

Paul Warshauer

From: W.R. Towne [raeway@ezwebtech.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:22 PM
o: Paul Warshauer
Subject: Re: Old Timers?

Wally and I would sit in the shade on the lawn above the ski area and put forth ideas, then drop ideas, and then more ideas keeping the ones we thought would make the best skit. Getting the names was a fun part of the creation (?) and often took a long time with many changes before the right name came to be. In the Revolutionary War one of my ancestors was an ensign in the navy, his name Ebenezer. The Fips part of the name came from Wally who felt a fellow named Fips had a reason to grumble. The dog in Petered Out was named after Bob and Sue Krons dog. Sometimes the names were a play on names of the players or other campers, counselors, or directors.

The first dark cloud to descend on the Tyrone Guppy Theater was the destruction of a ping pong table that Skipper had made with his own hands. Wally had asked if he could use any material that was stored in the Rec. Hall. The stands for the ping pong table had been broken and the top leaned up against a wall. Wally asked me if I could make a stair out of it for the up coming play. I laid out the runners for the stair on the ping pong table and cut them out. Then I nailed the steps to the runners. As soon as I finished Wally began to paint the stair (sorry Bob Mowen). It was around 11:00 PM when I left to go to bed in my cabin. As I walked to my cabin I met an agitated Skipper. "Did Wally cut up the ping pong table?" he asked. I replied that we had made a stair of it for the play. "Come with me!" said Skipper. At the theater Skipper asked, "Who gave you permission to cut up a ping pong table?" Wally said that he had given permission to use any material stored in the Rec. Hall. Skipper answered, "Yes, but a ping pong table is not material and is used as recreation on rainy days." From then on I wondered if Wally and I would be counselors come morning. The play and Parent's Day saved our hides. We went on to create props out of may sacred cows and the treasures in the Red Barn.

Then came the day that a skit featured Wally's Renault car. A somewhat shapely and not too bright kitchen girl was recruited to wear a swim suit and drape herself over the hood of the shinny blue car. The campers seemed to enjoy the scene and applauded the effort. Skipper did not. Wally's skill as the camp music man and play director saved his job, but never again was a kitchen girl draped on a car in the theater.

Skipper had a prize mounted fish. It had been caught in Stratton Lake by the previous owner of the camp's land. The fish had been left in the attic of the "White House" and was a little worn. Skipper thought that it could be an inspiration for some young lad to inspire to catch a fish that matched its size. Thus it was hung in the Rec. Hall over the fireplace. It however became the inspiration Wally needed to name the Tyrone Guppy Theater. To match the new name and the remodeling that Wally did to transform the Rec. Hall, he painted the fish orange. There was another strain on Skipper's heart when he saw the fish. I was told that he just shook his head and walked away.

There were many times when Wally would stomp out of camp pledging not to return. There were times when Skipper and Manny encouraged Wally to stomp out of camp and never return.

The beginning of the end for Wally and the Tyrone Guppy Theater came when some parents complained that their sons were given female roles and dressed as females. At the end of the rest of the summers Wally was at camp he would tell Manny that it had been his last year there.

There was much more to Wally, the year that he was the horse back riding instructor and the outdoor camping director are two examples. That would be for another time and another story.

----- Original Message -----

From: Paul Warshauer
To: 'W.R. Towne'
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 10:58 AM
Subject: RE: Old Timers?

hanks. What a trip down memory lane. I think we will request and extended piece for the 60th reunion!

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From: W.R. Towne [mailto:raeway@ezwebtech.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2010 1:44 PM
To: Paul Warshauer; 'Robert'; 'Warren Metzdorf'; 'Mike Lurie'
Subject: Re: Old Timers?

Wally was the music teacher at Waupaca High School beginning in the fall of 1956. I met him when I came home from college to take Renee to the prom. At that time he had a girl friend who taught there as well. Later I heard that she was Wally's opposite. When she took up with a girl, it caused trouble for Wally and after a year of rumors he found employment else where. I think that was at Pilgrim Middle School in Brookfield, WI. He was working at Camp Waupaca before he left Waupaca. The principal, Danielson, was a friend of Skippers and one of the first counselors at camp. He was the person who introduced Wally to Skipper.

It was my second year at Camp Waupaca when Wally came and I shared the Craft Shop duties with Chuck Cooper. The stage on the rec. hall was built and Wally came in with curtains he borrowed from somewhere. The first lighting, which could have burned the hall to the ground, came from Waupaca High School and was returned at the end of the season. I do not remember the first play that Wally put on, but Chuck and I did most of the work on the set, Wally did the painting. Several nights the three of us stayed up past midnight to get ready for Parent's Weekend. What ever the play it was a success and gave Wally a summer job for many years.

Play that Wally and I wrote were; Cowboy Jones, The Grumblin Solider of the Revolutionary War, North Terrific, Petered Out, several camp skits and other nonsense.

More latter.
Wayne

----- Original Message -----

From: Paul Warshauer
To: 'Robert'; 'Warren Metzdorf'; 'Wayne Towne'; 'Mike Lurie'
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 2:51 PM
Subject: Old Timers?

This is for the OLD Timers... Look at the OLD waterfront....Did I get most of the flags right?

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