

## **From Four Camps to Two: 1970-79**

By Peter Collinge

The 1970s saw the U.S. enter the post-Baby Boom era, with the K-12 student population shrinking enough to cause some schools to close. Scouting wasn't immune from this trend, and neither was Massawepie. The optimism about camp attendance that helped lead to Forester's opening in 1969 as the fourth camp within Massawepie soon gave way to the reality that camp attendance was dropping for multiple reasons. The camp management had to adapt, and Massawepie changed while still fulfilling its purpose of providing a quality camping and growth experience for thousands of Scouts.

### **Still four camps: 1970**

1970 opened with 140 troops registered for camp, the same as in January, 1968. Two camp directors were returning from 1969, John Hunt at Pioneer and Bob Wood at Forester. Ken Johnson would lead Mountaineer, Dick Stahl would direct Voyageur, and Joe Helly would be Business Manager. Another change was that the CIT (Counselor-in-Training) program for 15-year-olds was split into two 4-week sessions, rather than the full group staying for the whole summer as in the program's 1969 inaugural year, thus allowing for better supervision and training of the CITs. One change that was announced in October but later rescinded in February was moving the busses from Saturdays to Sundays; in the end, session changeover (to and from camp) stayed on Saturdays for 1970.

But the biggest changes for 1970 were that Forester was expanding from six troop sites to ten, and as a result Pioneer would be closed for 4<sup>th</sup> period. (A few of the Pioneer staff went to Forester to help for 4<sup>th</sup> period, including Dan Brandes who became Program Director). Expanding Forester was non-trivial: in addition to building new tent platforms and latrines and picnic tables, the sites themselves were different than in the other three camps. Each site was designed to rotate in a three-year cycle around a central latrine, so that each year it would be approximately 1/3 of the way further around the latrine. That meant that new sections of the six original sites needed to be cleared and the platforms and tables moved, in addition to building the four new sites. The goal was to avoid sites looking "beaten down," and helping to maintain the availability of the firewood that was used for cooking.

Perhaps because of the challenges of expanding Forester and maintaining four camps, Property Superintendent Loren Hakes' staff had been expanded, and in 1970 he had two assistants, Earl Gilligan (who would soon retire) and Merv Thomas. Thomas had earlier worked briefly for Harley Burgdorf in 1951-52, helping to build the Mountaineer Road, until leaving for military service. When Thomas was hired in 1970, Hakes was living in the former Lee house out near NYS Route 3, so Thomas lived in the ranger house near the shop for the next several years.

Here's How meetings for camp adult leaders and Senior Patrol Leaders (SPLs) were being held at RIT on two evenings in May, split by camp periods (1&2, 3&4). Beaver Weekend was scheduled for June 5-6, and with four camps to prepare lots of help was needed. There were also some projects to correct issues that had been found during a May 16 inspection of camp supervised by Dr. Edwin Robinson, Health & Safety Chairman. Four busses were available for a fee of \$3/person including a box lunch. They arrived at camp late Friday and headed home after dinner on Saturday. About 300 volunteers were expected.

Ed Black resigned as Director of Camping effective May 11, to become Director of Training for the Chicago Area Council. George "Bud" Frank, an Eagle Scout graduate of the University of Rochester was promoted from Field Director to Director of Camping, and would direct Massawepie for 1970. Frank had already managed Massawepie during the summers of 1965-68 under two previous Directors of Camping (Leonard Delesky and Ed Black).

Bob Wood, the founding Forester Camp Director in 1969-70, was a proponent of the site rotation system mentioned earlier. He (traditional, conservative) was an interesting contrast with Forester Program Director Bob Lewis (a conscientious objector), but they made a good team until Lewis was required to leave during the 1970 season to begin his alternate service on a tribal reservation in the Southwest. In the words of 1970 Forester staffer Peter Scribner, Wood and Lewis “shared a vision of a rugged wilderness base camp for Forester,” since they were both outdoors-oriented. However, the rotation system of moving each troop site each year turned out to be far too much work for the staff, and eventually the rotation only happened every few years, and then on an “as needed” basis. To ensure adequate future firewood for cooking, selected standing trees were also “girdled” (with a shallow cut around the trunk circumference) so that they would gradually die.

One new program being tried in 1970 was a two-week provisional Aquatics Camp during fourth period, August 8-22, at a cost of \$75. The camp was focused on aquatic merit badges, and required Scouts to be First Class and above.

After the 1970 summer season, Oct. 3 was announced as the sign-up day for the four camps for the summer of 1971. However, by October, sign-ups were only taken for Mountaineer, Voyageur, and Forester. The Pioneer campers and staff of third period, 1970, didn't realize at the time that they would be the last in Pioneer for thirty years, other than a brief interlude in 1976-77. Summer camp attendance had been over 3000 boys in 1967, prompting the addition of Camp Forester. But in 1970, only 2400 boys attended camp, and four camps were no longer needed so Pioneer was closed. The drop-off in attendance was caused by several factors. The peak of the post-WWII Baby Boom had passed, and the number of available youth was starting to drop. Also, there had been some bad publicity in Rochester in Fall, 1969, about problems at Massawepie within a troop with poor leadership, which may have temporarily caused some parents to hesitate sending their sons to camp. Finally, the camp fee for two weeks had increased from \$60 in 1969 to \$70 in 1970, which may have discouraged some Scouts. The concern about increasing costs was one reason why Otetiana Council announced “limited availability” during fourth period of 1971 for troops to attend Mountaineer and Voyageur for one week, rather than the standard two-week period, though of course that would also mean fewer “boy-weeks” in camp for the same number of boys.

In October, Scout Executive Gene Cruse and Camping Chairman George Gulick announced the camp leadership for 1971. Bud Frank and Joe Helly would return as Reservation Director (the first recorded use of that title) and Business Manager. But the individual camp directors would all be new: Dick Stahl at Mountaineer (soon replaced by Don Terry, but see further note below), Charles Scullin at Voyageur, and Hurdon Hastings, Jr. at Forester.

### **Three camps: 1971-1977**

By January, 1971, 150 troops were registered for Massawepie. A new administration building was planned for Camp Forester (and another for Camp Cutler), both to be built by contractors before summer. Another change for 1971 was that the long-time deposit of \$5 per Scout due with “boy cards” to hold a troop's registration, which dated back to at least 1954, was updated to \$20 per Scout, due in February with the balance due in June.

A growing national awareness of environmental issues had resulted in the first Earth Day in 1970. Massawepie responded in several ways. Camping Committee member Heinz Altmann was assigned as Conservation Committee Chair, and began working on land-use plans for Massawepie and Cutler. By February, 1971, he announced that the Massawepie Wildlife and Forestry plan was finished, and that fish stocking & logging/forest improvement work had started. Also, starting in 1971 the former Scoutcraft/Conservation program area in each camp became the Nature/Conservation area, with Scoutcraft badges now handled separately by the Commissioners & their aides or by troop leaders.

Here's How meeting for camp leaders were held at Eastridge High School in May, followed shortly by Beaver Weekend June 4-6. Plenty of volunteers were needed (310 participated) to work on projects including an expansion of the Health Lodge, Forester campsite expansion, and repairing some winter damage from heavy snow. Four Trailways busses were available for Beaver Weekend at a cost of \$4/person. During the summer, similar busses loaded at Southtown Plaza on Saturdays at the start of each period, to take Scouts and leaders to camp. Campers were asked to arrive at 7:15 AM for an 8 AM departure.

Ranger Merv Thomas, who assisted Loren Hakes, remembers replenishing the sand on the Voyageur beach in 1971. The Voyageur beach was located in a marshy area, unlike Pioneer, Mountaineer, and Forester that had naturally sandy beaches. Merv hauled sand from the pit in Gale and spread it to keep the marsh from swallowing the waterfront. Merv also helped build a new archery range for Mountaineer, and helped "set things up" for the contractors working in Forester.

Starting in 1971, the council offered four Webelos Scout Weekends at Massawepie during the summer, on the middle weekends of each camp period. Webelos and Dads were encouraged to sign up (for \$6 for the pair) when their prospective troop was in camp.

A new position for 1971 was the Central Program Coordinator, who would oversee the Trail Department, CIT program, Order of the Arrow, and Chaplains. In the era of two-week camp periods, each Scout was at camp for two full Sundays, and the need to provide religious services and counsel was taken seriously. There were typically Protestant and Catholic chaplains in camp, often on a rotating basis during the summer, and for many years there was a Jewish chaplain hired for the summer. The respective council religious committees on Scouting helped provide the chaplains. Peter Collinge, a Commissioner Aide at Pioneer in 1970 and Forester in 1971, remembers that a Buddhist Scout in one of his troops felt left out, so Collinge asked the Jewish Chaplain (who was perhaps less busy than the others) to speak with the Scout, which he was happy to do.

Don Terry started the summer as the Voyageur Camp Director, but had a heart attack early in the season and ended up in the Tupper Lake Hospital. He was replaced by Dick Stahl, who ironically had been initially announced as the camp director before being replaced by Terry. Tragedy struck toward the end of the 1971 season when a 32-year-old camp leader and Navy veteran, Pearley MacFarland, died of a heart attack on August 9. After he was stricken at breakfast in the Mountaineer dining hall he was very quickly driven to the camp doctor on duty (coincidentally a cardiologist, reportedly) by staff, but MacFarland was unable to be saved. The remaining campers, leaders, and staff mourned his passing and felt for his 12-year-old son who was in camp.

The 1971 camp attendance of 2725 boys from 185 troops was a nice bounce from 2400 the previous year. Scout Executive Gene Cruse attended Forester as a leader with his son's troop and wrote in the *Smoke Signals* newsletter that he was impressed with the experience, and that it strengthened his view of the educational and character-building aspects of Scouting.

While troops were signing up for camp in the fall, the council promised to purchase more Sailfish, trail equipment, and field sports equipment. By January, 1972, 11 Sailfish were added (partially funded by Tay House Troop 19), and 10,000 rainbow trout were stocked in Massawepie Lake, plus 3000 more in Pine Pond and Deer Pond. New camp directors would be Pat Gleason at Voyageur and Al Vittum at Mountaineer. A new 1972 camp promotion film was available; Camp Promotion Chairman Bruce Russell presented Scout statuettes to Ernie Crisp and Ron Dundon, who spent hundreds of hours photographing, writing, and editing the film. In February, Highland District led the council with 91% of its troops registered for camp, followed closely by Keystone and Longhorn with 89% each. Camp fees were held steady, hoping to offset costs with increased attendance. The council announced in May

that Kodak had cooperated on the BSA's new Photography merit badge pamphlet, which would include a series of photos at Massawepie's Jack Stern Sailing base.

New for the 1972 summer was the availability of badges and certificates at camp for merit badges and Second and First Class ranks, in case troops wished to have boards or review and courts of honor at camp. Even Star and Life might be presented if paperwork was done in advance and a district representative was available for the board of review, which was a requirement at the time. Also new for 1972: three distinctive camp patches (the first time each camp had its own patch). Webelos and dads could again camp at Massawepie during the middle weekend of each period for \$6.

In October, 1972, Camping Chairman Bruce Russell announced a significant change in the camp schedules for 1973. Forester would continue to have four 2-week periods, but Mountaineer would have only three two-week periods, and Voyageur would have six one-week periods to accommodate the increasing demand for one week camping. Also, provisional camping (Scouts coming without their troops, under leadership provided by the camp) would be offered at Voyageur after its six weeks (during the usual fourth period), using staff from Voyageur and Mountaineer. Three different promotional slide shows were offered to troops: one for Forester, one for the dining hall camps, and one for provisional camping. The 1973 camp brochure, which opened to a poster developed by Edward Morison and Glenn Brown, would be mailed.

In December, the 1973 camp fees were announced: \$76 for two weeks (up from \$70), \$43 for one week at Voyageur, \$48 for one provisional week, and \$70 for a 4-week CIT program. All fees included bus transportation. Also announced: the plan to add a rifle range for 1973. Until then, shooting sports at Massawepie had mostly been limited to archery. There would also be additional sailboats and aluminum rowboats at Voyageur (which were replacing the older wooden boats). Also new for 1973: each camp would have its own mug, featuring the camp's colorful patch. New camp directors would be Fred Heier, Jr. at Forester and Dick Olds at Voyageur.

Beaver Weekend was June 1-2, and busses left from various locations at 6:30 PM Friday, returning after the Saturday "Beaver Banquet" prepared by Troop 70 Scouters. Weekend co-chairs Mailey Hughes and David Vasile prepared 70+ projects, and often the project crew chief recruited his own workers. Summer camp busses again left from Southtown Plaza, and typically returned between 6 and 7 PM. Parents wanting to visit camp during the middle weekend were warned to make their own lodging arrangements in advance, since camp could not accommodate them, and not to plan to take their sons out of camp. During the summer, the Joseph Vasile Rifle Range, off the Mountaineer Road (the Shotgun Range in recent years), was dedicated. Since it was not within any of the camps, using the range involved a hike, usually from Voyageur or Mountaineer since Forester was rather far.

When Mountaineer closed after six weeks in 1973, handful of staff members were kept on for a special project. Nature-Conservation Director Peter Scribner had noticed that the troop sites in Mountaineer were getting beaten down, like the ones in Pioneer before it closed. Scribner had worked at Forester in 1970, so he was familiar with its campsite rotation system. He proposed that a similar rotation system be used for the Mountaineer sites, and sold the idea to Camp Director Al Vittum, Reservation Director Bud Frank, and Camping Chairman Bruce Russell. Scribner then led a crew during fourth period (and during "pre-staff" work before camp in 1974) to clear new campsite areas beyond the existing Mountaineer sites and to move many of the existing sites into these new areas. The council paid to extend water lines and build new latrines in the new sites. This may have been one reason that Mountaineer was eventually able to stay open longer than Pioneer or Voyageur.

Apparently the expanded one-week camp option helped attendance, which was 2725 boys in 1973, up from 2578 the year before. Camping Chairman Bruce Russell also announced that the camp busses had logged 1000+ miles per week transporting Scouts on canoe and mountain adventures.

In November, 1973, the council announced that due to the success of the new rifle range, a donation had been received to build another 8-point range, at Forester. (That range eventually expanded to 10 shooting points.) There were also plans to develop a special survival outpost. Fees for 1974 were increased to \$83 for two weeks and \$46 for one week (\$93/51 provisional). In February, 1974, Niagara-Mohawk Corporation agreed to allow Massawepie Scouts the use of 2200 acres of their land that adjoined the camp's southeast boundary, near Forester. (In fact, a few of the Forester campsites and a dirt road had already been built partially "over the line" on the Niagara-Mohawk property.) Survival volunteer Jan Faber chose a spot on this land for a new trail outpost, named Dutch Hill (for his heritage). It had limited popularity, since unlike most Massawepie outposts it wasn't on a pond, so water had to be carried in.

As part of the effort to build camp attendance, Camping Chairman Bruce Russell announced a new leader incentive. A special camp jacket with the new Northeast Region emblem would be given to each Scoutmaster who submits boy cards and \$20 deposits for 75% of his Scouts. To help attract the Scouts, Massawepie Program Chairman Bill Pye announced that a new canoe base would operate on the Raquette River through an agreement with Paul Smiths College. Before summer, this program morphed into a rubber raft trip down the Raquette River. Survival Program Chairman Jan Faber also announced that volunteer survival experts would be in camp all summer.

For 1974 camp leadership, Bud Frank and Joe Helly would return as Reservation Director and Business Manager, and Fred Heier returned at Forester. Mike O'Brien became the Mountaineer camp director. Dick Olds was announced to return to Voyageur, but he took a non-Scouting job just before summer and Pat Gleason returned to Voyageur, which he had also directed in 1972.

As the summer of 1974 approached, there was a new problem. Due to fuel shortages after the OPEC oil embargo that started in 1973, the bus company could only guarantee 12 busses. As a result, while the Mountaineer and Voyageur busses continued to travel on Saturdays, the Forester busses were switched to Sunday. Busses did still run for Beaver Weekend May 31 – June 1, for \$5/person returning on Saturday or \$9 if staying until Sunday.

The U.S. Army supplied range officers to run both of the rifle ranges, which were popular. But maybe the most exciting new program in 1974 was the Raquette River Rubber Raft Run. A rough trail had been cut from camp on the north side of NY Route 3 to the Raquette River. Rafting groups hiked to the river, where there was a campsite with tents and patrol cooking equipment. They spent the night there, then started rafting in the morning. Along the way, the raft groups had to carry the rafts around several rapids and falls, and then were picked up at a takeout below Jamestown Falls. Mark Kurtz recalled that one challenge was that inexpensive rafts had been purchased that kept popping. "Exploding rafts" were certainly a conversation starter, but inconvenient in the middle of the river. (Better rafts were purchased for 1975.) Kurtz said that the rafting was a fun program, as long as the river level was high enough, which wasn't always true as the summer went along.

The fact that much of the camp staff consists of teenagers has pluses, because they can relate well to the Scouts, and minuses, because they sometime pull dumb stunts. In the 1970s, staff members were often taken into Tupper Lake on their day off for the afternoon/evening. Some would take dirty laundry with them, to wash in the laundromat. In 1974 there was an arrangement where the staff could leave their clean laundry in the police station while they explored the town, maybe shopping or eating or watching a movie. Unfortunately, one staffer saw the police chief's uniform shirt in the station and thought it would be funny to "borrow" it. Needless to say, the police chief was not amused, especially since his badge was on the shirt. Eventually the staff member, who was fired the next day, admitted that he "ditched" the uniform in the town park. That led to Reservation Director Bud Frank and Central Program Coordinator Mike Bausch beating the bushes in the park looking for the shirt, which they eventually found. That was the end of staff laundry storage at the police station.

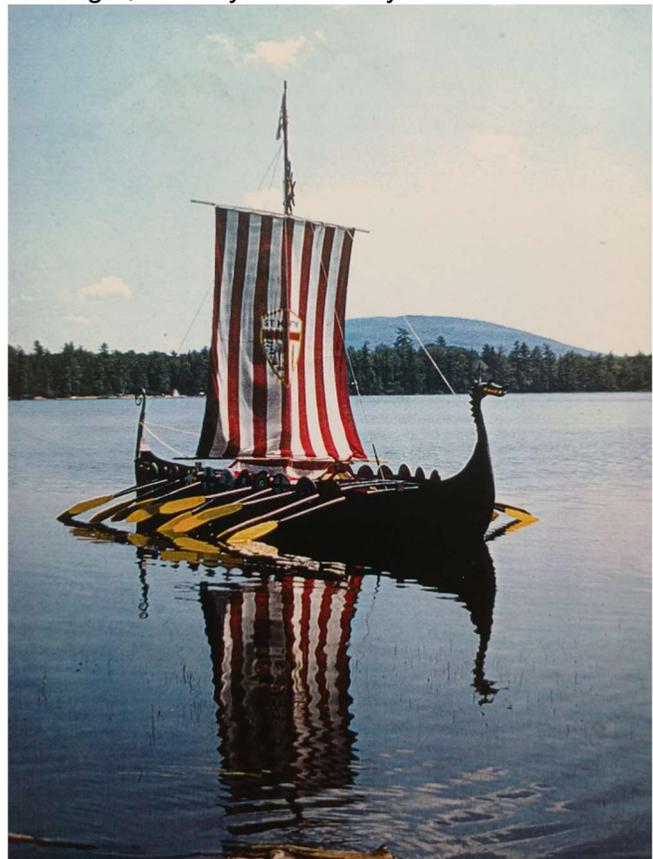
In December, 1974, Camp Program Chairman John Berggren wrote that the council was reviewing the future of the facilities in Pioneer and Voyageur. In January, 1975, it was announced that Voyageur would use six campsites from Pioneer, with new latrines and washstands. The Voyageur troop sites had been used for almost 20 years and were worn down, whereas the Pioneer sites had “greened up” some after being unused since 1970. Higher fees were also announced for 1975: \$100 for 2 weeks (up from \$83!) and \$55.50 for one week (\$110/\$61.50 provisional). The number of Scouts receiving camp scholarships was expected to exceed the 400 awarded in 1974; \$10,000 was needed to meet the demand. To help meet the need, a benefit was held in June at the Town & Country Theatre in East Rochester, with entertainer Vic Damone performing.

Forester busses would again travel on Sundays for 1975, with the other two camp’s busses on Saturdays. New equipment had been purchased: over 200 life vests, 100 canoe paddles, 2 dozen trail tents, and new (better!) rubber rafts. Over 5000 brook trout (not the previous rainbow trout) had been stocked. And two one-week High Adventure canoeing/mountaineering sessions in mid-August were planned for \$75/Scout, with assistance from military personnel. Meanwhile, the State Forestry Department would continue thinning and cutting 200 acres.

By the mid-1970s, the camps had experimented with eliminating “Trail Day,” when the dining hall or commissary was shut down for 24 hours per week so that the troops would go on trail to camp out overnight at an outpost, and the staff (except for a “skeleton crew”) would get their day off. Instead, the staff would take staggered days off during the week. This was perhaps more convenient for troops reluctant to go on trail, but it caused staffing issues. The “Trail Day” plan was used off and on for many years after that, until the camps finally went to a 6-night, Sunday to Saturday schedule in 1999.

A highlight of 1975 for Troop 110 from Webster was the building of a Viking ship at Mountaineer. The troop’s Scouts pre-cut the pieces before camp, then loaded them on a trailer. At camp, the Scouts and leaders hand-assembled the ship and rigged its colorful sail for a test run on Massawepie Lake. The ship was roughly 30 feet long, with an 8-foot beam. Per John DeMarco, it stayed at Mountaineer for the summer, until an eventual bonfire. The following year, the same troop carved and painted a totem pole that stood for many years in Mountaineer.

A memorable 1975 experience for some of the staff was heading to the “back” (east) side of Long Pond to put out a fire started by a lightning strike. David Lippitt, who was a Forester Commissioner, remembers Bud Frank almost falling into the creek that flows from Long Pond to Horseshoe Pond, which they had to cross by wading. Bud wasn’t tall, and the creek-bottom mud threatened to pull him down. Everyone got soaking wet anyway due to pouring rain. Lippitt also remembers getting a small (less than \$10) check from the NYS Department of Environmental



Conservation in payment for his fire-fighting efforts, but says that didn’t cover the cost of replacing his ruined boots. Although they were paid, the camp crew really didn’t do much; Mark Kurtz, the 1975 Central Trail Coordinator who led the group, said that the rain had almost put the fire out before they got there.

For many years in the 1960s and 1970s, Massawepie had a used red fire truck. It was rolled out for that 1975 forest fire, though the fire turned out to be in an inaccessible area. Loren Hakes had also rigged the truck with a perforated pipe in the back that could be used when desired to wet down the dirt roads to keep the dust down.

Speaking of memorable experiences, Ted Klick, Senior Aquatic Aide at Forester in 1975, remembers working with Lance Harrington and Mike Wilmart to dig a "basement" under their tent platform. They used milk crates for steps, and enjoyed the coolness down there on hot summer nights. Klick also remembers rowing across Deer Pond in the 1970s to cut tall, thin, straight pines to build a fence around the waterfront area. David Lippitt, who was a Commissioner at Forester in 1975, recalls supervising a new rappelling program that year on rocks off the Carriage Road east of Massawepie.

The 1970s seems to have been an era of car-packing. Ted Klick, who was just mentioned, says that after the final staff banquet at Pioneer or Voyageur at the end of the summer, each camp staff would compete to see how many staff members they could fit into a small, old car. And Pierre Loncle, who also worked at Mountaineer in the 1970s, remembers trying during a Staff Week to see how many staff members they could fit in the Studebaker Commander driven by Father James Cross, a Catholic chaplain. (The Studebaker was part of a small fleet of used vehicles donated to camp by various supporters. They were often not registered, but could be driven on the town road without license plates as long as they stayed within the camp boundaries.) On another Catholic note, Loncle also remembers Mike Bausch, a seminarian while on camp staff, running "Fr. Mike's St. Massawepie Bingo" during the staff's fun Monte Carlo Night.

A total of 2648 Scouts from 184 troops attended Massawepie in 1975, which was similar to 1971-74, but there were only 4025 "boy-weeks" as more troops chose to attend for only one week. By comparison, in 1967 there had been 6200+ boy-weeks.

In the fall of 1975, a new 10-minute promotional film "Massawepie News Reel" was released, featuring the new programs: Rifle, Survival, Whitewater Rubber Rafting, and Environmental Overnights, which had not been included in the existing "Massawepie Adventure" promotional film. David Vasile was also announced as the new council Camping Chairman.

The High Adventure program in mountaineering (with Special Forces members helping) or canoeing was returning, and Jan Faber would be at the April here's How meetings to explain it. There would also be a 1-day Mountaineering program offered during camp, and shotgun instruction would now be offered to qualified Scouts.

Camp prices were increasing again for 1976: \$110 for 2 weeks; \$65 for one week, plus \$7.50/week for provisional. In March, Bud Frank left to become Director of Camping for the Minneapolis council. In April, John (Jack) McDonough was named as the new Director of Camping and Massawepie Reservation Director. He came from the Boston Council. Fortunately for McDonough, the three 1975 camp directors would be returning for 1976: Mike Bausch at Forester, Tom Spruck at Mountaineer, and Bob Weaver at Voyageur. Long-time staffer Joe Helly would be Asst. Reservation Director.

Paul VonBacho, who had been key in starting up the Rifle Ranges, headed up the 1976 Beaver Weekend June 4-6. Herb Dietrich and his Troop 70 crew again provided the food. Busses were available for \$5 (returning Saturday after dinner) or \$8 (returning Sunday). 300 adult Scouters were needed. According to an article in the council's *Smoke Signals* newsletter, "Special arrangements have been made to ship all of the black flies to Canada for the weekend, and fish have been instructed to bite; after the work is done!"

Sadly, the last of the Hotel Childwold outbuildings was demolished in 1976. It was Tamarack Cottage, also known as the Smith Cottage or Number Six, along the lake road near the border between Pioneer and Voyageur. It had been used as the Health Lodge from 1952-58, then as the Central Trail Store, and sometimes a staff lounge or housing, through 1975. Another hotel-era building, Camp Sorghum (used by eventual hotel owner Henry Dorr, at the site of the current Pioneer Handicraft Lodge), was used as the Camp Pioneer Office through 1970, and then was a CIT Lounge, and was torn down in 1975. Both of these buildings were quite rustic, and portions (such as the burlap on the interior walls and the softwood posts) had deteriorated badly before they were demolished.

For many of the 1970s years, one or more international Scouts worked on the Massawepie staff. Most came from Europe; often from the U.K. In 1976, Forester had an international staffer who was a bit more unusual. Masatsugu Nakagawa ("Naka" to the Scouts) was from Japan. Naka was from an affluent family and lived just miles from the Imperial Palace. He was a Commissioner; his Commissioner Aide, Stephen Thomas, said that "he explained to me the reason there were so few international Japanese Scouts is because it was extremely expensive to teach Asian people non-Asian language," and that "though very good at English he would often remind me how English makes absolutely no sense grammatically like other languages." The other two camps also had foreign staff: David Monks from England at Voyageur, and Sivert Carlessen from Sweden at Mountaineer.

After Camp Voyageur used six sites in Pioneer for 1975, more of its operations moved to Pioneer in 1976. In fact, the 1976 patch segment said "Pioneer Voyageur." They used the Voyageur office and Handicraft lodge, but the Pioneer dining hall and trading post and its superior beach. To notify both camps in case of an emergency, there was a hand-cranked siren at Pioneer to supplement the electric siren at Voyageur. This migration toward Pioneer was part of a plan to reopen Pioneer fully in 1977. Voyageur closed at the end of the 1976 season, never to reopen as a separate camp.

Property Superintendent Loren Hakes was completing his 10<sup>th</sup> year at Massawepie in 1976. A big man with a big personality and an ever-present cigar, Loren was well-known and almost universally liked among the locals and camp staff. (Everyone called Loren by his first name.) Stories about Loren abound. A common experience was that when an unsuspecting camp staff member wearing Scout uniform shorts sat next to Loren on the front bench seat of his truck, suddenly Loren's massive hand would come down and slap the young staffer's knee, often leaving a red mark. Today we might frown on that as a bit abusive, but back then it was seen as a "welcome to the club" harmless initiation. Loren was also appreciated by the Central staff and selected others for his memorable steak roasts.

On August 15, 1976, the Protestant Chapel at Massawepie was dedicated in memory of Fred Ratcliffe, a long-time Otetiana Scouter. William Hale, a nephew of the Ratcliffes, participated and gave some of Fred's history, and Rev. Converse Hunter conducted the service.

During the fall of 1976, the council announced that each of the three camps (Pioneer, Mountaineer, and Forester) would only be open for 6 weeks (3 periods, for 2-week troops). The "middle" (second) periods at Mountaineer and Forester were full by November. 1977 would be the camp's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and there would be "special things" to celebrate 25 years and 50,000 Scouts. Bill Maxion chaired the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, which included key volunteers like Paul VonBacho, Melvin Neisner, Burton August, and Louis Langie.

Scoutmasters who registered the troop for camp before January would get a T-shirt, desk set, mug, or backpatch. Camping Chairman David Vasile urged leaders to promote camp, since lower attendance causes higher fees for those who do go. He pointed out that capital and maintenance costs and new facilities do not come from camper fees. The camp fees for 1977 would be \$120/2 weeks and \$70/1 week, plus \$7.50/week for provisional, with scholarship help available. In 1976, \$9500 of camp scholarships were given to 275 members from 70 units. A camp scholarship fundraiser was held May 26 at the Country Club of Rochester, honoring Congressman Barber Conable.

New for 1977: A special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition would be given to any troop that increased its camp attendance by 25% from 1976, or that had 45 or more Scouts in camp. By February, Forester was full for all periods, and the council was offering patrol cooking at Pioneer by special request. Mountaineer was full for first and second periods. Pre-camp swim tests were available June 25 at Greece Arcadia High School. Busses would leave from (8 AM Sat./Sun.) and return to (6:30-7:30 PM Sat./Sun.) Culver Ridge Shopping Center. Russ Shade would direct the reopened Camp Pioneer, and Gary Bull would direct Forester, while Tom Spruck continued at Mountaineer. Family camping would be available from Aug. 21 – Sep. 5, 1977, in cabins, tents, or trailers.

As seen from the camp sign-ups, Forester was very popular. Many troops liked cooking their own food. However, black bears had been a problem in Forester from the beginning. Most years there were occasional sightings but some years were much worse, with bears becoming repeated pests in certain campsites. Why? First, Forester was much more remote than the other camps, and so more in “bear territory.” But more importantly, the fact that each campsite contained food and food trash for much of the day attracted bears. During the day, cold food was kept in ice chests that were issued to troops, with ice dispensed that had been frozen by the Commissary staff in empty half-gallon milk cartons. The Forester staff gradually learned, and worked to teach the troops, that the key was not to have any food-smelling items in the campsite overnight. In Forester’s early years, trash cans were used, and “bear bags” were issued to troops to hang leftover food and staples from trees. Those didn’t deter the bears enough, so later trash was taken up to the Commissary area after dinner each night, and then taken out of Forester by the camp staff to the camp dump on the Russell Road (or later to dumpsters). All food & staples were locked in the Commissary overnight and retrieved in the morning. A big problem was that bears are optimists (or creatures of habit), so if they found food or trash in a campsite a single time, they might keep coming back to that site each night for weeks hoping for success. For that reason, Commissioners or their aides often made campsite rounds in the evenings to check that no food or trash remained.

Property Superintendent Loren Hakes, in addition to building and fixing things, too often had to rescue camp vehicles that the staff members had gotten stuck in various (often off-road) places. Multi-year staffer Peter Scribner remembered being towed out several times, including in 1977 when he, then a volunteer, inadvisably tried to drive his Volkswagen bus toward camp down the sketchy Carriage Road from the end closer to Mount Arab. After Scribner tried for hours to extract himself, he walked back to camp and found Loren, whose comment was, “Just how far did you think you were going to get?”

Another time, Loren was slower to rescue a vehicle in distress. Once the Trailways busses started taking the narrow Massawepie Road south to Forester in the mid-1970s, the Forester staff would radio back to the main camp when the busses were headed back north, and staff at Voyageur would “close the road” by asking any southbound vehicles to wait until the busses went past. One time, a driver was too impatient to wait, and ended up off the road when he saw a large bus coming at him around a narrow curve. Loren was annoyed that the man had ignored the request to wait and could have caused a more serious accident, so he found other tasks to do for a while before finally pulling that vehicle back onto the road.

At the council annual meeting in September, 1977, Leonard Kravetz was recognized for being a camp leader for all 25 years of Massawepie. Several other were present who had been Scouts at Massawepie in 1952. 47 troops earned the special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition mentioned earlier, and extra 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary paperweights were advertised for \$2. The Rubber Raft Trip and Survival programs were quite popular in 1977, but only 1780 Scouts attended camp from 158 troops, which would not be enough to sustain three camps.

During the summer and fall of 1977, after Pioneer reopened, there had been talk of closing Mountaineer, which was looking a bit worn out. But some long-time Mountaineer Scoutmasters objected strongly, and told Director of Camping Jack McDonough that they would leave Massawepie with their troops if Mountaineer closed. By December, the council board had agreed to close Pioneer, making Mountaineer the only dining hall camp starting in 1978.

A new camp promotion movie was available for 1978. Like many previous camp movies, it was made by Ernie Crisp of Fairport, who was tragically killed in a single plane crash on November 26, after finishing the movie. To end the year, a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary staff reunion would be held December 30 at the Logan Party House, with a cost of \$7. 170 former staffers attended, and special anniversary staff patches were sold for \$1.

### **Two camps: 1978-1979 (and beyond)**

Camp fees for 1978 would be \$130 for 2 weeks and \$70 for one week, plus \$5/week provisional. The expense breakdown was explained as: 40% food service, 19% maintenance, 18% support services, 11% bus transportation, 10% summer staff, and 3% program supplies/equipment. The council contributed 12% of the budget, for maintenance and office support.

The camp directors for 1978 would be unchanged, giving Tom Spruck a fourth year at Mountaineer. That would be a first for a Massawepie camp director: four years at a single camp. By April, Mountaineer was full, and Forester only had a few openings. Because the two remaining camps would be quite full, troops were urged to submit boy cards by March 1 to facilitate planning. Two Here's How meetings for camp leaders were held in April, in Fairport and Greece.

Beaver Weekend was June 2-4; a big project would be moving tent platforms from Pioneer to Mountaineer. In recent years, tent platforms have been built as two half platforms, but in the 1970s they were still the full size of a 9.5 x 7.5' wall tent: large and heavy. (During the 1960s, Massawepie had finished converting from "Baker" lean-to type tents to wall tents.) Special meetings for new or inexperienced leaders would be held June 19 & 20.

Tom Meyering, who later directed Mountaineer, remembered the most popular late-1970s camp activities as the Survival Outpost, mountaineering, rafting, and later the Forestry Outpost. Jan Faber offered a special Survival Week in 1978 for Scouts age 14+.

On October 12, to kick off camp promotion for 1979, there was a "Woodsman's Wingding" dinner. All troops that camped 6 or more consecutive nights in 1978 could send up to 4 representatives to the Logan Party House at a subsidized cost of \$2/head, to hear Loody Christofero, National Director of Outdoor Programs. Over 400 people attended. There was also information on Massawepie programs for 1979, including the new Forestry Outpost and Pioneer Living Outpost. Also announced: new troop sites for handicapped Scouts, a family rate for brothers, and a special troop discount if the troop's attendance increased by 20%+ from 1978. The three camp periods would be July 7-21, July 21 – August 4, and August 4-18.

Shockingly as the nation struggled with a high inflation period, camp prices for 1979 went down! But, always look for the fine print: bus transportation was no longer included, though it was still offered. Fees would be \$120/2 weeks or \$65/1 week, plus \$5/week for provisional which was held at Mountaineer. There was also a "wilderness troop" option at Forester (no food provided and limited facility use) for \$77/\$42. (Apparently only one troop used that option.)

By February, the first two periods were full at both camps, with 2-week troops at Forester and a mix of one-week and two-week troops at Mountaineer. A special Eager Beaver patch was available for Scouts with boy cards and deposits submitted by March 31, and the Scoutmaster would get an Eager

Beaver camp if 50% of his members registered for camp by March 31. Mastercharge and Visa would now be accepted for payments. Scouters were encouraged to contact their district's "master beaver" to volunteer for Beaver Day June 2.

Both camps would have new directors for 1979: Ed Wall at Mountaineer and Dave Law at Forester. In another change, there would now be separate Scoutcraft program areas at each camp. Commissioners would no longer have aides, who previously handled some of the Scoutcraft merit badge duties with their Commissioners. Another change for 1979 was the hiring of the first female camp staff member (outside of the kitchens and Health Lodge, which had previously had female cooks and nurses). Kristina Ward, a relative of Ed Wall, was the Trading Post Director at Forester.

Another new development in 1979 was the creation of the Adirondack Treks program under the relatively new Association of Adirondack Scout Camps (AASC). It was run as a pilot program in 1979. One trek ran each week, from Massawepie to Floodwood Mountain Scout Reservation and the next week from Floodwood back to Massawepie. The program was based at Massawepie that first year. There was only one Voyageur, Brian McDonnell, later the owner of Mac's Canoe Livery in Lake Clear and long-time organizer of the 90-mile Adirondack Canoe Classic. A "Voyageur" is someone who has completed Voyageur training, also a program started in 1979 by the AASC.

The second "Woodman's Wingding," for leaders of troops that camped long-term in 1979, was held on October 25. Joseph Merton, National Director of the Boy Scout Service, spoke. A new Fishing Outpost would be added for 1980, and Forestry Outpost became the "Emporium Lumber Company," a misnomer, since that was the name of a Pennsylvania company that preceded the Sykes' family's Emporium Forestry Company in the Adirondacks near Massawepie. ("Forestry" was the modern, scientific version of lumbering.) Other programs like mountaineering, survival, and rifle would also continue, but Pioneer Living seems to have faded away. The 1980 fees jumped (inflation was still high nationally at 12.5% in 1980) to \$135/2 weeks and \$67.50/1 week, plus bus transportation for an extra \$21 for two-ways or \$12 for one-way. (How many parents of teenagers were tempted to buy one-way transportation?)

The upcoming 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid provided impetus to winterize several camp buildings, in hopes that Olympic visitors might stay there and for future use. By December, 1979, both the Voyageur dining hall and the Voyageur Office (now Voyageur Lodge) were insulated for winter use, with the work funded by donations. (Tentative plans to also winterize the Health Lodge were shelved.) The dining hall was renamed "The Carolyn W. and Frank E. Gannett Lodge," thanks to their generous support. The plan was to charge \$20/person/day on weekdays and \$25 on weekends during the Olympics. Unfortunately, demand was lower than hoped, as was true for many facilities outside the immediate Lake Placid area.

By the end of the 1970s, Massawepie had stabilized into a pattern that would last many more years. Forester supported patrol cooking, while Mountaineer provided a dining hall experience. Many troops still attended for two weeks, but more and more were only staying one week. The camps, and the camp budget, were adjusting to having fewer Scouts. But the camps still provided the same outdoor and Scouting experiences that appealed to many youth and promoted their growth.