
THE LONE PINE

WINTER, 1984-85

A PENDALOUAN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II, NO. 2

A LEGACY OF LOVE AND SERVICE

"UNCLE BEN" and "AUNT MARGARET" RASCHE have left a legacy of love and service at Camp Pendalouan. Their lives have ended, but the memory of their giving lives on in the lives they touched. **RON COOK** called me this spring to indicate to us that "Aunt Margaret" had died — May 21, 1984. Her passing reminded us of their service together at Pendalouan. "Uncle Ben" preceded her in death on May 29, 1972.

Both "Uncle Ben" and "Aunt Margaret" were school teachers. They decided that they would like to bring their family camping in the summer. Camps in Colorado and Minnesota were investigated along with Pendalouan. The day the family arrived from Missouri, they were invited to lend a hand in finishing up the new "Wigwam." That was in 1956. They continued to return to Pendalouan for nine years — through 1964.

That first "greeting" at Pendalouan taught the Rasches something significant — everybody helps! "Uncle Ben and "Aunt Margaret" were joined that year by sons **JOHN** and **GEORGE** as well as youngest — daughter **KATHY**. All of their children had a part of the Pendalouan staff in a variety of roles. The family spent a combined total of 33 years of service at Pendalouan!

Memories of the Rasches always center on service. The time campers returned to camp drenched from a downpour to find a cheery fire in the fireplace with lots of delicious hot chocolate. Remember walks on the Monkey Bridge? "Uncle Ben" built that along with hundreds of puzzles and games for campers to enjoy. Rainy days become delightful memories with games, stories and fellowship initiated by the Rasches.

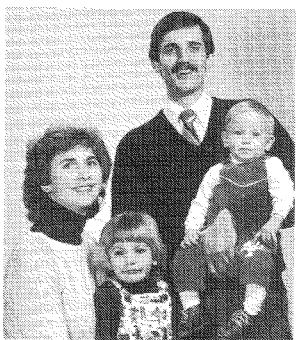
Their service went beyond what was expected. Salaries in those days were meager too! Not a summer went by that "Uncle Ben" and Aunt Margaret" didn't contribute something special they saw the campers would enjoy — new hymn books for the chapel, new arrows for archery, a new diving board, a part in the new Volleyball/Basketball court, or an addition to their cabin.



The RASCHE FAMILY

The Rasches kept coming back. As "**CHIEF** HORSELY indicates, there were three reasons for staff members to return. They liked camping and youth and were motivated toward Christian service. Second, in the camp experience they found an opportunity to use their considerable gifts and talents. Finally, they had fun in what they were doing. All of these reasons for returning were evident for the Rasche family.

Certainly the stories of the whole family could be chronicled in greater detail. **KATHY** (Rasche) **LINKE'S** stories as one of the 2-3 females in camp is an article in itself. It is their contribution, their legacy that is most important. This legacy reminds and challenges each of us to make a difference. The Rasches did. "Chief" aptly sums up their contribution: "Each of the Rasches were full of fun and never seemed at a loss for ideas — good times those years — we will long remember."



"ON THE STUMP"

Camping...an experience that lasts a lifetime. I'm sure most readers would agree with that as they look back on their Pendalouan experiences. What are the intangibles that make these memories? A number of articles in this issue highlight these memories. The **RASCHE'S, "EDDIE,"** International Camping, Dad & Son — all of these articles are full of the

"stuff" of which memories are made.

These aspects of Pendalouan past and present will make our future great. You see, we're not in the recreation business — teaching swimming, sailing, archery, canoeing, etc. We're in the business of building people. We teach self-esteem, independence, interdependence, world-mindedness, and the

Continued on page 4.

CAMPERSHIPS PROVIDED

A success! That's the only word for it. We increased camper-ship contributions three-fold in one year! Thanks to the able leadership of **JACK STEINDLER** and his team of **DON BENTON, LOWELL DANA, JOHN GILMAN, STEVE LEAFERS, CHARLES LUYENDYKE, DOUG NOBLE** and **JACK RICE** we were able to raise over \$3,000 for our campership fund.

Contributions came in all sizes from a variety of sources. The following Pendalouan friends and alumni contributed: **DR. HARRY ARTHUR, DON BENTON, PAUL CHRISTIE, THOMAS CLOCK, JR., HAROLD CLOSZ, STEPHEN CLINK, CHARLES CLOVER, COLES QUALITY FOODS, COMERICA BANK-HACKLEY, DANA PRINTING CORP., DR. LARRY GARBER, DR. WILLIAM HORNBECK, HOUSE OF TRAVEL, JAMES JACKSON, JOHN C. KOSTER, BEATRICE and RUSS LABELLE, STEVE and BRENDA LEAFERS, MUSKEGON SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, DOUGLAS NOBLE, E.C. PATULLO, MAX PAULSEN, SHERMAN POPPEN, JACK W. RICE, FRANK RINELLA, DARYL and MARIE SIEPLINGA, JACK STEINDLER,**

Continued on page 4.

"HEARTWOOD"

PENDALOUAN — INTERNATIONAL

The Muskegon YFCA has established an International linkage with the Peru, YMCA. This linkage became real for us at camp Pendalouan with the arrival of **CARLOS CORBELLA** as an addition to our summer camp staff.

Of course Pendalouan has been involved with international staff in the past. This tradition has begun anew this year. With the help of a YMCA Young Professional Abroad — **PHIL DAVIS** — we recruited and hired Carlos for this past summer.

Carlos is 24 years old and has been involved with YMCA camping for many years. He served on the Lima, Peru YMCA camp staff the last two winters (Peru's vacation and summer-like season is in January and February). This January and February will be a new experience for Carlos as it will be his first snow season!

Carlos enjoyed his experience at Pendalouan so much that he has made arrangements to stay! He has requested a visa change so that he can study at Muskegon Community College this winter. He will be serving in support roles throughout the winter and spring and will return on the summer staff during the 1985 summer season.

The success of our renewed emphasis on an International effort with our camping program has led to even greater expectations. We plan to have at least one other International Counselor in 1985 in addition to our participation in WORLD CAMP — 1985 (see related article).

These experiences are designed to enhance International Understanding. To the extent that these experiences help campers and staff members to see each other as fellow human beings, we have accomplished our goal.

WORLD CAMP — 1985 "IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND"



Camp Pendalouan will be involved in one of the most exciting opportunities ever this summer. As part of our Centennial Celebration (see related story), we will participate in WORLD CAMP—1985.

We will be bringing 2-3 young people from other countries to our camp this summer! They will stay with Pendalouan families for 2 weeks, attend camp for 10 days, then join with 100 other campers (½ Americans, ½ International) in a two-week WORLD CAMP experience at the Dayton, Ohio YMCA Camp Kern!

Our targets for International Campers to come to Pendalouan are Lima, Peru; Australia and Sierra Leone. What an exciting opportunity to share in a world-wide fellowship! We're excited about Pendalouan's part in the Program! To make this happen, we will have to raise nearly \$6,000 for transportation and other fees. Most of this money has already been arranged. If YOU are interested in helping be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event, contact us.

WE NEED THREE PENDALOUAN CAMPERS and their families to make this happen. We will need **three 15-17 year-old campers** willing to participate in an International experience. These families will host the International Camper and the camper will attend Pendalouan and the WORLD CAMP program with them. Any family interested in participating should contact the Camp Director.



CARLOS and a group of campers in our *NEW TIPI!*

SUMMER, 1984

A quality experience! Our 1984 summer camping season saw increased participation, new programs and an enthusiastic staff. Earlier, we examined what makes memories. It seems we had many of the ingredients necessary to make memories last summer. Listen to some of the parent's comments:

"I really thought the counselor was great. (She was) very friendly and made our daughter feel at home and secure."

"I was **very** impressed with the maturity and organization of our daughter's counselor."

"Keep up the good work and continue to run a clean and fun-filled program."

"I wanted our son to go to camp and experience camping with a group that would accept him. This was accomplished. He was happy when he came home — that says it all."

"Our son learned new skills, made new friends in a group situation and became more independent."

"The activities our daughter told us about sounded like old-fashioned fun. I wish I had this same experience as a child."

"As always, my feelings were extremely positive. I **know** there are a lot of very good things going on there. Not the least of which is an ongoing experience of loving and caring for people."

SUMMER, 1984 — MAKING MEMORIES!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION — THE PENDALOUAN EXPERIENCE YEAR-ROUND

One of the programs at Camp Pendalouan which has grown the most in the past 18 months and shows the greatest potential for growth in the future is OUTDOOR EDUCATION. It is not an entirely new program to Pendalouan. School groups have been coming to Pendalouan on an occasional basis since the early 70's.

Environmental Education really began in Southern Michigan in the 1930's when W.K. Kellogg provided funds for a camp program for students of the Battle Creek school system. That program continued at the Battle Creek Clear Lake Camp. During the environmental movement of the 1970's, Outdoor Education grew a great deal.

At Camp Pendalouan from September through June we provide programs for K-Jr. High age students either at camp or at their school site. Programs vary in length from a single day to a full week. Our curriculum includes study in animals, plants, aquatic life, general ecology, habitat, weather, energy, our senses, resource decision-making, group problem solving, wilderness survival, tracking, cross-country skiing and Michigan History (including pioneers, loggers, voyagers and Indians). Most school programs include about four hours of classes with time in the afternoon for recreation. In the evenings we have campfires, games, nighthikes, skits, square dances and other evening programs.

This past school year we were able to serve over 1500 students in our Outdoor Education Program. Through these contacts with young people we hope to keep the children of our urbanized society in touch with the environment. We can teach things in the outdoors which cannot be handled in the classroom. If these students are going to make wise decisions on the nation's resources in the future we need to give them a knowledge and respect for nature now.

As with all "Y" camping programs, we are concerned with the growth of the individual. Camp provides a fun and healthy group-living situation which makes Outdoor Education — like summer camp — an experience which lasts a lifetime.

"ROOTS"

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article appeared in the September 12, 1984 issue of *The Muskegon Chronicle*. It later appeared in *The Kalamazoo Gazette*.

SUPER CAMPER

56 years of camping at Pentalouan make counselor, 72 a symbol of continuity

By **ELIZABETH DOUGLAS**
Chronicle staff writer

With characteristic modesty, he says he's "just the old guy who keeps going to camp."

But directors and campers at the YFCA Camp Pentalouan, 1243 Fruitvale, in Montague, think 72-year-old Edwin "Eddie" Boersema is much more than that.

HE IS A SYMBOL of continuity for the camp. He's led hikes, turtle dives and river trips, instructed swimming, taken countless slides of campers and camp life and told campfire stories that have kept the most cantankerous campers still.

Boersema knows how to please the kids because he was in their shoes a Camp Pentalouan in 1927 at age 15.

And in the 57 years since he was a camper, Boersema has missed only a few summers at Camp Pentalouan — those he spent in service during the war.

"My going to camp was just sort of a custom I kept up," Boersema said. "I was a willing worker, that's about it — I guess I must've liked it to keep going all these years."

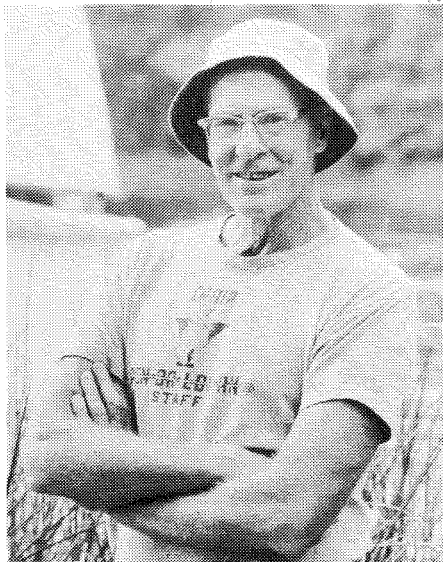
UNTIL HE RETIRED in 1969, Boersema was a "railway mailman" (a mailman on a train). For vacations, instead of going on a trip, he went to camp.

"It's been kind of a home for me — living outdoors and going camping and swimming and having all the nice company," said Boersema. "It's just healthy for a person to be out by a lake and get fresh air and exercise."

It's kind of a hard adjustment — you pack up for camp, and then you have to come home to the city and live in a house," he said.

WHEN CAMP'S not in session, Boersema keeps his feet wet as a volunteer swimming instructor for the Red Cross, something he has done for more than 45 years. He also spends time swimming, reading, traveling and camping.

"He's amazing in terms of his outlook on life and his physical capabilities at age 72," said Daryl Sieplinga, director of the YFCA camp.



Chronicle photo by **JEFF SCHRIER**

Sieplinga said when he was a camper in the 1960's, "Kids would do whatever they could — they'd write all over the registration form or come in and talk to a counselor or they'd return to the camp for the fifth or sixth time — just to get Eddie as a counselor."

James "Red" Heeres, 329 Muskegon in Whitehall, has known Boersema for 45 years.

"He's just a beautiful human being," said Heeres, who was waterfront director at the camp for eight years. "Every time his name comes up, it makes me happy. I just grin and feel good."

And every year brings more people in contact with Boersema — and ultimately adds still more names to his long list of fans.

"Everybody wanted to be in his cabin because you had fun all the time," said Heeres. "There was always way more campers who wanted him as counselor than we could give him."

"HE COULD BE A KID with kids because he is one," Heeres said. "Eddie could do a Tarzan call you could hear across the lake — I was a grown man and I'd always ask him to do his Tarzan call."

His entertainment talents notwithstanding, Boersema's specialty is swimming.

He has been so involved in the swimming program at the camp that Pentalouan's waterfront was dedicated to him a few years ago. Heeres, who wrote the dedication speech, said Boersema has probably taught more people to swim than anyone in the county — or even in the state.

Because Boersema was more active at the camp several years ago, some of his most devoted fans are now adults. And now they send their own children and grandchildren to experience the camp and "Eddie."

GORDON VEURINK, 50 of 18969 Fruitport Road, had Boersema as a cabin counselor in 1947 and 1948.

"He just was the type of counselor that you had a lot of confidence in," he said. "You just felt good being with him."

His son Gary, who went to camp in 1966, also knows Boersema.

"Eddie's very caring and he likes to spend time with people — young people particularly," he said. "He doesn't just teach swimming, though; he tries to emphasize good character."

The Veurinks keep in touch with Boersema through the annual father and son camp sessions, which they have attended for more than 15 years.

IN A FEW YEARS Boersema and Camp Pentalouan may see a third generation of the Veurink Family — Gary Veurink plans to send his children to the camp when they are older.

And the Veurinks are joined by another camp family; Sherman Bos, 62, of 502 Nelson and his sons Tom, Jim and Bruce.

"Eddie's kind of an institution at Camp Pentalouan," said Bos. "I think everyone who's ever been to the Y camp has met Eddie."

If they didn't meet him when he was a camper in 1927, they might have known him as a "junior worker" or as kitchen help. Any time after 1930, though, those who met Boersema knew him as counselor, swimming instructor, camp photographer, leader of hikes and adventure trips of all kinds, story-teller and father-figure.

IN FACT, BOERSEMA'S popularity with the campers stems in part from his ability to be both father and comrade to the kids.

Twelve-year old Tony Oriz, the son of Robert and Deborah Klingel of 1223 Graf, has known Boersema for six years.

"My first year at camp, I was walking around and I didn't have anything to do and he was walking around and he started talking," Tony said. "He asked my where I lived and how I was doing. We just walked around and he showed me his pictures and he told me about Sleepy Hollow and stuff."

Even though Boersema's responsibilities at the camp are fewer now, his enthusiasm hasn't waned with the years.

"If I don't get sick or something, I'll try to keep going to camp," Boersema said. "But if I can't perform, I don't want to sit on the bench out there. It's a long, busy day and you've got to be strong."

And he added with his renowned humility, "I always wait to be invited — especially the last two years — because I don't want to impose on them."

"BRANCHING OUT"

DAD & SON A TRADITION CONTINUES

There's no program more rich in tradition than the annual Dad & Son Weekend in August. This weekend has been a summer highlight for three generations!

Dad & Son participants always play a major role in providing for continuation and expansion of our programs. This year the Sunday Chapel Service collection provided the following contributions:

BUNKBED AND MATTRESS FUND	\$108.00
WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENT	53.00
CAMPERSHIP CAMPAIGN	62.00
YMCA WORLD SERVICE	97.48
TOTAL	\$320.48

We appreciate traditions at Pentalouan. THANKS Dads and Sons for making the tradition continue.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YMCA CAMPING!



Five score years ago...our forefathers had a GREAT IDEA! Get the city kids out into the woods. Who would have known in 1885 that a camping experience with 7 boys would grow into a program touching over 1.2 million people each year. Growth occurred because there was evidence that "this type of fun and adventure could also change lives." Such is the magnitude of YMCA Camping.

We're going to celebrate in 1985. You'll hear more about that celebration as the year progresses. First, plan on seeing the emblem above on all our promotional pieces. Second, we're tying the celebration to 60 years in our present location and we're developing a "birthday" logo of our own. Third, **mark your calendars** for a Pentalouan Birthday Party — Saturday, June 15, 1985! (You'll receive a special invitation.) Fourth, we'll be involved in a **WORLD CAMP PROGRAM** (see related story). Finally, we have a special event scheduled for July 31, 1985.

Join us in celebrating a century of service in YMCA camping. Join us in celebrating our past as we look forward to a rewarding future!

"ON THE STUMP," Continued from page 1.

appreciation for God and His Creation. Certainly we teach skills. The paddles and canoes and swim dock are means to greater ends — they're tools for building memories.

The **LONE PINE** will continue because people want to be reminded — if even only twice each year. Many individuals have contacted us to indicate their appreciation. Along with them (and Bob Hope) I echo their comments..."THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES..."

THE LONE PINE

YFCA CAMP PENTALOUAN
900 W. Western Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49441



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OUR FRIENDS!

Since the last **LONE PINE**, we've received a number of gifts from our friends. Of course our campership contributors played a significant role in our service (see related article). In addition, the following people and groups made contributions to our program:

BILL AND DAVE BALDRIDGE	Waterfront Improvement
GEERPRESS, INC.	Mop Buckets and Wringers
GREATER MUSKEGON SERVICE LEAGUE	Bunkbeds and Mattresses
DR. AND MRS. ARTHUR GOLIN	Bunkbeds and Mattresses
SCOTTY GOLIN	Waterfront Improvement
DAVID GREEN - The Other Computer Store	Use of 7 Computers
WILLIAM HENTSCHEL	Campership Fund
HOUSE OF HOBBIES	Craft Supplies
JERRY KRAUSE	New Boat Dock Stands
WILLIAM LANG	Scaffolding Use
MUSKEGON LIONS CLUB	Bunkbed and Mattresses
EVENING OPTIMISTS	Bunkbed and Mattresses
FRANCIS MARQUARD	Trailer Use
KEN AND BRIAN POST	Waterfront Improvement
GARY AND BRENT ROGERS	Waterfront Improvement
GORDON VEURINK	Raft Barrells and Bouys
WARD AND SCOTT WILSON	Bunkbed and Mattresses
JOHN WITT	.22 Rifle and Chapel Benches
NOON Y'S MEN	\$10,000 in Kitchen Equipment

On behalf of the THOUSANDS of people who have benefited from these gifts — THANKS!

CAN YOU HELP?

We've published a list of needed items in each **LONE PINE**. In the past it has been quite a "catalog" of needs. Many of these needs have been met. Others are still needed. This time, we'd like to focus on just a few specific and desperately needed items:

- **SNOWMOBILE FOR SKI TRAIL GROOMING**
- **LIFEGUARD BOAT AND MOTOR • TENTS — all types and sizes**
- **BB GUNS • BINOCULARS • PICK-UP TRUCK (running condition)**
- **AQUARIA • AIR COMPRESSOR AND PAINT SPRAYER**

You may have the item on hand, but unused. You may be interested in contributing toward its purchase. Can you help? Contact the Camp Director.

CAMPERSHIPS PROVIDED - Continued from page 1.

HAROLD STREET, JOSEPH TAYLOR, and BRUCE WATHEN. A Significant gift from the **MUSKEGON KIWANIS CLUB** enabled us to top the \$3,000 mark!

That's good news! You guessed it — there's also bad news. Although we limit campership recipients and ask EVERY camper to pay part of their fee, we failed to cover over \$2,000 in our campership efforts. Would you like to help? We don't want to start our 1985 camping season with a negative campership fund. Your Kids-To-Camp contribution in **any amount** would be greatly appreciated. Please indicate "Campership Fund" with your tax-deductible contribution.

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