



The Clock Tower Times

Alumni Newsletter

Echoes of the chimes of our time.

Fall 2013 / Winter 2014

Dearest Camp Billings Alumni,

You are part of the funniest group of people on earth. We play the wittiest pranks and we are better than every other camp. My husband likes to tease me about our son Colin eventually going to his lesser camp (as if!) and this just makes me want to plan an all-camp prank on him so that he sees the kind of spirit we have. Let me know if you have ideas.

In this edition of the Clock Tower Times, we have reflected on the tradition of quality pranking that takes place at Billings. According to Grammy, AKA Helen (Rockwood) Wallstrom, Dad Hurd's son was quite the prankster in the late 1920s. He would roll the plastic tablecloth at the staff table in such a way as to spill water all over Ms. Mary Dartt's lap, and he would put mice in campers' beds. I asked Grammy if people got in trouble when they bent the rules and she said Dad Hurd had a way of condoning a little misbehaving as long as the perpetrators demonstrated appropriate repentance. In this same spirit, campers and staff have been pranking their CB friends for over a century. (On a side note, we would like to know more about what camp was like when Mom and Dad Hurd were the directors so please write us to share your stories for the spring alumni newsletter.)

Fast forward to the 1990s and you will remember daily water bombs in the dining hall set under the red cups and witness variations of

traditional pranks such as: moving people's belongings in a silly location like the clock tower flag pole, the staff lounge or even the high dive float. Many a staff beds have been catapulted on the roof of their cabin before or after the staff went to sleep, and there are some pranks that will only be divulged after the statute of limitations has lapsed. You will hear some great prank stories throughout the pages of this newsletter, but I have to say that this summer I witnessed the best - most outrageous prank of all time. Bob will tell you about it.

At the end of a prank, its success can be measured by these factors: the pranksters were creative and grandiose in their preparations, everyone involved kept a straight face, no one got hurt, and the prankee feels loved for having been targeted by his or her friends. Our tradition of pranking is a true testimony as to why Billings is the best place on earth, and not to mention, so much FUN!

Finally, don't forget to check out our updated website at www.campbillings.org thanks to Jay Lance our wiggy wack web master.

Best regards,

Jasmine St-Laurent

Alumni Association Chairperson



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings from the Board.....

At every Board meeting we review our Major Projects List, which most of us refer to as our Camp Billings “Wish List”. Ever since our successful 100th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign in 2006 we have been whittling down the list and if you were a camper, staff or visiting alumni especially last summer, you sure did see the “new and improved” Camp Billings! Since 2006 we have restored all of our historic buildings: Sunnyside, the Guest House, Pinewold and Weownit. We also renovated the Sr. Staff Quarters above the Maintenance Building. We installed a Ropes Challenge Course complete with a giant swing and Zip Line which has become one of camp’s favorite program areas for kids of all ages. We made major improvements to Girls’ Sr. Row and it’s never looked better! We brought back the open space and re-sodded the entire area, built a beautiful deck on Cabin 1, and built two new cabins, along with a new full length privacy fence. We tripled the size of Uncle Ralph’s Craft Shop and everyone loves the center covered porch and rocking chairs. Almost every cabin was in need of a new roof

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and foundation and as soon as camp ended this year, we just completed the new foundation for Cabin #5. Every cabin that needed better ventilation now has new larger windows. We also placed all new benches at our outdoor chapel.....



One camper said that the best part about the new Girls’ Senior Row is that now campers from every cabin are hanging out together.

.....Our summer Board meeting is always the mid season Saturday at camp, and I was pleased to announce that we had completed everything on our Wish List. But as soon as word got out, many more suggestions and ideas were brought up not only by Board members, but by staff, alumni and campers alike, and our Wish List is right back up to where it was before. First, we need to tackle 2 of the larger expenses that camp is going to have to incur, and they will be major improvements to both our program areas and infrastructure. The most important items we are facing right now is the funding for our waterski boat and facilities upgrade. As Bob Green, our director, said, "The Pasley family of Williston, Vermont, whose kids have been at Billings for many summers, were kind enough to donate their used ski boat and trailer to camp. We hope to be using that boat for many years to come to support and expand our fishing and snorkeling programs, as well as serve to bolster junior program and a variety of other activities. Water skiing remains one of the most popular programs at Billings, and now includes wakeboarding and tubing, often pulling multiple campers simultaneously. At the top of our Wish List is a heavy duty, reliable ski boat that can handle the volume and provide the power necessary to operate our program four hours a day, six days a week for eight weeks each and every summer." So, Jon Cone and John Freitas will be going to a few boat shows this year trying to seal a great deal for us. Our next large expense is going to be something that camp has needed for a long time and that is to do a very serious upgrade

to our shower and toilet facilities. This is an area in great need of improvement and with your support, we plan on building a new Girls' Shower/Rest Room and Boys Shower building as well as a new Boys' John building and a new Sr. Row Girls' bathroom. We are just starting the design phase and construction will not begin until after next summer is over. We want to make sure we really get this right and come up with a design that will last a very long time. Not only will this be a very welcomed improvement for our staff and campers, but for many future visitors to camp. Please read Bobby's Director Report about our exciting plans to keep camp open off season!

Our Fundraising Committee is coming up with some great ideas to make it even easier to make a contribution. Soon there will be a "Donate" link right on our Camp Billings Web site, www.campbillings.org. For now, we are still using the contribution envelope included in each edition of the Clock Tower Times. The envelope includes areas for you to choose where you would like your contribution to go along with our mailing address of P.O. Box 3539, Stowe, VT 05672. I know I say this in every one of my Clock Tower Times articles, but your support is never overlooked. It is your donations that have kept Camp Billings in excellent condition, and our #1 priority, which is our campers are the ones who get to appreciate it the most! Wishing you a great fall and winter and Happy Holidays to one and all!

Michael Lemme
President, Board of Directors



“Lucky 13” Moving Forward and Having Fun!

by Bob Green, Director.

We knew this summer was going to be special before it ever began. A new craft shop. Two new cabins on Girls' Senior Row. The return of an “old” boys' cabin to replace the tent down in the swamp. The completion of WeOwnIt. The creation of the Girls' Senior Country Club lawn. All of these magical upgrades we've been dreaming about for years all came to pass before our 107th consecutive summer of operation began. And each and every one of them exceeded our expectations. During pre-camp, when many alumni staff came to help us set up for the season, they were in awe. As campers arrived on Opening Day and they could experience the dynamic change that had taken place, their excitement was palpable. Camp Billings was moving forward, meeting the needs of our 21st century campers, families, alumni and staff. And the summer of 2013, “Lucky 13”, was our first step.

It was a summer of more than just new buildings. It was a summer of FUN. Our staff consisted of a perfect blend of returning staff, graduated CITs, and talented people who were new to Billings. We had a large contingent of international counselors, many of whom had been with us before, and some who returned after a number of years away from camp. Our new Adventure Challenge Program Director, Jae Ellison, provided the expertise, passion and excitement to our Ropes Course that we had been waiting for. **He also broke the long-standing Billings record for Corn Dog consumption when he easily downed 18 corn dogs in one setting.** We are hopeful that a 2014 Challenge Match can be arranged between Jae and former record holder Russell Booth, to be broadcast on DirecTV pay per view.



This was the summer of the most challenging and greatest musical in Camp Billings history. By undertaking “Wicked” in his final summer at camp, Director Brian Kaufman took on a massive project, a cast of 60 kids, a complex set, and created something that ventured far beyond a children's show. Those who were a part of it will never forget the experience. And for all his years of service, and transforming the concept of the Camp Billings musical, we created “The Brian Kaufman Award”, presented annually after the production to the camper or campers who demonstrate excellence in musical theatre. What the musical has become, and how it involves so many people at camp, is something we can be very proud of.....

This was the summer of the SINGLE GREATEST PRANK IN CAMP BILLINGS HISTORY. Sure there have been great moments in the past. I remember the day the staff table was moved to the high dive float, and Uncle Ralph, being the great sport that he was, got into a rowboat with all the other members of the senior, senior staff and took their meal at the staff table in its new location. He loved it! But that paled in comparison to the day we moved Camp Billings to Tyler's house.....



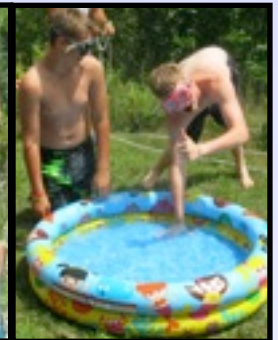
Camp Truck Full of camp paraphernalia



Tyler Gardner Still incredulous



Backpacking on the front lawn



Snorkeling

Tyler Gardner has been at Billings for a long, long time. He's been a camper, CIT, Counselor, Assistant Waterfront Director, Interim CIT Director, Evening Program Director and presently serves as Director of Special Operations. His job as a teacher and Co-chair of the English Department at the Hotchkiss School, along with his continuing studies at Middlebury College limit him to 3-4 weeks at Billings each summer. This spring he bought a beautiful house up on a hill in West Fairlee, then left for six weeks for a class in Santa Fe, New Mexico. With a big assist from his mother, we determined exactly when he would be back home in late July. It was a few days prior to the Race Around the Lake, and he would be starting at Billings the following day.

Tyler has always been a confidant, so I created a back story about how the staff was divided, there was a lot of dissension, and I really needed his advice before he came back to work with us. He agreed to meet me the day he got home, and he picked me up at Crossroads Farm to drive up to his house around 2pm. Meanwhile, back at camp, we had rented a bus to transport every single person from the kitchen boys to the youngest junior camper to Tyler's house. We moved all the program area signs we display on changeover Sundays; we moved the American flag; we moved archery targets; we moved camp store; we moved Harold's house. When Tyler and I drove up into his driveway at the top of the hill in West Fairlee, Camp Billings was in full operation inside and outside of his new home.

Rehearsal for the musical was taking place in his garage. Casey, Willie and the kitchen boys were making omelets in the kitchen. Kids were waterskiing down the hill alongside Tyler's house. Camp store was set up and operating underneath his deck. Campers were fishing in his bathtub. The office staff was passing out mail. The craft shop had set up in his basement. Juniors were listening to stories read to them from Tyler's bed. Every activity from athletics to waterfront program in three kiddie pools was happening in its somewhat usual fashion, within the confines of Tyler Gardner's home. To say that he was stunned would be an understatement: he was shaking. To say that this was the single greatest prank in our illustrious history of outrageous stunts would be factual. You had to be there.....

This was a summer of great progress, wonderful kids and families, and so much fun.

But we need to continue to move forward. Our vision for the future of Camp Billings incorporates utilizing some of our facilities during the off-season. As we renovate Pinewold, the Guest House, Sunnyside, along with a beautiful new WeOwnIt, we plan on making these buildings available for rental to our alumni families who might be interested in spending a week on Lake Fairlee during leaf season or early spring. We will be looking at renting out the entire facility in future years for weddings, corporate meetings, and other special events during our off-season months; and as we look a few years down the road, opening up Billings for an additional week at the end of the summer to run a "Billings Family Camp" is clearly on the agenda. You will be receiving a brief questionnaire about each of these exciting future developments shortly, and your feedback about what interests you and how we can tailor these ideas to serve your individual needs would be greatly appreciated.

Part of that vision requires us to examine our bathroom and shower facilities and upgrade each of those critical areas. After each session of camp we pass out a brief survey to all campers, and one of the questions is "what can we do to improve upon your experience at camp?" The majority of the responses highlight one area of camp that needs our attention: bathrooms and showers. It is a top priority as we continue to provide a first class experience for our kids, and move forward towards our plans for greater utility of this wonderful place we call Billings.

The summer of Lucky 13 was memorable and magical. The future of Camp Billings is limited only by our imagination. I hope you will continue to be part of it, and help us make those dreams a reality.

Bob Green,
Camp Director.

The Camp Billings Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone who has donated to Camp Billings.

Below is a list of those who have contributed to Camp Billings since the last newsletter was prepared.

Donors:

Jack & Maggie Amaral;
Connie Dubie; Gigi Duckett; Kay Ellis;
Mark Fischer; John Freitas; Robert Gilpin;
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Top 5 Evening Programs! *By Elise Bragard*

4th July

This year we celebrated Independence Day by traveling from the East to West coast. The morning started with breakfast in New York! We had a crazy bagel bar with 4 different types of cream cheese, Nutella, fruit, whipped cream - you name it! The square dance took place in the morning and then for lunch it was a Southern BBQ with ribs, pulled pork, biscuits, corn and mac 'n' cheese! After lunch it was the Wild West rodeo fair and the campers took part in all sorts of games such as 'Needle in a Haystack, and 'Snake in my Boots' to win prizes. Russell Booth's corn dog record was even broken by our ropes course director, Jae Ellison! It was a Tex-Mex dinner with steak fajitas, and in the evening was the

Halloween

Perhaps one of the scariest Halloweens in the last few years - the Circus came to town! The seniors were taken on a spooky walk on the hill behind Rainshadow where dead clowns and circus performers jumped out and scared them. The juniors took part in a zombie apocalypse escape mission around camp.

Country Fair

The theme for this year's Country Fair was "Billings goes to Hollywood!" The whole camp was in Dartt Hall watching a movie and at the end of the movie, the campers ran out onto the clocktower lawn to find they were in Hollywood.... They saw the sign on the hill, a red carpet, and then a stretch limo pulled out when one by one the 8 captains of Country Fair 2013 came out of the limo to cheering and clapping. The teams were: James Bond, Star Wars, 300, Harry Potter, Rocky, Pirates of the Caribbean, Toy Story and Superman. Team Harry Potter (purple), captained by Reeves Hart with his lieutenant Ellie Masson were the champions.

International Night

International Night was perfect! We started with a canapé reception on the Clocktower lawn, before heading into the Dining Hall for a gourmet 3 course meal. There were live musicians playing as we ate, and for dessert a chocolate fondue!

Musical - Wicked

The 2013 musical, Wicked, took camp musicals to a whole new level! We had over 60 campers participate in the show, and everyone agreed that it was the best musical ever put on at Billings. Wicked was directed by Brian Kaufman and Connor Wright, with choreography by Stephanie Zuidervliet. Whether they were in the cast, tech crew, or audience, the campers all agreed it was one of their favorite evening programs of



Live classical music during International Night

The Camp Billings Board of Directors heartily thanks all our donors for making contributions that benefit the campers.



Over the past few summers, you have made great additions to camp, starting with the Adventure Challenge Ropes Course and zip line, and continuing with major restorations of camp's historic Pinewold, Guest House and Weownit lodges.



Girls' Senior Row looking the best it has in decades. The Girls' Senior Row Lawn is a great place for girls to bond. Finally, Cabin One, the most senior girl cabin has a lakeside porch, thus evening out the century long battle of the sexes



The 2013 season opened with the new Uncle Ralph's Craft Shop, (built by alumnus Ben Cheney) which bustled with artistic activity throughout the summer.



View
from
behind the
new craft shop.
The Craft Shop
Lawn looks
better than
ever!



The restoration of WeOwnIt was a total success, and soon the cabin will be available to rent during the off-season.



Kay Ellis who was at camp from 1948 to 1950 remembers years at Billings fondly and vividly. She is working as a church secretary, organist, choir and bell choir director. She has been married for 55 years, has 2 children and 6 grand-children. **Ruth (Guest) Heerdt** (90s) writes "I live in the beautiful, Big Sky country of Bozeman, MT with my most wonderful husband Casey who is a professional ski patroller at Big Sky Resort. Our dog Kirby also goes to work with Casey as a trained Avalanche Rescue Dog! We have a hilarious, beautiful, sassy, flirty (just like her mama) baby girl, Harlow who is now one year old (September 5th)!! She is an absolute joy and I am LOVING being a Mama! I work as a Labor and Delivery Nurse delivering lots and lots of babies, which I love! I live a pretty adventurous lifestyle out here enjoying all the outdoor pursuits Montana has to offer like skiing big mountains, hiking, biking, camping, hunting, gardening, rock climbing, rodeo watching and dancing around in cowboy boots!" We also heard from **Stacey Wagner**, ('11-'12) a counselor from Australia, who taught water skiing. She is currently living in Melbourne working as a travel agent at Flight Centre and missing camp. **Rick Thompson** ('73-'78), from Bellevue, WA still has a chance to hang out with **Mike Hayes** from Chicago a couple of times a year. **Stephanie Graham** (90s-00s) is teaching in a charter KIPP school in Helena Arkansas. **Nick Graham** (90s 00s) is working for an international bike touring company called DuVine and **Lizzie Graham** (00s) graduated from Emory University this past spring. **Sabrina Fabian Cherry** (90s-00s) and her brother **Alex Fabian** (90s-00s) are doing really well. Alex lives in Montreal, is married and has a little 2 year old boy named Tristan. He is doing investing with TD bank. Sabrina is living in Halifax, working for Radio-Canada as a reporter. **Heather Korman** (90s-00s) has been living in New Orleans for the past 4 years and ingraining herself in the vibrant art and culture the city has to offer. She has been working in the film industry in the art department. One of the films she worked on last year, "12 Years a Slave", will be coming out in October (fingers crossed for best film of the year!). **Lindsey Surbey** ('06-'07) has been living in Manhattan for 5 years. She works for Edelman Digital Agency as an account supervisor doing digital/social media strategy work for clients. She's been traveling quite a bit lately. She also writes that she lives down the block from Carly Green! She looks forward to a camp visit. **Matt Olsen** ('99-'05) lives in Brooklyn, New York City and works as a writer for DIRECTV's advertising department, focusing on their website. He still plays bass and loves frisbee. **Benjamin Weinstein Richmond** ('02-'10 graduated from Bowdoin College in May 2013. He is currently taking time off by working seasonally on the Appalachian Mountain Club

'Hut Croo,' and skiing. He will begin working for Deloitte Consulting out of Boston starting in February, 2014. **Benjamin Hirsch** ('02-'06) is currently working as a college readiness advocate in Austin Texas, helping at risk seniors become college eligible, and making the application process more accessible. He also works as an "inclusion counselor" at an after school rec center helping to incorporate a student with Down's syndrome into the group of students without disabilities. In his spare time he is in a garage band called Pollen, check them out at pollenatx.bandcamp.com **Sally Elliott** ('95-'04) just started medical school at UCLA. She is in a five year MD/MPH program called UCLA PRIME, which focuses on health care delivery, research and policy in underserved communities. **Jonathan Slavuter** (90s-00s) "Russian" is living in NYC and has been working as a graphic designer and web developer; doing freelance and working for a new startup called CoCreation Works – which is about to launch a new site. He has also been doing a lot of traveling / camping / hiking. **Russ Booth** (90s-00s) and wife Michaela welcomed a healthy baby girl, Raegan Lee Booth on September 14th, 2013. **Jen Parker** ('91-'07) lives in Burlington and



Little Raegan Lee Booth

works as a medical supervisor at the Humane Society. She is engaged to Dan Cypress, a September 2014 wedding is planned.

Winston Esposito ('99-'09) currently lives in northern California in Sunnyvale and works for Symantec doing corporate finance. He says he is still shooting arrows and hunting penguins in his free time. **Joshua Weiss** (00s) lives in Winnipeg and attends the University of Manitoba. He is in his third year of medical school. He will finally be starting "real" work in the hospital this year. **Wade Payson-Denney** ('03-'09) graduated from Bucknell University this past May, where he was a coxswain on the crew team for four years. He lives in Washington, D.C. and has been working at NBC News since June. He hopes to eventually get into political journalism. **Lena Gottesman** (90s-00s) is in her third year at Temple Medical School. She is considering a specialty in pediatrics. **Robin Meyers**, ('96 -'06), finished up at Dartmouth in '11 with degrees in Biology and Engineering. He is working in a genetics research lab at Children's Hospital in Boston. This year, he also played for the Boston Whitecaps, a new professional Ultimate Frisbee team affiliated with Major League Ultimate (MLU.com). They went undefeated and won the national championship game in Philadelphia. **Cameron Meyers**, ('98 - '13), graduated from Brown in '12 and spent a fifth year in Providence doing geology research. He recently moved to Minneapolis to begin a PhD program in geophysics at UMinn. Their mom, **Becky Meyers**, who is also the songbook editor, writes, "As you can see, both of my sons managed to exceed my own nine summers at Billings ('60 - '68)!!] **David Shapiro** (00s), our resident jack of all trades, is living the good life in Austin, TX and is doing sales, consulting, and real estate deals. He spent the last few weeks traveling around South America. **Brad Korman** (00-10s) is a junior at Oberlin College and finished an awesome semester abroad in Prague. **Alli Halprin** (00s) is a second year law student in Boston where she is kicking ars and taking names. **Eliza (Kittredge) Browning** (90s-00s) completed the re-build for her house near Burlington on the lake. Her twin daughters are adorable and spent their first day at CB for the round-the-lake marathon. **Katie (Kellogg) Hill** (90s) welcomed daughter Graysen this past summer. (See Picture) **Luke Gebb** (80s-90s) moved in to his new palatial pad in DUMBO with a deck the size of the Clock Tower lawn. He is still with AMEX running relationships with the top high-tech companies. His 3 boys are all doing well. **Yutaka Tamura** (80s-) has stepped out of his ivory tower this year to teach 7th graders. I can sleep safe at night knowing that kids in east Boston are getting the best education out there. **Mike Harley** (90s-00s) and family moved successfully to Guatemala. He is greatly enjoying it and has his golf club right across the street from his house. The Behars and Gebbs will be visiting him New Years of 2014. **Sammy Richman** (90s) was the personal chef this summer for a high profile



Little Graysen Hill

CEO on a private island in Maine. He had a great experience and he is now helping open a restaurant in Camden, ME. **Sarah Piampiano** (90s) continues her successful career as a professional triathlete. You can track all of her progress and accolades on her web page. **Peter Halprin's** (00s) bachelor party in Columbia was a great success! No one got dismembered, incarcerated, or lost any organs. His wedding is at the end of September in Baltimore.



Congratulations to Andy Schneider and his new wife Jessica who hosted a few Billings alumni at their fall wedding. From Right to left (front): Tyler, Peskin, Schneider, (Jessica Glickman) Back row from right to left: Cyrus Vazifdar, Chris DeYoung, Todd Gentry. Bikoff was in the wedding party but was MIA for those pics emulating the CB camp photos.

The editors of the Alumni CTT would like to thank our faithful informers: Sean Collins, Sarah Halton, Paul Behar and for all of you who wrote to share alumni news. We want more updates from alumni who attended camp in the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and 80s. Please contact us to share your news!

MEMORIES OF PRANKS AT CAMP

CB Pranks by Casey Huling

Over the years I've been on both the giving and receiving ends of some fantastic Billings pranks. Some were simple: mano a mano between me and Tyler Gardner. Others involved days of planning or the mobilization of the entire camp. Whatever the case, I always appreciate the creative spirit inherent to a quality prank, whether it ever comes to fruition or not. In no particular order I offer up a smattering of some of the good ones.

In some unknown year we pulled a classic bus station pick-up routine on Tony from Australia. After a roundabout trip to Quinabec road via the Houghton Hill ridge, we rounded the lake past the boat dock where we had planted Sarah Halton leaning over the open hood of a camp truck. Feigning good citizenry Adam Jenkins suggested we stop and help. Tony was game, so we pulled over 100 yards past the boat dock on the opposite side of the road. When we were equidistant between the two vehicles, Sarah closed the hood, jumped in the truck and sped off toward Treasure Island. Meanwhile, Willie climbed out of the bushes and sped off with the van toward camp. So Tony, Adam and I were standing in the middle of the road with not a car in sight. At that point Adam set the hook and said something to the effect of "Aw, man, I had my staff sweatshirt in that van." Never have I seen someone's face drain so quickly of blood when Tony turned to us and said "Everything I own is in that van, including my passport and all my money!" He proceeded to take off running after the van. Eventually we steered him onto the upper ballfield where the entire staff was standing around the van - he took it pretty well.

For Bob's first summertime board meeting as director we asked if he wanted us to do anything fun while the board members were there. He said we should do something during lunch since a handful of them would be eating the dining hall. We had about a half hour to come up with a plan and implement it. Drawing on our powers of persuasion, Willie and I got every single person in camp to dress in either black or white and march solemnly to lunch. At that point we thought the joke would be over and everyone would eat a regular lunch, but here is where the power of camp really shines. Instead of breaking character, every single person, save for the staff table and board members, ate in complete silence. No words were uttered when requesting someone pass the mayo. "Plates, cups, and silverware" was all done in pantomime. Someone quickly photocopied song sheets for Kumbaya and some other dirges - all sung with zero emotion and no table banging. I got up and read from that guy's book of horrific World War II tales. At one point someone spoke out during the meal and they were immediately placed in solitary confinement in one of the shopping carts that John and Anne had gotten. I don't think the board members appreciated it as much as we did, but it was still pretty epic.

There were many iterations of the three-man rock that I will outline in rudimentary terms: Staff A wakes up Staff B to pull a prank on Staff C. Meanwhile, Staff D, E and F take one of the rocks from around the Canadian flagpole and put it in the bed of Staff B. Classic.

"In 1955, Charlie Crowley and I got up real early one morning and went over to Cabin 15 where John Freitas, Sr. (CJ's Great-Grandfather), who was a counselor at the time, was sleeping in the cabin right by the front door. Charlie and I lit and threw into the cabin a large fire cracker and then hightailed it over to the boys' john just as the firecracker went off. Charlie was laughing so hard I thought he'd fall through the hole in his stall in the john. Mr. Freitas never figured out who'd set the firecracker."

Don Carmichael

"In 1984 or 85.....some staff members got up very early to set up the staff table for breakfast. They got two row boats to the shallow swim area. There proceeded to get the Staff Table and straddled it between the two boats and rowed it out to the "High Dive" float. Then they proceeded to row all the chairs, table settings and Uncle Ralph's little bell to the float. After morning "Colors" everyone who sat at the staff table was rowed out to the float. The waiters had to row all the food out to the table and the staff sat there and ate their breakfast. After breakfast they sang songs and did the morning announcements from the float with a "blow horn." It was exciting and funny because at the time nobody ever touch the "sacred" staff table."

John Lisak

"I know I was a bit of a flirt and probably a pain in the side of several male counselors, as we were a group that liked to prank. I remember moving everything that belonged to Jackie Wallstrom, out of his cabin and hid it all over campus. He wasn't a bit happy about it!"

Marti Warren

Thank You Marti Warren

I asked Marti to tell us a little bit about her CB background because you all should know this dedicated alumni who spent more than a decade behind the scenes helping alumni keep in touch through the 100th reunion, the Alumni Clocktower Times and the maintenance of the alumni database. She has just retired from the alumni committee and we are truly grateful for all her important work.

"I started camp very young, I was 6 and it was 1954. My mother, Arlene Wishart Sylvester, had been a camper and was active with the alumni at camp for many years. My sister Carolyn was already attending Billings. She loved it, and I was very, very homesick! I must have driven my counselors crazy because my parents did not send me back to Billings until I was a young teen. It was the early 1960's and now I loved my summers at Billings. I met kids from all over and continued on as a CIT and Counselor in the Junior section, in Cabin 5. It was the people and Vermont setting that brought me back year after year. I also loved working with the campers, I had fun with them and tried to make their camping experience a good one. I was particularly sensitive to kids that were homesick, having gone through it myself. I realized after my summers at Billings that I wanted to go into teaching and working with young children. **One thing attending a summer camp can do for you is make you grow up a bit and find yourself. It also makes you more sensitive to others needs whether, you are a camper or a counselor.**

I have so many wonderful memories of camp, I loved the campfires in the evening with any activity, the stars and the night sky are just the best in Vermont. Pulling in to camp with the iconic Clock Tower, tall pines and wonderful smell of being outside and home! Jack's Alive as a young child, scared me! The Color Wars were a blast when we were older, and brought about real bonding among the teams. I admit, I loved wearing the uniform sailor shirts and navy shorts and walking along the winding road to church in Post Mills on Sundays with my cabin.

We had a group that hung together and were all counselors together and many of them I am still in touch with. Larry Lanza, Ken Noyes, Mike Klein, Marie White, Susan Hardy, Marcia Duvoll, Jackie Wallstrom, Roo Mold, the Roy boys from Woodstock, they all added into the summer fun in the early '60's. They were the reason I came back year after year. The final goodbye was always hard. Larry was from New York City and I loved hearing his stories of life in the big city. Seeing so many of them at the 100th Reunion was so meaningful.

I do remember dish duty and setting the tables and the wonderful cook Betty Dresser, who kept everyone in line including Uncle Ralph, except the night we (staff) sneaked into the kitchen and helped ourselves to some goodies! She was not happy!

My later years of involvement with Billings started out as an assistant to my sister Carolyn, who was on the

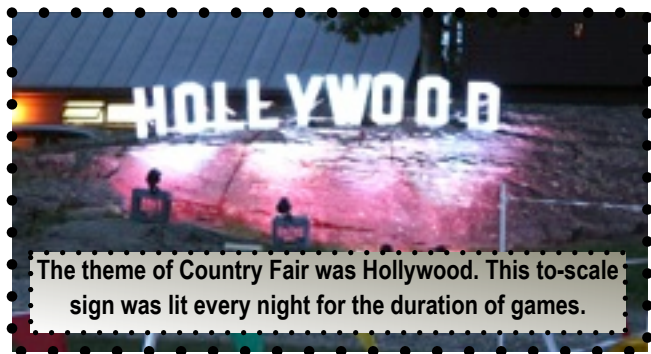
Billings Board of Directors and taking over the Alumni Chairman. We both knew that it was important for camp's longevity to stay in touch with alumni. Our mother had been long involved with alumni get togethers from early years. We needed to update the alumni database for the camp (well over 4000 at the time), and stay in touch regularly with alumni through our Clock Tower Newsletter. I really enjoyed being the contact for so many alumni. Uncle Ralph was the ultimate contact for most of the campers and staff. He was so dedicated, communicating with alumni all year long, I got so I loved just hearing his voice when he called with an update. **He never forgot a name, and anyone that attended camp. In my eyes he was Camp Billings! For me a piece of camp was lost, when he passed away.**

My proudest moment was working on a very successful 100th Weekend Reunion and pulling together a photo book of the event. I felt all the previous years of reaching out to alumni paid off. It was so wonderful to see so many alumni back in touch with Billings and celebrating our camps birthday, surprisingly enough it really hadn't changed very much! It was especially great to see my old Billings friends back for the weekend. I am glad that Uncle Ralph lived to see and enjoy the event. My mother's generation had Dad Hurd and my generation had Uncle Ralph, without these two men Billings would not be the success it is today."



Ralph thanks Marti Warren at the 100th reunion for all her work on the alumni committee alongside her sister Carolynn Churchill.

Summer 2013: Best of...



The theme of Country Fair was Hollywood. This to-scale sign was lit every night for the duration of games.

Best New Program Areas:

Many thanks go to a donation from **Sandy Golden-Dukes** (Camper and Staff 2000s) who launched **Paddle boarding** on Lake Fairlee. It was the BIG hit of the summer - every day campers formed lines to use the new paddle boards, called Yolo Yaks.

Top 3 fashion trends at camp for men and women

Boys - Short shorts, cross-dressing, tanks
Girls - Bean boots, flowy skirts, Brandy Melville dresses

Best program area cheer:

Windsurfing!

(To the tune of Salt n' peppa)
Counselor: "Come on wind!"
Camp: "Da da da da da da... push it real good!"

SPONSOR A SONGBOOK OR TWO!

Visit the camp store online if you would like to own your copy of the Camp Billings songbook. Your small donation will go towards reprinting new ones for camp.