

History of  
Camp Molly Lamm

HISTORY OF CAMP MOLLY LAUMAN

Barbara Howe  
Summer, 1970

## Introduction for Camp Molly Lauman History:

This history of Camp Molly Lauman was written during the summer of 1970 while I was serving as Waterfront Director at the camp. I was interested in the camp's history because I was then a graduate student in history, had been on the CML staff when we celebrated the 40th anniversary the year before, had heard the stories about Molly Lauman and the underground railroad, and thought there must be more to know about the camp than we had in our files. I'm sure if I'd had more time or know more people in the area, I could have learned much more than I did that summer -- there must be many stories about Molly Lauman and her camp in the minds and hearts of the people in the area. Fiftieth anniversaries and this history may prompt them to be recorded before they are lost forever.

When Gotchie asked me if this history could be reprinted for the anniversary, I immediately agreed. Re-reading it the other night for the first time in many years brought back many, many memories of summers at Ken Jockety and Molly Lauman. I certainly never thought in 1969 or 1970 that I would have any connection with Molly Lauman in 1979, much less have this opportunity to participate in its anniversary celebration. But I should have known that camp would never leave me completely!

I've asked Gotchie and her staff to update this, since they are much more familiar with the events at Molly Lauman in the last ten years than I am. She tells me that Molly's home has been demolished, and my last visit to camp two years ago showed several changes there--but none major enough to keep me from feeling right at home in a few minutes! This history should be a joint effort, also, because Gotchie and I worked together very closely for five of the six summers I worked for Seal of Ohio, and she is the one that has kept this history alive since it was first written.

I suppose it's appropriate to end a camp reflections with a song--while we were trying to come up with the official camp song for Molly one year, we used "Molly Lauman without her campers is like the summer without the fall. There's only one thing worse in this whole universe -- and that's no Molly Lauman at all." Molly Lauman is most definitely her campers -- hopefully the campers of 1979 will be the counselors planning the sixtieth anniversary in 1989.

But staff and campers, camp is primarily friendships. You may forget how to tie a clove hitch, but you always know that you'll find at the end of a perfect day, the soul of a friend you've made!

To Molly Lauman's next fifty years -----

Char  
(Barb Howe)

Camp Molly Lauman - Century, Brechner, Pioneer, Pines, an amphitheater, a craft cabin, pine trees, a salt water pool, somebody named Molly Lauman, a summertime home through whose hills our memories will ever roam. The camp has meant Girl Scout camping for hundreds of girls over the years who have carried away their own memories of their stay there. But who were the Laumans and how did this land come to be a camp? What kind of history does the land itself have to tell? How has the camp changed over the years? These questions have probably been asked many times, and before their answers are lost in the past, let's see what we can discover...

## I

Christopher Lauman, the great grandfather of Senator Gordon Frank Lauman, Molly's husband, was of German descent. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and held the rank of first lieutenant with the Third Battalion of Association of York County, Pennsylvania in 1776; Lauman served as an Ensign, Second Lieutenant, and First Lieutenant of the Pennsylvania Militia and fought at Trenton and Princeton during the war.

• Christopher had at least one son, Barnet (or Garnet - spellings vary), who was Gordon's grandfather. Barnet probably lived most of his life in York County for his son George Min was born there in 1805. However, in 1809, the Laumans moved to Chillicothe where George was raised. Barnet fought in the War of 1812 as a sergeant in Captain William Rutledge's Mounted Company which was probably made up of men from Ross County. His son became a tanner, moved to Kentucky, and married Anna Shankin, a native of Kentucky. George and Anna had eight children, three sons and five daughters; Gordon Frank, the seventh child, was born in Flemingsburg, Clessing County, Kentucky on November 17, 1840.

In 1845 the Laumans left Kentucky and moved to Aberdeen, Ohio where George followed his trade as a tanner. A year later, the family moved back to Chillicothe where George lived until his death. Gordon went to school for one year in Chillicothe and for a short time in Waverly. At the age of 10, in 1850, he started working at Emmitt's Mills (Emmet, Myers & Co. ?) at Waverly tending gate of \$5.00 per month. He worked as a cob picker for the distillery for three years and advanced to the position of head sheller. Gordon worked at Emmitt's store for ten years.

On April 17, 1861, Gordon enlisted in Company G, First Ohio Volunteer Infantry to fight on the Union side in the Civil War. He served for only three months before he was wounded at the Battle of Vienna on June 17, 1861, spent some time in East St. Hospital in Washington, D.C., and was discharged

after being declared unfit for further service. He returned to work for Mr. Emitt until 1864.

In that year, he became Provost Marshal and served until 1865. For the next several years, until 1872, Gordon worked in Jasper as a clerk for a Mr. Peter Hayes and managed Alleson Rue & Co. In 1872 he came to Portsmouth and worked at Thomas Brown's wholesale grocery for four months. He then bought his own store on Bear Creek, on the site of the Lauman family home on Route 104 that is now the Riverview Nursing Home; he operated this store until 1900. After setting up his store on Bear Creek, Gordon bought and sold railroad ties on an extensive scale. He rented land until he had saved enough money to purchase it. The family home on Bear Creek, Laumanhurst, was built in 1908.

Gordon was first married on October 6, 1864 to Maty Lucretia Watkins, the daughter of John Watkins. Mary died on October 22, 1892 and, on November 25, 1895, he married Mary Elizabeth Dever, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Wheeler Dever. Mary E. Dever Lauman, more familiarly known as Molly, is the one who gave the land to the Girl Scouts. Gordon was a state senator from 1880-1910 from the Seventh Senatorial District of Ohio (including Scioto, Pike, Jackson, and Adams Counties) and a member of the 77th General Assembly of the State of Ohio. According to his obituary in the Portsmouth Times, "He served his constituents faithfully and made a splendid record for himself while in the Ohio Senate. He was a man who kept abreast with the times, was intelligent, sympathetic, and kind." Senator Lauman, onetime Treasurer of Morgan Township, was a member of the Republican Party, the Portsmouth Lodge, Benevolent and protective Order of Elks #154, and the Myrtle Lodge No. 159 Free and Accepted Masons of Waverly. He also always attended the annual reunions of Company G, First Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Mr. Lauman, described as "one of Scioto County's most distinguished citizens," died January 22, 1916 from "valvular heart trouble." Funeral services were held at the family home on Bear Creek Road and Rt. 104, and the county commissioners erected a temporary bridge over the creek to replace the formerly washed out one. Evidently there were many people who wished to attend the funeral services but would have been unable to get their automobiles and buggies to the house without a new bridge. This was considered such a problem that the Portsmouth Times carried a notice about the bridge above the Senator's obituary and assured its readers that "persons contemplating a trip to the funeral (would) be able to make the trip in safety." After the funeral, on the 25th of January, Lauman's body was

Waverly, and taken to the home of his niece, Mrs. John Somaky, in Waverly. He is buried in the Waverly Cemetery.

Molly Lauman was a member of a very old family in Morgan Township. Her father's parents were among the first settlers in the township and came to Scioto County from Loudown County, Virginia in 1802 and 1804. Their farm was located on the northwest corner of Routes 348 and 104 north of Lucasville. John Dever, Molly's great uncle, was a private in Captain Peter Bacus' Company of Scioto County during the War of 1812. William Dever, her grandfather, was the first Justice of the Peace in Morgan Township in 1825. The attached Dever family tree will explain these relationship more clearly.

Molly was born on June 13, 1865 on the same farm that her father had been born on (at Routes 348 and 104). The house is still standing and was the home of Molly's niece Mary Francis Dever (now deceased). Molly's maternal grandparents, the Wheelers, came from the vicinity of Natural Bridge, Virginia in 1838 and settled in what is now Clay Township. The third daughter of seven children, Molly had four sisters and two brothers.

Molly's father was a Baptist and her mother, Rebecca Wheeler, was a Methodist before marrying Mr. Dever. Molly led an average life of a farm girl. She attended a one room country school located about one mile north of her home in the front yard of Mr. Newell McClay's residence on Route 104. She had to walk to school most of the time but could skate to school on the frozen canal during the winter.

As mentioned above, Mary Elizabeth Dever and Gordon Frank Lauman were married in 1895 and lived at the mouth of Bear Creek in the large green house that is still standing there. After Senator Lauman died in 1916, Molly managed her 800 acre farm and was considered a good businesswoman. She was not in very good health and lived a quiet life reading and working with her flowers; she did keep a daily diary. Her favorite foods were ham, biscuits, pies, chicken, baked potatoes, and corn on the cob. She was also a very charitable person and gave generously and privately to churches and to the poor in her neighborhood. It is not surprising then, that she gave land to the Girl Scouts for a camp. Molly Lauman died March 13, 1933 after an illness of several weeks. She is buried in the Dever family plot near the south gate of the Lucasville cemetery on Route 348.

DEVER FAMILY TREE

All came from Virginia, 1800 and settled in Scioto County, Ohio



Joseph - married Rebecca Wheeler (died 7/17/1901)

# 1 - 7 below are their children

1. Belle - married Frank Simpson  
Daniel & Hanna (Darlington) Harwood  
(1887-1911)
2. William Thomas - married Ida E. Harwood  
Mary Francis
3. Mary E. - married Gordon Frank Lauman
4. James F.
5. Catherine - married Dr. M. J. Beard
6. Mrs. Blanche M. Dodds
7. Louisa - married H. C. Starr

## II

Camp Molly Lauman is located in Morgan Township in Scioto County; the township meeting hall is located on Bear Creek Road west of the camp. This land was originally part of Seal and Union Townships and was organized as Morgan Township on June 7, 1825; it is named for Thomas Morgan, an early settler in the area. The land in this township was first settled near the Scioto River and the mouth of Bear Creek around 1800, and other early settlers, in addition to Morgan, included John and William Devers (this should probably be Dever; this would make them relatives of Molly Lauman), Abraham and Issac Glaze (relatives of Jonathan Glaze mentioned below), David and Spicer Shelpman, Pliny and Joshua Cutler (relatives of the Cutlers mentioned below?) and Aaron Noel (relative of the Noels mentioned below?). The township boundary was listed as the lower line of John Dever's property; this would make it near where Route 348 joins 104 from the west today because Lucasville is in the adjoining Valley Township.

According to a 1903 description of the area, the valley of the Scioto River and Lower Bear Creek made good farm land. Trading in lumber and cross ties were important businesses in the township. There were some mineral and petroleum springs in the area, and natural gas was occasionally found while drilling for oil. Orchards were planted on the hills.

The camp is in part of the Virginia Military District set up as the Virginia Military Lands in 1784. Soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War were often paid in land instead of money because original land grants from the English king of land from "sea to sea" gave the new states a claim to land west of their present state boundaries. In addition, the value of land was much more stable than that of currency in the early years of the United States. Virginia had given up her claim to land north of the Ohio River in 1784 but soon realized that she would not have enough land south of the Ohio to take care of her troops. Congress granted her the Virginia Military Lands, an area bounded by the Ohio, Scioto, and Little Miami Rivers. These four million two hundred acres were declared open for settlement before being surveyed into sections and townships as was required for lands of the Public Land Survey. The area east of the Scioto River is part of this Survey and part of the Congress Lands under the terms of the Land Ordinance of 1785 that created the Northwest Territory. Any person with a Virginia Military Land Warrent could settle wherever he pleased in this military district and define his property boundaries in any way he so desired. Land was given to the soldier by patent grants (deeds) signed by the President of the United States.



The earliest reference to survey number 7940 of the Virginia Military District lists Thomas Mountjoy, Jr. as the original proprietor of 50 acres of the land now part of the camp. Although Mountjoy, for who Mt. Joy, Ohio was named, is listed as the first owner, the original transaction of land from the United States Government to him could not be found. It may have been recorded as part of the records of Adams County because Scioto County was at one time part of Adams; these early records of Adams County may have been lost when the court house burned. Scioto became a separate county in 1803.

We know that Mountjoy had the land before 1826 because, in that year, John Piles sold land to Thomas Mountjoy (III?) that was described as a "redemption of tax sale." It is possible that this land was sold for taxes and then that Mountjoy III bought the land back from Piles who may have been a sheriff or county auditor.

In 1845 Thomas Mountjoy sold his 50 acres to Henry Cutler for \$200. Cutler was a resident of Scioto County, but Mountjoy had moved to Mason County, Kentucky by this time. Henry died in 1852 at the age of 40 and was survived by his wife Maria. The Cutlers had at least two daughters: Mary Helen (1818-1841) and Laura (1846-1848). The graves for Henry and the daughters are located in the Cutler family plot in the cemetery at Bear Creek Road and Route 104 (hereafter referred to as Bear Creek or Glaze Cemetery).

The next few land transactions all took place within the years 1851-1859, and the names of grantors and grantees do not seem to follow a logical pattern because the whole 50 acre tract was always recorded as being sold intact. In 1851 Lyman D. and Samuel M. Cutler bought the land from Pliny Cutler, Jr. and his wife Nancy for \$500. Pliny Jr. was selling the land inherited from his father, Pliny Sr., who died in 1847. Lyman lived from 1819-1852 and is also buried in the Bear Creek Cemetery. Although Pliny Jr. and his wife lived in Highland County at this time, it is probable that they were related in some way to Henry and Maria Cutler as well as to Lyman and Samuel Cutler. In selling the land, Nancy Cutler released her dower claims to this property; this concept of dower claims is a very difficult legal term of common law origin that reappears constantly in the recording of deeds.<sup>1</sup> The justice of the peace usually examined the wife apart from her husband when recording a

<sup>1</sup>The dictionary defines "dower" as "the part of or interest in the real estate of a deceased husband given by law to his widow during her life." By relinquishing dower rights, therefore, the wife gave up her right to income from the property owned by her husband that would have been hers after her husband's death.

land transfer to make sure that she understood exactly what was being sold and that she was signing the property away voluntarily. Although wives did not have many legal rights at this time, land could not be sold without their voluntary permission.

Marie Cutler is listed as selling her land to John Clay of Scioto County for \$300 in 1854. However, in 1853, there is a record of a transaction between John Clay and Daniel Noel in which Noel bought the 50 acres from Clay for \$4640. Deeds were not always recorded immediately, and this probably accounts for the confused dates. The large jump in value may mean that improvements, i.e. buildings, had been made on the property by the seller.

In 1856 Daniel Noel transferred part of military warrant 5871 (survey number 7940) to Jonathan Glaze for a United Brethren Church, the first church in the township. Glaze, a member of a family who has owned land near the camp for many generations, was an early member of the church that is still standing on Bear Creek Road west of the camp entrance. The property transferred to Glaze included 93 (square) rods or about 1/2 acre "together with all and singular the houses woods waters ways privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining until them."

One year later, in 1857, Daniel and his wife Arce (or Arce) sold the land to William Potter for \$4000. They did not sell the land previously given to the church. The deed records that Arce examined with the justice of the peace "separate and apart from her said husband the contents of said deed being by me known and explained to her then declared that she did voluntarily sign." In signing she released "all right and claim to and expectancy of Dower in said premises."

William Potter and his wife Eliza sold this 50 acre tract back to Daniel Noel in 1858 for \$1500. Sudden drops in value may have been due to a financial panic that made land lose value rapidly. In this transaction it was noted that the land was located near a saw mill although the mill was not on the Potter's property. One month after repurchasing the land, Daniel Noel sold it to Isaac and George Nole for \$1500. One of the boundaries was described as 70 poles below the house where Bivens lived and near the saw mill (1 pole = 1 rod = 16 1/2 feet).

*(Could very possibly be Century)*

George Noel and his wife Mary and Isaac Noel and his wife Minerva sold the 50 acres to Mary Patnige (or Patrige or Partridge - spellings vary) for \$650 in 1859. The land was evidently a "dower gift to Mary under the homestead laws of the state" at that time because Mary is listed as the owner instead of her husband Thomas. By 1868 Mary and Thomas Patnige had moved to Clay County, Illinois because, in that year, they sold their land to William Bettis

for \$1000. In one of the few references to buildings on this tract, Mary "relinquished her dower to the lands and tenements therein mentioned...without the compulsions of her said husband." Century, the original building on the camp property, was supposedly used as a stop on the underground railroad during the Civil War period, but there is no proof that this is one of the buildings mentioned in the deed.

William Bettis and his wife Sarah A. sold the land to Lydia A. Wilson in 1882 for \$500. The Bettis' had moved to Macon County, Missouri by this time. Lydia Wilson kept the land until her death in 1901 (she is also buried in Bear Creek Cenatery when it probably came under her children's and husband's ownership. Five years later, in 1906, Ella Walters, Thomas and Mary Wilson, Sherman and Catherine Wilson, John and Marget Wilson, and Joseph Wilson (Lydia's husband) sold the 50 acres to Gordon Frank Lauman for \$400. If these couples were all relatives of Lydia Wilson, then they would have had to all agree to sell the land before it could be disposed of. The boundary line today would probably be very difficult to trace because, from the earliest record of the land to the present deed, the boundaries are indicated as a "white oak on a high bank on the South Side of Bear Creek," "a black oak or a White Walnut," a "hickory on the South Bank," etc. There are now supposedly iron pins in the various trees to mark the boundary.

Gordon held the land until his death in 1916 when his widow Mary inherited all his property because they had no children. Gordon owned approximately 7 - 800 acres in Morgan Township at the time of his death, and the deed recorded that none of his real estate "came to him by descent, devise or deed of gift but all of which was acquired and purchased by decedent during his life time."

The first record of land transferred by Molly Lauman to the Scioto County Council of Girl Scouts appears in April, 1930 when she signed over the lot surveyed as #15608-15734, containing approximately 36.74 acres, to them. The next year, 1931, "in considerations, to her paid by Scioto County Council of Girl Scouts...(Mary E. Lauman) does hereby GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL AND CONVEY to the said SCIOTO COUNTY COUNCIL OF GIRL SCOUTS... and assigns forever, the following Real Estate." This grant, including the 36.74 acres transferred a year earlier, totaled approximately 100.74 acres.

According to the provisions of the deed, the Girl Scouts are to use the land to provide a camp site and are forbidden to sell it. If for any reason it is no longer used for a camp, the title to the property will revert back to Molly Lauman's heirs (or to Molly if she were still living). It is interesting to note that, according to the deed, no oil or gas wells are to

be drilled on the camp property; in 1908 Gordon Lauman had leased the 50 acres to the Joyce Oil Company. Mr. Lauman also had an extensive business in timber and railroad ties, but the camp deed states that no timber is to be cut except "for use on the premises or for clearing for a play ground;" timber is not to be sold for commercial purposes.

The Girl Scouts received this land through the services of Miss Florence Smith of Columbus (later Mrs. Joseph Horchow) and Mr. Joseph Horchow. Mr. Horchow was Molly Lauman's lawyer, and Miss Smith wrote for the Portsmouth newspaper. Horchow became interested in Girl Scouting because Miss Smith, a member of the Girl Scout council, was working to find a new camp site. The two of them interested Molly Lauman in Girl Scouting, and she decided to deed her land to the Scioto County Council. Molly Lauman had had no previous connections with Scouting prior to this time.

### III

Camp Molly Lauman was the third camp owned by the Scioto County Council of Girl Scouts. The first one, on Brush Creek near Arion and Henley, Ohio on Route 73, was used for several years. Then the local Kiwanis group helped to get a better location, and a camp was started on the Tresper farm near the Country Club 7 miles northwest of Portsmouth near Rushtown. The camp built there operated "each summer for Girl Scouts and other girls who were interested in the organization."

Kamp Kiwanis was first operated as a Girl Scout camp in 1920. The camp folder for that year described it as a "real Girl Scout camp where Girl Scouts and girls over 10 years of age who love scouting, learn to work together in the out-of-doors. The ten Scout Laws are the only rules." The fee for one week was \$5.00 and included among the essential items to bring to camp was a "good disposition." If desired the girls could bring their signal flags. Home nursing was one of the skills taught the campers. Parents sending candy to campers seems to have been a big problem then, also, but in 1920 the camper could have been dismissed from camp if she received food from home. By 1929 campers were no longer dismissed for having food, but the camp folder warned that "all packages will be investigated and food will be divided among the whole camp."

Campers lived in floored tents and "counselors live in tents within calling distance of the campers' tents." There was a pioneer unit for older Scouts (16 and older). The camp uniform, consisting of khaki bloomers and middie and yellow tie for campers, was worn at all times. Counselors wore

dark green bloomers and middie and yellow ties. No knickers were permitted at camp.

A typical daily schedule was sometimes printed in the camp folders. "Morning call" was at 6:30 AM; in 1925 6:45 AM was the time of "Jerks." By 1926 there was a morning dip at 6:40 AM, clubs that included one on judging heights, weights, and distances, and "campfire and yarns" at 7:30 PM. There was a "ceremony of 'Good Medicine'" in 1927. Indian games and sign language were also available for older girls. Pauline Walden was one of the Kamp Kiwanis leaders in 1929, and Helen Tenney was the swimming instructor. An article in the Portsmouth Times for Saturday, July 12, 1929 noted that there would be a camp inspection from 2-5 the next afternoon for parents and other interested visitors (this would make it the same day that Molly Lauman was dedicated according to an earlier history of the camp.) The article discussed the group's activities and noted that "the swimming classes are making fine progress and every girl in the beginners class can now do the dead man's float."

The Portsmouth Times, on March 13, 1933, noted that "a new camp was given the organization wintin recent years when Mrs. Molly Lauman, Bear Creek, gave 100 acres of ground on which were located two log cabins (Century and a shed). This land has been turned into an ideal camp for Portsmouth Scouts and new improvements are made each year. The camp was named Molly Lauman, in honor and appreciation of the donor."

The "First Encampment" at Molly Lauman lasted from July 8 - August 5, 1930. One week sessions cost \$7.00 per week room and board with a \$1.00 registration fee. A campers could stay for as many one week sessions as she wanted. There was a new road to the lodge (Century), but the camp only included about forty acres. The lodge had been the home of tenants who had previously farmed the land. According to Mr. John Dunlap, caretaker and long-time resident of the neighborhood, relatives of Jefferson Davis once lived on the farm. When the Girl Scouts got the building, there was no porch or back room, but the balcony is the remains of a second story. The walls were papered with newspapers, and the dates on the papers indicated that the cabin had not been lived in for twenty years. The building was situated in a briar patch which had to be plowed up and re-seeded.

The furniture (table and wood settees) in Century was cut from wood with a pen-knife by Miss Ann Chinn Graham, Lexington, Kentucky; she was portsmouth's first Girl Scout Director. The wood fastenings and the wheel candleabra were made by Mr. Rodgins; he lived on the farm up on the hill and, during the early years, frequently came down to campfires to tell of his experiences as a cowboy in the younger days "out West." Whether his

*last paper tenants in Century  
were Allman family*

adventures were imaginary or not, he was popular with the campers.

The daily schedule as published in the camp folder for 1930 seemed much more rigid than today's. It went as follows:

6:30 - reveille  
 7:15 - colors  
 7:30 - breakfast  
 8:30 - camp-keeping  
 9:30 - troop meeting, swim, Scout Craft  
 12:00 - free time  
 12:30 - dinner  
 2:00 - rest hour  
 3:00 - hobbies  
 4:30 - swim for all  
 5:45 - evening colors  
 6:00 - supper  
 7:00 - court of honor, games  
 7:30 - campfire  
 8:30 - turn in  
 9:00 - taps

In 1933 Mary Horton, the camp director, wrote to Girl Scout parents that "leaving camping out of the Girl Scout year is like leaving the yeast out of bread." Another cabin had been added in 1932 as a craft workshop. This was probably Drew, also nicknamed "Sassafras," because of the abundance of young sassafras trees in the vicinity. The cabin, of undetermined age, formerly stood at Mt. Joy, Ohio and was taken down and moved to the camp as a contribution of Mrs. Everett Drew (later Mrs. Watson Goddard).

Century was still in the center of all activities. A huge coal stove nearly filled the space now occupied by the kitchen; the porch was the dining room, and the extreme end of the porch opposite the kitchen was the office and library. Space was at a premium and rainstorms used to (and still do) cause many problems if there is much wind. The cookstove one summer became very temperamental and refused to heat at all. It was discovered that the stove had been built for use in a basement of a hotel, and needed more "draw", hence the one high chimney on Century. This same stove, nicknamed "Powerful Katrinka" by the staff, could produce a bucketful of soot each day. For a long time there was no running water in the kitchen and a fire had to be built to heat water for dishes. Dishes were done under a roof out near the "elephant" - a contrivance consisting of an oil drum for the water to be put in; water was drawn out by a spigot. A fire was built under the drum.

Continued rains washed gullies, and in one very rainy summer the stream ran right through one of the tents. That same summer Bear Creek remained so high for several days that the bread supply ran out, and the cook resorted to cornbread, muffins, and pancakes.

The original chimney in the living room in Century was laid with mud. This had to be relaid with mortar when fire erupted from the chimney, and it was discovered that the logs were charred half way through.

There were three units by 1933 but only two groups of platform tents. The camp could hold 36 campers and 10 adults each session. The Indians, 10-12 year olds, lived in Happy Hunting Ground; Robin Hood's Merry-men, 12-15 year olds, lived in Sherwood Forest. Those 15 and older were Pioneers. The units were laid out along the hillside below Century - one somewhat near the present site of Lumberjacks, a second between the amphitheater and the space below the shower, and the third to the east of Century on the path leading to the swimming pool. The earliest Pioneer unit seems to have been near the present location of Kiwani; since there were only three units at that time, this may also have been the site listed above as being near Lumberjacks. The Scouts, under the direction of Mary Evans Walker (Mrs. Dewey Walker), built an outdoor fireplace for the unit. A canopy for the dining room was made and dyed by boiling leaves and stems. The camp folder assured parents that "a staff of 8 carefully selected young women who are trained Girl Scout leaders and experience campers will act as counselors."

The camp fee was \$5.00 per week for Scioto County Scouts and \$7.00 per week for non-Scouts and Scouts from outside Scioto County. However, since 1933 was a depression year, even \$5.00 would have been too much for some families to afford. Therefore, this ad appeared in the Portsmouth Times to tell about one alternative to the camp fee:

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts

1 WEEK FREE

In Camp Molly Laum or Camp Oyo

all you have to do is

SAVE THE LABELS ON

RED AND SWEET

BIRD AND BRIER

PURE FOOD PRODUCTS

ON SALE AT

ALL INDEPENDENT GROCERS

The complete camp uniform could be purchased at Marting's in Portsmouth for \$1.50. An equipment list was always published in the camp folder with the notation that "All These Things Need Not Be New...But...If You Don't Have Them, Marting's Do!"

The swimming pool was built in 1933 by W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) under Mr. Hornick, the Relief Director, and Mrs. A. L. Mercer, Commissioner. Girl Scouts broke ground for the construction work. The

Scouts were very proud of their pool and included it as one of the best features of the camp in several of the camp folders; they rarely neglected mentioning that the pool was "fed by slightly salt water from an artesian well (2300 feet deep), which flows continuously at a rate which causes a complete change of water in the pool every 48 hours." The salt water had been discovered when the Laumans were drilling for oil or gas, and the Girl Scouts took advantage of this by fitting the pool pump into the well. Evidently there was so much natural gas coming out with the water at first that the pool water could be set on fire. The waterfront staff consisted of three Red Cross Life Savers and Examiners. Colored caps were used to designate swimming classes, and campers were divided into beginners, intermediates and advanced swimmers. Before the pool was built, the girls had to swim in a pool in a curve of Bear Creek on Mr. Harwood's property to the east of the camp property.

By 1935 the Indians were specializing in Indian lore in their unit activities, and the Merry-men concentrated on archery and overnight hiking. Swimming lessons were held every morning with a general swim every afternoon. Parents were still being encouraged not to send food because the girls were then on their honor not to accept it; the camp folder advised parents to "Help her keep her first Girl Scout Law." The folder also boasted that there was enough food served in the dining hall to permit "the helpings known to the scouts as 'seconds' and 'thirds'." A resident nurse made a daily health check on each girl. Campers had to pay their own craft materials which usually cost from \$.05 to \$1.00. Campers also were charged for transportation if they wanted to go into town for church on Sunday; they could walk to the Evangelical (United Brethren) church on Bear Creek Road if they so desired.

Breckner Lodge, called "the most beautiful log building in Ohio," was first used in 1937. It was designed by Mr. Hannah and built by Mr. Sam Moore under the supervision of Mrs. C. H. Brechner. The plans for the building included the possibilities of extending the south side of the building to enlarge the dining space. The logs were chestnut ones with a few poplar and were purchased near Mt. Joy, Ohio at the price of 5 cents per foot. The total cost of the logs was less than \$100 while the entire cost of the building, including the cistern, was \$2750. The lodge was completed in 1936 but not used until the following summer. The chimney in Brechner was made from three old chimneys in the neighborhood, plus stone contributed by the Taylor Stone Company. The tables and benches were made from wooden pianos lost in



the 1937 Ohio River flood. They were designed by Mrs. Breckner, the Kiwanis Club paid for the construction of the tables, and the Rotary Club paid for the construction of the beaches. By 1937 units were choosing their own names, and there were no more Indians and Merry-men.

Horseback riding was introduced into the camp program in 1938 when riding instruction was given one afternoon a week at the Rittenour Farm. Country dancing was another favorite activity. Photography had been added to the camp program by 1941 because the folder for that year mentions that there was a dark room available for girls to develop their own pictures. The nurse gave First Aid courses for the campers, and all-camp days were described in the folder.

The staff of fourteen, by 1941, included an arts and crafts specialist, a nature specialist, a dramatic specialist, a music and dancing specialist, and a campcraft and sports counselor. Early folders often gave brief sketches of staff members including their educational background and camping experience. Parents were always assured that "all of the camp staff are well trained and have been carefully selected for their ability in leadership and their adaptability to the varied activities on the camp program."

The caretaker's cabin, now the staff house, was built on logs from near Buena Vista (a Civilian Conservation Corps camp) which were hauled to the site by county trucks. This was built around 1940. The storehouse which contains a rat proof section for mattresses and tents was built in 1936. An open air theater was added in 1941.

Victory gardening was added to the camp activities during the war years of 1943 to 1944 along with trailing, exploring, and designing unit equipment. Supervised rifle practice, under the direction of a retired Army officer, began in 1946. Special rates were set up for those who registered before June 14th as well as for families with two daughters coming at once. Campers could still come for as many one week sessions as they wanted, but a 75¢ fee was charged for girls wishing to stay in camp between sessions. The camp held 48 girls per session by this time, but the camp folder warned that the "camp director reserved the right to send any girl home who cannot adjust herself to camp life."

By 1948 there were three units with three adults per unit and eighteen girls per unit (six girls in each of three tents). The units used were Pines (for the youngest girls), Woodlands, and Lumberjacks. There was an outdoor kitchen and fireplace in each unit. This was also the first year that a separate one-week "Negro Camp" was advertised. Pioneer unit was add-

ed in 1949 for girls in the eighth grade or older; this Pioneer unit was on the site of what would later be Timber unit. The camp then held sixty-six girls. The infirmary "Kiwani" was contributed by the Kiwanis Club of Portsmouth; some of these members helped in the actual construction of the building. It was completed by the contractor, Mr. George Suter. Kiwani was begun in 1946 and completed and dedicated the following year. Dr. McAfee donated green metal cabinets and furniture for it.

In 1949 the Scioto County Council of Girl Scouts leased the 100.74 acres of Camp Molly Lauman to the Ohio State Division of Conservation for \$1.00 to make Molly Lauman a state game preserve and bird sanctuary. The state was to bring in rabbits, squirrels, and birds and set up and maintain feeding stations in the open areas in the back of the pool and near Breckner. Squirrel dens were to be built in the trees. The State was to post signs reading "State Game Refuge - Hunting is Unlawful" on an attempt to restore and conserve wildlife in the area. Signs of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are still posted along the camp boundary on Bear Creek Road, but this type of lease is not longer encouraged by the State.

Breckner had a screened annex by 1950, but Century still served as the camp office, library, trading post, and "counsellor's retreat." Brownies lived in Pines and had their own tables in Breckner. Intermediates stayed in Woodlands, and Lumberjacks. Pioneers took a three day trip every session and included rifle practice in their activities. "Such things as showers for girls, unit kitchens, campfire circles, archery and rifle ranges softball field, and nature theater all add to the effectiveness of the camp program" according to the camp folder.

By 1951 the camp held 120 girls per session with thirty girls in a unit. The nature theater had been rebuilt and new volleyball courts added. This was the first year that there was any reference to bringing a sleeping bag to camp instead of just blankets; "greenies" were also mentioned for the first time on the equipment list. Parents were warned to sound their car horn as they drove up the hill into camp with their daughters.

Timbers was introduced as a new unit in 1952 on the site of the former Pioneer camping area. Pioneers had lived there in Baker tents. A new site on top of the hill was used for the new Pioneer unit for Senior Scouts. Molly Lauman's rifle team competed with other teams away from camp.

A new water and pumping system was installed in 1954 during the 25th camping season. That year there were two weeks of intercultural camping and no longer references to Negro Camp as in previous years. All references to

intercultural camping or to Negro Camp were gone by 1955 - perhaps a result of the 1954 Supreme Court decision on segregation?

Shawnee was started as a new site in 1959; it then had jungle hammocks and was "on a very primitive site." There were six units that year with more and more special Senior attractions being advertised; these included trips away from camp, Counselor-In-Training units, and units to prepare for Roundups and All-States Encampments. Coed activities with Camp Oya were available if the girls wanted them.

The Seal of Ohio Girl Scout Council first operated the camp in 1967. At that time, the camp held 88 girls per session in 4 units: Pioneer, Shawnee, Woodlands, and Lumberjacks. The 40th anniversary, or more accurately, the 40th camping season, was celebrated with a rededication ceremony on July 13, 1969. At that time, a new flag was designed and made by the the staff to be presented to the camp. In addition, a box was buried ten feet north of the flag pole that included the names of all campers and staff who attended the ceremony. It is hoped that this box will be uncovered in 1979 at the celebration of the camp's 50th season. The story of these next ten years, and of other decades to come, will be written in terms of the contributions made by future staff and campers to their summertime home. This story can never be written in advance and so must wait to be recorded in years to come...