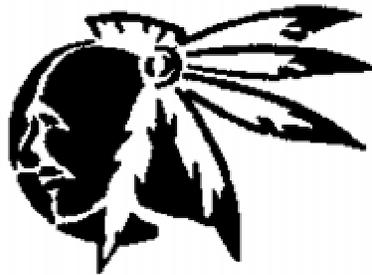


CAMP TECUMSEH

100th Year Reunion Book



1903 - 2003

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EDITING NOTE

My thanks to the many people who submitted stories for this Reunion Book. Unfortunately, several of the stories had to be edited out due to "over-the-line" content. My apologies to those of you who submitted stories that got voted out of the book. Those of you who are dying to know what the stories were that got voted out are welcome to contact me.

Introduction

The *Camp Tecumseh 100th Year Reunion Book* is a collection of random articles and stories collected from the 100 years of Camp Tecumseh history. It is written for the people who attend Camp Tecumseh's two 100th Anniversary celebrations. The first Reunion is to be held on April 26, 2003 at the Union League in Philadelphia. The second Reunion is planned for mid-August, up in New Hampshire.

I have gathered these stories from a wide range of places. The majority of stories have come from Tecumseh alumni via the internet. Some stories have come from reviewing the countless old *Sunbeam* newspapers that I have saved over the years. Other stories in this book come from Fred G. Clark's book "*Camp Tecumseh 1903 - 1993*" which was published in 1994. Fred's book is phenomenal. All Tecumseh people should get a copy (they are available for purchase through Camp Director Jim Talbot). When Fred's book came out, I purchased two copies so that if one copy got damaged or lost, I would still have the other copy.

The Reunion Book is not an attempt to tell the history of Camp Tecumseh. Fred's book has already done that. My book is written in the hopes of people getting an understanding of life at Tecumseh during the different time periods from Tecumseh's start up through the present day. Many different people contributed to the book. Each writer has expressed his memories and feelings from his time at Tecumseh. Some people chose to write fond memories of people that they remember. Some people chose to write fond memories of events that took place. Other people wrote about funny things that happened at Tecumseh. Some people wrote about sad things while others wrote about life lessons learned from their days at Tecumseh.

The stories contained in this book are sorted chronologically. I have made no attempt to sort the stories by subject. I have tried to acknowledge the author of each story, or at least acknowledge the people who helped to contribute to each story.

While organizing this book, I have had the pleasure of interacting with many people from Tecumseh's past. I have traded many e-mails with Clint Roth who first came to Tecumseh in 1929. I have also been in touch with Bus Gager who first came to Tecumseh in the early 1930's. I knew his father when I was a camper. Forrest is one of the true legends of Tecumseh. I have also interacted with Fred Clark quite a bit. He too was at Tecumseh in the 1930's. These men still have a great love for Tecumseh, a place they first attended over 60 years ago. I have also been in touch with many Tecumseh men from the 1940's and 1950's, several of whom are now Tecumseh Trustees. I have included stories from the 1940's from such people as Dave McMullin, Water Buckley, Bill Lilley, Peter Stanley, Jay Crawford, Peter Benoliel, Frank Bartone, Frank Heston, Karl Rugart, Jon Greenawalt, David Farley, John Fuller, Ted Ely, Bill Hamilton, Andy Supplee, Tex Dampann and Brooks Keffer.

It has been great to get back in touch with many of my contemporaries from the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. In recent months, I have heard from people such as Mark MacCracken, John (Jack) Armstrong, Sam Griffin, Jules Korner, Mark Luff, Tom Welsh, Sam Griffin, Dave DeWitt, Art Garrett, Hart Baur, Henry Whittlesey, Andy Baxter, Dan Leibovitz, E.J. McQuade, James Degus, Gerry McGinley, Will Nord, Nick "N.T.D." Harmelin, Don Triolo, Bill "Chickenhead" Keffer, Rob "Squats" Ryan, George Degerberg, Erik Strid, Peter Strid, Steve Skillman, The O'Shea Brothers, Lee Allman, Jim Quiggle, Gerry McGinley, Andy Baxter, Mike Haley, The Miller Brothers, Bob Scott, The Roberts Brothers, David McMullin, A Bunch Of Jannettas, , Dan Keating, Ira Miles, Mike Negry, Bob Gray, Edwin Van Dusen, The Goodwin Brothers, Doug Ormond, The Chiliberti Brothers, The Mazza Brothers, Al Piper, Mike Gerber, John Winstead and many, many others.

It has been great to be back in touch with all of these people. After the reunions, I am hoping that I will be able to organize a more formal "Camp Tecumseh Alumni Association." I have absolutely no idea what this organization would do, probably just meet somewhere, tell outrageous stories from our days at Tecumseh, and have a good laugh. Actually, that sounds like a great idea.

I cannot possibly thank Camp Tecumseh enough for what it did for me. I first came up to Tecumseh in 1968. I loved being up at Tecumseh. Growing up in a very difficult family situation, I know that I had a lot of emotional and social issues that annoyed many of Tecumseh's directors, counselors and campers. I apologize to the people who I was mean to over the years. There are many things I wish I could undo from the past, though I guess everyone has that feeling to some extent.

There were two things that kept me going in my younger days: the sport of soccer and Camp Tecumseh. When I was younger, I played soccer for Gladwyne Soccer Club (now known as Lower Merion Soccer Club) and Harriton High School. Today, I am President of Lower Merion Soccer Club, head coach for Harriton High School Boys Varsity and a Trustee at Camp Tecumseh. I obviously believe in giving back to the institutions that got me through a very difficult childhood.

I want to thank my wife Karin for allowing me the opportunity to do the things I do within the soccer world and Camp Tecumseh. I also want to thank my two step-children Kalle and Hanni. The three of them have brought a lot of happiness to my life, as have my two dogs, Baci and Rover (sorry, the dogs made me write that!!!!)

I also want to thank the Directors and other major players at Tecumseh that I have known since 1968. First, George Munger, who was a wonderful man, one of the greatest men I have ever known. My thanks also to Don McBride, Richard Roe, Hench Murray and Jim Talbot for their excellent leadership at Tecumseh. They made our camp the most wonderful place on earth for boys to grow up in. I especially want to thank Hench Murray. In 1996, after his first summer as Director, he contacted me and offered to take me out to lunch. I had stopped going up to Tecumseh after the 1992 summer because I had turned 35 years of age and just thought it was time for me to move on to other things in life. After having lunch with Hench, I quickly got the Tecumseh spirit again. I eagerly volunteered to put together a web page for Tecumseh, since I was working in the web page design business at the time.

My thanks also to Bob Glascott and Jim Fraser who have served at Tecumseh for over 50 years. Each of them kicked me in the butt more times than I dare admit, but always for a good reason. I wish I had known Alexander Grant, camp's founder and director for 44 years. The older generation talk about Grant like people of my generation talk about George Munger. So, I also say thank you to the three men who founded Camp Tecumseh in 1903: Alexander Grant, George Orton and Josiah McCracken.

I hope all of you enjoy this 100th Anniversary Book about Tecumseh.

Biff Sturla
April, 2003

Dedication

The *Camp Tecumseh 100th Year Reunion Book* is dedicated to the following people:

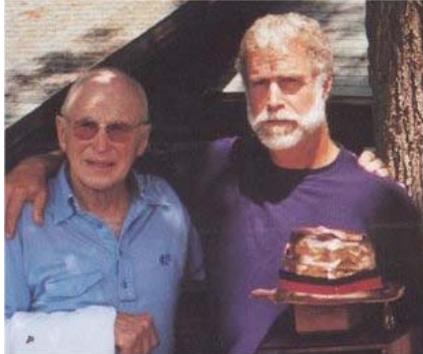
- Alexander Grant, founder and Director from 1903 through 1946.
- George Orton, founder and Director from 1903 through 1923.
- Dr. Josiah McCracken, founder and Director from 1903 through 1905.
- Al Wagner, at Tecumseh from 1925 - 1962, Director from 1947 through 1951.
- Forrest L. Gager, at Tecumseh from 1924 through 1986.
- Pinky Shover, at Tecumseh from 1927 through 1983.
- George Munger, Director 1952 through 1976 and at Tecumseh through 1994.
- Don McBride, Director at Tecumseh from 1977 through 1984.
- Richard Roe, Director at Tecumseh from 1985 through 1995.
- Hench Murray, Director at Tecumseh from 1996 through 2000.
- Jim Talbot, Director at Tecumseh since 2001.
- Jim Fraser, at Tecumseh from 1948 through today.
- Bob Glascott, at Tecumseh from 1951 through today.



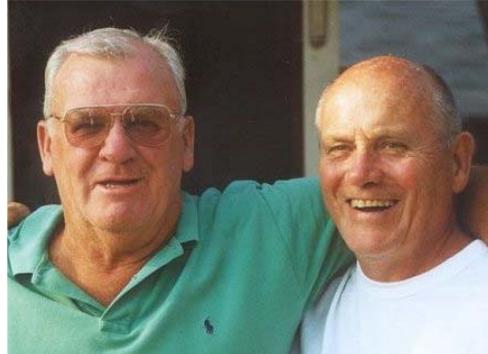
George Orton and Alexander Grant in 1916



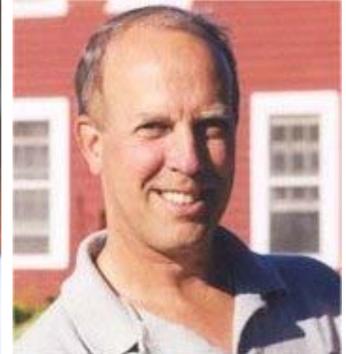
Jim and Nina Talbot, 2001



George Munger and Richard Roe, 1989



Jim Fraser and Bob Glascott, 2002



Hench Murray, 2000



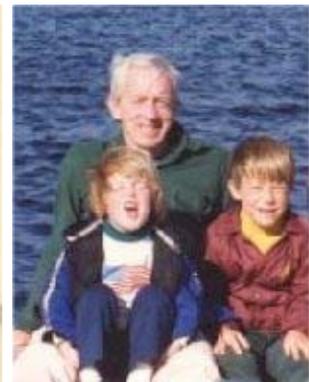
Al Wagner, 1939



Forrest L. Gager, 1939



Pinky Shover, 1939



Don McBride, 1979