

2015 Waupaca Reunion Time-Capsule

(Written by Mike Lurie with feedback from Rick Passman, Howie Resnick, Paul Warshauer)

Saturday August 14, 2014...little **Ricky Passman** makes a motion during the annual Camp Waupaca Reunion Group board meeting to change the date for the 2015 event to be mid-July to coincide with the always popular Portage County Fair and demolition derby...after discussion, a vote was taken and July 16-19 2015 was set as the dates..."not sure I can make it, I have a BIG production to put on in New Ulm, Minnesota", boasts **Paul "Froggy" Warshauer**...fun continues in Waupaca, as we dine at Simpson's restaurant, dinner for **Warshauer** and **Warren Metzdorff** paid for by the reunion group on a close vote of the board of directors...**Mike Lurie** objects and refuses to be compensated...videos and pictures taken and uploaded to YouTube and Facebook...

Tuesday September 30, 2014, we learn of the passing of **Lillian "Mama Lill" Desnet**, wife of beloved director **Manny Desnet**...condolences sent, memories filed on our Facebook page, seen by the **Desnet** girls...the months go by, the leaves turn colors and fall to the ground, the snow piles up, the long winter night consumes us...**Dick Garb** continues to find lost alumni, sends us their contact information, even as the official database continues to get old and stale...something must be done to keep it fresh and up to date..."Lurie, the website hasn't changed in months, put a picture or something out there" wails **Warshauer**...**Larry Wotman** becomes a regular contributor of content on Facebook...

May 2015, the "official" itinerary is posted on social media, "subject to change at a moment's notice" ...pictures of past reunions begin to surface...**Howie Resnick** (riflery 1970) from South Florida says "I wouldn't miss a weekend in Waupaca for anything", vows to come in for the event...the roster of attendees grows: **Lurie, Warshauer, Passman, Resnick, Errol Grisard, Metzдорff, George Lamm, Steve Sineman** – a good time should ensue as we investigate the soft seedy underbelly of Waupaca in just a few weeks...the countdown begins, the website takes shape, emails sent, more photos posted – the reunion is heating up!...

Wednesday July 1, 2015, Rick Passman sees there is a concert cruise leaving out of Clearwater Harbor on Friday July 17, suggests we change the itinerary and dump Chef Chu's off the schedule..."Terrible idea, Passman" bellows **Warshauer**...**Mike Lurie** thinks it's a great idea, and tickets are purchased for the confirmed list of reunion participants...**Warren** calls, says he can't make it, dealing with too many things at the moment...**Bob Mowen** sends his regrets and won't be a 2-years-in-a-row attendee...**Errol Grisard** can't make it, has to have an emergency hip replacement...**Paul Warshauer** confirms his attendance by phone with **Mike Lurie**, even if it may be for an abbreviated visit due to his epic production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", complete with flying cars, reminiscent of flying boys in the Mess Hall back in the day...**Mike Lurie** invites Camp Young Judaea, Midwest, director Noah Gallagher to dinner for Thursday night July 16, and he accepts! Need to start discussions about the BIG 65th anniversary reunion of Camp Waupaca in 2016, also the 20th anniversary of our first on-site event in 1996...

Monday July 13, 2015, **Paul Warshauer** sends regrets, that he cannot attend, the show is too demanding of his time...**George Lamm** can't make it either, BIG parade in McHenry right in front of his

house on Sunday...**Lurie** and **Passman** chastise the dropouts, and forever refer to them as “reunion weenies”...

Tuesday July 14, 2015 – the reunion officially begins as **Rick Passman** arrives at Central Wisconsin Airport near Wausau and heads to Stevens Point to toast the start of the reunion...

Wednesday July 15, 2015 - **Mike Lurie** arrives late in the day and meets up with **Rick Passman** at Graffiti’s on the Square in Stevens Point, and drink the first toast to the fun days ahead...back to Waupaca and a quick bite to eat at Clearwater Harbor, on a perfect Waupaca summer evening...quick stop at JR Sportsmen’s Bar, a favorite place to gather back in the 1970s – not so much anymore, as the place is nearly deserted...



Thursday July 16, 2015 – when will **Howie Resnick** arrive? We wonder...**Lurie** brings likenesses of **Paul Warshauer** and **Warren Metzдорff** on cheap copy paper to the reunion, and makes funny videos as if they were actually there...until then, it’s off to see Waupaca...Red Mill...drive by camp, sloooooowly...trip down the other side of Stratton Lake Road to see



the cottages and get a glimpse of the beach...back to Hwy 22 and then turn onto Spear Road, where the old duplex sits right next to camp, and we see the basketball court and cabins 1 & 2...back on Hwy 22, turn onto Cleghorn Drive and wind our way to the Indian Crossings Casino, then turn right for a bite to eat at the Wheelhouse restaurant...back into town...stop in at United Country Realty to see Joe Udoni, husband of Suzanne Salan, oldest child of **Dr. Jerry Salan**...Mike and Joe compare family notes (they were at each other’s weddings), wish each other well, then it’s off for a walk of Main Street...just off of Main Street, **Mike & Rick** stop in at Weasel’s Bar

and enjoy some barley pops...time for rest hour, and **Mike** drops **Rick** off at the Ramada...What happened to the Best Western?!?...before **Lurie’s** head hits the pillow for a nap, **Passman** calls and says **Howie Resnick** is in town...the boys sit in the restaurant, “D Fuego’s”, and catch up after 45 years...“Warsh up for dinner, men!” ...off to Simpson’s Indian Room Restaurant (at least that’s what it used to be called when we were campers) and wait for Noah Gallagher and his wife and 17 month old twins to join us...Noah arrives, and as we wait for our table he says “Why don’t you stop by camp tomorrow morning and see it with kids?” ...you don’t have to twist our arms!...a lovely dinner follows, the reunion group picks up the tab for the young couple...off for a night cap at the Ramada, and the first full day of the reunion is in the books...

Friday July 17, 2015 – the **Warren Metzдорff** Memorial trip to Fleet Farm, Piggly Wiggly, and bring your own lunch at Brainard’s Bridge are on the itinerary today, right? Forget that – we’re off to Camp Waupaca!!!...we arrive at 10 AM sharp and check in with the new camp office along the old golf course...get our visitors badges, and Noah takes us on a guided tour...we still have more stories to share,

as **Mike** tell of the “high winds” of 1983...Noah can’t believe there were canoes in the trees, and no one got hurt...the road to the far fields, the old water spigot (good intentions, bad well)...the CYJ zip line and climbing wall...down the path to where the old riflery range was...**Lurie** recalls the story about “**Craig Fuller’s Folly**” in the swamp...we stop at the site of the old rifle range for **Howie Resnick**, and share the story of Dr. Kennedy telling **Manny** to move the range so no one gets killed at his house...**Rick Passman** remembers how they cut the posts of the old range and picked it up and moved it to its new location...**Howie** remembers his year fondly, claims he was also at camp for 4 weeks one other summer – **Passman** swears it was 1971, **Lurie** swears it was 1974...time to consult the yearbooks!...lunch at a place that used to be the Roost...**Mike Lurie** gets an interesting email from a man across the lake from camp – more on Saturday...time to head to Clearwater Harbor and get ready for the concert cruise on the Chief Waupaca...Davidson & Webb play some good music, as we dine, drink, and enjoy the music on the Chain O’ Lakes...day is done, gone the sun...



Saturday July 18, 2015 – “Good morning, men! It’s a beautiful sunshiny day at Camp Waupaca!”...actually, severe storms blew through the area in the early morning hours, or as **Jimmy Feinstein** commented on Facebook, “high winds”...**Mike Lurie** heads out to a cottage on Little Stratton Lake to meet a man who has an aerial photograph of camp, and he wants information...**Mike** is greeted by Greg Biba husband of **Dawn Wilkening**, former kitchen girl...Greg shows **Mike** a grainy photograph of the lake, and what appears to be camp...after locating some landmarks, **Mike** recognizes the Old Beach, what appears to be the start of the new beach, tennis courts, roads in and out of camp, the old White House and old barn...**Herb Beller** is consulted on the history of the Old Beach, and the photo is dated somewhere between 1952 and 1955...”But why was the photo taken?” asks Greg...we have no idea...Greg informs us that his cottage is for rental on AirBnB.com...hmmmm, keep this in mind for future reunions...



...**Paul Warshauer** calls **Mike Lurie** to express yet more regrets, that he can’t even attend the annual board of directors meeting by phone, too busy with flying cars...the board members assemble either in person or proxy or via free, cheap audio conferencing in the board room of the Ramada...a quorum of 7 is reached with only Froggy being unable to attend...nothing terribly new to discuss at the board meeting, other than starting to plan for the BIG 2016 reunion...**Howie** goes off to photograph the sites in Waupaca, **Mike** & **Rick** head out to visit Corey Kramer, wife of the late Darold Kramer of Kramer’s Print Shop in Waupaca...Kramer’s did a lot of



work on the yearbooks with the amazing covers...off to Clearwater Harbor for some suds, sun, and music...great band playing there called "Feedback" ...off to the Portage County Fair and demolition derby! But how do we get there? Highway 10 is all different now...**Mike Lurie** plugs the address into his nav system of his Ford Fusion Hybrid, and off we go!...the place looks empty, but it's early...pay to enter, pay to get into the derby – all for \$12! "Such a deal", **Manny** would probably say...let's sit up high so the sun doesn't shake and bake us...the derby area seems smaller, but then again everything looks smaller these days..."count down from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 - smash 'em up, fellas!!" ...after 3.5 hours, we've had enough of the noise and mud, so off to see the fairgrounds...not busy at all..."Raising Reckless" is playing at the beer pavilion and we watch for a time...grab a beer, grab some corn on the cob...that's enough, time to go back...



Sunday July 19, 2015 – quick breakfast at the Ramada, and we start to say our good-byes...**Howie Resnick** wants to get as far as he can by evening - yes, he drove over 2,000 miles just to come back to camp...**Rick Passman** is being driven to Wausau by **Mike Lurie**, before **Rick** catches his flight on Monday...**Lurie** is melancholy, having just spent a few days with his first cabin counselors, **Howie Resnick** in cabin 7 in 1970 this year, and **Bob Mowen** last year...fill the tanks, final hugs...that gleam in the eye needs no explanation, having just spent a few days in paradise, Camelot, Margaritaville – however you envision Waupaca in your memories...Until the Trail's End...