

Reminiscence From A Camper's Perspective

by Wendy Gertelman Nenner

In 1984 my parents rented a bungalow on the house side (now referred to as the house-a-low). It was Beaver Lake's 2nd summer. They bought a house 2 years later. There were still bunks on our side that would later turn into houses. The P road wasn't fully paved yet and there were trailers where the bungalow side tennis courts are now. Camp went from 9:30am to 5pm. All we needed to take with us to camp was a towel because we would go home for lunch and change for general swim. We were obsessed with lanyard bracelets (I could never master the cobra stitch). At camp we played hand games such as: Miss Mary Mack, the Spades Go and Eenie Meanie Sissaleeny. We had art, music, Israeli Dance (with an end of year performance), boating and sports (I was awesome at Newcomb*!). We lined up in the rec room, now the Beit Midrash, for ice cream at the end of the day at camp. After camp we went to the pool and met our mothers who were already at the pool in their lounge chairs, shmoozing.

Every family left their own lounge chairs folded up, against the fence, at the pool. We used to do cannon balls off the diving boards, play basketball in the pool and for those that felt really brave we would jump off from the high chair. Wednesday nights was movie night at the Casino. Cartoons for the kids followed by a movie for the grownups. The camp overnights were on the other side of the lake. We slept in sleeping bags on our lounge chairs. Some bunks even had overnights on the island. My most favorite game was Elimination** which we played on Shabbos afternoons on the P Road, it was quite intense. I even joined the Shabbos volleyball games. I am pretty sure I was the first girl to play. Don't worry I made sure to call out 'Alo' before I served!

All of the counselors were shareholders or Renter's kids. Most of my counselors, married adults now, like me, are still coming to Beaver Lake, living with their parents, like me! I am so fortunate that my kids have been able to grow up in Beaver Lake. They get to enjoy the pleasure of being outside and playing with their friends. I am only up on weekends so my mother watches

my kids for most of the week. Many people have said to me that their parents would have thrown their kids into the lake after just a couple of days of watching grandkids let alone a whole summer. This is the 15th summer that my mother has watched them and I couldn't be more grateful.

* Invented in 1895, Newcomb is a ball game played as a variation of volleyball.

** Elimination is a game similar to Dodge ball but without teams and no line down the middle.