“Rude Awakenings”

Jeff Huppert: My first story about Camp Winnebago is a staff story about “Rude Awakenings”. Rude Awakenings come to the staff as an “RA” was administered to a staff man if he didn’t show up for breakfast. If he didn’t show up for breakfast, the staff would go out and hunt him down in his staff cabin or staff huts. The staff huts were wooden things with a small door and wire screening. We would hunt down the staff man and he would be dragged down to the lake; that was his “Rude Awakening”. It was sort of an encouragement for the staff to show up for breakfast.

Rich Mager: The Rude Awakening has transcended the year’s right up to the present day and age of 2005. That particular RA has applied for the same reasons that Jeff has described for those particular reasons when a person has forgotten to get up for breakfast, the Rude Awakening was there. The Rude Awakening also applies to the ever popular Polar Bear Swim. Men were assigned to handle that particular swim in the morning and they just overslept we were gracious enough to go down there and remind them of their responsibilities that they did have.

“Breslin Turnpike”

Jeff Huppert: Bob Breslin was the Scout Executive, Union Council and Assistant Camp Director for several years. He was always in the truck running around with the camp rangers and doing jobs around the camp. And this one day we were in the dining hall having lunch, and the truck pulls in a few minutes late. It was 2 ½ ton army surplus truck and he jumps out of the truck and comes running in. All of a sudden we hear, “bang bang crash bang.” Apparently Bob had forgotten to put on the emergency brake, or the brake slipped or something. The truck went down into the ravine toward the creek and from that day forth we called that “Breslin Turnpike”.

Winnebago Reminiscences
As told by Rich Mager, Jeff Huppert, & George Reinhard
Edited by Pat & Ron Jaremcak
**Ford Buddy Tag**

Rich Mager: A little aside with that, Charlie Casey came down and kind of explained the responsibilities that each of the staff members had in regards to helping out with the truck. Going along with that, there were other vehicle mishaps throughout the years. Down in the south end waterfront, which is now called the truck was parked and the boats were unloaded during staff week. They forgot to put the brake on the truck and the truck rolled back down the hill and wound up in the water. We pulled it out with a tractor and the ‘51 Ford got a buddy tag.

**Tractor Rocket**

There was another time there was a tractor parked outside the dining hall and Brennan, was the boy’s name, decided to see what it would be like to sit in the seat of the tractor. And the next thing he knew it was going backwards and in the way that you would launch a rocket ship, the tractor went back and was facing straight up to the sky and he was holding onto the wheel for dear life and the ranger, Ed Reilly, wasn’t too happy about that. This time, we had to pull the tractor out of the stream next to the dining hall.

I learned how to drive a stick shift on the camp trucks. There were one and half ton, two and a half ton, pickups, rack bodies, they had all different kinds of names, but they were all stick shifts. One time my foot slipped off the clutch I took out the porch on the dining hall as I was trying to back the truck up. It was repaired.

**Dover Drive-In**

Jeff Huppert: Speaking of those trucks, in the days before risk assessment - back in the sixties, during staff week when the camp was being set up, we would be treated to a night out. In those days we would drive to the drive-in theatre down in Dover. We would put dining hall chairs on the back of the 2 ½ ton truck and the staff would pile up in the back of the truck and went to the drive-in with all of the staff on the back of the truck.

**Trucks**

Rich Mager: The truck was a multi-use vehicle and was able to do everything. When we had to put platforms out into each of the campsites, the safe factor would probably be putting about 4 platforms on the back of the truck. Of course, one driver would try to outdo the others and there were some years that we went as high as 15–20 platforms with 17 staff sitting on top. This was in the sixties, seventies and eighties and there were numerous mishaps. When you hit that little downgrade going toward the dining hall down from the nature area, everything shifts and then it flies. Kids are flying all over, platforms are flying all over, and you were just lucky to not get hit with one of them. Today you can no longer ride on the backs of trucks.

Jeff Huppert: In the old Camp Winnebago during staff week, the staff would make innumerable trips between the north end of camp and the south end of camp because the mattresses and the tents were all stored down in the old dining hall at the
Baden Powell Lodge. It would come out of the Lodge and be distributed in the north end during the work week.

Rich Mager: Not only would you have the pleasure of going through camp on the truck, but you were able to ride on the back of it. This was a fantastic treat. One of the things I used to look forward to was the trip around through the Blind Camp (Camp Marcella) in through the south gate, as we know it, when those trips were allowed way back when. They were curtailed somewhere around the 90’s when we were no longer allowed to use that way into camp.

Best Camp in the Universe

Rich Mager: If you have a chance and you visit the dining hall, you really get a flavor of camp history by looking at all the different plaques from all the years. From what I recall they start somewhere around 1967 to the present day. They’ll fill you in on innumerable stories. One in particular that you’ll notice up there from somewhere in the nineties, we had an international scout whose name slips my mind, but he was from England. His experience at Winnebago was better than anything he had ever experienced before. In corresponding with this scout, he coined the phrase that Winnebago happened to be the Best Camp in the Universe. From that particular conversation that I had with him, I adopted the idea of each night at retreat when troops report all present and accounted for sir, I would report, Best Camp in the Universe, all present and accounted for. And that was one of the terms that caught on over the years that people think of Winnebago, and I think of Winnebago, as “The Best Camp in the Universe.”

One of the things I like to do when reporting at camp each evening, is I like to build up. I start out with all present and accounted for, 2005 Camp Staff, best in Morris County, 2005 Camp Staff, best in the state of New Jersey, 2005 Camp Staff–Best in the United States, Best in the Western Hemisphere, Best in the World. On Friday, our last report that we’re together, the grand finale, we end up with 2005 Camp Staff, Best in the Universe.

Program

Rich Mager: What sets Winnebago apart from any other camp that I’ve visited, in the USA or any foreign country is our program. One of the unique things about our program is our dining hall program in particular with our songs and skits. We pride ourselves on our campfires. One thing we like to do is no scout can pass me by without me saying, “Hi, Scout”. I expect a “Hi, Rich” loud and clear back. I introduced this and it’s gone on for as long as I’ve been here in camp.

During the water carnival when we’re taking roll of all the troops that are down to participate, they give their cheer. To demonstrate the different types of cheers that you should be giving
. We start off with your everyday normal someone saying something, then the camp staff joins in and they jump up and down and get a little bit louder. Then we come to the top cheer, the one that we expect from everybody. What happens is with this cheer is that it starts down in your toes, everyone wiggles their toes, they see me wiggle my toes. Then it comes up your legs and you can feel that energy taking over your body. It proceeds up your body and goes right through and takes hold of your head and it branches out and you become one with the UNIVERSE.

Campfired Scoutmasters

Jeff Huppert: Joe Quick became Camp Director in 1960 to 1962. He’s the one who renovated the campfire area and put in twin camp fires. He was a real showman. He used to manage all the in-council shows at the armory. He wrote scripts for campfires. He set up electricity so he could light the fires electrically. He did all sorts of neat things. One of the campfires had a ditch dug out in front from one end of the stage to the other. There was kerosene in there that was going to be part of the opening ceremony. There was an Indian type opening ceremony and the Indian came running down with a torch and lit the trench and the trench didn’t fire. The trench was supposed to be lit in the middle and then the fire would travel down both ways and light the campfires. The trench didn’t light, so he just went down and lit the campfires with the torch. The campfire was progressing very nicely and at the end we always gave accolades to the scoutmasters who gave up their week by giving them a neckerchief. While the scoutmasters are lined up right by the ditch, the ditch blew up. (Uncontrollable laughter by all present) That was pretty neat, let me tell you. That was a fun campfire.

Government Surplus

One of the things we experienced back in the fifties, sixties, and maybe the seventies too was a plethora of government surplus food. This stuff came in big cans and there was peanut butter and spam. Those were the two biggies. And there were also big wheels of cheddar cheese. So of course we would end up with cheese in everything especially macaroni and cheese. There would be constant peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. There was also an ingenious use of spam. The cooks at Winnebago brought spam to new heights. It was in the Chow Mein. It was in the breakfast with your pancakes and scrambled eggs. It was by itself. It was very creative.

Spam

Rich Mager: Government surplus food is a standard part of Winnebago Scout Reservation. You have chopped meat in Spanish rice and every possible way a hamburger can be made. Along with pasta, this has always been a favorite with all the boys. But Spam was something, which just topped everything else. The peanut butter was tradition. Then there were the years that we had cases and cases of peanuts. Every scout was awarded some for whatever reason. We lived on government surplus peanuts.
Rich Mager: While we’re talking about food, the dining hall plays a unique part in camp history. You come together as a camp three times during the day. The dining hall program is one thing that has just evolved over the years to a spectacular show, a post-dinner experience that staff comes up with. It started with simply leading a song after a meal and each staff member had a turn in leading a song. Then it started to evolve. You took such songs like “Comin’ Round the Mountain” and jazzed it up with acting out the song. Other song like a musical concert with people coming out with other instruments fostered the enthusiasm and gets a scout singing all the more. The ever popular song that I myself enjoyed is The Cannibal King with the Big Nosed Ring. Te Cannibal King and the maiden coming out and the scouts would be going wild over the full moon, but not the one you might think about. You have such things as a breakfast program called “Milk Marches On.” It’s a dining hall skit, which is the creation of milk. There were characters like Homer Homage, Louis Pasteur and the cow itself. It became part of the development of milk that we experience everyday.

Platformate

Rich Mager: In the 60’s and 70’s Shell Gasoline had this thing they called “platformate” that they put in the gas. When it sparked things off, it gave you the get up and go that you really needed. We came up with scouting platformate, that was included in your bowl of Rice Krispies, that when you ate it, gave you extra energy so you would be able to take on any challenge and your scouting spirit would be on top of the world.

Green Bar Bill

Jeff Huppert: When the camp director, Joe Quick, brought it to camp for a whole week. Green Bar Bill spent the whole week at camp with us taking pictures. I was very lucky that year that Troop 8 from Elizabeth was camping that same week that Green Bar Bill got invited to our campfire and he remarked that he was very impressed with the campfire being boy-run. That was in ’61. He went around camp taking pictures we set up stuff down at the south end, which was for a special article in “Boy’s Life”. It was a caveman thing, where the scouts were dressed in caveman outfits- fur loincloths and stuff and we had pit fires and spits with chickens on them. A couple of us took him out to Green Pond Mountain rock climbing. He didn’t climb the rock, but he took pictures of us repelling and that never showed up in “Boy’s Life”.

More Mager Memories

Rich Mager: I started out in Scout Craft and then moved on to Trading Post Manager in 1960. In 1961 I was Provisional Troop Scout Master. We used to have 60-75 boys in what we called a Provisional Camp Troop. There were 8 patrols. We used to put together a troop flag for boys from all over the council and this troop had charisma and es spirit de corps that was second to none. I had the pride of leading that particular
provisional troop and did that for 8 weeks during the summer of ’61. ’62 they had a very unique program in which senior patrol leaders would come up to camp the week before their actual troop would come and those senior patrol leaders would be part of a training course to get the most out of their troop’s experience at camp. I was the leader of the Junior Leader Training Course for Winnebago Scout Reservation. I put the senior patrol leaders together and briefed them as to what all the programs were, they acted as a patrol, and they just got to know camp. The boys that participated in that program made the camping experience for their troop second to none when their troop got here the next week because they had a feel for everything and knew what everything was all about. When I briefed them or took them out on hikes throughout the area, in turn they were able to take their troops out for a camping or hiking experience that was attuned to Winnebago Camp Reservation.

**Trading Post Benefits**

Jeff Huppert: The Trading Post used to be in what is now the Winter Lodge (the “A” building). Back in the 50’s and 60’s and 70’s that building was the trading post in the room on the right when you walk in and the staff lounge the room on the left. Behind the fireplace was a little room that a couple of staff members bunked in– usually the Trading Post staff. The parking lot was in what is now the parade field. It was a madhouse of cars and people. One of the benefits of the being on the trading post staff was that on Sundays when everyone came up, the staff got to look at all the pretty girls who came up with their families. That was a big thrill for us young guys. That was one of the fringe benefits of working at the Trading Post: checking out the pretty girls because everyone came in for refreshments.

Rich Mager: The Trading Post evolved over the years. In 1955 when I first came here as a boy, the Trading Post was in the building Jeff just described, however it was merely the outside right window as you walked into it. The Trading Post Manager would lean out this window and we young scouts would holler in, “Ice cream, candy, and a patch, whatever.” You couldn’t really see these things, he’d have to go get them and hold them out the window for you to see. So you have to envision, this one little trading post guy hanging out the window, selling some things from there. Then they moved it inside to the right hand side in which you opened up a wall and you could view the trading post all those wonderful items like moccasins and t-shirts that you could purchase. On the way in, right outside on the porch, you had the coke—it was actually a Hoffman Soda Machine. We stored all these sodas in the back of the winter lodge outside in a screened area. I remember having to load that machine and perhaps if you go around camp you can even locate a Pepsi bottle or a Hoffman bottle that is somewhere hidden under those leaves, an archeological dig that we have when we dig up those platforms that will turn up. Someone will ask, “A Hoffman soda bottle?” “What is this, where did it come from?” Well, it came from the sixties.

To continue the evolution of the trading post, I think it might have been in the seventies, we acquired a bank from Kenilworth. Somehow it got trucked up here and this building, if you’re walking down the road toward the dining hall, is on the left hand side of the road is what you now know as the Trading Post. This was not always the trading post. That building from Kenilworth started out as staff quarters, it started out as camp
offices, and I don’t remember the year that it was transformed that it was transformed into the Camp Trading Post, but that brings us up to current day. That is your Winnebago Scout Reservation Trading Post.

**Latrine Burning**

Jeff Huppert: One of the greatest events at camp for staff during either the first workweek or at the end of the year, the second workweek was the burning of the old latrine. Periodically there would be a latrine that was going to be abandoned and replace by another one so these were all really old ones from the forties, and there would be a latrine burning. That was a lot of fun.

I remember loading them on trucks to bring them down to the south end of camp. Dump them off and you’d have the greatest little fire in the world from the wood ones that we had. Long before the palaces that we have now, there was a door with a moon with a concrete base, and then it evolved to the two-seater where you were able to have a great conversation with the other person that came in. You had a chance to discuss the day. This is great historical significance. The privacy that they afford today is a far cry from the communal experience that existed in the old days.

**YYGG**

Jeff Huppert: One of the rewards to the staff during the week would be a YYGG-Yum Yum, Goody Goody. That would be where the staff would be notified there would be a YYGG that night at the dining hall after the campers were tucked away and we would have bug juice and milk and hot chocolate and sheet cake. Sheet cakes were the big things at YYGG. We always had a YYGG after Swiss Navy. Swiss Navy was when the staff would be called in usually on Wednesday night back in my days to scrub the dining room floor. That was a whole staff operation, not just the dining hall staff. We cleared all the tables half, and then move them all the way to other end and them all back and have our YYGG reward.

Rich Mager: The YYGG has evolved into what you may know as some of the cracker barrels and the staff feast when things go a lot better than we could have expected. The ever popular ice cream feast with two gallons of ice cream and all the extras you can add to it. Basically you have plenty of pizza and pepperoni and chips and everything else. It was great just to get together and feast.

**Rent-a-Dates**

Jeff Huppert: Back in 50’s and 60’s we had a staff banquet at the end of summer camp. The banquet was on the last Sunday before the last workweek before we were to go home. We had skits, songs, and parodies of what happened at camp. Usually there was a roasting of one department – one area would roast another area. They were a lot of fun. When Hurt Hastings came in ’64, he brought in the concept of inviting dates. So guys who had girl friends would have the girl friends come up on Sunday and they and archery and then the feast would have an afternoon of activities and then the feast in the dining hall and then we’d all go home. For scouts and staff members that didn’t have dates we
had rent-a-dates. Rent-a-dates were Girl Scout Leaders from Camp Hudsonia, down on Green Pond Road (opposite Katherine D. Malone School). They would count up the number we needed and they would send that number over. They would line up the staff members that needed dates for the day because you would go row boating and out to the rifle range.

**Bat for Breakfast**

George Reinhard: When Stan Mikas was the Camp Director, Bob McDonald, also came to Camp Winnebago. Bob put a bat underneath Stan’s cereal bowl. The cereal bowls were upside down on a plate on the table when we sat down for breakfast. Well, at one point you flip your cereal bowl over and when Stan flips his over there’s a bat under it. He was shocked, but he didn’t go berserk. He flipped it over and looked at the bat and growled, “McDonald!” He knew who had gotten him.

**Left Shoe Lesson**

Rich Mager: During staff week, I don’t remember the exact year, but Hurd Hastings was the Camp Director. We were working feverishly, sweating, trying to set camp up. The entire staff was divided up into patrols. Probably Aquatics and Nature were together and Scout Craft was teamed up with Shooting Sports, but there we were almost finished with staff week and we were about to have a cook out. We reported to the dining hall to get the food we were assigned. Well, my particular patrol puts together our hamburgers and there’s not enough to go around, so I proceed to the dining hall on behalf of my patrol to say that there wasn’t enough for all of us. They said, “Take it up with the Camp Director. That was the portion that was assigned to each one.” I proceeded to find Hurd and the other patrol was eating together and as I walked in on them. Lo & behold, they had steaks, baked potatoes and all the trimmings on this grill. I looked at that and we had hamburger meat that wasn’t enough to go around. Hurd said, bring everyone over, we have enough here. So I and Ray Brownell plotted together and said,” we cannot let this go. We cannot let this go.” So we hatched together a scheme where we would take member’s left shoe from the to the Ranger, we would confiscate for that dastardly deed. Well, we that and everybody showed up at could find their left shoes and they decipher who were the brains behind Tom McGoohan had caught one of the conspirators trying to lift his left shoe, so they did have Mager Man dead to rights as the culprit behind this whole thing. Later, after Rich returned from his hiking merit badge, he could not find his clothes, his cabin; in fact, his car was gone too. Poor Rich survived with just the clothes on his back and eventually things did return. There was a left footed lesson to be learned.
George Reinhard: At different times at different years we’ve had cannons for retreats. I don’t remember who it was, but one year every time we fired the cannon, we would lower the flag. Well, at one particular retreat we fired the cannon and a rubber chicken flew out and landed in front of the staff. They were all lined up in front of the chicken. It was very difficult to continue retreat from that point.

**Cannon**

At the council ring there was a rock as big as this room (Health Lodge) that Hurd, the ranger at the time, got the dredge people to blast while they were here. They did some blasting on the road to get their equipment in. He finessed them into taking care of that rock. From that point forward there was so much broken rock that they used it to make two fire rings.

**Double Fire**

Rich Mager: The first campfire I ever attended at Winnebago Scout Reservation was on the hill right beside the Kiwanis Cabin, which in the 50’s and 60’s was the first aid lodge. Today, if you go to the right hand side of the Kiwanis Cabin and you stand on that hill there’s a big boulder right down by the path. That’s where they had the campfires when I was a boy. We’d gather on that hill. From the 60’s we moved to the present place we have now, which is below the parade field. The parade field used to be the parking lot. Campfires at Winnebago are a tradition. For the most part we start out on Sunday with a campfire and it’s a fun type of fire. Basically you have some skits and fun songs. It’s time to have fun. It was a time during the 60’s that the camp staff was introduced to the campers. The skits were the means that the each staff member was introduced. You had a skit and everybody got up and said their name, etcetera. Today, the camp staff is introduced right after the Sunday evening meal when everyone gets to camp, also with a skit.

**Camp Fire History**

The Friday campfire is basically a Legend Campfire. The presentation of the Legend of the Winnebago Scout Reservation is the pride of the Winnebago Camp Staff.

George Reinhard: Buddy O’Brien was Program Director in the 50’s told the Aquatics Director, Phil Burkobyle, to write the Legend. Rich Mager: The basic Legend that we know today dates back to the one from the 60’s. That’s the one I kept and gave to a gentleman who became a Program Director in the late 60’s, Tom McGoohan. Tom came on as a Ranger-Director (1967-68) and he took an
interest in programs. I would describe Tom as the BEST Winnebago Program Director of all times. He directed the program during Winnebago’s hey-day of 400 campers with 2 dinner sittings. Kids were eating out on the porch. Tom had a way of motivating everybody. He was theatrical and he would have practices during the winter. They would come during workweek and practice. You could have sold tickets to some of the legends that he produced. The boys were mesmerized by his productions. He stayed with the basic legend, but there were some offshoots, like the Legend of the Allahake. Tom and another staff member, Martin Feder, worked on making new versions of the Legend. There were probably 5 all together. They were productions second to none. Today the legends are produced at the Friday Campfire and are a tribute to everyone who has ever served as a staff member at Camp Winnebago.

Rich Mager: About 1955, probably one of the most spectacular elements of camp life, I might even describe it as a jewel, is when you first behold Durham Pond. The sunlight glistening off the water, it’s approximately 65 acres, a man-made lake. So Mother Nature has decided over the years that she wants it back, and that’s been our major problem. Mother Nature vs. the boy scouts. We have different agendas. Mother Nature keeps trying to convert it back to just land again. The lake dates back to the Civil War. Go by the dam and the bridge, its part of the antiquity of Camp Winnebago. If you look below the dam, you’ll see iron slag, black material, left behind from the iron mining days. In years when the lake is drained, you can see the iron furnace bases that they had at one time, now that are covered by the water now. In the 50’s I saw the lake drained down to the bottom. The Army Corp of Engineers came in to try and help reclaim the lake from Mother Nature. It was drained and they got rid of all the plant life. I think there were bulldozers involved, too. So the lake fills up and things were pretty good in 1955. The vegetation tried to take over again. In 1964-65 the vegetation really started to strangle any aquatic activities you had there. The vegetation would interfere with the oars when you tried to row and the paddles. The camping committee started to study what to do with it. They tried to treat the lake with different chemicals, but it just didn’t work. It got to a point about 1966 that you could have skimmed the boat across the vegetation. You’d have to pull the boat over the top of a ¼” water. You couldn’t get very far. In 1967 they hired a company to dredge the lake out. They made it a little deeper in some places—about 22 feet in the deepest portions. They elected to take barges in and created a dike along the northeast section of the lake, so they took all the muck that they dredged and pumped it there. Over the summer of ’67 with the barges and pumping the muck, hey thought they could make it a viable space when the muck was dried out, but the springs continued to feed it, so it stayed muck and swamp. There it stays to this day. We’re
starting the cycle again. The lake is starting to get inundated with vegetation, but it is not the same type of vegetation that’s establishing a foothold right now. In ’67 it was stronger, thicker vegetation. Right now, 2006, about a third was down at the south end of camp, where the Searing Cabin is now. It was originally the waterfront cabin and the waterfront staff stayed in the cabin. The rifle range was on the far side of the lake just as you go over the dam and head down the hill towards Split Rock Reservoir; you had the shooting sports area. At the base of the hill was the rifle range. As you came up towards Durham pond the next thing was the shot gun range. The closest one to the lake was the archery range, but they were all set in with that mountain as a backdrop. The far side of the lake eventually developed 1971 as a frontier camp. There are two sites there, Kit Carson and Jim Bowie. But that has since been falling into neglect, only utilized during the summer camp for outpost camping. The south end of camp was limited to the Baden Powel Lodge, which had been refurbished during the 90’s. The Lewis Cabin, was originally called the Esso Cabin, in which the Aquatics Director (Rich) stayed with his family. Rich’s eldest daughter (Carrie) when born in the hospital, came back to live in that cabin for the rest of the summer. [Editor’s note: small wonder she went on to become program director for 3 years in the early 2000’s]

As you proceed up the road, the next cabin was the Taj Mahal of cabins and was built by Wenzel Dousa. We all called him Wink. He was a craftsman/carpenter and long time Handicraft Director. The present day handy-craft lodge dedication plaque reads:

Wink Dousa, 40yrs. Scoutmaster, Troop 7, 50 yrs. Scouting.

He fixed up that cabin and it was the envy of everyone who came into camp. It had originally belonged to long time Camp Director Hank Garrity. After he left, Wink took it over and renovated it. Wink’s cabin was changed after he died in 1971.

It fell into disrepair. Buddy O’Brien from the camp staff from the late 50’s and they wanted to do something in Garrity’s honor, so the restored the cabin in 2003 and rededicated as the Garrity Cabin. The present day dedication plaque reads: Garrity Cabin. Restored 2003 in memory of M. Henry Garrity (“Hank”) who resided here with his family as Camp Director 1952-1959. “The Boys Come First.”

If you proceed up road there was another cabin that was up there for a number of years that a Camp Director from the 60’s, Joe Quick, used. They constructed another one, after Joe moved out in ‘62, Fred Mobus, a Shooting Sports Director came in and refurbished it. That end of camp was for family camping during the summer time. The wives and families of camp staff came up and stayed there while their husbands and fathers were with the boys. Today the south end of the camp ends with Craig Field. The south end is used for training. The Baden Powell Lodge is refurbished and paneled. It used to be storage for tents, rats, and bats. Everything had to be dragged from the south end for start up week. Goat Hill is also down there. It’s a ceremonial area for the Order of the Arrow. It’s a nice, isolated area of the camp with another council fire ring.
In 1955, there were two entrances that you could come into Winnebago: the north and south entrances. I don’t know what transpired in the 90’s, but the permission we used to have to go through to the south entrance, was denied us. So now there is only one entrance of Timberbrook Road. The Craig Field is newly developed from relatively newly acquired land- within the past 5 years through service projects.

Through the mid and late 80’s, they rented the south part of camp to YMCA, Girl Scouts, and Polish Girl Scouts, who rented that whole part. While we were operating a summer camp here, there was another summer camp down there. They used the old waterfront down there.

In 1967, after the lake was dredged the entire camp was centralized. The waterfront was moved from the south end to the north end. The shooting sports were moved to their present locations. This all took place between 67-69. I started in ‘68 as the Aquatics Director and continue to the present day. The aquatics director before me used to complain about the mud because everything was under construction and they were dredging the lake. There was nothing but mud and boulders. Everything was dirt, then it would rain and when you went swimming, you came out of the water covered with mud. The camp kept operating and the scouts kept swimming.

In the 40’s the camp originally developed in the south end. The Baden Powel Lodge was the original dining lodge. It wasn’t until later in the 40’s that facilities started moving toward the north end of camp. The campsites that they created in the 50’s, when I arrived here as a boy, were first developed behind what is today the “A” (Administration building). They included Twin Oaks, which today it is Cheyenne campsite. You come down the road and Delaware has always remained the same. From Delaware you continue down the road to Witauchaudin. I remember building it when I was in the Order of the Arrow in 1957. I was on crews that cut down and cleared for the campsites. Further down the road and you have Shawnee, a relatively new campsite.

When I was a boy I walked down the main road to the Little Mahee campsite. That whole area was a campsite. They had all lean-to’s there. You can still see concrete bases. Little Mahee was an original lean-to. Later little Mahee cabin was created. Onondaga was another site that came into being because of the popularity of the lean-tos. Then Lenni Lenape was created. So that’s the lean-to sites. In the present day you still retain the original ones from the 50’s.

In 1956 the Iroquois camp site, (was staff city for many years, now again the Iroquis site), stood where today is a storage container for aquatics. It contained wooden chalet type cabins and the whole camp staff stayed right back there. Eventually that entire camp site disappeared and Staff City just evolved. There were also cabins behind the dinning hall for the dining hall staff staff. Where the dumpsters are now there were 4 cabins on either side of that road that housed the kitchen staff. In the years ‘64-’68 you had tent cabins for the staff in the summer time, throughout the camp. As Trading Post Director in ‘68 I stayed in a cabin. There were 4 cabins by the
“A” Building. Same way you had staff city at the Iroquois site. One the right hand side of “A” building here were cabins for staff. Two cabins were in back of the present Trading Post. The cabins were about 9 x 9 and you could put up old army tents over the tops. Some had the luxury of a skylight in it. When the camp started to get money in ‘69-'70, we put asphalt roofs on all of the cabins. Eventually the cabins fell into disrepair because the council didn’t have the money to keep them up, so they were gotten rid of. Now we have walled tents. The evolution of staff housing staff went from cabins with canvas roofs, to cabins with asphalt roofs, to tents with just a platform and the platforms got bigger, then back to wall tents, the bigger ones we see at summer camp today.

In 1957 – I stayed in the Beech Camp Site. Today it is known as the Algonquin site. I started to get my overall interest in aquatics and I earned all my aquatic merit badges there. That was the summer I also earned my BSA lifeguard.

As you go further back you have a campsite that you now know as Chippewa, but that was known as Pioneer in the 40’s and 50’s. The one on the top of the hill, Commanche is a relatively new site that was developed in the 60’s or 70’s that came into being. It was original from the 50's

Walking back into the main camp, you see the Winnebago cabin, which was the Winnebago campsite. I was Provisional Scout Master in that site in 1961. That stayed Winnebago Camp Site until the 80’s or 90’s when the chapel was built. The original Nature Lodge was there in the 50’s, which was about 10 feet to the left of the present area. It was an actual building that you walked into. It was about the size of what we have today. In ‘67 –’68 they gutted a lot of the campsites or staff areas and created a new nature area. When I was Scout Craft Director in ’64, I changed the Scout Craft area from what I knew in the 50’s. My first year on camp staff I was in Scout Craft where the present day Handicraft area is. The Waccabuc area was the Scout Craft area. As you go into the first area was the compass field. You’d go down to the next patrol site a little further and that was the ax yard. On the right hand side, right in back of the Handicraft Lodge, that was the Pioneering area. All of Scout Craft was right there. That’s where I worked in ‘59 – at 15 years old. The present Handicraft area wasn’t built until the 60’s sometime. The “master Camp” plans had an Indian Village camp, a frontier camp for outpost across the lake, and the south end all operating simultaneously.

Waccabuc campsite came into being after I moved the Scout Craft operation. Pioneering moved to where the present Flintlock building is. All pioneering Projects were there with lashings, rope bridges, monkey bridges, towers, house up in the trees. You name it, it was there.