

Tecumseh In The 1970's

From 1970 - Back in 1970, there were two Pemi Days. The first was at Tecumseh, the second was at Pemi. The first Pemi Day was very close, we were losing by the slimmest of margins. The entire event came down to the 13's tennis meet. The winner of the 13's tennis meet would win the entire day. Eventually, everything came down to one individual match, Tecumseh's Geoff McClain vs. Pemi's Roger McEnery. It had been raining all day, but everything was still being played. McClain was barely losing his match when the rain picked up in intensity. The Pemi coach told McEnery that if he felt the conditions were unplayable, he had the right to say so, ending the match and giving Pemi the tennis match and the entire day. McEnery, to his credit, said he wanted to continue playing, despite his coach's pleas. The match went on for awhile with over 200 people from both camps watching, applauding or groaning with every point. Finally the clouds burst, the rain came pouring down, the tennis courts were flooded and the match had to be terminated. Pemi won the hat by the slimmest of margins.

Everyone knew that the next Pemi Day was about three weeks away and would be at their place. During the next three weeks, morning instruction periods were replaced with Pemi team practices and Blue-Gray competition was limited to baseball, tennis, swimming and soccer, the four sports we would compete with them in. Every day was spent getting ready to reclaim the hat. We were fully prepared, we easily won the hat back and had a very joyous time in the process.

From 1970 - The end of summer Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta had been a major tradition at Tecumseh for many decades. In 1970, Tecumseh hired a counselor by the name of Steve Marrinson to run the Operetta. Marrinson wanted to change tradition and put on *The Music Man*, instead of a Gilbert and Sullivan production. Tecumseh was not thrilled with this idea, Marrinson however insisted on the change. After a few weeks, Marrinson was no longer working at Tecumseh. In the final edition of *The Sunbeam* in 1970, the following was written: "We're Wondering ... what would have happened to the operetta if Marrinson stayed?" as well as "Seen Around: Marrinson going once, going twice, gone." Tecumseh put on Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* that summer, under the direction of late arrival Henry B. Williams with the Curtis York and Mike Schmelzle serving as musical directors. Lesson learned: Don't mess with tradition at Tecumseh.

From Dave DeWitt, 1970 - I remember as a senior on Mary Bee night having big fires behind the tents, in preparation for the annual Mary Bee activities. I thought it was really cool. I also remember that same summer being out sailing on a beautiful morning before a dance with Camp Songadewon when a storm suddenly came up out of nowhere. We were quickly told to get all the boats back to shore right away. Soon after getting back to shore, this huge wind blew down the hill, accompanied by hail and lightning. The storm lifted the canoes into the air and blew them into the lake. Lightning hit the flag pole and knocked it down. The tennis backboard was knocked over as well. A huge bolt of lightning hit the metal tennis court fences. A big tree up by the Opera House had all of its bark blown off. But the thing I remember best about that day was how cute the Songadewon girls were.

Editor note: Dave would go on to be a counselor at Tecumseh for several years. I remember him having a good time at the Counselor Shack one evening in 1974. He decided to add some humor to the evening by putting a lamp shade on his head while dancing with some girl. Seeing this, Gary Cooper grabbed some matches and lit the lamp shade on fire while Dave was still wearing it. Dave got the lamp shade off before any damage was done. The final edition of *The Sunbeam* reported: "Seen Around: Dave DeWitt being a hothead at the shack."

From 1971 - Somebody came up with the idea of adding rugby to the camp athletic program. Nobody really knew much about the game, but the seniors had rugby during a few instruction periods before the first Blue-Gray rugby game was to be played. In the first (and last) ever rugby game on record at Tecumseh, two campers wound up going to the hospital. One of them was Trip Wheeler who wound up with a separated shoulder.

From 1971 - In one of the funniest talent night skits ever performed, Sam Griffin and Scott Bullitt - two of the larger campers at that time - along with Jerry Johnson, all put on old fashion dresses and did an imitation of the old musical group, the Andrews Sisters. A record player was off stage, playing the song *The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy Of Company B*. The three men in drag lip-synched and danced to the entire song. The entire audience was in tears laughing.

From 1972 - One of the great lowlights of the 70's occurred in 1972 when the dishwasher malfunctioned, leaving a film of soap on all the plates and silverware. Nobody was aware of this until almost the entire camp had diarrhea. There were constantly full houses and waiting lines at the Widdow, which held only ten customers at a time back then. After a few days, camp determined the source of the problem, but not until almost every camper and counselor got the stomach bug that spread through throughout the entire camp.

From 1972 - The 1972 season saw the addition of the Rookies age group, the youngest age group at Tecumseh. Until 1971, the Junior III's were the youngest group. In 1972, four young campers had the distinction of being the only people in camp history to be Junior III's one year (1971) and Rookies the next year (1972). The four campers were Dave DiEugenio, Bobby Glascott, Peter Glascott and John Molloy.

From 1972 - August 13 arrived and camp prepared for another Mary Bee Night. A couple of campers got the bright idea to purchase a can of Nair, a product that is used by women to remove unwanted body hair. Mike Diffenderfer and J.R. "Tex" Castle went around on Mary Bee night, grabbing junior campers and spraying the Nair on their heads before letting them go. The next day, Mac Jackson wound up with a bald spot on top of his head. Several other campers would run their hands through their hair and find large clumps of hair in their hands. That night, several counselors found these two campers, pinned them down and gave them rather unique haircuts as punishment for their actions on Mary Bee Night.

From Biff Sturla, 1973 - This was my sixth year at Tecumseh and my final summer as a camper. We went over to Pemi for the annual competition with them. Pemi Day was always a huge event for all of us and fortunately, Tecumseh came out on top that year. On the truck ride home, everyone was very rowdy and happy. A few seniors started giving the younger campers wedgies (pulling the back of their underwear up out of their pants as far as possible, a rather painful experience). After all of the younger campers received wedgies, they retaliated and gave the seniors wedgies. Finally, the counselors all got wedgies. Each time a person got a wedgie, their underwear was tied to the others, forming a very long chain of underwear. The long string of underwear was tied to the end of the trip truck, flying out the back, towards the cars behind us. We estimated the chain of underwear to be about 40 feet long.

As two of the older seniors at camp in 1973, Tom Edwards and I used to occasionally wake up in the middle of the night and dump any senior that we weren't happy with. With luck, we could toss the camper out of his bed and into the bushes outside of the tent, with his mattress and bed rack landing on top of him. Around the fifth week of camp, former camper George Steele arrived at camp to be a counselor for the rest of the summer. Several counselors asked Tom and me to "take care of George" as a welcome back to camp. Both Tom and I were hoping to be counselors the following summer so we decided to get on the good side of those counselors by honoring their request. We woke up around 3:00 AM, went to the kitchen to get a bucket and filled it with water and ice. We carried it to the Mack's Shack where George was sleeping. Our plan was for me to pour the ice water on George's face, then have Tom flip George and his bed over before running back to Senior Campus. We somehow arrived at the Mack's Shack despite both of us having very dull flashlights. Just as I was about to throw the ice water on George, I realized that the person we were standing in front of was not actually George, but rather Mike Lawless. Mike was one of the strongest people I had ever met and probably the last person I wanted to upset. We again looked around for George and finally found him. I threw the ice water on him, Tom flipped George and his bed upside down and we sprinted back to Senior Campus, mission accomplished.

From 1974 - Peter Abronski had been a camper at Tecumseh since 1969. In 1973, he was the recipient of the Football Award for his hard work and dedication to the sport. The following summer, Peter returned to camp as an accomplished soccer player. He worked very hard all summer to become better in soccer, now his first love. The soccer staff awarded Peter with the Lingelbach Soccer Trophy at the end of the summer. The soccer staff bragged that they “stole” Abronski away from the football staff and claimed that soccer was taking over camp.

From 1974 - Gary Cooper was one of the more notable counselors of the 1970's. He played varsity football at Gettysburg College, and was editor of *The Sunbeam* for several summers at Tecumseh. Coops was also a very heavy sleeper. Several other counselors decided that they were going to take turns each night sneaking into Gary's cabin, the Crow's Nest, and dump him. Almost every night, a different counselor would come in from his late night escapades and dump Gary. Eventually, Gary decided to tie his bed to some of the woodwork in the cabin so he could not be tipped over. When the counselors realized that Gary did this, they would climb under his bed, untie the bed from the woodwork and then tip him over. I'm not sure exactly which counselors were in on this. I believe that John (now Jack) Armstrong and Paul “Byrd” Luff were two of the people who took turns in this nightly event.

From Biff Sturla, 1974 - One of the more colorful personalities at Tecumseh in the early 1970's was a boy by the name of Kenny Keuffel. His father had been a counselor years before and was a standout football player at Princeton. Kenny was a bit of a goofball and always managed to do things a little bit less than spectacular. One of his greatest feats came the day after a dance with Robindel. He had met a nice girl at the dance and really liked her a lot. He decided at rest hour to write a letter to her. Since it was a Sunday, camp rules required him to write a letter home as well. Unfortunately, Kenny somehow managed to put the love letter to his new found girlfriend in the envelope addressed to his parents, and put the letter to his parents in the envelope addressed to his new Robin-del friend.

There was another great story involving a love letter that year. At breakfast one morning, George Munger announced that someone had put an un-addressed letter in the camp mailbox. He asked the person who wrote it to come up and claim it so the recipient's address could be printed on the envelope. Nobody came up. After the meal, Beth Glascott (daughter of Tecumseh legend Bob Glascott) came up to George and said the letter was hers, but she was too embarrassed to claim it at the meal in front of the entire camp. George gave her the letter, and then came up with a devious idea. At lunch, he again announced that he still had the un-addressed letter. He said that if nobody claimed it by dinner, that he would open up the letter at dinner and find out who it belonged to. Dinner came and still nobody claimed the letter so George opened it up. Of course, it was now a fake letter, but nobody outside of George and Beth knew this. George began reading a very mushy love letter that began with “My Dearest Martha.” Each line was funnier than the previous line. Everyone, including me, was anxiously awaiting the part where George would read who signed the letter. Finally he read out “Love, Biff.” The Dining Hall went nuts and everyone was howling at me. I had no idea that George was up to this. I reluctantly walked up to get the letter from George, even though I did not write the letter. After the meal, veteran counselors Gary Cooper and Jay Luff told me that this was George's way of getting back at me for all the times I had been in trouble that year. We hung the letter up in the Beam Shack, in honor of Munger's great prank. Lesson learned.

From Sam Griffin, 1975 - One of my favorite memories of Camp is of Albie Grimaldi's parents visiting on Tecumseh Day. Prince Ranier and Princess Grace arrived by a vintage lake cruiser and tied up at the main dock. There, Mr. Munger, Mr. Lawless and a few others welcomed them to Camp Tecumseh.

Albie was a junior counselor that year in the New Pagoda where I was cabin head so Mr. Munger asked me to take Their Serene Highnesses on a stroll through the lake front path and show them where their son had been sleeping for the last seven weeks.

I was very nervous and a bit formal, not wanting to put forward a wrong foot. As we passed the golf green with Albie in tow, Princess Grace tried to put me at ease by reminiscing about her days at Camp Oneka in the Poconos. She asked if we brushed our teeth in the lake, as she had, and if the fish still swam up to eat toothpaste dropped in

the water. I assured her that things had not changed and that indeed her son attended to his oral hygiene at lake-side. She looked at Albie and wryly noted that perhaps he had not visited the lake enough.

We got to the New Pagoda just as I was telling Albert's parents what a wonderful job he had been doing as a counselor and that he was well respected by his young charges. Prince Ranier, who had been walking quietly with his hands behind his back, nodded approvingly at his son. I hustled them up the stairs and through the door to avoid any tell tale reminders wafting up from the boy's favorite "20 paces" locations. As we entered the cabin, Prince Ranier asked where Albert slept. "Right there" said Albie pointing to his bed ... but it was nowhere to be seen. Only a broad expanse of floor occupied the spot where his bed had been that morning!

I felt the flush of embarrassment hot on my cheeks and was trying to think of something to say when Ranier who had been taciturn all during the little tour, dropped onto the nearest bunk roaring with laughter and pointed at the ceiling. As she looked up, a huge smile broke out on Grace's face. There in the rafters was Albie's immaculately made bed!

After a good laugh, Ranier, Albie and I wrestled his bed out of the rafters and into its usual place. The ice had been broken, and I finally relaxed. As we left the cabin, Princess Grace took a snapshot of us and said to Albie, "I can see why you love this place so much."

That night, the Grimaldi family attended the Operetta and gave that year's cast (including Albie) the ability to boast of having performed *Trial by Jury* before Crowned Heads of Europe!

Only at Tecumseh!!!

From 1975 - It was become a tradition in the 1970's to have Mr. Gager sit at Table 1 in the Dining Hall (next to the entrance). He always ruled his table with total authority. His most common saying was "Take what you want, but eat what you take." Unlike other tables, he would pour the syrup on people's pancakes. Gager was definitely a throw back to the older, more conservative times at Tecumseh. One afternoon, there was a junior mountain trip out. Since many tables would be closed, people could sit at any table they wanted. A large group of rowdy Junior Ones decided to sit at Mr. Gager's table that afternoon, trying to tease and bother the old man. At that table were John Gillin, Dave DiEugenio, Albert Manwaring and Paul Tornetta. They were constantly throwing food across the table at each other. After rest hour, John Gillin went back into the Dining Hall to get his baseball hat, which he had left. He found, to his dismay, his baseball hat lying on the table - now cleaned and set for the next meal - filled with all of the food that had found its way onto the floor. Gager got revenge!!

From Sam Griffin, 1975 - This took place after camp had ended and people were back home. One of the parents of a Tecumseh camper, George Clement, was talking about how he took his stepson sailing down in the Chesapeake upon his return from his first summer at camp. His stepson was down in a cabin storing some gear. When he came back up, he asked George if there was anything he could do to help. More than once during the day of sailing, he asked how he could help. George said, that his stepson, Mike Kaplinski, had never asked such a question prior to going to camp. George gave full credit to camp for instilling this initiative in Mike.

From Art Garrett, 1975 - My family came to pick me up on Tecumseh Day. Grace Kelly (Princess of Monaco and mother of Albert Grimaldi, a long time camper and counselor) was there with her husband to pick up their son. She was down by the great tree outside of the Dining Hall (the one with the bench all the way around it) in a beautiful white outfit. My brother, Stuart Garrett, who was five at the time, was climbing up in the tree and had some grape bug juice ... need I finish the story? My parents did not know what to say. Princess Grace was extremely nice about it. I am sure she had a change of clothes!!

From 1975 - Two counselors, George Robb and Gary Cooper, wrote a short poem that they read in the Dining Hall in front of the entire camp the day before the Pemi competition. The reading of the this particular poem before Pemi Day has become an annual tradition. Each year, before Pemi Day, one of the more prominent counselors reads the poem in front of everyone, inside the Dining Hall. This tradition is still done today.

Owed To Pemi

There's an old tradition
Called camp competition
That Tecumseh and Pemi have known.
And both have a vision
That the final decision
Will make The Hat their own.

It would be a sin
If Pemi should win.
And it rarely happens that way.
But when the games are done
And Tecumseh has won
It will have been a rewarding day.

It's really a shame
To lose the game
But sportsmanship's the true test.
For when you give it all you've got
You may lose the whole lot
And take pride in doing your best.

Yes, there's an old tradition
Called camp competition
That Tecumseh and Pemi have known.
And somehow this season
There's a special reason
Why The Hat should remain our own.

The next article shows how some stories manage to get changed over the years. The story involves a counselor, Lew Smith who was a real big guy. Lew was recruited by the University of Michigan as a lineman for their football team, he was also a National Prep School heavyweight wrestling champion. Below is the story as told to me by Art Garrett who was 11 years old at the time. After his version of the story, I will try to provide a more accurate version of what really happened.

From Art Garrett, 1976 - I was in the Alumni cabin. In the middle of the night, some counselors drove up to the Mack's Shack in a pick-up truck. They quietly lifted "Lew" (that's all I can remember of the counselor's name - big guy) and his bed and put him outside of the cabin, still sleeping. They then chained his bed to the back of the pick-up truck and took off - a "moving" dump.

Editor's Note: While I greatly love this version of the story, the truth was that four seniors were "dared" by a group of counselors to go into the Mack's Shack and dump Big Lew. The seniors included John McGinley, Peter Monaghan, Tom Hoitsma and one other camper who I can't remember. They got up about 2:00 AM, walked to the Mack's Shack cabin, found Lew asleep in his bed, flipped Lew and his bed upside down on the floor and ran like hell back to Senior Campus.

Art also wrote that he was proud to have once been a recipient of *The Sunbeam* Staff's famed "Biff Sturla Soccer Jock Award," which was awarded weekly to the camper who accomplished the most on the soccer field. There were many other deserving winners of this award in the 1970's, including Ken Graham, Jimmy Young, Tom Ed-

wards, Jay Monaghan, Peter Fagan, Jimmy Poff, Hart Baur, Adam Abronski, George Degerberg, Dave DiEugenio, Stuart Geisel and John Martineau, among others.

From 1976 - The Senior Tecumseh Boy Award was presented to Hugh Coxe. Hugh is the son of Theodore Coxe who himself was the winner of the Senior Tecumseh Boy Award in 1943. They are the only father - son team to win this most prestigious award. Perhaps Jack Keffer (son of 1981 Senior Tecumseh Boy Award winner Bill Keffer) will win the award in 2012.

From 1976 - Florian Kempf was a counselor at Tecumseh from 1974 through 1976. He was an all-state soccer player at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia. Florian later wound up playing soccer and kicking field goals at the University of Pennsylvania. After college, Florian played professional soccer in the NASL for the Philadelphia Atoms. He was later a kicker for the Houston Oilers of the National Football League. One of Florian's teammates on the Oilers was Hall Of Fame running back Earl Campbell. Florian often talked about how he and Earl would have a contest each week to see who could score the most points. Earl scored his points through touchdowns, Florian scored his points through field goals and extra points. Florian said that it was great fun playing in the NFL and being friends with Earl Campbell, but he confessed that even though he was on the team, he was really a soccer player at heart and never even knew most of the rules of professional football.

From 1976 - Bill Keffer was in his first year at Tecumseh and was playing in the 10 and Under baseball game against Pemi. Keffer came up to bat with the bases loaded. Pemi had an excellent pitcher who threw very hard. The Pemi fielders however did not appear to be the best baseball players. The Pemi pitcher threw a hard pitch to Keffer who swung and barely got a piece of the ball. The ball stopped rolling about half way to Pemi's second baseman. The Pemi fielder ran in, picked up the ball, and threw it over the first basemen's head, into right field. The Tecumseh runners continued running as the right fielder picked up the ball and threw the ball well over the shortstop's head at second base. The runners continued circling the bases as the left fielder got the ball, picked it up and promptly threw the ball well wide of the catcher and out of play. Keffer stepped on home plate. He turned a weak ground ball into a multi-error grand slam. Tecumseh went on to win 16-4.

From Biff Sturla, 1976 - This is a story that is still told by Tecumseh people, over twenty-five years later. At my first Trustees Meeting, in 2001, John Gillin, Sr. insisted that I tell this story to the rest of the Trustees. They all knew the story, but 25 years later, the story had been twisted a little. So, here is the accurate story: John McGinley and I were umpiring a Junior One baseball game on the Junior Diamond in early August. It was a very hot, sunny afternoon. McGins was behind the pitcher, calling the balls and strikes, I was umpiring at first base. Both of us were only wearing gym shorts and nothing else. Being very bored, every time a player was out at first base, I would moon him. If the player was safe, I simply pulled my pants down. I figured that this was OK since we were at an all boys camp, everyone swam naked and campers even stripped each other in the game of Ammunition, (looking for points written on small pieces of paper). Eventually, one of the teams decided to take the field wearing only baseball gloves, underwear, shoes and socks. John and I let play continue, thinking it was all in fun. The next inning, the other team went out in the field wearing nothing but baseball gloves, shoes and socks. Again, we let play go on. After about a minute, Jim Fraser came storming down the hill, screaming at me to have the kids put their clothes back on because Mr. Munger was showing some camper's parents around campus. The parents were quite shocked to see a bunch of naked kids playing baseball. Needless to say, I got in a lot of trouble for this!!!! Among the campers that I remember playing in this game were Pete Jannetta, Joe McGrath and Todd Shields. Last month, when Jannetta signed up to attend Tecumseh's 100th Reunion, he wrote on his registration form: "Biff, nice job umpiring the Nude Baseball game."

John Gillin, Sr. still laughs at this story and swears it is the funniest thing he has ever heard happen at Tecumseh. I just can't believe he made me tell the entire "Nude Baseball" story to all of the Trustees at the first Trustees Meeting I ever attended.

From Don McBride, 1977 - The following is an excerpt from an article written by Don McBride in the final issue of *The Sunbeam* in 1977. This was Don's first summer as Director at Tecumseh.

Most people go through life only partially aware of the full range of their abilities. Many of these capacities are not so easily discovered. So many of us have potentialities that never develop, mainly because the circumstances of our particular lives never call them forth. This is why Tecumseh can and should be so vital to your growth; it places you in a set of circumstances that forces you to reach within yourself and come up with qualities that under a more conventional environment might have gone undetected.

But, in order for this to happen successfully, you must not have a fear of failure. This fear or lack of it has probably intrigued me more than anything else about the population of Camp Tecumseh.

Learning is a risky business. When an infant is learning at a fast rate, he is also experiencing a great number of failures. Watch him! See the countless things he attempts and how little he is affected by failure. As we get older, we tend to avoid things we have never tried. Fear of failure, particularly under the scrutiny of our buddies, certainly hinders our full growth. DON'T let it happen.

Some are obviously not as afraid as others - lucky them. So what if they fell off their skis, lost the set, struck out, failed the swim test, forgot their lines, or missed the penalty kick. To keep on learning and growing, you must continue to risk failure - all your life. What a wonderful place like Tecumseh to test this theory. Keep on trying - everything. I, for one, will never ridicule your failure, rather laud your spunk.

From 1978 - Long time camper and counselor Dan O'Shea organized a group of campers to count the number of plaques in the Lodge. There were about eight campers who worked on this task, each taking a section of the Lodge. When their work was done, they announced that there were 2451 plaques in the building.

From Mark Luff, 1978 - The annual Gilbert and Sullivan operetta was *HMS Pinafore*. Buttercup was played by Tecumseh's very own Athletic Director – Jim Fraser. The mastermind behind this theatrical milestone was longtime camper, counselor, and now current trustee, Sam Griffin. The idea was ingenious and the performance outstanding! Buttercup's First Act entrance stopped the show, as did Mr. Fraser's rendition of "I'm Called Little Buttercup!" This was the start of a long career in numerous G & S shows over these many years. Mr. Fraser's acting credits include:

<u>Character</u>	<u>Operetta</u>	<u>Year</u>
Buttercup	<i>HMS Pinafore</i>	1978
Lady Sangazure	<i>The Sorcerer</i>	1979
Lady Jane	<i>Patience</i>	1980
Lady Sangazure	<i>Sorcerer</i>	1984
Ruth	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	1986
A Shriveled Hag	<i>The Sorcerer</i>	1992
Buttercup	<i>HMS Pinafore</i>	1993
Ruth	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	1994
Private Willis	<i>Iolanthe</i>	1997
Lady Jane	<i>Patience</i>	2001

Mr. Fraser is just one of many Tecumseh men who have derived great pleasure from participating in the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at Camp Tecumseh, a tradition that will enter its seventy-third season this summer!

From 1979 - In the late 1990's and the early 2000's, the annual Tecumseh vs. Pemi rivalry has been very competitive. In 2000, Tecumseh won by the slimmest of margins, 10-9-1. Back in the late 1970's however, Tecumseh enjoyed an era of total domination. The summer of 1979 was probably the most lopsided competition ever as Tecumseh won the day 19 events to 1. The only victory that Pemi had was the 13's swim meet. Tecumseh's coach for that team was Graham Harkins (now a Trustee at Tecumseh). When the trip trucks arrived back from Pemi, the entire camp began a great celebration. Several of us began looking for Graham so that we could give him a hard time about him being the only losing coach of the day. As the trucks emptied, everyone was joyous, everyone except Graham. He saw us, gave us a VERY chilling look of anger and stomped off to the Beam Shack. His look basically said "If you say one word to me, I'm going to deck all of you." As editor of *The Sunbeam*, I wanted to put something in the newspaper the next day making fun of Graham. Unfortunately, he was the Publisher of *The Sunbeam* and the only person who knew how to use the publishing machine. Since I knew he would never make copies of anything that ridiculed him, I reluctantly spared him the Editor's wrath.

From Hart Baur, 1979 - It was my fifth year at Tecumseh, I was a senior. One of the younger cabins had headed out into the lake to spend a night on one of the islands. I silently watched from the tree lined waterfront as the group paddled out into the darkness, laughing and screaming, all ready for their night of adventure. A sudden feeling of mischief overcame me. I returned to my tent and convinced my tent mates to go out to the island with me and steal their canoes while they slept. I devised a plan with military precision that called for us to row to the far side of the island in a rowboat. Once at that spot, four of us would slip into the water and swim quietly around the island in the darkness. Once the beach area was reached, we would silently slide the canoes out into the water, get in them and take them back to camp. The following morning, the kids would be stuck on the island and miss breakfast. The counselors would have to ferry the kids back with the motor boat. It would take all morning. It would be total chaos. It would be perfect.

The night itself was simply beautiful. The wind lightly rustled through the birch trees, the stars brilliantly filled the dark sky. New Hampshire on a clear summer's night is nothing short of spectacular. Under this beautiful setting, five silhouettes quietly pushed out in a row boat from the beach area. Not a word was spoken, as sound travels quickly over water. We rowed in silence, the oars lightly dipping into the lake the only sound from the boat. The night itself was full of the sound. The tree lined shore screamed with life as the crickets, birds and other nocturnal animals sung their moment.

After about twenty minutes, we reached the designated place to disembark and the four of us quietly slid over the side of the boat, into the cool, black water of the lake. The water felt cold at first, but refreshing. My heart pounded with excitement as I led the group through the dark water, careful about not hitting one of the underwater rocks. I rolled onto my back and looked at the stars. For a second, I forgot what I was doing and just stared into the vastness of the universe. Then it happened.

As I turned and continued to swim, a large head suddenly popped up, about five yards in front of me. It was that of a large loon. At first it scared the hell out of me. A loon is a very large bird and this one was big. I don't know who was more startled, the bird, or me. Both of us just stared at each other under the starlight. His head turned side to side to fully check me out. Then, for a minute, we both just floated there and stared into each other's eyes.

The bird gave me one last look, tilted his head, and disappeared back into the black water from where he came. I looked back at the others who were behind me. They were swimming the other way, scared by the bird. I laughed. We continued on with our mission and succeeded in accomplishing our objective.

From 1979 - Sometime during the winter, a huge storm knocked a large tree down, crushing the old Intermediate Cabin. Nobody noticed that the cabin was crushed until the spring. Camp had to quickly put together two new cabins on the other side of camp to house the intermediate campers. When the counselors arrived in early June to set up camp, the two new cabins were not yet completed. The roofs weren't done, there were no doors and no screens on the windows. The cabins were finally finished about four hours before the buses arrived with the campers. Much work still had to be done to clear the area. That would be done during the first week of camp.

A week later, the entire camp would go down to the Intermediate Campus for the official dedication of the new cabins. Camp Director Don McBride thanked everyone who helped get the cabins ready in time for camp. He then revealed the names of the two cabins. Each cabin was named for a legendary Tecumseh person. The first cabin was named House Of George, named after George Munger who had stepped down as Camp Director after the 1976 season but still spent his summers at Tecumseh. The second cabin was named Pinky's Pad, named after Pinky Shover who spent over 50 years at Tecumseh. The House Of George is often referred to by its initials, the H.O.G.

From The 1970's - One of the more popular activities in the Dining Hall was the game of "slide." Maestro Csiszar crafted a puck shaped metal disk for the game, as well as two wooden "measuring sticks" which were used to determine the scoring. The opponents sat at opposite ends of a table, sliding the disk back and forth, trying to get the disk to stop on the edge of the table, or as close to the edge as possible. Maestro would often slam a finger on the edge of the table (making a loud sound) to indicate when his opponent got a point. Campers always begged Maestro to be his opponent at the end of each meal. Older campers would stand behind Maestro and try to catch him cheating, convinced that his high winning percentage was the result of illegal play.

Notable Personalities And Creations of the 1970's:

Harold: He was the mythical person on duty at a cabin when no counselor was present. Quotes like "I think Harold is on duty right now" meant that a counselor was late getting back to duty.

The Lurker: Anybody who was caught staring at people in an unusual way. In the 1980's, the Lurker was replaced by "Watchers." Whenever Gary Cooper got mad at someone, he would accuse them of being a Lurker.

The Rack Monster: A mythical creature that put counselors to sleep, i.e., "I was out late last night so I'll probably be attacked by The Rack Monster at rest hour.

Hide Behinds: Very fast animals that lived in the trees near the junior campus. Nobody actually saw one because, if you tried to shine your flashlight on them, they would quickly "hide behind" a tree.

Yogi: Bed partner for people in trouble, i.e., "you are sleeping out in the woods tonight with Yogi."

The Heisman Award: Winning the Heisman Award was slang for any counselor who struck out at a dance or function. The Heisman Trophy features a football player using a straight arm to keep opponents away. When someone struck out with a female, the person sarcastically bragged that he was awarded the Heisman Trophy, i.e., the girl straight armed the Tecumseh guy away.

Shore Line and Smoke Shifters: At the first Sunday cookout of the year (back at the cabins), counselors would ask first year campers to get 100 feet of shore line or a left handed smoke shifter. Campers would venture all over camp looking for these non-existent items. When they got to another cabin to get one of these items, the counselor at that cabin would send them to a different cabin, the Farm House or the waterfront.

Best Sunbeam Quotes Of The 1970's

Mr. Munger, 1970 - We have clean dirt at Camp Tecumseh.

Hedley Rannie, 1970 - Which period is Pemi, first or second?

Gary Cooper, 1970 - I was going to hang up the laundry to dry in the morning, but it rained in the afternoon.

Gerard Fuqua, 1970 - Is Robindel a girls camp or a new widow?

Bobby Glascott in Blue-Gray basketball, 1971 - What are we playing up to?

Gary Cooper at counselor function in 1971 - Why do I get all the hogs?

Doc Johnson, 1971 - No way will I ever kiss another guy with a mustache.

Mike Lawless, 1972 - We will play fifteen two minute halves.

Mr. Munger, 1972 - The Junior 4's will have Capture The Flag (this was the first year for rookies and George apparently forgot the name of the newest age group.)

Hall Vetterlein, 1973 - My head only hurts when I think.

Ridgie Wilkins, 1973 - Does the mail come on Sammy Griffin Day?

Gary Cooper, 1973 - I'm too lazy to lie out in the sun.

Art Patterson to Pete Jannetta, 1973 - Either you get a dead leg, or I get one and quite frankly, I'm more valuable.

Peter Abronski at a dance in 1973 - All the girls were there, including Walker's brother.

Mr. Munger again in 1973 - The Junior II's will have touch football on Franklin Field.

Willie Clark, 1973 - Hey Stilts, the bug that you just killed is alive ... (and a minute later) ... kill it so that it will be dead.

Bob McCloskey talking about the new showers, 1974 - If I didn't take a bath last summer, I'm certainly not going to take a shower this summer.

Alfred Curry, 1974 - Feel like money!

Sam Griffin, 1974 - I'm not going to play Buttercup because I'm tired of being the fat guy and my girlfriend doesn't like me in a dress.

Mike Schmelzle, 1974 - Is he OK or should I give him artificial perspiration?

John McGinley, 1974 - I not only had the worst girl at the dance, but I liked her.

Kevin Greber in tennis, 1974 - How many bounces can the ball take?

Neill Edwards, 1974 - I thought you had to serve the ball to their forehand.

Kevin Greber during Pemi baseball, 1974 - Is it half-time yet?

Lee Allman, 1974, 75, 76, 77 ... - Hi, I'm Blue Captain.

Bobby Glascott, 1974 - If I freeze to death on Mt. Washington, my father will kill me.

Ross Lewis, 1975 - Mr. Munger, does the "P" on your sweater stand for Pemi?

Todd Shields in a five inning baseball game vs. Pemi in 1975 - Schmoe struck out about 20 batters.

Lee Allman, 1975 - Where do they store the cabins in the winter?

Larry Saul, 1975 - Only put the nose drops in my one nose, the other nose is O.K.

Peter Glascott, 1975 - Which way between the islands do we go?

John Manwaring, 1975 - I'm not going to run in the track meet, I think I'll just do the hurdles.

Hall Vetterlein, 1975 - I've got a bigger strike zone because I'm fat.

Scott Glascott, 1975 - I thought that the ash tray in the trip truck was a secret telephone to Mr. Munger's office.

Jerry Cummin, 1976 - Is Mt. McGinley tougher to climb than Mt. Washington?

Paul Yeomans, 1976 - My tennis balls don't work.

Morty Fertel, 1976 - May I have a piece of milk?

Scott McMullin, 1976 - My father's maiden name is McMullin.

Rob Peuffier, 1976 - For Sam Griffin Day, will I be getting breakfast in bed?

Don Osgood, 1976 - If you are small when you are little, you don't grow as fast.

Larry Davith, soccer referee from Pemi, 1976 - We're going to play international high school rules.

Barry Thompson, 1976 - I got a splinter from this rock.

McBee Butcher, 1976 - Lew Smith is a pretty big boy, and I would imagine that when he is hungry, it must hurt

Bruce Stone, 1976 - Pele is a type of Brazilian drink.

Mike Molloy, 1976 - The date on my watch is wrong, so you can't use it to keep time in the soccer game.

Alexis Francois Poncet, 1976 - Rallying is when you hit the ball soft. Volleying is when you hit the ball hard.

Gary Cooper on top of the Headwall on Mt. Washington in 1976 - Let's throw rocks at the guys down at the bottom and see if they brought their baseball gloves.

*** This quote was said as people were trying very hard to get up a very steep part of the Headwall. I laughed so hard that I almost fell off the mountain. This quote was later voted "Quote of the Decade for the 1970's."

Mr. Munger, 1976 - We'll blast the phone at 7:30 to-night.

Ed Dailey, 1976 - It's raining today so we can't ski since there will be puddles on the lake.

Chad Chadwick, 1976 - There are peas in my pepper steak.

Richie Jones, 1977 - What kind of food should you eat when you are about to throw up?

Mark Luff, 1977 - Dry the wet part where it's wet.

Terry Cooper, 1977 - Everybody is down at the water-front drinking watermelon.

Jimmy Crawford, 1977 - What grade were you in when you were in kindergarten?

Don McBride, 1977 - We will have a 40 minute rest hour.

Joe Splendido, 1977 - I want to play center wing.

Gerry McGinley, 1977 - Did the skier fall or wipe out?

Madison Reilly, 1977 - How long is rest hour?

Richie Allman, 1977 - My great, great, grandfather was the first women doctor in Philadelphia.

John Fraser, 1977 - I thought that they made Sunkist orange juice in the Sunbeam Shack.

John Duffy, 1977 - Countries that play football do much better at war.

John Colehower, 1978 - When we get close to the shore, we should pull the center board out of the motor boat.

Bill Hoffman, 1978 - Where is the key to the rifle range? I'm in charge of Junior I Ammunition this afternoon.

Rob Pollack in ski line, 1978 - When you cross the wake, you have to bend your ankles.

Mark Luff, 1978 - We'll have soccer practice this afternoon, wain or shine.

Tim McGuire, 1978 - Does John McGinley really run this camp?

Mark Luff, 1978 - He scored on a header with his foot.

Bruce Hauptfuhrer at halftime of a water polo match in 1978 - Oh boy, now we have the advantage because we are going down hill.

Mark Luff, 1979 - We'll have a meeting for all age groups from rookies on down.

Mark Luff again, 1979 - Did you think it was tougher or harder to swim to Bald Peak?

Alan Stiner, 1979 - Through erosion and wearing down, the mountain grew two feet.

Mr. McBride, 1979 - Have a little respect for the Widow guys, we all have to live there.

Jim Collins, 1979 - It is physically and mentally impossible to stack soccer balls.

Mike Jannetta while preparing to do the Bald Peak swim, 1979 - I want to swim from Camp to Bald Peak because from Bald Peak to Camp is uphill.

Jim Fraser, 1979 - She is a middle distance shot putter.

John Maschal, 1979 - If you leave batteries out in the sun for awhile, they will get recharged.

Tom Reohr in soccer game, 1979 - Hey, that guy played last inning.

Bob Zullinger, 1979 - The team in the field just pulled off two triple plays in one inning.

Don Triolo, 1979 - Where's The Widdow?



Members of the counselor staff, 1970.

Back row from left: Director George Munger, Jules Korner, Paul Luff, Mike "Gabby" Boyajin, Dave "Shotsy" Fritz, Tom Armstrong, John Roberts, Tom Welsh, Larry Ryan, Eddie Lawless, Doug Tift.

Middle row from left: Ed Lawless, Bill Moran, Sam Spooner, Sam Griffin, Ed Flintermann, Bruce McCracken, Ted Edwards, Dan Entwistle, Allan Cope, Gary Cooper, Jack Baizley, Doc Johnson.

Front row from left: Maestro Csiszar, Bob Glascott, Pat Glascott, Dave Spooner, Forrest L. Gager, Pinky Shover, Dick Stanley, Chip Hauptfurher, Tom Jessup, John Robinson, Rick Remensnyder, Chris Mellor, Al Molloy.



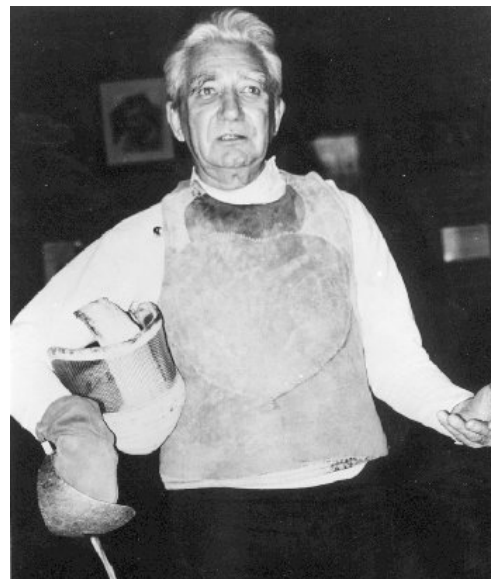
The 13 and Under soccer team in 1970. Back row from left: Phil Herrick, Conrad Rugart, Chip Brown, "Big Lew" Smith, Steve Yarnell, Pete Hires, John Leisenring, Don Van Duyn (head coach).

Front row: Tommy Armstrong, Biff Sturla, Albert Grimaldi, Pat Patterson, Tom Clarke, Stanley Diver, Karl "Muscles" Spaeth and Stuart "Tiny" Tait.



Above: Fencing with Maestro, Tom Edwards and Albie Grimaldi, 1975.

Right: Dave Fritz and Jay Luff, centered by The Invisible Men, 1976.



Lajos "Maestro" Csiszar, 1975.





Members of the Alumni cabin in 1974. Back row: Biff Sturla, Hunter Neal, Jim Quiggle, Mike Schmelzle.

Middle row: Ken Graham, Billy Colehower, Pete Jannetta, Stuart Ward, Phil Stein, Gerry McGinley, Mike Peter, Steve Budd, Todd Shields.

Front Row (from left): John Manwaring, Peter Benoliel, Jeff Ogren, Rob Conrad, Neil Edwards, Todd Benoliel, Rich Gundersen.



The Rock in 1974. Back row: counselors Bob Taylor, Mark Luff, Tom Edwards. Middle row: Mark McGinley, John Rose, Kevin Greber, Brett Miller, Scott Glascott. Front row: Scott DiEugenio, Lee Allman, Rich Allman, Tom Lebie, Scott Nichols.



Richie and Lee Allman, 1975.



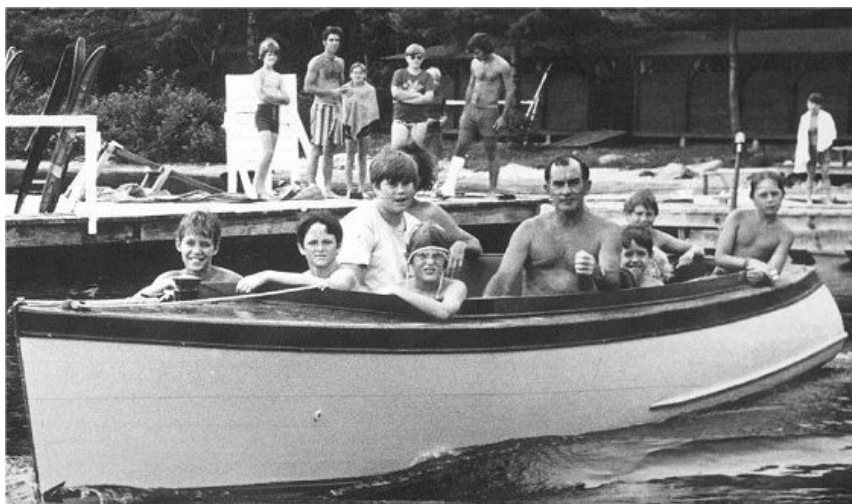
Adam Abronski, 1975.

The Tecumseh Trustees and Directors in 1975.

Back row: Pete Jannetta, Walter Buckley, Gerry McGinley and Peter Benoliel.

Middle row: Barney Berlinger, Henry Williams, Bill Lingelbach, John Gillin, Forrest L. Gager, Brooks Keffer, Pinky Shover, Bill Hamilton, Dr. Joshiah McCracken, Dave McMullin III, Jay Crawford, Maestro Csiszar.

Front row: Al Molloy, Randy Stone, Ed Flintermann, Art Armstrong, Ed Lawless, George Munger (Director), Jim Fraser, Bruce McCracken.



Inside the ski boat in 1975. Front row: Bill Colehower, Steve Budd, Hall Vetterlein, Andy Conger, Ed Lawless (driver), Rich Gundersen, Unknown and Brooke McMullin.

Standing on the dock: Herb Gaston, Bruce McCracken, Unknown, George Conger and Tom Edwards (with foot in cast).



Gary "Booper" Cooper, 1976.



Above: On top of Mt. Washington, 1976: Graham Harkins, Florian Kempf, Joe Kaminski, and Hunter Neal.

Below: Mark Luff at rehearsal for *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1977. To the right are Bruce McCracken and Joe Splendido.



Above: The Maintenance Crew in 1976: Gordon "Moon Man" Anderson, John Gillin and Gerry McGinley.

Below: On Mt. Washington: Ladd Clark, Dave DiEugenio, Biff Sturla, Dan O'Shea, Brooke McMullin, Bob Zullinger.





On top of Mt. Washington in 1978. From left: John Nimick, George Degerberg, Jay Luff, Gerry McGinley, John McGinley, Gerald Fuqua and Dick Clasby (black jacket).



Alfred Curry, 1978.



Intermediates on another mountain in 1978. Back row: Gerry McGinley, Jay Luff, Bob Salyard, Steve Osgood and Ed Flintermann. Among those in the middle: Brooke McMullin, Donald Osgood and Larry Saul. In the front row: Archer Ingersoll, John McGinley, Billy True, Bruce Sampson and Steve Howard.



Hugh Coxe wiping out on the ski jump in 1979. Coxe won the Senior Tecumseh Boy Award in 1976.



Nino Muniz, Dave DiEugenio, Hugh Coxe and Jim Crawford, 1979.



13 Tecumseh people on Chocorua Rock, 1979.



The Tecumseh Directors and Trustees in front of Shover Hall in 1978.

Back row: Bill Lingelbach, John Gillin, Bill Hamilton, Pete Jannetta, Buck Buckley, Pinky Shover, Dave McMullin III, Jay Crawford, Gerry McGinley, Randy Stone.

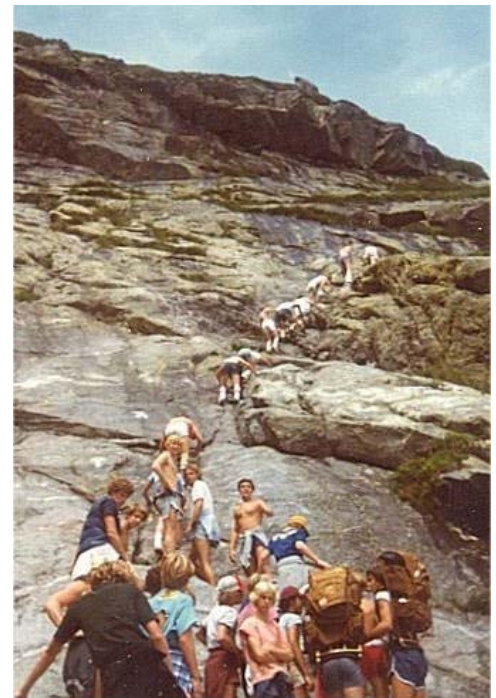
Front row: Bruce McCracken, Ed Flintermann, George Munger, Don McBride (Director), Barney Berlinger, Brooks Keffer, Josiah McCracken, Arthur Armstrong, Bob Glascott, Jim Fraser.

Below: Climbing the headwall on Mt. Washington, 1978.

Bottom: John Shoemaker on stage in *The Sorcerer*, 1979.



The Alumni, 1976.



The three Day Vermont Trip, 1979. The counselors are Nino Muniz (standing) and Dan O'Shea.

