

# The St. Nicholas Lead

## Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association Newsletter

Fall 2003

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Ron Wood

#### 1950s Pier Memories

I happened to be in Cherry Cove one overcast day in early October to see Mark Serrat, assistant camp ranger, making preparations to remove the pier for the winter. Mark and the Island Company crew (crane and operator and 2 truck drivers) easily performed the complete job in a couple hours.

In "the good old days," when camp ended and closed completely on Labor Day, dealing with the pier was a different story. During non-program time the last week of camp, preparations were made for pier removal: Boats and canoes were removed from the water, lines were wire brushed while in the water, labels were made available, tie lines were on hand, and blocks to support the pier sections were placed on the beach crown.

Except for the camp staff and 50 older camper volunteers, the last of the H-10 water taxis left Saturday noon. Those left in camp, with swimsuits and shoes got to work. The pier was released from the main cable to the mooring block one section at a time. It was pulled to the 50-60 bodies in shallow water at the beach. (Pier sections were easily separated as only a chain looped over corner bollards held them together.) Once at the beach we all gathered around the section, mostly at one end. The section was raised and the barnacle covered 55 gallon floatation barrels were removed---4 from each corner.

Once all 4 corners were emptied of floatation barrels, we gathered all around the pier section, now floating very low in the water. The waterfront director usually stood on top of the pier section directing the operation. (He jumped off just before the signal was given to "lift.") Only the waterfront director and his assistants, one located at each corner, were allowed to speak. The pier section was carried up the beach to the blocks which would support each corner. This process was repeated several times, stacking the pier sections 2 or 3 high, until the floating pier was high and dry.

Next, the standing pier sections with the "spider" supports and the gangway were removed---carried and rested on the Southeast east side of the beach road. The barrels (later floatation became Styrofoam logs) were hoisted to the second floor of the Land Ship for winter storage. The process of pier removal took a very long and exhausting 2 to 3 hours. Muscle strains, cuts and bruises were commonplace. (Cal OSHA would have had a field day.)

The 50 camper helpers hiked to the Isthmus to catch their water taxi home. The camp staff relaxed on the naked waterfront for R and R. For the first time all summer there were no campers in camp. We had Sunday and Monday morning to "put away" camp. When we left CCV Monday afternoon, camp was closed until June. (The first project to be addressed in June was the launching of the pier.)

This day was October, 2003. Large equipment and 4 men did the pier removal. Today the standing sections and gangway is a permanent fixture, left in the water year round. Though times have changed, the work is still a dirty and exhausting job by those few doing the work.

(As Bill Hartley, Camp Ranger, was out of camp expecting to do pier work the following day, he returned to see that Mark did well. I watched. Memories.)

## **NEWS FROM CAMP**

**By: Bill Hartley**

### **Construction Progress**

#### **Water Tank**

As you recall last year's (Winter 2002) project was the underground pipe installation phase. We ran all our future plumbing pipes and electrical conduit from the beach to the top of the camp. Beginning mid-spring of this year, we began the second phase that will conclude the project. We began by excavating the site for the retaining walls and tank foundation. After the retaining walls were installed and Doty Bros. poured the tank foundation, we contacted Palmer Tank to begin the tank installation. With Summer Resident Camp in full swing and having run out of housing and the ability to land the Pacific Tug's landing craft, we had to stop construction for about 6 weeks. Mid August we restarted the project by connecting the pipes that were done last year to the new tank. We are currently installing the pump house and will finish the pipe connections and move into the testing and approval phase which, if all goes well, will conclude the project which will allow us to begin our camp improvements.

Throughout this process Arnett Electric has been in camp running new wires into the new conduit and has begun connecting them to all our existing buildings. We will start activating the new electrical system within the next week or two and hope to have everything complete by the time the tank and pump house are ready to go on line.

#### **Camping Cabin**

With the help of an outside carpenter we were able to complete the replacement of Commissioner Cabin #3. This new cabin housed 8 staff members this summer and has become a real asset for our Spring and Fall Program Staff members who have had the most trouble housing their staff.

#### **Program News**

Summer Resident Camp was very successful this year and all the campers had a great time. Again, Dave Hopkins did an excellent job running the show and with Dave Dibble, as Program Director, overseeing the program operation we had very few problems. These guys made a great team. We are looking forward to a great summer again next year with Dave Hopkins again at the helm.

Cub Resident Camp reached new levels of excellence this year even though we had more Cubs in attendance than any other CRC ever held at Cherry. Dave Minnihan has put together a great staff and they really provide one of the most outstanding programs I've ever seen, despite the fact that they can't sing. The Cubs hit the beach and the action does not stop until they board the boat for home. They learn, participate, play, and enjoy all to the camps activities while under the watchful eye of an outstanding and knowledgeable staff. Great job everyone.

Spring and Fall Programs are just getting started but things are looking good. Yolanda Hernandez has got a great group of young people working for her and they are doing a great job learning the CCV ropes. Our weekend programs provide so many great opportunities for the non-scout groups as well as many troops and packs. Their role at CCV is very important because it opens Cherry up to so many other kids that would not be able to enjoy this wonderful place. CIMI has signed another contract with us so we will be able to provide mid week program to thousands of school kids each year. As an environmental education program they are the best.

#### **Future Plans**

As soon as the water tank project is completed, we will be able to begin many long awaited projects. The Camp Store and Craft Center will be the first project on that list. We also hope to replace another Camping Cabin and add more Campsite Decks this winter. The Resident Cabin will be expanded as soon as possible and the Staff Village common deck will be replaced. The Beach Front is also on the list as soon as we consolidate a plan. The Dining Hall will receive a face-lift this winter with new paneling.

## **What's New**

The Cherry Cove Yacht Club has become very involved in the camp this year. Last year Commodore Scott Bice proposed that the club include CCV into their bylaws as a recipient of their support. Earlier this year it was voted on and accepted by the club and they have raised over \$10,000 for the camp this first year. They are also planning on helping out with the new waterfront design and construction cost. We are looking forward to a lasting relationship with this fine group of people.

## **C.O.R.E STAFF REPORT**

**By Yolanda Hernandez**

Our season has come to its end. BB guns, bows and arrows and kayaks are being stored. I look back at when we began in May; how the Staff was eager to start and now there's some sadness, because some of us won't be back again. But that's okay because the memories will never be forgotten. Cherry Valley will always be here. And everyone can come back even for a visit. So you never really leave. Til next season.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

**By Rick Scobey**

Another summer has flown by. I had to stop and think of what had happened. As usual, that leads to memories of past summers and those of Camp Cherry Valley. Take a minute and think back when you were a scout, or counselor, or leader. Remember the sights, the sounds, and the smells. Remember the activities, the people, and most important, the traditions. Traditions that we want to see continue at Camp Cherry Valley.

Please help us support the Scouting Program at Camp Cherry Valley. Dues are still \$25 per year. Junior Membership (ages 16-20) is \$10, and Life Membership is available for \$250. If you were on Summer Staff, CORE Staff, or Cub Staff last year, your dues are free for this year. Non-members can subscribe to our newsletter for \$5 a year.

Because of increasing costs, The St. Nicholas Lead, the Camp Cherry Valley Alumni Association's newsletter, will no longer be mailed out to non-current members except for the first issue of the year. Non-members will need to subscribe to the newsletter or renew their membership to continue receiving the newsletter via U.S. mail. Current members will continue receiving the newsletter. Remember that the newsletter can always be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.ccvaa.org>.

If you have moved, plan on moving, or have updated member information, please contact us. It is difficult and expensive to track Alumni members and your contact information is important to us. We want to be able to contact you for important functions. If you have not done so in the past, please take a minute and fill out the membership form and return it to us so we can update our database, even if you don't plan on becoming an Alumni Member. The Membership form can be found in the newsletter and also downloaded from our web site.

Don't forget to visit our web site [www.ccvaa.org](http://www.ccvaa.org). We'd appreciate any ideas, suggestions or comments that you might have. If you have any pictures, documents, memories or anything else that you want posted on the CCVAA web site, or want to help work on the web site, please contact us.

Again, please help us support the Scouting program at Camp Cherry Valley and send in your dues now. Your membership is needed and it does make a difference!

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