

The St. Nicholas Lead

Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Summer 2001

BERNHARD "PING" BODINE
1909-2001

It with a great deal of sadness that I announce that Bernhard "Ping" Bodine passed away recently. Ping was a camper at Cherry Valley from 1923-1926, and served on Staff as coxswain in 1927. While attending the second session of CCV in it's first season, Ping and several campers and staff restored, cleaned up and marked the two Miner's graves on the hill.

While on Staff, Ping became great friends with fellow Staffman Ted Sierks of Avalon, and wound up moving to Avalon the next year and living with Ted and his family. Ping worked at the tile factory and later worked doing construction for Al Bombard, Doug Bombard's dad. Among other things, he worked on the construction of the Casino in Avalon. Ping also spent a number of years as a yacht skipper and was a 1st Class Boatswain's Mate for the Coast Guard during the war. After the war he was a longtime employee of General Petroleum.

Ping became a volunteer for the maritime Museum in San Pedro shortly after it opened in 1981 and was still working there five days a week until shortly before his death.

Several years ago, Doug Bombard took Ping on a visit to Cherry Valley. It was the first time Ping had been to CCV since the late 1920's. He was able to tour camp, visit with the Staff and go out to Lion's Head.

His family and friends are holding a memorial service for Ping on Saturday, Sept. 8, on Lion's Head.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a boy."

In circa 1960, my camp director, Royal English, gave to me a card with this message. I still have it today. Little did I know that youth work, as a teacher and camp director would be my life. I learned through Scouting, growing up as a camper and "staff man" that I was suited/destined to become a teacher.

Those years as teacher and Cherry Valley Camp Director are gone now, but not forgotten. My life was largely formed in camp, where through the scouting ways, I grew from boy to man.

Opportunities of returning to camp to work and play have blessed me with fond memories and new and renewed friendships.

Camp is great! Join the team. See you in camp.

NEWS FROM CAMP

By Bill Hartley

As we enter our 5th week of Summer Resident Camp I'm happy to report that our new SRS Staff is the best I've ever seen. These guys and gals, the Staff, are doing a great job. As all of you know, it's not easy providing a good program and it's nearly impossible to do it with a relatively new group of people. Under the direction of the Camp Director, Dave Hopkins, and Program Director Colby Nalder, the senior staff has done a fantastic job training all the new staff and getting their program and program areas on line.

The camp is looking better, we are running more efficiently, and more and more improvements are being accomplished annually than ever before. At least that is the consensus of the many people and agencies that have visited this year. We have been "visited" this year by the San Gabriel Valley Council Board of Directors, BSA's top National Inspection Team, several LA County Government agencies, the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy, and several professional planners, designers, surveyors, engineers and other specialists who are working on our Land Use Plan projects. With few minor exceptions, all have been pleased with CCV. I should also add that our camper evaluations have been exceptional; most of our customers are very pleased with the program, staff, food, and facility.

What's in store for CCV in the future? We are at the threshold of some major things. We are meeting with regional Planning in several days to begin the process of submitting a revised Land Use Plan plot map and to have the Dining Hall, Lighthouse, Camp Store and Craft Center projects approved. We are also finalizing our Water Storage Tank and Fire Distribution System design and will submit it to L.A. County Fire Prevention for their approval. If all is well, we hope to begin its installation in the fall. When it is completed and approved, we will then be able to begin all the other projects, as time and money are available. We anticipate the Camp Store and Lighthouse projects will be done as soon as possible.

This spring we began installing new campsite decks in the Cherry Grove. This massive and expensive project was undertaken for several reasons. By massive I mean we are planing on installing at least 14 campsites up canyon. By expensive I mean each deck will cost about \$20,000. The deck itself is about \$10,000, when you add te3nts, tent frames, tent floors, cots and mattresses, tables, shade structures, fire suppression equipment, and other minor items, you have invested the \$20,000 for a ten tent site. Why? I could say we have to, our lease mandates it. But I'm proud to say it's because we want to. San Gabriel Valley Council believes in being good stewards of the land and is willing to invest its money into projects that protect the environment. The decks will protect and improve the soil, which in turn will promote healthier trees and shrubs. On the other side, our campers will benefit because they will be cleaner, drier, and safer because of these decks. The campers that have used the two new decks have been very pleased.

I've had a chance to see CCV from a different perspective this last week. I saw camp from a father's concerned eye. Kevin has joined the Boy Scouts of America and was able to attend a week of Summer Resident Camp. Watching him move through his day and nights has made me aware of how a parent would look at camp when they are only concerned about their child's safety. I'm pleased to say that for the most part the camp is good, but, I see the need for some additional night lighting, more shade, and less yellow jackets. But Mom, Dad, rest assured that your child is safe and well cared for at CCV.

I hope all of you are well this summer. Please try to visit CCV soon, we would enjoy having you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Rick Scobey

Our membership is down from last year, but we do have some new Life Members. Our Life Members now include Dennis Aye, Scott Bice, Dennis Dayne, Dominic Femino, Dave Hagen, Larry Hooper, Gary Kief, Bob Lundquist, Keith Mikas, Dave Minnihan, Morgan Morgan, Phil Piet, Ian Pinkham, Bob Shafer, Woody Simpson, and Ron Wood. If you are a Life Member and your name wasn't included, please contact us so that we can update our records.

Don't forget to visit www.ccvaa.org, our new web site. We'd appreciate any ideas, suggestions or comments that you might have. If you have any problems viewing the web site, or if you have any pictures, documents, memories or anything else that you want posted on the CCVAA web site, please contact us.

During a recent trip to Catalina, I was in sight of Cherry Cove and kept glancing over in that direction. It really brought back the memories. I kept thinking of the times that I went to Camp Cherry Valley as a scout and the summer I spent on the island as a Staff member. There is something really magical about Camp Cherry Valley. We were very fortunate. Those times were and will always remain very special to me.

I was saddened to hear the news about Ping Bodine and will certainly miss him. Not only was he our oldest Alumni member, he was our oldest dues paying member. I had recently called to tell him that he had already paid his dues this year. He always had a lot to say. I was reminded how important the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley was to him and that we should keep the second check. In memory of Ping, I'm going to pay my dues again this year.

If you haven't already sent in your membership dues, please do so now. Each and every contribution counts. It is never too late to send in your dues. Please help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley.

See you soon!

ACTIVITIES

Staff Barbecue

It was a blast! A small group of us went over early Saturday morning, arriving just in time to watch the closing ceremonies for the departing campers. We spent some time after lunch at the waterfront, but all too soon it was time to start the cooking fires. Watching Morgan working over the barbecue always reminds me of an artist creating a masterpiece. Morgan kept his apprentices hopping and we soon cooked up over 100 pounds of beautiful steaks. Seems like those steaks disappeared in the blink of an eye. Some of the staff ventured back for seconds (and thirds), but most were saving room for the ice cream. For we had brought four large containers of ice cream with us and the camp just happened to have the fixin's to make sundaes.

Sunday morning arrived sooner than we would have liked as we caught the early boat back to San Pedro. For those of you who couldn't make it, you need to plan on coming next year. For the 2001 Staff, we're looking to you to carry on the tradition! In another 10 to 20 years down the road, you need to come back and cook for the Staff.

Old Goats Weekend at CCV

This year's Old Goats Weekend is September 14-16. Come on over to camp and go swimming, kayaking, hiking, archery, BB guns, handicraft, or whatever else you would like to do. There will be campers in camp with the C.O.R.E. Staff putting on the program. After the campers leave around noon on Sunday, the Alumni will be doing a steak barbecue for the C.O.R.E. Staff.

Families of Alumni are welcome to attend. Cost for the weekend is \$15 for food, plus your transportation costs. Most of us will be going over on the 6:45pm boat on Friday night on the Catalina Express from San Pedro and returning on the 5:30pm boat on Sunday. We are holding some reservations for the Alumni. Call Dave Minnihan or Morgan Morgan by Sept. 5 to RSVP. If you want to make your own travel arrangements call Catalina Express at (310)519-1212.

OFFICERS

Chairman: Ron Wood

Secretary/Treasurer: Morgan Morgan

Membership Chairman: Rick Scobey

Membership Coordinators:

1950s: Bill Gold

1960s: Mark Bevan

1980s: Frank Brundige

1990s: Al Garcia, Jr.

Work Parties Chairman John Morales

CCV Camp Liaison: Bill Hartley

SGVC Staff Liaison: Buddy Renzullo

Editor and Historian: Dave Minnihan