



CLASSES COMBINE OUTINGS, STUDY, WORK AT PRESERVE—Studies of bird and plant life in Kleinstueck preserve are being combined with work sessions to improve the preserve, with Western Michigan College, State high school, and training school students taking part in the co-ordinated projects. Seventh grade students take time out for lunch, in photo at the upper left. Marian Pletcher, Muskegon; Violet Gilbert, St. Joseph, and John Van Cott, Pelham, N. Y., upper right, replace state conservation department signs in the preserve. Below, four State high schoolers set a rustic bridge in place. Norman Noody and Paul Deal are in the foreground, Jeanne Scamehorn and Peggy Rood at the rear.—Gazette photos.

STUDENT GROUPS

Improve Kleinstueck Preserve

Western Michigan College Nature Study classes and State high biology classes are uniting their efforts in a common purpose to improve the area included in the Kleinstueck preserve.

To this end they are building bridges, constructing dams, cutting away brush, and otherwise laboring to make this valuable tract of the greatest possible service to students and nature lovers of Kalamazoo.

Almost every day students work there under the supervision of their instructors, at the same time acquiring valuable information. College students under the direction of Miss LaVerne Argabright have built a bridge across the stream so that water nesting birds may be closely observed. Many such birds not seen in the area in recent years are present this spring.

Building Dam

State high biology students have been building a dam to retain the water level, working with Ray Duer. They also will assist in clearing the paths of brush to make the observation points more accessible.

Through soil control an effort also is being made to check erosion. A project to control poison ivy and nettle soon will be started.

Co-ordinated with all this is the teaching of college students in the educational value of day camping and field excursions. For instance, recently the seventh grade boys and girls in the campus training school, with their instructors, Miss Grace Gish and Miss A. Verne Fuller and their student teachers, held a day-camp at the preserve. They studied plants and birds, and they cooked their lunch in the open, under the supervision of Miss Rachel Acree of the home economics department.

Given to State Board

This fifty-acre plot, formerly a peat bed, was given to the state

board of education in 1922 by the late Mrs. Caroline Kleinstueck in memory of her husband Carl G. Kleinstueck. It extends from Cambridge road on the west to Stearns avenue on the east, with the entrance from Stearns avenue. The grant was made for the purpose of affording an ideal place for the furtherance of nature study, and the bird and plant life of the area.

The present stand of pine is the result of planting 10,000 pine trees in 1927, when faculty and students of Western Michigan College joined in the project. There is a wide diversity of plant life to be found there. The late Miss Clara Sterling of the WMC library staff, in 1932 listed a total of 296 species. This year nature study students of the college have identified 75 species of birds, including such unusual birds for this area as the ruffed

Grouse. The preserve has sufficient bird food and ground cover to be approved by the state conservation department as a wild life sanctuary. College students have been replacing the conservation department signs.