

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITYEXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

March 8, 1967

Editor
San Marcos Record
211 East Hutchinson
San Marcos, Texas

Dear Sir:

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Corps program

May I hear

SAN MARCOS RECORD, Thursday, March 2, 1967—Page 9
On Its Second Anniversary

Gary Job Corps Is Winning

Two years ago this Friday Gary Job Corps Center enrolled its first students to become one of the first and eventually the largest training center for this special segment of the War on Poverty. And while this war has had its stalemates and reverses on several fronts, we feel that Gary has been winning its part of the war.

Best place to look for success is at the boys themselves. We interviewed two who had been at the center since its opening ("Two of Original 229..." page 1, section II). They showed improvement in job potential, in attitudes as citizens, in physical fitness, and in mental capabilities such as reading, writing and arithmetic. We think these two are typical of the Job Corps product. Visit with almost any of the young men and you will note an enthusiasm for the future, a confidence that knowing job skills gives to a man.

There has been trouble, but not much, from the corpsmen. During the first nine months a survey by the Record disclosed that arrests of local youths had outnumbered arrests of job corpsmen 48 to 20 in San Marcos, and as a general rule the arrests of job corpsmen were for less serious offenses such as loitering or petty theft. That record has generally improved as far as the corpsmen are concerned, local lawmen attest.

But while the trouble-makers grab headlines of the big city press, quietly and without fanfare Gary has been doing its good work. Many of the boys, feeling the critical eyes of the nation on them, have worked overtime on charitable projects—giving blood, searching for lost children, holding talent shows and other fund raising affairs for funds to help "the less fortunate."

They cooperated with the Jaycees on the Christmas party, for kids. They worked with the schools to landscape Crockett Elementary. They have planted, pruned, and beautified the library and several church yards. They cleared Camp Kiwanis of brush and put a new roof on the Girl Scout building.

Not only have the boys added to our community—so have the teachers. Some of the finest teachers and school administrators in Texas have settled here to meet the challenge of Gary. They have brought new ideas and energy to our clubs, churches, and city.

Another great impact, businessmen tell us, is the financial one. The payroll at Gary tops 7½-million!

With two years under its belt, Gary has shown remarkable progress. Many call it the finest Job Corps Center in the nation. It has served 6,957 boys, including the more than 3,000 presently enrolled. The boys must like it, for the relatively low 20-percent dropout rate of the first half year lessened to 18-percent for the last 18 months.

Gary has done the job that was intended—to help potential welfare cases learn to pull their weight in today's economy. Of the 3,009 who have been placed, most are at work while 133 are back in school and 802 are in the military.

Gary Job Corps Center is winning its battle against poverty while it helps our community. We salute it on its second anniversary.

This should answer your questions.
Tom Buckner
editor