

# Camp Harmon

## A 'Different' Place . . .

By Margaret Koch  
Sentinel Staff Writer

An hour's visit to Camp Harmon and you may go away a different person . . .

That's what Director Ron Walters says.

And he's right.

Up there you see children who will never walk . . . run . . . chase a ball . . . dance . . . some who will never talk.

They are prisoners of their wheelchairs . . . their crutches . . . their own wasted muscles and injured brain cells. In the everyday world they are lost without special help. They are constantly being reminded they are "different."

At Camp Harmon Easter Seal camp, the world has been reversed. The "different" ones are in the majority and the place has been designed for them.

There are arts and crafts — special parties and crazy doings like a "backwards" dance where everyone appears with his clothing on backwards. There is Christmas in July. There are birthday parties and "discus throws" with paper plates, chariot races with wheelchairs, swimming for everyone, movies, hay rides, carnivals, hootenannys and hot dogs.



Pure delight shows in Deborah Anderson's face as Carolisa Stinson "pushes."



Bennie Cortez gets ready to catch a big one — with the help of Counselor Randy Evans.



## Help!

There are special needs up at Camp Harmon. Right now the Easter Seal camp is short on

- cots and cot mattresses
- transportation

Director Walters and his assistant, Ken Thomas, are investigating the chances of getting some kind of bus-type vehicle with saving stamps.



There are counselors who care, and wonderful ordinary people who help with money and gifts and time.

*Photos By Pete Amos*

Best of all there are the healing woods and river and great outdoors, the birds and sun and stars and bugs and dust.

The kids conduct their own services in the new and beautiful memorial chapel built out over the streambank. It is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Lucille Geisel, late executive secretary of Santa Cruz Easter Seal society. In the redwood pulpit is Steve Slatter, councilor. Singing are, from left, Francisco Ramirez, Bennie Cortez, Lisa Mann, Kevin Webb, Tamara Viers, Charlie Cardoza, Mike Pistore and Duane Marshall.

Anyone with cots, cot mattresses, a vehicle or stamps to donate, may call local Easter Seal headquarters.

Anyone with ideas about HOW to get any of these articles, also may call.

And ALL interested persons are invited to visit the camp. A visit there will open your eyes—and your hearts.



"Read me a story!" beg the kids, and Ron Walters, center, complies. Listeners are from left, Dee Dee Palermo, Lisa Mann, Ramona Martinez, Cathy Weber and Charlie Cardoza. Evenings around the big fireplace include dances and parties as well as story sessions. Dee Dee and Cathy are "camper-counselors."



Boats glide up and down the quiet stream . . . Counselor Sandra Hamm holds this one fast while Carolisa Stinson fastens life jackets on, from left, Peggy Sue Roderick, Lorraine Rodriguez, Maurine Dixon and Tamara Viers.