

## HISTORY OF CAMP FITCH

Camp Fitch had its beginning when the "Y" Boys Secretary, I. H. Bass, took a group of about 23 boys to Twin Lakes near Kent Ohio for a two weeks camping trip in the summer of 1912. At that time it was just the "Y" Camp. Four years later 1916, the first organized camp came into existence, and each year since the camp has operated.

The first camp was located on the Big Beaver River, 12 miles from East Liverpool, Ohio. It was called Camp Ot - Yo - Kwa (meaning in Indian) Each for all and all for each. E. N. Hale then boys secretary was in charge. In 1918, John H. Fitch, purchased a site on the Little Beaver River 15 miles below Lisbon, Ohio. The name was then changed to Camp Fitch. The camp remained here, growing continually until 1923. Lack of good swimming and the creeping up of civilization caused a change. In 1923 the Fitch estate sold the Little Beaver site to the East Liverpool Y.M.C.A. and purchased the present Camp Fitch on Lake Erie, near North Springfield, Pa. The name will always remain Camp Fitch, a memorial to a far seeing man who by now has given many boys real health and happiness.

Today Camp Fitch is one of the finest equipped camps in the country having its own water symstem, complete sanitation and a natural gas well. Two large buildings - McCleary Lodge, the recreation center, and Kane Lodge - the dinning room, furnish excellent quarters. Boys sleep in tents with concrete bottoms. Along with Lake Erie swimming - Camp Fitch is equipped with all the camping necessities and luxuries.