



# CYMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

Spring 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 1



## Camp Lives On From Generation To Generation

Last January when we first set out to initiate an Alumni Development department here at camp, we knew it would take off quickly but WOW what a year it has been! So many have reconnected with camp and it has been our distinct pleasure to help our alums get back in touch with what has been going on at camp. Whether it has been 5 years or 50 years since the last visit, the smiles and wistful recollections of memories are the same.

This month we want to share thoughts shared by Con Keller, an alum who came "home" after 50 years to pass on the legacy to his grandson. We're betting many of you will drift right back in time as you read his comments.

*"It was June 2006 and I turned on to Lake Road and drifted back about 50 years. Yes, it had changed, no more Potter-Brumfield at the turn off and there were houses all the way to the camp. The winding road was the same, as we came to the edge of the camp property there were cabins in the field where we played capture the flag. I was taking my grandson, age 11, to experience all the great things I did at his age. There was the Lake Seminole, but no expansion bridges, but it was clear and clean just as I remembered it. There was "the zipline" and "the blob" all new items but the rings were still over the water off the dock. The Mess Hall was new and had moved. I remember washing dishes and working in the kitchen there for two summers. The swim area looked the same, the Lodge looked great and had been named for our great friend, my camp director, Eddie Edwards. All the cabins looked exactly the same but the pine trees in front were a lot bigger. Another big change I noticed right away were girls, there were girls and it wasn't even Girls Week!!!*



*Strangely enough the cabin my grandson, Nathaniel Crittendon, was assigned to was one of the cabins I had been a leader in many years before! Nate, as he's called, had a great time swimming, boating, archery, riflery and all the sports activities. He enjoys the morning runs and hikes in the woods, singing at meals and evening programs. When his mother and I picked him up at the end of the week he was ready to come back the next summer. So in 2007 he returned for another great week at Camp Carson. In 2008, since Nate's father is a career military man, he chose to come to Operation Purple Camp, a camp for children of military families. Each year he has made lots of new friends and has enjoyed meeting his leaders who have been from other countries as well as all parts of the United States.*

*Camp Carson was a large part of my life from 1947 to 1960, as a camper, mess hall worker, cabin leader and water front director. I can never thank the Evansville Y and Camp Carson enough for all the great summers.*

*Thanks Camp Carson."*

*G. Con Keller*

Thanks to all of you who have shared your memories with us this year. Alum Lance Morton has put together a terrific link on our web page which will allow you to submit your camp history and see others who have "checked in." We will be making this aspect of our website more and more interactive over the coming year and following. Please stop by soon and let us hear from you! Go to [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) and click on the Alumni Tab.

Debra Scoular, Alumni Development

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion - Saturday, June 27, 2009 We Invite You Home This Summer!

Make plans to join us. This will be a one day event packed with activity from 9:00 am to closing campfire sing along at 9:15 pm. All camp activities on land, including horseback trail riding, and the waterfront will be open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with a break for lunch (provided). A Celebration Vision Gathering will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 for adults - kids entertainment will be provided. We will wind up the day with Dinner at the lodge, a 70 Year Best of the Best Hootenanny at the chapel followed by a Body,



Mind, Spirit (BMS) ceremony and close with a campfire. Stay tuned for more information including a possible Memorabilia Auction – to be determined. There is no cost for the day, but donations will be accepted to help cover meal costs. Due to the summer camp schedule, we will be unable to offer lodging at camp. However, we are reserving a bank of rooms at the newly renovated Hampton Inn here in Princeton. They have given us a fantastic rate for the weekend. Watch for more information about the reunion to follow in the upcoming weeks via mail and our website.

*So join us and take a ride on down the zip line or have a long visit on the porch reminiscing with old friends. Whether you take the day fast or slow, it's sure to be a day to remember!*





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For more info about  
 current summer camp  
 programs and Operation  
 Purple Camp, go to our website  
 at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org)

## **Congratulations to Hall of Fame Inductees**

What a great night it was! On November 18, 2008, we were honored to induct Leonard Schlamp, Terry Yunker and Steve Fritz into the YMCA Camp Carson Hall of Fame. The event was held at The Bauerhaus where friends and family of camp and the inductees gathered to celebrate three remarkable lives. Contributing to the spirit of the evening, attendees enjoyed a slide show which ran throughout the evening with photographs from the past 69 seasons of camp. Each recognition began with a personal mini slide show followed by a brief biography and camp history. Presentations were made by Craig Fenneman, Tom Elsner and George Rehnquist who were also able to share their personal comments for the inductee.

The awards were humbly received and heartwarming acceptance speeches were given. It was clear to all that each inductee felt camp had made a lifelong impression on their lives and that they were passionate about the opportunities they had been given to provide such a positive experience to so many campers and staff during their tenures. Throughout all the preparations for the evening, Leonard, Terry and Steve each shared how Eddie Edwards, the first director at Camp Carson, had made a tremendous impact on their lives and how Eddie's influence shaped the way they chose to later impact others. Many of you have not had the pleasure of knowing these fine gentlemen and so we take a moment now to introduce you to three men each possessing a rich history with camp. If you have a special memory of Leonard, Steve or Terry and would like to share it with camp, we invite you to send them in writing via mail or email. We will be sure to pass your letters along to the honorees.



*L-R: Steve Fritz, Leonard Schlamp, Terry Yunker*

### ***Leonard Schlamp***

Leonard is an Evansville native and has the distinct honor of being the very first camper to register to attend YMCA Camp Carson in 1940. Leonard once said, "It came about rather accidentally. I thought I was going to Camp Shawnee on the Green River. Then Mr. (William) Carson bought this property and gave it to the Y, and they chose to have the camp here. They said the first 50 boys who signed up would get a pencil. I just happened to be the first one. I still remember what the pencil said. It said, 'Camp Carson: Where skies are blue and boys are happy.'" Leonard attended Camp Carson for three summers as a camper and then joined the staff as a life guard in 1943. After a few years in the Navy, Leonard continued with a career on the water beginning as a deckhand in 1951 and progressing to a river boat pilot. During his camp years, Leonard started out by taking campers on canoe trips. His duties grew over time and included taking charge of the canteen and serving as office manager. One of his favorite duties was being the cabin leader for the "Honor Cabin" for several years. He performed all of these duties without pay because he was on "vacation" from his regular job as a riverboat pilot and Captain. Leonard currently serves on the Camp board and is always gracious and quick to respond anytime we have called to ask him anything about or for camp. From his time at camp as counselor to the present, Leonard has invested his time, his financial resources and his heart in camp.

### ***Terry Yunker***

Terry is also a native of Evansville and began his first job with the YMCA in the Grey Y programs. Terry and other staff took 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade boys on Saturday outings in November to Camp Carson for hiking, campfire, songs and live turkey hunts. The boys would chase the turkey and the person that caught it got to take it home for Thanksgiving dinner. Terry became a co-director with Steve Fritz in the 1967. Terry dedicated many summers to Camp Carson. He has a remarkable gift for remembering names. Children would check in on Sunday and by Monday evening at canteen he would know every camper's name and what cabin they were in. Terry is highly respected as a camp director who demonstrated exceptional love, care and service

to his campers and counselors. Terry has dedicated his career to education. He began as a Physical Education and Health teacher and is now the principal at Thompkins Middle School where he has been for almost 20 years. The same characteristics that marked him well as a camp director he now continues to express no less in his role as a principal to educators and students. We think the respect for Terry is clearly demonstrated by the gift of \$500.00 his Thompkins faculty made to the camp scholarship fund in his honor.

### **Steve Fritz**

Steve, also a native of Evansville, became a counselor at Camp Carson after his senior year of high school. He then began working with elementary students in the after-school Grey Y clubs at the Evansville public schools. From summers as a camp counselor, Steve still remembers the names of many of the kids in his cabins and still receives the occasional note or letter of appreciation from former campers. They thank him for taking so much interest in them and for having such a great impact on their lives. As mentioned earlier, Steve later became co-director of Camp Carson along with Terry Yunker. Outside of the summer, Steve's career was spent as an educator and coach with the Evansville school system and later in administration capacities. During his camp director years, Steve hand picked students from the schools who he felt had what it took to be a leader and who would positively impact the campers' lives. The appreciation and admiration his counselors had for him was evident in how virtually the same staff would return year after year. Steve always enjoyed a good hootenanny night and singing camp songs in the dining hall. It was also a joke about how he would misplace his keys and would have to sing in the dining hall to get them back (not really a punishment as he was a vocalist who liked to sing for people). Steve is still involved with Y today by serving on the Evansville Metropolitan Board, Camp Carson Board and over the years also on various National YMCA committees. He continues to contribute so much to the legacy of what camp was, is and continues to become.

## **Thank You! Your Investment Makes a Difference**

*Thanks to all those who gave to our Annual Campaign, Facility Improvements, Camp Endowment and Gifts in Kind in the last year!*



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## **Ways You Can Help**

- Volunteers to help organize two annual workdays at camp (Spring/Fall)
- Volunteer to be a Host Family for a 2009 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp
- Team Leaders for our 2009 Annual Fund Campaign
- Used Station Wagon or Mini Van
- Sponsor the implementation of a Mountain Bike Program at Camp.
- Sponsor a GPS cross country orienteering program
- Covered trailer to transport dirt bikes to inner city program sites

There are always plenty of opportunities to help out at camp. Thanks to these Toyota Logistics Services employees for help on prepping the brochures for school distribution and other projects they're helping with around camp.



**TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER NEEDS AND DREAMS –  
CLICK ON THE NEWS TAB ON THE WELCOME PAGE AT [WWW.CAMP CARSON.ORG](http://WWW.CAMP CARSON.ORG)**

# YMCA Camp Carson

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Waiting lists for some programs. Register online today at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) or call camp to register over the phone.

### Operation Purple Camp - June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

**FREE week of camp for children of Military Families including Reserves and National Guard**  
YMCA Camp Carson will host two weeks in 2009 serving about 220 kids.

Registration opens March 16<sup>th</sup> and runs through mid-April at [www.operationpurple.org](http://www.operationpurple.org).

### Calling All Scrapbookers – April 24 - 26, 2009

Join us for our Spring Scrapbooking Retreat – a weekend which offers hours of scrapbooking and some fun leisure time at some of our camp activities. Call or e-mail the camp office for more information.

### Volunteer Work Day, Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

We welcome volunteers at any time but if you'd prefer the warm weather, this is your chance.

### Open House, Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 1 – 4 pm (Central Time)

For families looking into summer camp. Please pass the word on to any friends that may be interested in attending.

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Weekend – Saturday, June 27, 2009

Go to our website at [www.campcarson.org](http://www.campcarson.org) for more information on these events.



“The kids can’t wait for the economy to recover before they get to experience camp.”

With *your investment*, think of the dreams we can encourage and give life to this summer!”

With the current economic climate, our donor support is more critical than ever.

Please help support our Annual Fund Campaign this April.



The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc., following the example of Jesus Christ, responds to community needs by serving all people, especially youth, through programs that promote healthy spirit, mind, and body.