

# Our Summer Fellowships

## Afforded Fun With

*Danforth winners benefit from St. Louis visit and life at Miniwanca, says Victoria McKibben*

**L**AST spring three Iowa State women, two freshmen and a junior in the Home Economics Division, received news that they were holders of 1943 Danforth Summer Fellowships. This meant two weeks' stay at Camp Miniwanca in Michigan and, for the upper-classman, an added fortnight in St. Louis as a guest of the Ralston Purina Company.

The St. Louis visit is one continuous conference with leaders in home economics and related professions who show would-be contemporaries the opportunities in their fields; Miniwanca is a leadership camp. Together they are planned to help students make vocational decisions, enlarge their horizons and broaden their contacts in preparation for after school years. This vacation opportunity is provided jointly by the American Youth Foundation and the Purina Mills.

The thirty-six Danforth representatives in St. Louis came from colleges and universities all over the country, and I, like the others, was first known by the state I represented.

At the Purina Experimental Farm, just outside St. Louis, we spent the first few fellowship days gaining a keen insight into management methods and nutritional studies with farm livestock and fur-bearing animals. Even the Missouri mule teams that worked for their board and keep were fed on an experimental basis.

Back in the city a whirl of interviews, lectures, demonstrations and tours provided activity for us. At the Ralston food research laboratories we were shown current experimental work in fields of human and animal nutrition. The latest of the ever-increasing information on vitamins was passed on to us and a demonstration on methods of vitamin assay followed.

We gained information from the personal experiences of several business executives who talked to us



*Nelva Jean and Patricia enter the Danforth Chapel, a natural stone church reserved for the individual worship of campers*

# Knowledge



*The fellowship of Camp Miniwanca is reflected as Nelva Jean Nowers, Patricia Stow and Victoria McKibben pause to chat with Mr. William Danforth*

about the advertising, salesmanship and personnel direction principles which they have established.

Classroom sessions were only a part of our schedule and en masse we visited Radio Station KMOX and a large department store, a place of high interest to textiles and clothing majors. Further trips were made to Barnes Hospital, an advertising agency and a meat packing plant.

Of course, our program included such extra-curriculars as a National League baseball game, a night at the Municipal Opera, ravioli at Garavelli's Italian Restaurant and sight-seeing at the art museum, zoo and Jefferson Memorial.

The camp was still in store for us. There we joined the freshmen sent from our schools and lost our group identity among 500 other young women studying and playing on the sand dunes of Miniwanca. There we met Mr. Danforth, president of the American Youth Foundation, and his four fold plan of living in which the physical, mental, social and religious sides of life are molded into the balanced personalities of leaders. Our camp life revolved around all four of these.

Our classroom instructors were nationally and internationally known educators in college and religious emphasis work. Among them were a few who were employed the year around to carry on the activities of the American Youth Foundation.

The Danforth scholars studied the art of creative living, Christian ethics and attitudes, the Bible and the idea of God and four-fold living. Freshmen fellowship winners had a hand-craft hour after lunch.

An important phase in the leadership guidance program at Camp Miniwanca was the psychological examination given to every camper. By the results of these tests, personal counselors helped students rate themselves on the scale of four-

fold living and make plans for personality improvements to follow throughout the year.

Classes met in log and natural stone cabins built from funds donated by delegations from various states. We lived in tents grouped according to the six tribes into which the camp was divided, and ate in the central lodge in two shifts.

When 6:30 a.m. reveille sounded at camp, a dip in either Lake Michigan or Stony Lake was in order and every camper awoke with a start for her morning's studies. Afternoons were for swimming, sailing, tennis and a variety of other camp games. Everyone participated and eventually entered such major events as the track or swimming meets.

A short period was spent in quiet meditation every morning at camp and each evening we sat together on Vesper Dune overlooking the lake, watched the sun set and listened to inspiring messages.

Nights at Miniwanca were for fun, and brought us a barn dance, weiner roast on the beach, a midnight swim, a flashlight relay and several stunt nights when we gave performances for our fellow campers.

*Patricia and Nelva Jean enjoy the physical phase of the camp's four-fold plan of living as they relax on the sand dunes of Miniwanca after a morning dip in Lake Michigan*

