

Boy Scouts learn to live together at Camp Babcock-Hovey

By BETTY AUTEN

CAMP BABCOCK-HOVEY — There are many today who insist this country is literally and morally going "to pot". There is a very simple way to disprove this statement. All that is required is for disbelievers to take a couple of hours and visit Camp Babcock-Hovey or any other Boy Scout or Girl Scout camp in the area. A few hours at Camp Babcock-Hovey is guaranteed to restore anyone's equilibrium.

All summer an average of 200 boys and seven to nine men, together with an additional 17 or 18 others who are the permanent staff at the camp, communicate with one another. For two week periods, the boys are taught more about getting along with one's fellowmen than they will probably learn in any other given time of their life.

Just a few hours is enough to convince anyone who doubts that most people, youth and adults are still A-OK. A young man or boy who can remember back to the two weeks of enjoyment he had at Camp Babcock-Hovey must certainly grow up to be a better person.

If one arrives at the camp at about 6 p.m. the boys will be just finishing supper. Recently supper was creamed chicken, vegetables and pineapple dessert.

Each table in the mess hall seats eight persons. Chores are divided among six of the boys each meal. One sets the table, one serves the food, one serves the beverage, one clears, etc. Two of the boys are excused from KP at each meal.

Each day at camp is filled with interchangeable moments of seriousness and laughter.

For about five or ten minutes after everyone is through eating there is a time for clowning and a couple of "inside jokes". Then quickly, most everyone goes to the parade ground between the mess hall and the trading post for retreat. As the 200 or so men and boys stand at attention, the color guard lowers the American Flag, folds it and presents it to the camp director.

With retreat over the boys take their free time and do the things that boys like to do. Some of them go to the pool, built by area Rotary Clubs, some visit the nature conservation area and take another look at the various birds that are kept in large clean cages.

Other boys go down to look at Seneca Lake with their family and friends who have come to visit, and others wander over to the trading post for an ice cream cone or soft drink. After all, it's been at least 15 minutes since supper.

Suddenly, above the din of many voices, the bugle sounds. With unerring step, the majority of boys and men walk in the same direction.

They walk along a pathway through the woods. Heading towards clearing they come to a fairly steep stairway. About 50 people are seated on benches at the bottom of the stairs. They sit facing a clearing in which there is a simple stone altar backed by a plain wooden cross.

A select number of young men, leaders and assistants, begin a contemporary service of worship. One young man speaks, "We have something to celebrate. What Exactly? Well, just being alive. Being together, singing together, talking together."

The dialogue from the Adoration continues and then as one young man softly plays a guitar, everyone starts to sing, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

A short prayer, that could be transposed for any religion, and again the people sing. In looking back, those who arrived early can see that every seat is filled and men and boys have also filled every step up the bank. Although this part of camp-life is strictly voluntary, very few stay away.

To emphasize the need for thought and understanding, the readers relate items from the daily newspaper to verses from the scriptures. The litany which follows emphasizes the need for understanding



THE TOTEM POLE at Camp Babcock-Hovey built by V.A. Hospital patients at Canandaigua.



AQUATIC ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR Dan Bonacci prepares Ken Ormsbee, Michael Smith and Paul Thomas for their trip down Seneca Lake to Watkins Glen. The boys are from Troop 55, Holcomb.

more serious vein. Dennis Marco, camp director was introduced. He explained that Wednesday's campfires are designated for boy scouts who have earned the Order of the Arrow. He told the visitors and boys that those who have earned this award have learned the meaning of brotherhood, cheerfulness and service.

He then asked all those who had earned this award to come forward for the closing. Approximately 60 boys locked hands in a circle and singing, brought the evening to an end.

Each week at camp has a different theme. This week's is Aquatic. Not all boys take part in the aquatic program. Some base their studies and skills on conversation, nature, cooking, etc.

If anyone spies two Indian war canoes on Seneca Lake today it will be a group of boys from Camp Babcock-Hovey. They plan to paddle down to Watkins Glen and back again.

There is a lot to see and do in a few short hours. It would take much longer to meet and get to know all those who devote their energies to strive so willingly to develop the morale fiber of a boy.

Here are just a few of them. Ladies first — Mrs. Janice King of Geneva is camp nurse. With a gentle touch she tends to all the bruises and aches of 200 boys each week. Sometimes it's just a "tummy-ache" for a boy who is spending his first week's away from home. Occasionally it is more serious. One boy broke his finger, but after he got a splint on it, he continued his camping. One young man is at camp this week with his leg in a cast up to his hip. He refused to let a little thing such as a broken leg keep him away from camping.

That is Dan Bonacci from Waterloo,



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT people at Camp Babcock-Hovey is Mrs. Janice King of Geneva, the nurse. Here she is checking Guy Hibbard of Dresden.



TAKING DOWN THE FLAG during retreat is a serious moment at camp.

Gary Tiffany from Phelps and a dozen other young men from many area communities who are working as staff members for the first time this year and enjoying every minute. From the younger boys' expressions, they are enjoying it too.

Ed Heard Aquatic instructor, is a teacher in Geneva. Ed is co-author on the contemporary worship service which was read recently.

Then there is Stanley Waters of Lyons. Stanley is program director at the camp. As each diverse group of boys arrive at the camp, it is Stanley who steps in and tries to make everyone feel at home. Last week it was a group of non-scouts from the Chartres Homes in Geneva.

Stanley is the father of five sons and one daughter, Amy. Amy and Mom came to camp, yesterday to visit. It was easy to pick out Amy because she was so happy to see her daddy but it would be difficult to pick out his sons. All the boys think the world of Stan.

There are any number of other men who are giving their time and effort to helping boys. Some of them have gotten quite gray on the top and others have gotten quite sunburned on top but all of them have the look of having the time of their lives.

"My wife, the chinchilla rancher. I'd hardly know she was working—except for the second income."



Says Mr. JOHN PODMOKLEY of VINELAND

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TROOP 55 of Holcomb with Bob Thomas, scoutmaster, received a blue feather for having the cleanest campsite during inspection.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

ACROSS	4-Measuring device
1-Insect	5-Pronoun
4-Small amount	6-Haul
8-Cleaning device	7-Wife of Geraint
11-Dispatched	8-Substance
12-Short jacket	9-Native metal
13-Macaw	10-Equality
14-Parent (colloq.)	11-Pintail duck
15-likely	12-Hebrew letter
17-Season	13-Pintail duck
19-Be mistaken	14-Hebrew letter
21-Lamprey	15-Also
22-Speck	16-Freedom
24-Paradise	17-Bow
26-Bone of body	18-Wager
28-Departed	19-Conjunction
31-Bushy clump	20-Afternoon party
33-Article of furniture	21-Defaced
35-Fish eggs	22-Soak
36-Hebrew month	23-Freedom
38-Struck out	24-Bow
41-Sun god	25-Also
42-Obstruct	26-Wager
44-Armed conflict	27-Conjunction
45-Negative	28-Defaced
47-Apothecary's weight	29-Total
49-Pigpen	30-Defaced
51-Precious metal	31-Defaced
54-Soak	32-Condensed moisture
56-Still	33-Defaced
58-Possessive pronoun	34-Lair
59-Trade	35-Defaced
62-River island	36-Defaced
64-Note of scale	37-Defaced
65-Be in debt	38-Defaced
66-Shout	39-Defaced
68-Again	40-Defaced
70-Marry	41-Defaced
71-Principal	42-Defaced
72-Seed container	43-Defaced
DOWN	44-Defaced
1-Whiskers	45-Defaced
2-Printer's measure	46-Also
3-Greek letter	47-Defaced

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