

2023 Reunion Time Capsule

(with copious amounts of help from PW, and notes taken over the course of the events)
(Revised 26-Aug-2023 | pictures will be added gradually . . .)

Wednesday July 20th, 2022 – starting on the first Wednesday after the reunion, **Mike Lurie** and Little **Ricky Passman** exchange text messages every Wednesday counting down the weeks until the next reunion...**Mike** calculates it at about 56...

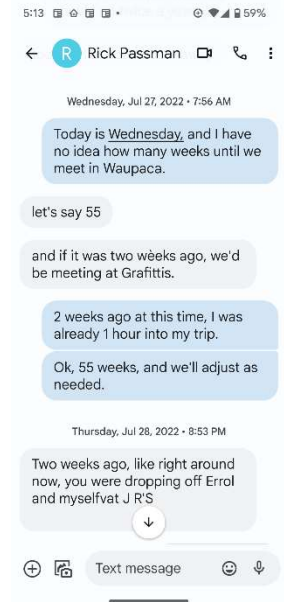
Friday November 4th, 2022 - CYJ announces new director, Rabbi Hannah Wallick...we reach out to say Mazel Tov...a Zoom meeting happens in April 2023 so we can introduce ourselves...we plant a seed for a visit in August after the CYJ camping season ends...Rabbi Hannah agrees and plans are set...further discussions in May and we learn the “mess hall is in danger of collapsing”...CWRG extends its support...a special donation website is established just for us!...

May, 2023 - word goes out about the mess hall and our August reunion to our website and our Facebook page...

June, 2023 - two HUGE, HEAVY anonymous (not really) boxes arrive at the east central Minnesota office of the Camp Waupaca Reunion Group in Saint Michael, home of **Mike Lurie**...July 22nd is set for the live Zoom unpacking...the August reunion itinerary is set, “subject to major or minor changes, with or without notice”...itinerary posted to our Facebook page and our website...



Saturday July 22nd – **Mike Lurie** arrives at the southwest Minnesota office of the Camp Waupaca Reunion Group in Sleepy Eye, home of **Paul Warshauer**...cameras are set up and lights are aimed just right...10 AM and we go live to open the boxes...68 anxious alumni are watching, as hints are given as to the identity of the mystery contributor...small box first: clipboards of documents from 1970-1976



(that's a hint) including cabin inspection forms, alphabetical lists, cabin lists, Olympics programs, B&W programs, staff meeting agendas – the list goes on and on!...big box last: lots of cabin photos (some not yet in our archives) and all-camp photos, beautifully framed...the identity of the donor is revealed to be **Rick Passman**...**Mike Lurie** starts scanning and posting...

...August arrives and the days are counting down to Wednesday August 9th, high noon at [Graffiti's Sports Pub](#) in Stevens Point, our starting spot for a dozen or so years now...

Saturday August 5th – Little **Ricky Pasman** boards a United jetliner headed to Denver then O'Hare and Green Bay..."The reunion has started" he exclaims...**Paul Warshauer** asks "What time are we meeting in Stevens Point?"..."check the itinerary YOU approved!" demands **Mike Lurie**..."not sure I can be there on time" says **Paul**...

Tuesday August 8th – **Lurie** heads to Chicago to visit his ailing mom and visit his sisters...**Passman** spends time in downtown Waupaca...

Wednesday August 9th – 6:00 AM: **Paul Warshauer** texts **Rick Passman & Mike Lurie** that he is leaving Sleepy Eye at 6 AM in order to arrive on time...7:30 AM: **Mike** leaves Chicago to make a quick stop in Milwaukee to visit the graves of some dear departed friends before heading to Stevens Point...**Mike** gets to Waupaca at



10:30 and has to make a pit stop before the final leg to Point...**Rick** leaves Waupaca at 11...why doesn't **Mike** pick up **Rick** n Waupaca? That was the plan but **Rick** didn't want to take a chance that **Lurie's** plans wouldn't change...11:38 AM: **Mike** pulls into The Square in Stevens Point to see **Paul** and **Rick** walking towards the pub..."Don't go in until I get there!" bellows **Lurie** from his car window...pictures are taken at the entrance and we go inside to see if long time barmaid/manager Jenica Zettler is still there, despite her protests that "this is my last year" ...she has been saying that for the last 10 years, but lo and behold she is no longer there!

"Brittney" tells us that Jenica finally landed a job at Sentry Insurance, but still works

part time at Graffiti's on Saturdays...the 3 amigos enjoy beverages and sandwiches, talking all things camp!..."Where is **Rick Poole**? We haven't heard from him since November last year"...**Mike** calls kitchen girl **Lori Huntoon** to see if she has any info about **Rick**, as they used to live close to each other and would get together from time to time...

...Off to the Comfort Inn, where **Mike Lurie** reserved a block of rooms at a favorable rate...**Paul** takes a nap, and **Mike & Rick** head to the Indian Crossing Casino – check that, they are closed on Mondays...luckily there are lots of alternatives, so they head to [Clearwater Harbor](#)...back to the hotel and wait for **Paul** to arise from his slumber to plan for the evening..."I had the most bizarre dream just now" **Paul** tells..."There as noise in the attic of my house and I went up there to find a group of Libyan lesbian terrorists"...what the actual f\$%#?!?...



...5:30 PM - off to [Simpson's Restaurant](#) for the "opening banquet", despite the itinerary saying something to the contrary...the story of **Al Greene** being thrown off the rifle range by **Wayne Towne** for shooting a cap gun at **Phil Steinberg** is retold...controversy ensues as **Mike** informs the group that **Wayne** denies this attribution, that it was rifle man **Jim Haggerty** in charge of the range at the time...**Paul** asks **Lurie** "Are you sure?"...**Mike** emails **Al Greene** to inquire, but he has no recollection...we will ask **Wayne** tomorrow, as we plan to have lunch with the aging staff member...

...dinner is ordered, broiled stuffed haddock for **Paul Warshauer** and **Mike Lurie**, and **Rick Passman** gets a healthy salad..."How's the rice pilaf today?" inquires **Mike**...a puzzled waitress asks why...we retell the story of the awful dish in 2022...she freezes for a moment and says "we did have a problem last summer with that"...**Mike** orders the vegetables for a side dish instead...the waitress brings out a side of rice pilaf for taste testing purposes!!!..."Give her a big tip" says **Lurie**...

...back to the hotel...**Mike** is exhausted from driving for 2 days and heads off to his room...**Paul** calls it a night as well...**Rick** goes across the road to the bar on-site at the resort...a wonderful first day in the books...

Thursday Aug 10th – **Mike** finds **Rick** in the hotel breakfast area where they load up on protein...the lads assemble at 10 AM to go to the Pick & Save to pick up lunch to be shared with **Wayne Towne**...cole slaw, potato salad, brats, and drinks are paid for at the seriously backed up self-checkout...one fine local allows **Mike** to go ahead of him with just 2 items...make that 3 as **Paul** has **Mike** pay for his drink, too...on the road for a 90-minute drive to Keshena ...we see beautiful countryside as the road passes by..."Now THIS is Wisconsin" declares **Paul**....."Wait! What is the name of that clinic? The penis chiropractic clinic??"..."No, **Lurie**! It says 'Pensis'", roars **Warshauer**...we arrive at what appears to be **Wayne's** actual house, not his cabin...a passing motorist steers us to **Wayne's** cabin, but he's not there...we look



everywhere and call his name, but he is nowhere to be seen...so we go back to his house, and there he is with wife **Rae Renee**, a former Camp Waupaca cook...**Wayne** thought we were getting together next week...the **Towne's** pivot their plans and we end up at the cabin, fire up the grill and cook a scrumptious lunch, befitting the state of Wisconsin!...we eat and reminisce, tell stories, ask questions, and enjoy our shared Camp Waupaca friendship...**Wayne** asks us if we know the origin of the Thumpdrag story, but we admit we do not know...**Wayne** regales us with a story about a neighbor of camp, not happy with the bell that announces meals and classes, that comes once a week in the night wearing a black cape and an evil clown mask, goes up to a cabin and drags his flashlight across the cabin wall, then waits for a camper to show his face...then he takes the flashlight and puts it under his face pointing upwards, and scares the bejeebers out of the kids!...**Wayne** also confirms that the entire Towne family worked at camp at one time or another, including: Mother **Anne Towne** (cook), Father **Hazen** (mowing), brothers **Alvin**, **Earl**, and **Dean**, and wife **Rae Renee** – also **Wayne's** daughters **Tammy** and **Cindi** worked at camp – truly a family affair!...**Rick Passman** reminds Wayne about the 1973 Early Bird trip, where **Rick** and some other staff asked to borrow the camp Carry-all van to go into town in the Dells...on the way



back to the campground, they got the vehicle stuck!..."Yep" confirms **Wayne**...3 hours pass in no time and it's back to the hotel to await the arrival of **Warren** (and wife Anna) **Metzdorff**..."Now THIS is Wisconsin" declares **Lurie** as he admires the countryside..."Uh, no Mr. Lurie, it is not – there are too many utility poles and no body of water"...**Paul** makes up the "rules" as we go along...

...4:30 PM – **Warren** and Anna and **Rick** head to Clearwater Harbor to prevent **Warren** from becoming "hangry"... "Feeling a little peckish there, **Warren**?" asks **Rick**...plans are made to eat at the new KRB ([Klinger's Real BBQ](#)) located next to Chef Chu's (formerly The Windmill)...

...7:00 PM – "Warsh up for dinner, men!" ... "Evening has come, the board is spread. Thanks be to him who gives us bread. Praise G-d for bread..." ... "For these and all thy blessings, oh Lord we thank thee." ...**Warshauer** tips a kid \$2 to get him an ice water...**Mike** tells the group about his visit to Missouri for **Mike Euer's** funeral, and subsequent visit to see **Bob Mowen** in the nursing home...back to the hotel for beverages at the Par 4 Bistro...**Mike & Warren** exchange back surgery stories...**Paul** regales us with his quite simple story of his open-heart surgery, to not feel left out...**Rick Passman** just rolled his eyes and had nothing to contribute health-wise...

Friday August 11th – breakfast at hotel...**Warshauer** asks a Semitic looking young female diner if she was affiliated with CYJ...no, she says...where you from?...Chicago, she says..."Really? Whereabouts?" **Mike** inquires... Rogers Park, she replies...**Lurie** gushes and says he grew up there too, not too far away from her...**Mike Lurie** and **Rick Passman** take the Big Chief's Cadillac for a long overdue service...upon returning to the resort, the grass is being mowed, and **Lurie** comments on that fresh cut grass smell..."Now THIS is Wisconsin!" he declares to **Passman**..."Hey **Paul**, your license tab is expired", **Mike Lurie** exclaims..."Impossible" he says – "I put them on myself"... "Check for yourself", replies **Mike**..."Didn't someone have an expired tab last year too?" asks **Mike**..."Yes, it was **Errol Grisard**" replies **Rick**...off to the historical society, where



Paul Warshauer brings more donations to the permanent Camp Waupaca collection...a video is made symbolically showing the contents transfer from **Passman** to **Lurie** to **Warshauer** to Tracy Behrendt, historical society curator...we meet a lovely couple and we start talking

about summer camp experiences...Chris & Melina Braeger from Milwaukee, he spent 1 year at Interlachen in Wisconsin and was deeply indoctrinated in the Jewish religion and culture, working in the Kosher kitchen...discussion turned to history and teaching, truly a lovely couple...

...before the group gets “hangry”, they decide on the Indian Crossing Casino for lunch...”You are looking a little peckish there, **Mike Lurie**” observes **Rick Passman**...**Paul Warshauer** spots an old lady in the crowd, and asks if she would marry him, but only if she has a decent pension plan (she was 90!)...**Lurie** orders a side of asparagus, only to receive 4 measly spears for \$5...he protests but to no avail...food and drink outside under partly cloudy skies, a nice breeze, and low humidity – **Manny** is watching out for us...the group waves to all the boaters passing through the channel...there is a wedding party at the Casino, checking out the venue for their nuptial event planned for the next night...**Paul** and **Mike** provide their wisdom to the couple...”What time can we crash the party?” asks **Lurie**...the groom replies “come over after 9 PM”...in the parking lot, another future bride is with her soon to be MIL...we ask for names, thinking it might be a **Wanty** or a **Salan**...the MIL says she knows Suzanne Salan and husband Joe Udoni...”I was at their wedding” boasts **Lurie**...she will tell them about **Paul** and **Mike** from Camp Waupaca...**Warren** imparts his marriage wisdom to the bride: “There are 3 rings in a relationship: the engagement ring, the wedding ring, and the suffer-ring!”...



...Off to Fleet Farm for our annual visit...**Paul Warshauer** takes a scooter and proceeds to cut corners and run into endcaps...everyone spreads out to get their goodies...**Mike** gets mixed nuts, so does **Paul**, along with sesame sticks...**Rick** gets



his annual Fleet Farm t-shirt...**Warren** and **Anna** are nowhere to be found, so **Rick** and **Mike** and **Paul** leave...meeting in the boardroom of the Comfort Inn & Suites to review the 2022 time capsule which is not yet completed...**Mike** has been actively penning the 2023 Time Capsule

document (what you are reading right now!), lest he forgets the details, with help from **Paul** and **Rick**...

...**Dick Garb** (via email, he is not with us in Waupaca) shares the obituary of John Munic, father of former camper **Bruce Munic** from the early or mid 1970s...that name does not sound familiar, so **Mike** and **Paul** check the records from the suspected years, and they cannot find **Bruce Munic** anywhere...that lead to examining the 1973 all-camp photo...with the help of **Rick** and **Paul**, we filled in a dozen or so extra names, like **Andy Sirota, Michael Myers, Larry Schaner, Jerry Schwartz, Brian Harvey, Barry Craven, Mike "Pinky" Blumenthal, Glen Becker, Victor Shyman, Howard Bramson, Jonathan Mintz, Charlie Cole, Richard Berg**...

...5:00 PM – Don Paulo, Don Ricardo, and Don Miguel (**Warshauer, Passman, and Lurie**) head to JR Sportsman's Bar, a regular hangout for staff in the 1960s – 1980s...the nostalgia runs deep at this spot...they open a tab, and **Paul** says "put the tab under the name 'Mr. X'"...plans are made to go to Wheelhouse for dinner...**Warren** and **Anna Metzdorff** join the lads at JRs before heading to dinner...when **Paul** checks out, he finds that the barmaid put the tab under "3 old guys at the end of the bar" – we are offended! We were in the MIDDLE of the bar!...**Warren** goes ahead first to see if there is a long wait for a Friday night, and finds that there is no wait at all, but parking is a headache...**Rick** steers **Mike** the back way to Wheelhouse but it turned out to be a scenic route to Chef Chu's instead!...**Mike** finds parking immediately and we find the **Metzдорff** party waiting for us...**Paul** parks himself at the booth across from our table where 7 beautiful

young women are dining...he strikes up some sort of conversation and finds out they have been getting together annually for 20 years, but they look like maybe they were 7 or 8 years old when they first met!...

...drinks and meals are ordered, including pizza, lasagna, and salad...**Mike** keeps checking radar, as severe thunderstorms are approaching the area..."Now THIS is Wisconsin!" he declares...dinner is paid for, and the group leaves to head back to the resort...**Rick Passman** is the only one to stay up late while the others hit the sack before our BIG day tomorrow!!...

Saturday August 12th – today is the day! We get to spend the day at camp, meet new director Rabbi Hannah Wallick, and hold our annual council meeting at the freshly painted Horse Shoe...at breakfast, we run into the Braeger family from Milwaukee again...

...Off to Pick & Save to gather our lunch items...**George Lamm** buys brownies for



the group...the campers all head to E989 Stratton Lake Road to head into camp...**Mike** records a video of **Paul** at the gate, then realizes he left important documents for the annual council meeting back at the hotel...he heads back while the rest of the team heads into

camp, park by the rec hall, and head down to the top of the waterfront to eat lunch while looking at spring fed, glacial formed, sand bottom Little Lake Stratton...**Lurie** re-arrives late and joins the group..."Who is that coming down the path?"...it is new CYJ director Rabbi Hannah Wallick...we engage in great conversations and it is clear her love for the camp and its future is greater than previous directors, plus her admiration for our group is recognized and appreciated...we finish our meal, clean up, and head to the horseshoe to prepare for our annual council meeting...just as

we start the meeting, we see a group of people walking towards us....it is former early 1980s camper **Scott Hershman** with wife Heather and chain-o-lakes residents Barry and wife...back to the meeting, native American headdress wearing Big Chief **Paul Warshauer** calls the meeting to order...assignment of proxies ensues...minutes from 2022 meeting are approved as written...**Mike Lurie** presents the treasurers report...this year's Hall of Fame



discussion deviates from the previous 3 years of “thematic” inductees (2020 – directors/owners, 2021 – program directors, 2022 – long time committed staff (Bob Mowen & Wayne Towne)...**Mike Lurie** makes a motion that this year's theme be waterfront directors...discussion follows that we should recognize nurses first...**Mike** explains his rationale that the waterfront directors had much more direct interaction with more campers more frequently than the nurses...**George Lamm** proposes one waterfront director and one nurse be nominated...**Mike** nominates **Warren Metzdorff** who served as waterfront directors from 1974 – 1988, and taught over 10,000 campers to swim and waterski...**Rick Passman** nominates nurse **Rosemarry Clotiaux**, who was joined by her sons **Craig** and **Chris** from 1969-1977, along with husband **Leroy** who spent a week or two each summer...**Leroy** was our gate guard each parent's day keeping the early birds from coming in too early – May they all RIP...the vote is taken and it is unanimous...

...after the board meeting, it is “free time”...**Rick** heads out to walk the grounds...**George** and **Paul** drive out to the new firepit found last year...**Mike** seeks out Rabbi Hannah to walk the grounds with her and provide additional background about camp...**Mike** presents her with a check for \$360 from the CWRG, and **George Lamm** donates an additional \$150, all to be used to preserve the mess hall (have YOU donated yet??)... **Mike** goes into cabin 9 and places a call to his former cabin 9 CIT **Todd Laff** and leaves a message for **Todd** to clean his area and make his bed...



...**Mike** and Rick head to the Old Beach and make the trek back to the new beach along the long lost “Old Beach Trail” that has not been maintained in 40 years...thanks to the “high winds” of 1983, the path is covered with several downed trees...

...an email from **Dick Garb** clarifies that camper **Barry Munic**, whose father just passed, as a camper in 1980, not the 1970s...

...Once back at camp, **Mike** sees that **Todd** has returned his call and left a message, so **Mike** returns the call...**Todd** asks “are you really at camp?”...they chat about the good old days and appreciate the opportunity to connect while someone is at camp...”Now THIS is Wisconsin!”...

...Back to the hotel to prepare for the “final banquet” at Simpson’s Indian Room Restaurant...**Mike** asks “How’s is the rice pilaf tonight?” and **George Lamm** says “Knock that off, Lurie!”...delicious food is consumed, including broiled stuffed haddock, ahi tuna salad (well cooked tuna this time, please?), steak, etc...the CWRG is paying for this meal by unanimous acclamation from the council meeting held earlier that day at camp...

...This wonderful day has come to an end...good-byes are said, as the **Metzdorff’s** and **George Lamm** expect to leave for home early the next day...

Sunday August 13th – we awaken to an email regarding the use of a Native American headdress during our annual meeting at camp yesterday...much discussion ensues...the “advance team” of **Lurie**, **Passman**, and **Warshauer** are the remaining 3 campers in Waupaca...breakfast at [Waupaca Woods Restaurant](#)...a man joins us at our table as we’re dining and its late 1980s staff **Ty Clinton**!...**Paul**



sees a baby staring at him and he waves...”She looks familiar” states **Paul**...sure enough she is in this weeks’ Picture Post!...head downtown for the arts



10 The Picture Post “Cos
Little Emma Boerewald is sure to make you smile with that cute face.

festival, but there's really nothing happening there, so we head to the Red Mill at **Paul's** request...the dam at the end of the Crystal River trip route has been removed, returning the river to its natural flow...who remembers the air pocket?...

...back at the Comfort Inn & Suites at Par 4 Golf resort, the men gather once again in the board room to examine the 1967 all-camp photo...many names are identified by cross-referencing to cabin photos where available...we have no alpha list or cabin list to guide us, so we rely on our memories to fill in the blanks...

...The men travel to Wautoma to dine at the [Silvercryst Supper Club](#) that they discovered in 2022...they remember the food and waiter well from last year and are hoping to score a window table this year, overlooking the lake..."Now THIS is Wisconsin!" they all declare!!...the food was subpar and the service was non-existent! All are disappointed, even more than last Friday when **Mike Lurie** got 4 spears of asparagus for \$5 at Indian Crossing Casino!!...back to the hotel for our 2nd to last sleep of our fabulous reunion weekend...

Monday August 14th – we awaken to a steady rain, a moderate breeze, and cool temps in the low 60s – clearly **Manny** and **Skipper** held off the needed rain for as long as they could...head downtown for breakfast at a lovely diner called "[Little Fat Gretchen's](#)"...oatmeal is a good choice for this day...back to the hotel to work on the 1967 all-camp photo...it's amazing how we still remember names after all these decades have passed!...we added **Jon Smith, Steve Lavin, Gary Alpert, Matt "Tank" Kaplan**, and switched **Cary Goldberg** to **Eddie Goldberg**...it's still raining but



[Clearwater Harbor](#) has a protected, heated deck where we can enjoy ourselves...very few people are willing to brave the elements, but for us, it was refreshing and invigorating..."My batteries are charging, **Paul Warshauer!**" exclaims **Mike Lurie**...as

we dine and imbibe, the weather begins to clear – well, at least the rain stopped, but the wind and clouds persist...back to the hotel for a nap...where do we go for dinner? What a dilemma! After the miserable experience last night, the boys that

come from Stratton Lake decide to return for a 3rd visit to Simpson's Indian Room Restaurant for haddock and ahi tuna salad...they were NOT disappointed! The



same waitress that served us on



Saturday evening served us again this evening...one last visit to JR Sportsmen's Bar, where we are treated to a series of songs by Sonny & Cher

while we watch MLB Baseball Tonight and discuss the nuances of the game...time to settle in for our last evening..."It's going to be a difficult day tomorrow" laments **Paul Warshauer**, as we will not see **Rick Passman** in 2024...he and lovely wife Kari are moving out of the country to Ecuador to become ex-pats...



Tuesday August 15th – "well men, this is it" as they have a quick breakfast in the hotel lobby...**Mike Lurie** heads out first (and is the first to arrive back home), but **Rick Passman** waits until the last possible moment to leave Waupaca...**Paul Warshauer** keeps him company and is the last to depart Waupaca after **Rick** hops in his transport back to Green Bay...

"Now THIS is Wisconsin!"

"This is WAUPACA!!"

"We are the kids that come from Stratton Lake . . ."

Until the Trail's End . . .