained by Environmental Services to provide downspout disconnect guidance to community work teams.

Homeowners are reimbursed \$53 per downspout they disconnect.



Blazing trails at Hope

AmeriCorps workers, Fred Measmer, Joan Mansfield, Sherry Midgette, and David Bateman spread marl on the newly opened trails in the lands surrounding Historic Hope. The workers are part of the Clinton program which provides college aid in return for work to those middle-class families who would be ineligible for such

aid, as well as students from low-income families for whom student aid is inadequate. It also allows some citizens to leave public assistance in order to serve their communities. The marl is reject material trucked in from PCS Phosphate in Aurora. (See related story on Page 5) (Photo by Annette Pierce)

AmeriCorps workers are blazing 'old' trails around Hope Plantation

By Annette Pierce
Staff Writer

WINDSOR — The Clinton Administration's creation — AmeriCorps — is blazing trails at Historic Hope in Windsor.

In fact, the team leader, Sherry Midgett, said they call themselves "The Trail Blazers."

New trails are being opened in a 28-acre tract of woodland surrounding Historic Hope, complete with bridges over the streams.

Administrator Lisa Briley of Historic Hope Foundation said rejected materials — marl — are being brought in from PCS Phosphate mining operation (formerly Texas Gulf) whose fossils produced the Aurora Fossil Museum.

The marl is being shoveled onto the trails for tourists visiting the Center.

A team of four AmeriCorps workers are opening the new trails under the supervision of Tim Garrett who designed the Wetlands Walk in Windsor and used a similar design for Hope's bridge on a smaller scale.

Garrett is projects coordinator of Mid-East Resource Conservation and Development Council (RCD) under whom the AmeriCorps workers are operating.

The AmeriCorps coordinator is Rodney Johnson out of the Edenton office.

Briley said John Stallings who is on Historic Hope's Board of Directors and is chairman of the Board of Mid-East has worked on the project along with Jim Kea.

Kea is the Area Specialized Agent of Forest Resources of N.C. Cooperative Extension Agency who identified trees and laid off the trails.

Other planners were Tom Potter, Nature Trail Specialist with N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

and local Boy Scout troops.

Briley said volunteers will be needed to work and maintain the trails as a condition of Historic Hope receiving grants.

The four AmeriCorps workers are team leader Sherry Midgett from Pasquotank County, Fred Measmer from Pasquotank County, David Bateman from Perquimans County, and Joan Mansfield from Perquimans County.

They are working with Doug Thomas, caretaker of Hope.

Midgett said the members of the team perform 1700 hours of work — which takes about a year — and receive a stipend which goes toward college tuition.

AmeriCorps which the Clinton administration created to assist college students in "earning" tuition, is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Midgett said AmeriCorps is diverse by race, gender and educational level, but they feel a sense of "family," wanting to give something back to the environment.

She said the team will also be working on projects in Camden, Pasquotank, and Hyde Counties.

They will be at Historic Hope on and off for about two more weeks performing back-breaking labor.

Midgett said AmeriCorps is one of the programs under fire in Washington and facing extinction.

AmeriCorps has been likened to President John Kennedy's Peace Corps which focused on sending workers to other countries.

According to Vice-President Al Gore, "...this program (AmeriCorps) is focused on our country and our communities, enabling AmeriCorps members to go on and get their education, and even more importantly, unleashing volunteer energy and enthusiasm."

First spring river cleanup a success

People came from near and far to help make the first spring cleanup up of the New River, held May 11, a great success. Sponsored by the National Committee for the New River, the effort drew volunteers from as far away as Raleigh.

Volunteers, 119 in all, cleaned over 30 miles of the river during the event,

Article from Jefferson, NC Newspaper
Sent by Jim Wooten, NC & Stan Steury
Blue RCTO Coordinator

which got underway at 9 a.m. at New River Outfitters and General Store in Crumpler. "I'm tickled to death with the turnout," Lisa Bare, office manager and events coordinator for the National Committee for the New River, said.

Avery JROTC and Americorps workers with the Mt. Valley Resource Conservation and Development office in Asheville worked alongside a number of local residents, including students from Northwest Ashe High School.

Volunteers, using canoes and walking the riverbanks, collected over four tons of trash, including 75 tires, a stove, kitchen sink and a multitude of cans, bottles and plastics. Other volunteers manned the registration tables, assigning individuals and groups to different areas.

New River State Park employees, using trucks on loan from Skyline Telephone and the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Department, picked up the collected trash.

The project began as a request from New River Outfitters to prepare the river for the summer, so those using the river for canoeing, fishing and other activities, could enjoy it more, Bare said. The turnout was so good, the committee will probably sponsor another one next spring, Bare said.

An annual clean-up up of waterways throughout North Carolina, called Big Sweep, is held statewide in the fall. This year the event, which is sponsored by First Citizens Bank, is scheduled for Sept. 21.

The National Committee for the New River is usually heavily involved with the project and will probably be helping to coordinate Big Sweep again this year, Bare added.



Cleanup crew

PHOTO BY LINDA BURCHETTE

Kellye Orange, Trevor Baker, Reid Cloud (in canoe) participated in the first spring river cleanup held May 11 at New River Outfitters and General Store in Scottville. Over four tons of trash were collected during the event.

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Asheville - Citizens' Times

5/14/96

Volunteers pull trash from New River

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON - More than 100 volunteers spend part of their week-end cleaning up a 30-mile stretch of the New River.

Roger V. Morrison's biggest catch of the day wasn't a carp, muskellunge or smallmouth bass.

It was an old, rusty oven.

"It took quite a bit of doing,

pulling it out of the mud," he told the Winston-Salem Journal.

Morrison, a resident of Ararat, Va., was among 119 volunteers who paddled canoes on the river to troll for trash.

The event was sponsored by the National Committee for the New River, which hopes to perform a similar spring cleanup annually.

The committee also held a fall cleanup which netted eight tons of trash, said Lisa Bare, the event's coordinator.

The catches by the volunteers included tires, beer cans and plastic bottles, all destined for disposal at the Ashe County landfill. They also found a washing machine, a stove and even a kitchen sink in the river.

Local/Nation

and cable service to remote areas

for system upgrades within five years, company spokesmen said.

In other action Tuesday night, commissioners:

■ said they want school officials to consider realigning district boundaries to make better use of existing classroom space. "If they're not doing anything, we might want to take action to force it," said E.T. Vanhoy;

■ was told the proposed 1996-97 county budget will be available for public inspection Thursday in the county manager's office. The budget, which would give more money to

schools and a 2 percent cost of living increase to county employees, holds the property tax rate at 62 cents per \$100 valuation;

■ gave engineers the OK to seek state approval for a new lined landfill. The 19-acre site, located across Long Creek from the current landfill, would be lined with compacted clay and a plastic tarpaulin to satisfy federal laws. It's scheduled to open by January 1, 1998;

■ was told by Kelly Hastings that government shouldn't get involved in speculative land deals. Hastings said

lower taxes and less regulation on business — not a county-owned industrial park — is the best way to foster economic development;

■ approved a committee's recommendation to use \$202,000 in state money for five Community Based Alternatives programs for troubled 10- to 17-year-olds;

■ and appointed 14 people to a Cleveland County Justice Partnership advisory board, and re-appointed Patricia Bell to the county Commission for Women.

Americorps volunteers clean river

By Courtney Lutz
Star staff writer

Despite the sizzling heat, six volunteers from Asheville worked Tuesday to clean up the trash surrounding the Broad River.

The volunteers are members of the Americorps team of Asheville. Americorps is President Clinton's national service program. A non-profit organization, it is devoted to critical environmental, educational, and public safety issues. The volunteers, in Boiling Springs until today, have filled countless trash bags with litter from the trails and beaches by the river.

The Broad River Cleanup is part of the Americorps team of Asheville's one year service project to restore the trout streams of western North Carolina.

The team is sponsored by the Resource Conservation Development Program.

"Americorps works to improve the water quality and wildlife habitat of the streams," said Ben Robinson, the RC&D District Conservationist of Cleveland County. "We want to protect natural resources so we sponsored the clean-up."

Trish Whitefield, a recent graduate of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., volunteers her time to pay back student loans.

"I wanted a way to pay back my loans in a timely fashion, so I joined Americorps. For 1700 hours of work I get just under \$5,000 toward my loans. Plus, I get to work outside," said Whitefield. Americorps offers \$2,300 for volunteers who work 900 hours.

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The Associated Press

the biennial convention
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AmeriCorps' Trout Stream Restoration Project

The environmental AmeriCorps team of Asheville is participating in a one year service project on the restoration of Western North Carolina streams. AmeriCorps, the President's National Service Program, was developed to address critical issues, such as the environment, human services, public safety, and education. The team consists of six members.

The AmeriCorps team of Asheville is working out of the Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Office located in the Asheville Office Park. The Mountain Valleys RC&D Council is a non-profit organization that addresses natural resource problems and needs on a regional basis. The RC&D Council is composed of a group of volunteers from the counties of Buncombe, Cleveland, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, and Transylvania. The RC&D Program; itself, is a program of the US Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service. The AmeriCorps team will be working with three RC&D Councils in Western NC.

Some of the stream restoration projects to date that the AmeriCorps team has worked on include: cleaning trout streams, stabilizing streambanks, providing fish habitat structures, and educating the public on environmental conservation. The team has been using recycled Christmas trees for trout habitat structures by placing in local area lakes, planting live willow stakes on the riverbanks of various rivers, removing pollutants from streams, educating area students about aquatic life, and participating in stream stocking with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Another of the exciting projects team members participated in was the "CATCH Program" at the Trout Festival held in Waynesville last month. Upcoming projects include: kick seine demonstrations on local streams, stream clean-ups, and conducting tours at the Pisgah Fish Hatchery in Transylvania County.

If anyone knows of a stream in need, or knows of a possible related project; please call AmeriCorps at (704) 252-4936.

(written for Land-of-Sky T.U. Newsletter 5/31/96)