



The Wigwam



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Camp Kawanhee, Weld, Maine

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Thirty-seventh Season Takes Two Days to Build up Full Head of Steam

The last day of June and the first day of July saw the big Kawanhee summer of 1957 take off to a flying start. It would, however, be difficult to pinpoint the precise moment when this thirty-seventh season became airborne, for campers were eased into the idling motor of the prepared camp in successive groups, and the actual initiation of operations was a matter of cumulative momentum rather than one explosive bang of a beginning. By Sunday noon, June 30, fifty-some mouths were already assembled and ready for stoking in the dining hall, these belonging in the main to staff members who had arrived a few days or a week or two early to organize various departments. During the afternoon a steady, but untallied, delivery of campers by parental car pushed up the population and, at 4:50 P.M., Mr. R. C. Frank checked in with his group of forty from the New York area, after a notably expeditious trip by train and bus. This caused the supertime count to soar well over the 100 mark, somewhat to the surprise of the kitchen force. This congregation of tribesmen put at least a token representation into every lodge for the night and awoke Monday, July 1, to windy, wool-shirt weather which banished all memories of hometown heat and humidity. Arrivals by car continued through the day and, at 5:50 P.M., the camp reached its full strength when Mr. G. R. Frank and his convoy of fifty-odd from Ohio rolled down the hill. (One of the two busses carrying them from Boston had given up the ghost near Canton, Maine, and the whole party had of necessity squeezed into the second bus for the last miles into camp.) This "full strength" is one of the fullest in Kawanhee history, with the lodge lists (campers and counselors, Junior and Senior) running close to 160, and a dining-hall count between 185 and 190 for the whole camp.

Camp's Pattern Familiar Except for Relocation of Bear Lodge

To those returning the camp grounds and buildings had a distinctly ready-to-use appearance, thanks to the work of preparation during June under the supervision of the directors themselves. The three docks were in place, the big one striped with new planking. The rowboats and canoes were lined up on the beach. The Shop was open, and the Nature Building's diversified displays all in place, even to the buzz of the Buzz-board. Mrs. R. C. Frank (Frannie, that is, but the Wigwam has to be formal at least once each summer!) was on, or near, her cabin porch to greet all comers. Everything, indeed, had such an air of being in its accustomed place that the impression of picking up, with little or no pause, just where last season left off might have prevailed, had it not been for the excessive tidiness of the Athletic Field. Not a single hastily peeled-off T-shirt to be seen anywhere on its perimeter!

Changes and additions, however, quickly came to the attention. A new and very substantial backstop stands at the homeplate of Diamond No. 1, built by John Cutwa, Kawanhee's electrician and general mainstay. The old site of the Bear Lodge on Pine Point has been transformed into a much needed parking area for counselors' cars. The showpiece of the year, of course, is the new Bear Lodge. It is located on the rise of ground south of the Wildcat Lodge, back of

and somewhat above the beginning of the Council Point trail. The floor was laid last fall and the remainder of the construction carried out this spring, the carpenters completing the building June 20. Due to its situation and to the partial clearing of the lakeward slope in front of it, the new lodge has a prize view up the lake. Whether scenic vistas interest them or not, this year's Bears are more likely to appreciate the building's dimensions, 37 ft. by 21 ft., which make it by all odds the most spacious of Kawanhee cabins.

Assorted Early-comers Prepare Camp for Season

The more routine, but equally important, phases of opening the camp were accomplished by a hard-working group which waxed steadily as the month of June progressed. The Franks themselves were the first to arrive — Raymond late in May, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. by June 4, and Mrs. R. C. on June 8. Next to appear was Emma (Mrs. Laurence Briggs) on June 10, and the camp kitchen went into operation. Uncle Charlie Long showed up on June 15 to devote himself primarily to the conditioning of boats and canoes. Ernie Johanson and Mike Smith blew in within the next few days and the Sailing Department began to wind up for another ambitious summer, said wind-up including a complete new deck for the Hawk by Uncle Charlie. The camp's new caretaker, Mr. de Long, gave his attention and skill to an infinite assortment of repairs to doors, screens, windows and such. A group of five from nearby Mexico and Ridgelyville, James Parr, Lee Gamage, Pete Gallant, John Dixon and Ed Rancourt, destined for jobs in the dining room and kitchen during the season, arrived on June 17 to form the general pre-season work crew. Betty Frank and a friend took charge of the lodge cleaning until they departed for their positions at Camp Kineowatha the end of the month. Bates and Mrs. Bateman reached Kawanhee June 22, and it is assumed that the Buggy was soon bouncing. With the last week of the month the veterans really began to roll in — Herb Birch, Forrest Dexter, Nick, Pat the Nurse (Hey, she only qualifies as a veteran on the score of old acquaintance!), Jack Welton, John Nowold — and department after department was squared away for the summer.

Two Old Friends Stay in Florida: Two New Ones Join Camp Kitchen

Among all these old friends, it was a keen disappointment to be denied the opportunity of greeting two who are usually among the first on hand. Dr. and Mrs. Elmore are remaining at their home in Bradenton, Florida, this summer, and do not plan to come even as far north as Englewood. The loss of their good company and of Dr. Elmore's incomparable Sunday morning sermons for the season can be accepted only with the greatest of regret by all Kawanhee, and the best wishes of the whole camp are with them.

There remains virtually no space for mentioning new members of the staff, but two of them, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Sanborn, played so large a part in launching the season that they must figure in even the most cursory report. The Sanborns have joined Emma to head the culinary department, Foster as chef, and Gertrude as assistant to Emma in the baking and desserts division. Foster is principal of the elementary school in Wilton, Maine, and has had ten years' experience in hotel administration work and two seasons as chef in an adult recreation camp. Already he has organized the Kawanhee kitchen so soundly and served up beef and hamburgers so much to the camp's approval as to establish the general confidence that all is well in the vital zone of nourishment.

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The first of the year's regular weekly printed editions of the Wigwam will appear on July 12. These hasty paragraphs are merely in the nature of an advance notice to inform you that Kawanhee's 1957 population is all present or accounted for, as of July 2, and stepping lively in the brisk Maine air.

C. Scarlett