



# Dixie Doings

Camp Dixie Newsletter – Winter 2010

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that I just couldn't see what it had to do with Christmas. This year the book was okay/good with a very predictable ending but it did have me hearting some pages. Hearting a page is when I draw a small heart in the margins and list the page number on the last page of the book. I usually do this when there is a question and I need more information, or I want to share it with Jason, or maybe I could use it in Vespers, or I like it and I want to use it as a Rhondaism.

The book was about a little town lacking in Christmas spirit. The message was of hospitality of opening your heart and home to strangers of being ready to help others . . . perhaps entertaining angels unaware. There were several heart thoughts but the one that has stuck with me from this book is " I wonder who the Lord will bring to our home" . Or to camp? Strange, I had never thought about the Lord and the campers in that way. So many questions started forming? Who will I get to meet and spend time with this summer? Who will be sent here on a mission?

## Director's Message

It is a cold snowy day in Dixieland as I write this message. Much has been on my mind lately concerning Camp - recruitment, maintenance, staff selection, and enrollment. To be able to focus on just one thing would be easy but when one has many hats to wear there is never just one concern.

I have a Christmas tradition that I always read a book about Christmas at Christmas time. Not sure why I started this, probably because my dad always told me a Christmas story – usually The Christmas Story. Sometimes he made up stories about Christmas and Santa Claus. Over the years, I have read some great books (The Autobiography of Santa Claus and The Fourth Wiseman) and some



Then I began to think (which Jason assures me is dangerous) of all the alumni that I have met of all the campers and the staff – all the possibilities. Who could be angels? Who was sent

from above? So many thoughts. Who will come to Dixie this summer as camper or staff member? What will there needs be? Will we be ready? Will we give them a since of belonging to a community - a different family other than their own? Will they willingly participate or make it challenging for us? Will what they bring to camp be less than what they take away?

It really was a simple little book but one that I will remember for the message holds true for Dixie. The gates are always open to welcome alumni to Dixieland. The staff and I will be ready with open arms for the new and returning campers.

I know my concerns and worries over camp will never stop. I know blessings come in all shapes, sizes, color and form. I know that my camp mission is 27 years and counting. I know that I am looking forward to this summer and meeting all those new campers that are sent our way. I am also looking forward to my next Christmas book and the message that it will bring.

Rhonda Conrad, Director

## |Thought of the Day

"Life is full of promise, under any circumstances."

- Willis A. Sutton "Old Lion" 1959

## |Newsletters merge

After much debate and mixed feelings – we have decided to combine the alumni newsletter with the present camper newsletter and thus return to the original camp newsletter – The Dixie Doings. This newsletter will reach alumni, present campers and their families, prospects and friends of Camp Dixie. We are going to need your help in getting the latest updates on what you guys are up to in the camp "off – season". We usually fill our newsletters with news of what is going on at camp, of what to look forward to, and of important dates to share. We hope that this combining will create a stronger bond between past and present campers. But there's a trick to it – it only works if you guys remember to share news with us of what you are up to. Stuff that may seem trivial to you or just everyday – could create opportunities (business,

promotion, and connections) to share more of you with camp. Who is in a horse show, running a marathon, running for office, in need of references, top seller in Florida – the list goes on... We need you to email us your latest and greatest! (info@campdixie.org) If you had something exciting happen to you that you'd like to share, or if you were recognized with an award. We're sure you get what we're talking about, right?

Can't wait to hear more about what our Dixie guys and gals are up to...

## |What's Happening in Dixieland

We are busy recruiting and planning the special events for next summer. We are working on the list of projects for the work weekend. Getting quotes for 2010 Camp Dixie T-shirts. They are gonna be to cool.

### **Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Camp Fair at Town Center Mall from 1 to 4 pm

### **Feb. 28**

Showing at the Schilling Home

### **March 6th**

Camp Fair at Lakeshore Mall from 10 to 4 pm

### **March 8 - 12<sup>th</sup>**

St. Edward's School (private group)

### **March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Camp Fair at Perimeter Mall from 11 to 4

### **April 23 - 25**

Dixie Work Weekend

### **April 25**

Camp Open House

# Happy Birthday wishes go out to:

## January

01<sup>st</sup> - Dominick Giacobbe  
03 - Manav Mathews  
10 - Rhonda Conrad  
14 - Brenna Corbett 14  
16 - Steven Betka  
21 - Wright Calhoun 21  
23 - Nicholas Giacobbe 23  
27 - Sam and Cade Ivy

## February

04<sup>th</sup> - Barbara Woodall  
06 - Gavin Collier  
07 - Brynn Toland, Thomas Hartwell  
09 - Yuka Tsuji  
16 - Maddie Dobson  
19 - Jacqueline Day  
22 - Mia Jackson  
28 - Claire Phelps Barber

## March

02<sup>nd</sup> - Brett Brown, Carol Springer Sargent  
06 - Gigi Gandossi  
11 - Mackenzie Walker  
14 - Rachael Claxton  
22 - Maxton Brown

If we missed your birthday, please let us know. Also if you have a special event coming up that you would like to share with us, send us the information.

# What is Camp Dixie to me?

## Taylor Deaddrick

Camp is and can be easily known as a second home and a mind-blowing life experience. This may be very "original" and absolutely expected but I couldn't say a more true statement. In the earlier years of a child's life, going to a summer camp is an absolute necessity in a child's mind. Well, that's what I thought at 10 years old when I went to Dixie for the first time. Gigi and I went together..as many should already know. But to be honest, I never expected to view camp the way that I do now. I never thought that I would love something so much in my life. I have poured every emotion that my body could ever go through into camp. Every emotion such as laughs, cries(even though I am a "tough" girl), anger, accomplishment, pride, exhaustion (thank you hill to riflery), friendship, so many more, but most of all love. Camp is just a second home that holds no judgments. When I am able to be myself, no matter what, and still be loved..you KNOW you can't find a better place. As I look back at all of the years that I experienced at Dixie, I never once thought at 10 years old when I first went, that camp would mean more than just..well..camp. At the time, it was all about being the center of attention and seeing how many buttons I could press with just about anyone and everyone. Thank God for Margaret's patience with me. As the years went on though, a feeling sparked inside me that was stronger than anything I could have ever imagined. I never thought I would feel that leaving was like leaving a whole new group of friends and family members. I am honestly blessed to have gone through the Camp Dixie experience. Camp has taught me many life lessons and so many morals that I carry throughout everyday life. I would never trade any memory that I have gotten from this place, EVER, in my life. Nothing is worth what I took from this place and hopefully gave to other people. Camp is and for ever will be my escape from the 'real life', my second family, and most of all...my second home. Dixie love will always live in my heart.

## Visitor's at Dixie

Kimberly Cirino Lynch (Kit) – 2003 Staff

## Winter Hits Dixieland

If you have ever wondered what Dixie looks like in the winter months, here is a glimpse. No this is not a typical winter day for camp but one that we thought you might enjoy seeing. The weekend of January 29 -31 would have one questioning if they were in fact in Dixieland. Friday, January 29 , the snow started falling at 1 pm and by 7 pm, Dixie had 3 inches. Sometime after midnight the snow changed over to ice.



*The path into Council Fire.*

By morning, the snow was covered with a layer of ice about 2 inches thick. Early Saturday, morning had snow and sleet still coming down and at 9 am Dixie was without power. The temperature was somewhere below 29 degrees. Needless to say, in front of the fireplace was a popular spot. Jason and I ventured out to get pictures and to assess the damage of falling limbs and trees. It was a cold, wet walk around camp. The smell of Christmas was everywhere due to the many fallen limbs from the White Pines. The trees were coated in 2 inches of ice. Many of them were leaning in directions that were not ideal for the buildings. A quick walk down the cabin line and I realized my spring to do list had just got longer. Sometime around 9 pm, we lost water. Jason suited up and went out to find the problem much to my objections. Within 25 minutes, he was back. A large tree had fallen over – uprooted by the coating

of ice. One of the roots had pulled the water line apart. Now it was really getting FUN. We received 2 more inches of snow and another coating of ice by days' end. The night sounds of cracking limbs and falling trees was a bit scary. We were nervous about what we might find tomorrow morning. Sunday, January 31 still no power or water but the sky was DIXIE blue and clear. Today, everything was crystal and sparkling. One might even go so far as to say, it was Beautiful a winter wonderland. The temp was going to be in the 40's (a heatwave). We went out again to assess the damage and get better pictures. We gathered our supplies for the waterline and within 15 minutes – we had water. Once we returned to the Office, we found we had power. The day was looking up.

## Last of the Summer Bug Juice

### Alumni Stories

Send in your stories to us at:  
[info@campdixie.org](mailto:info@campdixie.org)

### Mary Ann Brown "Froggy" – (ne Mayo)



*Jimmy and Mary Brown. On November 19, 2009 – Jimmy Brown received the DAR Medal of Honor.*

Camp Dixie ... just hearing those words brings a flood of memories.

In the summer of 1965, Lyndon Johnson was president, Medicare was signed into law, bread was



21 cents a loaf, gas was 31 cents a gallon, and the Beatles were taking over the USA. I was a senior at Georgia Southern College, and had the opportunity to go to Camp Dixie as the Waterfront Director and counselor for the CTs in the Dew Drop Inn cabin up on the hill.

It was at this time that I was dating a fellow GSC student, Jimmy Brown, who came by for a visit on his way to his summer job in Massachusetts. We took a walk around the camp grounds ending up near the old tennis courts and archery range. While we are sitting there talking about our summer apart, he made a proposal of marriage and I accepted. Even though we were separated for the next few months, we knew our relationship would continue once we returned to school in the fall. (more on this later...)

Meanwhile for me, camp life was a daily experience of friendships, activities, camping out, routines and rituals that have been carried on since 1914. One of the nicest and most memorable traditions was the Shipwreck Service that took place on one of the last nights before camp ended for the summer. We were all given time to compose our thoughts about our dreams and plans we hoped would be in our future. The service was serious, respected and treated with reverence.

On the night of the service, we were all dressed in our Sunday best...blue shorts, white shirt, and red tie. After our vespers meeting, we carried our ship and candle...along with our written prophecy... to the area by Mud Turtle. We maintained a quite decorum while we softly hummed a song. As the sun was going down over the mountain tops, we placed our little ships into the water..wondering whose ships would make it over the waterfall and be returned the next morning at breakfast. Once the little candle vessels were placed in the lake, it was a beautiful sight with all the little lights flickering across the water with their reflections carrying so many thoughts of our future.

The next morning at breakfast, the Camp Director returned the papers that had survived the trek across the lake and down the little waterfall. I was surprised to hear my name called and to see my little paper intact. At that time, I didn't realize

the impact of that one moment in my life.

We were all preparing for trips back to our homes, so I gently folded my little sheet of paper, placed it in my Bible, and headed back to my home in Valdosta, Georgia.

Life continued for Jimmy and me while we completed our college degrees. He entered the USAF in January 1966, and we were married in April that same year. Jimmy went to pilot training and we moved out west to Arizona, and that began our lifetime of moving 20 times, living in 10 different states over the next 27 years. In 1969-70, Jimmy had a tour in Viet Nam, and unbeknownst to me, he carried the little paper that I had written for the Shipwreck Service back in 1965 with him. After his save return, ..we didn't talk about this special piece of paper for a while...and once again it was placed aside until 1996. When it was found again, Jimmy had it framed and gave it to me on our 30th wedding anniversary. This time our three children were able to share in the story of its importance in our lives. It now has a permanent place in our home as a reminder that hopes and dreams can come true.



I suppose by now, you are wondering just what was written on the little piece of paper back in the summer of '65...I am going to share it:

## Back Then

### Reprints from Way Back When

Memory's Picture Book

By Unknown

Reprinted from Dixie Echoes 1933

When you leave the mighty mountains  
and this Camp we love the best,  
Take back some lovely pictures to  
fill your treasure chest.

Not pictures made in color, or  
sheets of paper white, or pictures  
made with camera from some tall  
mountain's height;

But pictures stamped forever on your  
mind, away from view,

Where you take them out to look at  
when you get to feeling blue.



Camp Dixie

By Unknown

Reprinted from Dixie Doings 1917

Oh, somewhere, perhaps, in this  
beautiful world,

There's a place that is fairer than  
this,

And somewhere, perhaps, there's a  
heavenly land

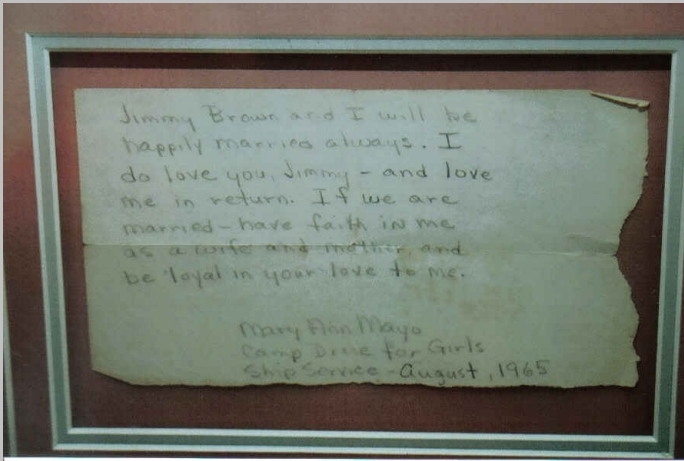
Where life is a vision of bliss.

But for me, I am satisfied just to  
stay here

Among these mountains and streams.

Each day brings its joys and life-  
giving air,

Each night its rest and sweet  
dreams.



Jimmy Brown and I will be happily married always. I do love you, Jimmy - and love me in return. If we are married - have faith in me as a wife and mother, and be loyal in your love to me.

Mary Ann Mayo

Camp Dixie for Girls

Shipwreck Service -August 1965

So now, at the ripe old age of 66, married 43 years, I look back over the Camp Dixie Shipwreck Service as more than just a little event. It touched my life very deeply in so many ways. I have remembered the feeling of "will this really come true for me"? And the answer...is YES..YES it did!

#### (author's epilogue)

I would like to add that I also attended Camp Dixie as a camper for 3 years during the mid 1950s..living in cabins 5,7, and 9. Those were joyous summers that enhanced family values and Christian faith that helped shape the woman I am today. I earned my long time nickname of "Froggy" during my first summer as a camper. I appreciate the opportunity of sharing this little memory with you and will just add that Jimmy and are grateful for our good health, our 3 children, and grandson, that we still have the love and passion we shared when he proposed, and that God has so richly blessed our lives.

Mary Ann (Mayo) Brown - "Froggy"

# SpringBoard

## Emily Diane "Springer" Springer

A regular column, where Springer has her say.

### How I Learned Accountability at Camp Dixie

One of the more beautiful aspects of Camp Dixie life for me was the personalized attention. Small campers to counselor ratios made everyone feel more involved and ensured that no one fell through the cracks. This was in contrast to my home life where I was often expected to manage myself without supervision while my parents were away or busy. As much as I benefited from this extra attention during my many summers, it was also the downfall of this formerly bratty child.

At home, it was easy to blame anything on my sibling or the pet. Mom and Dad were often at work or conveniently out of the room when trouble struck, leaving this less than well behaved child to scheme her way out of punishment. I was a supreme master of this skill, as, unfortunately, was my sister. The majority of un-witnessed accidents in our house were blamed on each other or the dogs respective to the severity of the incident.



*The Intrepid Springer preparing dinner for her cabin.*

At Dixie, however, I met my match. The counselors' one and only full-time job was watching me. The much enjoyed attention also meant I was never alone, and the presence of witnesses foiled

many a devious plot in my day. Also, much to my dismay, I discovered that there wasn't a maid who arrived every Tuesday to clean my space for me. If I didn't clean my space, no one cleaned my space, and we lost inspection. Adding to this revelation was the disapproving stares from my peers who were increasingly irate at having to eat last at meals.

The glaring lack of scapegoats and maids alike prepared me for my inevitable launch into society proper, where adults are expected to be responsible for their actions. My first roommate had to learn much later that there isn't a laundry fairy and no one believes the cat did it. Said roommate expected things to be done for them, and became exponentially more confused every time I pointed to their dirty dishes and exclaimed "they don't clean themselves.": My experiences in that apartment helped me gain a new appreciation for the lessons I learned at Camp Dixie. It offered me a glimpse into what I could have become if left to my own devices, and reinstalled in me a sense of appreciation for all those counselors doing their jobs and doing them well. Hopefully I am doing an equally efficient job of teaching the next generation of Dixie campers.



## A Look Toward Spring

We hope this newsletter finds all of you well and enjoying a great start to the new year. It has certainly been a cold and snowy winter in Dixieland but it is during this time of year that we set our sights on the opening of camp. Before we know it, the days will be warm and the smell of pine trees and the cool mountain breezes will fill the air. Children's voices will once again fill the cabins.

We are asking all of our Dixie Alumni, Campers, Staff and Friends to help in the promoting of Dixie. If you have friends or family, who might be interested in sending their children to summer camp, send their names, phone numbers, email addresses to Rhonda and we'll be happy to talk with them.

Also you might consider posting a camp brochure at your office, church, country club, gym, or asking your children's school about sharing camp information. If you have several, who are interested in DIXIE we can arrange a special showing of the 2010 camp pictures. We can also send Dixie brochures to you. They can see first hand what a great place DIXIE is to spend the summer. 678-701-3052.



*Our booth at a camp fair in North Point Mall. On the left is Laurie Owens, next to her is Cassie Cobb, Rhonda Conrad, Springer is hidden behind the family visiting us and Jason Airlie on the far right.*

## Camp Dixie on Facebook and Twitter

Those of you familiar with Facebook and Twitter, Camp Dixie is now on both. For those that aren't, Facebook is a way to keep updated with camp news. Twitter is a way to follow camp happenings. Since a majority of our staff and now, more and more of our campers use Facebook to catch up and stay in touch, Camp Dixie has also created a place for staff, campers, parents and Alumni to keep in touch and continue to foster our Camp Dixie community. If you'd like to join us, please visit our page and "Fan" us...we'll be adding this as another way to get information about the goings' on at camp...Here is the link you'll need to find us; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Clayton-GA/Camp-Dixie/98614354566> (if you're already on Facebook - you can also type Camp Dixie (look for the emblem) into the search for friends bar). Can't wait to see you on FB.

## In Closing



This year is off to a good start with enrollments coming in and returning staff signing on for another summer. We are looking forward to 2010 and it is our hope that you will come and visit with us. May you and your family be blessed with love, good health, and happiness. Remember the gate is always open and we will promise to let you be a kid again.