

09/09/08

A COSMIC TIME CAPSULE FOR CAMP WAUPACA... AND BEYOND: 1951-2028

...in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...on the 375th day of creation, at 10:16 am CST, God created Wisconsin...at 10:17 am CST, God created Lake Stratton...

...the Native Americans fished from the sand bottomed, crystal clear, glacier formed lake for centuries...no white people, especially Jews, had ever seen such beauty until tens of thousands of years later...

In the year 4,013 BC, one member of a tribe they called "Tomorrow River," (Waupaca) had a strange vision one starry night...He saw some strange fish food called a "gefilte" was served to his tribe in a building he had never seen before...at first he thought it was indigestion, but then he could clearly see, in his dream, a wonderful, short, balding man with black leggings and black moccasins pinching children's cheeks telling them, "You had never had it so good..."

....

...Skipper Kuklin woke his wife Loretta one morning in the spring of 1950...he would travel to Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin to find a camp that had sandy soil so the water would drain after a rain so kids could play baseball...He and Joe Rosen had operated camps...on a fall day on 1950 he found 80 acres on a small private lake...

...Steve Kuklin and many friends plants 1,000 pine trees...

...Dave Weiner, Pete Friend... Herb Beller...has a band that plays in town...

...Dan Lyon...Loretta and the puppies...a fire in Cabin 1-2...a raft and waterfront take form...

...Passman, Paul Ringle, Ron Lavine, Al Sorkin...Jim Avery...

...Bob Mowen was to come to camp in 19XX... he shows up three years later...Nate Greenberg buys out Joe Rosen...Manny buys them all out but has two partners: Gassel and Cohen...

...1967 Wayne Towne saves Michael Gordon's life in Eagle River...Campers take a train to camp...M&Ms, Seven Up...

...Shake hands with Big Chief Shelly Weiss...Ox crashes a car...Mowen screws up the voting. Larry Gray meets with an entire team to explain the fiasco...

...Bill Wanty builds a dining hall and Barney Town... CIT cabin are moved again...

...A Wally Tomchek and Allen Schaeffer Production...Dick Garb in a dress...Terry Rifkin...

..."You're off the range for the rest of the year"...Yeeuuuppp!

...The Green truck and Blue Bus...

...Georgia Euer and pizza during Sunday staff meetings...Erv Kasian and his tools...Mini Bikes...Wonderful Warren's Waterfront...Ted Phipps on the Range...Lurie & the Olympic Themes on tape...Medals made from Washers... The Super Duper Relay...garb gets stunk by hornets while ringing the bell... Blue and White Wars...

...Laundry, bowling, the Merrimac...Rissman and Reitmeister dance "Canary in a Coal Mine" in the Mess Hall...mini-golf... a helicopter lands at camp was it Gary Alpert's Dad?...

...Tommy Bartlett and the Dells, Noah's Ark...Devil's Lake campground...Larry Lifson hits two homers in a week!...

...Warshauer arrives as Zeus by Jet Ski...Kenny Robbins arrives as Zeus on skis...

...Foreign exchange camper, Oliver Haase smokes cigarettes at camp... "he does it at home in Germany, Manny," Howie Fleischer argues his case and Manny is stumped...

The winning cabin for inspection gets to go to the A&W for root beer... Letters home, care packages...

...Mike Euer makes silk screening shirts and art...Larry Gordon tries swimming with many teachers including Ron and Paul!

...a blonde Aryan looking counselor thinks that wearing Swastika arm bands for Parent's day will be a hoot and he is gone before dinner...

...Attention, attention please: Maurice Neuberger please come to the office we have a package for you..."

..Ron Lavine howls at the Horseshoe, "I have plenty of lead to take off plenty of points..."

...Suzi Stoffel gets run over by a chariot at the Olympics...Nurses come and go but Maxine Greenstein is forever, "Drink LOTS of water!"

...Ken Kramer stars in a Camp Waupaca movie, "Gold Tuchas!"... Scott Rubin stars as 007 in a Fourth of July Play...

...Dick Rist and commando campouts and midnight hikes...Perry Goldberg is almost lost...

...the staff enjoy nights out at JRs, The Harbor, Weasels, The Roost, then the Beach Club, then...

...The Camp learns to play Rugby and a strange game called Flickerball... Big Stick Little Stick...campfires and s'mores... Wayne Towne tells the best ghost stories...Silas Cropsey....Thump Drag...

...Rick Curley does a spot on impression of Mike Euer...Warshauer lampoons Warren's hair again...Kenny Lapins write poetry... We get a counselor who's jaw is wired shut for part of the summer and must eat all his food blended through a straw...

...during Casino night a "Big Wind" arrives. Damage control indicates that it is not a tornado...no one is hurt, thank God, but mail out from Campers is held for a few days so an official letter can come from Camp explaining. It is called, "The Waupaca Spin!"

...Mike Euer goes to supper clubs and boldly asks, "What's the biggest steak you got?"

...Rick Poole is South End of Camp Director after he hears everyone else's titles...

...Dennis Bravick does the unthinkable: He challenges Ron Lavine...Ron walks away from camp and never looks back...

...Manny sells camp in 1988 to Hadassah and Camp Young Judaea...

...First big reunion in 1996 and many attend...reunions continue and we meet Joe Rosen... a website created by Mike Lurie keeps the memories alive... We gain momentum and members...many get together all over the country to relive the best years of their lives at Camp Waupaca...

...In 2028 Camp Young Judaea gives up and sells the Camp to cranky but tenacious alumnus Rick Passman...Passman hires Warshauer and Lurie and together they create the Camp Waupaca Retirement Center...

...Forever and forever Waupaca or until the Trail's End...

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