

Camp Wayeeses

By Jim Judd as told to Erik Lessing

Charles A. Hill, Jr. was a professor at Kingswood School, a private prep school in West Hartford, CT. In years preceding 1923, he was able to purchase the properties of three farms located to the south and west of Wolf's Point, comprising almost three miles of lakefront and over 400 acres of land. In 1923, he opened a boys' camp and named it Camp Wayeeses, from the 1905 book *Wayeeses, The White Wolf* by William J. Long. Membership in the camp was "limited to fifty Christian boys, 8 to 18 years" and the eight week season cost \$250. Many of the campers attended Kingswood School, but others came from Boston and New York to be part of a first class summer experience.



Swimming instruction on Seymour Lake. Where are those great bathing suits now?



A view looking northwest from the center of the camp. Note the wide open spaces at that time, as contrasted to the more forested situation now.

There was a wide variety of activities available including swimming, boating, hiking, shooting, horseback riding, tennis, and even a billiard table to entertain the campers. The camp "...pioneered the development of individual responsibility by permitting each boy to arrange his daily program."



Bert Judd tending two steer calves that were trained to become oxen.

Two Morgan personalities, my dad, Bert Judd, and Arthur Jones were intimately involved with Camp Wayeeses. At age ten, Bert started out tending the horses while Arthur who also attended Kingswood School was a camper at the same time. They became fast friends, a relationship which lasted long

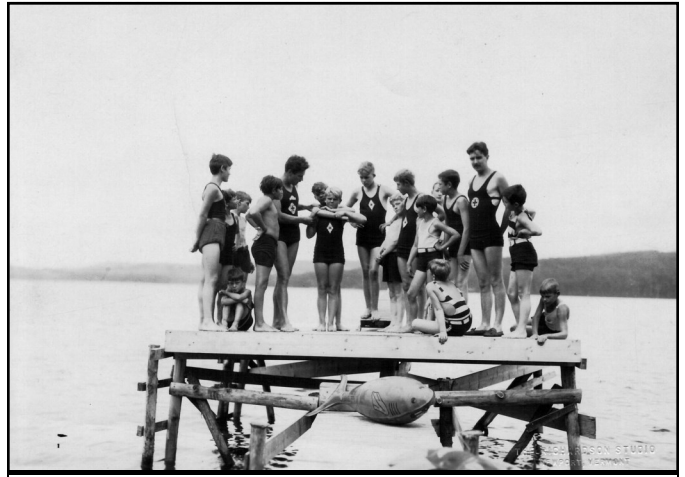


The same northwest view as above but showing the boys practicing shooting.

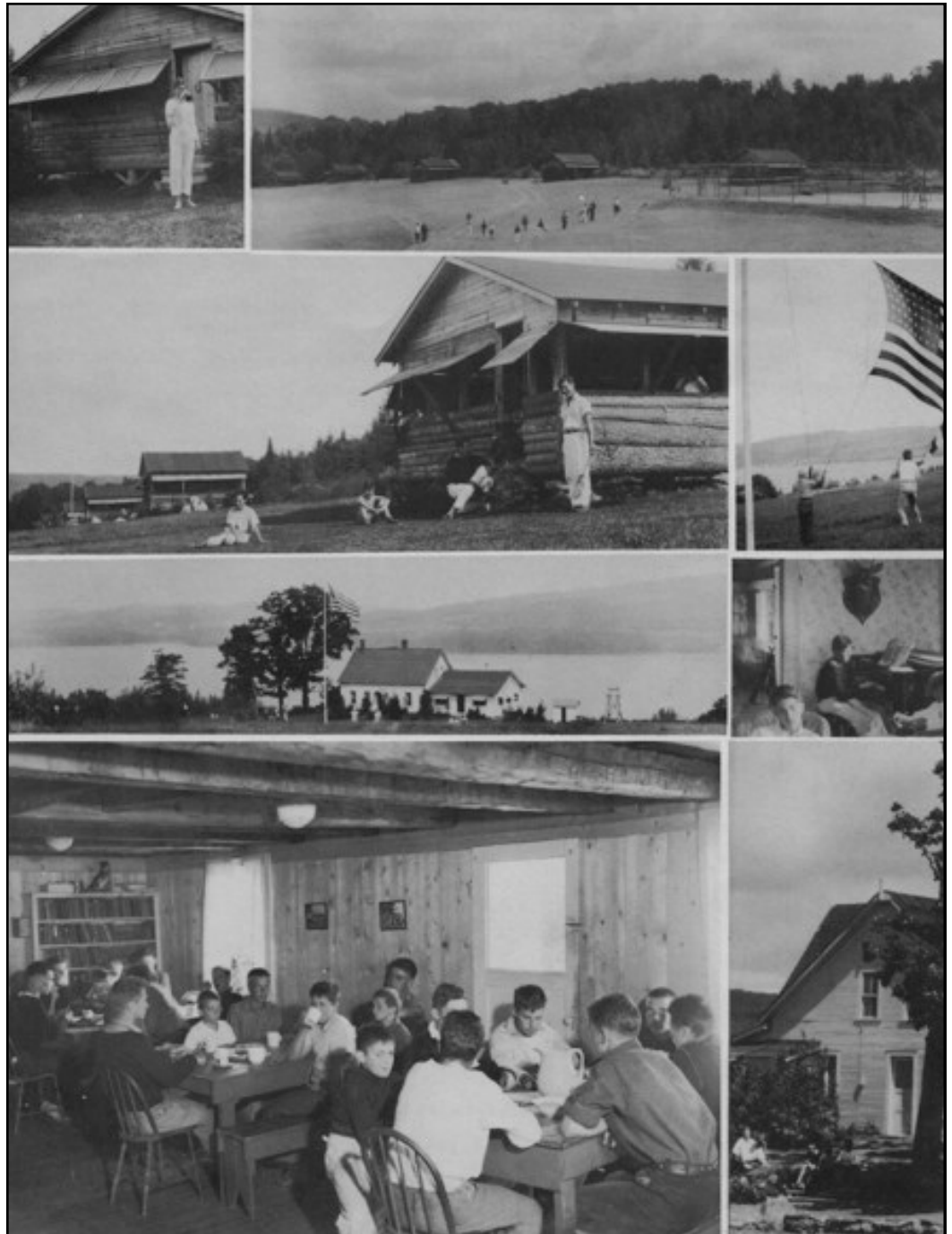


The main building at Camp Wayeeses.

after their time at Camp Wayeeses. Bert's relationship with Charles Hill continued as Bert became more active in the management of the camp. Charles Hill was too old for active service in WWII but served in the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA. Art joined the Army, and Bert enlisted in the Army Air Corps. That left Camp Wayeeses basically abandoned until after WWII. After the war Hill returned to the area to visit Bert and Art but lost interest in continuing the camp. Sadly, this wonderful boys' camp closed, and much of the land became Bert's, with Arthur obtaining part of the western part of the acreage. It was at this time (1955-1965) that Bert started harvesting trees and selling lakefront lots to pay taxes on the camp property. Approximately 50 lots were sold over the time period 1955 to 1990. Bert and Arthur also built homes on the Wayeeses property (currently the homes of Jim Judd and Rosemary and Richard Miller, respectively) and along with their wives, Alice and Arlene, continued their warm relationship. The part of the shore west of Wolf's Point, now Wayeeses Shore Road, has about 40 homes and was a major development area of the lake. These homes are owned by many people, I'm sure unaware of the rich history preceding them. □



Life saving instruction at the dock on Seymour.



Various pictures taken at Camp Wayeeses in the old days.