

VISTA Comes To SC To Train; Some Will Stay



Old automobile tires make a pretty fair trampoline when you don't have enough money to buy a real one. VISTA volunteers try out the bouncing qualities of the old

tires so they can pass the information on to youngsters who can't afford sophisticated toys.

UC Extension Runs Class Of 40 Volunteers

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

Forty bright-eyed youngsters, and a few not-so-youngsters, are in the mountains back of Soquel prepping themselves for a joust with demon poverty.

They are participants in the first VISTA — Volunteers In Service To America—training program ever conducted in Santa Cruz County.

The local program is designed to acquaint the volunteers with the general problems of the poor, Director Dale Flowers pointed out. Following the 10-day session—being conducted at Kennolyn Camp, a children's summer camp north of Soquel—the volunteers will be given four weeks of on-the-job training to gain first hand knowledge of the problems of poverty.

Flowers, a University of California Extension Service instructor, explained that the preliminary 10-day session also would be utilized to give training in specific areas of the war on poverty. Since three-fourths of the VISTA volunteers are college graduates, their previous training will be utilized whenever possible.

The volunteers at Kennolyn Camp come from all parts of the U.S. and were brought to this area by the federal government, since VISTA is a program of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Most are 22 or 23 years old, but one volunteer is 66. Two-thirds of them are girls.

Fourteen will be retained in the Santa Cruz area, and most of the remainder will perform their year's duty in the Central San Joaquin Valley. They will answer requests for assistance from both private and public agencies engaged in the war on poverty.

Most of the volunteers who will remain in the Santa Cruz area will be engaged in recreation projects, Flowers stated.

The VISTA workers will live and work among the poor, and some will actually live with poor families. They receive wages of \$35 to \$60 per month and a room



Give a kid enough rope . . . and he'll have fun with it. A piece of rope makes a magnificently versatile—and inexpensive—plaything, the VISTA volunteers learn. And

you don't always have to whirl it in the air to jump over it. Just hopping back and forth on one foot down the length of the rope makes a pretty good game.



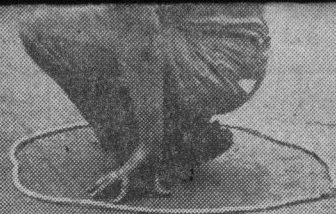
and board allowance of \$110 to \$150 per month.

Earlier this week the VISTA workers picked peas in Gilroy in an attempt to gain an insight into the problems of migratory workers. A typical training session involved instruction in the making of toys from everyday materials so the information may be passed on to youngsters who cannot afford expensive playthings.

The volunteers were taught how to fashion playthings from pieces of rope, blocks, old tires and cardboard boxes.

Here's another rope trick. VISTA volunteers are taught a wide variety of means for turning everyday materials into toys. The information will prove valuable as the volunteers lead recreation programs for

youngsters who can't buy store-bought playthings. Leading the home made toy instruction was Lane Hackett, right, a recreation teacher at San Jose City College.



Every question—even poverty—has two sides. Henry Mello, agriculturist and Santa Cruz County supervisor, explains the producers' side of the migratory labor situation to VISTA volunteers.

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