

# OWASIPPE VIBRATIONS

## **Carlen Dining Hall destroyed by Fire**

by: Vibrations Staff

As most of you have probably heard by now, Owasippe has suffered its fifth major fire in two years. The Camp Carlen dining hall was completely destroyed by fire on May 15th. The building had an estimated value of \$400,000, but the sentimental value can't be measured.

Although foul play is strongly suspected, the fire occurred during a severe lightning storm, leaving camp officials and investigators unclear as to whether the fire was caused by a lightning strike or an act of arson.

The fire at the Blackhawk dining hall, the two fires that claimed LC-1, the fire that claimed the Reneker lodge and now the Carlen dining hall have resulted in close to \$1 million in damage. At least one of the previous fires was a confirmed arson, and the others are suspicious in nature.

All the fires have occurred during the off-season and, with the exception of LC-1, all of the buildings were closed down for the winter. Thankfully no one has been hurt.

Properties Manager Rob Pruden had checked the gates late Monday while on patrol and all was secure. The violent storm early Tuesday morning featured many lightning strikes, and when Rangers were making rounds about 7:30 a.m., they found a pile of

ashes where the building had been. The ONLY identifiable debris consisted of metal kitchen fixtures and folding-table frames (see pictures on page 5).

At press time, the official cause remains undetermined. The investigation is ongoing. Samples of soil, wood and concrete were taken to the Michigan State Police crime lab for analysis. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has been notified about the series of fires and have spent several weeks conducting their own investigation.

The debris had to be completely cleared before camp could open. Understandably, there has been an outpouring of concern as Owasippe goes try to comprehend who would do this and why.

As of mid-May, Owasippe's fire insurance was canceled, but Steve Adams (C.A.C. Director of Camping) expressed confidence a new carrier would be found before camp opened on July 1st.

No immediate plans have been made for the construction of a new dining hall as of yet, and the Carlen Troops were fed by hot-pack in their sites.

**Anyone with information should contact the Grand Rapids branch of the ATF, 616-456-2566 and ask for Agent Mike Marquardt. You can also call the Muskegon County Sheriff's Dept. at 231-724-6351.**

## **Fall Fix-it Preview**

by: Vibrations Staff

Well, another summer has come to an end and that means the Fall Fix-it is right around the corner on the weekend of September 14-16. There is plenty to do, and autumn is a beautiful time of year to head up to Owasippe!

As you may know, we have spent the last two fix-its working on the Camp Wolverine firebowl. Last fall we demolished the existing seating and removed numerous stumps. This past spring we installed bench seating for 500+ people (story on pg. 2). This weekend will wrap up the Wolverine firebowl project as we put on the finishing touches. The big task will be installing a railroad

tie stairway down the center aisle. We also will be doing some work on the gateway and the retention wall behind the stage. Depending on our attendance, there are also several other projects that can be worked on, not to mention the vital kitchen crew.

As an added bonus, we will be knocking off early on Saturday to hold a dedication ceremony for the Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base (see pgs. 6 & 7). Come be a part of this exciting weekend.

Call Dan Kleinfeldt for cabin reservations at (773) 594-9585. Don't wait 'til the last minute to make your reservations! Sign up now; your help will make a difference!



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## President's Perspective

by: Ron Derby - President

Thanks. Who am I thanking? I am thanking you, the OSA member at large. Why? It's simple. You are the reason our organization is thriving. Together we are making a difference.

Over the past few months, I have witnessed a quiet revolution taking place. I am starting to see the excitement and purpose coming back. Members are getting that gleam back in their eyes; the spark is alive.

Even with all the fires ravaging our beloved camp, the OSA has stood tall. It would've been easy to get discouraged and say, "Why bother?" Not the OSA, no way. Our tree may only be 23 years young, but our roots go very deep.

Members are coming out to fix-its and working hard. We've come to find that this phenomenon is quite infectious. Members are bringing up friends and family to pitch in. Entire workforces made up of brothers and sisters, who aren't even members, are spending their Saturdays hauling lumber and digging holes with the OSA. Who wouldn't be moved by this? To you, and you know who you are, I say thanks.

It isn't even just about invigorated fix-its; OSA members are giving til it hurts and then giving more. Several people who have lost loved ones have given to the OSA, even during a time of deep sorrow. This is a generosity that is hard to fathom. Thank you.

Recently, an OSA member sent in a check for \$515 attached to a note. The note said, "Put \$15 towards my dues renewal, and put the rest towards something important." This person hasn't even bought themselves a life membership. That is giving. We are grateful.

I could go on and on. Participation is up and we are walking with a spring in our step again. Members are calling up out of the blue to ask how they can help. Over 150 people have taken the time to register on [www.owasippe.net](http://www.owasippe.net). We sent out member surveys and we've already gotten almost 60 responses! Not just filled out forms, many came back with written comments. Thanks for taking the time.

Best of all, we are a family that plays together and stays together. Yes we support Owaspippe, but we also support each other. We all know that one of the best fringe benefits of being an OSA member is not handling a post hole digger, it's keeping in touch with our great big Owaspippe family. For this, I am thankful.

Here in our 23rd year, we are feeling young and having fun.

You are making a difference! Keep up the good work, and thanks.



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## Spring Fix-it Reviewed

by: Vibrations Staff

The Spring Fix-it was very successful! Not only did we install enough bench seating at the Wolverine firebowl for over 500 people (see pictures on page 5), we had some great food and socialization to boot.

About 50 people in all attended the weekend and despite the torrential rains that had soaked the area for the entire week, the weekend was perfect for outdoor work. After a hot and hearty breakfast, volunteers set out to dig the numerous, and we mean NUMEROUS, holes to set the main bench supports. The Owaspippe Conservation (Hunt) Club had already cut the phone poles to four-foot sections ready to be dropped into the post holes.

By lunch, all of the poles were set and many holes for the center supports were dug. The afternoon chugged right along with volunteers in three teams: one to prepare the center legs with cross supports and one team on each side of the aisle assembling the benches.

A few other members set out in search of pine timbers to use as the gateway entrance to the firebowl. The gateway looks much like the entrance to Gray Staff Village and includes a cast bronze plaque to commemorate the work done by the OSA and others involved with the project.

A quick clean up and all the volunteers enjoyed a great dinner of four deep-fried turkeys, mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing and veggies. We would like to thank everyone who came out to help. The many hands made the work a little easier on everyone. And a great standing ovation to the kitchen crew, Chauncey Niziol, the Kempa family and others really made it a great success.

We would also like to thank Sterling Lumber, Consumers Power and Denke and Roche Builders for their generous donations of building materials. This project was also made possible by the 40K donors, the Owaspippe Ranger Staff and the Owaspippe Conservation Club. Thanks everyone!

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## The Arrivals at Metro

by: Ron Derby - Old Punk

On Tuesday, August 14th, I went to see a punk band that was playing third on a four-band bill at Metro in Chicago. The name of that band? The Arrivals out of Blue Island, Illinois.

At the risk of sounding like a burnout, these guys rocked! They stole the show. They played all of the crowd favorites and a handful of new songs in a caustic 45-minute set that included Tornado, Bottle Song, Elise, and Dirty Inches, just to name a few.

The Arrivals are; Isaac Thotz, Dave Merriman, Ron Dicola and Dave Kaktis. Their latest album is titled Goodbye New World and it has been very well received. You can find out more at [www.thickrecords.com](http://www.thickrecords.com).

Why am I telling you all of this? Because they are damn good and, oh yeah, Isaac is Jerry Lutz's son-in-law.

# What I Did on My Summer Vacation, June '01

by: Bill "Uncle Willie" Vannerson - OSA Member

After nearly two decades absence, I returned to Owasippe this spring. I took advantage of the CAC program of renting cabins during the off-season and brought my family to the "woods and dales" before camp opened. I was especially pleased to finally have my sons visit as it brings me closer to my aspiration of three generations of Vannersons camping at Owasippe.

My father was a camper at Dan Beard, BSA's first scout camp, during the late '40s. I camped on Lake Owasippe starting in 1969. My troop traditionally went to Beard every summer too. But that tradition was broken when the council decided to close Beard "to let the land recover from years of overuse." We are obviously reaping the benefit of that wise decision today. So it pleased me to take my family to the place "so dear to memory."

We arrived late Wednesday afternoon and, after unloading the car, decided to go to town for dinner. We crossed over Cleveland Creek, headed up the hill to Ad Center, then right on Silver Creek Road. This is when things start to change. Just past the horse corral there are houses. All the way down Silver Creek Road are mailboxes and recycling tubs, suburbia reaching out to OSR. I guess it fits because there's also grass growing in the Ad Center parade ground.

## Town Run!

And the edge of town is all the way to route 31 now. There's a Burger King, McDonalds, KFC and a strip mall just east of the bridge. How different it seems. I must say that Whitehall and Montague look much better than they did in the seventies. Everything looks neater and there are more businesses. The park down by the bowling alley has been fixed up, and there are new marinas and hotels that appear to be doing well.

It was also nice to see a few familiar businesses, like the Rexall drugstore that served as the drop off/pick up point for Town Run. And the Arf 'n Barf... I mean, Dog 'n Suds on the White River where canoe trips pulled out. A few places have new names, like the bowling alley (now Pin Heads), the Laundromat (the Soap Opera) where we did our weekly wash, and Todds in Montague where Roll-call was once held.

Since the White Sands restaurant no longer exists, we decided to head north to Ludington to dine at Gibbs Family restaurant. I have very fond memories of Gibbs from the summer of '77 when a group of us ate there near the end of the season. I suspect that almost any restaurant would seem grand after eight weeks of camp food, but Gibbs was special.

Gibbs had a salad bar long before they became chic. And it still beats your run-of-the-mill salad bar, with pickled herring and pate part of the standard fare. And they still bring a plate of hot cinnamon sticky buns to the table. The stake was delicious and I was too full to graze at the dessert bar, loaded with

homemade pies, cakes, brownies, ice cream and sherbet.

With the speed limit of 70 MPH on route 31, a side trip up to Ludington isn't as long as it used to be. I'd like to go back, especially if I'm up there mid-July. I don't know any other restaurant that serves a full turkey dinner for Christmas in July!

## "Rise and Shine..."

We slept in late the next morning, sedated from the huge meal at Gibbs the night before. My oldest son, a First Class Scout, presented me with a cup of hot coffee (God bless him) as I stepped out onto the porch. I was met with a rush of familiarity when I saw the morning light playing through the leaves, dappling the forest floor. And the surface of Lake Wolverine sparkling through the trees. It's easy to remember why Owasippe is so dear to memory and why so many former staff and campers feel so strongly and express their displeasure so vehemently when they feel wronged. I know that many of you feel as I do that Owasippe is where I grew up. It's home. It doesn't get much better than this. Even my son commented on how beautiful it was. I told him to imagine waking up every morning during the summer here to go to work. (I'm laying the groundwork for a future staff.)

The kids set up shop on the dock and shoreline to fish. One reeled in a small bass early on. They didn't catch anything else the entire trip. But that didn't seem to matter to them. They were simply enjoying being at the lake and casting. We watched the morning unfold. A Great Blue Heron announced his arrival with a harsh, barking call as his wings slapped. He landed on the opposite shore and quickly went to work. It seemed that he was having much greater success fishing than the kids were experiencing. Later, a graceful pair of swans paddled around the bend. They quietly patrolled down to Gus Kopp dam and back, seemingly unaware of our presence.

That afternoon, I noticed a dozen or so turtles basking in the sun on protruding logs along the shoreline. We decided to take a closer look. I warned the kids to be especially quiet as we looped around and approached the shore from behind the turtles. But the turtles wasted no time and dove for safety almost as soon as our heads popped over the ridge, about 50 feet away from our quarry. These were no ordinary turtles. They were seasoned veterans of many summer campaigns when legions of Scouts descend upon them from both land and sea! No wonder they dove for the safety of the muddy bottom once they saw our eager faces.

So we continued on to Gus Kopp dam. The kids were fascinated by this simple engineering marvel. They were even more amazed when I described how we used to "shoot the tube." We would crawl up the cement tube all the way under the dam to the spill way, then we'd spin onto our backs and shoot out onto

*(continued on pg. 4)*

the cement apron and grab a hanging rope, just an instant before it gave way to the rock of Cleveland Creek. Now the Council has wisely sealed the tube with a locked metal gate.

**“I’m happy when I’m Hiking...”**

On the way back to the cabin, we took a quick side trip down the orange trail for a short distance. I intended to go farther than we did, but a young fawn that was hiding near the trail suddenly jumped up and bounded away, about ten feet from my young daughter. I thought it was cool. She didn’t. She was spooked and was scared of “wild animals.” It didn’t matter that I explained to her that the baby deer was more afraid of her than she was of it. So we dropped her and my oldest son back at the cabin for more fishing, while my other son and I decided to take a serious hike along the orange trail.

He took the lead as we wound our way through the woods and meadows and headed first east then south, towards Robert Crown. I felt like a kid again as we marched up the hills and down into the valleys along the trail. The trail is in fine shape and easy to hike, except for a few spots where the sand turns soft and walking become laborious. We occasionally noticed tire tracks, a sign that cyclists have passed this way recently. We hiked all the way to the new COPE site. The telephone poles they’ve planted are HUGE! It was cool to see the work of the OSA take shape.

The next day, the whole family took the hike to quaking bog. This hike didn’t fair as well as the previous day’s trek. It was a bit warmer plus the bugs, especially the mosquitoes, were too annoying. Instead of a nice walk through the woods, it turned into a “get there and then get out” kind of hike. I’ll have to make a note that it’s best to go there on a cool day with a slight breeze to keep the bugs down. But we made it.

**“Until We Meet Again...”**

Even though the second hike was not as pleasurable as the previous day’s adventure, I still enjoyed walking along the trails of Owasippe. One of the things I never really did while a camper or on staff was to hike the trails. I commend the current C.I.T. program that encourages new staff to become familiar with the reservation firsthand by hiking these trails. I’m setting myself a goal of going back and hiking all of the trails so I can see the reservation firsthand, just like a C.I.T. I think I’ll start with the red trail, up through Paradise Valley and on to Chief Owasippe’s grave. Of course, I’ll have to remember to bring a small stone to add to the grave.

We broke camp and headed home in the late afternoon so we stopped at the Burger King at Route 31. There are Burger Kings at home, but perhaps a drive-thru in Whitehall will become a part of a new Owasippe tradition, one with my family. THE END

When Tom Ewan left the Chicago Area Council to pursue other opportunities in the San Diego area last year, it got me to thinking about how many executives have held the position of Director of Camping for the C.A.C. since I first started working summer camp staff in 1968.

I formed a list as best I could remember, and sent it out to some of my old cronies, and with their assistance, I have compiled a list of the names of the people who have been influential to the operation of Owasippe over the years. Some of these Directors also held the dual role of Reservation Director. The number of years of service may need some correcting, and the time frame of being Director of Camping may be a little bit off, but you will see that in the last 33+ years there have been 14 Directors of Camping. Despite the rather high turnover, the OSA has always been ready to help the new guys on the block.

The Owasippe Staff Association, currently in it’s 23rd year, was created in the last days of Ed Black’s era and the transition into Jim Chandler’s era. As an organization, the OSA has been reliable and consistent with the goal of improving the physical property and preserving the history and traditions of Owasippe.

Time stands still for no one, and no one is guaranteed a tomorrow. God willing, the OSA will always be there for the camp.

- RALPH SPAULDING ..... ?
- DAVE LE FEBRE ..... ? to 1969
- CHARLIE LARGENT ..... 1970
- ED BLACK ..... 1971 to 1977
- JIM CHANDLER ..... 1978 to ?
- BOB POOLE ..... 1 to 2 years
- BILL MORRISON ..... less than 1 year
- JERRY SANDERS ..... 3 years
- STEVE HORVATH ..... 1 1/2 to 2 years
- BOB WOOD ..... less than 1 year
- PAUL PERKINS ..... 1994 to 1996
- TOM EWAN ..... 1996 to 2000
- STEVE ADAMS ..... 2000 to present

***Vibrations always needs copy!***

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# Images from 2001

*Reneker Under the Big Top*



*Blackhawk Check-in*



*Reneker's Trading Post Trailer*



*Blackhawk Waterfront*

*C.I.T. Class of 2001 + Four Trainers*



*You can see all of these pictures  
and many more in full color  
when you go to the Picture Page  
at: [www.owasippe.net](http://www.owasippe.net)*



*Carlen Dining Hall in Ruins*



*C.I.T.'s Test Out the Low Course at COPE*



*Cleaning Up the Carlen Debris*

*The Benches Begin to Take Shape*



*Bench Seating for 500 at Wolverine's Firebowl*



*Andy Kimbler and Saw, Spring Fix-it 2001*



*Digging a zillion holes*

## **OSA to Dedicate New COPE Base on Sept. 15th**

by: Susan Bisset - OSA Member

**D**riving down the Crown/Carlen road, one suddenly comes upon a line of 4x4s driven into the ground on the right side of the road connected by spans of yellow rope and signs tacked to the uprights announcing its purpose.

The fence marks the border of the new Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base. It has been a necessary installation, as eager Scoutmasters have been anxious to see the new facilities and watch as their Scouts maneuver through the difficult events. For the safety of the staff and participants, observers are asked to stay behind the ropes. But interested onlookers can still get a good view as the course can be seen from the road with only a few trees obstructing the view.

Much of the funding was raised over the past two years from Chuck's friends, family and colleagues. Many OSA members are among those donors, as Chuck was one of the founding fathers of the OSA. Funds were matched in kind from the OSA's 40K fund to reach the \$17,200 required to pay for course materials. But the OSA could only provide the sponsorship, not labor, as the Spring Fix-it was already slated for the construction of the Wolverine firebowl.

Consumers Energy set the towering poles in the early spring. The course was completed with many long days put in by Properties Manager Rob Pruden, Tony Krier and other members of the Ranger Staff to get it done. Just one look at the amazing result of their hard work and it's hard to believe it was all done by the work of just a few hands in such a short amount of time. A great number of thanks go to Rob, Tony and the Rangers for pushing so hard to get it all in place for the first day of camp.

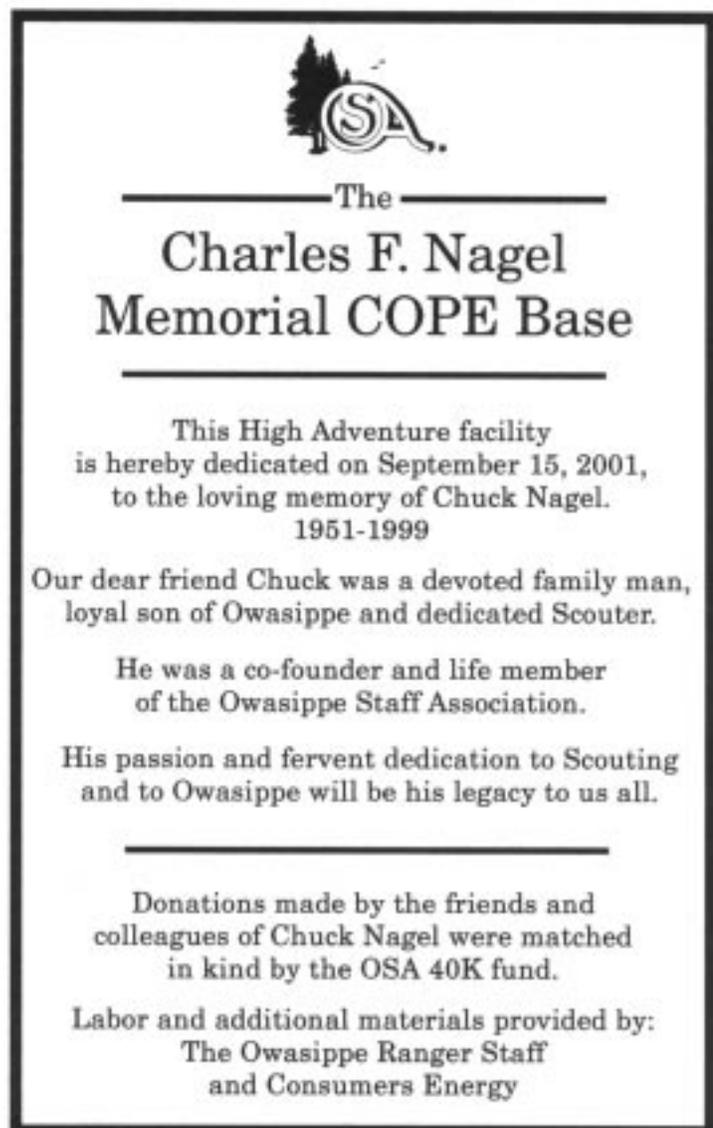
Scout and Leader response has been nothing short of amazing. COPE Director Dave Meyer led the program all summer with full groups in almost every session. High Adventure Director Greg Lange says COPE participation is up about 45% over last year's numbers. And Scout Leader feedback is just as positive, saying they enjoyed watching their Scouts from the road just as much as their Scouts enjoyed the new events.

Construction of the course went according to plans with the exception of the cargo net event, which was replaced with the "Heebie-Jeebie," a tight-rope-like event. Participants must successfully complete the Giant's Ladder, Balance Beam, Multi-vine Traverse, Sky Walk and the Heebie-Jeebie to get to the final payoff, a Zip Line to the ground. The Zip Line has caused many participants to scream (in joy or terror—

we're not sure which) as they race downward.

Low course events are just as difficult and require more teamwork and problem solving to successfully complete. These events, though lower to the ground, still took a lot of manpower from the Ranger staff and Conservation Club to build. The events needed to be challenging, but not impossible.

The entire course is truly a sight to see! All OSA members are invited attend the new Charles F. Nagel Memorial COPE Base dedication ceremony, September 15, 2001. The ceremony is being held the same weekend as the Fall Fix-it. Work will end at 3:00 p.m. so everyone can get cleaned up and head out to the site by 4:30, when the ceremony is set to begin. A few of Chuck's good friends will be on hand, including his wife, Marlene, as well as CAC officials and project donors, to unveil the plaque and tour the new facilities. Chauncey is cooking and dinner will be served at the site upon the close of the ceremony!



*Wording from the plaque which is to be unveiled on September 15th.*



Donations made to the funds and equipment of Charles Nagel were matched dollar for dollar 40% limit.

Labels and instructions provided by The Shawnee-Nagel Park and Recreation Center

The Charles F. Nagel Memorial  
**COPE BASE**

**THIS COULD BE YOU!**

**HIGH ADVENTURE**  
Get all the info. in the camp office.  
*Take the challenge today!*

Events include:

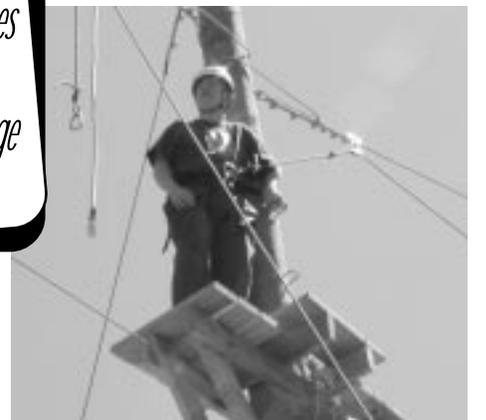
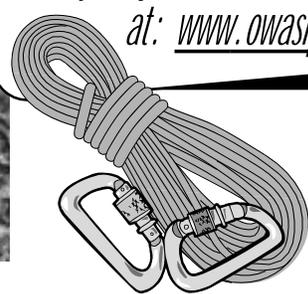
- THE BALANCE BEAM
- THE COAST LADDERS
- THE SHIP LAKE
- THE MOUNTAIN STAIRCASE
- THE SHIP BRIDGE



COPE Promo Poster - Designed by Ron Derby



*You can see all of these pictures and many more in full color when you go to the Picture Page at: [www.owasippe.net](http://www.owasippe.net)*



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# OSA Takes a Stand Against Arson

OSA Board of Directors

The following resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of the board of directors of the Owasippe Staff Association on June 20, 2001. Signed and sealed by Ron Derby, President and attested to by Mike Campbell, Secretary.

## WHEREAS...

- Owasippe Scout Reservation is America's oldest continuously operating Boy Scout Camp in the United States, established in 1911, located on roughly 5,000 acres in the Manistee National Forest, and serving thousands of Scouts annually, and
- The Owasippe Staff Association is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the physical well-being of Owasippe Scout Reservation and to the enhancement of its programs and facilities, and
- There has been recent and catastrophic damage done to these same facilities and resources of Owasippe, namely a residence, a program lodge, and two dining halls, all consumed by fire suspected to be arson, and
- There still is at large the perpetrator(s) of these fires, breeding uncertainty, fear, and caution among those using the camp.

## BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED...

- That the Owasippe Staff Association denounces these acts and finds them to be criminal, cowardly, immoral, and in opposition to its own purposes and principles, and
- That the Owasippe Staff Association formally requests the Chicago Area Council, BSA, and its administrators and law enforcement agencies treat this matter as their highest priority and exhaust all available resources in the ongoing investigation of these fires and in the arrest and conviction of those responsible, and
- That, in keeping with these interests, the Owasippe Staff Association posts a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for said crimes against the camp and encourages all others who support Scout camping to assist with this reward fund and in the overall investigative effort to bring those responsible to justice.
- That it be known that the OSA offers our talents and participation to any planning/rebuilding committee and strongly encourages the formation of said committee in a timely fashion.

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# A Letter to the Volunteers

by: Chauncey Niziol and Joe Sener - Owasippe Committee Co-Chairs

Dear Scouters and Volunteers,

Many of you have expressed concern over some of the recent events at Owasippe and some of the things you may have heard in the rumor mill or in your email. There are many issues that should concern us and you need to know that those concerns are shared by Jim Stone and his professional staff as well as the Volunteer Leadership of the Chicago Area Council. We would take this opportunity to address some specific issues and let you know our plans for the future.

During the past several weeks we have both met with Lewis Greenblatt, the President of the Chicago Area Council, as well as Jim Stone and others of the volunteer leadership. We have a number of things to report.

1. The fire investigations are still underway and we have a contact with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) who is keeping us as up to date as possible. We are staying in contact with them but we all need to know that our expectation of urgency is different than theirs. Arson, if indeed these fires are arson, is one of the most difficult crimes to prove as most of the evidence is destroyed in the fire itself. We believe we are getting the support we should be receiving and Jim and his staff is involved in resolving the fires that have occurred at Owasippe. The most critical issue is the health and safety of our campers. We can assure you that Jim, his staff and the volunteer leadership have made this the utmost priority. We are satisfied that any conditions that are significant health or safety issues have been effectively dealt with immediately.

2. We have received the insurance proceeds from these fires and they are currently being held on account pend-

ing decisions about what to rebuild and when. The process for those decisions will be described below.

3. The Chicago Area Council remains committed to the Vision of Owasippe: **To be America's Premier Boy Scout Summer Camp**. There are not now, nor have there been plans to sell Owasippe. Indeed, we will be examining a myriad of ideas to further develop the camp's ability to be financially self-sustaining.

4. A temporary task force will be formed after the close of camp to resolve issues of governance, mission, reconstruction, off-season use and a number of other issues. This task force will be headed by Ron Skwarek, a long time Scouter and member of Chicago Area Council. George Walper, and perhaps other executive board members will take active roles. We have worked with the Executive Board for many years and their clear thinking and leadership will be great as we take Owasippe well into the 21st century. This task force will include the volunteers of the CAC and we will be soliciting your help.

If you are ready to be part of the solution, we need your help. The Owasippe Committee has provided great leadership and service in the past and we are looking forward to being a big part of its future. We would love to hear from you. If you have questions about what is happening at Owasippe, contact either of us and we will be glad to answer your questions or get you the answer. Positive, constructive communication among all of us should be our guiding principle. Think Straight – Talk Straight!

Chauncey Niziol - [ChaunceyN@aol.com](mailto:ChaunceyN@aol.com) - 708.562.8999  
Joe Sener - [SenerJP@aol.com](mailto:SenerJP@aol.com) - 847.270.2606

# What's News?

## **Repeat fire destroys house**

A house less than one mile from Owasispe on Silver Creek Road suffered two fires that ultimately destroyed the entire structure.

The first fire was reported mid-Thursday, August 9, 2001, and originated from Ken Benton's truck as he started it. Some materials in the back of the truck caught on fire, which spread to the garage rafters. The fire department arrived and extinguished the flames that consumed most of the garage, but left the majority of the house unharmed.

Fifteen hours later, a second fire started in the night from an unknown source. By the time firefighters arrived at 3:30 a.m., the entire house was in flames. Officials are calling the second fire "suspicious," sighting the recent series of five fires at Owasispe as a possible connection.

The Bentons say they will rebuild the house they just moved into last October.

## **Movin' on up, or inland?**

The famous world's largest weather vane that Montague boasts as a major attraction is about to find a new home in the nearby park on Water and Dowling streets. The city council voted to move the weather vane due to the leaning and sinking caused by the soft land of the man-made peninsula it currently stands on. The equipment needed to fix its condition isn't able to reach the weather vane from safe ground.

A crane will be brought in by barge to move it to the pedestal that awaits it at the park. The move will cost the city an estimated \$10,000.

In general, the town seems to approve of the move. The new location will be more parking-friendly and won't require tourists to walk through the hotel grounds of the Weathervane Inn.

The 48-foot weather vane was built in 1984 with private and city funds.

## **Under new ownership**

Michigan's Adventure, the amusement/water park near camp that has brought many lost tourists wandering into Ad Center, has been bought by Cedar Fair, the same company that owns Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio, and four other amusement parks in the U.S.

Roger Jourden started the park, then a deer petting zoo, in 1968 under the name "Deer Park Funland." Since then, he has added numerous rides including the famous mile-long Shivering Timbers, as well as a water park with waterslides and wave pools.

Cedar Fair says the park will not go through drastic changes. Immediate plans call for landscaping and park beautification. It is aiming for a middle-of-the-road approach, promising not to close the park, nor to expand it to Cedar Point's size. It had been seeking to buy the park for three years. Six Flags entered a second bid recently, but Jourden preferred the deal Cedar Fair

presented in which current employees would retain their jobs.

Michigan's Adventure currently hosts about 500,000 tourists each summer. It sold for \$28 million at the beginning of June. Jourden also sold his adjacent gas station and Michigan's Adventure Excavation and Trucking company.

The sale is expected to help boost tourism with the new improvements and additions in the future.

## **Silversides on the silver screen**

The USS Silversides in Muskegon will be a part of the new Miramax movie "Below." The submarine, a destination of many Scout Troops for an overnight stay on the vessel, was repainted in preparation for shooting at the end of June. The sub had to be removed from its long-time dock in the Muskegon Channel into deeper waters for some scenes.

The movie centers on a haunted submarine and its captain during WWII.

## **Mil-foiled again**

The Eurasian Watermilfoil plant has been creating many problems for the residents of Big Blue Lake. The plant has been taking over the lake and preventing sunlight from reaching native plants. The milfoil is not native to the waters of Michigan but has been turning up in numerous lakes.

Residents have been debating possible solutions to the problem, including the use of 2-4-D, a chemical that slows its growth and spreading. The chemical was used twice in the summer of 2000 and once this summer. The use of 2-4-D is only a temporary solution to the plant problem.

Many residents oppose the use of the chemical and question its effects on the water and other plant and animal life in the lake.

Other solutions are being debated. A special assessment district may be established to develop a plan for the future of the lake and may cost township residents an additional \$40-120 in property tax.

Because milfoil spreads easily and can sprout up from fragments, boats and canoes at Camp Blackhawk cannot be transferred to Lake Wolverine.

## **Whitehall! Whitehall!**

Little Caesars opened a restaurant in Whitehall at 116 Colby Rd. in early August. The restaurant has inside and patio seating in addition to the traditional carry out service. The menu also includes hot and cold sandwiches, salads and chicken wings. Regular hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., except Friday and Saturday closing at 11 and Sunday opening at noon.

Visit the OSA online at: [www.owasispe.net](http://www.owasispe.net)

# Galloping Grapevine



## Joe Sener ~ in transition

Joe Sener and his family, Linda, Christina, and Joe are in the process of relocating back to Chicago. Joe has been a Partner with Arthur Andersen living in Cincinnati for the past 2 years. Joe has left Andersen and joined the team of Baxter International as Vice President, Business Excellence. He will be splitting his time between the Corporate Offices and the Round Lake manufacturing facility. Joe expects to have the family moved sometime this fall and will let everyone know their new home location when they get that far. Have an easy move and a safe trip!

## Ron Derby & Susan Bisset ~ Chicago, IL

Ron and Susan are thrilled to tell the world that they got engaged this past April. The wedding is to be held in October of this year. They are finally beginning to see the light at the end of the planning tunnel. Free-time is in short supply these days but good times are abundant. When they decide to have a baby, its first word will no doubt be "Mojave!".

## Andy Gorz & Kelly Fitzpatrick ~ Stickney, IL

Rumor has it, Andy Gorz popped the question during the last week of camp and thus got engaged to Kelly Fitzpatrick. No further details are available at this time, so stay tuned. Best of luck, you two!



## See you at the end of the trail...

### Mrs. Soltys ~ LaGrange, IL

We are saddened to report Tina Stiefel's mother, Mrs. Soltys, passed away in late May. She will be dearly missed.

### Bill Foertsch ~ Chicago, IL

It is with sadness that we announce that Bill Foertsch, longtime Scouter from the South side of Chicago and Troop 477 and Post 2477, passed away. Bill was Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster, part time commissioner at Owasippe, father of 4 and grandfather. As a tree cutting supervisor working for Com-Ed for many years, Bill brought roles of lemon line and green poly line to camp. He was a merit badge counselor for Pioneering and Scoutcraft merit badges and the architect of the "Apartment Tents" at Camp Stuart in 1969. Please remember Bill and his family in your prayers.



Owasippe cabins will be available for rent:  
May 1 – June 17 & August 17 – October 31

Reneker Cabins ..... \$30 per night  
Gray Staff Village Cabins ..... \$60 per night  
LC6 (Doctor's) ..... \$75 per night

LC5 (Model)  
LC8 (Twill Do)  
LC10  
LC12 (Red Dock)  
LC14 (Cinder Block) ..... \$50 per night

For reservations call Janine, Camping Secretary,  
at 312-421-8430 ext. 226

Visit the free OSA chatroom at: [www.owasippe.net](http://www.owasippe.net)



## 2001 Staff Persons of the Year

Camp Blackhawk	Senior ~ Dean Accardi Junior ~ Chase Budziak
Camp Carlen	Senior ~ Sean Egan Junior ~ Ryan Gust
High Adventure	Bethann Egan Jen Rabe
C.I.T.	John "Goliath" Egbert
Camp Reneker	Senior ~ Suzy Smyth Junior ~ Katie Heffernan
Camp Wolverine	Senior ~ Judi Lotter Junior ~ Joe Bobbitt

**Congratulations!**

# Hey! Are your OSA dues up to date?

Membership dues DIRECTLY paid for this very newsletter!

Check the 4 digit number on your mailing label. According to our records, that is the last year you paid your dues.

**Please send checks to: OSA, P.O. Box 7097 • Westchester, IL 60154**

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2001  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*I hereby submit my request to register as a member  
and my support of the OSA's purpose*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service at Owasippe:**

Year	Camp	Position

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names & Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

*Hey, your dues  
have gone up!*

New Member \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:  
OSA  
P.O. Box 7097  
Westchester, IL 60154  
attn: Membership

*The Owasippe Staff Association  
P.O. Box 7097  
Westchester, IL 60154*



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Manuscripts, photographs and artwork are encouraged. Address all such materials to: ***Vibrations Editor, P.O. Box 7097, Westchester, IL 60154.*** All materials which the author wants returned must be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope.

Deadlines for submitting materials for publication are as follows:

- Spring ~ January 15
- Summer ~ April 1
- Fall ~ August 7
- Winter ~ October 15

## ***Dates of Interest to OSA Members***

### *September*

*12..... Board Meeting*

*14-16..... Fall Fix-it / COPE Dedication*

### *October*

*15..... Vibrations Copy Deadline*

*17..... Board Meeting*

*31..... Happy Halloween!*

### *November*

*14..... Early Board Meeting*

*22..... Happy Thanksgiving!*

### *December*

*19..... Board Meeting*

*25..... Merry Christmas!*

