

"WHAT DO WE WANT?"  
"WE WANT THE CRIER!"

PHANTOM LAKE YMCA CAMP

"And Jesus increased in  
wisdom, in stature and in favor  
with God and man."  
(Luke 2:52)

# PHANTOM CRIER

• camping since 1896 •

116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



An Annual Newsletter by and for Family, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp

SPRING 2011

## Mission Statement

Through camp related and community programs, Phantom Lake YMCA utilizes Christian principles to provide the opportunity for both children and adults to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially in accordance with Luke 2:52.



## Save the date!

Upcoming events for 2011

### June 4

Open House  
2:00–4:00 p.m.

### October 15

Camp Take Down/Service Day

### August 26–28

Family Camp Session 1

### September 3–6

Family Camp Session 2

### December 3

Breakfast with Santa  
8:00–11:00 a.m.

### December 25

Light your candle!

### December 27–30

Winter Camp

Watch the website  
[www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org)  
for more details!



Check us out  
on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/plycpage](http://www.facebook.com/plycpage)



Follow us on Twitter!

#PLYC1896

Did you know you can  
donate online?

[www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org)

## Making Dreams a Reality

For more than twenty years Phantom Alum and leaders have held the dream of building a new facility. The financial difficulties camp experienced in the past, have held back the fulfillment of this dream. One of my favorite authors is Henry David Thoreau. He says "Let go of the past and go for the future. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams." We have improved the financial health of camp, and feel now is the time to dream of the future. I am proud to say that these dreams of the past are becoming a reality today. We are moving forward with a facility that would honor our proud heritage and provide needed space for the future of camp.

On a cold day in December construction began on the Carman Welcome center. This multipurpose building serves as a new gateway to camp and honors a family pivotal to the longevity of Phantom. The welcome center is a one story building with a walk out basement. When completed, the main level will serve as a museum that will pay tribute to over one hundred and fifteen years of

camp history; it will also house more energy efficient office space, provide space for day camp check in, and activity space in the event of inclement weather. The lower level will house a new shower facility and storm shelter protection to service the Mountain, Mythical, and Indian units of camp.

Many of our Alum are familiar with role the Carman's played in the history of camp. For those of you new to the Phantom family, Gerald Carman, known as Sir G, served as the CEO of camp for thirty years. His wife, Lady Sue, served as the camp cook for twenty years. During his time at the helm, Sir G made the tough decision to make Phantom Lake YMCA camp an independent YMCA camp. It was his foresight and leadership that saved camp from being sold.



Spring 2011



December 2010

The funding for the first phase of this project comes from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The money was for the sole purpose of building this new facility. The Executive team at Phantom is humbled by the generosity of our donors and is committed to being good stewards of

these gifts. When funds are donated for a specific purpose we are resolved to see those funds deployed in a timely manner. Over the past two years we have used specific donations to upgrade eight platform tents and to renovate the Richardson Health Lodge. The experiences gained from these projects and the relationships with local builders have put us in a great position to take on an even bigger project.

The current funding for this project will cover the exterior construction of the building, and the interior completion of the lower level shower house. Fund raising efforts are beginning to obtain the funding needed for the completion of the upper level. I would urge you to consider helping us complete the dream with a financial contribution. Our predecessors made many tough decision and sacrifices to ensure that camp was here for this generation to enjoy. It is now our time to come together and invest in the future of this magical place. I invite you to join me in making this dream a reality and in meeting the needs of Phantom campers for generations to come. Please consider making a donation to our building fund.

## Alford Lodge: Who were the Alfords?



Alford Lodge

Walter H. Alford (died 1930) and wife Gertrude (died 1965) gave a donation in memory of their son Ferrin (died December 28, 1928).

Ferrin was killed in an automobile collision with a southbound Northwestern passenger train on Sheridan Road. It was before those tracks became elevated above street level. The accident happened right after two northbound trains passed by the car.

Walter H. Alford came to Kenosha, WI to become VP for the Jeffrey Company after a stint with General Motors. The Jeffrey Co. evolved into the Nash/Rambler industry.

Walter Alford was born in Texas and became very involved in Kenosha politics and civic service. Both Mr. and Mrs. Alford were modest people and many philanthropic acts happened quietly and anonymously. Creation of public

parks and employment opportunities happened because of the Alfords.

Mr. Alford was also concerned about handicapped issues of the day himself having some personal challenges with his own physical stature (height & spinal). Many organizations benefited from their gifts. Other camp buildings, streets, and homes carry the Alford names in the Kenosha area. Walter Alford was considered a financial genius. When he died, businesses closed the day of his funeral and many dignitaries attended including then Governor Kohler. Walter Alford was involved in politics as a Democrat and at times managed the City of Kenosha. He invested in various enterprises in Kenosha and other cities such as Lake Geneva. He was well respected and Walter died (heart problems) shortly after his 16-year-old son was killed. Historical tours are given in Kenosha through a couple of Alford homes. Kenosha parks department was especially a benefactor of the Alfords.



# Thank You

- To everyone who has volunteered during the summer—our nurses, our counselors, and our friends who assist whenever and wherever help is needed
- To everyone who has volunteered at camp—for Fall Take Down Day, Breakfast with Santa, Fred Lee Day, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Memorial Day Beautification Weekend, and any other times to put in your time volunteering at camp
- To everyone who has donated to camp—to help send kids to camp through the Strong Kids Campaign or to help fund new projects or activities at camp so that youth can enjoy and keep coming to camp for another 116 years
- To everyone who spreads the Phantom Spirit—by letting others know about camp, by keeping your memories and friendships active, or by continuing on the spirit, energy and compassion that you experienced at camp onward into other areas of your life
- **TO YOU!** We at PLYC are grateful for everyone who has become a part of the Phantom family and community. May we all continue to keep the flame of friendship burning in our hearts tonight and every single day and night.

## Five Year Fleece



Todd Lennig and Matt “Pop” Quaglieri both received their “Five Year Fleece” this past summer for their five outstanding years on staff.

## Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



Although it was a cold and rainy day, we had over 250 people at Breakfast with the Easter Bunny! It was a fantastic event. Thank you to all who volunteered and to all those who attended!

# From the Board Chair



Board Chair Walt Stewart

The Board of Directors bears the ultimate responsibility for the success of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp. A successful non-profit organization will have strong finances and a clear vision for the future. I think that success must also consider how well we serve our target populations.

We could not have a camp without the campers. They expect a unique and enjoyable experience. Therefore, we need to provide quality counselors, a strong program, and most importantly, a values-based experience.

We must meet the expectations of the parents. They entrust us with their children and they expect their children back. In most cases they pay the fees, fund the camper account, pack the bags, and provide the transportation. We owe them a clean environment, safe equipment, competent instructors, and strong supervision.

The alumni are an important constituency, providing emotional support, goodwill, and financial contributions. We want to keep the connection strong by regular communication, family camp, special events, and open arms whenever alumni want to visit.

Finally, we must always remember the role we play within the community. We have neighbors who live on our road or with whom we share a beautiful

lake. We are an employer, vendor, customer, and community asset. We are a model for other summer camps and a participating member of the YMCA national organization.

The members of the Board of Directors are drawn from these populations. They include former campers and former staff, parents and grandparents of campers, alumni from Milwaukee to Minnesota. We invite anyone to serve on our committees and to consider service on the Board.

If you are reading this article, then you should recognize yourself among the camp’s various constituencies. And if you believe that we can be doing a better job, then please contact me through the camp office or by e-mail, [stewart@wrsalaw.com](mailto:stewart@wrsalaw.com).

# A Message from our CEO

This year Phantom Lake YMCA Camp is celebrating its 116th year of serving children. One hundred and sixteen years ago parents saw the value in sending their kids to camp. Just like campers of the past, today’s children learn independence, leadership, new skills and make lifelong friends. Today’s parents have another reason to send their kids to camp—one that camp founders would never have imagined. More and more parents tell us they see camp as an opportunity to “unplug” their children.

Kids today are glued to the TV, internet, iPods, cell phones and video games. According to a report by the Kaiser Family Foundation teenagers up to the age of 18 are exposed to nearly eleven hours of media in a typical day. These kids need to be reintroduced to the outdoors. Once exposed to the tranquility of nature, they discover that the outdoors can be stimulating and fun, and that face-to-face relationships are even more rewarding than those developed on Facebook.

While my own child likes to brag that he is older than Google, the reality is most kids do not remember a time without the internet, texting or iPods. Whether attending day camp or overnight camp, children have the opportunity to rediscover simple pleasures like books, board games, singing together, bonfires and kettle games. Once a child has experienced the rush of the zip line, gaga, the aqua tramp, or noodle jousting, they discover that the natural world is much more thrilling than the virtual one.

If you are looking for an opportunity to help your child to develop a sense of wonder and the thrill of really living life—I invite you to send them to Phantom Lake YMCA Camp. We are currently accepting registrations for both Resident Camp and Day Camp. To sign up visit [www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org). If you are looking for a great way to end your summer—consider “unplugging your family” at one of our two family camp weekends. More information and



Jeff Spang, CEO of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp, and SDP’s at Fred Lee Day 2009.

registration information is also available on our website—or if you prefer to talk to someone “live”—call us at 262-363-4386.

In Phantom Spirit,  
Jeff Spang, CEO

## PD Corner: Check out your awesome 2011 Program Directors!



**KELSEY GETZ:** Resident Camp Program Director

Well hello there! Here I am sitting at my kitchen table in Walla Walla, WA (yes, that is in fact a real place), thinking about homework and school and spring break and graduating college, and the idea of summer seems so far away. But there’s great news: the summer is indeed NOT so far away, and in three months or less I will see so many of your faces that I’ve missed so much over the winter. I think I’m most looking forward to a righteous game of GAGA or perhaps a loco dance party in the lodge, or even just sitting on those famous rocking chairs on the porch of the lodge, chatting with someone strumming guitar or watching the B-field. I remember those chairs from twelve summers ago, when I first arrived at camp. It’s funny how they’re still my favorite place to just be, and chat with campers. If you are a camper, happening to read this, please make sure to say hello to me this summer, whether it is your first or last summer. Y’all are the reason why I love camp, why I’ve devoted the past five summers on staff, and why I keep coming back. I miss you all, more than you can possibly imagine. Get ready for a great summer!



**AL LUSIS:** Resident Camp Program Director

Hey Everybody, Just a little info about myself for all of you, this summer will be my twelfth summer at Phantom, and fifth on staff. I starting coming to camp because of a TV show of all things. There used to be a show called “Bug Juice” about kids at an overnight summer camp. I thought that it looked so fun, so my mom attended a camp fair and Phantom was the one she picked! As a camper I was all about hanging out down at the waterfront, which led to me becoming The Admiral in 2009. I’m really excited to come back to camp this summer and see all the campers I have gotten to know over the years and see how much they have grown and watch them light up about camp they way I still do. One of my highlights from last summer was all the new fun variations on classic camp programs, like an outdoor dance, and evening dip. Getting to come back to Phantom every year has been a true blessing and I can’t wait to get back!!



**POP (Matt Quaglieri):** Day Camp Program Director

I first came to camp as a Mini-Tyker when I was four years old and have been coming back for at least one week per summer ever since. As a camper, I always thought my counselors were the coolest people EVER although I never imagined that I would be one someday. Long story short, here I am getting ready for my sixth consecutive summer on staff. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of working on staff has been knowing that what I am doing really belongs to something far greater than I am. While some things at Phantom come and go from year to year, the one thing that persists every single summer is the incredible energy and spirit shared by all of the staff, YLTs, and campers. Over the years, thousands of people’s lives have been touched by the Phantom Spirit. The fantastic part about this is that each year, staff is given a chance to add yet another chapter to the book of PLYC’s rich history. I know that the work that I carry out this summer is really an extension and a continuation of what was begun by others years ago. I am truly excited for what will definitely be a memorable “chapter” of Day Camp at PLYC!



Spotlight: Kay “Mama” Pike

In the spring of 1992, I received a phone call from legendary camp director, “Sir G.” He needed a nurse for a week that summer and wanted to know if I would be interested. My husband and lived in nearby Madison and were raising a young family. JB, our oldest child, had attended camp as a Mag Seven the summer before. My occupation was listed on his registration papers. I had never been to Camp Phantom Lake before, but my husband, John, had fond memories of attending as a child. I had returned from deployment to Operation Desert Storm as a reservist and member of the Army Nurse Corps just months before. I thought that if I could handle that, I might be up for this adventure. Little did I know that “this adventure” would last nearly two decades and forever affect my life.

My first week at PLYC was sheer confusion. JB, now 8, was a camper living in a tent but Katherine, age 6, enrolled in Zichahota Day Camp, and Betsy, age 3, were my Health Lodge buddies. To begin with, much to my surprise the Health Lodge that sounded really luxurious as described by Sir G was, well...rustic. I did not know anything about the daily camp schedule, where I was supposed to be at any given time and even the location of the various activity areas. There was this old tradition in those days called Phantom Time. It involved turning the clock back to conserve daylight in the lengthening summer days warping all sense of reality. Staff members had really odd names adding to the general craziness—just who were these people named Fuzzy, Fozzy, Spider, Buoy, Mountain Mike, and General Lee? I was fairly baffled and overwhelmed by the excitement and boundless energy that surrounded me from reveille to long after taps. By the

end of the week, I was “less than fresh”, sunburned, and had more than a few mosquito bites. I know I probably slept fewer hours than I did at home, but at camp, it was like the slumber of a baby lulled to sleep by the wind in the trees and the gentle lap of the waves on the cool, green waters outside my window. In short, I was probably just like every other first year camper and could not wait to return the following summer!

And return I did—every year after that for eighteen summers and countless weeks of volunteering as camp nurse. Formerly known as Major Pike, I was now Mama Pike. My children grew up; they were campers, SDP’s and finally, staff members. I watched them mature into counselors who were fun, responsible and caring. I could not have been more proud of them. But what I treasured almost as much, was watching “my other children”. Campers and staff that I sometimes saw only once a year, returned to PLYC taller, stronger, and more amazing year after year. I always looked forward to the check-in on Sunday afternoons just to catch up with them. Many spent lots of free time in the Health Lodge, swinging on the porch swing, enjoying freeze pops and talking endlessly. The night med group would squeeze themselves into the tiny living room, linger a bit and excitedly share all the adventures of their day. It was such an incredible gift in my life to see them grow on all four sides of the square on their journey through childhood. Some are now adults, some have children and campers of their own, and many have remained my longtime friends.

During my time at Phantom, I have been present to witness shooting stars, northern lights, brilliant sunny days and violent evening thunderstorms. There were legendary camp skits, fond reunions

and sad farewells. I have proudly done all four sides of the square and have been blessed with receiving many lessons based on Luke 2:52 from others—sometimes 35–40 years younger than myself. Over the years I have witnessed many changes. When I started, the camp was much more isolated. It wasn’t quite the old sheep barn as some would like to tell, but the neighborhoods that you see on the way into camp now did not exist—just open fields, the Elegant Farmer and a few lake homes. The camp had one or two phones. All had cords. We had no computerization; everything from paying the bills, to the payroll, to camper registration was done on paper. We did not have the instant wireless radio connection that we do now to cover our vast acreage. We had to send runners to send messages among staff. Thank goodness for the ringing of the bells that marked, and still does to this day, the change of activity and to signal any alerts. The tents, all under canvas, were clustered only in the main camp as the kettle units did not yet exist. One of the most helpful additions over the years was the donation of the golf carts, first the “Mary T.” and then the “Grandma Ruth”, allowing me to seemingly be everywhere at once and to attend to camper needs no matter how distant the location within minutes. Several years ago, PLYC added the staff position of health intern. This full time summer employee assures continuity between the weeks and is a valued and necessary helping hand as our camper count has more than doubled since the early years.



The photo was taken after doing the Man side of the square. I had all three of my wonderful kids hold my candle. And yes, someone did pass gas during the square causing all three of my kids to silently convulse with laughter as I tried to read!

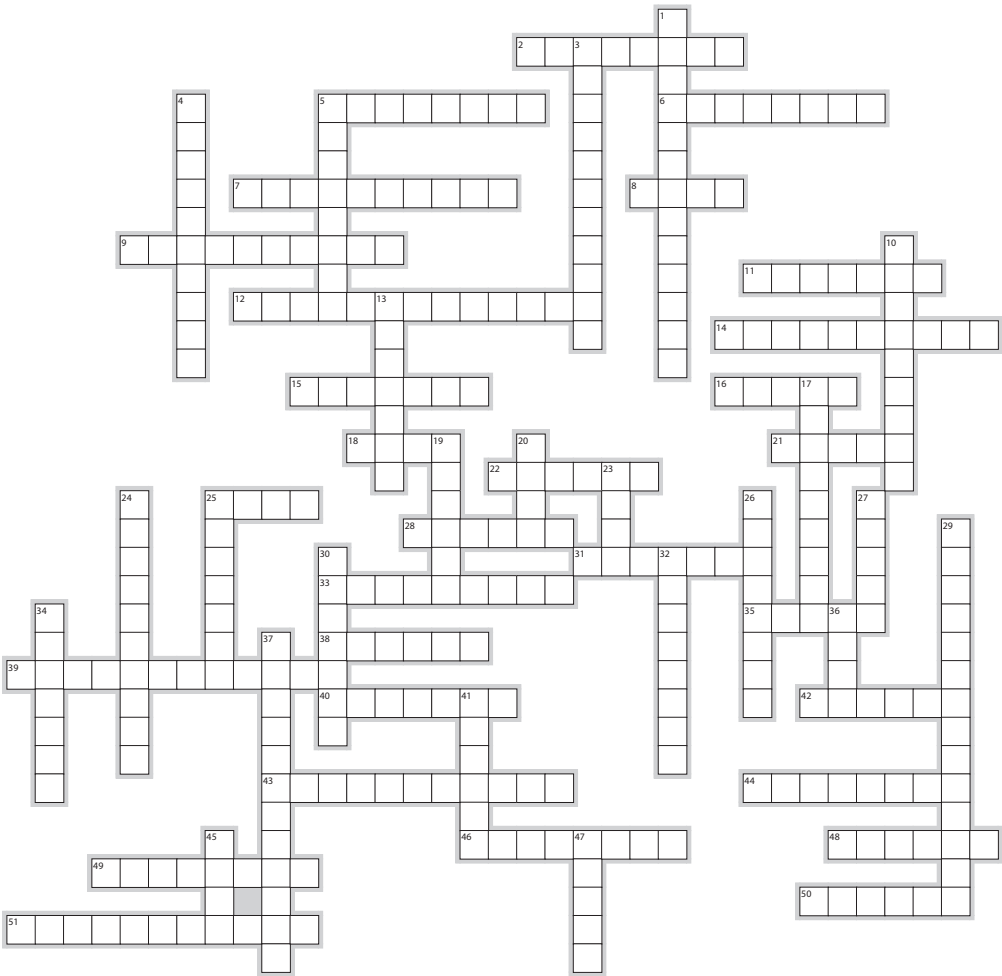
Two years ago, the Health Lodge itself was transformed from its vintage state to a modern, winterized, and welcoming facility thanks to a generous donation from the Richardson family. I could never have envisioned that the scary garage under the old lodge would be a lovely apartment for the camp nurse. I still can hear the wind in the trees and fall asleep to the lull of the lake. Despite all the changes over the years—in technology, personnel and physical structures, the Phantom Spirit has remained a constant.

One may leave camp, but camp never really completely leaves you. It is, and will always be a part of who you are. With luck I will return to PLYC again as a visitor, a parent or perhaps if I am lucky some day in the future—a grandparent, but my time as camp nurse has drawn to a close. This will provide an opportunity for other nurses who might be lucky enough as I was to spend an entire generation watching children grow into adults, gathering memories and friendships, and increasing in Wisdom, Stature, and in favor with God and Man.

May God continue to bless you all.  
Kay “Mama” Pike

Camp Crossword (answers on page 7)

- Across
- 2. After Resident Camp lunch
  - 5. The youngest Day Camp group
  - 6. Third Resident Camp session this summer
  - 7. Wake up early and swim!
  - 8. The evil characters in a lot of all-camp games
  - 9. Head to this building for emergencies, bad weather, or to eat!
  - 11. These people set-up your meal table and clean up afterwards
  - 12. The symbol of camp
  - 14. Change of activity
  - 15. Died of a whooping cough, way down yonder
  - 16. First time campers receive this on the last day of camp
  - 18. You’re silent, and this is in the air.
  - 21. Testing and understanding are two parts of this acronym
  - 22. Folks of all ages can enjoy this type of camp
  - 25. CITs, LITs, and ACs
  - 28. I looked over \_\_\_\_\_ ...and saw a band of angels.
  - 31. Woods
  - 33. Jump on this in the boating area
  - 35. What you say before meals
  - 38. \_\_\_\_\_ watermelon
  - 39. An activity in Day Camp that you do just with your group
  - 40. These aren’t serving dishes, but the other kind
  - 42. Super, deep, way, cool, \_\_\_\_\_, fantastic!
  - 43. Duels on a surf board
  - 44. Tune that wakes you up each morning
  - 46. Delicious dessert... you must have kept your tent VERY clean!
  - 48. Where Non-Counseling sleeps
  - 49. I walked down the street and I walked down the block. I walked into this shop.
  - 50. “We welcome you to Phantom Lake, we’re \_\_\_\_\_ glad you’re here!”
  - 51. Phantom’s Costume Closet



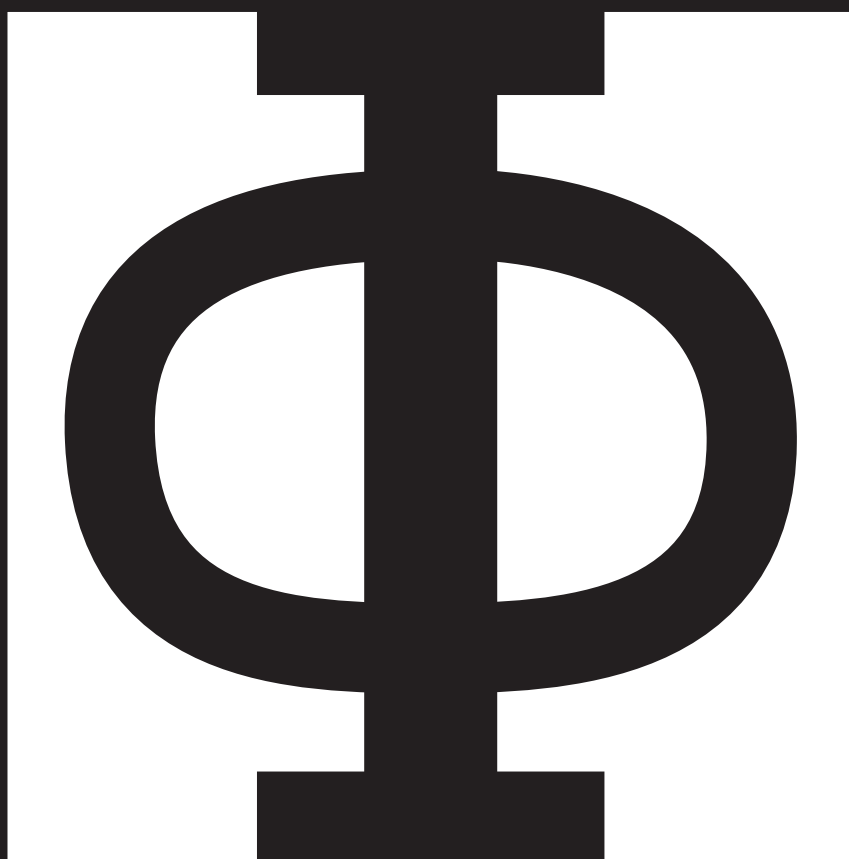
- Down
- 1. Drinking soda with your group in the water
  - 3. Activities that you are assigned to and have more than once during the week
  - 4. Choco Tacos and t-shirts can be found here
  - 5. Farthest unit in the Kettles
  - 10. Ex: “Have Sarah from Apache do the Chicken Dance”
  - 13. What you say if you’re harnessed up and want to go climbing
  - 17. Swimming across the lake and back

- 19. SDP office
- 20. Game inside an octagon
- 23. Bible book special to PLYC
- 24. Don’t have a messy tent, or you’ll be this!
- 25. Closest tent to the Sports Courts
- 26. Has 18 parts, and partly in the Pavillion
- 27. Graham crackers + chocolate + a marshmallow
- 29. This tradition is thought-provoking and on Friday
- 30. Thomas Caldwell created this program in 1914

- 32. Group chat or activity before bed
- 34. A side of the Square
- 36. YLT office and meeting area
- 37. Jump out of your breakfast seats and dance to this!
- 41. The main lodge at camp
- 45. Boot Hill, \_\_\_\_\_!
- 47. You need to be in at least Bay 3 to use this boat



# PHANTOM LAKE



"And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature



# THE YMCA CAMP



## 2011

JANUARY							JULY						
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## 2012

JANUARY							MARCH						
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26	27	28	29				29	30					

[www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org)

and in favor with God and man” Luke 2:52



## Board of Directors

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Walter Stewart

**Vice Chair**  
Chris Briske

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Catherine Treacy

**Treasurer**  
Ray Goodden

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Cheryl Berg  
Chris Carman  
Tim Geiger  
Tracy Hein  
JP Porter  
Janet Rich  
Karl Robe  
Diane Rogers

## Year-Round Staff

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Jeff Spang

**Office Manager**  
Carolyn Russell

**Camp Director**  
Christina Rye

**Business Manager**  
Nancy Kendzior

**Maintenance Director**  
Randy Rohde

## 2011 Strategic Planning Board Retreat



Front row: J.P. Porter, Christina Rye (guest), Carolyn Russell (guest), Cathy Treacy, Jay Wall (guest), Chris Briske

Second Row: Tim Butler (facilitator), Matt Quaglieri (guest), Janet Rich, Tim Geiger, Ray Goodden, Diane Rogers, Tracy Hein

Third Row: Jeff Spang, Chris Carman, Walt Stewart, Karl Robe, Mike Hase (Missing Board Member: Cheryl Berg)

## The 2010 All-Era Reunion was a great success!



# Lady Sue & Gerald “Sir G” Carman Interview

By: JP Porter, alumni

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Lady Sue & Sir G recently for a little conversation about their history with PLYC. Many folks know the Carmans, but for those who don’t or who want to catch up with them...my interview follows.

Jerry began his career in 1954 and was Camp Director from 1966–1985, then CEO from 1985–1996. Sue and family began their history with PLYC in 1967.

**JP:** Tell me about how you came to Phantom Lake all those years ago?

**Sir G:** I walked into one of the offices at UW-Whitewater. There was a little card that suggested maybe camp counseling would be an idea. Why my folks agreed to it, I have no idea...it was eleven cents an hour! I decided to go for it and that was the beginning. At the interview, the Director looked at me and saw something in me I didn’t know was there...he hired me. That was in 1954.

My first job was in the Craft Shop. Uncle Ned told us that in order to be successful we needed to be a character. So there were four of us: Uncle Ned, Smiley Burnette, Senator Stan, and Sir Gerald of Nottingham...from that very first day the name stuck.

**JP:** When did Lady Sue come into the picture?

**Sue:** Kent (Riedesel, Lady Sue’s son) is responsible...ha!

**Sir G:** Kent watched his brother Richard have an asthma attack (and got an idea). He got to camp and was homesick, so he faked an asthma attack. I said I’d run by his house when I was in Waukesha and pick up his asthma medicine.

**Sue:** So Jerry called and told me he would be coming by...but I said “there is no asthma medication...because he doesn’t have asthma”. That was a stopper. So we decided to go to the pharmacy and get some sugar pills to send back with Jerry. This way, Kent would have to go back to the Health Lodge and Jerry could give him the sugar pills to make his “asthma” all better. At the same time, Jerry could talk to him about any other thing that might be bothering him...like homesickness. That’s how we met the first time and how it all began. That was in 1967. I probably sent back a plate of cookies too (laugh).

**JP:** You mean like the plate right next to me? (I walked into a batch of Lady Sue cookies coming right out the oven...YUM!)

**Sue:** Yes! (laugh) We continued seeing one another after camp was over and we were married the following year, in 1968.

That summer of ‘68 was my first summer at Camp. It was famous because the secretary and program director (husband/wife) left the week before camp started. I had to learn things fast... how camp worked.

I ran the store and did the books and some of the registration. I learned a lot. Faster than I had intended to. (laugh)

Until the fire in 1971 (the year the Dining Hall burned)...then, we all had to work together to make it work. That’s what drew me into the kitchen. Everyone pitched in to help...even on your time off...to get the people fed.

We had huge numbers back then, and we were cooking out of an Army Tent...it was like having a picnic three times a day!



Gerald “Sir G” and Sue Carman

**Sir G:** We even had silverware drives all over...to try and get us some silverware since we lost everything. We had friends making 200 cupcakes to bring out for the kids too.

**JP:** So Sue, is that when you got started running the kitchen?

Sue: Well, at that point, I danced on the outside...Chris was little and running all over. You can only have so many emergency bells...and it ceases to be fun and more of an athletic procedure rather than a fun event. (laugh)

**JP:** Oh, I remember everyday at the SDP and Staff meetings...“Who’s watching Chris today?” (laugh)

**Sue:** Jane Krakow, our beloved cook for so many years left and in 1979, we hired a cook who came with a good recommendation...and we later understood why they gave us such a great recommendation. She couldn’t do diddle. (laugh). They were probably so glad to get rid of her.

This is when I knew I had to step in. We had this wonderful little pot that you remember well...because we used it for so many things...it was round without handles... a rim all the way around...a four quart pot. We used it for anything... you know, to heat a little something.

Well...I went in at 5:00 p.m. one day and she was making Spam...that she was going to wrap or crumb or something and then deep fry in this little funny said pot. This was all for 150 people to be ready by 5:30 p.m.!

That was our first clue that things were not going too well in the kitchen (laugh). Needless to say, she got the heave-ho before July 4th...and that was when I jumped in and began to take responsibility for the kitchen.

**JP:** Let’s transition to your official retirement in 1996 and what you’ve been up to since then.

**Sir G:** Well...it’s amazing...when I awoke January 1, 1997, it was just like a weight had been lifted off that I didn’t realize was there. Immediately after that I had quadruple bypass...(laugh). It was like getting a new lease on life.

I now tutor in the grade schools. I have a workshop in the basement. I’ve been helping with the Mid-America Camp Conference for forty-five years (I do their registrations). I’m the Headmaster at Stoneyville school near Saukville and I am a Tour Guide at Pioneer Village.

Now we have moved a little closer to camp again, so I’m around camp a little more often. Jeff Spang (CEO) and I have lunch once a month to talk things over. Jeff has done wonders. We are so lucky to have him at the helm.

**JP:** That’s a perfect segue to where things are now. For the first time since the Dining Hall in 1973, we’re in a financial position to build a new building and finally honor your family with the new Carman Welcome Center.

**Sir G:** It’s really an honor and very humbling. I suppose it won’t be too many years before they say “Carman...I wonder who he was? Alford...I wonder who he was? Ha, ha.”

The entrance has always been really crummy. Just the fact that they took the Aldrich house out, it’s now like a little park right there. It’s lovely!

**Sue:** When I saw the plans for the building, I immediately said that it’s reminiscent of Alford Lodge...how clever...people love it.

For me, it’s symbolic of the step ahead. Without the expansion into the kettles, which has been over the last ten years, there wouldn’t have been a necessity for the bathroom facilities in that area. So to me, it symbolizes the need for the infrastructure that supports the expansion of the camp thus far.

This speaks of “step ahead”, not “looking back”. The next building will obviously be new Dining Hall facilities...that’s terribly needed.

**JP:** What would be the one thing that you want the Welcome Center to have and/or represent?

**Sir G:** I have it right downstairs...my old rocker from the porch. I’ve tucked that away. The grandkids play on it now and then. You could have a mannequin of me sitting there for the museum! (laugh)

**JP:** Yes! Then I would need to get your Sir G hat, green pants, and work shirt to complete the outfit!

**Sue:** For me, there’s one particular syrup pitcher from the dining hall that went through the fire. It was such a darling shape...tall...and of course the tables were so big in those days...12–14 kids in a tent, so they had to have a big pitcher for their syrup. It’s really a cute design. This one that we rescued from the ruins is all charred...totally charred. That would be a wonderful piece for the museum.

**Sir G:** My private office. (laugh) I keep waiting for Jeff to say something.

**Sue:** Maybe he’ll let you have a slightly used office in the old building. (laugh)

**JP:** Final thoughts?

**Sue:** I know this is the Carman Welcome Center and people will assume that it’s the family, but I really feel it should be noted that our family has given in so many ways—not only (Pam & Chris) having served on the Board, but as children (Kent & Richard as well).

It was not easy being the “minister’s son or daughter”. It wasn’t easy at all...and one needs to have that perspective out there. The fact that they are recognized and honored is important.

**Sir G:** It’s amazing that an organization that is one hundred and sixteen years old has still not achieved its potential. It’s an exciting time.



Connections UPDATES ON PHANTOM FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

BIRTHS (FUTURE CAMPERS)

Julie (Lemke) & Glenn Royes 4/21/10  
Dylan Robert, 5lbs., 11 oz.



Julie (Cirrincione) & Paul  
Vernon 09/23/10 Ryan  
Francis, 7.5 lbs., 19.5 inches  
long, red hair and already hungry

Owen Christopher: February 18, 2010  
Born to: Todd and Melissa Lennig.

Jocelyn (Burr) & Matt Berbee  
9/27/10 Cooper James, 8lbs., 7oz.,  
23 inches and a full head of blond hair

Matt & McKenzie Anderson  
12/07/10 Charlotte Kennedy, 7 lbs., 15 oz.



Shannon (Brehmer) & Rick  
Brooks 12/28/10 Taylor Brianna,  
6 lbs., 3 oz., 18.75 inches long,  
and a very LOUD cry



Kimberly (Preuss) & Kristopher  
Steinbrecher 8/11/10  
Kaydance Kimberly, 4lbs., 5 oz.



Chris & Kristen Zimmerman  
01/07/11 Katelin Diane  
4 lbs., 12 oz., 17½ inches  
long & Cara Lynn 6 lbs., 0 oz., 19 Inches



Jena Olson (staff 1996–2000)  
& Michael Messner 3/27/11  
Elliot Caldart Messner,  
7 lbs., 8 oz., Our little family  
is doing great!

WEDDING BELLS

Caitlin Doxtator  
to Michael Ebel  
September 18, 2010



Weddings to look  
for: Pudd (Kristoffer  
Puddicombe) and  
Heather Aschoff,  
Goo (John Williams) and Kathleen  
Shifley (May 21), DC Kerman & Maggie  
Brick, Lyndsey Hessil, Sunflower (Becky  
Simpkin), Kate Nelson, Gluestick (Jim  
Ertel), Bryn Nantell, Snoopy (Kindra  
Grossmeier), Jake Knobloch (Speedo)  
& Devan Pease, Pumpkin (Leah Vodnik)

IN LOVING MEMORY

Ellen Morris-Gutierrez March 2, 1949–  
Sept. 24, 2010 (Long time friend of Phantom)  
Jim Kline March 25, 1939–November  
27, 2010 (Staff Early '60s)

IN LOVING MEMORY (continued)

Carol Waldman October 16, 1929–  
January 13, 2011 (Grandmother of  
Carrie and Kyle Gasser)

James Roepke March 11, 2011 (Father  
of alumni Mary Toepfer and Sue Perry)

UPDATES

**News from California; Maggie Lach:**  
Things are going well, keeping busy  
with work for the most part. I'm really  
enjoying the weather and variety of  
things do to but I miss home a lot too. I  
started up an art program at the YMCA  
out here and it's a lot of fun working  
with the kids...just all the other crazy  
business aspects I am learning. So I  
do art, music, and outdoor education  
programs which make me think of  
camp often when I am doing my out  
planning and curriculums. I miss you  
all and I will try and stop by when I am  
back home. Tell everyone my hellos!!



Well hello Phantom!  
I'm not sure who's  
reading this so you  
may or may not  
remember me. My  
name is **Sam Ubl**, I was a camper  
for many years and developed into a  
counselor. My cousin, Matt Nolan, and  
I were regulars every summer at PLYC  
and its kind of funny to me that I now  
live on Phantom Lake. I happen to live  
right between Upper and Lower by  
the channel on the north/west shore  
(my driveway touches the tiny public  
launch nearly no one knows about).  
At any rate, this was the first summer  
my wife, Christie, and I spent in our  
new home on Phantom and boy did  
it bring back the memories! We have  
a lookout room on the second level  
that offers a clean view of both Lower  
and Upper and camp happens to be  
in our perfect line of sight. How many  
nights do I remember sitting in the  
boat fishing in the evening listening  
to the songs and smelling the fires  
coming from camp.

At any rate, I just wanted you to know  
I'm still around and the memories I  
have from camp are forever etched  
in my memory, only to be reminded  
every day when I look across the water,  
at a place I spent so much time.  
Happy Holidays, PLYC!

UPDATES (continued)

**Robert Conrad: Attended the camp  
in the '40s**

My brother Charles Conrad, who now  
lives in Jakarta, Indonesia, directed me  
to your website.

I was a Phantom Lake camper, two  
weeks at a time, in 1943, 44 and 45,  
when we lived in Kankakee, Illinois. My  
brother also attended, but I'm not sure  
of the years.

Anyway, I still remember my  
experiences at Phantom Lake with  
great fondness and am glad to see that  
the camp continues on. I especially  
recall the Stunt Nights, and making my  
way up the ladder of the swimming  
categories. I believe I made "Shark."  
And the boating in the evening after  
dinner. Those were wonderful days.

Hello,  
I saw your post on Facebook and  
thought I would contribute...  
I (**James "Jolly" Pollard, camper  
1986–1991, staff 1994–95) and my  
wife (Christine "Gabby" [Thayer]  
Pollard, staff 1995)** celebrate our  
fourteenth wedding anniversary in  
May. Our daughter (Hanna L. Pollard)  
just turned two this past October and  
we are looking forward to someday  
sending her to camp! Below is a pic  
of our family. I wish we had been able  
to make the  
All-Era Staff  
Reunion last  
year and really  
hope to make  
the next one. I  
still do theatre  
shows but spend most of my time  
working for Universal Orlando as a  
Merchandise Manager.



Thanks! And in Spirit,  
Jim

INCLUDE PLYC ON YOUR  
E-MAIL UPDATES



office@phantomlakeymca.org  
We would love to hear from you!

Director's Wish List

Sailing

Deck hand ~ \$100  
Five Lifejackets

First Mate ~ \$4000

Butterfly sail boats with lifejackets,  
boat will be named after your family  
or group name

Admiral ~ \$25,000

Fleet of 6 Butterfly sail boats and life  
jackets, boat will be named after your  
family or group name

Sailing Shore Supervisor ~ \$2500  
Repairs and construction  
to sailing docks

Canoeing

Beginner Canoeist ~ \$100

Three lifejackets and three paddles.

Advanced Canoeist ~ \$800

A canoe, three lifejackets and three  
paddles, will be named after your  
family or group name

Lewis & Clark ~ \$8000

A canoe fleet of ten, lifejackets and  
paddles, will be named after your  
family or group name

Canoeing Shore Supervisor ~ \$2500  
Repairs and construction to  
canoe racks and docks

Don't see your activity here?  
Contact us at camp to get the  
most current activity sponsorship  
breakdown! 262-363-4386 or  
office@phantomlakeymca.org

Answers  
(from page 3)

Across	Down
2. Rest Hour	1. Rootbeer
5. Mini-Tyke	Float
6. Teen Camp	3. Specialties
7. Morning Dip	4. Mercantile
8. Eeks	5. Mountain
9. Dining Hall	10. Crier Note
11. Waiters	13. On Belay
12. Phantom Square	17. Chuck Tuna
14. Three Bells	19. Dugout
15. Blue Jay	20. Ga Ga
16. Patch	23. Luke
18. Hand	24. Dirty Birds
21. Quest	25. Spartus
22. Family	26. Disc Golf
25. SDPs	27. Smore
28. Jordan	29. Square Ceremony
31. Kettles	30. Ragers
33. Aqua Tramp	32. Taps Talk
35. Grace	34. Stature
38. Greasy	36. Cove
39. Kaleidoscope	37. Morning Music
40. Regular	41. Alford
42. Septic	45. Oh No
43. Noodle Joust	47. Canoe
44. Reveille	
46. Dirt Cake	
48. Hilton	
49. Doughnut	
50. Mighty	
51. Ishkabooie	

The 1896 Society



Named for the founding year  
of Phantom Lake YMCA Camp,  
the 1896 Society recognizes  
alumni and friends whose annual  
unrestricted gifts total \$1,896 or  
more. Your membership in the  
1896 Society helps to ensure  
the proud heritage, legacy, and  
mission of PLYC for generations  
to come.

Our members include Diane & John Rogers,  
Mary Kay Caldwell, Mike Hase, Michael Murphy,  
JP Porter, Taylor (Don L. & Carol G.) Family Foundation,  
Erik Bakk-Hansen, Thomas Abbott,  
Jeff & Debbye Spang and Patrick Carroll.

2010/2011 was our Charter year for the 1896 Society.  
Membership is renewable annually. We are looking  
for 100 people to become Charter Members of the  
1896 Society, who will be recognized individually  
as well as on a plaque.

To encourage lifetime giving, we have created different  
levels within the society:

Giving Level I ~

- Bronze \$1,896–2,999
- Silver \$3,000–4,999
- Gold \$5,000–7,999
- Platinum \$8,000–9,999

Giving Level II\* ~

- Ruby \$10,000–24,999
- Sapphire \$25,000–49,999
- W.H. "Daddy" Wones Founders Circle \$500,000+

\*Cumulative total (over maximum of 5 years)

Benefits of membership ~

- Specially designed 1896 pin
- Charter member plaque/recognition
- Invitation to 1896 Society events
- Special listing in Annual Report of Donors
- Special listing on Alumni Website

For more information or to join the 1896 Society, log on  
to **www.PantomLakeAlumni.com** or call the office at  
(262) 363-4386.

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VEHICLE TO CAMP?



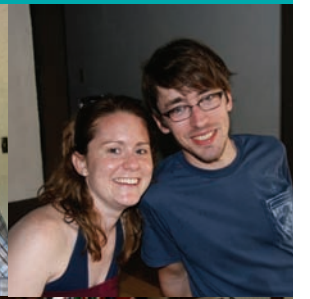
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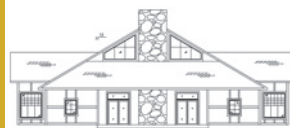
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## THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO THE 2010 ALL-ERA REUNION!



### 2010 STAFF



### SKETCH OF FUTURE CARMAN WELCOME CENTER

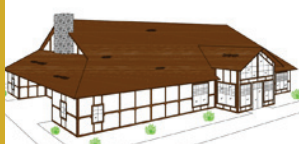
**POSTER  
 INSIDE!**

### 2010 RESIDENT CAMP STAFF BEFORE "CARNIVAL NIGHT"



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### SKETCH OF FUTURE CARMAN WELCOME CENTER

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[www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org)  
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 262-363-4386  
 for more information

Would you like to lead or take part  
 in a group service project for camp?  
 Contact us at:  
[Info@PhantomLakeAlumni.com](mailto:Info@PhantomLakeAlumni.com).

## MAKE CAMP A PART OF YOUR SOCIAL NETWORK!

Give us a call!  
 (262) 363-4386

Stop on by and see new things  
 at camp, and bring back those  
 memories! (give us a call first!)

Online:  
 Official PLYC Website:  
[www.phantomlakeymca.org](http://www.phantomlakeymca.org)

The PLYC Alumni Website:  
[www.phantomlakealumni.com](http://www.phantomlakealumni.com)

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