



## WINTER WORK TO IMPROVE CAMP STRAUS RECREATION FACILITIES

Some 1700 bream, crappie and bass have been taken from the lake at Camp Straus, of which 500 have been given to Camp Daniel Boone, Western North Carolina's Boy Scout Camp. These fish, presented to the Daniel Boone Council, are being used for restocking the lake at the Scout Camp.

The remaining 1200 fish are being kept in two small pools at Camp Straus for future return to the lake.

Removal of such a large number of fish was made possible by draining the lake—the draining being necessary to make several improvements in the Camp's swimming and fishing facilities.

A complete fish restocking is planned for the company lake. Only bream will be stocked. Stocking with bass and crappie will be discontinued, at least for the next few years, primarily because of their feeding on the small, younger

fish—thereby reducing the number of fish reaching maturity. It is hoped that by removing the two species, more bream (which are more easily caught) will be available for Ecusta's fishermen.

Removal of all bass and crappie from the lake made it necessary to lower the water-level to a depth of about one foot. The bream had to be removed at the same time since the water level would be kept too low, while repairs and improvements to the dam and swimming area are made, to support fish-life.

One improvement in the swimming area has already been completed. The lake bed in the deeper part of the swimming area has been leveled, eliminating all "sudden drops" which bathers might step into. Another project now in progress, is the tearing down of the old wooden high div-

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*Top photo: View of the Camp Straus lake bed following drainage operations.*

- 1. Bottom of deep-water swimming area is smoothed off with a bulldozer eliminating "step-off" which might bother swimmers. Camp Supervisor Alex Kizer and Gaston McCall look on as Bob Rogers operates the bulldozer.
- 2. Bob Bolt (Special Services) holds aloft a fine bream which was brought up during the fish-seining operations. Several 2-ft bass were also caught.
- 3. Hugh Bradburn (Personnel) and Bob Bolt manned the seines. Photo was taken just before net was raised. Note the disturbance on the surface of the water caused by several hundred fish being hemmed-in by the fish net.
- 4. Bradburn and Bolt pour fish "by the gallons" into buckets. A few moments later, fish were transferred from buckets to barrels of water where they were kept until bass and crappie were sorted out and sent to Camp Daniel Boone. Remaining bream were placed in fish pools until lake is refilled.