

Camp Deerwood Antler

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RECALLING THE OLD DAYS...

What a treat it was to be able to spend some time earlier this month with Henry Damon, Len Thomsen and Tommy Thomsen, pictured at right. There was certainly some work to be done that day (Henry and Len have met several times this year as Henry is transitioning into Len's former role of executive director of the Deerwood Foundation), but also time to recall some old camp stories. Len and Tommy were both at Deerwood starting in 1945, and Henry was a camper in the 50s and a counselor in the 60s.

One of the stories that unfolded involved Tommy and another counselor (does anyone remember who?) who, on their day off, decided to drop in at the girls' camp, Asquam, across the lake. The interesting part is that they decided they would swim there from Deerwood. Upon reaching the Asquam dock over two miles from Deerwood's waterfront, they were met by its director, Mary Elcock. Miss Elcock politely asked them to hop back in the water and return the way they came! Needless to say, after that Tommy telephoned for permission to schedule a visit to Asquam.

Often when Deerwood alumni get together, the stories turn to trips. The 1950s photograph at right shows a Deerwood trip on which an airplane was used to portage supplies. One of Len's old trip stories involved using a railroad cart to help portage their gear a few miles down the track to the next lake. The current generation of Deerwood trippers often hears tales of how the campers were much more rugged in the old days, but as far as we can tell, today's Deerwood campers have completed their portages without the help of any planes, trains or automobiles! To hear more about the benefits and hazards of "borrowing" a railroad cart to assist with your portage in Northern Maine, you can check out a video interview with Len in the alumni section of Deerwood's website. (www.campdeerwood.com).



Len Thomsen, Tommy Thomsen and Henry Damon



Deerwood trippers in the 1950s, using an airplane to help portage!