

A Little History Of Lifers' Club

Lifers gain honor

The Oregon State Penitentiary's Lifers Unlimited Club has been picked as one of 73 of the outstanding volunteer groups in the nation by the National Center for Voluntary Action in Washington, D.C.

A certificate indicating their outstanding work will be presented to the Lifers at their Dec. 26 meeting.

The Lifers were selected from among hundreds of volunteers and volunteer projects nominated for the annual competition from throughout the country. The finalist will receive the National Volunteer Award in Washington in February.

It's not hard to see why the Lifers were picked.

Prison Group Wins Honors for Helping

(Story also on page 1.)

"Lifers Unlimited Club at Oregon State Penitentiary has been selected by the National Center for Voluntary Action as one of the outstanding clubs in the nation.

The selection was based on Lifers Unlimited activities in the community, which include building cabins at Camp Kilowan, a Girl Scout camp, on repairing toys for needy children at Christmas and maintaining and installing the Capitol Mall Nativity Scene. Other projects include: Helping construct a new addition to Haven School for the Mentally Retarded; blood donations and

contributing to numerous financial drives for those in need; considerable maintenance work at Shangri-La School for Exceptional Children; building a fenced-in recreation area at the Marion County Juvenile Home; remodeling of the Leslie Junior High School gymnasium, building cabinets and furniture at the YWCA Day Care Center; preparing and distributing safety stickers for bike riders in the Salem area, providing scholarships to youth, and numerous other projects that range from painting houses for elderly to building an indoor bathroom for a woman who never had in-door plumbing.

The Lifers were chosen because of their many charitable activities in the community, including building cabins at Camp Kilowan, the Camp Fire Girls camp.

They also assist with the following projects:

- Repair toys which are distributed to needy children in the Salem area at Christmas.
- Erect the nativity scene in the Capitol Mall.
- Prepare and distribute safety stickers for bike riders in the Salem area.
- Donate financially to the needy, as well as give scholarships to such as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Boys Club and Camp Fire Girls.
- Participate in the construction of a new school addition for Haven School for Exceptional Children.
- Maintain and repair the Shangri-la School for Exceptional children.
- Provide blood during such drives for those in need.

The Lifers also have helped erect a chain link fence for the recreation area outside the Marion County Juvenile Home, and have assisted in the remodeling of the gymnasium at Leslie Junior High School.

In addition, the Lifers have built cabinets and other furniture for a day care center at the YMCA.

Lifers Honored

The many groups and individuals who have been helped by the Lifers Unlimited Club of the Oregon State Penitentiary share in the applause at the announcement that the National Center for Voluntary Action has singled out the prison inmate group for special recognition.

It would be hard to find any other civic group in the community with as fine a record of accomplishment. The improvements at Girl Scout Camp Kilowan and the completion of the recreation fence at Marion County Juvenile Home are among recent Lifers Club projects which come to mind.

The organization not only helps serve the community but is a positive force in encouraging public understanding about the penology system — a system which, as Atty. Gen. Lee Johnson pointed out this past week, needs far more public understanding and concern.

Lifers Club Ranks High

The National Center for Voluntary Action in Washington D.C. has selected Lifers Unlimited Club at Oregon State Penitentiary as one of the "outstanding volunteer" organizations in the nation.

The club of some 100 life-term convicts at the prison was among 73 volunteer groups in the nation to win the awards out of hundreds that were nominated.