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8/138

# German-American Youth Camp In New Jersey Bars Swastikas

## Parents Visit Resort of D. A. B., Which Denies Link With Nazis and Plans Monument on Fed- eral Rock, Used by Washington as Signal Post

By a Staff Correspondent

RIVERDALE, N. J., July 31.—Several hundred German-Americans gathered here today for the first "Parents' Day" of the Deutsch-amerikanische Berufsgemeinschaft (German-American Vocational League) Recreational Resort, situated on a 400-foot hill used by George Washington as a signal station during the American Revolution.

The league, generally known as the D. A. B., purchased 180 acres of woodland on the top and side of the hill last January, and since then its members have been busy cutting trails, clearing away underbrush and laying out sites for week-end cottages and Jugendlager, or young people's camps.

For the last three weeks 150 boys and girls, most of them from New York, have been living at the resort, and they will stay for three weeks more. The regulation uniform for girls is a white blouse with dark blue skirt and neckerchief. The boys wear brown shirts and dark shorts. On the left sleeve of the boys' shirts is the insignia of the Jugendlager, a zigzag runic sign resembling a bolt of lightning.

Though the uniforms closely resemble those of the Hitlerjugend in Germany, officials of the D. A. B. were quick to deny that the resort was in any way a Nazi camp, and all affirmed that the resort had no political purpose, but was for recreation alone.

Jupp Lieblein, twenty-one-year-old director of the Jugendlager, flatly contradicted a report that he had been recognized by Berlin as the leader of the Nazi youth movement in the United States, and said that to the best of his knowledge the German government was not in the least interested in establishing German youth movements in the United States.

Herman Stecher, counselor in charge of the younger boys, from ten to fourteen years of age, said that there was absolutely no military drill of any kind at the camp, as there is at the camps of the German-American Bund. "I used to belong to that other organization—the Bund," he said, "but I came over to this one. A lot of our people have come over from the Bund. It's not our purpose to teach propaganda. Our business is to teach something of both sides. The children should learn about this country but at the same time they should not forget the country where they or their parents were born."

Mr. Stecher said that instruction was given in both English and German. Most of the parents visiting the camp today confined themselves to German in speaking among themselves and with the children, but it was observed that the children spoke English and German with equal fluency.

There were no swastikas at the resort, as there are at the camps of the Bund. The only flags flying were that of the United States and that of the league, which bears the zigzag runic in white on a dark blue field.

Hermann Grattfelder, who is in charge of the technical development of the property, said that the runic symbol had been used by youth organizations in Germany for fifty years, and had been used by the league for its youth groups for the last ten years, so it could hardly be called a Nazi symbol, even though it is still in use in Germany. Nevertheless, he said, the D. A. B. plans to drop the symbol and to have no insignia at all in the future, because Americans who are unfamiliar with its history are apt to mistake it for a Nazi device.

"Our members were born in Germany," he said, "and we are proud to be Germans. But most of our members are American citizens and they are all good Americans. The D. A. B. has been organized since 1902 and has been incorporated since 1928—long before any transformation in Germany."

While the children's camps, one for girls, one for younger boys and one for older boys, dominate the resort at present, it is expected that in time several hundred small week-end cottages will be constructed in the woods. Thirteen of these have been built already, and perhaps another half dozen will be completed before the

end of the season. Each league member who wants a cottage pays for the building outright and pays a small annual land rental to the league.

The cottages are of modified Bavarian or Tyrolean style. "They resemble the week-end houses we have back home," Mr. Grattfelder said. "There every one goes out of the city for the week end. But we are using the materials we have here, and we are combining the German and the American tastes."

No cottages will be built in the immediate vicinity of Federal Rock, Washington's signal post, at the crest of the hill. "We want to preserve Federal Rock and put a monument up there—a monument to commemorate the war of independence," Mr. Grattfelder said.

A legend of the vicinity is that two soldiers who were shot as ring-leaders of a rebellion against the American Army in 1781 are buried on the property, but neither Mr. Grattfelder nor any one else has been able to find any trace of their graves.

Today the parents visited with their children, ate picnic lunch either in the main dining hall, an open-sided frame pavilion, or under the trees; went for walks through the woods, or went swimming in a pond on the hillside. The only staged ceremony of the day was a circus, in which the girls danced in Tyrolean costumes and the boys appeared as clowns and painted savages, naked except for breechcloths and garlands of leaves.

### Kuhn Is Unable to Appear

Special to the Herald Tribune

ANDOVER, N. J., July 31.—Visitors to Camp Nordland, operated here by the German-American Bund, were disappointed today when Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the organization, was unable to address the gathering. In his stead, Dr. Francis Just, president of the Newark, N. J., German-American Society, spoke in German and English. He told the group that there was no truth in rumors that Camp Siegfried on Long Island had been closed or was to be closed.