

Excerpts from The Firpanian – a school magazine written by the boys attending Careby Camp – and there's much more than this ....

### **The important role of the Village Hall during the war.**

We are indebted to Brian Hall, now living in Northborough, who has related his school's involvement in the war effort at Careby. As a result of negotiations between Firth Park Grammar School in Sheffield and the Kesteven War Agricultural Committee, he and many other boys from the school came to Careby Farm Camp for at least three summers to assist the farmers during harvest.

As Firth Park School was located north of Sheffield in the catchment area for boys living on council estates, both the opportunity to go to the school and come to Careby were opportunities not to be missed. Sadly the Grammar School was burnt down during the miners' strike and demolished in 2003 but Brian says regular old boys' reunions have been held since 1996.

It is because of Brian and his friends continuing interest that we are very fortunate to be able to read the vivid accounts of these times - reproduced below from the Firpanian - the school magazine of Firth Park Grammar school, and written by fifteen or sixteen year old Grammar School boys who attended Careby Farm Camp at the Village Hall.

#### **For Farm Campers Only- 1943.**

**by Deric King** - (a pupil who attended Camp the previous year.)

First, more of a warning than a hint.

1. A farm camp is not a holiday camp.
2. Farming is sheer unadulterated HARD WORK. As the school is only able to run one camp this year, it is imperative that everybody stays the full time. We cannot afford to have anybody going home after a few days, because they "don't like it."

So:

3. If you MUST go to the cinema twice a week DON'T go to Careby.
4. If you MUST have fish and chips for supper every night – DON'T go to Careby and above all
5. If you can't stand up to eight hours solid work a day, then for your own sake, have your holiday at HOME.

BUT:

If you do want to do one of the most important jobs of the war, if you want a complete change of life for a month in the heart of the country, THEN, if you are allowed, go, by all means.

Now here are some practical suggestions and advice for this year's new recruits.

We travel to Little Bytham station and that is half a mile from Careby. You have to walk that half mile and carry your month's luggage, which, to say the least, is pretty considerable. Therefore, sort your luggage carefully and cut out all unnecessary articles. On the other hand, be sure to take plenty of the essential ones, especially socks, underwear and towels etc. Gum boots or Wellingtons may seem rather cumbersome but they are a great asset in wet weather. Take a pair if you have one. As to other clothing, you will know your individual needs. So much for contents, now for how to carry them. In my opinion, a case or cases ( as the case may be!) are the best, for in them, clothes are most easily kept straight, and this is important when you are staying for a month. When the luggage is packed, see that it is firmly secured of course and also well labelled; also take with you labels for the return journey.

See to it, that your bicycle is in good order before you leave. It will be one of the most useful things you will take. Of course, do not forget a repair outfit and spanners etc., in case they are needed.

Last year we had no pillows and most people made use of a rolled up blanket; in that case it will be an advantage to take a pillowcase to keep the blanket in and to prevent it from becoming "unrolled up." It is much more pleasant to sleep in a sheet than between blankets, so put that down on your list. One will be enough, as it can be doubled or, if you wish to take the trouble, the loose sides can be sewn together so making a "bag" to sleep in.

You will find a watch very useful indeed (last year, one party on the first day worked half an hour too long because they did not know the time – mind you, this only happened on the first day.)

See that all cutlery and crockery is well marked and easily recognisable; it is very useful in that respect to have something which is stamped.

It is very unlikely that, for the entire month, you will have one drop of hot water to wash in. Because of that, take with you soap of good lathering quality (and even then it will be difficult to get a really good wash.) The best place to keep soap is either in a proper case or failing that a little tin, and then it is kept from harming any clothes.

If the weather is like last year's you will get very sunburnt so I should try to obtain some sunburn lotion or cream to take with you.

Include in your luggage some brown paper and string in case you need to send a parcel home, and if you intend sending home any fruit, such as there may be, you will need a good stout box. Besides this, a tin will be needed for sandwiches; last year I found one to be just suitable, which measured 6"x5"x3" and one at least of that size should be brought. Last year, we managed to obtain some bottles of mineral water, but the supply was uncertain and so I should take an empty bottle in which to carry water.