

THE CHIRRUUP

February 2022 * 100 Years of the Pioneer Spirit * edited by Darcey Wijsenbeek

Director's Notebook

What do Winnie the Pooh, King Arthur, and Harry Potter have in common? Owls. There are eight species of owls in Vermont, and they're part of the camp world all year long.

We see owls all the time in Sangamon's winter. They perch on a branch or fly down the road in front of us. We often see one sitting quietly on a fencepost. It might well be hunting—listening carefully for its next meal.

You'd think owls would have a tough time in the winter when all their food sources get snowed under, and it is indeed more difficult. But the voles, mice, and shrews which they eat build tunnels and move around under the snow and an owl can hear them moving – even through two feet of snow. Owls also have specialized feathers that allow them to glide, turn, and move silently through the air. They can alter their flight path instantly to follow the sounds of their targets, who never hear them coming.

Owls are best seen at dawn and dusk, and most easily seen in winter when the trees are hibernating. Owls begin courting in the fall which means third session campers often hear them in the middle of the night. Fledglings show up in the spring. Like the rest of us, the new owls spend the summer at camp.

— Mike

Thanks to Meghan McCarthy McPhail for her article in the Burlington Free Press

INTRODUCING THE 2022 CITS!

The CIT's have a long and important history at Sangamon. Most of the American staff at camp have come through this work and leadership training. The program stretches back in time to the 1920's when they were called the Kowboys and did haying, cow-milking (seven cows!) and helped raise much of the food the camp ate. These days they support our community in a myriad of different ways including taking care of some of daily cleaning chores of our community, supporting our activity staff, and even taking on a construction project or two to improve our facilities. Every group has been a big part of their summer's success and we know that will be true of this one as well!

William Anderson	Oliver Lavelle
Thomas Bishop	Zaden Merriam Bohannon
Josh Cunningham	Claude McCaleb-Pauly
Emil Dardozzi	Gus McCaleb-Pauly
Logan Desforges	William Montgomery
Casey Dimock	Hillel Muskin
John Elish	Silas Muzzy
Oscar Smith-Freitag	Lake Salvatore-Palmer
Angus Hortsch-Kearney	Graham Schrodell
Tabor Kerins	Raul Soto
Sam Lapenta	Charlie Tietjen
Vance Laroque	Yeshe Dorje Yodsampa

From the Attic

By Mike Byrom

At 100 years old, Sangamon is like your great, great grandparent - full of stories about the “old days”. We used to publish a little booklet about the camp every year to tell people about the camp and to remind campers of the summer just passed. We’ve always been “packrats” who never throw anything away, so we have a large stack of these to look back on as we start to celebrate our 100th summer. Here are some fun tidbits from the earliest booklets.

- 1920/21 – Leone came home from a hike and told his wife he’d found an old, abandoned farm in the hills that was a perfect spot for a boy’s camp. They bought the property for *one dollar (!)* and paid the back taxes owed to the town.
- 1922 – Camp’s first year. Founded by Leone and Eleanor Smith, and Harold “Kid” Gore. Campers lived in three cabins down on “The Row”. A photo of Opening Day shows four Model A Fords in front of a very straight and plumb barn.
- 1920’s – Campers washed their own laundry in the Pond with soap and washboards. All campers worked in the garden and helped Mrs. Smith with the canning of as many as 42 quarts of vegetables and fruit using a portable woodstove in the front yard. There was only one dock at Burr Pond, which was named for Farmer Burr whose property was at the top of the hill.

Sangamon also ran a Winter Camp during the early years. Boys came and lived in the Smith farmhouse in Pittsford:

“The commodious Sangamon Homestead is equipped with electricity, large airy rooms, furnace heat, hot and cold water, and bath. Mrs. Smith looks after the ‘eats’ just as at camp - milk from the same cows and our own preserved vegetables. Side trips to Mt Pico and Mt Killington and others by auto, if possible, or on skis when the car cannot make it. Rates are \$15 per week which includes trip to and from train. We provide bedding.”

The Woodstock Inn, located on the other side of the mountains from camp, claims to have had the first Rope Tow ski hill in Vermont. Leone went over to see it and came home with the goal of copying it. He used an old Chevy car engine, wheel rims, and a long rope. The ski shute started where the Cabin 6 washhouse now stands. It ran straight down the hill and out onto the Pond. They hitched a rope to the back of the Chevrolet and pulled skiers along the unplowed roads.

“Down the ski shute at sixty miles an hour, drop 200 feet in 100 yards like a flash”



**The treehouse
is done...**



**...and ready
for fun!**

WHO'S COMING TO CAMP?

Noah AhmAllen, MA, 1
Maxwell Anderson, WI, 1
Lucas Bailey, MA, 1
Milo Brush, MA, 1
Oliver Buchholz, NY, 3A
Cooper Burkett, NY, 1
Enzo Calorio, MA, 2
Adam Canney, MA, 1
Mac Chalmers, VT, 2
Arlo Cifone, VT, 1-3B
Alex Cooper, DC, 3B
Nate Crofton, NY, 1
Simon Croll, NY, 1
Noah Dalsimer, NY, 2
Armand Davidson, MD, 3A
Wyatt Davine, VT, 1
Aaron Desforges, NC, 1&2
True Doherty, CA, 1
Lex Doran, NY, 1
Jack Ehlinger, MA, 1&2
Fausto Emanuel, VT, 2

Tristan Emmet, VT, 3A
Nat Epstein, NY, 3A
Theo Fallis, VT, 1
Charlie Fox, VT, 2
Brayden Friend, VT, 1&2
Charlie Germon, VT, 2
Kingston Gomes, MA, 1&2
Tintin Harris, MA, 1
Akash Hoffman, MA, 3B
Harrison Holdridge, NY, 2
Milo Ibara, MA, 2
Wyatt Jones, DC, 1
Liam Joyce, MD, 3B
Ian Kaczmarek, MA, 1
Alex Kennedy, MA, 3B
Phin Kennedy-Mitchell, VT, 1
Leo King, NY, 2
Cedric Last, MA, 2&3A

Max Last, MA, 2&3A
Max Lavelle, VT, 1&3A
Alistair Lyettefi, MA, 3A
Federico Lynch Ferraris, NY, 1
Milo Mistry, MA, 1&2
Connor Monroe, VT, 1
Wells Monroe, VT, 1
Cam Moriarty, VT, 1&2
Larkin Moriarty, VT, 1&2
Oaklee Mortier-McClung, VT, 2
Rowan Muzzy, MA, 3B
Malek McManus, NJ, 1-3A
Ben Nass, MA, 3A
William Nass, MA, 3A
Leo Ocana, MA, 3B
David Oliphant, NJ, 1
George Oliphant, NJ, 1
Leo Oliphant, NJ, 1

Jackson Padbury, PA, 3A
Elliot Peaper, CT, 3A
Harvey Pedder, MA, 3B
Brenner Philipp, NY, 2
Rowan Rheaume, VT, 1
Yankee Rheaume, VT, 1&2
Frankie Rodrigues, NY, 3B
Rowan Russo-Harting, MA, 3A
Leo Samaha, NY, 2&3A
Ian Santos, KS, 2
Asher Schermerhorn, MA, 3B
Zephyr Schermerhorn, MA, 3B
Hunter Schwartz, ME, 3B
Benji Scott, CA, 3A
Conor Scott, PA, 3A
Matteo Serrano, NJ, 1
Arlo Shapiro, NY, 1&2
Patrick Sheehan, MA, 3B
Jude Silverstein, MA, 3B
Henry Taylor, CA, 2
Asa Witte-Parad, MA, 1

Why isn't my name on this list? I told Darcey I am coming to camp!

I have a long list of you in italics on the books because I haven't received your application. Your spot isn't official until I have the application in hand. Email me or head to the website if you need a copy!

You love camp, so why not share it with your friends and get a bonus from us for spreading the word?

Introduce someone new to Sangamon! You'll have another friend to sing camp songs with and your family earns 150 Sangabucks for bringing a new family to camp. Sangabucks work like real money and can be used toward your tuition, the new family's tuition, or even split between the two.

Look around your neighborhood, school, even amongst your cousins. Tell them about us and show them the website. Your stories are our best recommendation! If they have more questions or are ready to sign up, have them get in touch with Darcey to get the process started. (802) 665-7505 or darcey@campsangamon.com.





Sangamon!

382 Camp Lane Pittsford, VT 05763

THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

It is officially February Break in most school districts which has historically been when the applications come pouring in and this year has been no exception.

I fully expect to close several age groups in our most popular sessions by the end of this week, so if you haven't been in touch, *DON'T WAIT!*

darcey@campsangamon.com or (802) 665-7505

COVID Update for 2022

Camp Sangamon will require all campers and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 for the 2022 season unless a medical exemption from an MD is approved by our medical staff. At this point, that does not mean that all campers must have received their boosters, but that is subject to change as our COVID plan emerges in response to anticipated guidance for the coming summer.

If your child will not be fully vaccinated by the start of their time with us this summer, please let us know as soon as possible and we will issue a refund for tuition paid.