



## Grand Places, Grand Moments

by Mitch Stevens (AKA Mitch Silverstein '68-'73)

I've always been awed and inspired by wilderness and magnificent landscapes. While hiking in the Sonoran Desert near my home in Tucson, I recently witnessed a spectacular sunset. The drama unfolded when the fading sun interplaying with the clouds illuminating the western side of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Gradually, more and more areas of the mountain were revealed until the entire range glowed a gorgeous magenta color: a truly grand moment. Several years ago, standing at the edge of the Grand Canyon, I was treated to a vivid rainbow appearing against the dark sky over the opposite rim of the canyon. The whole gorge was bathed in the burnt orange glow of early evening light: another grand moment. I have experienced other grand places such as Denali and Kenai Fjords National Parks in Alaska, the snow-capped peaks of the Canadian Rockies, the wrath of the mighty Colorado, the sculpted canyons of Utah's Zion and the turquoise waterfalls and travertine pools of Havasu Canyon.

Spending summers at Choconut spawned my appreciation of the great outdoors and it was there that I was able to nurture this passion. I recall grand moments canoeing down the Delaware River and shooting infamous Skinner's Falls, backpacking to Salt Springs and discovering the falls at Ricketts Glen. A particularly grand moment for me was the first time I passed the lake test at the tender age of eleven. Talk about a sense of accomplishment!

Grand places, grand moments. I believe we all have a lot to be thankful for, being fortunate enough to spend the golden summers of our youth at such a wonderful place as Choconut. Country singer/songwriter Mel Tillis wrote and sang the words "when we're young we want to get away, when we're old we want to come back. And we spend our lives replacing all the things we left behind." Profound indeed.

Live on Camp Choconut!

## Horrors at Choconut Open 2004

by Tom Neely ('80 '81 '82 '83)

For the second year in a row, neither Tim Allik ('74, '75, '76, '77, '78) nor Brad Ewing ('69, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '79, '82) were able to complete a round of Frisbee golf despite great anticipation from those gathered to witness history. Perennial champion Tom Neely, that's me, has bravely faced down threats from Rob Benedict and his girlfriend Kathryn, from Patrick and Kevin Ewing, from Tiffany, Paige, and others, in year after year of eventful play.

This year, with Rob poised to take the coveted Green Poncho, he had an uncharacteristically poor showing, and finished three strokes behind the leader. He was bested even by his brother Chris, which no one could have seen coming given Chris's unfamiliarity with the ancient course.

One of the trickiest holes, that of hitting the side of the barn, proved to be also one of the scariest. Tiffany Fusaro missed the side of the barn with a forceful toss, sending her disc deep into the rough. A large spider of the genus *freakius* stood in the way of her retrieving her Frisbee, but Yours Truly was not afraid, and despite the lamentations of my wife Erin, went past the spider and got the disc. Tiffany took a stroke penalty.

A mental challenge greater than that of the fog drifting in off the moors at the Royal Troons was the lack of the Barney's Car Hole at this year's Reunion. Barney Conville ('80 '81 '82 '83) had come to Choconut as a passenger in Chris Lowe's ('75-'82, '84 '85) rental car, despite the Mighty Festiva's excellence and reliability. Participants had to instead strike a part of the swing set near Choquita Road. More than a few discs landed in the mud.

When all the results were tallied after each entry had touched the bell with a flying disc, this

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## Oversights Sought

We overlooked an important announcement in our last newsletter: the birth of Kathy and Chris Lowe's daughter, Sarah. Born July 21, 2004, weighing in at 7 lb. 9 oz., with a height of 20 inches, Sarah Fleming Lowe postponed Kathy's usual attendance of the reunion until 2005. Luckily, the whole Lowe family is planning coming to the next reunion, including the ever-cheerful and giggling Eliza.

## Alumni End Gets a Face Lift

### The Great Hall at Lake Choconut Gets What It Deserves

Built in 1930, Mrs. Winlock named the great hall Alumni End, in memory of the Camp Choconut boys killed in the World War. The stones used throughout were gathered from the many stone fences surrounding the fields near Camp Choconut. And, thanks goes to The Susquehannock Camps for their upkeep. Alumni End now has a new roof and a refurbished porch. Also, a special thanks goes out to S. Hamill Horne who donated funds to The Susquehannock Camps to repair the fireplace hearth. Thank you, Ham.

## Alumni End

by S. Hamill Horne

*[The following is part of a forthcoming book chronicalling Camp Choconut. To further this collection of recollections, Ham has announced a **CALL FOR PAPERS**. Ham has assembled several writings from friends of CC, but needs many more, including an article on The Choconut Foundation. Perhaps a non-camper's perspective on this motley group would be interesting. Most excitingly, **THE BIG PRIZE** has been reserved for the most deserving contributor, so get to work!]*

Mrs. Winlock told J. Craig Janney to design a fireplace and to put a building around it to replace North End. She wanted a huge hearth to dominate a room that could be used for any inside event and as a meeting place for boys and counselors. The fireplace was to be the center point and the building was to be called Alumni End in memory of Camp Choconut boys killed during the World War.<sup>1</sup> Craig Janney, the architect, had been a camper in 1912 and '13 and remembered well the feeling of being in the old North End he had been asked to replace. He designed a stone building, one story only, with two rooms and two fireplaces. The main room is open to the high-peaked roof and is dominated by a fireplace so tall that it is above the shoulders of a six-foot-tall man and so wide that a dozen campers can easily stand in front of it and feel its heat. The eight-foot logs, two feet on the stump, that Dr. Mulford and the sub-counselors supplied could easily fit.

To the right of the fireplace is an alcove for a library, and to its left a smaller corridor leading to the second room, called the back porch because it was originally open. It has the second fireplace, back-to-back with the larger one.<sup>2</sup> Outside, the "side porch" that overlooks the Lake, runs the entire length of the building and is open except for the Head Counselor's Office built as an after-camp project in 1981.

The design of Alumni End is simple and utilitarian, and nearly perfect for a boys summer camp. Except for the roof and the floor, it is made entirely of stone inside and out and it was built by a mason of no small skill, Mr. H. Shirley of Vestal, New York and his helpers.<sup>3</sup> In 1930, the year it was built, many of the old stone fences that bounded the pastures near Camp Choconut disappeared as they went into the building. Shirley worked quickly and skillfully. Not a cut rock is visible

and each was selected for its size and contour. It was said that when he was in the scaffolding thirty feet above the ground, he could spot the stone he wanted on the ground and when it was brought to him, it would fit.

Inside the main room, flat rocks protrude above the windows, doors and the fireplace. They can hold a single object, a stuffed animal or a trophy, or may be used to hold shelves, for they are aligned and level. Outside, on the wall above the front door, between the porch roof and the main roof peak, Shirley set certain stones on angle that make a giant decorative C in the rocks. Inside, near the door jambs, and elsewhere, special rocks with interesting fossils were selected for natural decoration. Dr. Rachel Winlock was responsible for many of these and for the rocks that have initials and names of early campers carved on them, relics of North End. On the south wall, outside near the ground, is a rock covered with what was once molten metal, all that is left of the cups and trophies after the fire.

Craig Janney's original blueprint showed doors with glass and sash windows. Mrs. Winlock probably made the change to heavy solid wooden double doors and casement windows that can be used as doors by nimble campers.

The back porch, or ping-pong room, has a stage. Though only raised one step it can, with a few props, it can become any place, anywhere. There are two entrance doors, and a broad, full stage. Above the stage is a skylight, perhaps the first in Susquehanna County, that keeps the chamber lit. A map of the Villa Hunt is painted on the larger door leading from the main room and there were two ping-pong tables in the main part of the room that were always in use if more than one camper was there.

On the stone fireplace mantle in the back room there was a seven-foot-long metal airplane propeller of unknown origin. It was not, as some thought, from Charles A. Lindbergh's emergency landing on the Matthew O'Connell farm in Choconut in November 1927, a few months after his New York to Paris flight that Spring. Nor was it from old camp boy Elliott P. Cogswell who landed his small plane on a field at camp one summer in the early 1930s. Cogswell's wife, Marion, was Director of Camp Choquita in the late 1940s. And, it did not come from Lewin Barringer, a camper in the early 1920s who became a pilot and was killed in World War II. His son, Lewin P. Barringer, Jr., a camper of the '50s, has the propeller now.

Janney's blueprint is dated April 7, 1930. The building was completed and in use on the first of July that year! The ground is frozen until March, there is always spring mud, and all the rocks had to be collected and put in place. How it was done I don't know. Frank Longstreth, long-time camper and counselor, nine year's old in 1930, said Alumni End was completed when he arrived at camp for his second summer, the year after the North End fire. He remembered no construction on the building during the camp year. Mr. Shirley was a remarkable craftsman.

1. Gordon Hunt Burrows, Harvey Lawrence Cory, Howard Houston Henry, Gordon Hancock Mason, Charles Provost McMichael, George Buchanan Redwood, Howell Lewis Reid, Allen Melancthon Sumner, John Howell Westcott and Bertram Williams.

2. The main fireplace is 5 feet 6 inches tall and 10 feet wide. The smaller one is 3 feet tall by 2 feet 6 inches wide.

3. Two rectangular rocks that look like fire brick are inscribed "H. Shirley, Builder 1930" and "H.B. Holden 1930." They are located high over the north inside door going to the back porch. On the wall opposite above and to the east of the middle is the architect's name: "J. Craig Janney."

## Who's Who in The Foundation

### PAY-FORWARD MEMBERSHIPS

#### Lifetime Members

S. Hamill Horne      Helen Mims

#### Pancho Villa Club

Anna Hurd

#### Light Brigade Club

Tumpy May      Ellen Loerke      Tim Allik

Russ Hurd      Fred Lorber      Chris May

Barney Conville      Chris Osborne      Tim Kelly

#### Batsburg Club

Nancy Mulford Burill      Chris Lowe      Mike Hanyi

#### 2004 Annual Members

Anderson, Adam      Fusaro, Dennis      Malles, Ed

Benedict, John      Goldstein, Daniel      Peirce, William

Caldwell, Gary      Harshman, Phil      Perrin, Steve

Calkins, Jack      Horne, Joe      Reed, George

Carmalt, Charles      Johnson, Gordon      Stokes, Ann Carmalt

Clarke, Philip      Loerke, Martha      Tane, Josh

Ewing, Brad      Neely, Erin      Warren, Doug

Ewing, Ken      Neely, Tom

## Letter from the Editor

*by Fred Lorber*

It's not easy running a foundation. It takes a lot of work and many people. Some of the people that make the Foundation tick are Chris Lowe, the President, Tim Allik, the Vice-President and Web site coordinator, Steve Perrin, the Treasurer, Fred Lorber, the Secretary and Co-Editor with Barney Conville of the Choconut Foundation Newsletter. Also, everyone who attends the Choconut Foundation Labor Day Weekend Reunion contributes and makes the weekend a success. Everyone volunteers for something and it's this teamwork that allows for the weekend to run smoothly and without any problems.

However, a special thank you goes out to one of the most active participants of every Reunion Weekend. He's always there whenever something needs to get done, whether it's washing dishes, helping with the trash removal, hauling in the dock, collecting firewood or entertaining the kids. No matter what the job, Joe Horne is there. This Labor Day Reunion Weekend, Joe Horne, practically single handedly brought all the boats (20?) from the lake up to the Mess Hall. Joe volunteered his time and his four-wheeler to a job that, without his help, would have taken hours. This special Thank You goes to you, Joe, for all of your consideration, time, help, and sincere support and friendship. Thanks, Joe.

## Treasurer's Report

*by Stephen R. Perrin*

Total Funds in Bank*	\$5,110.29
General Fund	\$2,952.29
Scholarship Fund	\$643.00

\*All Reunion costs and proceeds accounted for.

General Fund is money available. Includes \$352 current profit on t-shirts. It does not include \$600 Pending Gift to Susquehannock and \$915 Pay-forward funds reserved for future dues.

### Dues Man, Dues!

YES! I want to become a member of the great Choconut Foundation. I can sign up for more than one year at a time and be assured my dues will not increase during my membership period. Mail to:

Steve Perrin, 1497 Scio Ridge Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check for 15 bucks. I am renewing my membership for one (1) year

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign me up for the **Batsburg Club**. 2 years @ \$15.00 for \$30.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign me up for the **Light Brigade Club**. 5 years @ \$15.00 for \$75.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign me up for the **Pancho Villa Club**. 10 years @ \$15.00 for \$150.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional \_\_\_\_ bucks to be deposited in the Choconut Foundation Scholarship Fund because I want to give a child a chance to enjoy their summer at Camp Susquehannock for girls.

Please help us update our Choconut Foundation Directory by filling in the information below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(not shared or electronically posted)

Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

Add a link to my site on the CC Web Site? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

# THE CHOCONUT FOUNDATION

Attn: Fred Lorber  
2281 Doswell Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: (866) 872-5921  
E-mail: pancho\_villa@campchoconut.org

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*It never rains at Camp Choconut.  
It only pours liquid sunshine.*

We're on the Web:  
<http://www.campchoconut.org>  
including reunion photos, campfire song book,  
and message board.

**President:** Chris Lowe  
**Secretary:** Fred Lorber  
**Treasurer:** Stephen R. Perrin  
**Newsletter Editor:** Fred Lorber  
**Newsletter Production:** Barney Conville  
**Website Coordinator:** Tim Allik

### *(Horrors at Choconut Open, continued from page 1)*

year's tournament proved to be the closest in history. With a maturing field of players, it is clear that now the Choconut Open is win-able by any qualifier on any given day, but especially by ME.

It is still so sad the Brad Ewing and Tim Allik were unable to complete the course. Brad was leading even ME by two strokes after five holes due to some outstanding drives, but he got a little scared when he witnessed my chip-and-putt game, so he claimed he needed to "go do something very important for The Foundation." Tim was only two strokes behind me, and four behind Brad, when he too "had to go, because there's just so much to do at Choconut, you know, everything is rush-rush-rush, it's do or die, kill or be killed, dog-eat-dog, etc. and so forth..." Maybe next year the fans won't be so disappointed.

Lastly, I must make mention quickly of The Hole, a par-twenty Frisbee golf hole more challenging than the fourth at Augusta. Invented by Barney and perfected by Rob Benedict, The Hole begins with a tee at Alumni End porch and ends at Forest Landing. Players may play the disc where it lands, even if that means deep in the lake, or they may take one of several overland routes. No swimming with the disc! Drifting with the wind neither! Scores indicate nothing about which method is most efficient. See this column next year for more data.

### Attendance of 2004 Reunion

Another good turnout:

Steve Perrin	Ham Horne	Charles Carmalt
Chris Lowe	Tim Allik	Lisa
George Reed	Marjorie Raskin	Dennis Fusaro
Ellen Loerke	Reuben Allik	Mary
Tom Neely	Jeremy Allik	Matthew
Erin Neely	Philip Clarke	Tiffany
Fred Lorber	Martha Clarke	Timothy
Martha Loerke	Phil Harshman	Phillip
Chris Osborne	Corey	Doug Warren
Anna Hurd	James Seedenburg	Melissa
Gary Caldwell	John Benedict	Daniel
Joe Horne	Kate	Drew
Dina Dougherty	Rob	Tumpy May
Megan Dougherty	Kathryn	guest
Paige Dougherty	Chris	Gordon Johnson
Barney Conville	Kristin	Roger
Jack Calkins	Ken Ewing	Brad Ewing
Adam Anderson	Sibelle	Patrick
Luciya	Andre	Kevin
Nik	Armen	
Noah	Brian Rick	
Harry		