



Spring 2014

Volume 8, Issue 1



YMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

CAMP CARSON'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

by Bill Carson

With the purchase of the former Lake Seminole recreation site by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Carson in 1940 and their donation of the property to the Evansville Y.M.C.A., 1940 marked Camp Carson's first season. Prior to that, the Y had operated a four acre camping site on the Green River. Current camp board member, Leonard Schlamp, was among the campers attending Camp Carson that first year and still has the imprinted pencil the Y gave to registering campers.

Mr. Carson was a member of the Y.M.C.A. board for more than 40 years and was president for seven years during the depression. He first came to Evansville as the general manager of the interurban traction company in the early part of the 20th century. At the time, there was no bridge on the Ohio River connecting Evansville and Henderson and Mr. Carson and others devised a system to load the trolley cars on barges so they could be "sailed" between Indiana and Kentucky.

Mr. Carson's formal education ended with graduation from high school; he was heard to remark more than once that he thought he might have made something of himself had he been able to attend college. Most people would find that somewhat amusing, as he enjoyed considerable success in a number of business ventures in Evansville, ranging from the traction company, to operating a furniture factory, manufacturing the first Coldspot refrigerators and freezers for Sears, Roebuck and Company and, finally, serving as president and chairman of the board of Old National Bank, his banking career originating when he was in his mid-60's. He also served a term as president of the prestigious National Association of Manufacturers.

W.A. or Will, as he was known to many, had a long-standing interest in the development of young people demonstrated by his lengthy involvement with the Y.M.C.A. and his philanthropy to Evansville College, as a member of the board of trustees and donor of student scholarships and lead gift towards the construction of the Carson Center on campus.

W.A.'s interest in Camp Carson was perpetuated by his son, Ellis, and Bob Becker, husband of W.A.'s grandchild, Betsy, who also served as president of the Evansville Y.M.C.A. As Ellis Carson remarked in 1962 on the occasion of the purchase of an additional 70 acres for Camp Carson by Mr. and Mrs. William Carson, "Whatever is done for the Y.M.C.A. has become a matter of family pride."

The Carson family's involvement was renewed when Bill Carson, W.A.'s namesake and grandson, moved from Memphis to Indianapolis in late 2005. Bill was a camper and counselor while living in Evansville and expressed an interest in getting reconnected with Camp Carson. Shortly afterwards, Bill was invited to join the camp board. Upon joining the board, the executive director of Camp Carson, Mark Scoular, asked Bill what he thought were priorities for camp. Without hesitation, Bill responded that the original cabins, which dated to the founding of camp, had outlived their useful life and Bill hoped that replacement of the cabins could happen in the relatively near future. Remarkably, the replacement of all of the cabins has been accomplished and 2014 will mark the initial camping season for 12 brand new, modern cabins.

The involvement of the fourth generation of Carson family at Camp Carson was marked by the donation of one of the first four new cabins by W.A.'s great-grandson, Courtney W. Carson, and Courtney's sponsoring of approximately 30 campers in the Operation Military Family

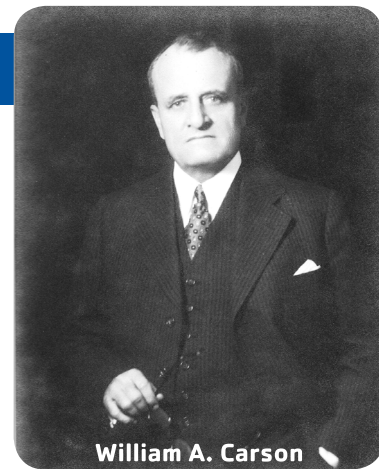
Camp in summer 2013. Courtney also has pledged to fund the renovation of the camp infirmary or construction of a new facility to replace it. The fifth generation is represented by attendance at camp by great-great-grandchildren Carson and Annie Greene Becker.

As Camp Carson celebrates its 75th anniversary, its future is secured and the Carson family's relationship with camp continues "as a matter of family pride," from Mr. and Mrs. William Carson through each succeeding generation.

Pictured Left: Carson Family at the dedication of the Ridge Top cabins.

L-R: Jo & Courtney Carson, Lainie Becker, Ellis & Katie Carson, Bill & Carmen Carson

Children L-R: Eliza, Carson, Annie Greene Becker



William A. Carson



2014 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN GOING ON NOW

\$75,000 Annual Campaign Goal



Thanks to so many of you, we are just \$11,300 away from our \$75,000 Goal!

What does your Investment in the Annual Campaign do?

Provides Full and Partial Camper Scholarships for kids to come to camp whose families, without your help, could not afford to send them.

Funds our 3 Rate Camper Fee Options helping middle income families who need some help but do not qualify for traditional Financial Assistance – Rates B & C are subsidized by the Annual Campaign. Example: Shoshone Rate A \$625, Rate B \$575, Rate C \$500

Supports quality year round camp programs and stewardship of a quality facility, reducing the cost for everyone.



Dr. Spencer & Mary Goodson at Family Camp with their grandkids

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT – BE PART OF THE \$10,000 MATCH!

Alum and Board Member, Dr. Spencer Goodson, and his wife Mary, have generously sent out a \$10,000 alumni donor matching gift challenge. They have committed to match dollar for dollar any gift from a camp alum who is **giving to camp for the first time** or any **increase to an alum's previous giving level!** Thank you Spencer and Mary – It has been fun to watch it climb up there. So far \$5,375 has come in towards the match!

Thank You to our 2013 Annual Campaign and Program Donors

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Craig & Mary Fenneman
Jay Cutler Foundation

NEW CABINS ARE ALMOST READY!

For those of you not following along on Facebook, take a moment to look over these photos of the 8 newest cabins which will be ready for use along with the 4 Ridge Top Cabins this summer. Many of you will be the first campers to stay in these buildings of "friendship, memories and experiences that last a lifetime!"

Only about 6 weeks until camp starts – **REGISTER NOW TO SAVE YOUR SPOT AND BE ONE OF THE FIRST CAMPERS TO STAY IN THE NEW CABINS!**



YMCA Camp Carson is in the beginning stages a major capital initiative to build the future of camp. Through the generosity of many donors, we are off to a great start and will open 12 new cabins in the just a few weeks! We look forward to recognizing the generous individuals and organizations at the Cabin Dedication held during our 75th Reunion on June 7th and in the Fall Newsletter.



ACCEPTED, CHALLENGED, EMPOWERED

– Helping Kids A.C.E. the Summer and Life

From the Director, Mark Scoular

It has been such a pleasure to interact with the Carson family these past few years and, most recently, as we look to the future. This year, as we enter our 75th summer of operation, I wonder if Mr. Carson could have really comprehended the depth of impact his donation of the camp would ultimately have on the lives of so many people! Over the last 5 months, our camp board has engaged with a number of Alumni from all generations to explore the development of a long range Site Master Plan. The discussion and idea sharing, blended with tales and adventures of summers past and anticipation of what could be, have helped direct our energy and focus in so many ways.

"This bright, new day... complete with 24 hours of opportunities, choices, and attitudes... a perfectly matched set of 1440 minutes. This unique gift, this one day, cannot be exchanged, replaced or refunded. Handle with care. Make the most of it." – Author Unknown

It also enabled all generations of camp to connect across the decades and realize the core elements that make camp so successful and significant remain the same in the lives of those who spend even a little of their summer in this "magical place". Yes, the grounds and facilities are beautiful, the activity options endless and challenging at all levels. BUT, camp is something deeper, more powerful and more spiritual than grounds, activities and buildings. It is a place of **acceptance**, a connection to a community that allows you to be yourself and enjoy the bonds of friendship. It's place to test and **challenge** ourselves, to learn that all things are possible, to realize that character does count and exercising your faith does matter. It's a place that **empowers** campers and staff to confidently set goals and take on those challenges and to strive to be our best as honest, caring, responsible, respectful individuals of strong character and faith, both at camp and in the outside world.

With summer getting closer and closer, I am reminded, via Facebook posts and weekly conversations, how much former campers and staff long for one more summer and how much they miss all that happens in our "165 acre world." We look forward to sharing the vision for camp's future with you at the 75th Anniversary and over the coming months and years. I hope you will be able to join us for this event on June 7th, or any other day this summer, as we celebrate, reflect on the past and look to the future. It's not too late to ensure your children, grandchildren, or other children you know, have a camp experience this summer. Let's all do our part to help a child A.C.E. the summer and life!

Great Article: Five Reasons Great Parents Send Their Kids to Camp: <http://sunshineparenting.wordpress.com/2014/03/28/five-reasons-great-parents-send-their-kids-to-camp>

As part of our preparation for the site master plan, we worked together to define what it is that camp really does in the lives of those who experience it. I invited campers, alumni and lifelong camp friends to share their insights on the power and value of camp. I received dozens and dozens and selected a few to share with you. Those who have been to camp will truly identify with many of the thoughts expressed here.



"At camp I always felt like I was truly being myself (which is what I think most people mean when they talk about their "camp person"). By building strong relationships with people who saw me being myself, I learned that there was no reason to waste time pretending to be someone I wasn't. The camp version of myself was always in there, but going to camp and building those relationships gave me the confidence to apply that attitude to life outside of camp."



Why is my child different / better because of camp... the knowledge and power of the identity camp has given my child... The strength that comes with being part of a team...



"Without camp: I never would have come to know Christ, felt that safety, love, and freedom to be me, it completely shaped my future and led me down a path that I will eternally be grateful for!"



"Camp was very important in the building of my personal self confidence because when I was at Camp I was not judged, I was accepted for who I was and I was never made to feel that I was not good enough by the other kids who obviously had more money This in itself made me realize at a young and impressionable age that as long as was true to myself and always tried to keep myself "Third" I could accomplish anything in life."



Without Camp – I would not have learned to appreciate and love others who are so very different than me. I would not have learned that the world does not revolve around me. I would not have some incredible, life-long friends. And lastly, I sure would not be sitting at a computer THIRTY years later with tears welling in my eyes reflecting on some of the best memories of my lifetime. I love camp, I believe in camp.



Where kids are

Accepted: be yourself, belong to the group
Challenged: by choice, by new experiences
Empowered: at camp and when you go home

Camp also taught me independence and that it's ok to make mistakes, what matters is that you learn from them. Camp provides a safe environment for campers and staff alike to figure out who they are.



"Why am I different/better because of camp? Camp allowed me to realize who I truly wanted to be, and I was surrounded with incredible people that helped me become that person. At camp you do become part of a family... Just from the LIT and CIT programs I have a pretty lengthy family tree! Camp taught me how to test my comfort zone, and that skill has helped me tremendously as a freshman in college. People ask how I can be so outgoing and open to making new friends, and I owe it all to camp. Spending a summer at a place where you do nothing but interact with strangers that end up becoming your family teaches you countless lessons in listening, compromising, and shapes you in to an understanding and caring person!"

75th REUNION – JUNE 7, 2014

A full day of celebration you don't want to miss!

- Reconnect with camp friends
- Waterfront and Land Activities Open
- Walk through Camp History Displays
- New Cabin Tours
- Submit your photos and memoirs – see registration form inside
- Lunch and Dinner Meals and Songs in the Dining Hall
- Alumni Group photos by decade
- Assembly sharing exciting plans for camp's future
- New Cabin Dedication
- Hootenanny
- BMS (Body, Mind, Spirit)
- Closing Campfire w/ S'mores



Thank You to our 2013 Service, Equipment and/or Materials Donors

Steve & Lisa Amick
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Berry's Produce & Country Market
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Craig Schafer & Sons
Straeffer Pump & Supply, Inc.
Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana
Watts Farms
West Side Honda

NEW! GOOD STUDENT/ CITIZEN SCHOLARSHIPS – 50% OFF RATE A

Thanks to a special donor, Craig Fenneman, these partial scholarships are available to new campers from middle income families who do not qualify for traditional scholarships. Requirements include community service hours, good grades and good citizenship standing at school. Call camp office for info.

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF HONDA

18 NEW dirt bikes for our Camp programs

Special thanks to Owner, **Phil Volz**, of Westside Honda for his donation of services to receive and assemble the bikes!

YEAR ROUND DIRT BIKE OUTREACH NYPUM

(National Youth Project Using Minibikes)

An outreach program at YMCA Camp Carson

NYPUM is a nationwide incentive based program which offers a valuable tool in helping young people make good choices and stay on a positive path. When they meet the goals they set in their personal contract, they are rewarded with dirt bike riding time. The results are literally life changing. For more info contact Kyle Smith – 385-3597 Ext. 103

SUMMER TIME OPTION! We are one of the few camps in the US that NYPUM permits to use the bikes for summer residential camp programs. Dirt bike instruction and riding is available as an add-on program to Shoshone camp.



WISH LIST & WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer to help organize two annual **workdays** at camp (Spring/Fall).
- Volunteer to be a **Host Family** for a 2014 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp.
- Provide a used **Station Wagon** or **Mini Van**.
- Sponsor a **Student Life Application Bible(s)**. It is our desire to make a Bible available to any camper upon request.
- Sponsor **NYPUM program** (National Youth Project Using Minibikes).
- Volunteer to help maintain **plants & shrubs** around camp.
- **Write to your local newspaper** about the benefits of a summer camp experience.
- **Ask your PTA** to have us come and speak to students/parents about camp.
- **Invite us to speak** to your local civic organization about camp's work in the community.
- Share your **IT Skills** to develop **camp wide internet access**.

You can Sponsor...

- **GPS Cross Country** orienteering program.
- **Digital Photography and Video Program**.
- Purchase of new **Western Saddles**.
- **Tree House** or **Tree House Village**.
- **Adirondack Shelter** as part of our **Eagles Ridge (Camp Out) Village**.
- **New Cabin** at Camp.
- A **Suspension Bridge** at camp.
- **2 Tee-Pees** by Nomadic TeePee Makers.
- **Mini Glass/Jewelry Kiln** for Creative Arts.
- **Precision Air Pellet Rifles**.
- **Slingshot Program**.

YMCA CAMP CARSON

75th REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

We're expecting a big crowd. Please help us plan well
by sending in your registration form by May 26.

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO: 2034 Outer Lake Road • Princeton, IN 47670

Email questions to 75thReunion@ymcacampcarson.org or call 812-385-3597



___ YES! I will be there June 7.

Full Name _____ (Please Print Clearly)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Including me, there will be ___ people in my group. Please PRINT First & Last names and ages below.

Spouse: _____ Child 1: _____ Age: _____

Child 2: _____ Age: _____ Child 3: _____ Age: _____

Other: _____ Age: _____ Other: _____ Age: _____

ACCOMMODATIONS – With the exception of meals, there is no charge for accommodations. Thank you for understanding that due to limited space, we will be operating on a “first come, first served” basis.

OPTION A _____ 2 Nights! Friday (Check in 7:00 - 10:00 pm) through Sunday (Check out 9:00 am)
Includes Continental Breakfast Sat. & Sun. as well as Lunch and Dinner on Saturday.

OPTION B _____ 1 Night! Friday (Check in 7:00 - 10:00 pm) through Saturday (Check out after closing campfire)
Includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday.

OPTION C _____ 1 Night! Saturday (Check in 8:00 am - all day) through Sunday (Check out 9:00 am)
Includes Lunch and Dinner on Saturday as well as Continental Breakfast on Sunday.

OPTION D _____ No Overnight! Includes Lunch and Dinner on Saturday.

Friday and Saturday night accommodations are available for up to 120 people in the 12 new cabins! We thank you in advance for understanding that we can only accommodate all of our guests by offering boy cabins and girl cabins. Please list cabin mate requests below – male and female family members will be placed together in male and female cabins unless otherwise noted below. Due to limited space it will have to be first registered, first served! Cabin assignments will be given at check in.

___ **Friday night** ___ # Boys ___ # Girls Cabin Mate Requests: _____

___ **Saturday night** ___ # Boys ___ # Girls Cabin Mate Requests: _____



MEALS: To ensure we have enough food prepared, please complete below.

LUNCH: YES Please! _____ Members of my group will participate in the lunch meal in the Dining Hall.
I am enclosing **\$7.50/person**.

No Thank You! _____ We will not be at camp for lunch.

DINNER: YES Please! _____ Members of my group will participate in the dinner meal at camp.
I am enclosing **\$7.50/person**.

No Thank You! _____ We will not be at camp for dinner.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check -or-
Visa/Mastercard _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. ____/____

ALUMNI INFO: Even if you think we have it, please take a moment to fill in years below, it helps us to connect the dots within the camp family!

____ I was a camper from _____ to _____. Example: 1975 - 1978 If you don't know, ball park it!

____ I was on staff from _____ to _____. Example: 1986 - 1988 If you don't know, ball park it!

If your children attended camp – please include their history here as well.

For the married ladies – Last Name when you were at camp please: _____

Please list positions you held as a staff member: _____

My Camp Director was: _____

My Camp Cook(s) were: _____

My Camp Nurse was: _____

My Waterfront Director was: _____

I met my spouse at camp and our names are: _____

HOOTENANNY and SONGS by the Decade:

____ Yes, I would like to join some campers and counselors from my decade and participate in a skit or lead a song for Hootenanny. We will pass your name along to the committee members coordinating your decade. Please be sure you have given us your email and phone # above.

MEMOIRS and PHOTOS for DISPLAYS at the Reunion AND for Camp Carson Book being compiled:

Over the next year, a book sharing 75 years of Camp Carson history and shenanigans is being put together and we will need lots of submissions to work with. So please, fire up that keyboard and send or bring us your stories (the true ones and, as always, camp appropriate please), your fondest memories as well as how camp made a positive impact on you as a camper and/or staff member. Also, any photos you can scan and send digitally are welcome. Please identify people in photos. Please email photos and memoirs to 75thReunion@ymcacampcarson.org

TO HELP YOU PLAN:

- Please leave pets at home
- All children accompanied by adults
- No programming or meals Friday night
- **Bring chairs**
- **Bring memoirs/photos to post at displays**

TO HELP US PLAN:

- **Please register by May 26th**



WELCOMING NEW FACES TO CAMP CARSON!



Kyle Smith – Program Director

A big YMCA Camp Carson welcome to our new Program Director – Kyle Smith. Kyle is from Bloomington, IN and loves the outdoors and riding the trails at camp. He graduated from Purdue University where he earned his degree in Business Management along with a Minor in Entrepreneurial Leadership. Kyle has spent the past two years as an Auditor in Indianapolis, IN, but desired to pursue a career at camp where he could minister and invest in the lives young people. During the summers of 2008-2011 he served as our Boys Head Counselor, Dirt Bike Director and Land Director. Kyle will be focusing lots of time on making our programs stronger and expanding our NYPUM Dirt Bike Outreach program. He is also looking for challengers on the rings at the waterfront! We all remember Kyle's great leadership for the staff and campers during his previous years at camp. He shares that, while he may have made an impact on others, camp also had a tremendous impact on him personally. "Camp Carson not only showed me what capabilities I possessed as an individual, but it was a driving force that helped foster and create these capabilities within me. The individual growth

and the friendships I received at Camp was a monumental experience for me that never left my heart. I am unbelievably excited to be back at Camp to help create this same impact within every person that comes through the gates."



Sarah (Peddie) Hooper – Programs Specialist

We also want to welcome back Sarah Hooper to our team. Sarah is originally from Mt. Vernon, IN and currently lives in Fairfield, IL with her husband, Zach and daughter, Gretchen. Sarah graduated from Murray State University with a degree in Chemistry and also completed her Master's Degree in Public Health Disaster Management at Tulane University. She has lots of experience with running our military camp programs and will be taking on Operation Purple Camp this year. She will also be running the canteen – one of her favorite ways to meet lots and lots of campers. Some of her other favorites are singing camp songs and the Raggers Program! Sarah has been coming to camp since the summer of 2002, moving through camper, LIT, CIT, counselor, Teen Director, and now on to Programs Specialist. She has a special place in her heart for the teen leadership programs. "Working with our teen programs and being director for over 5 years has been a huge privilege of mine and one of my favorite times at camp. Watching our teens grow in their passion for camp and serving children is amazing to experience. I love watching groups of campers go from camper to LIT to CIT and then

getting to work with them on staff." We are very excited to have Sarah back with us in these new leadership roles on staff!

BRIDGE BUILDERS CLUB

Thank You to our 2013 Endowment Fund Donors

David & Vicky Carson*
Erik Ripper & Kristin Dannheiser*
Reno & Florence DeMuth
Jerry & Linda Dennis
Scott & Ann Ford*
John & Julie Lamb*
Leonard Schlamp
Levi Stahl & Stacey Shintani

*Lewis Reed Lamb Memorial Fund

Bridge Builder Club members have contributed \$1000 or more to the camp endowment fund and/or have included Camp Carson in their estate plans.

What does the Endowment Fund do?

Earnings from the Camp Carson Endowment Fund help underwrite things like camper scholarships, camp's programs and the operating costs of our facility, rather than passing these costs on to families through camper fees. If you have any questions about the endowment fund, please do not hesitate to contact Mark or Debra at 812-385-3597.



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Mr. Mark Scoular

Thank You to our 2013 Operation Military Support Donors

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\$5000 + Donors

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YMCA CAMP CARSON

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2034 Outer Lake Road • Princeton IN 47670

A Branch of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc.

222 NW 6th Street - Evansville IN 47708

Phone: 812-385-3597 • Fax: 812-386-1654

Email: campinfo@ymcacampcarson.org • Web-site www.campcarson.org

YMCA
Camp Carson
An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime

**Mom & Dad,
Have campers moved on? Please email
camp with their new address!**

**Don't Miss Our
75th Reunion
Saturday, June 7, 2014
Registration Inside!**

SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 3, 9 am-1 pm CST **VOLUNTEER WORK DAY** – RSVP appreciated but not required 812-385-3597

May 4, 1-4 pm CST **OPEN HOUSE** – RSVP appreciated but not required 812-385-3597

May 19 - June 6 **Staff Training/Work Weeks**

June 7 - ALL DAY 75th REUNION – Registration Form inside!

Summer Camp

June 9-13

June 15-20

June 22-27

June 29 - July 3

July 6-11

July 13-18

July 20-25

July 27-Aug 2

Aug 3-Aug 8

Labor Day Weekend

Aug 30-Sep 1

Oct 3-5

Session 1: Safety Patrol Camp

Session 2: Shoshone - Wrangler - CIT Camps

Session 3: Shoshone - Wrangler - CIT - Type 1 Diabetes Camps

Session 4: Operation Purple and Operation Military Support Camps

Session 5: Shoshone - Wrangler - CIT Camps

Session 6: Shoshone - Wrangler - CIT - LIT Camps

Session 7: Shoshone - Wrangler - LIT - Fox Camps

Session 8: Camp Kesem - kids with parents coping with cancer

Session 9: Camp Corral - Military family kids - priority given to families of fallen/wounded soldiers

FAMILY CAMP

FALL CAMP



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

CONNECT OR RECONNECT WITH CAMP

Links available via our website
gateway page.

