

Newsday August 4, 1958



SUMMER SMILES. The Rev. George W. Kayser serves up a birthday cake yesterday to one of the youngsters at his Centereach summer camp.

Clergyman's Camp Is for the 'Forgotten'

Centereach—A young Long Island clergyman, the memories of the sweltering city summers of his youth still fresh, is making vacations brighter for other youngsters at a community-built camp here.

The camp, designed for "the middle-class youngsters who are so often forgotten, serves Catholic parishes in Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau. It consists of three quonset huts, a baseball diamond and a pool. The Rev. George W. Kayser, 35-year-old pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Selden, started work on the camp, Camp Hammond, six years ago while serving as curate in a Brooklyn parish. The camp flourished when he was reassigned to the Selden parish.

The camp, located on Hammond Rd., can handle 35 boys, the Rev. Kayser said. He said that the quonsets, which are government-surplus buildings, served as chapel, mess hall and dormitory. Volunteers from the community and members of the Smithtown Police Department helped build the camp and keep it in repair, the Rev. Kayser said. He said that he was giving "strong consideration" to opening the camp's facilities to local youngsters next year.

"It's always appeared strange to me," he said, "that it's only the children of the very poor or the very rich who are virtually assured of attending camp every summer. The rich have the money, and the poor, with very little effort, can find some organization which will sponsor them. Camp Hammond is designed for the middle-class youngsters who are so often forgotten." He said that fee varied according to the ability of the boys' families to pay.