

# QUINIBECK CAMPS

ON LAKE FAIRLEE

ELY, VERMONT 1911 - 1971

A 2011 Celebration of a Girls' Camp That Influenced Our Lives



## SHORT HISTORY

In 1911, New York teachers, Frank Bryant and William Clendenin, recruited Anna A Dodge of Thetford, VT to start a girls' camp on Lake Fairlee. Miss Dodge proved to be very competent to meet this challenge. She ran the camp for most of the next 60 years. The Bryants and, then, Mr and Mrs C. Spencer Phillips soon joined her to direct the Junior Camp. Quinibek soon grew from 25 to 400 acres with 1.5 miles of shoreline on Lake Fairlee. About 225 campers and 85 counselors came each summer.

When Camp Quinibek closed in 1971, the property was subdivided and sold to new owners. Several of them appreciated the camp's history and restored or maintained the Senior Rec Hall, the bungalow near it, much of the White House, the Junior Dining Hall, and the Boat House.

The 100th Birthday Celebration on September 6-9, 2011 was conceived because several of us wanted to recognize the impact that our summers at Quinibek have had on us. The challenge was to find former campers and counselors when we had only maiden names and hometowns to work with. Thanks to the many friendships still alive, the Internet, plus the ever-present grapevines around the country, we have uncovered about 150 former campers and counselors, 60 of whom will join us in Vermont. This booklet is dedicated to the people who insisted on excellence and provided so many opportunities for growth to young girls in beautiful Vermont from 1911 to 1971.

*"What I remember is JOY, LAUGHTER, SINGING. And a spirituality that I had never experienced before (or maybe since.)"*

- BTM



# MISSION STATEMENT

Miss Dodge's mission for the camp included providing a beautiful environment where we could develop skills and character while having fun. A variety of recreational activities were offered including: swimming, golf techniques, canoeing, tennis, riding, archery, land sports, sailing, and hiking as well as creative activities, such as painting, jewelry making, weaving, music, dance, drama, crafts, and nature walks. Each camper could decide which activities she would concentrate on, but a balance had

to be maintained. Blue and White Team competitions in recreational activities and singing sharpened our skills and developed good sportsmanship. Proving individual competencies, represented by the Bar, CQ, and Gold Q Awards, taught us perseverance, as did hiking and canoeing in wilderness areas. Miss Dodge and Mr Phillips recruited campers from many parts of the USA and Canada, so we broadened our world view by living and learning together.



MISS DODGE



MR. AND MRS. PHILLIPS

*"At all the camps I attended, kids learned to make friends, to sing camp songs, to build self-esteem and to appreciate the beauty of our natural world. For 60 years and hundreds of campers and counselors, Quinibeck got it right. I absolutely loved my summers at Quinibeck. Anna Dodge deserves supreme credit for creating a terrific brand...Even now she is, for me, the personification of an indomitable (Vermont) woman."*

- CSC

*"I remember the big ferns and the quiet coolness of the woods, and I remember diving off the high platform into the beautiful cool lake. The feeling of having been nourished deeply by being at Quinibeck for those four years is still with me."*

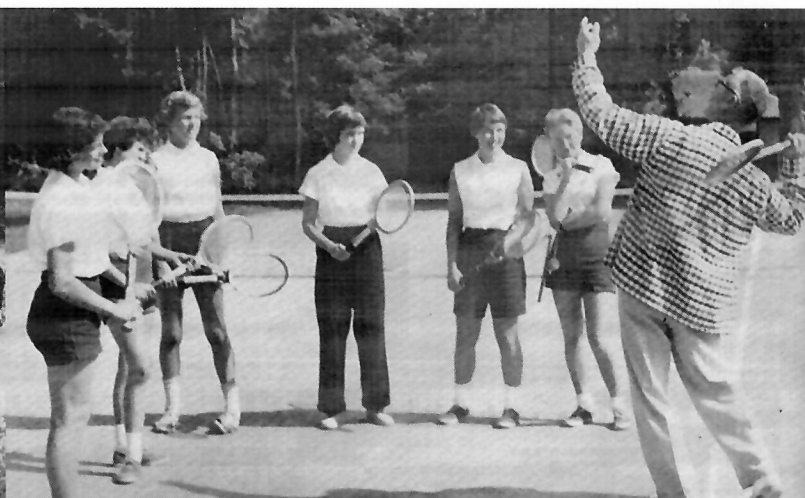
- HFS



# RECREATION

Many of the people who led the recreational activities at Camp Quinbeck were coaches, teachers, or college students during the school year. They used excellent techniques and expected the campers to work hard and perform well while still having fun. The Presidential

Range hike and the Rangeley Lakes canoeing trip were the highlights of the summer for those who qualified, but many shorter hikes and canoe trips were available for younger or less-experienced campers.



*"I loved the simplicity of camp life - no frills. It was a place to improve my physical activities - hiking, canoeing, sailing, tennis."  
- VMW*

*"I often think of Mox Weber and Mr. B (Bartlett) as two of the best people anyone could have had for teachers. I'd like to think I teach special needs students with the same encouragement and enthusiasm both those wonderful men promoted. Their ability to make you go beyond your reach and step outside your comfort zone, knowing you had their support, was unique."*

*- JKW*



*"Skill acquisition was important and rewarded, with a Gold Q being the highest level of attainment... Purposeful skill attainment was a reflection of Anna Dodge, always the teacher."*

- CSC

*"Character building...something I knew little of at that point in my life. When I was learning to ride the horses, my most vivid memory was of Leprechaun, without a doubt the largest horse I had ever seen. When we dismounted to practice the process of getting on and off, each time they said, "Mount, dismount, mount dismount," I was on the ground the entire time, not able to even get my foot in the stirrup! Once I got beyond that, I loved being on the horse and even got over my fear of cantering."*

- SEA

*"I learned that winning isn't everything, even in competitions. As White Team Captain, our losses in swimming, canoeing, tennis and land sports were so profound that Sue Calder, Blue Team Captain and my cabin mate, apologized to me as Miss Dodge read the results in Assembly! But what a great lesson I learned about valuing the game instead of the result."*

- SHR



*"Quinibek gave me a life-long love of sports, which, in turn, has been an avenue for making friends wherever I've gone."*

- JKW



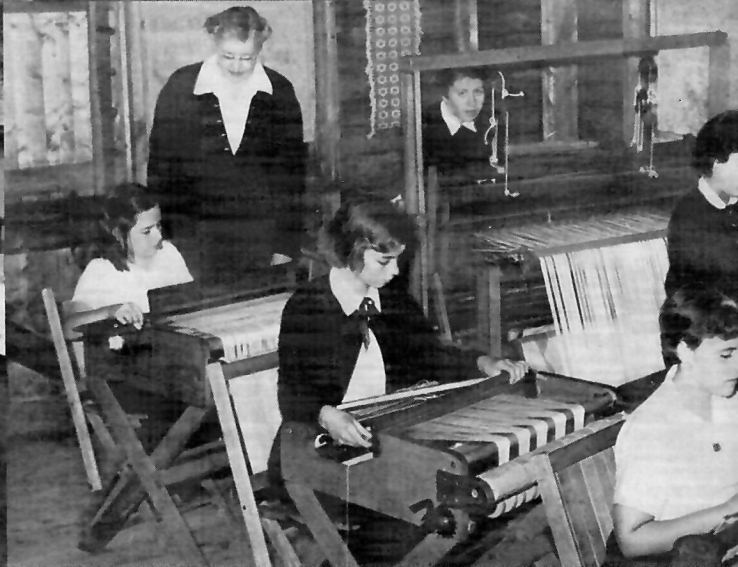
# ARTS & CRAFTS AND NATURE ACTIVITIES

Music was a dominant activity at Camp Quinibek. All campers were required to participate in singing and to listen to string trio/quartet music at assemblies. Campers interested in arts and crafts could choose from a variety of activities. One's exposure to nature was constant thanks to the beautiful setting on Lake

Fairlee. Highlights of the season for many campers were the plays and musicals put on during the summer. One could try being an actress in a supportive atmosphere and even make sets and develop scripts with supervision from the counselors.

*"Although Quinibek taught me to be a competent sailor and tennis player, and although I loved canoeing, it was at Quinibek that I discovered the joy of performing on stage....which I have been doing in one form or another ever since."*

- DC



*"Thanks to Miss Dodge's vision of having a trio or quartet at Assemblies and playing a concert each Wednesday evening, my love of music was fostered."*

- SHR

*"Singing at campfires, vespers or any time taught me to thoroughly enjoy the uplifting feeling you get. I also learned to harmonize by ear, which I still try to do at the risk of totally embarrassing my own children."*

- JKW



# PERSONAL GROWTH AND FRIENDSHIPS

In keeping with the mission of Camp Quinbeck, young girls and teenagers were given the opportunity to learn new skills, test their capabilities in a supportive atmosphere, meet other girls from places

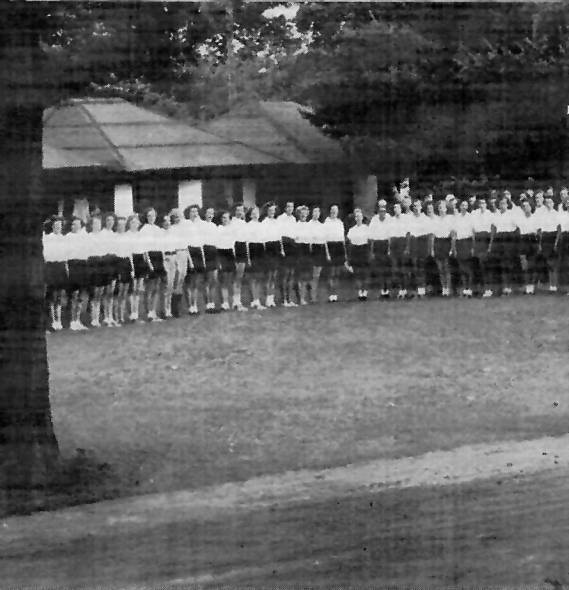
around the continent, and work with excellent older role models. For many of them, this was a life-altering experience. The self-confidence they gained has helped them throughout their careers and life.

*"For the most part, we (campers) lived totally in the moment, enjoying each activity during its allotted time, learning new skills with relative ease, absorbing lessons taught by young women only a few years our senior, allowing the best in our young selves to shine."*

- JFG

*"The lesson of love played itself out at Quinbeck in so many ways: our zany and fiercely loyal friends, our crazy escapades, our earnest counselors, and always the beauty of the lake and the forests."*

- KLC





*"Meeting girls from other cities and wondering at their various allegiances gave me my first taste of the larger world outside Toledo. Nonetheless, it took no time to realize that we were all much more alike than we were different and that, by using laughter and camaraderie, there wasn't anything we couldn't work through or for."*

- JKW

*"I felt loved for who I really was and loved my camp-mates back. It was the most supportive situation I have even known. As a result of camp, I try to accept all people for who they are, with no prejudices of age, race, gender, religion or sexual orientation - that's easy; people are people."*

- BA

*"The whole concept of challenging oneself up the rungs of Bar, CQ and Gold Q Awards helped me learn to organize my goals and objectives so they didn't overwhelm me. Working through each task meant a lot of perseverance; but it also encouraged an enormous amount of independence and self esteem."*

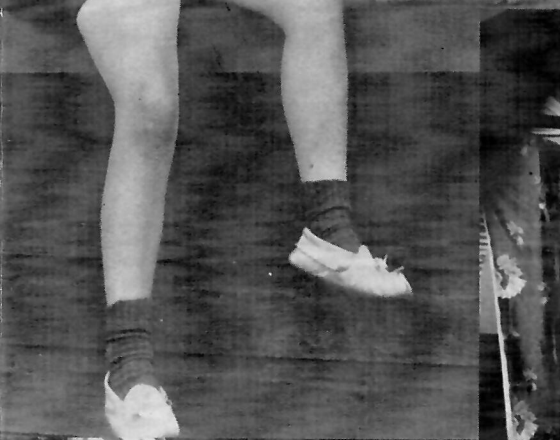
- JKW

*"I was about to experience life at Quinibek that would be transforming, adding a dimension to my young life that would give me a sense of well-being that would carry me through life."*

- GSP

*"Quinibek was my life long mentor for character, personality, disposition, temperament and individuality. It has had the greatest influence on me of anything or any person. I am forever indebted to Quinibek for making me who I am."*

- JAZ



# CREDITS AND THANK YOU'S

Most of the pictures in this booklet have been taken from Camp Quinibeck advertising brochures from 1956, 1957, and 1971. The pictures are identified by the brochure year or by the person who provided them.

## CREDITS

### Cover photo

1957 Senior Camp Campers and Counselors, ADM

### Inside front cover

1951 Junior Camp Staff and Counselors, JFG

### Page 1

White House in 1912, DW; the rest from 1956 brochure

### Page 2

Archery, 1971 brochure; the rest from 1956 brochure

### Page 3

Riding, 1971 brochure; war canoes, 1957 brochure; the rest from 1956 brochure

### Page 4

Pooh Play, 1960, CWM; Conga line, 1959, CWM; rest from the 1956 brochure

### Page 5

Singing, 1930s?, DW; campfire in Junior, 1957 brochure

### Page 6

4 friends, 1961, BTM; camper group, 1959, CWM; Junior Team Captains, 1952, JFG; Senior cabin mates, 1959, CWM; Flag raising, Senior, 1956 brochure

### Page 7

2 girls in window, 1956 brochure; Inside cabin, 1951, JFG

### Page 8

Flag lowering, 1952, BBD

### Inside back cover

Lake Fairlee at Quinibeck, 1957 brochure

## INITIALS DECODED

BA – Barb Adler

SEA – Susie Eisenhart Alexander

DC – Debba Curtis

BBD – Bonnie Babbitt Dahan

CSC – Charlotte Sector Caton

KLC – Katie Levy Cubeta

JFG – Judy Fisher Gordon

BTM – Barbara Tate Maddox

MTM – Margy Tilton McIndoe

ADM – Anne Dabney Moriniere

CWM – Caroline White Moore

GSP – Gay Stebbins Pepper

SHR – Susu Rodgers

HFS – Helen Forslund Slomovits

JFT – Janie Fisher Thurber

JKW – Judy Kapp Winder

VMW – Virginia Meyers Watt

DW – Dorothy Worfolk

JAZ – Joan Aldrich Zell

*“My time at Quinibeck may not have been long, but I wonder what life would have been like without the friends and experiences I had!”*

– MTM

*“I am sad there are not many camps like Quinibeck for young and teenage girls today. The range of activities and the 8-week session encouraged getting to know ourselves and provided a place where we could try things and fail (as well as succeed) without negative feedback. Friends made at camp stay friends for life, even after more than 50 years of being out of touch!”*

– SHR



## THANK YOUS

We want to thank all of you who encouraged us to proceed with our idea of celebrating Camp Quinibeck on its 100th birthday. Special thanks go to Mary Emerson-Smith, Martha Phillips Cocanour, Dorothy Worfolk, Wendy Snow Love, Phyllis Bartlett Towle, Judy Kapp Winder, Gay Stebbins Pepper, Janie Fisher Thurber, Sue Calder Doyle, Sine Dodge Allyn, Katherine Dodge, Roxanne Marshall Broadbent, Anne Dabney Moriniere, and Mimi Kennedy for making local connections in Vermont,

providing memorabilia, and collecting memories, reflections, and songs.

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We are pleased to thank Peggi Fournier of 4D Advertising for her professional and timely work on this booklet.  
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*"I loved Quinibeck and its beautiful setting on Lake Fairlee,...Josephine Beach,...Initiation with the old campers coming down the hill with lanterns and the beautiful bonfire,..the lovely walks we had and hikes to beautiful spots like Hawks Nest...Living in such a beautiful natural setting for two months each summer, I came to love nature, wild flowers, beautiful woods and the birds and animals the natural setting was home to."*

- JAZ



*"One more strong influence I take as Quinbeck's are the songs I learned and the context in which I absorbed them More even than the rah rah catchy ones, eliciting team spirit or for hiking, the songs that remain glued in my brain are ones we sang at Vespers, morning services or evening campfires."*

*'I know a Green Cathedral  
A shadowed forest shrine  
Where leaves in love  
join hands above,  
And arch their prayers with mine.'*

*'Peace I ask of thee Lake Fairlee,  
Peace, peace, peace.  
When I learn to live serenely  
Cares will cease.  
From the hills I gather courage.  
Visions of the days to be.  
Strength to lead and faith to follow,  
All are given unto me.'*

- JFT

