



Dixie Doings

Camp Dixie Newsletter - Fall 2013

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hearts out; Matt winning the 60 second Presidential debate; Shark Week; Oleg throwing the bumper for Chuck and Doris Day; Sergey's cabin song "Down by the River"; the Sister's receiving their pearls; learning about a chicken named "Luau"; having the Commander as a counselor; and so much more.

Some of the amazing events that I was able to see and be a part of were - Seeing our international campers having fun and laughing at our crazy camp songs. Seeing counselors care for campers, and then, in turn, see campers look out for other campers. Seeing campers who thought that they couldn't do something - actually do it - gaining confidence - and doing it well. Seeing several who were unsure of themselves and unsure of camp - blossom and thrive at camp. Seeing campers interact with staff and camp moms - developing their own relationships.

It is time to put the summer of 2013 behind us and look to the Centennial Summer of Camp Dixie. We will remember all the fun and faces of 2013. Memories and relationships that we made will forever be in our hearts and help carry us through the year - - until we meet again for another summer at Dixie.

- Rhonda Conrad, Director

Director's Message

Where does the time go? A question that I am sure many of you have asked yourself.

But seriously, where does it go?

As for us at camp, we are busy with planning and maintenance most of the year. We look forward to working with our groups. But it is our CAMPERS who keep us going! Camp time is just a few short months, but oh, all the things we can do in those months - AWESOME!

The summer of 2013 has now come to an end and it leaves me with wonderful memories and many positive thoughts about Dixie's camping program. So many wonderful memories from this summer flood my mind things like: our staff variety show: boys Pirate Fancy Snack; raining on every camp out night; Kling and Carrie singing their

|Special Thanks

A big Thank You to all our staff, camp moms, alums and parents for making this a great summer at Dixie. It really was a great summer and a great experience. Our staff put in long days and take on additional responsibilities to ensure that the Dixie experience continues. The dedication of this fine crew provided positive role modeling and a safe fun summer for all Dixie campers. They are our Super Heroes. We are looking forward to having you join us in 2014 for another great summer – when camp celebrates 100 years.

Thank you 2013 Summer Staff.

- Matt Hartwell
- Thomas Hartwell
- Cody Wood, CT
- Jason Airlie
- Jack “Commander” Airlie
- Sergey Hartshorne, CT
- John Paul Brusack, CT
- Sara Brown
- Emily Springer
- Cassie Cobb
- Brynn Toland
- Alex Middlemas
- Courtney Schilling, CT
- Erin “Salty” Boyd, CT
- Nataleah Michael
- Emily Kling, Camp Mom
- Carrie Hartshorne, Camp Mom
- Claire Barber, Camp Mom

|Poems from the summer of 2013

During the summer we ask campers to write poems about Dixie, here are just two that we selected for this issue.

Dear Camp Dixie

*The mountain air,
The gravel roads,
The gleaming lake,
The rising rocks,
All the things we love
Just in one place and it is called Camp Dixie
Although we came just to leave
I can't wait to come back
Again, again, and again*

- By Jacob Skidmore

Poem of Dixie

*From Camp Dixie like to the riflery range
to an outsider Camp Dixie may seem a little
strange.*

*But with so many fun things to do, and with
great counselor's like Springer, Cassie and
Brynn too!*

*Camp Dixie makes you feel right at home,
every where in every bone.*

*The wonderful owner with food so great,
will make you smile day after day. This kind
lady, Ms. Rhonda, of whom I speak also has in-
credible stories, like when she climbed Mount
Millionaire's peak.*

*What a shame, that soon I will return
home, for my journey here as only begun. Still
I look forward to next year, and I do hope it
comes soon for then I shall sing a cheery tune.*

*Goodbye for now this wonderful place, “I'll
be back soon”*

Is a promise I will keep and not forsake.

- By Lillian Grace Swanson

Camp Dixie on Facebook and Twitter

Camp Dixie is on Facebook, Twitter, and now Google Plus!

- <http://campdixie.org/facebook>
- <http://campdixie.org/twitter>
- <http://campdixie.org/plus>

As Chuck Sees It Chuck Finley

The camp is quieter.

The air is cooler.

The leaves are falling.

The lake is warm.

Doris Day and I want to swim.

Last of the summer Bug Juice Robert Martin

During the weekly council ring, campers were recognized for their accomplishments over the previous week by the presentation of certificates, medals, and awards. A very special treat was to be given a "Bully". Karlos Kotilla (the camp owner) would always award a few boys with a candy bar called a "Bully Bar". Campers would congratulate other campers by saying, "Give him a Bully!" You see we didn't have candy and sodas except on one day a week when we were allowed one soda and one candy bar from the camp store.

There were also the sauna baths, I believe on Saturdays. Tom (the camp co-owner at the time whose last name I can't remember) was from Minnesota, I believe, where saunas were common. A low structure, in which one had to walk stooped over, was build beside the lake. A door was placed in one end and a fireplace at the other. The hut

held about 3 rows of long wooden benches that would be filled with campers, all in their birthday suits (aka, butt-naked). Rocks were heated in the fire, picked up with tongs, and dropped into a tub of water by a counselor. This would fill the sauna with steam. After a certain length of time the door was opened and everyone, red as a beet and sweating profusely, would run from the sauna and jump from the dock into the cold lake. That was probably the cleanest we got all week.

The last two years that I spent as a camper involved an experiment of sorts. The older boys (at least 15 years old I believe) were offered the oppor-



Chuck and Doris Day

tunity to spend 8 weeks (no less) at a new camp that was located in a clearing a couple of miles up the mountain behind the boys cabin line. This camp was called "Pine Valley" and was extremely primitive. It was very much a "back to nature" experience. We lived in large tents, open of both ends that could be covered with canvas when it rained, and set on a wooden platform.

The first summer we built an outdoor shower platform and ran flexible pipe from a spring about a hundred yards or so up the mountain. There was no hot water heater and the mountain spring water was ice cold. Our latrine was on the other side of the stream that flowed through the camp. I can't remember if the latrine had already been dug for us or if we had to dig the hole ourselves. I do

believe that we had to build the wooden structure that sat over the hole. We also built a footbridge across the stream so that we could access the latrine more easily.

There were approximately 12 boys at Pine Valley. We had two counselors and a cook. The cook was Chinese and working the summer and attending university in the U.S. Unfortunately, I don't think anyone bothered to find out whether or not he could cook before hiring him. He was a terrible cook and used a lot of hot sauce in almost everything he cooked. Each day one of the campers was assigned K.P. duty and had to keep the wood-burning stove going, assist the cook, and wash the dishes.

We were extremely proud of being Pine Valley Men. We competed fiercely with the "other" Camp Dixie.

The highlight of each of the two Pine Valley years was the "truck trip". These took place the last three weeks (once again, I think the time is about right) of camp. We took one on the camp's long-bed pickup trucks and went on a road trip. The two counselors took turns driving, and of course sitting in the cab. The campers rotated sitting between them on the cab's bench seat. The rest of the campers were packed into the bed of the truck with the gear. There was no such thing as a seatbelt. Nobody seemed to worry about how safe or unsafe such a trip was and we certainly didn't care. If it rained we just pulled out our ponchos.

It was a lot of fun and a huge adventure. I can't remember all of our destinations but I do remember camping on the shore of Lake Michigan within view of the Chicago skyline. While in Chicago, we visited the Adler Planetarium. I remember my very good friend, Drew Hill (God rest his soul) falling asleep and snoring loudly in one of the reclining chairs while images of the stars and constellations were being projected onto the ceiling. We also went shopping in Chicago and I purchased an Elvis Presley 33 1/3 RPM record album, which I managed to get home in one piece.

We went as far north as Minnesota and the shores of Lake Superior where Tom (mentioned earlier as a part-owner of the camp) had arranged for us to visit a Scandinavian family and share a traditional meal. I remember meat and potato

pies that were called "pasties" and were very good.

Those two "Pine Valley" summers were very special to me and I believe had a lot to do with making me who I am today. I wish that every boy (and girl) could have such experiences. Unfortunately, we live in a different world today, making it almost impossible for that to happen.

Auction News: **Nancy Kling Shinbaum**

Greetings, fellow Dixie Alumni!

I hope we have a great turnout for the Dixie Centennial. I have been designated chairman of an activity, and I have chosen to have a SILENT AUCTION. Of course, I need your help furnishing items to silently bid on. Could you each come with a little something? So far, someone has volunteered to make mugs with the Dixie emblem on them. Also donated will be handmade wooden bowls, a wooden lamp, and a framed panoramic photo of Dixie Lake on a snowy day. Please think of an item from your business, or ask a friend for something. Here are some suggestions:

- Gift basket from your business
- Handmade jewelry
- Something from your "regifting drawer"
- Use of a condo for a weekend
- Passes to an amusement park
- Pottery
- Handcrafted papers, journals
- Wine baskets
- Hair or nail products basket
- Gift cards for fast food chains and drug stores
- Dixie logo items such as flags, stationery and notes
- Football tickets
- Jams, pickles, honey
- Loom items...rugs, place-mats

Hope we can have a fun auction! Proceeds will go for a repair project at camp. See you at the "lovely garden spot in northern Georgia!"

- Nancy Kling Shinbaum - Dixie Camper
1962-66

International Flair

This summer we had many international campers. Campers came from China, Martinique, Mexico City and the Ukraine. Great friendships were made. There was even a Camp Dixie Reunion in Mexico City.

Camp Mom Corner

Emily Kling

“Uh oh,” my cabin mate said, “I’ve scratched my mosquito bites. Now they’re worse. “Guess I’d better go see Beggie.” My reply was, “Yikes.”

Why did I say that? I was scared of the camp nurse. In the early 1960s, when I was a young Dixie camper, Irene Beggs was the nurse. We called her Beggie. She was probably a very nice lady, but she didn’t smile very much. I don’t remember going to see her in Crow’s Nest (infirmary) to find out. She had white hair and wore a white nurse’s dress. And she even wore white stockings--at camp--in the summer. Oh boy.

The next camp nurse I remember was Aunt Ruth Hill. I was an older camper by then and wasn’t afraid of camp nurses. Aunt Ruth did wear a dress. I couldn’t hold that against her because she smiled all of the time. She was everyone’s friend.

The last camp nurse I knew at Dixie was someone many of you know--Aunt Dorothy, Miss Ann’s mother. Aunt Dorothy was cool. She had a great personality--and she wore shorts. She loved camp. You could tell.

Miss Ann’s and Aunt Dorothy’s first year at Dixie was my last year as a counselor (1969.) By the time I returned to the 95th Reunion in 2009,

Camp Moms had replaced Camp Nurses. Miss Kay, Holloway’s mom, was the first. Then came Claire, Janis, Miss Connie, Carrie, and--oh, yes--me. And guess what? We wear shorts, and none of us is scary. Some of us who are former Dixie counselors might be “crazy,” but not scary.



Know what hasn’t changed? Campers are still scratching mosquito bites. We had plenty of visitors to the Camp Mom’s Office this past summer. Because there was so much rain, there were more mosquitos. Carrie and I used lots of Benadryl cream and Calamine lotion on campers. Some campers

scratched their bites more than others. You know who you are, Prince of Skeeters, Calamine Queen, and Mr. Scratch.

I want to leave you with a few thoughts:

It doesn’t matter what someone wears. Beggie was probably a great lady. I judged her because she wore a nurse’s uniform at a place that I thought people should wear shorts. I missed out because I didn’t get to know her.

Be sure to bring mosquito repellent (no aerosol cans) with you to camp next summer, and use it every day. On camp out night, spray yourself and your sleeping bag before you go to bed.

If you seem to get more mosquito bites than other campers, bring unscented body wash to camp. We bought some Aveeno unscented body wash for Mr. Scratch and the Calamine Queen. Neither of them had any more mosquito bites.

If you know an adult (at least 30 years old) who would be a good Camp Mom or Dad, find out if they are interested. If they are, please let Rhonda know.

I am fortunate to be able to return to Dixie and get to know this generation’s campers. Y’all are fun and have taught me a thing or two. Hope

to see you next summer.

P.S. I'm one of the three Emily's who have been to camp recently. We use our last names at camp. Right, Springer and Holloway?

- Kling

Former Dixie Camper, CT & Counselor,
Current Camp Mom

|Count Down to 2014

At Camp Dixie, we are proud of our rich history and all of our awesome alumni staff and campers who have been a part of the Dixie Camps since 1914. Our eyes are looking toward the future in planning for the 100th Reunion of the Dixie Camps in August of 2014. We are in the early planning stages and need your help. We need to get the word out to as many Dixie Alumni as possible. We are trying to build an alumni network that will help keep camp connections strong and provide a connect to the past as well as a link to the future campers. We are **calling out to all Camp Dixie Alumni**. Please contact us by calling the camp office or clicking on the alumni page at our website. 678-701-3052 or campdixie.org/alumni/

We know the importance of good business connections and knowing the right people to get the job done. So to our many alumni who have professional skills and contacts that would help us promote Dixie's 100th Reunion, we are asking you to once again **Follow the Gleam** and be **Vocationally Correct** to help us get the job done right. Your talents, skills, determination will be greatly appreciated.

|What's happening in Dixieland....

October 4 - 6

Fall Alumni Work Weekend

November 29th

Christmas Club Applications mailed

December 7, 2013

Christmas Party

May 23- 25, 2014

Babes in the Woods

|Early Registration (Christmas Club)

Registration for the 2014 summer camp season will kick off in late November.

Early registration is encouraged for this our Centennial Celebration year. We are anticipating a great response. If you are coming with a group of friends and would like to be in the same cabin group, register early to make sure there is room for everyone! Your early enrollment deposit guarantees your place and freezes the lower price before the 2014 tuition increases. Payment is fully refundable until March 1st, so there is no risk in getting that savings locked in. Look for your Camp Dixie Christmas Club Application in late November.

|Share Your Story

We are very proud of Camp Dixie's 99 years of camping. We are thankful to the many parents who have shared their children with us throughout the years. We would like to hear from you and your camp stories. Please send them to us.

"Just wanted to let you know we are still a few hours from home and are on our 3rd re-playing of CD "Wake-Up" songs! We are feeling VERY alert, thank you Jason! Thanks also for all that the CD, adults & counselors did to make Maddie & Sophie feel so welcome & comfortable at camp! This trip home has been filled with wonderful stories about camp activities, songs, games, friends, food, and traditions! They miss you all already and are eagerly looking forward to returning next summer!"

*Thank you (all) again for your hard work & tireless commitment to your campers,
- Sincerely, Susan & Mitch Singer"*

|Where are they Now?

Camp Dixie has several mermaids. One of the youngest is Emma, a day camper. She absolutely LOVES the water. Foster (her younger brother) loves tadpoling. During the summer, they can be found here in Dixieland. They are involved with sports and community theater during the school year. Emma and several of our other day campers are starring in the local production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Emma and Foster

|Camp Dixie Representative Program - Needs You!

We are looking for Dixie Parents who would like to help spread the word about Dixie's Camping Program.

Our Representative program lets you help with recruiting new campers while rewarding you with discounts on your campers tuition or credits for their staying longer. We are hoping that you can be a part of these efforts. There are several ways that you can support this program:

- Host an Open House for prospective campers and their families
- Create opportunities at your school or Church for Camp Dixie to meet prospective families

If you are interested in jumping on board and hosting a show send us an email at info@campdixie.org.

|Centennial Celebration News

Emily Kling

"T minus 10 months and counting." You can tell that I grew up during America's Space Age. One of the most significant achievements during that time was the July 20, 1969 landing on the moon. I watched it on a black and white television--in the Camp Dixie dining hall.

The moon landing was one of the important events that happened during my Camp Dixie years. Four others that I remember are: the last time Dr. Sutton gave a Sunday evening sermon at the girl's camp in 1960; Camp Dixie's 50th anniversary in 1964; the night the Dining Hall burned down in 1965; and Miss Ann's purchase of Camp Dixie from the Kotilas in 1969. Now we're getting ready for another big event--the 100th anniversary of Camp Dixie.

Our Centennial Celebration will be **August 1-3, 2014**. Current and former campers and staff,

as well as your families, are invited. Come back home! If the Centennial is anything like the 95th Alumni Reunion, you'll have a great time. In 2009, I reconnected with people I hadn't seen in over 40 years. We picked up where we left off—singing camp songs, telling stories, and laughing a lot.

Here's a general overview of the Centennial:

Friday, August 1st

Friday evening, August 1, there will be time for touring camp and catching up with old friends. We may have a short program, too.

Saturday, August 2nd

Saturday will be the big day. You'll get to participate in some of your favorite activities—archery, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and a nature hike. Gentlemen and ladies of my generation (and older) may want to join us on an all-morning field trip to the old boy's camp in Wiley. You will recognize many landmarks. Saturday evening, we'll have a special dinner and program on Flag Field (near the flag pole for you old timers). No, you don't have to bring your "sit-upons." We'll have tables and chairs inside a big tent.

Sunday, August 3rd

Sunday morning Miss Barbara, a special friend of Camp Dixie's, will conduct a vespers service. Then we'll feast on a farewell brunch. Hmm. I wonder if we'll be giving out any awards ...

If your energy level isn't what it used to be, that's OK. We'll have several shaded hospitality areas around camp for you to sit, visit, and have a cold glass of water or bug juice. Also, if you don't get around as well as you used to, we'll have golf carts to take you where you need to go.

Here's a question for you: Where are you going to sleep? I was in Cabin 5 with some other former 1960s campers and counselors during the 95th Reunion. It was great to be on the Cabin Line again and fall asleep to the sounds of the frogs. But the walk to the bathroom was a little farther than I'm currently used to.

Some of you younger folks may want to stay at camp. But just in case you old timers want the "comforts of home," we'll provide a list of accommodations in and around Clayton. If you haven't

been to Clayton in a while, you'll be amazed. It's a bustling resort town. Since Clayton is so popular, you may want to make motel reservations by the end of **February, 2014**.

To get details about registration, accommodations, and anything else dealing with the Centennial, go to CampDixieCentennial.org after October 13th.

Before I close, I must give you some assignments:

- Start looking for memorabilia you may want to share at the Centennial. Also, bring "then" and "now" photos of yourself.
- Bring your camp ties and uniforms, if you still have them.
- Let former campers and staff members you have kept in contact with know about the Centennial, and give them the web address. The old records for the boy's and girl's camps were destroyed in a fire when Lakeview was struck by lightning in 1997.
- Try to remember some camp songs. At some point, we will sing "Follow the Gleam" and the "Alma Mater." In case you don't remember the words, look for them at the end of this newsletter.
- Think about bringing something for the Silent Auction. The proceeds will help fund a camp project.

I hope you'll be able to join us at the Centennial. See you next August 1-3!

- Emily Kling

Centennial Co-Chair

| In Closing

We are looking forward to the beauty of the fall season and to sharing it with you during Work Weekend. Jason and I have lots of projects planned and hope that we will be able to accomplish most of them. Emily Kling, Carrie Hartshorne, Jason and I will be working on the Centennial Celebration and would welcome your thoughts and ideas. As always, we will be here in Dixieland following the gleam.

– *Rhonda Conrad, Director*



Rhonda, Sally and Darlene