

# CYA's Experiment In Bringing Errant Juveniles Back Into Society A Success

By Wally Trabing

In the age-old social problem of handling crime and punishment, one of the 20th century's successful experiments in easing errant juveniles back into the folds of society has been conducted by the California Youth Authority.

The basic philosophy of the CYA program of treatment is an emergence of a century of progress in the correctional field. Its essence is the substitution of treatment on an individualized basis in place of retributive punishment.

Accepted in 1943 by the state legislature as a full fledged department, the CYA now has some 10 institutions for youngsters aged 8 to 21 dotted throughout California.

Three of these institutions, one of which is situated in Santa Cruz county, are forestry camps without walls or guards, a setup that would prompt double-takes from prison authorities 50 years ago.

Camp Ben Lomond consists of a group of neat but drab-green barracks set among the evergreens and oaks on the summit of Empire Grade road 17 miles northwest of Santa Cruz.

It is the last-stop home for some

70 boys, 17 to 21, before they are returned to community life.

Camp Ben Lomond is an honor camp. The wards are sent from other institutions where they have served time from nine months to a year and have established good records.

The length of their stay at the camp depends—but the average is four or five months. The curriculum is work, hard work—an act which very few of the wards have performed previously, according to Bert Morrill, superintendent.

In discussing the program, Morrill sticks meticulously to the CYA's terminology. The boys are not inmates or prisoners, but wards. There are no guards, but supervisors. The wards are not serving time, but are undergoing treatment and training. No one is sentenced following his arrest, but rather committed to the authorities.

The camp's reason for being is based on the idea that constructive work programs provide therapeutic experience for selective youths who can profit from the relative freedom of living and working in the open.

The work is furnished by the state division of forestry which is a cooperative part of the CYA.

Ernest Pennington is the forestry project supervisor.

Two crews of 15-16 wards leave camp at 7:45 each weekday morning to put in a tough erg-expending day clearing brush, cutting fire trails, building roads, and hauling trees.

Others are assigned to the experimental tree growing farm adjacent to the camp where thousands of evergreens are started from seeds and nursed to the point of transplanting in the forests.

Still others strip logs, work in the shops and maintain the landscaping. Two crews of 18 to 20 men are trained for forest fire fighting and are on 24 hour alert. A pumper crew remains in camp ready to head for the backwoods at a moment's call, Morrill says.

"Most of the ward are city boys," commented Morrill, "and a good percentage find hard physical work to their liking. Some have come to me with the startling comment that 'Y'know, Mr. Morrill, this working business makes me feel good all over'."

Although most of the wards were committed through arrests for robbery and auto theft, almost all types of crimes are represented including murder. Among the exceptions are sex

crimes "and, of course, arson," Morrill smiled.

An impressive aspect of Camp Ben Lomond to a visitor is the complete absence of institutional feeling.

"We're not a holiday camp, by a long ways though," Morrill emphasized.

According to him the men are out of bed at 6:30 a.m. They have until 7:15 to clean the barracks and prepare for breakfast. Work call begins at 7:45. At 4:45 the work crews return from the forests for showers and sick call, if needed, before supper at 5:30.

The meals are full caloric with good variety. The CYA is budgeted for an economical standard meal system.

Monday evenings, everyone goes to church. Rev. Elmer Andersen conducts a Protestant service and Father Michael Stack handles Catholic groups.

Other nights are spent at hobby-craft work or with Mrs. L. R. Van Oterendorp, camp music instructor, or in the gymnasium.

Wednesdays and Thursdays the wards attend "opportunity classes." These include instruction in photography and newspaper composition.

A monthly camp paper is published by the wards, filled with such short pithy news items as: "Dennis Karnatz likes all girls; Arnold Blakely is known as 'Bug Eyes'; Robert Martin still has poison oak."

On Friday nights the camp is split into four pre-parole classes.

"Actually these classes are round-table discussions," said Morrill, "set up to provoke the knocking about of ideas and individual thought."

Subject matter on a rotating basis includes 1. parole officers; 2. duties a citizen has toward his community and country; 3. narcotics; 4. responsibility in getting along with the family; 5. getting a job and how to hold it; 6. alcohol; 7. police and sheriff's work.

"Our supervisors do not draw any conclusions at these sessions. They get the boys to knock around ideas and leave the discussion hanging so that the boys will do some thinking on their own," Morrill said.

The training framework of the camp is built around Supervisor Morrill, Assistant Supervisor Harry Smith and 10 field supervisors. Probably the most important single training aspect of the camp is the counseling program carried on by the supervisors.

The total camp philosophy is aimed at simplicity, according to Morrill.

Each supervisor takes from five

leave in the evening and follow the road or a fire trail. They haven't much of a chance. With the cooperation of neighbors, the sheriff and police 50 per cent are caught before they get out of the county and the rest are caught within six months.

"If they 'run' they are sent back to their former institution," Morrill said.

"We have no jail on the property. If a boy gets out of hand we place him in the county jail. One of the supervisors makes a wandering check every half-hour. He walks about the grounds until he spots all the men who are supposed to be in camp. If one is missing he casually asks around and if no explanation is given we ring a bell and everyone goes to their bunks for a roll call.

"When you live with these boys you can feel it instinctively if anything is brewing."

The wards earn 50 cents a day for their work. Each day they are graded on their work, and conduct.

CYA's ultimate objective is the preparation of its wards for their return to community life.

When, in the opinion of the staff the ward has demonstrated his ability to adjust to social life in the community, recommendation is made to the board of parole.

About 90 days is spent in advance developing a plan for his placement in the community. Such placement may involve return to school or taking a job which is usually in the ward's home town.

Morrill has found that a good percentage of the wards have an expressed desire to keep out of trouble in the future. He feels that the forestry camp experience has given many the opportunity to feel their manhood and get a taste of good manly work. Under the CYA setup a ward, when released, carries no record.

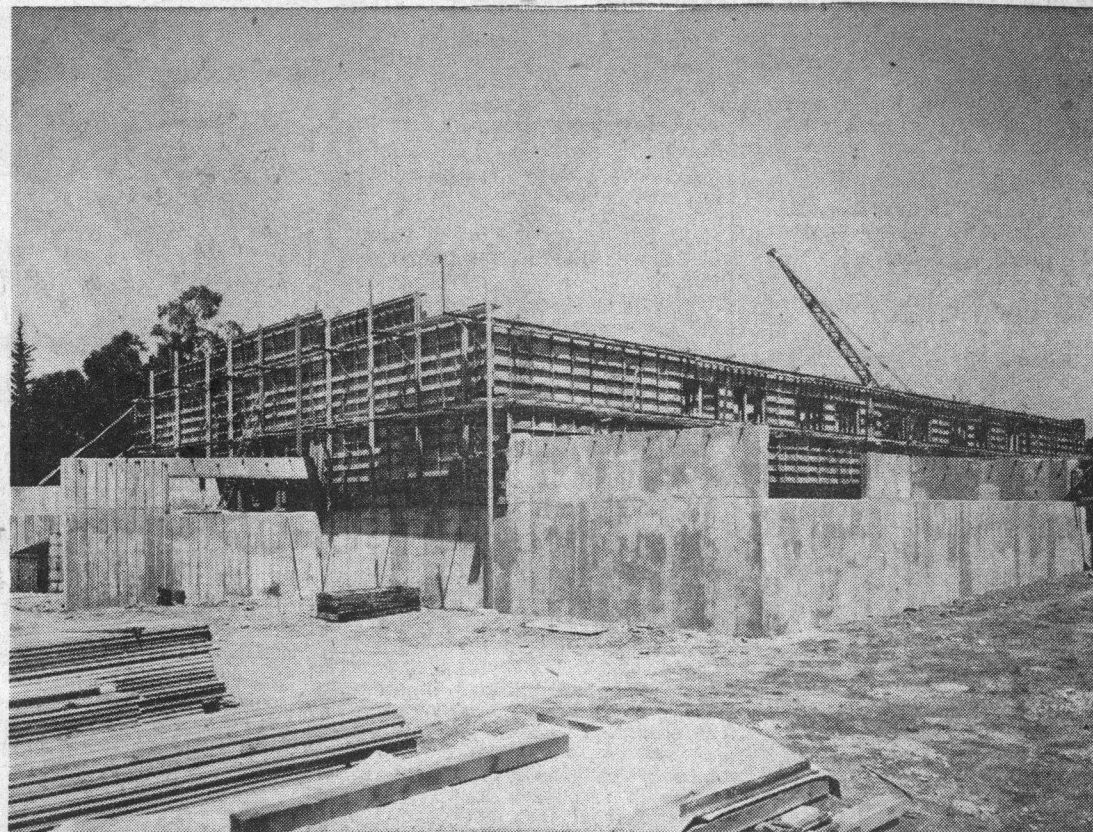
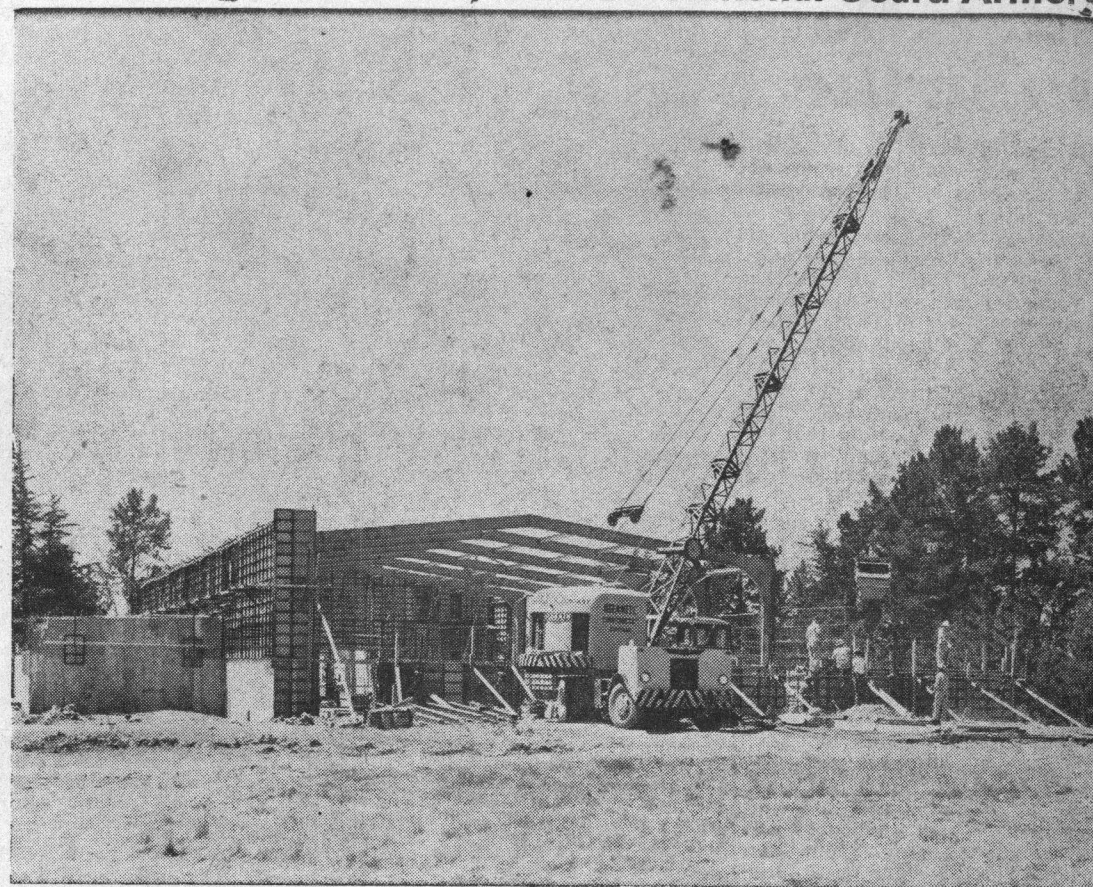
Camp Ben Lomond supervisors are: John Shoemaker, William Templeton, Alexander Houston, Cully Warren, Oliver Haxton, Merwyn Smith, Frank Hilton, Robert Shaffer, John D'Almeida and James Ford. Cooks are Louis Bell and Carl Johnson.

Morrill said that the camp has received splendid and heart warming cooperation from individuals and social service organizations in the area. Many pieces of sports equipment have been given the camp by these groups.

## Steelmen Sound Optimistic

By Sam Dawson

## Work Progresses Swiftly On New National Guard Armory

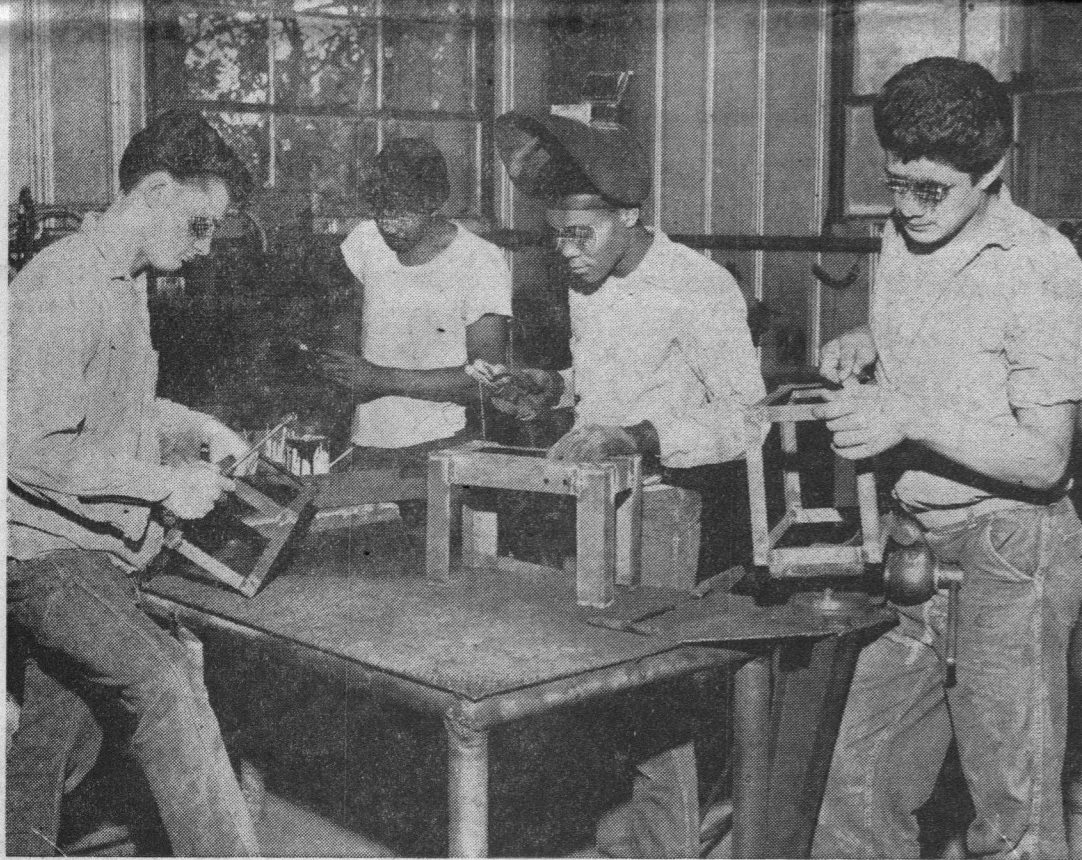


Under the direction of division of forestry experts, the CYA youths at Camp Ben Lomond are

raising thousands upon thousands of young evergreen trees from seeds for reforestation

projects. Some of the boys have grown fond of this type of work. They are paid 50 cents a day.

## Youngsters Learn Trades In Camp



Some of these boys have never worked before. Here at the CYA

camp on Empire Grade they pick up basic pointers in welding that may later help them fit in as

solid citizens when they are released.

to seven wards under his wing and the crux of his job is to establish a man-to-man relationship. He gains the confidence and trust of the boys individually. The boy learns to feel, in many cases, that for the first time here is a guy who is all for him and is ready to give him the straight dope.

"You have to have a knack for this type of work," said Morrill. "You can't be too aggressive or too easy. You have to keep a step ahead of their ways and they take some figuring out. Most are frustrated kids, mixed up some way. Some are straightened out within themselves by the time they get here and some are not," he said.

The mental level of CYA wards is slightly lower than that of the general population. Physically, they are not on par with public school population of the same age group. Symptoms of maladjustment vary from truancy to homicide.

Case histories show that most of these youths come from substandard and inadequate homes. Diagnoses reveal frustration, rejection, humiliation, and hostility. Racial and cultural conflict factors are basic to misbehavior in a large number of cases, Morrill said.

Despite that there are some 70 boys with this background centered at this fenceless and guardless camp there has been relatively little trouble since its establishment in 1943.

The temptation to escape overcomes an average of one boy a month, says Morrill. They usually

New York (AP)—Steel executives today sound optimistic—although their business is unusually slow even for July.

Steel shares are bid up on the stock exchange — although steel earnings are down from a year ago generally, and new orders aren't crowding steel mill books.

Why? Steel spokesmen cite these reasons for their confidence that fall will see a pick-up:

1. Business couldn't get much worse than it is now. Buying in June to beat the steel price boost borrowed from July business. Never before have so many steel-using factories closed in July for vacations and never have the closings been so long. Business must go up, they argue.

2. A general business pick-up seems in the cards for fall, and steel will share it. Inventories—including those of steel users—are down, and when steel users start buying again (perhaps all at once) they'll be paying higher prices for their metal.

3. Many believe that the nation's defense spending is due for an increase after the November elections. This would pep up the metal-working industries and business in general.

Guns popping in the China Sea strengthen their belief. Some now argue that the Indochina truce may turn out to be increasing Far East tension rather than allaying it. Unfriendly forces face each other from Japan to Singapore and trigger fingers sometimes get nervous.

The president's decision to hike the Swiss watch tariff is even used in this argument. The decision stressed this nation's need, in uneasy times, to strengthen the domestic watch industry because precision instruments are essential for war.

And steelmen note an increasing amount of worrying in this country about our allies' attitudes, and increasing talk of the need to be prepared to go it alone militarily, if necessary.

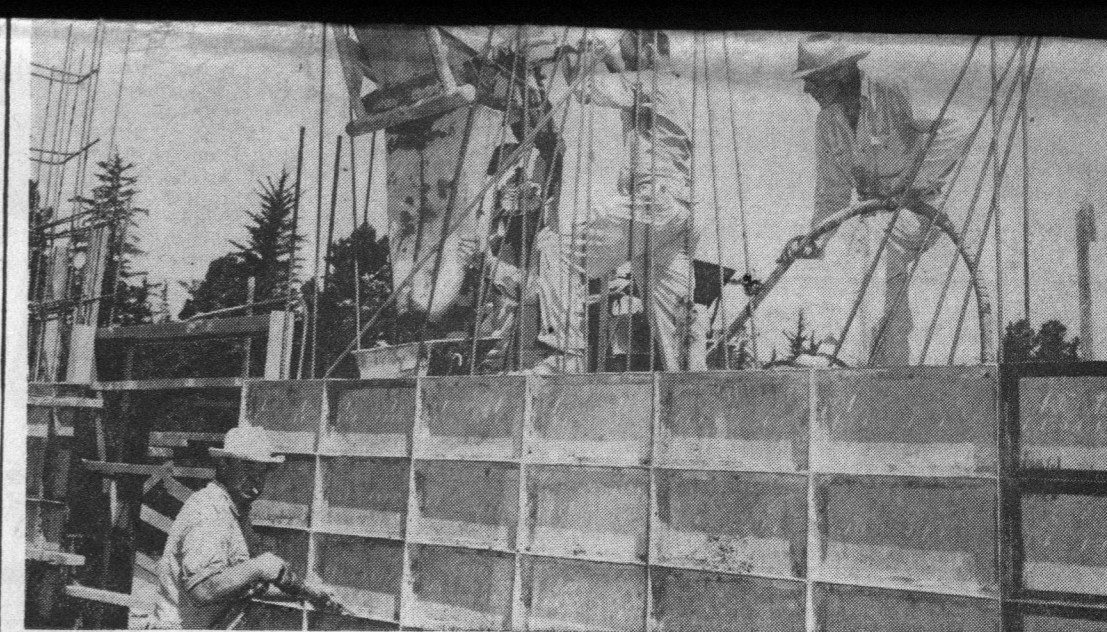
All of this leads some to believe that defense orders will be stepped up after the elections.

The Iron Age, the metalworking industry's weekly, says editorially today, in listing its reasons for believing that steel business is due for a boost: "If we are going to be tough and draw a line in Asia and Europe we will have to have more for defense than we are now spending."

Benjamin F. Fairless, chairman of U.S. steel, lists some other reasons why he expects steel business to turn the corner late next month:

The auto industry will start buying steel again when it goes into production this fall on the new models. The program for building grain storage bins will mean more buying of galvanized sheets. Even the demand for steel from the railroads may pick up soon, he hopes. And the construction industry, steel's busiest customer at present, seems assured of continued high activity for months ahead.

The current picture isn't that rosy. Steel production this week is using only two-thirds of industry capacity. Steelmen stress, however, that 15 per cent of their capacity should be considered as standby for national security, and was built with possible war needs in mind.



With work moving smoothly ahead, the new \$172,000 national guard armory, on a bluff in the southwestern section of DeLaVeaga park, is beginning to take form. The top picture is a view of the concrete work being done on the south side of the building,

while the middle photograph shows the north and west corners of the armory. In the lower picture, Harry Graves, left, behind the braces, Harry Dodge and Henry Van Lohuizen pour more concrete into the rising structure. The worker below is

unidentified. Ground was broken for the armory May 2. When finished the armory, one of the first in the state to be built from joint federal-state funds, will house Santa Cruz Company F of the 159th infantry, national guard, and one other company, as yet undesignated.

## Beach Band Will Continue Sunday Concert Series

The Santa Cruz Beach Symphonic band conducted by Joseph M. Weiss continues its regular Sunday afternoon concert today from the stage of the outdoor theater with the opening note scheduled for the hour of 2:30 o'clock.

Highlight of the two hour rendition will be the second annual performance of the "49er" majorettes, featuring a group of 30 baton twirlers who will offer several new and sparkling revues.

The complete band program follows:

March, "King Cotton," Sousa; overture, "Stradella," Von Flotow; religious theme, "Gloria" (from 12th mass), Mozart; banjo solos, (A) "Hernando's Hideout" (from the Broadway production "The Pajama Game"), Adler-Ross, Moller; (B) "The Happy Wanderer" (Clay Landram, soloist); waltz, "The Blue Danube," Strauss;

Excerpts from the operetta, "Song of Norway," Wright-Forrest; special feature, Olmstead's 49er Majorettes, "Under The Double Eagle," "The Deep Purple," "National Defile"; current popular hit tune, "The Little Shoemaker," Revil.

Intermission.

March, "The Glory of The Yankee Navy," Sousa; selection, "The Desert Song," Romberg; special feature, Olmstead's 49er Majorettes, Invercargil, Liza, Guadalcanal; banjo solos, (A) "Three Coins In The Fountain," (B) "Little Things Mean A Lot" (Clay Landram, soloist);

Grand opera, "Miserere," from

## Charles L. Buel Dies In Aptos

Charles Leander Buel, 74, died yesterday at the Casa del Vista trailer court in Aptos, where he lived for the last three years.

A native of Hickman, Nebraska, he went to Idaho in 1919, to live there until 1943, when he moved to Oakland. He worked in Oakland shipyards until after the close of World War II, when he and his wife bought a trailer and traveled extensively. They settled in Aptos in 1951.

He was a member of Rushfield lodge 70, AF&M, of Idaho, and a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America's Hickman, Nebraska, lodge.

He is survived by his widow, Leona; three daughters, Priscilla Pridmore of Idaho, Thelma Hinton of Oakland and Ruth Gross of Donner Summit; two sons, Harper S. of Wyoming and Kenneth C. of Idaho; two brothers, W. O. and Friend L., both of Nebraska; a sister, Beatrice Slote of Nebraska; twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Friends may call at White's chapel until noon tomorrow. Services and interment will be in Shoshone, Idaho.

## AUTO IS BID IN

A 1949 model automobile in the estate of Nora Carlson was bid in by James O'Connor for \$550.

Il Trovatore, Verdi; selection; popular medley, current popular hit tunes, (A) "Ballin' The Jack," (B) "Young At Heart," (C) "Wanted"; popular classics (A) "Fiddle-Fad-dle," (B) "Funiculi-Funicula"; march, "Trombones Triumphant."

## Library Offers New Book List

New books on advertising, doll making, color photography, poetry, and several novels are reviewed this week by Elizabeth Barnes for the Santa Cruz library.

"Advertising Copywriting," by Philip W. Burton. Practical material which will help any advertising man, or potential advertising man, do a better job.

"Dollmaker" by Harriette Arnou. The story of a mother from the Kentucky hills who is transplanted with her family to war-time Detroit.

"Successful Color Photography" by Andreas Feininger. Deals with scope and technical differences from black-and-white photography.

"Two Lives" by Lucy Sprague Mitchell. The author, a writer and educator, tells of her life and work and the life and work of her husband, one of the leading economists of his time.

"Unto A Good Land" by Vilhelm Moberg. The second of a trilogy begun by "The Emigrants."

"Dawning Of The Day" by Elizabeth Ogilvie. A young war widow accepts a teaching position on an isolated island off the coast of Maine and becomes involved in the feuds of the islanders.

"Paris Original" by Alexandra Orme. A novel with a charming heroine, a most attractive man, and a seemingly immovable obstacle.

"Spider King" by Lawrence Schoonover. Louis XI, dauphin and king is the central character of this novel.

"Collected Poems" by Dylan Thomas.

## Where Boys Learn How To Be Men And Take Men's Responsibilities



This is Camp Ben Lomond where 70 wards of the California Youth Authority spend their last phase of training before return-

ing to community life for a fresh start. Here youths, mostly city boys, learn what real manly work is. They also develop a close as-

sociation with the camp supervisors who know how to talk to them man-to-man. The youths also learn that there is a definite

place for them in society, and what they have to do in order to have a chance to find and earn that place.