

NYA gives aid to 709 Nebraska students

Needy youth have means for education

Husker collegians aided by education program have high scholarship

By Paul Svoboda.

The federal government in 1935 initiated by an act of congress a work-aid program designed to help needy high school, college and university students in the furtherance of their academic endeavors. This program was the National Youth Administration or NYA as it is commonly known.

NYA has affected the lives of thousands of students over the breadth of the nation. Young men and women who would have had to discontinue high school or college work due to an insufficiency of funds are now able to earn an almost subsistence amount of money from which they are able to provide themselves with board and lodging. The amount paid, ranging from ten to twenty dollars, added to the money the student is able to acquire permits him a decent if not luxurious college life.

University gets most.

This year Nebraska will receive an allotment of \$176,145 from National Youth Administration for aid to its students. Of the amount granted the Cornhusker state, \$76,275 or 43 percent goes to the university. Creighton is to receive \$15,255, Omaha U. \$12,825, Wayne Teachers \$10,250, and Kearney Teachers \$10,125. Other appropriations range from \$240 for the Presbyterian Theological seminary up to \$7,290 for Hastings.

Of the schools in the Big Six only Oklahoma U. was granted a larger sum for NYA work than Nebraska.

Undergraduate students are allowed to earn a minimum of \$10 a month and a maximum of \$20. Earnings of graduate students, however, range from \$20 to \$30 per month. The students are paid on the hour basis. Colleges and universities throuout the nation are permitted to give this federal aid to 10 percent of their resident undergraduate and graduate students. Seven hundred and nine Nebraska students partially supported themselves during the first semester of this year by laboring in university research programs.

40 hours per month.

In return for their services, the students received a total of \$8,510 per month working an average of 40 hours each. Of equal value was the training each student received in some field of his interest at the same time he worked. Music students, for example, received assignments as studio accompanists. Agriculture students worked in greenhouses and about farm campus buildings while embryo chemists worked with bottles and retorts in the laboratories.

Many of the 462 study projects they assisted could not have been undertaken without their help. The entire research program of the state will be aided by continuation of projects employing about the same number of youths until June, according to E. J. Boschult, assistant purchasing agent, in charge of the NYA program.

Unusual occupations of some students under NYA have included writing an economic history of the United States, determination of hemoglobin in blood; operating eye-reading cameras in reading laboratories, helping specialists in cancer research, and tutoring children needing special help.

From plants to bones.

Twenty-five boys, employed by the NYA, are doing everything from cleaning exhibits to fixing bones as part of the work being carried on in Morrill under the general direction of C. Bertrand Schultz, assistant director of the museum.

According to Frank Bell, preparator of the museum, the boys do those jobs for which they are best suited. In direct charge of the students' work is Henry P. Reider, chief preparator, who assigns those youths with training in anatomy to the task of fitting parts of bones together and to cleaning specimens. Others, without this skill, are put to work arranging collections and putting exhibits in systematic order in storage as well as painting numbers on each bone and checking labels.

The bulk of the students' work

Good Students Get NYA Jobs at U. N.



Ida Schwieger, Grand Island, and Carson Doering, Davenport, upper left, are helping themselves through the University of Nebraska by working on alfalfa pollenation studies in the College of Agriculture. Jobs are provided needy students with good grades by the National Youth Ad-

ministration. Dorothy Faulker, Fairfield, at upper right, reads to blind Margaret Hale of Salt Lake City, who cannot obtain the books she needs in Braille. Ormond Schroeder of Lincoln, takes care of chemicals and equipment in University labor-

atories, lower left. Fossil bison and other bones, lower right, are putting Deon Axthelm of Hallam and Claire Dyas of Atlanta through school, for by chiseling them out, cleaning and shellacking the bones in Museum field collections, the boys earn money while assisting with valuable research work.

is never put on display. In fact, the most common fate of the cleaned bones is a label and a place on a storage shelf.

Better herbarium.

Until government paid youths exactly solved the problem, lack of funds severely limited and continues to hamper the work carried on by the university herbarium in Bessey. When the NYA students began their work in the herbarium, plants to be mounted were piled up from years back,



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DR. T. J. THOMPSON

... he selects them.

pressed only in newspaper folders. Now the plants are prepared by students. The plant is first poisoned and then given a label. These labels contain the name of the plants, when and where it was collected, and who it was that collected and classified it.

Dr. Walter Klener, assistant curator of the herbarium in charge of technical work, declared that some of the 13 students employed by the NYA do exceedingly well in this type of work and that there is no chance that the staff of the herbarium will ever run out of work, for government botanists continue to send types of plants to be labeled and mounted.

Nebraska young men and women still appreciate the chance to work for their college education for with partially supporting

themselves in university research programs they maintain a higher scholarship average than their classmates.

During the year 1938-39 all NYA students maintained a grade average of 81.35 compared with the all student average of 77.43. The probable reason for their commendable record is that the youths selected for government aid are chosen on the basis of scholarship and need. "To gain favorable consideration, high school graduates should have an average scholastic record ranking them in the upper half of their graduate class. College matriculates must present averages well above the college record," stated T. J. Thompson, dean of student affairs.

NYA administrators.

At Nebraska Thompson and Mr. E. J. Boschult, assistant purchasing agent for the university, are in charge of the National Youth Administration.

Thompson, whose job it is to select from the some 2,000 applicants those needing government aid the most, chooses the freshman students on the basis of their high school ranking and other tests such as psychological and English examinations. It is his policy to choose those who are in the upper one-half of their class. Also taken into account is the individual need of the applicant.

Such information is acquired by communicating with the ministers, bankers, and other individual of the community in which the prospective student resides. If the student has attended some college other than the university, or if the applicant never attended college and was graduated from a high school outside of Nebraska a transcript of the record from such school must be sent to the registrar before an application will be considered. NYA administrators are hesitant to allow anyone to come to the university unless they have at least an equal amount of expense money as that covered by the federal government.

No preference.

According to Mr. Thompson, students already enrolled are given no preference over beginning students. The upperclassmen must meet the same requirements as the freshmen. However a median grade of the various colleges is established and youths helped

by NYA are required to equal if not surpass that median.

Allotment to the individual students depends on the student's need and his scholarship while in the university. If a youth maintains a high academic average and his need is evident he is allowed to make more money than the average.

Personnel changes are made every year due to the fact that some of the students do not meet the scholastic requirements and



MR. E. J. BOSCHULT

... he finds the jobs.

because of financial improvement of the students.

They make canvass.

The Deans office in determining the allotments to be made, makes a canvass each year of the room and board costs and then establishes maximum living cost which the student must not exceed if he or she is to remain on the NYA staff. This year the maximum amount of money that can be spent per calendar month for board and all housing expenses cannot exceed \$27. Membership in any campus organization which costs more than one dollar a month is prohibited since such expenses would approximate on the average one-tenth of the students monthly income.

Living quarters for both men

(See STUDENTS, page 4)

Government takes notice of its youth

Jobs for young people help thousands to finish education since 1935

In June, 1935, Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "I have determined that we shall do something for the nation's unemployed youth." At that time 2.5 million people between the ages of 16 and 24 were without work. The number did not include CCC boys or others in governmental work.

NYA has its inception.

On June 26 of the same year the National Youth Administration was begun as a division of WPA. With Aubrey Williams, a deputy WPA administrator, at its head, and Executive Director Richard R. Brown assisting, and like the proverbial snowball, the new project got underway.

It faced setbacks in the way of sliced funds and faced increasing dissatisfaction from its objectors. The latter feared the clutch of politics and threats to scholastic freedom.

Has a two-fold purpose.

NYA was designed for a two-fold purpose: to provide spare time academic work to students and part-time public work to the unemployed among youth.

"Across the U. S.," Time said in August, 1938, "youth won wages and self-confidence as they catalogued, filed, checked records, cleared parks and playgrounds, plowed, harrowed, reaped, graded, dumped, filled, drained, made heavy duty roads and blue-shale tennis courts, built dairy barns and country schools, feed houses and flop houses, stitched, cooked, nursed, painted, studied, bought their board and keep, and sent a little something home."

Now a full-fledged division.

Today NYA has expanded from a mewling infant to a full-fledged government division. Besides help to students it includes work projects, educational camps for young women, vocational guidance and job placements, and apprentice training.

During the first three years aid went to less than half of those who asked for it. In 1937 funds were cut deeply. Objectors wanted to know why such people as Glenn Cunningham, William Green, Owen D. Young, and the late Amelia Earhart should be on the advisory board.

Educators judge applicants.

College and high school heads decide who is worthy of NYA help plus what type of work will be performed. Students serve as library assistants, secretaries, making bibliographies. Others serve in community projects such as music, art, drama, and museum exhibits.

Work project wages are about one-third of WPA wages. No one can get more than \$25. The work is in community and recreation services, public service training, construction and renovation of buildings, and land development. Research, clerical work, and sewing are included.

Girls' educational camps are organized in unoccupied hotels, clubs, boarding schools, and camps. Started as summer camps many have been put on a yearly work-project basis. They include 2 to 3 hours a day for studies.

Set up placement bureaus.

Vocational guidance and job placement bureaus are set up in cities. Applicants register with the U. S. employment service and a check-up is kept on the job situation.

Apprentice training was organized as a federal committee under the NRA but has been moved to the department of labor. The committee coordinates existing public and private apprentice-training agencies and tries to promote new organizations for such training.