

WIGWAM

Vol. 77 No. 6

Camp Kawanhee, Weld Maine

December 1997

SENDING THE BOYS TO CAMP

by Paige Crane, mother of campers Danny & David Crane

"But what will you do with yourself?" was the most common response when I told friends and family that Danny and David were going to camp for seven weeks this summer. The unspoken question was more like, How could she let her boys go so far away for so long? Admittedly it is no easy thing to have them go and I wasn't sure exactly what I would do without them, but I believe the more important question is what would the boys do with themselves all summer if they did not go to camp?

There is no way to replicate the camp experience at home. Believe me I have tried. We would travel, we would read, we would play with friends, we would go to parks, museums and the zoo, all of which are wonderful. But that took up about the first month of summer vacation, and then we were kind of at a loss. The lure of television, Nintendo, the swimming pool and simply doing nothing are too hard to overcome for three whole months. We wanted the boys to have more than that.

Certainly good incentive for the boys going to camp was their father's experience. The boys' father, Mike, says that four of the best summers of his life were spent at Camp Kawanhee. When we visited Kawanhee the summer prior to Danny going, his father proudly showed him and his brother, David, around the camp. Even on a somewhat damp and dreary day, the campers were out and about doing their thing and having fun.

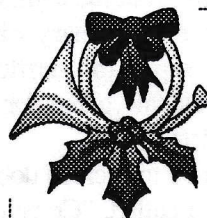
Danny went to Camp Kawanhee for the first time when he was twelve, somewhat unwillingly. We told him, "We want you to go at least once, and if you don't like it you won't have to go back." Needless to say once he was there he loved it. When we asked him if he was glad that he had gone to camp he said, "Oh yea! I wish I had been coming since I was seven or eight."

That attitude certainly encouraged David because he decided to go to camp at age 10. We signed him up for four weeks and visited camp at that point thinking we'd bring him home. He bounced back and forth about whether to leave with us, but with just the right encouragement from

his counselors, he ended up staying for the full seven weeks. A few days after we left camp we received a call from David and assumed he had changed his mind again — but he only wanted a new CD.

Though I greatly missed my boys I took comfort in the fact that they were having a wonderful summer, indeed a life experience. Danny and David enjoyed opportunities at camp that once they are grown they may never experience again. Their counselors were excellent role models, they were in a gorgeous place, they were challenged, they were productive, they were happy . . . they were where they should be. The memories of their summers at camp will be with them forever.

Meanwhile, it did take awhile to adjust to our too quiet house. But it wasn't hard to fill the time. I traveled, I read, I hiked, biked and walked the dog. I even did some organizing. I enjoyed time alone and time with my husband, Mike. And I looked forward to the day Danny and David would be home!



CAMP KAWANHEE

SENDS BEST WISHES

FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

AND

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

EVERY DAY OF THE NEW YEAR.



1998 CAMPER ENROLLMENT

Advance applications have been received for the following campers. If your name is not on the list, please contact Herb Birch, Walter Estabrook, or Mark Nelson to make sure that a place will be reserved for you. Enrollment at the present time is considerably ahead of last year.

Jeff Abbott
Noboru Akimoto
Walter Akimoto
Adam Aldrich
Alexander Aldrich
Spencer Aldrich
Carlos Amerigo
Matthew Brown
James Chagaris
Frank Cook
Daniel Crane
David Crane
Ryan Davis
Chris Duncan
Matt Duncan
Sean Duncan
Nate Duncan
Hadrian Engel

Matthew Fortunato
George Fraley
Hunter Gimbel
River Gimbel
Steven Jaramillo
Jacob Jones
Karl Kremling
Michael Kunze
Scott Luken
Gabriel Martin
Fernando Martos
Matthew McGee
Zachery Mueller
Ryan Nuanes
Brian Osar
Daniel Osar
Collin Patierno

James Pierson
Ben Porter
Michael Robinson
Peter Sengelmann
Andrew Spencer
Alex Standen
Jed Standen
Jamie Strawbridge
Tripp Strawbridge
Sam Tillett
Tom Tillett
Etienne Tremblay
Rodrigo Valderrabano
Marc van den Broeck
Jim Wallingford
Michael Werhahn
Matt Wilson

SYMPATHY FOR THE SNAKE

by Elizabeth Compher Hall, former Kawanhee nurse

"Clump, clump, clump!" footsteps coming up the wooden stairs, sandy shoes scuffing across the planks on the porch and then the "Knock, knock, knock" on the frame of the screen door, followed by a concerned little voice calling hesitantly, "Nurse, are you there?" It was a familiar plea heard on and off all day and sometimes in the night as little boys trekked up the sandy path to the Infirmary with their stubbed toes, small toes, small scrapes and sniffles. Any irregularity worth mentioning was fair game for a consultation with a nurse who would listen.

"Knock, knock, knock", again on the screen door, and the small voice pleading, "Nurse!" I called, "Come on in" as I left my bed making and came toward the door. A boy no more than nine years old stepped in, concerned eyes looking up at me, his hand out. "Can you help?" he asked. He stretched his hand toward me, palm up. Assuming he was hurt I bent over to look. It was then I saw what looked like a thin, bright green rope, laid across his palm, hanging down both sides.

"He's hurt", he said, tears welling up in his eyes. "Can you help him?" "Oh, no!", I thought. "I can't believe this!" I inspected the thing more closely. "It's a

garter snake. Must be a baby snake - it's so small."

I hate snakes. To see one moving is scary, but this one surely looked limp - no motion at all as it continued to droop across his hand. "Just keep him warm, and we'll see if we can do something," I said calmly, trying to make the boy feel better. "Treat this seriously", I thought, "the poor child obviously cares."

"What happened to him?" I asked, trying to get some medical history. "He fell off the roof of my cabin." "How did he get up on the roof?" I asked. "Well, I took him up there to play because he kept getting lost in the grass. He fell all the way to the ground."

I spread a paper towel on the counter top and had the boy lay the creature on it for examination. No way was I going to touch it, so I asked him to roll it over so I could inspect for contusion, concussion or crushed exterior. Interior hemorrhage was also a distinct possibility. The snake remained in a relaxed state as he gently rolled it, softly saying consoling things. I kept a discreet distance but watched carefully. There were no signs of external trauma, and luckily, no signs of motion.

Suddenly I remembered something about stimulating by immersion, first in a warm bath, and then a cold one. At least it would be something to encourage the boy before we

(continue on page 3)

talked about final arrangements for the poor snake. I gave him another towel to cover his pet as I prepared two soup bowls with warm and cold water setting them ceremoniously on the counter beyond the snake.

"Pick him up gently," I instructed, "Lay him in the water first. Make sure his head does not go under." Gently the boy placed the snake in the bowl, supporting the head tenderly as it lolled over the side. "Good I thought to myself. No response!"

After a few minutes, I said, "OK. Now lift him up and place him in the cool water." In Maine, cold water is icy cold. He scooped the limp snake up in both his hands, placing him in the frigid water. By now I was more curious than afraid so I was bending over watching the transfer.

Suddenly, this "dead" thing contracted into a tight knot, then stretched straight out and shot from the bowl, past the boy, under my arm and onto the floor, wiggling away. The boy squealed with delight. I screamed, "Get him! Get him! Don't let him get lost in here! He's still a sick snake!"

Not until the snake was safe in his master's hands did I realize I had jumped up on a chair. The boy didn't even notice as he grinned his thanks, clutched the snake and sped out the screen door, across the porch, down the steps toward the path.

*****AS KAWANHEE TURNS*****

Peter and Katie Hauser, daughter, Gracie, and son George are now living on the west coast — 260 Chattanooga St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Gracie is very proud to wear her Camp Kawanhee sweatshirt on the West Coast! They vow they will return for the 80th Reunion in the year 2000. Good to hear from Dan Keating who is now teaching in a High School and has his Master's Degree in Counseling. He hopes to return to Kawanhee as a counselor in '98. Mark Gibson is now a counselor at Opportunity Farm near Raymond, Maine working with troubled youth. They are fortunate to have Mark on their staff. Kris Simanek is teaching in Lewiston and had a successful first season with her girl's soccer team. Ask her about being Chef Kris roasting a 29# turkey for Mark Gibson, Mike Altmaier, Bob Hart, and Robert Compher — she had a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner for them and then became a master at fixing and freezing turkey leftovers. And talking about soccer, the Belskis family are very proud. Peter coached the champion Orono High School team, Ashland, Maine and they won their first State Title, 1 - 0 in a bruising match against Monmouth Academy from Aroostook County. And guess who was an outstanding player — Darren Belskis. We congratulate

Pete and his team. Adam Ramsey had another good soccer year at Stetson University in Florida. He started every game and played the whole game each time. Remember this team, with Adam being one of the star players, won the Nationals in Arizona last August. Our Infirmary Nurse Lucy and Wayne (Adam's excited parents) along with his sister Amber were there and many Kawanhee folks were able to watch this outstanding game on their TV sets. Dr. Richard Miller, Economics Professor in Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT feels very proud — their Economics Department is ranked first among economic departments of 40 leading liberal arts colleges. What an honor! Nick Aiello was Captain of his Bentley College football team in Waltham, MA, and Kawanhee was well represented in the cheering section of one game — Simon Doolittle, Jorge Granado, Bob Hart, and Kris Simanek. They had a great time. C.J. Clarke is doing very well in his first year at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, GA. His family visited him on Parents' Weekend and were impressed with his progress. Mark Nelson led Paul Rotolo, Bob Hart, Becky Coomer, and Kris Simanek up Tumbledown Mountain, encountering snow on the way down which in just few hours covered Camp Kawanhee with 14 inches of snow! A wedding invitation has arrived for the wedding of Jennifer Ann Schilling and Scott Worthington in Cincinnati, OH on January 10th. We wish them all the happiness and best wishes. Nancy Rini, one of our nurses at the Infirmary, was highly honored in November at a banquet at the Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH. She was chosen the Outstanding School Nurse for the State of Ohio. Her family was there for this big occasion. We salute her!

We love it when you send news in, and please keep the Wigwam informed of change of address. Thank you.

THE VOICE OF LAKE WEBB

The most important part of young persons' lives is their friends: someone to share their feelings, their hopes, their dreams, their triumphs, and their missteps. Kawanhee is a place where everyone's triumphs are celebrated, and everyone's mistakes are mended. At Kawanhee there is always something to do or some one to talk to. There is never a dull moment. Whether it is a basketball game on the courts, or an ultimate frisbee game on the athletic field, things are always alive, always moving at camp. Kawanhee is an extraordinary place where many things may be learned in one day. Some camp focus on one activity or sport. Kawanhee however teaches not only one sport or craft, but skills that will be used throughout our entire lives and mold us into fine and morally mature role models in our society.

(continue on back cover)

Kawanhee is a magical place where children are shaped into trustworthy young men. Those who are fortunate enough to go to camp should count their lucky stars for such an opportunity. Family for a summer and friends for a lifetime — that is what Kawanhee is all about.

Editor's Comment:

The "Voice is anonymous — he mails in comments without signing a name. We think the "Voice" is a present or past camper who has been influenced greatly by his Kawanhee experiences and epitomizes the Spirit of Kawanhee. Whoever you are, please continue with your inspirational thoughts. Your fellow Kawanheens look forward to your messages in each issue!

CAMP KAWANHEE FOUNDATION

We are very appreciative of those who contribute to the Foundation, and we would like to list the names of those persons who have made a donation since our August issue.

Doug and Doreen Means

Jane Tracy Ackerman in memory of Scott and Del Tracy

Jackie Hanlon in memory of Bruce Birch

Suzanne Davisson in memory of Richard Scott Tracy

George H. Bass

Stephen and Martha Fenno in honor of the marriage of Jeff and Sarah Strunk

Melvin F. and Avis E. Browning in memory of Scott Tracy

John S. and Dona A. Haydon in memory of Richard Scott Tracy

John W. and Helen L. Macy in memory of Richard Scott Tracy

Dennis and Mary Sue Williams

Ken Beck

Eleanor K. Veague in memory of Richard Scott Tracy and Mrs. Lucian Davisson

Jane Tracy Akerman and Suzanne Davisson in memory of Scott Tracy and Mrs. Lucina Davisson

For those Kawanhee Friends who wish to participate, the Camp Kawanhee Foundation provides scholarships for carefully selected boys regardless of race, color, or creed so that these boys can be enrolled at Kawanhee. The Camp's Board of Directors recognizes that the Foundation has been a positive advancement, and will continue to prove to be a strengthening force for Camp Kawanhee, not only financially, but by bringing to our Camp qualified boys of high moral character who are worthy of such an honor and who will contribute positively by their own attitude and participation. Any person, company, or organization wishing to donate to this IRS approved tax deductible Foundation, please make check payable to and mail to:

CAMP KAWANHEE FOUNDATION

RR#1 Box 120

Weld, ME 04285-9722

We pledge that 100% of your gift to the Foundation will be used either for the direct provision of scholarships to worthy boys or to build the capital assets of the Foundation, the earnings of which are used solely and entirely to provide scholarships. No portion of your gift will be used for Foundation administrative or overhead costs.

The Kawanhee
WIGWAM
Camp Kawanhee
RR#1, Box 120
Weld, Maine 04285-9722

First Class Mail