

Saving a One-Room School

For more than 20 years, a one-room school stood empty and dilapidated just a mile and a half down the road from YMCA Camp Horseshoe in West Virginia. Now the 100-year-old building has been moved into the camp and restored, and serves as a classroom again.

Camp Horseshoe is in the Monongahela National Forest in the mountains east of Clarksburg. It is operated by the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA in Point Pleasant, a small city on the Ohio River, 120 air miles west of the camp.

In 1985, the Y purchased Pleasant Vale School for \$1 from the Tucker County School Board. For nine months, 38 young people enrolled in a job training program moved the school, board by board, to a new location inside the camp. The State of West Virginia, using federal Job Training Partnership Act funds, paid the enrollees' and director's salaries. Area residents, including some school alumni, donated money for building supplies. The camp also contributed some funds.

David King, Y executive director, said campers coming to Horseshoe will learn about life in a one-room school house and that an important piece of local history is preserved. In addition, JTPA youth have a permanent classroom. Before the school reopened, they were shuffled from one location to another.

A few improvements were added to the school—a furnace, electrical wiring, and insulation. All of this was carefully hidden, however, and the school looks as it probably did at the turn of the century.

Discovery YMCA is the official magazine of the YMCA of the USA, 101 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill.