


Birds' Droppings

July 2003

www.ymcawillson.org

director@ymcawillson.org

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- No Email
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Unplug at Men's Camp
August 22-29, 2003
YMCA Willson Outdoor Center
Bellefontaine, Ohio
800-423-0427

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. —Psalm 23:3

According to a survey conducted by an insurance company, one of every six workers in the US feels too busy to take all the vacation days he or she has earned. Even though studies show that a week's holiday each year can dramatically reduce stress and the risk of heart attack, many people just keep working.

A vacation can be good for body and soul. But many people don't have the luxury of time away from work and daily responsibilities. What can we do when we must remain in demanding circumstances?

Psalm 23 paints a beautiful word picture of a caring shepherd, secure sheep, and a tranquil scene of quiet meadows and still waters. But it is the Lord, our shepherd, who gives rest, not the green grass or the flowing stream. "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (v.3).

Rest is a place of peace that our spirits find in God. Neither the presence of those who oppose us nor the dark valley of death can keep us from what hymn writer Cleland McAfee called "a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God." Through prayer and meditation on His Word, we can commune with Him. In the Lord's presence we can experience the rest and renewal we so desperately need.

—David McCasland , From Our Daily Bread May 30, 2003

Shirley Goodnest and Marcy

Tommy Hebicides is a five year old boy. His mother loves him very much. A worrier, she was concerned when he started kindergarten about his walking to school. She walked him to school for a couple of days, but one day he told his mother that he did not want her walking him to school every day. He wanted to be like the "big boys."

She had an idea how to handle it. She asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, to follow her son surreptitiously to school, at a distance that he would not likely notice, but close enough to keep a watch on him.

Mrs. Goodnest said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well. The next school day, Mrs. Goodnest and her little girl Marcy set out behind Tommy as he walked to school with another boy. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Tommy's friend noticed that a lady was following them every day all week. Finally, he asked Tommy, "Have you noticed that lady following us? Do you know her?" Tommy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

"Well, who is she?"

"That's Shirley Goodnest," Tommy said.

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she, and why is she following us?" "Well," Tommy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm 'cuz she worries about me so much. And the psalm says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it."

And Now for an Important Minute

Hey gang, summer has finally arrived and camp is brimming full of campers!

Some of you missed the Spring Reunion, which was held at Camp this year on May 17. It was really a cool event. We had enough STEAKS, burgers, dogs, and brats with all the picnic trimmens for everybody. The weather was perfect. The inevitable rain held off till everyone went home (just as I planned it of course). Among the crowd were a few notables: ED WOOD RALPH RAMEY RON DAVIS DON MEADE AL WEESE NORM RASK TOM LEE BILL WELTCHEIMER BUD SMITH STEVE EASLEY JACK & DAVE GAISER DAVE BURKS JOE MARTIN WES CHANDLER and yours' truly. It was a really cool family affair. Wives, children, and friends. My grandson and a couple of nephews plan to be MENS' campers some day.

Our Bird's Fund project is not only on schedule but looking great. The swim area has a new face, a new deck, and a new floatation system enclosing the pool area. The boat dock, which has been slowly sinking for a few years, has been propped up with flotation from the swim dock (recycling). The boat house, while maintaining the same outside dimensions, grew inside considerably. It is all being done because you said OK and the BIRDS' fund got it started. We won't be talking about a new project this year. We will just finish up this one. I'm lucky in that I get to see your contributions in action. With a few changes (for the better), a few new looks around camp, all the "regulars" back, a few new guys who need a break, and the (you just can't get enough of) MENS' WEEK tradition, it's gonna be a great week, or weekend, or day. See you in August, your servant for a week,

Prez, Tracy. AKA Le Rhea

Ed Wood has an Art Show



Sunset at Macochee

Ed Wood is having his art work displayed at the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center at 153 W 12th till July 31. "I have never seen my work displayed in such lovely manner said Ed. There are a few paintings of Camp Willson scenes as well as others from around the state. To see photos of the artwork, visit:

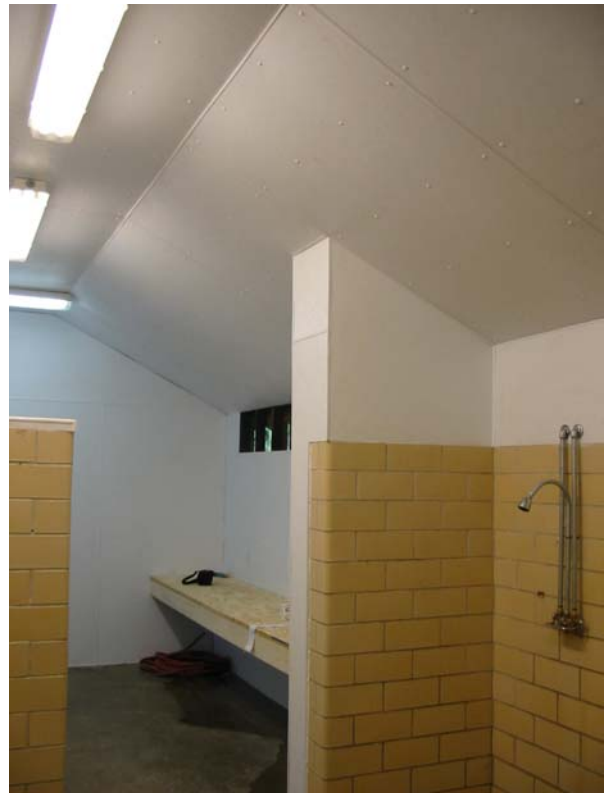
http://members.tripod.com/hurtubise_1/ewart/

Improvements at Camp

This spring and summer, Properties Director Tony McGee and company has been very busy! Come fall camp, you will experience a remodeled and improved summer showerhouse, as well as a partial remodeling of the winter showerhouse.

Thanks to the generosity of Men's Camp, the Birds Fund will assist in the purchase of new floating swim docks, permanent swim dock replacement, remodeling of the lower level of the boathouse and the purchase of a Rave Trampoline (a trampoline that floats on the lake). The Bird's representatives have voted to borrow against the 2003 donations to complete this project in time for the beginning of summer 2003. The improvements were greatly needed

and we are receiving rave reviews about the improvements.



Both new summer cabins, 10 and 13 are completed and occupied by campers. It also doubles as additional classroom space for our Outdoor Education Groups.



2003 Men's Camp Dates

Till July 31

Ed Wood Art Show
at the
Frank W Hale Jr Center
at 153 W. 12th
on campus of
The Ohio State University

August 22-29

Men's Camp
Fall Camp
Birds Dinner (at American Legion) starts at 7:00

Anne says, "If you have anyone that you would like to have added to the Men's Camp mailing list, please contact Anne at 800-423-0427 or email her at **director@ymcawillson.org** When getting contact information on potential campers, we need their name, address, phone number and email address."

Don't forget to register for Camp!
Call 800-423-0427 today!



The New Water Trampoline / Blob is in use on a daily basis and the kids are so excited! This new toy is really two different activities for lots of great fun! The trampoline provides lots of bouncing fun and the blob, pictured here is fun to both do and watch. The first difficult part is to crawl all the way out to the end of the blob. The next person runs across the trampoline and jumps on the blob, propelling the blob as far as possible. Both the blobber and blobbee often falls off before having the opportunity to launch! The kids love it! Thanks Men's Campers!