

CAMP MARGARET BATES RESIDENT CAMP REPORT

July 2 - August 18, 1972

CAMPER REGISTRATION

Session I	142	(one week)
Session II	123	(two weeks)
Session III	117	(two weeks)
Session IV	139	(one week)
Session V	<u>139</u>	(one week)
1972 Total	660	

The one-week sessions were attended by girls who, for the most part, had never attended resident camp before. The staff planned the week's program before the campers arrived and varied it according to weather. The water carnival and the closing program were the only all-camp activities at these sessions. There are many drawbacks to these short sessions, but if they are thought of as INTRODUCTION to the camp experience and if every effort is made to make it a happy occasion, perhaps this is sufficient. One or two Brownie Girl Scout units might be introduced into these short sessions. It seems that Brownies might experience the most trouble as hoppers or pourers in the dining hall. Homesickness does not appear to be related to age, but rather to parental attitudes and concerns.

This season we tried an experiment in the collection of Trading Post funds for the one-week sessions. Parents were told at check in time that the camper's Trading Post account would be payable when she left camp. On the whole this worked very well with only a few who were taken home by other persons than family members not paying. Letters were written to any who were missed. This eliminated the need to count out cash refunds and to have money on the site for any length of time. Since the families proved trustworthy, this might be a possibility for all sessions.

It would be best to publicize a pick up time of 7:00 p.m. Friday evening for the one-week sessions. This allows everyone to find their gear, attend a short program and to leave the site before dark. Even so, the approaching darkness makes the last few girls quite apprehensive. It would seem best to simply announce a short program and not designate what or where and leave these matters to the discretion of the camp.

This season was so rainy that those campers going to Sawdust Hill, Timber Top and Journey's End all wended their way through the center of Springwood. It seemed best to allow them to do this since the trail most appropriate was impassable and going by the road put them completely out in the open. As a result, this unit had more wear than usual.

PROGRAM

Many craft projects were done - macramé, stone painting, plaster molds of animal tracks, wire twisting, etc. These were fine for rainy days and for the short sessions. The waterfront director helped with suggestions for craft since she was an art major. The staff evaluations seem to lean heavily toward a craft consultant, but it seems to me what they truly needed was a cleanup person. It is easy to become involved in the work, forget the time and then have to rush off to somewhere with leaving no time to completely clean up. This is compounded when most units are trying to use the same area and materials. I dare say a consultant would call time on them so that they could clean up.

(over)

Units lead by the international staff learned how to pitch roundup tents. These units also slept out more than the other units.

There was much folk and square dancing done in the evening in front of the dining hall. This was led by the assistant waterfront director. Units did a lot of hiking, some to Virginia Kendall Park (two-week sessions), ice cream making and cookouts. Saga was very cooperative in the cookout area and took it in stride.

All-camp program for the two-week sessions was planned by the camp council. We had no council for the one-week sessions.

All sessions had a water carnival. Because of weather the one for the fifth session was cancelled.

STAFF

The staff was interesting, capable and, for the most part, dependable. Having new staff appear throughout the summer brought new and fresh ideas to the camp. The unit leaders coped well with the staff changes which were necessary.

BOARD MEMBERS

We seemed unable to entertain the board members since they were either unable to be reached by telephone or unable to come when invited and given a choice of dates. This is very discouraging to the campers who tried to invite them. Should the board really wish to come, it might be better all around to have them sign up for camp, day and time at a board meeting. The next step is to notify the camp of who and when and let the director assign them to a unit or see that they see whatever interests them.

MINORITIES

We had Black campers at each session except the fourth.

Session I	6	Session III	9
Session II	10	Session V	4

CAMPERSHIPS

You will note that only the counselor forms were completed for camperships for the fourth session. This is because we did not receive the forms until the campers had left the site. We tried to see that the campership girls had adequate sleeping gear, otherwise they did fit in and were indistinguishable from any other camper.

On the whole it was a very happy season in spite of the rain and mud. The camp manager thinks some flies are in bad shape, but this is hard to spot when the tents are up and should be checked at close of camp.

I have one sleeping bag, one liner and three blankets to be cleaned. These will be taken to camp at the first opportunity. When Beryl Wright stops off, I should also have one Girl Scout knife to be returned.

Pauline R. Warch
Camp Director