

DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Corps' Goal—'Productive Citizens'

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Typing classes help to train Job Corpsmen for useful work after leaving Weber center.

part, are mobile homes joined together, and include four 56-man dorms, a mess hall, education building, shop and equipment building, warehouse, gymnasium, vocational building, administrative offices, and a dispensary.

Total operational budget for the first year was \$923,439. The center received its first 16 corpsmen in December of 1965.

According to Mr. Ulrich, the cost per corpsman per year is \$4,700, and includes staff salaries, services, supplies for work projects, and pay for the corpsmen.

The center has a capacity of 224 corpsmen, and has about 220 on hand at present. Since its activation, it has received some 600 boys, and out of that number, some 400 have either graduated, resigned from the program, been kicked out or gone AWOL. Officials did not have a definite count of their successes, since they consider it a triumph if a youth gets a job before completing training or gets accepted by the armed forces.

A study made on the first 16 corpsmen to go through the Weber Basin Center disclosed that only five of them actually graduated from the program. However, officials considered 14 of them successful.

The study showed seven are now working as productive citizens; four are in the military service; three have gone back to school or are still enrolled in some government poverty program, and one returned to his old life with no apparent change in attitude. The remaining youth could not be located.

The report also disclosed that the first 16 corpsmen stayed an average of six months, and advanced three grades in the educational level. The average educational level upon arrival was fourth-grade, and upon leaving was seventh grade.

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OGDEN—The Weber Basin Job Corps Center gets teenage boys who have never flushed a toilet or answered a telephone.

Nearly one-third of them can neither read nor write, despite the fact that many got as far as junior high or high school before dropping out. Another one-third can't read as well as the average second-grader, and some have never been more than a few blocks away from home.

Camp officials don't profess to turn these boys into skilled craftsmen. They merely try to teach the boys that there's a better life than the one from which they came, in hopes of motivating them toward getting a job.

This conservation camp, operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is a small city of mobile buildings situated on 746 acres of government-owned land near the mouth of Weber Canyon.

Richard A. Ulrich, center director, is a career employee with the Bureau of Land Management, and served as a forester in Oregon before the Job Corps program came along.

The other 51 persons who make up the center's staff include an assistant director who is a former school principal, a work project leader, women stenographers, a registered nurse, 15 corpsmen supervisors, 10 instructors, two counselors, and 9 workleader technicians.

All employees are under civil service, and are hired by the Bureau of Reclamation. Their salaries are paid with war on poverty funds administered by the bureau.

Approximately \$1.2 million was spent for preparing the campsite and erecting facilities. The buildings, for the most



Deseret News photos by Don Grayston

Many corpsmen are school dropouts. Center attempts to compensate for lack of education.