

2020 Camp Waupaca Reunion Time Capsule

(Written by Mike Lurie and Paul Warshauer)

Saturday August 10, 2019...The annual board meeting of the Camp Waupaca Reunion Group was adjourned at 3:03 PM CDT at the Horseshoe at camp...we have 2 more hours to explore and see what treasure CYJ found in the crawl space under Manny's house...lots of slides emerge from a nearly 30 year slumber, some badly damaged by the elements...**Mike Lurie** will bring them home to clean up and digitize, to add to our growing collection of photo artifacts for our website....
...Off to our annual "Final Banquet" at Simpson's Restaurant in Waupaca, with **George Lamm** and lady friend Lee, **Mike Lurie**, **Errol Grisard**, **Paul Warshauer**, and **Rick Passman**...baked halibut as usual...plans are discussed to rent a cabin on the Chain O' Lakes in 2020 for an entire week, thereby reducing the housing costs for the hard core reunion attendees....

May 2020...lots of concern over COVID-19, and how it may impact our annual trek to Waupaca in August..."It will blow over"..."There's one or two cases, and it will all disappear like a miracle"...discussions amongst board members and the usual reunion attendees about our plans..."it's 3 months off, I'm sure it will be fine"...hunt the internet for the best pricing for the Ramada Hotel in Waupaca..."**Lurie**, get me a room", bellows **Warshauer**...**Mike** finds a great rate on Priceline for 2 non-refundable rooms...**Paul** also books himself a room..."Are you senile **Warshauer**? Now what do I do with the extra non-refundable room, **Paul**?"...

May 18, 2020...CYJ cancels all summer camping sessions...for the first time since camp started in 1951, there would be no campers on Stratton Lake...even during the polio pandemic of the early 1950s, camp was always in session...the CWRG sends a note of sadness to CYJ, and Director Robin Anderson replies with a heartfelt thank you in return for expressing our concern...

June 2020...**Rick Passman** bows out of attending the reunion due to COVID-19 concerns, as he himself tests positive, luckily with no symptoms...email to board members and reunion groupies, and post to Facebook that we have an extra room in mid-August, who wants it?...

July 2020...**George Lamm** will bring his pontoon boat to Waupaca, and he will take the extra room...lots more planning and preparation of itineraries and board meeting agendas, lots of communications via email and Facebook, lots of updates to the website, www.campwaupaca.com, and lots of text messages and phone calls to see who all will be going to Waupaca...

July 8, 2020... an email from **Mike Lurie** is sent to CYJ to request a 5 hour on-site visit on Saturday August 15...

July 29, 2020...we get word from CYJ that they are not allowing anyone onto the camp grounds and we will not be able to come into camp...we inform them that we will be stopping by on Stratton Lake Road to make a documentary of the "White Pine Trail", but will not step into camp...

Sunday August 9, 2020...**George Lamm** bows out of attending, citing spiking COVID-19 cases in Wisconsin, and in Waupaca specifically...everyone understands but reality sets in that for the first time since 1996, no one from the Camp Waupaca Reunion Group will be visiting Waupaca this summer...**Paul**

and **Mike**, the remaining 2 hard-core reunion junkies, talk but are undecided..."Let's steep on it" suggests **Warshauer**...

Monday August 10, 2020...**Paul** and **Mike** discuss the logistics and the logic of going to Waupaca...wearing masks, physical distancing, what's open and what's closed...we already know that JR Sportsmen's Bar has closed permanently, and other places have limited or no service...does it even make sense for both of us to drive 4+ hours, just to say we were in Waupaca, and keep our streak alive?...NO!...it has been decided to cancel the get together in Waupaca...the annual board meeting is changed from "live from Waupaca" to "live on ZOOM" ...meeting link is sent to all members via email or on Facebook...this will be a first, and we have no idea what to expect!...calls to Priceline and Expedia to cancel reservations...many thanks to our friend Julie Miller for fielding those phone calls, and all non-refundable monies are refunded!...alternate plans are put in place to still get together in some small way, so **Mike** will travel to the Sleepy Eye, MN branch of the Camp Waupaca Reunion Group to work on website updates and other matters...

Thursday August 13, 2020...**Mike Lurie** loads his SUV with all of his Camp Waupaca memorabilia and heads to Laura Ingalls territory in SW Minnesota... Meanwhile **Paul** cleans off his work table in anticipation of big doings coming soon to his three car garage turned office... **Mike** arrives in Sleepy Eye



wearing a mask (due to the dreaded corona virus) at 11:45 am and so the Official 2020 Camp Waupaca Reunion begins..."mi casa su casa", **Warshauer** tells **Lurie**..."your bathroom is in the top floor of the Warshauer Mansion"...so much to do but **Paul** and **Mike** begin the process of loading as many Olympic team rosters (containing names of all the campers from the first four weeks) and Blue & White War

rosters (containing names of all the campers from the second four weeks) as possible....beginning with 1988 and working backwards using Trail's End Yearbooks and various files scanning begins...we have Subway salads for lunch - how healthy!...we ask **Paul's** assistant, Vickie Kuehn to assist in taping photos from camp on to blank pages of 8-1/2 x 11 three-hole paper then into three ring binders..."Bad idea, **Paul**" bellows **Mike**...so many, many pages of old pictures triggering great memories and phone calls to some of those in the photos....dinner of pizza...exhausted, and done for the first day...**Mike** checks into the Amerclnn in Sleepy Eye...**Paul** sleeps in his own bed and both dream of camp...It is not a traditional reunion but one for reunion history...TAPS...

Friday, August 14, 2020...Continuing with more scanning of various articles, photos and documents...we focus on scanning cabin photos going back to the 1950s...we scan and add Player of the Day pages, batting averages, swimming award pages, and the casts from various camp theatricals on to the website...time flies by and **Mike** and **Paul** are pleased that this reunion time was spent recording and preserving history...[We shoot a video for Facebook](#) about the work we've accomplished thus far, and also about some of the historic treasures we plan to donate to the Waupaca Historical Society...they



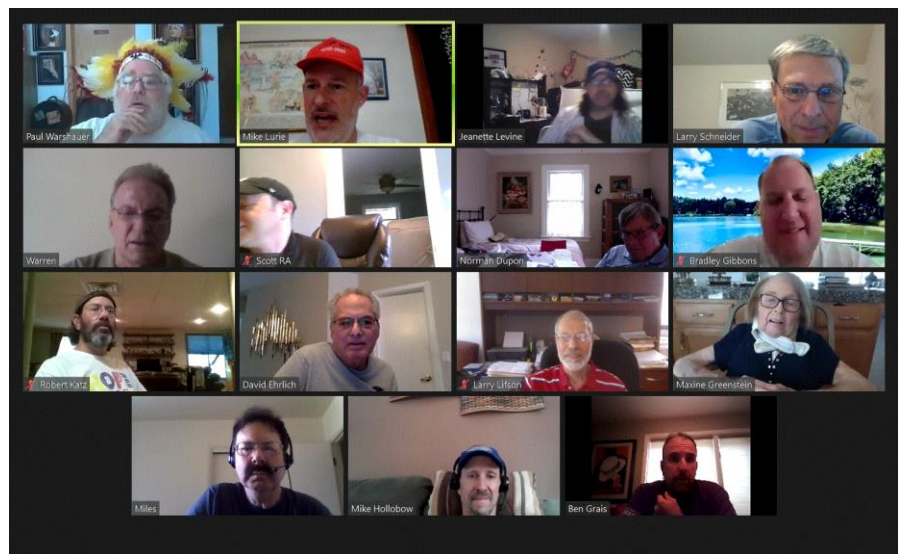


have agreed to accept some material from the group...by 5:00 pm we are again mentally exhausted and decide to go to Simpsons in Waupaca for the final banquet...wait, not this year...so we settle for a good restaurant that has social distancing... "Sozial" is the actual name of the New Ulm Restaurant. **Paul** has ½ a Schell's beer, **Mike** has water. We are big partiers... What would **Rick Passman** say?...Back to the office to discuss how to reorganize the website in places...we decide to add a section, "In Their Own Words" and include memoirs and reminiscences from various years as a sort of on line Yearbook...Great pieces from **Herb Beller** from the 1950s would sit next to camp stories by **Wayne Towne** and various other tales from **Bob Mowen** or **Scott Rubin**...we create the front page as a sort of Foreword to this digital yearbook and end it with the closing line of most yearbooks..."As The Trail's End..."

Saturday, August 15, 2020...**Mike** and **Paul** prepare for the annual meeting and the first ever Zoom meeting. Not how many will attend so Mike sets up his computer in Paul's dining room and Paul uses his office computer in his living room...We also review materials in the two large bins and a paper garbage bag Mike brought from his home in St Michael in the Minneapolis suburbs...letters from counselors and staff, and we decide on some new formatting for the front page of the website...we have our last lunch of Subway sandwiches and return to Paul's house...

At 2:00 pm Central Daylight Time fifteen (15) folks sign on to the 2020 Zoom Camp Waupaca Reunion Group Annual Meeting...It becomes part formal business meeting and part video remembrances ...wonderful stories about the Braves program, swimming, Blue and White War...mentions of **Skipper, Manny, Bob Krone**. At the end, what a wonderful meeting of campers and counselors representing nearly every year of camp from 1951-1988! Those attending were:

Warren Metzdorff
Scott Rubin-Asch
Scott Levine
Paul Warshauer
Mike Lurie
Larry Schneider
Norm Dupon
Bradley H Gibbons (Polan)
Mike Hollobow
Maxine Greenstein
David Ehrlich
Robert Katz
Ben Graiss
Larry Lifson
Henry Werch



...after the call, **Mike Lurie** packed up his laptop and loaded the bins and garbage bag into his hybrid car, **Paul Warshauer** put the Trail's End Yearbooks back on his library cart and returned them to his library...**Paul** turned off the lights and air conditioning in his office building...both men smile and hope that next year many campers and staff will assemble once more on the shores of crystal clear, sand bottomed, spring fed, glacier formed, Stratton Lake and have an on camp reunion...it has been a unique summer reunion but one that will always return us to Waupaca or...until the Trail's End...



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