

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Family
II Interest
Section

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Housewives Hit The Trail—And Enjoy It

Record Turnout Of Adult Volunteers Makes Brownie-Scout Day Camp Possible For 300

For the past four Thursdays 85 Santa Cruz area housewives have been subjecting themselves to the rigors of camp life, the likes of which many of them never before had experienced.

Hiking up and down trails, cooking over campfires, learning about nature study and handcrafts all have been part of their training as leaders for Girl Scout-Brownie day camp this summer.

Their enthusiastic turnout—highest in local camp history—proves that they loved every minute of it. Especially just being at the new Camp Saddle Ridge.

This is the beautiful J. A. Scaroni ranch, only four and a half miles up the Coast highway, yet most of its 1200 acres—like the UCSC property it adjoins—never seen before by the public.

Nestled at the foot of Saddle ridge along the bank of Baldwin creek, this magic retreat is shaded by majestic redwoods and sprawling oaks. The air is scented by wild azaleas; the floor is carpeted with fern, wild flowers and mosses.

A part of the original Spanish land grant, "Rancho Refugio," the ranch has been owned for the last 40 years by the Scaronis, raising cattle, brussels sprouts, artichokes and daffodils.

According to students of early California history, the Costanoan Indians returned often to this spot when hunting for small game and Joaquin Murietta sought it for a hideout.

Now Brownies and Scouts will be able to surround themselves with this colorful history and wonders of nature while filling their days with crafts, outdoor cookery, hiking, music and games.

Thanks to the 85 housewives, a record number of 300 campers (the quota determined by the number of leaders) will have this privilege.

Day camp sessions will be June 17-21, 24-28, July 1, 2, 3, 5. Mrs. Harold Miller of Watsonville is the director assisted by Mrs. David Reynolds of Soquel, Mrs. Floyd Younger of Rio del Mar, Mrs. O. M. Hueter Jr. and Mrs. Herbert Scaroni.

—Betty Bushman



CAMP COOKERY is practiced at Camp Saddle Ridge, from fire-building to finished product. Mrs. Keith Buse, at right, equipped with self-styled "sit-upon," observes the rudiments of a well laid fire. Below, Mrs. G. B. Fancher heats the French bread while Mrs. Al Negri stirs up pot of Savory Beans.





Keeping Under Their Hats



AS PROTECTION from sun, or as was the case this past Thursday, from hairdo-straightening fog, most of the day camp leaders found hats an essential part of their camping outfits. Each was different. Above left, with fringe-brim creation is Mrs. Ray Tucker while Mrs. Peggy Stefani sports a serpentine-trimmed bucket-shape and Mrs. Robert Johnson, a jaunty straw brim. Above right, Mrs. Dana Rogers models a wide-brim straw, Mrs. Richard Pound, a sailor's cap. Below, Mrs. Paul Mayou, Mrs. Lawrence Furnish and Mrs. Cornelus Hoedemaker in other styles.



NATURE STUDY is learned first-hand as day camp leader trainees discover a variety of flora and fauna along the trails of Camp Saddle Ridge. Mrs. Herbert Scaroni, daughter-in-law of the ranch owner, J. A. Scaroni, points out wild iris to the group above.

CHOW LINE forms without being prompted by a dinner bell when there's the fragrance of Campfire Stew in the air. At right, Mrs. Maurice Ricketts does the serving for Mrs. Charles Thorne Jr., while next in line is Mrs. Ludd Shea.



Photos by
Pete Amos