



The History of Fair Haven Camps

(1950-2000)

By

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- Hilda Sheldon

GENERAL HISTORY

It has fallen to me to write "The History of Fair Haven Camps" for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration. I feel very inadequate to know what to include and what to exclude in such a paper, but I am praying that the Lord will be glorified in the results.

The idea of a Christian camp in this area began in the early 40's when several children began attending a Christian camp in Rumney, New Hampshire. Rebecca Sheldon, the late wife of Roy Sheldon, drove them over there for several summers in the body of a bright red Dodge truck. (Rebecca was an adventurous type.) The thought occurred to some of us, including my late husband Elwyn, "Why not have a Christian camp for boys and girls right in our own neighborhood?"

At the time a young pastor and his wife, Jerry and Jean Beavan, worked for the Waldo Larger Parish, an umbrella organization which sponsored several small churches in the area.

Jerry recalls in a June, 2000 letter and I quote: "I do indeed remember driving around with Elwyn, and I did not know he had gone Home. I was very fond of him and have often thought about our days in Morrill. Sometimes we went in his truck and sometimes in my old Dodge, but I remember that we looked at several different sites ... some in wooded areas, and often with a lake. At this distance in time I can't recall where any of them were, but I know we both had high expectations that a suitable site for a camp would emerge. I can recall praying about various sites, asking for the Lord to make available whatever happened to be the place He had in mind."

As Jerry and Jean left the area in the fall of 1946 (He later served on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team for 15 years.), he was not around when, in the fall of 1950 while deer hunting, Rev. Richard Henley came upon the remains of Camp Melco (now East Haven) which had been abandoned for several years. What a sorry sight it was! As I recall, the kitchen was a blackened mass of coal dust-covered shelves and an old coal hod in the corner with evidence of the porcupines chewing all the wood. Nonetheless, a group including Roy and Rebecca Sheldon, Elwyn and Hilda Sheldon of Morrill, Rev. David and Anna-Lisa Madeira of Knox and Rev. Richard and Helen Henley of Belfast knelt on a bleak November day in 1950 on the peninsula at the present East Haven to claim the property for the Lord, if He so willed.

During the winter of 1951, negotiations were completed with members of the Dickey family (Some of them lived in Rhode Island.) to purchase the now East Haven

property for \$5,000, which was raised by gifts, bank and individual loans by March 15.

From what I am able to ascertain from early records from that prayer meeting on the peninsula, a group of people (probably 25 or so) gathered on January 15, 1951, and formed a non-profit organization called the Central Maine Bible Conference for the purpose of purchasing the camp property, roughly 50 acres and buildings thereon and, according to the constitution, operating an evangelical Christian boys' and girls' camp; it also had the stated purpose of providing a Bible Conference Center to involve adults in an evangelistic and teaching ministry. Seven people, including Elwyn Sheldon, President; Roy Sheldon, Vice President; Harold Parkhurst, Treasurer; Helen Henley, Clerk; Edward Rajaniemi, Irvin Hills and Albert Barnes signed the incorporation papers at the office of Dunton and Morse in Belfast on March 15, 1951. At least nine meetings of the group were held between January and May when the dedication of the property was held. Many of the meetings tended to be confusing to interpret who constituted the Board of Directors and who were the members. One vote recorded that all the ten remaining on the Board of Directors be automatically put on, and another said that we affix the number of Board of Directors to seventeen. Apparently, though, the actual first Board of Directors as we speak of it today, included Vaughn Hurd and Rev. David Madeira in addition to the above names. The rest of the people involved were referred to as the Advisory Committee, Members or Board of Directors, also at times. Such people included Lahja Rajaniemi, Rebecca Sheldon, Hilda Sheldon, Beverly Parkhurst, Isabelle Hills, Rev. John Boone, John Parker and Anna-Lisa Madeira.

An Attorney Fiske guided the fledgling group in legal matters, and it was finally agreed upon that the Board of Directors was to consist of the signers of the incorporation papers and the mortgage note plus two more members; and that the remainder of the people attending the February 10, 1951 meeting become members with the power to elect the Board of Directors annually in addition to the authority of an Advisory Board. It was suggested that three be elected for three-year terms, three for two-year terms and three for one-year terms on the Board of Directors. I can't find that the staggered term provision was carried out. Anyone might become a member by applying in writing to the membership board, subscribing to the doctrinal statement and being voted upon by the membership at a quarterly meeting.

The spring of 1951 was very hectic as the camp had been unused for roughly 20 years, and much work had to be done to bring any semblance of order to the place. There were many willing hands, and various committees were formed. The road had to be bulldozed, insurance obtained for campers and property, property tax

exemption sought, much work provided and equipment obtained in the kitchen, screening replaced on the cabins, brochures prepared and distributed, staff obtained, plumbing repaired (Some toilets had been removed.), items ordered for the camp store, and on and on and on. There was no electricity. According to Roy Sheldon, a generator was leased from a movie company on Route 3 the first year, and the second year the generator of Sheldon Brothers Poultry Farm was used. By the beginning of the third year the electric line from the main road had been completed.

The dedication of the property on Sunday, May 13, was a great occasion as a very large number came to East Haven to join in praise to the Lord for His provision and to dedicate the property to His use. Everett Graffam of Providence Bible Institute was the speaker. Billy Hoyt, also of Providence, was the soloist with Rev. James Sawyer of Morrill in charge of the program.

Sometime during that first summer, the name Camp Fair Haven was given to the property. As I recall, Harold Parkhurst of Thorndike was the one who came up with the name from the Bible (Acts 27:8). The Apostle Paul came to a place by the name of Fair Havens located on the island of Crete which he reached after a long journey on the Mediterranean Sea. Later the term Fair Haven Camps became common with the name East and West for each side.

That first summer and for several summers thereafter, Rebecca Sheldon and La Rajaniemi were heavily involved in the kitchen and food angle. Roy Sheldon recalls that Rebecca delivered their third child, Steve, the morning after a hard evening of work preparing the East Haven kitchen for summer. Mildred Hood of Brooks was cook for the first year. Her pay was to bring her two boys to camp free. Ruthanne (Hutton) Atkinson and Ina Jackson, both Rural Bible Teachers, were directors of the two week Junior Girls' Camp for 9 to 12 year olds, and Dave Dunkin was leader of the boys. Earl Hunt, pastor from Tenants Harbor, and Nancy (Davis) Dark of Virginia were leaders of the Senior Camp (13 to 18 year olds).

The camp program was built around the belief of its sponsors that along with basic spiritual teaching should go the development of healthy minds and bodies. The program included swimming, boating, hiking, handwork, nature study, volleyball, baseball, music, informal sessions around the campfire, as well as Bible study and courses in Christian living.

It was suggested that some might be interested in buying cottage lots from the property to help provide money, but I don't recall that any were sold. Some wood

was sold from the property. Irvin Hills bought \$500 worth to be harvested over a two-year period.

Dr. Meldon Collins of Liberty came in that first year to give medical checks as campers registered. I can remember him sitting on the steps of the Nature House (next building to the office) and giving each child a quick look-over.

At the first annual meeting, held in October, 1951, it was voted that only members 18 years old and up could vote. Attending that meeting as original members were: Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Sheldon, Mrs. Helen Henley, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parkhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Hills, Rev. and Mrs. David Madeira, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rajaniemi, Mr. Albert F. Barnes, Mr. Vaughn Hurd, Mr. Gerald Fowler, Mr. Francis Wood, Rev. James Sawyer, Mr. Eric Wiggin, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Alton Bridges, Mr. Carl Howes, Mr. Charles White, Rev. David Dunkin, Miss Flora West. The following became members by applying in writing, signing the doctrinal statement, and being voted upon by those already members: Mrs. Eric Wiggin, Carlene Hilda Fuller, Rev. Erie Morse, Mrs. David Dunkin, Rev. Herbert Adams, Mrs. Minnie Sawyer, Mrs. Gerald Fowler, Rev. and Mrs. William Ricker.

It was also voted to accept the constitution as written and amend it later.

I do not find a record of how many children attended Camp the first year, but the program was expanded for 1952 to three weeks for boys and three weeks for girls and two weeks for Bible Conference-type camp for seniors.

During those early years the direction of Camp was sometimes controversial. Some felt that it should be operated as a camp for boys and girls with Christ as the center of all activities, while others felt it should be as a Bible Conference with Bible classes occupying the whole forenoon. In fact, one pastor said that a camp couldn't be called Christian unless it had Bible classes all forenoon. But with the dual purpose of reaching children for Christ and strengthening the faith and living practices of those who already knew the Lord, it did not seem feasible to some folks to expect children who had never been inside a church to sit through three hours of Bible study at a time. The above division of weeks would have been somewhat of a compromise.

During that winter of 1952, Herb Adams, Ruthanne (Hutton) Atkinson and Rev. David Dunkin became involved in promotion of the Camp.

Rev. David Madeira, having moved farther away, left the Board of Directors and Rev. David Dunkin took his place. During that summer the American Sunday

School Union (now American Missionary Fellowship) began renting East Haven for a week following our camping season, a practice which continued for many years, first for only \$75 a week.

What a scramble that was during the years to have all of our campers out on Saturday morning and Camp cleaned up before Charlie and Althea Nute of the American Sunday School Union started bringing in their group in the afternoon! As I might visit their camp later in the week, I can picture in my mind the serenity exuding from Charlie, always wearing suspenders, as he would sit in a rocking chair in the kitchen surrounded by his several kids and others. Always Althea was the epitome of efficiency as she managed the food operation.

In 1952 it was voted to have a telephone put in if it didn't cost over \$35!

In October, 1952, a new Board of Directors was elected at the annual meeting including Elwyn Sheldon, Irvin Hills, Eric Wiggin, William Ricker, Ed Rajaniemi, David Dunkin, Vaughn Hurd, Roy Sheldon, Gerald Fowler and Verna Dunkin, Clerk. (The number of members on the Board changed to eleven in 1963.)

It was also voted at that meeting that only laymen could hold office on the Board. The reason for this vote would seem to have been the prevalent feeling that too many pastors would be intimidating to the laymen and that the concept of Camp was really a grass-roots effort. Then, too, the thought was that non-church families might not be so willing to send their children to a camp that was operated by too many pastors.

That year, Christmas cards, along with calendars were sent out to campers, a practice which evolved through the years into an expanded letter as a means of follow-up for campers. Nowadays we send birthday cards to them.

Through the next several years as girls had more in attendance than boys, the weeks became five for girls and three for boys until 1958 when the weeks became four for each and teen week as we know it today evolved.

During that period many different meetings and conferences as well as quarterly meetings for adults were held at times. I remember Baden Frewin of Waterville as a well-loved song leader.

During the fifties the physical facilities were somewhat improved. There was a well on the property. Now capped, it remains between the East Haven office and lodge. As time went on, the water was found to be very rusty, and the decision was made to

run a pumping system from the lake with a chlorinator. When there were problems with the water system, I can remember men would bring milk cans of drinking water from Morrill.

When West Haven became a part of the camp program, water was piped from the lake for both camps and the cottage area, (A well was drilled for West Haven near the lodge porch, but it did not produce as it should.), meaning that three chlorinators had to be monitored each day, a very exacting task. Finally, a new well was drilled near the Allister Cottage, home of the directors for years. Then a pipe line was laid under the lake to supply water for East Haven, thus eliminating the need for chlorinators. (Actually the pipe was originally placed on the ice in the winter, and then in the spring, down it went.) It gave us better tasting water as well. Hallelujah! Now this summer of 2000 another well has been drilled up on the athletic field and water from it piped into the system to answer the need for more water.

The buildings were essentially the same as now except that the dining porch was only screened in at first, but later a whole new dining room with crafts and all-purpose room upstairs was added. There were no buildings back of the lodge except a small wooden structure used as an infirmary and staff bathroom. In the early days the cook and assistant, plus young workers worked, I believe, six days a week for all three meals. I recall cooking for a period of time with Irene Wood, wife of Walter, and such a dear, sweet lady. In the afternoon we would retire to that building and drop in exhaustion on a cot for a brief interlude between dinner and supper.

Much later the boys' director's home as we know it today was constructed and has been well used. When my husband, Elwyn, who was camp director then, and I lived on the grounds in the 50's, we used one of the back rooms of the present office building as our home. One night I recall being awakened by a group of little girls and their counselor to report that a porcupine was chewing their cabin up!

The small white building behind the lodge was acquired and has been used for various purposes, often as the home of the assistant director as it is this year with a couple of newlyweds in it.

Though the sanitary facilities have been much improved on East, in those days we had flush toilets, but there was always trouble with them. (That hasn't changed too much over the years, has it?) There were no showers for several years, nor hot water except in the kitchen. Wouldn't the staff howl today?! It was not until 1953 that we had a cooling system and water fountain.

In fairly recent years, the large boys' toilet and shower room was constructed, then the smaller one.

By 1957 the members present at the Annual Meeting had grown to 46 and new members were added at nearly every quarterly meeting, though a few of the original ones had disappeared from the scene. At this meeting those present voted against charging dues to be a member. By that time the mortgage on East Haven had been paid off.

During the fall of 1957 much excitement was engendered by the news that, because of the sudden death from a heart attack of the director of the secular camp across the lake, that property with the big, two-story lodge, 20 sleeping cabins and 240 acres of land including the buildings in the cottage area was for sale. We offered the Lister family \$12,000 for the property, which they refused. Then Rev. Charles Talmadge, a new member of the Board of Directors, was sent to Rhode Island to offer \$20,000, which figure they also refused. Their price was \$25,000, and in May 1958 the Board of Directors agreed to pay that price with a \$1500 down payment, \$3500 at the end of one year, and the balance of \$20,000 over a period of 20 years at 5% interest. This was a great step of faith.

Applications for grants from several foundations were unsuccessful, but we did join a life insurance plan set up by Mr. Charles Woodworth of Christian Mutual Life Insurance Co., which generated a good bit of money for payment of the initial amounts.

The dedication service for the new property was on July 4, 1958 with a large attendance and Rev. Charles Talmadge in charge of the program. Children from East Haven made various presentations and Charles Woodworth was the speaker.

1959 marked the beginning of both East and West Haven being in operation, and, though the following is not signed, the timing and style of writing indicate to me that it was the work of my late husband, Elwyn:

Annual Report of Camp Fair Haven 1958-1959 Season

In human experience we progress by steps. Sometimes our steps are certain and brisk, characterized by vim and vigor; sometimes they are slow and halting because of advancing age or indecision. However, whether the steps be swift or slow, deliberate or halting, each step brings us nearer to the goal ahead.

1959 marks a year in the history of Camp Fair Haven that can be symbolized by a big, momentous step... a big step materially, financially and spiritually.

Materially, because the purchase of the new property has increased the land and property holdings and therefore makes it possible for the camp to more than double its effective ministry.

Financially, because the purchase has caused us to take on an indebtedness that will take several years to clear up.

Spiritually, because it was a step of faith ... a firm belief in the need for more Christian education and training and a desire to multiply the ministry and mission of Camp Fair Haven.

Our thanks go to the members of the board of directors who gave of their money, time and selves so unselfishly for the work of the Lord at camp. It would be difficult to attempt to estimate the hours that were given to the Lord in the tremendous job of preparing the new campsite for habitation.

We thank those who could not labor physically with us but who gave generously, and sometimes sacrificially, to the work of the camp.

We thank those who couldn't labor or give but who were instant in prayer for the work of Camp Fair Haven. This is a vital ministry that every interested person can and should engage in.

The year ahead calls for all of us to do our part when and where we can. "Only one life ... 'twill soon be past; only what's done for CHRIST shall last."

In 1958 riflery was added to the program, a pleasing addition for the boys. It was voted by the Board of Directors to prohibit use of alcoholic drink, smoking and profane language at the cottages and camp.

A budget committee was set up for the first time with John Beauregard, George Duff and Orel Ward comprising it.

The idea of assistant program directors came into practice during that time. During this time the idea of a Christian radio ministry was started but was discontinued after a short time. Also, during this time, many camp rallies were held - Tedd Fish reported 22 and John Beauregard 6 the same year. These rallies, mostly to churches

and Sunday Schools, consisted of camp slides, a devotional and often the leaders were accompanied by campers for testimonies.

Paid advertising was increased in such papers as Bangor Daily News, Courier Gazette, The Republican Journal, (The Waldo Independent didn't exist yet), The Grange Herald, and The Morning Sentinel.

It was during the early sixties that a group of children from Baptist Children's Home of Long Island, New York were bussed to Camp. What a challenge they were to us but very gratifying to be able to give them so much enjoyment and present the Gospel to them as well! Groups have come to us from various states: Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island as well as Massachusetts, and, of course, our own Maine where many churches and even a few schools have sent groups. Both the Department of Human Services and Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers have sent large groups consistently. I might add that the relationships between the Department of Human Services (We have had children from at least seven regions in Maine and one or two from Massachusetts.) and Maine Children's Home out of Waterville and Augusta (We have had up to 60 children from them a season.) have always been cordial. There were times when we could have "blown our stacks" so to speak, but we chose not to do so in the interest of our Christian testimony.

Sears, Roebuck of Portland donated to us a used addressograph in the sixties and we had acquired mimeograph equipment in various ways. What a contrast those old methods were to copiers, e-mail and web-sites of today!

Because at that point in time the state inspector did not want the infirmary at West Haven in the main lodge, a new building for that purpose was built in 1967 on land above the main lodge. Infirmary requirements have changed since then, and the building has become a home for various people.

Horsemanship became a part of our program in the sixties. It seems to have started when Betty Hoover came to camp with her horse Bob. I recall George Phelps, Gail Stevens, Judy Hatfield, Dawn Leach, and most recently Ginni Littlefield Nute, among others, who have contributed to that program. Even I, who had never been on a horse before, went on a trail ride with one of them once and had a great time. How many remember Andy Sams, our colorful horsemanship leader a few years back? Andy, with his Western clothes and accent, always wanted Tabasco sauce with every meal.

When the Hemphills in Vassalboro, from whom we rented horses at first, raised the price from \$100 to \$300 per season in 1975, we started buying some horses and also giving camper credit for their use. Though being in both East and West Haven for many years, the program is now centered in West Haven with the boys coming over for horsemanship. Helmets are now required for horsemanship as in so many sports. In the early days advanced horseback riders would take extended trips, staying overnight at Frye Mountain, perhaps. Many other kinds of trips were enjoyed in earlier days - canoe trips on the Allagash, camp-outs and cook-outs at Sears Island, Lincolnville Beach, Georges Lake and other areas.

One year I remember that Elwyn and I were involved in an overnight at Belfast City Park. Our own camp kids were fine but wandering young people from the town were a nuisance.

Nowadays such trips off the camp grounds are not feasible due to state and insurance regulations requiring so much money.

In 1968 work started on bulldozing the ski slope above the present gym location to give a greater opportunity for skiing and sledding down the hill. Later a regular ski slope was prepared at the lower end of the athletic field and some ski slope equipment was acquired. However, the ski lift was not pursued because the cost of implementing state and insurance requirements was prohibitive.

In 1969, 100 camp posters were printed and distributed in various locations.

A Building and Grounds Committee of John Doak, Elwyn Sheldon and Ed Crane was appointed to upgrade facilities and beautify grounds. Even this year (2000) John Doak has been instrumental in seeding the area around the former location of the flag pole and placing the welcome sign in front of West Haven Lodge.

During this time an attempt was made to get tax exemption from the state of Maine but without success. Their argument was that if they gave exemption to one group, a precedent would be set for others to ask. More recent attempts to get this exemption have proved fruitless.

Girls' shower rooms for campers and staff were completed in 1969 and the boys' facilities soon after.

For sometime we had a Labor Day Family Weekend, but in 1970 it was dropped in favor of evening meetings at the end of the camping season. These later evolved into

Men's and Ladies' Retreats interspersed with junior and senior retreats during the school year. Unfortunately at the present time, the adult retreats seem to be less prominent in the pattern of meetings for Fair Haven. Hopefully, as time goes on, they may be resurrected for those who favor small retreats over the large ones in other states that have attracted some of our local clientele. Personally, I have found the adult speakers, both men and women, at these various events both uplifting and inspirational.

On March 30, 1970, Roger Torrey, our present general manager, first attended a Board of Directors meeting as an advisor on renovating the laundry building into two apartments (now known as the duplex).

A practice started then, which perhaps should be implemented again today, that of having the members of the Board of Directors and their wives take turns on registration day of being on the grounds to greet campers and their families.

In 1971 it was voted that Fair Haven become a member of Christian Camping International to which it still belongs.

A unique way of advertising Camp developed when Neal Pottle of Palermo came up with the idea of painting an advertisement about Camp on his over-the-road, big truck body.

In 1973 a furnace was installed in the dining room at the girls' lodge, and also the outdoor game courts were hard-topped at both East and West Haven and diving boards added on both sides. Also a new floor was placed in the dining room at West Haven before the furnace was installed.

A plan to departmentalize senior counselors and pay accordingly worked well by delegating some of the pressure off program directors.

In those years we tried putting chains across the entrance into East Haven in off season after we had a little thieving. (We never did have much trouble with that, but kids did love to destroy the camp signs at each entrance.) Of late that practice has stopped and we no longer use the chains.

In 1974-75 Christian school possibilities were discussed but never came to fruition. The indebtedness of \$35,000 at the time made it appear unwise to start a new building costing \$30,000-\$50,000. Instead, plans began for building a new Quonset hut type of building with a full basketball court, all-purpose room, bathrooms, small

kitchen and upstairs space for sleeping area, built for \$10,000 plus labor, much of it volunteer. The Board recommended a by-law change to call for an eleven-member Board with staggered terms to allow for greater turnover of members, but later changed their minds and did not ask to implement the staggered terms part.

In 1978 there was a trend toward getting out into other organizations as well as churches for advertising.

At this point the S-curve in the road from the stable to Pond Hill Road was changed and the West athletic field was widened. Merton Reynolds built the stone fireplace at the new gym. (Fortunately it was not harmed when the gym was demolished in the ice storm later.)

In the late 60's the stable and maintenance building were constructed and an apartment finished off upstairs. This apartment has been used by many people, several of whom acted as caretakers of the buildings and the horses, especially before the Torreys moved into the Allister full-time. I remember several years the water pipe going to the stable and apartment would freeze where it crossed the road, causing considerable inconvenience.

The practice of having a family Christmas Party the first of December was instituted in 1981. Besides the opportunity to praise the Lord for His goodness in song, drama, the Word, and, of course, food, it provides an incentive to bring gifts of items needed by Camp as well as monetary offerings to go on the tree. Much talent has been exhibited through the years, and people look forward to the time of fellowship. Such is the interest that one December night in recent years, there was a very good attendance in spite of inclement weather. Monetary gifts recorded through the years range from \$600 to \$2400. The 1988 Christmas Party was outstanding as it celebrated the pay-off of all indebtedness and a special offering was taken to increase The Elwyn Sheldon Memorial Fund (for staff going on to college).

Four retreats each for Juniors and Seniors were generally held in those years with men's retreat in fall and ladies' in March.

Plans for renovating West Haven Lodge really got underway in 1985 when Brad Spaulding ran the bulldozer most of the winter, excavating the full basement, which would provide bathrooms, laundry, food storage and general storage of equipment and the heating system. I believe Howard Hurd as well as Roger Torrey had a hand in constructing the furnace. The main floor now has beautiful wood-paneled walls in the spacious hall (the scene of many wedding receptions as well as spiritual meetings

for both kids and adults). The room was enlarged, and a deck facing the lake adds to its usefulness. Behind the lodge area, the nurse now has a well-equipped infirmary which doubles as a bedroom for visiting speakers in the winter. Two modern bathrooms and showers are also conveniently placed behind the lounge.

Though more still needs to be done, the kitchens in both East and West have stainless steel sinks and new, or almost new, gas restaurant-size stoves. (One was given to us if we matched it.) I remember the time my son Gary, probably nine or ten years old at the time, got his eyebrows singed when he was standing too near as the old gas stove on East was being lit.

Upstairs in West Haven Lodge, bunk beds were built, thus accommodating more people for winter retreats. The area is used for crafts in the summer.

One junior retreat had 124 girls and 50 boys during this period, and the men's and women's retreats were at their height then. A used trailer was given to camp by the parents of David Harris, and it has served as the home for the summer girls' program director for several years.

A Board member, Bruce Coffin, made an Incentive Program Proposal in which Camp would pay a \$ 100 bonus to any senior staff member who brought in another senior staff member who stayed all summer.

One year (1989) we decided to join the National Association for Exchange of Industrial Resources for \$420 a year, supposedly giving us access to many bargains in supplies and equipment.

It was stressed that it would be good for staff to spend training week in training, both spiritual and program-oriented, rather than do the work of getting Camp ready. This need has been met by the coming for the last several years of work crews from Pennsylvania, the Pequea Church in particular, who have not only worked on sprucing up the place, but also have done projects for us such as the western fence on West Haven and, just this year, the new paddock on West.

In 1990 the Counselor-in-Training program was introduced whereby 15-year-olds come as potential counselors with part-time work such as dishwashing, cleaning, etc. and part-time training in spiritual matters and practical living with an older counselor. At first these young people were only given free camp, but now receive \$15 per week.

At an April meeting that year the option of tearing down the lakeside cottages and replacing them with a multi-unit building was discussed. Obviously the idea was discarded, and the process began of gutting and restoring the cottages at the rate of one a year.

About this time Thursday night work bees were started and have continued sporadically ever since. Much has been accomplished at these, especially on West Haven buildings. By the way, did you know that there are over 50 buildings on the grounds? Among others, Aaron Littlefield, Earl Cushman, Wayne Dowdy, Tom Bucklin, Bryon Sibley, Roger Torrey and John Doak have been very faithful at these bees.

In these years, a revision of the staff manual was undertaken, under Steve Kendall, providing for staff training in archery, canoeing, soul winning, homesickness, how to deal with troubled kids, camp safety, etc.

A rule was made that all staff under 18 have a permission slip from parents in order to date, ride in other staff cars, etc. when not working.

In 1991, again under Steve Kendall, it was suggested to have a Wilderness Camp Site on the Camp grounds.

Talk was made of reintroducing the Family Day in the winter, but it was not pursued as the gym floor was in need of repair.

By then, welcome showers had been placed in both lodges and the gym, and the laundry for both East and West had been moved from Jean 11 to the basement of West Haven Lodge.

A special sports equipment fund was begun, a move which has seemed to increase the money available for such purchases as kayaks, canoes, etc.

In 1992 the Unity Evangelical Church gave Fair Haven the contents of their church when it dissolved its membership, a very useful gift.

In 1993 a questionnaire was sent out to the campers and parents asking how they felt about camp-outs. The consensus seemed to be that they should not be mandatory.

That year Steve Cook and Roger Torrey had an interview with Radio Station WHCF and, including the Pennsylvania crew, about 90 people helped get ready for camp. A

work crew from Virginia led by Jim and Wendy Culbertson came in the fall to help clean up.

As a project for 1994-1995, the duplex was gutted and restored as had been the four lakeside cottages previously. The motel, so-called, which was moved back from the lake many years ago, has been made into three apartments with one large and two small. It has been occupied by many workers, the larger apartment currently by John and Theola Doak.

In 1995 it was voted to make camp seven weeks instead of eight because of the perennially low first week, but in 1996 it was decided to have basketball camp for one week, six regular weeks, and close with Teen Week. Now we have basketball camp, five weeks of regular camp and Teen Week.

In the 90's we bought a commercial meat slicer for \$800, a very useful tool. Also, soon after the Ice Storm of '98 we purchased a generator.

The communication system between East and West and the barn has been greatly enhanced by the use of radio. We now have e-mail and a web-site. It is hard to believe that we have such sophisticated pieces of equipment.

By the way, we have just ordered decals again, a pleasant way to advertise Camp

A new outdoor chapel has been prepared in the area of the Tarzan swing on West Haven. Incidentally, Snake Rock and The Lion's Den, rocky spots on either end of East Haven, hold special spiritual memories for some people.

Now in the year 2000 we are prepared to pay \$250, if the Executive Committee agrees, to the Maine Youth Camp Association to help defeat a bill before the legislature to remove the property tax exemption status for non-profit organizations.

FINANCES

As we think of the subject of money, we can only say that the Lord has been very faithful in supplying our needs.

For example, I recall Marie Clark and her late husband Milton (though Marie doesn't recall it) felt impelled to bring over \$5.00 at 11 p.m. on the night before that first \$1500 was due in payment for West Haven, and we had \$1495.00 in our coffers at

that moment. Somehow that story, whether true or not, typifies the way the Lord has provided so often just at the right time.

In the early days we made the need known to various churches who put us on their missionary budgets and, of course, gave us gifts when we went to present Camp.

Most of our backing through the years has been from churches and individuals, besides the camp fees, that is.

However, we have been very fortunate through the years in that stores, businesses, contractors, service providers, etc. have often given discounts or full gifts even unasked when they realized what we were doing for the children and what we represented.

In all the years that I roamed the countryside as food buyer (buying other things, too, at times) I was always treated respectfully and decently. If suppliers overcharged me, or I found an error later, they would always correct things willingly. Perhaps it helped that I told them when they had undercharged me, surprising them at times, I am sure. Very rarely was I ever refused permission to place Camp brochures in their places of business.

The vast differences between now and then in receipts show in figures: the first summer receipts from campers was \$1,734.00. Last year, it was \$124,196.94 from campers. During the first year insurance for the premises was \$25.24 and for campers was \$40.00 per year. Last year all insurance cost \$25,246.78.

I remember the little log cabin banks that Charlie White made for distribution to members and others who wanted one. At each quarterly meeting, the contents were brought in, amounting to about \$50.00 a quarter. I still have my bank and turn the contents in occasionally.

Vema Dunkin also painted cans for the children to use as camp banks.

From the beginning it was the aim of Camp's founders to keep the weekly fees as low as possible so that most parents could afford to send their children. That First summer the weekly fee was \$10. One boy is recorded as having paid his fee in potatoes. By the late 60's it reached \$18, but then was returned to \$17, ever mindful of the ones who couldn't pay more.. But by 1963 the fee had reached \$20 per week. By 1970, it was \$30; by 1974, \$32 and in 1975 it rose to \$34; then in 1979 to \$45,

followed by \$50 in 1980. By 1985, it had reached \$65 and now it is \$125 per week with basketball camp \$145.

Youth and then junior retreats during the year began in 1960 with the fee at \$6 for the weekend; by 1971 that fee became \$12 and has increased now to \$35 for junior weekend and \$40 for teens.

At first pastors and Christian workers could send their children free; later they paid half-price. Finally they were given no discount. The thinking, I believe, was that many pastors by then earned more than many laymen, so should not be given special privileges. I believe children of camp staff have always received free camp.

For many years a church or organization sending 12 or more campers could send the 13th one free, but that practice has now been discontinued.

In 1974 we started, as a Camp promotional tool, the pre-teen rallies on a Saturday in the spring, during which we would introduce the junior age children (7-12) to a day at Camp. The cost was usually \$1.00 each, and I think we had approximately 400 children one year. This activity is not done nowadays.

When the lakeside cottages were acquired with West Haven, they became available for rent to those who were willing to obey the regulations set forth by the Board as to alcohol, drugs, smoking and profanity, etc. When we first had the cottages, groups from churches worked on different ones to renovate and repair them. Three special men did much work in that area, and "Uncle" Frank Brown, "Uncle" Charlie White and "Uncle" Cliff Lufkin were given the opportunity to name the cottages: Brown and White for the two last names and Lufkin's Lair for Uncle Cliff. Nellie was Uncle Charlie's wife (previously deceased), and the Florence for Uncle Frank's niece and Elwyn and Roy Sheldon's sister, Florence or "Flossie", a cook at Camp in the early days.

It was voted in 1959 to charge rent of \$30 per week for three of the cottages and \$35 per week for the big one (The Florence); the duplex was to cost \$20 each side. By 1984 rentals had risen to \$75 and \$80 per week with half-price before Camp and after Labor Day. Soon after, rentals were discontinued, however, because staff families needed them. The Brown and White is used for the weekly staff pastor and family and other cottages are available after Labor Day.

Rentals of cottages (when not in use by staff) is now set for \$75 per week for the duplex and \$275 for Florence with camp supporters using one for a gift to Camp.

I could not find reference to salaries for the first year, but the weekly rates for 1952 follow:

Counselors with special functions (camp director, swimming instructor) will receive special consideration with a minimum of free camp and \$15.00

Senior counselors (college student or graduate with counseling experience) free camp and \$15.00.

General counselors (college student or graduate) free camp and \$10.00

Junior counselors (high school student with counseling experience) free camp and \$5.00

Counselors-in-training (high school student) free camp

Cooks - \$25.00

Assistant cooks - \$15.00

By 1959 a senior counselor received \$100 for the season or \$15 per week; junior counselor \$75 a season or \$10 per week; assistant program director \$25 a week. By 1965, the rate of pay follows:

Senior counselor (19 years old)	\$20 per week
Provisional senior counselor	\$15 per week
Junior counselor (entering high school)	\$10 per week
Nurse	\$25 per week
Cook	\$25 per week
Assistant cook	\$14 per week
Kitchen and laundry	\$9 per week

This year we pay \$100 per week for senior counselors and \$110 for veteran counselors.

In the late fifties a group from the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania came to rent West Haven at a cost of \$10 a day or 50¢ a head for a cabin, \$5.00 a day for cottages and \$1.25 a plate for meals. I thought that wording was a little different.

Somewhere along the line, the idea of money pledge cards was introduced in which individuals signed up to give a certain amount per month or year with the hope that 400 people at \$5 a month might bring in a tidy sum.

In 1982 this idea rather flowed into a new plan, I believe it was the brain child of Rev. Richard Reynolds, in which interested individuals called "Minutemen" would

sign up to send at least \$5 when requested, no more than four times a year. Over 150 people have signed up for this program over the years and responded well. Fortunately, in the last couple of years, we have not had to call on them for help.

From the beginning we had some sort of loans involved. For instance, in 1959 we had the West Haven mortgage of \$20,000 due the Lister family, a bank loan of \$3,000 and two individual loans totaling \$1,800, for a grand total of \$24,800.

By 1975 our liabilities included the camp property mortgage of \$5,000, deposit loan agreements of \$ 13,450 (involving the life insurance plans set up by Mr. Woodworth earlier) and \$17,381.38 in notes at Depositors Trust at 8% interest.

On August 14, 1984 Roger Torrey, then general director, having started during the summer of 1976, proposed a plan to make Camp debt-free by October 1989. At that point our liabilities were \$27,000 and by increasing payments on the mortgage loans by banks and individual loans, we did indeed have the basic indebtedness paid off by the planned date.

In recent years the Board has established the policy of not borrowing for capital improvements. Only occasionally have short-term loans been used in recent years, but in the past they were often used to tide us over in the spring until the summer receipts came in. In the 90's we have established in a Belfast bank a \$5000 line of credit which has been useful from time to time.

Our financial condition was greatly improved when the main part of our gym, built in 1975-1976, collapsed during the "Great Ice Storm of 1998". Response to the calamity, which, due to the Lord's protecting hand, caused no deaths or injuries, was overwhelming. People, both church and unchurch, gave money and materials, came for work bees, brought and operated equipment in order to immediately start rebuilding, resulting in an even better building than we had before. As a part of the financial bonanza, our insurance company paid \$75,000 for the property loss plus \$10,000 for our loss of revenue (we could not operate retreats for the rest of that year).

It has been the policy of Fair Haven not to engage in money-raising events such as suppers, yard sales, etc., though thousands upon thousands of meals have been served as an integral part of conventions, conferences, summer camp and retreats. However, many times individuals have conducted yard sales, auctions, etc. for the benefit of Camp. I recall Harold Parkhurst of Thorndike spearheading an auction for camp way back in the early days.

Many groups, mostly Christian-oriented, have rented Camp through the years: the aforementioned American Sunday School Union (now American Missionary Fellowship), Child Evangelism Fellowship, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Conservative Baptist groups and several churches. Occasionally school groups have come in for special activities.

Early in the Camp's history Carol Hills Westerback, a connection of Irvin and Isabelle Hills, provided a sum of money each year for the camp fees for needy children, especially any who were a part of the Hills family. Many churches provide for all or part of the fees for children in their areas. Besides individual gifts to the campership fund, for the last several years, the Camp itself has provided campership funds in this way. At the end of a summer, the number of camper weeks is multiplied by two and that figure put on record as available in credit for camperships the next summer. These have to be applied for by parents and are intended for one week only for a prospective camper. The Board of Directors sets up income guidelines varying with the economy for the granting of the camperships.

Beginning many years ago government food has been donated to Camp for the summer program. Various food products, some limited in amounts, others unlimited, would be received on a list in the spring for us to make our choices. In June we would be informed that the products were ready, and we could either pick them up or have them delivered by our wholesale grocers. Some years we got products valued at several thousands of dollars. Nowadays, instead of food, we get money with which we can purchase what we need. Milk subsidies have also benefited our program very much. All of these programs require much paperwork, done these days by Shawn Torrey Caron. At one point in time, we received many shelled peanuts, all very tasty, and the government put out recipes for their use. One day, when I returned from a shopping tour, I was met with a great uproar by the kitchen crew because the peanut casserole from the recipe book that I had put on the menu for that day had been a "flop". I still think that if they had ground the peanuts up more, the result would have been more palatable. We never found out as I never dared to put it on the menu again.

In 1970 an appraisal of the Camp property was made with assets of \$200,000.00 including land, buildings, equipment and stock, and liabilities of \$28,000.00 making a net worth of \$172,000.00. Wonder what it would be today?!

As we enter the next century, we can only thank God for His faithfulness in providing such a beautiful spot, clear of indebtedness and available for the next

generation to continue winning young people to Christ and strengthening their faith and lives.

Through the years the state health inspector has come to Camp every year and examined us. For the most part, the inspection report has been good with only a few recommendations made each year, which we strived to remedy. I am sure that our attitude of cooperation has helped. I remember one inspector who came for years and was very sympathetic to our work.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It has been difficult to trace the various members of the Board of Directors through the years. As I referred to them in the first part of this paper, I will not repeat the first nine directors, but will attempt to name the presidents within the Board who have served over the years as follows: President, Elwyn Sheldon (18 years), *John Doak (7 years), Fred Williams (2 years), Jack Diamond, Jr. (4 years), Gary Sheldon (7 Years), Gerald Bailey (4 years), Bud Spaulding (3 years), *Dale Porter (4 years), and *Aaron Littlefield (1 year, so far).

Rather than name all the directors for each year, I have decided to name the other people (hopefully, I am not leaving someone out) who, in addition to the aforementioned members, have also served on the Board at some time or other: Frank Brown, Charles White, Clifton Lufkin, Carleton Marr, John Beauregard, George Duff, Harold Dienstadt, Steve Cook, John Diamond, Sr., Donald Smith, Jeff Ladd, Dawes Dunham, Dale Merrithew, *Howard Hurd, Andrew Hurd, Tedd Fish, Roger Torrey, Neal Pottle, ^Arthur Witham, Bob Smith, Max Kinney, Willard Steeves, William Hatfield, Ronald Porter, Ralph Littlefield, Sr., Clayton Thompson, David Osmundsen, Jack Wyman, Keith Thompson, Robert Dyer, Sr., Neil Gibbs, Ed Crane, Sam Pendleton, Richard Reynolds, Alan Miller, J. Craig Wagner, James "Bub" McSpadden, Jim Evans, Carmen Torrey, Bruce Coffin, *Wayne Dowdy, John Maddocks, *Ed Hatch, *Greg Whitcomb, *Tom Bucklin, *Earl Cushman, *Bryon Sibley, Eric Wiggin, Sr., Gerard Fowler. (Present members of the Board are starred.)

The treasurer position, held by Harold Parkhurst at first, then assisted by Rev. Dave Dunkin, was held next by John Parker, then by Peggy Parley, followed in 1962 by Orel Ward. When Orel left the position in 1965, John Doak served until he became president in 1968. Frank Leonard then took over for a 12-year tenure.

I always enjoyed the weekly summer sessions of balancing accounts with Frank during those years when he and Hallie remodeled and lived summers in the cottage,

originally the boathouse and now called "Our Place". He was a whiz at figures, and with his wit and stories always made it a fun time.

After Frank resigned it was difficult to get someone to become treasurer, but Ron and Vesta Porter served well in that capacity for two years until Shawn Torrey assumed the position in 1982 with her father, Roger Torrey, becoming assistant in 1983. Roger's other daughter, Michelle (Torrey) Bonheim, did the job with him as assistant from 1987-1989, when Roger became treasurer with Cindy Harris as his assistant. He remains as treasurer today along with his many other duties, but, at his request, the books are audited annually by a professional auditor.

Helen Henley, the first clerk, was replaced by Vema Dunkin, then by Iva Fowler, then came Lahja Rajaniemi (a long tenure), and Hallie Leonard for eleven years. Theola Doak had the position for a year, and in 1980 Liz Diamond assumed the job. She was replaced in 1982 by Nancy Sampson, who held the position faithfully until 1994 when our present clerk, Sally Porter, was elected.

CONSTITUTION

Earlier in this account I mentioned the acceptance of the Constitution in 1951 and that it would be amended later. Originally Article 2 Section 3 read "The Central Maine Bible Conference shall be interdenominational and evangelical." It now reads "non-denominational and evangelical" in the 1995 revision.

The form of pledge for membership remains the same as in the original Constitution and reads as follows: I _____ pledge absolute loyalty to the great evangelical doctrines of the Deity of Christ, the only begotten Son of God; His miraculous virgin birth; His vicarious death; His bodily resurrection; His visible coming again; The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Deity; and the Bible as the supernaturally inspired Word of God. As a member of the C.M.B.C., I also pledge myself to actively support the Conference in all its endeavors and to abide by its constitution and bylaws.

Originally, each member had to sign a renewal form and pledge each year, thus eliminating "dead wood", so to speak. But in 1995 the corporate body voted that membership in the C.M.B.C. should continue as long as the member so desires. Any member desiring to remove himself from the membership roll may do so at any time by written request to the clerk. A copy of the revised 1995 edition of the Constitution forms an appendix to this article.

The government of C.M.B.C. is as follows according to Article 4 Section 1 and 2:

The Central Maine Bible Conference shall be governed by a Board of eleven Directors, including not more than two (2) active pastors who shall be elected annually by the members. They shall hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified. The Board of Directors shall, upon request of two-thirds of a quorum in a meeting, reconsider major decisions. Otherwise the Board shall have full authority in all details of the government of the organization. Only laymen are eligible to hold office within the Board of Directors of Central Maine Bible Conference.

According to the Board minutes of October 18, 1975 it was voted to recommend to the membership body that the eleven members of the Board (it was nine earlier) be elected for staggered terms, and that Elwyn Sheldon be made a life-long member besides the eleven. As far as I can tell, those provisions were never voted into effect by the membership. Elwyn did remain on the Board, though, a part of the eleven until his death in December, 1985, and attended his last Board meeting in October of that year.

In the early 90's the idea of staggered terms was brought up again at the Board level, but was not pursued. The need for continuity of planning was also considered.

From time to time the Board has voted policy to, in a sense, flesh out the Constitution. For instance, in 1963 it was voted to have no staff member under 15.

Later it was voted that camp bus drivers must be at least 25 years old and that the auditor should not be a member of the Board.

In January, 1983 the Board voted to change the number of Board nominees from 15 to 11 with the following suggestions for Board member guidelines.

1. Be a member of C.M.B.C.
2. I Timothy 3:8-13 should apply to them.
3. Sign a contract of commitment to attend meetings.

The Board policy on Sunday swimming has presented rather an intriguing series of votes through the years. In 1957 it was voted to allow Sunday swimming at the discretion of the Camp Director. (It had been forbidden before.) In 1960 it was voted not to have Sunday swimming if a substitute could be put in its place. In 1961 it was

voted that the ban on Sunday swimming not be enforced in case of a very hot day - it was left to the discretion and mutual agreement of both program directors. In 1969 there was a lengthy discussion of the issue with the majority in favor of allowing swimming on Sunday if the weather was conducive, and it was agreed that the general director should have the final say on activities each Sunday. If the general director could not be reached, any available board member should make the decision.

In the early 90's the change was made to have registration for campers on Sunday afternoon, and for them to leave on the following Saturday afternoon unless they were staying over, in which case they were charged \$20. It had previously been from Saturday afternoon until the next Saturday afternoon. This change altered the perspective on Sunday swimming as campers were expected to take qualifying swim tests Sunday afternoon.

STAFF LEADERS

In the beginning we did not have a designated general director, but Paul Watson, whose parents Harry and Elizabeth cooked, served as business manager for the first year. In 1953 Charles Mason of Bucksport was asked to be the general director. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Birr of Moline, Illinois came to us in 1954 as general director and business manager at \$40 a week, but unfortunately could not return the next year, and we have lost contact with them.

From 1955 to 1957 Elwyn Sheldon served as general director and business manager, and he and I lived on the grounds, at least part of the time, in the aforementioned room off the East Haven office. Elwyn's brother Roy kept the poultry business going in Morrill so that Elwyn could do this ministry.

In the year 1958 Rev. Charles Talmadge came on board as general director and remained until 1961. Rowena Butler served as his assistant during the last years. "Mr. T.", as he was called, and his wife Edith were the first to live in the Allister Cottage.

John Beauregard became general director in 1962 and remained until 1967.

Elwyn Sheldon became general director again in 1968 and continued through 1969. Dexter Wheeler was appointed general director in 1970 and resigned at the end of 1972.

The next year George Duff became general director and continued until he moved to Pennsylvania in 1978, when Roger Torrey assumed the leadership position, which under various titles, he has held to this day.

The program directors through the years have been many and varied in personality and abilities and in their own ways have contributed to the upbuilding of the camp program.

I have given the program directors for the first year. In the second year Ruthanne and Ina returned for the girls' three weeks, and Ralph Patterson was asked to serve for the boys. (Whether he did or not, I could not verify.) Herb Adams and Joe Atkinson became leaders of the Youth Conference.

In 1953 it appears that Ina Jackson served again for all seven weeks.

By 1954 Joe Atkinson and Ruthanne Hutton had become newlyweds and assumed the position of program directors at \$35 a week for both. They continued in 1955.

By 1956 Bob Mason of Connecticut had become program director, a position he held through 1958. I can see him now, a bundle of energy rushing about the place. His dear wife Norma still communicates with me at Christmas. (He went to Glory a few years ago after several years in a nursing home.)

1959 brought Joe Atkinson's sister, Ann Louise Atkinson, to us as girls' director and "Mr. T." served as program director for boys as well as continuing as general director.

Donald Hamilton as boys' director and Kathy Brock as girls' director joined us in 1960 and 1961.

In 1962 and 1963 Doris Anderson of Michigan came to us for two years as girls' director. In the summer of 1964 "Doe" had to leave early because of poor health, and Betty Hoover took over for her. Norm Parks, former member of "Youth in One Accord", served as boys' director in the year of 1962, followed by Mike Reed in 1963.

In 1964 Betty Hoover began her first full year as girls' director, continuing through 1973. A very capable administrator, Betty did much to develop staff handbooks with job descriptions and chain of command. By then the staff had increased to approximately 50.

Tedd Fish became boys' director in 1964, a position which he held until George Phelps came on the scene, serving from 1969-1970 until he left to go for "Uncle Sam".

In 1971 Philip "Flip" Hanson became boys' director for the next two years.

Sam Pendleton, a teacher and coach from Camden, joined us in 1973 and stayed for four years as boys' program director. From 1974 through 1978 Pat Morgan, a nurse from Michigan, served as girls' program director.

Craig Lowe, who also served as publicity and retreat leader, came on board in 1978 as boys' program director continuing through 1982, and he was followed by Jack Diamond, Jr. through 1986.

Peggy Pinkham joined us as girls' program director in 1979 and continued faithfully through 1991, saying as she left, "Going fishing." Peggy has fought cancer very aggressively most of the time since she retired from Camp.

Iva Engler, who started coming to Camp as a 7-year-old camper, has served in many capacities: counselor, sports instructor, WS1, and from 1991 to 1999 as girls' program director. A teacher in Virginia for many years, she needed more time with her family in the summer and only came to Camp a few days this year.

Shara MacDonald, a teacher at Mt. View, is completing her first year at the girls' director post.

After Jack Diamond, Jr. left the area in 1986, Randy Wilbur took the helm as boys' program director for one year 1987.

Dave and Cindy Harris came to us in 1988, he as boys' program director for that year. In November, 1988, he was asked to accept the position of general director as Roger Torrey had indicated his desire to leave that position by June, 1989 to work in other areas of Camp such as maintenance.

Dave took over as general director that spring, and Randy Haynes was hired as boys' program director for 1989, a position he which he also held in 1990 with Roger as maintenance man and treasurer.

For several reasons Dave Harris resigned as general director in the fall of 1990 and he and his family moved from the area.

It was then decided after prayer and thought by the Board to restructure the top positions and make the title General Manager cover general affairs of Camp business and the title Director of Programs and Development the second title covering that phase of work.

In the year 1991 Roger Torrey became the general manager, the position which he still holds today, and David Cook of New Jersey was hired to fill the second newly created position for the summer.

In the fall of 1991 Steve and Diane Kendall of East Corinth, who had been boys' directors that year, assumed the full-time position of Director of Programs and Development, and in the spring of 1992 moved into the former infirmary building behind the lodge. They also served as boys' directors for 1992 and 1993. In the fall of 1993 they resigned, he to soon assume a pastorate in Liberty.

In the spring of 1994 Curtis Adolphsen joined the Camp team as Director of Programs and Development, and he and his family moved into the house behind the lodge.

Curtis and family stayed with us until 1998 when they moved to Rockland where Curtis, though still involved with the Camp ministry, pursued his love of operating heavy equipment.

After being assistant boys' director in 1998, James "Bub" McSpadden came on board in 1999, and he and his wife Vanessa and children moved to the "little house on the hill." Now they are in the process of moving to the Allister, the so-called director's lodge, as Roger Torrey has vacated it to move to his own house, which he has built over the past five years, located on Torrey Lane off the Pond Hill Road.

From reading the minutes of the Board and the membership, it was impossible to determine all those who served as nurse, cook, maintenance worker, secretary, etc., but I can only mention those who come to mind. (I hope people will realize that I will by no means hit them all.)

In the field of nursing, our present nurse, Marilyn Boynton, R.N. served as nurse back in 1955 and then, after a long career in nursing in other parts of the country, returned in 1993 as a full-time but volunteer nurse. Another nurse who has served in

that capacity is Nancy Sampson, R.N. who was camp secretary as well for a time. Also, she and my daughter, Jean Whitcomb, kept the boys well fed at East Haven for ten consecutive summers and influenced me to improve the quality of food and menus which I provided for them. Shirley Brown Varde and Irene Reed were also nurses in days gone by.

Other good cooks for both East and West Haven flash into my mind: Rena Littlefield, Joyce Littlefield, Lillian Closson, Rose Boyd, Judy Hurd, Heidi Gould, Cheryl Morse, Karen Duplisea, Brenda Torrey, Theola Doak, Millie Hatch, Hazel Dyer, Rhonda Littlefield, "Mel" Theriault, Harry Finnemore, Robin Porter Smith, Sue Thompson, Marcia Sheldon O'Jala, Becky Cushman, Lori Lee, Faye Roy and Stephen Kinney for a few. There was one lady whose calling did not seem to be cooking, but she was a wonderful musician!

For maintenance, so many have been involved in this lowly but important ministry that I can't possibly mention them all: Elwyn and Roy Sheldon come to mind, of course, along with their more recent counterpart John Doak, a jack-of-all-trades, who with wife, Theola, lives on the grounds nine months of the year in their retirement and help out in many, many ways. Then there is Ron Porter, another retiree, who with wife Vesta, have lived on the grounds several summers to assist in various tasks that needed doing.

For secretaries there have been Vesta Porter, Edna Bowen, Shirley Higgins Diepenbrock, and for many years now Tammy Winship Dowdy. In their calm, efficient manner, they have contributed much to the work.

As Roger Torrey's helpmate, Brenda has served as domestic supervisor, including cleaning, cooking, doing laundry, cleaning cottages, preparing menus, managing work crews, even caring for the horses - you name it! Her daughter-in-law Sharon Torrey and currently her daughter Shawn Caron have assisted with the food buying and record-keeping.

Though Sally Higgins has never served officially on staff, she and her family have had great input into the work by handling the mailings that go out from Camp at frequent intervals. Thanks, Sally!

REGISTRATIONS

Though no consecutive records for camper attendance in the 50's were located, it seems that the first year, 1951, brought fewer than 100 campers; however in 1952,

200 children attended over a seven-week period, and by 1961 there were 708. (Please note that we cannot be sure whether early records mean individual campers or number of camper weeks.) During none of the sixties did we hit the 1000 mark. Not until 1970 did we reach 1028 to be exact. From 1974 with 1001 to 1975 there was a 265 jump to 1266; then there was talk of building more cabins. Nowadays it is lack of sufficient staff that caused us to turn some away this year. That period from 1975-1987 marked the highest figures - all over 1100 - with 1985 at 1299 as the peak year. After a decline in the 90's we are pleased to note that we have topped 1000 in this year 2000.

We note that campers come from many towns - in 1957 we had 322 campers from 65 towns and 9 states.

More importantly, how many decisions for Christ did we have? Statistics for these are hard to come by, but indications are that there were decisions each week in the summer and at all retreats.

In 1962 I learned that 200 accepted Christ, among 643 campers. In 1987, out of 1257 campers, there were 100 decisions, while in 1992, 200 decisions were made in the 1991-1992 winter retreats. This year 100 were recorded.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS AND GROUPS

There have been literally hundreds of speakers, musical groups and soloists who have been with us through the years and I can't begin to remember them all. "Youth in One Accord" with Dr. George Wells of Houghton College, who came for many years, stands out in my mind as being one of the most influential on lives. Incidentally, he is getting quite feeble now, but spent a few days with his family in The Brown and White Cottage last year.

The blind evangelist, Al Crocker, and his dog ministered to us on a number of occasions. I don't mean the dog ministered, but he was of great interest to the campers (adults, too, I might add).

Columbia Bible College groups have been with us for various contributions in word and song.

Then there were Bob and Anna Atwood, a man and wife team, who had traveled much, and who could forget the Children's Singing Group from Korea?

When our original gym was first built, we had the Knox Ridge Bam meetings there for a couple of springs with Wendell Calder and Harold Small as speakers. More recently Diane Muise, soloist, has delighted her audience, both young and old.

PROGRAMS

Because Camp has had through the years the dual spiritual purpose of leading youth to accept Christ as Savior and teaching them to live their lives after His Word, many methods have been used: morning chapel divided into younger and older groups and led by special speakers occasionally or more often by camp staff; a regular or advanced Bible study class; morning and evening devotions led by the counselor in each cabin; flannel graph, Christian Films, Bible drills; and evening speakers at times. Of utmost importance has been the Christian atmosphere of caring by the staff for their kids. To be honest that atmosphere has not always been displayed by all counselors, as staff members come to us in various stages of maturity and spiritual development. It is our heart felt desire that the objectives of Camp and the objectives of counselors not be in conflict.

I have often referred to Camp as an "Oasis in the Desert" with its emphasis on right living without the indulgences portrayed on television and radio.

I mentioned the program offerings back in the early years. Since then the water program has grown with American Red Cross Swimming Instruction, water skiing (the donation of a new jet ski has been a recent help), sailing (a beautiful sight to see several boats on the water), and, as of late, kayaking.

About 15 years ago the "Ropes Course", so-called, located behind the outdoor basketball court on East came into being and provides a Teen Challenge Activity Program on the lines of "Outward Bound". Special training and certification are prerequisites for instructors. This program has helped keep the interest of teenagers and instilled good character traits in them.

A Sunday evening activity that always inspired me was the "Echo Sing" when a group of campers would stand on the peninsula at West Haven or up at the cross and sing antiphonally with a group in canoes on the lake. Could it be revived?

HUMAN INTEREST

In the old days beef was bought by the quarter, and I can remember men folks cutting it up on the East Haven metal table.

An example of God's providential care - Elwyn and Roy were working on the West Haven pump house when they were called to dinner. While they were eating, the pressure tank blew up, taking the motor seven feet into the air and destroying the pump house.

Another recollection of Roy Sheldon is that when Rev. Richard Reynolds was a boys' counselor, the boys in his cabin tied him up - all in fun, I am sure.

I have good memories of Al Sinclair, who as a connection of the Hermon church, kept us supplied with baked goods at little or no cost.

Ruthanne (Hutton) Atkinson's recollections: she remembers the black flies and mosquitoes, and Elwyn battling them in setting up a generator which made a horrible noise. She described the mosquito-bitten campers as looking as though they had the measles.

She, along with me, will never forget the time we were having an adult conference and had two sisters, Elizabeth and Katherine Evans, as speakers. The blessing had just been asked and everyone was sitting down on the benches when there was a horrific crash. A bench collapsed with some rather portly ladies on it, leaving many feet flailing in the air. To our horror we discovered that one pair of feet belonged to Elizabeth, who had a heart condition and was considered to be in frail health. (Later she went as a missionary to Taiwan for many years.) After we recovered from the initial shock, we had a good laugh!

I could go on forever about various episodes on my "tours of the countryside" after food and supplies, but a few come quickly to mind. At one time I would travel to Ellsworth in my old station wagon and pick up five-gallon tubs of ice cream (Hood's Creamery gave us a good deal), and after wrapping them with newspapers would race home before the ice cream melted.

For a long time we dealt with Caswell's Liquidation Center in Waterville, which would have low prices on many things. One June Brad Spaulding and I took the Camp's one and a half ton truck to go for a summer's supply of goods at Caswell's. We had gotten the body of the truck loaded to the hilt and started home when the old

rig began to cough and sneeze. Brad nursed it along until we reached his grandfather's place in Freedom, but finally we had to leave it there and call for someone at Camp to come and get us.

Speaking of Caswell's, I was up there one time and brought home a case of club soda to be sold in the store thinking it was regular soda. Frank Leonard never tired of teasing me, a teetotaler, of bringing that home.

Elwyn's doughnuts, and before him his sister Flossie's, were a great treat for campers and staff alike (we had to hide them sometimes so the staff wouldn't eat them all up), but better nutrition and regulations about fry-o-lators, etc. have caused their use to be discontinued on the menu.

In the 1960's Fair Haven Camps usually had a float in the Brooks Fourth of July Parade as well as the Broiler Festival in Belfast. This activity was particularly developed by Betty Hoover, whose artistic abilities came to the front, and I think we received a prize or two. The floats would proclaim Christ and give a base from which to distribute camp brochures. Who remembers "Mr. Ed" the donkey of parade days? My son, Dave, took him to the platform of Belfast Area High School one Christmas to be the donkey in the Christmas tableau.

Of great enjoyment to the campers has been the use of two teams of work horses - those of Stephen Cross and Granville Dutton at different times in years gone by - to give rides to them.

Camp was in a panic one Sunday afternoon years ago when Uncle Cliff Lufkin, probably then in his late 70's or 80's, decided to take a walk up to the cross. When he didn't return for supper, a search began, and we were about to call the sheriff's department for help, when he arrived from down by Second Lake, wondering what all the fuss was about!

Some years ago there was the practice of transporting the staff on the Monday night of training week to nearby supporting churches for a progressive supper, thereby increasing the prayer support of more people who fellowshiped with the staff.

Along that line, at the staff dedication and communion service now held on the Thursday evening of training week, each guest is invited to take a staff member's name for whom he will pray each day for the season.

George Duff came up with the idea many years ago of asking a different church in the area to make pies for each Friday night banquet. Some church people would deliver them, but others would wish me to pick them up Friday afternoon. What succulent delicacies would come in, and how much satisfaction the making of the pies must have given those ladies!

From time to time produce is brought in. Bob Smith now of Hodgdon, formerly of Knox, furnished potatoes for Camp for years. Dick and Amy Ingraham of Knox have provided thousands of ears of corn for camp, and Al and Eleanor Wood of Lincolnville have brought us many quarts of blueberries. These are just a few of the examples of the Lord's food provision.

THE FUTURE

At various times suggestions have been made for the future. The tennis courts, already with a base started on the athletic field, have a special fund set aside from which some money has been used.

Another thought has been to make an RV park in a place already flattened in the West Haven pasture. This spot would be accessible to utilities from the cottage area.

Miniature golf in the West Haven waterfront area has been another suggestion.

The idea of a water slide has been set forth in the minutes several times. I did not determine where the place was envisioned.

Another thought for enhancing the adult schedule has been the creation of a Pastors and Wives Conference.

In view of the way the Lord has blessed and protected through the years, a missionary outreach on our part might be in order. Years ago each camper had a store card on which his store expenditures were punched. Also he or she could indicate in the same way how much could be given from the card to a missionary, probably one who came to speak that summer. Perhaps more in the line of giving to others should be emphasized. After all, Camp has been on the missionary budget of many churches for years and the beneficiary of several wills, even the recipient of a \$ 10,000 anonymous gift.

It has been a special blessing to me that all of my adult descendants, including spouses, over 20, have been involved in Camp in one way or another. Just this past

summer, my oldest great grandchildren, Kim and Kris Loper, were on staff, thus starting the fourth generation to serve.

CONCLUSION

Fair Haven's founders wanted to develop a program beyond denominational boundaries, where boys and girls of any race or creed could come and ponder the great questions of their lives: "Where did I come from?, Why am I here?, and Where am I going when my life is over?" These founders also felt that they had a superior way to offer answers to these questions and many more that arise throughout a young person's life. They felt, as we do today, that the Bible is the place to look for Godly principles and spiritual absolutes.

An outstanding characteristic of Fair Haven Camps is the rugged beauty of its natural setting. We have been blessed with a glorious panorama of lake and mountain. Bald eagles are sighted regularly around Lake Passagassawaukeag or Randall Pond (as it is commonly called now) in Brooks, Maine. Who can forget Camp's own mountain, near the top of which a simple cross was erected many years ago as a site for campfires and devotional times, which we trust will continue to point young people to the Savior of the Cross. Natural sand beaches and long shore frontage make the two campgrounds, West Haven for girls and East Haven for boys, ideal places for our camping program.

As we go into the next 50 years of service to the Lord, let us consider a partial quotation from Elwyn's letter to the members and friends of Central Maine Bible Conference dated June 19, 1952:

"Perhaps the greatest prayer need is that the Lord will keep this work in the center of His own will. In I Peter 5:8 God says, 'Be sober, be vigilant because your Adversary the Devil as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour.' The Devil's business is hindering the work of Christ. One of his favorite methods seems to be to cause confusion in the Christian ranks, and how often he succeeds in doing just that. How effectively he uses the tools of pride, self-will, intolerance, etc. to split the ranks of God's own children and keep us occupied in useless bickering instead of about our Father's business."

As Roger Torrey, general manager, wrote back in 1989: "As I reflect on all that has taken place here at Fair Haven over the past 38 (now 50) years and look excitedly and expectantly to the future of this work, I think of a great verse in Scripture, I Corinthians 15:58. "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

The words of this well-loved hymn echo our closing thoughts:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changes! not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided -
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CENTRAL MAINE BIBLE CONFERENCE, INC.

(5/95 Revised Copy)

ARTICLE 1. NAME

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Central Maine Bible Conference, Inc.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Central Maine Bible Conference, Inc. is to provide an evangelical Christian camp for young people with the objectives of:

- (1) Winning them to a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- (2) Training them for Christian living, and
- (3) Developing strong, healthy bodies.

Section 2. It is also the stated purpose of this organization to provide a Bible Conference center to involve adults in an evangelistic and teaching ministry.

Section 3. The Central Maine Bible Conference shall be non-denominational and evangelical.

ARTICLES. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. No person shall be eligible for membership in the Central Maine Bible Conference who does not pledge absolute loyalty to the great evangelical doctrines of the Deity of Christ, the only begotten Son of God; His vicarious death; His bodily resurrection; His visible coming again; the Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity; and the Bible as the supernaturally inspired Word of God. Each member shall have a vision of the dire need of this ministry and be willing to actively support the Conference in all the endeavors.

Section 2. Any person desiring membership shall make a written application and said application shall be considered at the next regular meeting of the Bible conference. Members must be accepted by a two-thirds majority of those present at

the meeting. Within ten days from said meeting the clerk shall notify the prospective member of the action taken and where action was favorable, shall submit membership pledge for signature.

Section 3. The form of the pledge shall be as follows:

I _____ pledge absolute loyalty to the great evangelical doctrines of the Deity of Christ, the only begotten Son of God; His miraculous virgin birth; His vicarious death; His bodily resurrection; His visible coming again; The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity; and the Bible as the supernaturally inspired Word of God. As a member of the C.M.B.C., I also pledge myself to actively support the Conference in all its endeavors and to abide by its constitution and bylaws.

Section 4. Membership in the C.M.B.C. shall continue as long as the member so desires. Any member desiring to remove himself from the membership roll may do so at any time by written request to the clerk.

Section 5. Membership in the C.M.B.C. shall be a representative of the Evangelicals in the Central Maine area.

ARTICLE 4. GOVERNMENT

Section I. The Central Maine Bible Conference shall be governed by a Board of eleven Directors, including not more than two (2) active pastors, who shall be elected annually by the members. They shall hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified. The Board of Directors shall, upon request of two-thirds of a quorum in a meeting, reconsider major decisions. Otherwise the Board shall have full authority in all details of the government of the organization.

Section 2. Only laymen are eligible to hold office within the Board of Directors of Central Maine Bible Conference.

ARTICLES. MEETINGS

Section 1. The members of the C.M.B.C. shall convene two (2) regular meetings each year to be held at the Conference grounds in Brooks. The semi-annual meeting shall be convened in the spring and the annual meeting in the fall of the year, with such specific dates of those meetings to be determined by a vote of the Board of Directors. At said semi-annual meeting a nominating committee of five (5) members shall be elected by the membership of C.M.B.C. for the purpose of submitting a

name for clerk, plus the names of eleven (11) individuals from which the membership shall elect a Board of eleven (11) Directors. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum and voting may be in person or by written proxy at any meeting. Special meetings may be called by two-thirds of the members upon two days written notice.

Immediately following its election, the Board of Directors shall meet and elect its officers: a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Auditor. The Board of Directors shall meet at least six (6) times during the course of the entire year and at other times when called by the President, or a majority of their own members upon two days written notice. Two-thirds of their number shall constitute a quorum to do business. An Auditor, other than a Board member, shall audit the books annually.

"Committees" ... The Board of Directors shall appoint all such committees and sub-committees as the Board deems necessary for the general purposes of conducting the affairs of the C.M.B.C. These shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following standing committees of the Board: Staff committee, Budget committee, Executive committee, which shall be comprised of all the officers of the Board and an additional two (2) Board members elected by the Board.

The following routine shall be followed at all meetings unless otherwise decided: prayer, roll call, reading of the minutes, reports of committees, old business, new business, and prayer.

ARTICLE 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President shall preside and be chairperson at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the members. The President shall decide all points of order, but shall vote on no question, except where the President's vote will break a tie.

The Vice-president shall perform the aforesaid duties in the absence of the President.

The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall send proper notices of meetings of said Board and generally perform duties as may be required by the President and the Board of Directors. The Clerk shall be elected by the members and shall be a resident of the State of Maine. The Clerk shall send proper notices of all members' meetings and keep the records thereof and faithfully perform all duties required by statute. The Clerk shall send a copy of the

minutes of each meeting to the President of the Board of Directors within one (1) week following the meeting.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all receipts and expenditures, and shall make a detailed report at the annual meeting, before the election of officers, or shall make a statement whenever requested by the Board. The Treasurer shall pay all bills and upon relinquishing the office of Treasurer, shall turn over to the successor all books, papers and monies, of the Corporation which shall be in the Treasurer's possession.

Section 5. The Auditor shall examine the accounts of the Treasurer and report thereon at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE/. SEAL

Section 1. The Corporation shall have a common seal as shown herewith.

ARTICLES. REVISIONS

Section 1. This Constitution and its By-Laws may be amended at any duly constituted annual, regular, or special meeting of the members by a majority two-thirds vote of those constituting a quorum, with the exception of Section 1. of Article 3. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be presented in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to meeting and proposed changes shall be submitted in writing to each member with the call of the meeting. Such amendment shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of members present.

ARTICLE 9. DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of dissolution or liquidation, the assets, after payments for legal obligations, will be transferred to organizations which have qualified for tax exemption under the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code or to the State of a Political Sub-Division thereof as the appropriate committee may determine.