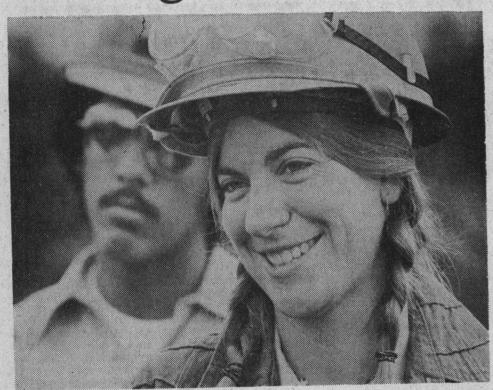
Young Workers Labor To Save Salamander Habitat



Sentinel

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1977 Santa Cruz Sentinel-13

Armando Garcia III, left, and Chris Effken take a breather from a hard day's work on the California Conservation Corps project to protect the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. The young workers are among 50 who are restoring the natural habitat of the shy and reclusive endangered species.

Photos By Bill Lovejoy



Penny U. To Begin Sessions

The Penny University will begin its fifth year of sessions at the Cafe Pergolesi, Monday, Oct. 3.

The fall session will offer the following schedule:

Monday: Age and Youth (continuing), by Mary Holmes and Page Smith.

Tuesday: Alternative education in Santa Cruz, by Ted Whitenecj,

Wednesday: The Ecology of

By DALE POLLOCK Sentinel Staff Writer

What do 50 formerly-unemployed youths and a rare endangered species of lizard have in common?

For the answer to that question, it's necessary to journey to La Selva Beach's Ellicott Pond, where 50 members of the California Conservation Corps are laboring to save the habitat of the endangered Santa Cruz ting down eucalyptus trees and long-toed salamander.

The Santa Cruz salamander, for those whose memories have dimmed, was the subject of special federal, state and county legislation that set aside both Ellicott Pond and Valencia Lagoon in Rio Del Mar as protected areas. The idea is to safeguard the route taken by the diminutive beasts as they head for their breeding ponds during warm, rainy nights in fall and winter.

Several Cabrillo College students were engaged in a similar effort earlier this year, but the State Department of Fish and Game had grandiose plans for went beyond the students' capabilities.

So the CCC, the \$10-million brainchild of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., was tabbed for the task, as part of its mission to

and the hidden salamanders were visted Tuesday by several state officials, including State Senator Jerry Smith (D-Santa Clara County), who authored the CCC legislation, and wanted to see the practical results of his lawmaking.

After surveying two of the three 10-person crews hard at work digging ditches, building Plan Committee, the group in fences, controling erosion, charge of designing a new city mulching and re-seeding, Smith general plan, will continue its admitted, "I'm very im-deliberations on three propressed. Fish and Game just posals for Santa Cruzes of the didn't have the personnel to do future at a meeting Thursday at this, and this project in- 7:30 p.m. at the city parks and corporates everything I had in recreation office, 346 Church mind when I wrote the bill. It St. combines physical work, con- The committee will recomof the work ethic. You have to of the year.

The 18 women and 32 men, all between the ages of 18 and 20, would certainly agree with Smith. "It's good for the soul," said 18-year-old CCC worker Chris Effken. "Most of the crew has realized it needs to be done, and it's nice to put an the end of 1978, spread across Assembly districts reprearea back to the way it's supelight camps. Currently there sented, with 40 percent of our posed to be."

The corps members are cutpampas grass that tend to re-tard the natural chapparal that surrounds the flat (and dry)

LeRoy Chatfield, CCC director, was also in attendance. He noted, "This is one of the more significant projects we're involved in because it deals with protection of an endangered species. That gives it a special

The other special thing, according to Smith, Chatfield and other observers, is the "esprit de corps" exhibited by the CCC workers. "This is giving young people a good feeling and sense Game had grandiose plans for about work," enthused Smith. restoring the two areas that "It will be infectious when they go back home, too."

The three crews, under the direction of Ernie Thompson and project coordinator Eduardo Cuellar, are based at an unused portion of Agnew's protect, develop and enhance State Hospital in Santa Clara. California's natural resources. The first crews "spiked out," After being on the job for a or camped, on the nearby few weeks, the CCC workers beach, but currently, the CCC crews are being trucked in and

Agnew's serves as the base

SC General Plan **Panel To Meet**

The Santa Cruz City General

structive to and in support of mend one of its three plans to the environment, with teaching the city council before the first

area, with the hopes that the other young people. workers will be able to help

goal is to have 1500 young peo- tional or financial requireple enrolled in the program by ments. We have 67 of the 80 are four major bases, located throughout the state.

The salamander crews will have three more weeks of backbreaking labor before moving on to another assignment, but Cuellar promised they would return to finish chores that can't be completed now.

All the state officials encouraged young people to apply for the program by picking up forms at Employment Development Department and Department of Motor Vehicle Offices. The workers are paid \$350 a month to start, with \$90 deducted for room and board. The program is open to any California youth between the ages of 18-20 who has a willingness to

solve both urban and rural process because we have so trade their jobs of paving the problems.

Chatfield reported that the Chatfield. "There are no educaworkers being women, and over 30 percent minorities." Chatfield hopes to get between \$13 and \$14 million from the Legislature for next year's program. But as CCC worker Wendell

break a sweat doing this kind of camp for the Santa Cruz, Santa work outdoors and live in a Clemmons noted, "We still work." clara and San Mateo counties barracks-type situation with haven't seen a salamander yet." Maybe not, but few of the "We use a random selection CCC workers seemed willing to salamander.

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