

# About the Devil's Lake Girl Scout Camp

By Eloise Hardy

(Age 12)

## Making Dreams Come True

Day camp was always fun for the Girl Scouts, but it was just a taste of camping. We wanted to stay overnight and cook all our meals out-of-doors. So we dreamed of having our own camp with adequate facilities for troop camping.

The Girl Scout Council likewise had that dream and one of the members saw a chance to help it come true in the form of Rev. Wilson's cottages. This is how it happened.

## Reverend Clark Wilson's Resort

Rev. Wilson's Resort was located at the foot of the east bluff and across the stream from the university engineer's camp. The resort consisted of 4 cottages built around an opening in the woods where a large fireplace stood. Long ago he promised Mrs. Stewart that if he should decide to sell the property he would give the first opportunity to the Girl Scouts. In 1946 he told her that he had to sell his summer cottages because of poor health. The price was \$2,200.00. Mrs. Stewart went at once to E. A. Swanson, chairman of the "Dad's Patrol" and asked for his approval. Next the matter was discussed with the Girl Scout Council and with Harold Langer and Ted Mandt. By that time others were bidding against the Girl Scouts and so the price kept going up. Finally one Friday afternoon in October, Rev. Wilson called Mrs. Stewart to say he was very sorry they were having competition and that he would sell the cottages to the Girl Scout Council for \$3,000 with the provision that the payment would be made by noon of the following day.

That evening the Girl Scout Council and the "Dad's Patrol" met. The first contribution was made by E. A. Swanson. The list of possible contributors was divided among the men so that the necessary amount could be raised by Saturday noon. When the time arrived and the contributions were counted there was \$2,300. The

bank loaned the Council the rest of the money. The lease for the property was then turned over to the Girl Scouts. Too much praise cannot be given to the men of the "Dad's Patrol" for soliciting of and spending all of their available hours collecting money to meet the deadline. They later completed the collection so in a few days the bank loan was repaid.

## Donors

Amundson, H. C.	Baraboo National Bank
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Next, the State of Wisconsin would have to make an inspection. The state came to look over the camp and was happy to

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see such a fine layout. He inspected in nine counties and said that he "had never seen as nice and complete a camp."

He suggested that we work toward having our own water system. At present the drinking water had to be carried from a well.

Thanks should go to the following for their help in many different ways: Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Moedinger, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dunne, Mr. Emil Ploenske, Dr. Tryon, Paul Herfort, Leslie Goman, E. Vanderwall, Frank Horn, Gerry Woelffer, William Ott, Curt Page, Larry Stewart and the Baraboo News Company.

A training class conducted by Mrs. Curt Page was held for leaders and camp committee members. Mrs. Page was a nationally trained consultant and had conducted the camp at Portage for several years.

The national standards of camping had to be adhered to and the whole committee was very anxious to have it excel in every way.

Finally they thought the best solution would be to have permanent counselors at the camp for the season. Troop camping does not provide for such, but in as much as many of the leaders have families of their own they could not find the time to take their troop camping and comply with the regulations. The camp committee secured for counselors girls of special qualifications and the camp open as scheduled on July first.

Yes! At last the Girl Scout's dream of a camp that they could call their own came true. The new camp became known as "Camp Cho-Taka-Tipi on Koshawago Springs."

After the purchase was complete, the Isenberg Contractors were given the job of altering one cottage into a kitchen and general meeting place in case of rain. Here, drop tables were installed for eating or handicrafts in case of rain. The main partitions were taken down and that lumber was used to build a large waterproof outside

cupboard to house all the dishes and equipment used for the campfires and for meals cooked out of doors.

The McArthurs were very cooperative and did the wiring for the lights, putting up large central poles for yard lights and installing lamps on the working tables.

A general clean-up day was announced and it was disappointing to have so few come out to help. As it was getting near to camp-time, it was necessary to hire someone to wash the windows and mop the floors. Westy's(?) troop came several times to spray paint the chairs, tables and bureaus. Mayor and Mrs. Hornung sent a lovely flag and pole for the yard. The men working for the state under the supervision of Mr. Vanderwall brought the picnic tables and fireplaces and a supply of wood.

A load of lime chips was donated by the city to make paths because the clay was so slippery when wet.

Two older boys were kind enough to come and dig the hole required for the dish water disposal.

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Thanks go to Eloise Hardy Wilson for permission to print these memories written when she was a young girl of 12 years of age. Eloise graduated from the Baraboo High School in 1951.