

A SERIES OF 75¢ TOURS... OR AN UPDATE ON CAMPS WITH PEG HANSLIK

by Joan Barnum

Have you been to any of our camps lately, especially Hilaka/Crowell? If you haven't, you're in for a surprise for there's been some changes, some very visible and some not so visible. My discovery of all these happenings came about quite by accident on two different trips to camp...approaching Amity one evening for a meeting, the first thing visible was fresh dirt all around the building, but what had happened under all that dirt? Well, obviously something had been done and that's about as far as my thoughts went then.

Into the kitchen I hurried for my usual cup of coffee — wait a minute, this kitchen has grown! Will you look at this, you can open the oven door and the refrigerator door and still get in and out of the kitchen! Hey, not a bad idea at all! Well, obviously a wall had been taken out, and a few minutes later I discovered a closet missing, so now I knew just how that kitchen had grown.

My curiosity was now too much to bear and off I went on a grand tour of Amity to see what else I could see. Off the kitchen I found a new mop sink and upstairs another one, boy, won't it be great not having to haul those mop buckets outside to dump that lovely looking water after the floors are mopped! My detective work also uncovered a couple of missing bathtubs, two new toilets in stalls in the upstairs bathroom, and new windows in many places. Gosh, this was exciting, but I had to get to my meeting, and besides my tour and all that deducing had worn me out...

Two weeks later I walked into Kirby House and was immediately shocked to find that growing kitchens were catchy!! First Amity, now Kirby — sure enough a wall was missing. Over in the corner sat a poor lonely door, it took me a while to decide whether that door was ever attached to that wall — and yes, it was. It didn't take any detective work at all to see the new stainless steel sink in a cabinet. Gone was that white thing on one leg. Well, you guessed it, my curiosity got me again and off I went on a tour. Actually I didn't find a lot more, later I found out

Kirby still has much work to be done. I did discover the doors that opened on to a balcony, that had been gone for many years, were replaced with windows and walls and new siding. And my keen eye and sleuthlike deductions told me something happened underground for there was fresh dirt behind Kirby too!

Well, this was just too exciting to let rest, I had to find out more, besides there might be things my keen eye had missed and I knew there were things my keen eye couldn't see. One lovely afternoon I got all my answers from our Director of Properties, Peg Hanslik. I related to Peg what my detective work had uncovered and by the end of the afternoon was convinced I would never pass the test for my license. Oh well! Let me tell you what I learned. In the major renovation of Kirby, Amity, North and Coach there is much, very much, unseen that was done. In every one of these buildings the electrical wiring was brought up to code. This meant repairing and replacing wires that were in walls and places not uncovered since the building were constructed in the 1920s. Up until now, only spot repairs have been done, now the entire wiring system in each building will have a complete overhaul. Then there's the plumbing, it is all being upgraded, iron pipe is being replaced; "chronically" ill toilets replaced (yea!!); bathtubs that caused problems, like leaking through ceilings are gone or on their way out and showers have been revamped. Every part of the heating system in each building is being reviewed. New ducts are being installed where needed, for example in Amity living room, and old ducts are being replaced, especially those under floor registers where our boots and mop water have rusted them! Windows are all being reviewed and those with major problems are being replaced (that's one I didn't miss). New mop sinks are being installed on every floor (ha! that too). In basements some painting and fixing up is being done; recreation rooms re-conditioned; for example: in Amity where new fluorescent lights were installed. In the living areas, rooms were studied to

utilize space better and where feasible walls and/or closets were removed for more space (now I know how and why those kitchens grew). I also found out Coach House kitchen had been moved to the back room, though I didn't do any detective work there, I'm sure this will be great for troops, providing more space for activities.

And then there were these innovations; a new furnace and a new hot water tank for Amity, and the new toilets in stalls in the upstairs bathroom (health department requires modesty screens Peg told me). They took the place of the bathtub and so did two toilets upstairs in North. Well, I was amazed. All these things happening and what a good feeling to know things like wiring had been checked!

"Gee," said I, "It must have cost some money." "Yes" said Peg, "These improvements cost \$137,411.22, but that's not all that was done you know." When I mentioned the fresh dirt I'd noticed, Peg said she'd get to that in a minute. She went on to say heavy gauge gutters were installed on Coach, North, Amity, Seely and Gund Hall. The total cost for this work was \$2,621. The slate roofs on Amity, North and Coach were replaced where needed for \$8,300.

It's interesting to note that bids were taken on repairing the existing slate and also on re-roofing with shingles. Repairing with slate was the lower bid. "Wow," said I, "You're sure putting our Annual Giving, Cookie and QSP money to good use. But what about the fresh dirt, what happened under there?" Peg told me that at Amity, North, and Coach they had to dig so the foundations could be repaired, and footer tiles repaired and replaced where needed. The buildings are old and over the years tree roots have grown into footer tiles, drainage was becoming ineffective and there was leakage in basements. Kirby had a real problem, in order to do the repairs, the old oak tree, the sidewalk around, and the cellar in the back would have to come out to get to the footers. Instead, a suggestion by the soil conservation people was used, they installed footer tiles at the bottom of

the hill from hilltop and just above Kirby. Now the run-off will be caught before it reaches Kirby and thank goodness the old oak tree was saved! I hated to ask the cost of these major repairs, \$22,750 was the lowest bid.

I told Peg I was really impressed with all that was going on and happy to know we are taking care of these wonderful old buildings, but I was also concerned for even though my troop sold the most cookies in our city it was a drop in the bucket in comparison to these costs. Peg's reply was this is only the tip of the iceberg, would you like to hear some more improvement costs? "Sure" said I.

She started with Hilaka/Crowell. Of course, everyone knows by now that the horses have moved and now grace the trails of Hilaka/Crowell. They had to have a place to stay so riding rings and pasture were installed in the gas cut. Money was saved here by using lumber cut from our own trees and the total cost was \$1,000. The trees were cut at Bates from living areas where they were considered hazardous, for example in tent units. By the way, the trees cut down to clear the area for the new Waken Tonka Tent Unit were also cut into lumber and used to build the shelter. It's good planning and sentimental too! I found in talking to Peg that careful planning and use of everything is studied and practiced in our camps. Well, that should be no surprise, typical Girl Scouts always!!!

Speaking of our new tent unit and costs, each new tent and fly costs \$600, each platform \$300. The shelter, even with using our wood, \$500. It was great to hear the rotten siding on Garfield Lodge was replaced with our own wood, the windows also were repaired and replaced, the bill for this was \$560. It didn't take any detective work to notice the parking lots had been tarred and chipped for \$5,804. Of course Peg had to give me that figure.

Then there are things we never in a million years would think of like rusted bolts and rotten wood replaced for \$200. on the millwheel at the mill. By now, we all know that the swinging bridge is back and so, too, the footbridge, so around the lake we go! And have you seen the great new storage cabinets and shelves in all the tent units at Crowell, I can't

decide which I like better the larger storage area or the low shelves, what a great improvement!

Seely Cabin has a new gas furnace, the electric furnace that was in there was costing \$75 per troop camp weekend to heat the cabin. We'll sure see some savings there! Peg went on to tell me that at Margaret Bates the walkways in the ravine have been repaired for \$500, railroad ties installed around the lake and beach for \$300, and the showers revamped for \$300. By the end of the year, all shelter roofs will have been replaced, as the saying goes, "It's about time," they were built in '55. Peg estimated that \$1,800 will take care of this project.

At Lejnar work continues on the camp manager's house which will eventually become eight rooms, down from the original ten. The barn will some day be back to its original size and shape, less some later additions and the roof will be repaired. Soon, August 1st, to be exact, the first draft for the Ruth Weigand Memorial will be presented. That is exciting news to hear!

It was good news to hear that Wintergreen Cabin will no longer be wet and damp, the new furnace was \$800. Who can forget Wintergreen's latrine, it was one of a kind! Every time I sat down on a slant and pitched forward I wondered how much longer it would stay on the hill! I am so happy to announce Wintergreen has a new latrine. Our dollars at work provided it for \$2,800.

Peg also told me that soundings of all our lakes to determine their depths cost \$600. It was \$600 well spent for now, when dredging is done, we will know what depth to take them to. It will also provide information for the Environmental Protection Agency. We'll know how much is washing into our lakes from other places, and last but not least, we now can tell the program staff where it's deep enough for boating and where a land/sea vehicle would be a better bet than a boat.

By this time I was speechless and in deep thought about how important our Annual Giving contribution is and our cookie and QSP sale, to the Council, to our camps and to the future of Girl Scouting. This was Peg's opportunity to say why I haven't even told you about the annual costs, maintenance that happens

year after year, supplies that are needed and so on.

For example, this past year \$3,500 for mops, mop buckets, tent ropes, brooms, rakes, latrine brushes, furnace filters, air horns, ant and wasp killers and fire and ash buckets. Opening the swimming pool each year costs \$900. It must be drained and cleaned with acid; to winterize and close \$350; not to mention the chemicals used in the pool and our lakes each season, \$2,500. Then there's tent repairs, \$500; lift station maintenance \$500-600; sewage plant lab fees \$116; fire extinguisher re-charging \$500; conservation and reforestation \$5,000; chain link fence repair this year cost \$1,440 at Crowell, \$1,640 at Hilaka and \$750 at Bates. Swabbing Kirby gas well runs \$500-\$600 per year. "Swabbing Kirby gas well," said I. Peg explained we may be fortunate to have free gas but there are maintenance costs. In cold months when the pressure drops the lines must be swabbed of oil and water that has collected in them. We have a holding tank for the swabbed off junk, every three or four years it must be emptied. If the mixture is right and the roads need it we use it there to cut down on dust, if not we try to give it away, and as a last resort we pay to have it hauled away.

Well, I do believe I have used much more than my allotted space — there is of course much, much more spent on our camps. Peg continued on until I had to admit I hadn't brought my sleeping bag and so we called it quits!! I had learned so much that my detective work would never uncovered and as I drove home I thought of what a big operation our camps are and what wise and careful planning went into our camp dollars at work!!!

NEW ORDER FORM — NEW PRICES

The revised Council badge insignia book and patch order form will reflect the latest increase in prices from GSUSA. This form is printed on bright paper and has an effective date of September 1, 1984. TSD's have supplies of this form. Orders received on old order forms will not be processed and will be returned to the sender.