

Friends of Kern Quarterly

December 1, 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1



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The President's Letter

Welcome to the new edition of the Friends of Kern Quarterly, a newsletter designed to keep you up to date on all things related to the Friends of Kern.

The summer of 2010 looks to be an exciting time at Camp Kern, as we celebrate the camp turning 100 years old. While we weren't there when it all started with young Carl B. Kern, we all have memories, stories and life experiences that happen at the amazing place we call Kern.

We hope you will enjoy keep-

ing up with your friends and former colleagues in this newsletter format. If you have stories, pictures or updates on yourself or other Friends of Kern, we look forward to hearing from you.

We also hope you are planning to attend the 100th Celebration festivities scheduled for the weekend of June 17–20, 2010.

Sincerely,

Kent Barnheiser

FOK Board President



Upcoming dates to remember

- Camp Kern Winter Camp
Dec. 27–30
- Strawberries and Ice Cream
June 17
- 100th celebration
June 17–20

Kern goes Hollywood

Camp Kern has often been noticed for its innovations but it's not too often a major Hollywood director comes calling.

This summer, a representative from George Lucas films paid camp a visit to see one of their games in action, Clone Wars.

"It was really flattering and surprising. They

asked me for ideas on getting the Clone War brand out to the summer camp industry and market," Jeff Merhige Camp Kern Executive Director said.

With help from Merhige and other Kern staffers, a Clone War tool kit is being put together for the summer of 2010.

"It was a great collaboration," Merhige said.



Carl B. Kern Arrives in Dayton—Sept. 1909

One hundred years ago, a 29-year-old young man assumed the duties of Boys' Work Secretary for the Dayton Y.M.C.A.

He was originally from the area, having grown up in Germantown, Ohio and attended Germantown High School. His family, in fact, was one of the four founding families of Germantown.

After high school and an apprenticeship with M.D. Crackel at the Cleveland Y.M.C.A., he attended the Y.M.C.A. School at Springfield, Massachusetts and graduated in 1907. He then became the Boys' Work Secretary for the Poughkeepsie, NY Y.M.C.A. before returning to the Dayton area with his wife Elizabeth, to whom he was married in 1908. His name was Carl Benton Kern.

C.B. Kern's Dayton arrival in September 2009 as the replacement for former Boys' Work Secretary Blake G. Godfrey was announced in the papers (http://www.friendsofkern.org/Carl_Kern_Arrives_Article.pdf) with the reassurance that "The clubs and Bible classes organ-

ized by Mr. Godfrey will continue as before.. The summer camps will be planned as formerly."

Little did people know that Mr. Kern would so significantly impact Dayton Y.M.C.A. camping in a few short years, securing a permanent campsite along the banks of the Little Miami River in 1913 and proclaiming in a September 20, 1915 Annual Report to the Dayton Y.M.C.A. Board of Trustees that "More of permanent value can be accomplished with a week in camp with a boy than months of casual contact."

On June 3, 1917, Mr. Kern was tragically killed in an interurban accident. He was 37 years old. One editorial remarked that, "Carl B. Kern sought no greater honor than to be accounted worthy of the friendship of the hundreds of young fellows who were under his personal care and attention in the boys' department of the Y.M.C.A.". The heartache of a city was summarized in a drawing which appeared in the *Dayton Herald* of a boy with his head buried in his arm and the caption "Every kid in town wuz

friends to 'C.B.'"
(<http://www.kernfund.org/cbpamph4.jpg>).

The camp that became a symbol of his life's work with youth was renamed from Camp Ozone to Camp Kern in his honor.

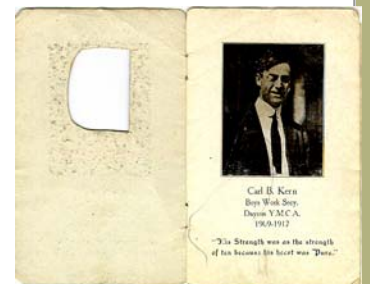
In a tribute booklet published shortly after his death, it was noted that "The life of Carl B. Kern will never be adequately written, yet it is very real. It was 'caught' by the boys whom he touched and goes on re-infecting those whom they touch. The power of his example, the results of his efforts are as the bit of yeast that is saved after each baking to leaven all the succeeding loaves."

One hundred years later, we honor the life of Carl B. Kern and strive to continue the power of his example.

- Stuart Weinberg



Carl B. Kern was in Brooklyn, NY on May 18, 1917 and sent a postcard to his mother. This was just a few weeks before the accident occurred in which he was killed.



A tribute booklet was published after his death to honor Carl B. Kern

Ozone Zipline Adventure opens

The Ozone Zipline Adventure is off and running at Camp Kern. The official opening was held Tuesday, June 30. City and county leaders were on hand to cut the ribbon at the new adventure spot.

The Zipline is open 7 days a week from April 1 to Dec. 15. There are 3 and 4 1/2 hour tours available, starting at \$75 per person.

For more information, go to www.ozonezips.org.



Registration day: A parent's perspective



Rhys' Grandpa Kent in 1969

Dropping my son, Rhys, off at camp this summer for his first, full week of overnight summer camp brought a strange mix of familiarity and newness.

Growing up at Kern and attending camp each summer, I was well acquainted with the Sunday registration ritual.

However, as a parent I was now looking at it from a completely different angle. It was the same drive into camp, the same landmarks, the same lodge (although now beautifully updated), but this time I was bringing my own child to camp, to turn over to strangers for a week.

As a camper, I never paid much attention to registration (I actually don't remember if I ever formally registered, or just dragged my trunk over to my cabin or up to the bunkhouse). The whole process was fairly painless: short good-byes to parents and down to the business of grabbing a good bunk, scouting friends and beginning the week as an (fairly) independent camper.

This time, though, as I watched my son alternating between excitement and nervousness, I found my own anxiety level rising. The paperwork, the registration lines. Who knew so much went into sending one child to camp for a week?

Then there was the rushed good-bye at the cabin and walking away, realizing that my son would be doing things this week that I will never know about. Some good, some bad I'm sure. But even at eight years old, there were bound to be things he wouldn't share.

What he did share, aside from bringing home a sinus infection he caught due to a rainy week, was the good time he had at camp. I learned new camp songs and listened intently as he excitedly told me about climbing Pete's Tower, campfires and the Flying Torpedo Brothers.

He enjoyed getting our letters from home and dutifully spent every last cent on his canteen account. And, in true little-boy-home-from-camp form, he brought home a suitcase full of musty, wet clothes that required the donning of latex gloves to sort through. Strangely though it brought a faint smile to my face as I opened up the suitcase and was instantly reminded of being inside a damp cabin on a rainy day with eight other campers. Ahh...camp.

Although from my son's account no one sings Mountain Dew anymore, and he can't experience the sheer abandon of ordering a large suicide from the canteen right before lights out, he is creating his own, new Kern memories that include the mineshaft, the marshmallow drop at Pete's Tower, the waterslide and many others that he will undoubtedly remember for years to come. Today's Kern isn't my camp anymore. It is my son's, and in a few years will also be my daughter's. Exactly as it should be.

-- Amy Barnheiser Waddell

Catching up with old friends: the Alumni Index

Catching up with your old Kern friends is as easy as a few clicks of the keyboard. Thanks to the Friends of Kern Alumni Index, you can reconnect with your old Kern pals.

Just go to <http://friendsofkern.org/foktasks.php?task=Alumni%20Index> and put in your search name and you could be one email away from catching up with some old friends. What better time to relive those times at Kern than when preparing to celebrate the big anniversary.

Dr. John R. White passes away

Dr. John White, former director of the Archaeology Camp which started in 1982 and continued well into the 1990's, passed away August 22 at the age of 72.

It's hard to think of Dr. White and not picture his wild shorts(!) and the passion and bubbling enthusiasm he had for the field of archaeology. That enthusiasm spilled over to hundreds of campers, who returned summer after summer for the next great archaeology adventure around Kern that he had

planned.

Michael J. Stewart sent in this memory of Dr. White:

"John spoke many times at the 101 Conference and always added his knowledge and humor to every presentation. He spoke once about how archeology was the "opera of the sciences" because it combines all the other sciences just as opera combined all the other sciences."

To read more memories of Dr. White go to our home page at www.friendsofkern.org.



Torpedo Brothers 1965



Ranch Camp 1979

A look down memory lane

Some great pictures can be found on the history pages of the Friends of Kern Web site.

From the early days of Carl B. Kern to the dedication of the Kent Barnheiser Bathhouse in 2007, there are plenty of good memories and good pictures.

Let us know what pictures you have and would like to share.

To view the history pages, go to <http://www.friendsofkern.org/history.php>.



Steve Bull, Rob Stahl 1980

Calling Camp Kern home for nearly 40 years

Property Director Chuck Snyder has been taking care of Camp Kern for almost 40 years. So it seemed only fitting as Kern prepares to celebrate another milestone that we check in with the man who has seen so much growth.

Q: When did you start at Camp Kern?

A: I started working here while I was still in high school back in 1971. I was in an early release program for students who had jobs, so I was able to work in the afternoons. My grandfather knew Bud Smith, whom was the maintenance director here at Kern at that time, and he mentioned to my grandfather that he was looking for someone to cut grass at the camp. Well, I took the grass mowing job, and little did I know that it would lead to where I'm at now.

Q: What kept you at Kern all of these years?

A: I had many job offers over the years, which would have taken me away from Kern, and I did build a few houses with my brother-in-law back in the early '80s, but I always loved being at Kern, so I stayed. I'm not sure if there is any one thing that really had a hold on me to stay; it's a combination of many things. The changing job every day is a real plus, because you may plan out your day, but at camp things are always coming up that you never expect! This is a fantastic place to raise children, and I think this camp helped shape my daughter into the wonderful young lady she is today. The many different

people I worked with, and the thousands of guests that come through here, is another thing that keep me here. I just can't think of a more beautiful setting than Kern, to spend a career.

Q: What are you most proud of at Kern?

A: There have been so many changes here at Kern, and I have had a part in many of them. I hope I have not reached my biggest accomplishment yet, and I hope there are many to come. I'm not sure I can pick any one thing, but I am proud that we made it through the '80s with very little funding for much of anything. We used a lot of duct tape and good old backyard ingenuity back then. I have been a big advocate for keeping a lot of the old things around the camp (buildings), but I'm well aware that we have to make some changes in order to attract guests and campers to this site. I would be crazy not to mention the zip tours at Kern; it has the potential of subsidizing all of our existing programs here at Kern. The plan is to use some of the funds for schools, so they can continue to enjoy our Outdoor Education programming here at Kern. Besides all of that, the zip tours are just way cool!

Q: What would Carl B. Kern say if he could see camp today?

A. I hope Mr. Kern would say WOW!! What a place. Are you sure this is where it all began 100 years ago. I kind of recognize the area, but where did all of the rest of this stuff come from?