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GENEVA POINT CENTER 1919-1989

An Historical Appreciation

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INTRODUCTION

An Historical Appreciation of Geneva Point Center is presented as the story of Geneva Point Center's ownership and management over the past seventy years. Geneva Point Center on Lake Winnepesaukee in central New Hampshire was purchased in 1919. Its ownership and ministry has come full circle — from lay non-denominational sponsorship, to the education boards of the denominations cooperating in the International Council of Religious Education, which predated the National Council of Churches, and through a series of restructuring to the Division of Education and Ministry of the National Council of Churches of Christ — and now back once again to lay non-denominational sponsors, Geneva Point Center, Inc.

Rev. William Genné was asked to write the saga of Geneva Point Center and its ministry to young people and adults in the Northeastern region of the United States. Dr. Genné's emotional relationship with Geneva Point covers a period of sixty-two years. He served as President of the Winni Boys' Camp (1930) and Program Coordinator (1976-1985).

Geneva Point Center 1919-1989 An Historical Appreciation sets forth the saga of Geneva Point Center, and the story of Christian Education executives, denominational executives, and hundreds of men and women who served as volunteers in the Geneva Point program. The story also includes the children and young people, many of them now adult and leaders in their churches and communities, who played important roles in the saga of Geneva Point Center.

Emily V. Gibbs
May 1989

FULL CIRCLE - A FOREWORD

A strange thing has occurred in the past seventy years! Geneva Point on Lake Winnepesaukee in central New Hampshire was owned by a lay, nondenominational organization of men and women, the International Sunday School Association (ISSA), after the property was purchased in 1919.

In 1922, when the ISSA merged with the Council of Church Boards of Education, its new owner was an interdenominational educational agency responsible to the education boards of the denominations cooperating in the International Council of Religious Education (ICRE).

Then, in 1950, the ICRE joined with thirteen other interdenominational agencies in forming the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCCC). The ICRE became the Division of Christian Education, bringing with it the property and programs of Geneva Point Camp (GPC).

And now, in the 1980's, in a restructuring of its Division of Education and Ministry, the NCCC has decided to transfer two properties in Wisconsin and New Hampshire to two separate regionally based corporations of persons dedicated to their ongoing ministries. So GPC is being returned once again to lay nondenominational sponsors.

The story of how Geneva Point Center moved through these various types and forms of organizational sponsorship is a fascinating tale. It includes men and women of vision and great dreams. It includes persons of great dedication and commitment. It includes thousands of "just plain folks" whose lives have been enriched, their character strengthened, and who have returned to their families and communities with greater love and service because they have spent some time at Geneva Point Center by the Lake in the mountains.

Let us get on with the story, then in our Postscript we can ponder some of the meanings and messages this tale may have for us!

1. THE PLACE

As we drive between the stone columns marking the entrance to Geneva Point Center, we do not immediately sense we are entering a place of special significance. The Inn looks like many other New England structures and a cursory view of the landscape reveals a nice lake and some low mountains.

If we stay awhile and begin to explore it, the place begins to speak to us. Our first evening we may go down across the athletic field and through the woods to the Tryst. Here we can sit among the giant boulders and watch the sun set directly opposite us across Langdon Cove. As the sun sinks lower over the Sandwich Mountains, the clouds grow brilliant with colors too numerous to mention and the golden pathway comes straight across to where the waves lap gently against the rocks at our feet. We begin to sense the quietness of the scene and our spirits begin to feel the rhythms of beauty and peace. A loon may lead her chicks swimming along the shore near their nesting place, and we become aware of caring in God's world.

The next morning, as we are awakened by the sun streaming across the lake, silhouetting the islands off Lone Pine Point, we sense a different kind of beauty. The mists rising from the waters symbolize a surge of activity, the birds sound bright and cheerful and rhythms of the breezes alert our senses to a day full of adventure. There are almost two hundred acres to explore. Let us be up and away!

As we walk from Lake View Lodge, by the Gibbes House, we climb the hill past the Gould Outdoor Chapel to the Inn. Reaching the veranda, we turn to look north, out over the Vista, cleared through the trees to permit a view of the Lake and the Ossipee Mountains. The whitecaps sparkle in the morning sun and their

brightness makes us want to whistle a merry tune.

After breakfast, we come out and stand on the Inn porch, looking eastward. Beyond the driveway is an open field, somewhat like the "Green" or "Common" in so many New England towns. Our common also serves as the center of most of the life of the community. Surrounding it are the Center Store, the Chapel, the Health Center, the Barn, the Arts and Crafts Center, interspersed with clusters of cottages and cabins.

The Barn is on the opposite side, facing the Inn. Behind the Barn is a second large field in which recreational vehicles and tents may be set up. In the center of this area is a large tepee where a family or group of campers may sleep. These two open areas, the common and the tent and trailer area, are completely surrounded by trees which cover the remainder of the property, except for the athletic field which is west of the Inn.

If we take the path beside the Barn to enter the woods, we pass the stone foundation of a house that was on the property when it was a working farm. Remnants of old stone fences can be seen tracing their way among the trees. They remind us of the fact that in the 19th century, New Hampshire was 85% agriculture, while at the present time its surface is 85% woodland.

While it is not virgin forest, this second growth of seventy five years or more has attained good height and provides shelter for birds and wildlife. One group of bird watchers identified thirty eight species during a week long visit. Deer, raccoons, chipmunks, skunks, porcupines and an occasional red fox make their home here.

Scattered among the trees is an abundance of flowers: jack in the pulpits, Indian pipes, lady slippers, violets along with a whole variety of mushrooms and toadstools. Later in the season strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries abound.

Continuing along the path, we come to a small building, the "Trading Post" which was originally designed as a store from which campers could buy supplies while camping in the area. Since the camping area has been used mostly by organized groups whose food needs are supplied by the main kitchen, the building has been used for other purposes.

Just a short distance to the east, we come to the outdoor education area. This is largely a collection of canvas shelters: covered wagons, hogans and wall tents, to which organized groups can come. There are permanent structures for wash houses, dining and larger group activities in inclement weather. All the other accommodations are movable and can be arranged according to the size and program of the group.

It is an easy walk up the hill to the Cathedral in the Pines, a beautiful space surrounded by evergreens. It is a quiet place for individuals to meditate while observing life around them or for small groups to share their deepest thoughts.

From the Cathedral, we can pick up the blaze marks (painted yellow bands) on the trees of the Borderline Trail that will lead us to the eastern shorefront of the property. We will notice a variety of terrain as we pass from the pines to the oaks and from the maples to the birches and the lush coverage of the wetlands along the shore.

Reaching the lake level, we pass the Morning Beach so called because it is warmed by the morning sun. This is the beach that is used by campers using the outdoor camping area.

Then we cross the Dock Road which connects the Inn with an old steamboat landing. A few beams from the old structure can be seen in the clear water at the end of the road. Before motor cars became popular, it was quicker to get off the old Boston and Maine Railroad at the Weirs and take a steam launch around

the tip of Moultonborough Neck to the dock, even though it meant carrying all your gear the half mile to the Inn.

Continuing westward along the lake shore, we will pass the "Meditation Beach," a small place on which a person or family might want to spend some time. Lone Pine Point comes next. The pine tree was lost in a storm some years ago but the massive rock, jutting out into the water is still a landmark.

Just beyond the rock, back from the beach is a rustic amphitheater with a stone lined fireplace in the center. This is the Council Ring, the place for evening campfires and programs. With its four tiers of seating it can accommodate most groups.

The main beach extends west from the Lone Pine Point. It is long enough to be used for three purposes when necessary. The end toward the Point is used by individual guests and their families. The center is used to launch boats, canoes and wind surfing boards. The western end is usually reserved for more organized groups conducting their swim programs.

The Borderline Trail continues along the shoreline and takes us through some lush growth of trees and flowers. After we pass Lake View Lodge, we leave the trail to take the path up to the Inn.

As we approach the Inn, we have a better opportunity to appreciate the stately structure, with its broad veranda on three sides, crowned with a cupola with its weather vane rising above the roof of the three storied building. Beneath the north veranda, with its wall of windows over looking the lake, is the Lake Side Dining Room, seating 250 to serve larger conference groups.

Behind the Lake Side Dining Room is the Fire Side Dining Room for individual, family, and small group service. The stone fireplace helps to create a warm and cozy atmosphere on the early spring and late fall mornings. Its southern exposure lets the sunshine into

the room throughout the day.

Interior stairs lead from the Fire Side Room up to the lobby of the Inn. We can go out on the veranda and, sitting in the high-backed rockers looking out over the lake and the Ossipees, we can talk about this place.

One of the first questions we are usually asked is "How old is the Inn?" This question really starts us on the history of The Place.

Long before the buildings were erected, the site had been taking shape. About 12,000 years ago the great ice glaciers moved down from Canada and covered the area with a mass of ice estimated to be as deep as Mt. Washington is high (6,228 ft.). With the tremendous power of its weight, the glacier gouged great valleys in its path. Later, as the temperatures became warmer, great water runoffs in the summer would alternate with great freezes in the winter. The rocks and masses of debris left by these alternating rhythms began to dam up the waters, forming lakes. What is now Lake Winnepesaukee used to drain into the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Cocheco River. When this exit became blocked, the Lake rose about 300 feet and covered a large area, including what is now Laconia and Gilford. This enlarged lake was contained by a natural dam just north of Tilton. When this dam was broken, probably by an earthquake, the tremendous rush of water gouged out the Weirs and scoured the present Winnisquam, Paugus and Opechee Lakes.

Winnepesaukee, the largest lake in the Lakes Region, became the heart of a fertile countryside with the rolling foothills of the Presidential Range to the north. There are seventy streams that flow into the Lake and to this day the Lake water is so crystal clear it meets all requirements of the health department for drinking. The Lake now has depths of nearly two hundred feet and a shoreline of two hundred and sixty-three miles. There are two hundred and seventy four inhabitable

islands and, if we add the various rock out-croppings, it would total an island for every day in the year.

The Lake is surrounded by mountains. To the north are the Ossipees, topped by Mt. Shaw (2,975 feet); to the west is the Sandwich Range, with Mt. Chocorua (3,475 feet) and to the south is Belknap Mountain (2,379 feet). Red Hill, at the head of the Moultonborough Neck is 2,029 feet. This variety of terrain provides a selection for hiking, especially for campers who need to get their muscles in shape. They can start on Monday with Red Hill. On Wednesday they should be ready for Mt. Chocorua, so by Friday they can tackle Mt. Washington in the Presidential Range.

The Indians

It was the Indians living around the Lake who gave it the name "Winnipesaukee," although that is the white man's spelling of the name that survived about a hundred different spellings among the early settlers.

To the Indians "Winnipesogge" meant "The Smile of the Great Spirit." This was based on their legend of Mineola, the daughter of the Chief of the Abenakis, who was wooed by Adiwando, son of the chief of a tribe with which the Abenakis were not too friendly.

When Adiwando came to Mineola's father to plead for his daughter's hand, the father threatened him with a tomahawk. But Mineola interceded and pleaded with her father until he finally relented. As the couple rode away in their canoe, the sun, which had been hidden by clouds, broke through and bathed the couple in sunlight. This seemed to all to be a sign of the blessing of the Great Spirit on their union.

The Abenakis were a highly developed tribe within the Algonquin Confederation. They fished for shad at the Weirs and hunted in the forest. Some of their artifacts have reportedly been found near the lake

shore at Geneva Point.

In 1696, feeling the pressure of the white man's immigration, the Abenakis moved to Canada, never to return to their beloved Lake.

The White Settlers

As the early settlements of immigrants along the New England coast became more established, there were always those who wanted to push further inland to see what they could discover. Pushing up the rivers from Boston and Portsmouth and westward from the Maine coast, the first explorers came to the Lakes Region in 1632.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1652 sent a party to find the source of the Merrimack River to establish their northern boundaries according to their charter. When the party got to the Weirs, the Indians told them the lake was the source of the Merrimack. The explorers carved the name of Governor John Endicott and their initials on the rock which can be seen today at the Weirs.

While there was continuing exploration and a few settlements appeared, the lands around the Lake did not feel any rush of development because of the disturbances with the Indians who had moved in after the Abenakis left. The troubles of the French and Indian War lasted about ten years, from about 1755 to 1765.

Settlers came up the river routes. One of the favorites was from Portsmouth, up the Great Bay, and then by way of the Cocheco River almost all the way to the tip of Alton Bay. This was practically a sea level route which makes it not surprising that Alton Bay became the first settlement on the Lake. From Alton Bay the settlers could take advantage of the water for transportation in their canoes, gundalows or their horse boats. The gundalows were flat bottomed scows with a single

mast for a triangular sail. The horse boat was another type of scow big enough to hold a horse on a tread mill which powered two side wheels in the water.

Lumbering grew as an industry when the settlers cleared their lands. One of the largest of the sawmills was in Meredith. It would receive large rafts of logs from all around the Lake. There is a story from the 1850's (after they had steam tugboats) of two captains, who worked together to assemble a raft of over one million board feet and float it from Lee's Mills, (just east of Moultonborough Corners) down Moultonborough Bay, around the tip of Long Island and up Meredith Bay. The trip of about twenty miles was accomplished in five hours on a calm and moonlit night. Their route would have taken them directly past our property off the beaches.

Moultonborough Neck extends about seven miles into the northwestern area of the Lake and has a maximum width of about four miles. It has a very irregular shoreline with many bays and coves.

Once their land was cleared, the settlers loved their soil. Long Island, just off the Neck near Geneva Point was settled early and has made some significant contributions to American agriculture. The potatoes grown there were purchased by the government to send to the settlers in Idaho to help them start their famous farms. The wheat was also outstanding. John Pillsbury established his first flour mill on nearby Cow Island before moving to Minneapolis as agriculture moved west.

We cannot go into all the details of the development of the area, but much of it will be revealed in our continuing story. There is an excellent story of the endurance and skills of the early settlers of the area as they built their cabins (six axe handles wide and three axe handles deep) and cleared the wilderness to develop their farms in this area. It is called *Look to the Mountain* written by LeGrand Cannon, Jr. It is available

in paperback from Bantam Books and in the Center Bookstore.

In 1840, Carroll County was created out of Strafford county, and in the late 1800's a Dr. Jared Alonzo Greene purchased several of the existing farms on the Neck and combined them for raising cattle, horses and poultry. Early maps designate the property as "Roxmont Poultry Farm." Dr. Greene also operated the steam launch, "Roxmont." In 1895 this served as a feeder line to the steamer, "Mt. Washington," which was operated by the Boston and Maine Railroad.

It was sometime in the eighteen seventies or early eighties that what we now know as the "Inn" was built as a barn. The narrow windows in the Lobby indicate where some of the stalls were. The massive boulders in the foundations can still be seen in the Staff Dining Room off the kitchen.

In 1896, the Roxmont Poultry operations ceased and the barn was converted into an Inn for the growing tourist business. Broad verandas were built on three sides of the building and a broad stairway was built from the western veranda.

The tourist business suffered during the first World War. As a result, in 1919 the land and buildings were sold for \$30,000 to the International Sunday School Association.

At that time there were 236 acres. Because of some sales in intervening years, there are now just under 200 acres. The central area with all of its buildings has been maintained. Some buildings have been moved and a few have been replaced with more modern structures to meet the changing needs of the times.

The basic beauty of the place has been retained and for thousands of people it has become a place where they have found it easy to communicate with their Creator and feel re-created in body, mind, and spirit. It is no wonder that one camper was inspired to write the

following poem which is now loved as a hymn sung to the tune "Geneva":

God, who touchest earth with beauty,
Make me lovely too.
With Thy Spirit recreate me,
Make my heart anew.

Like Thy springs and running waters,
Make me crystal pure.
Like Thy rocks of towering grandeur
Make me strong and sure.

Like Thy dancing waves in sunlight,
Make me glad and free.
Like the straightness of the pine tree,
Let me upright be.

Like the arching of the heavens,
Lift my thoughts above.
Turn my dreams to noble actions,
Ministries of love.

God, who touchest earth with beauty,
Make me lovely too.
Keep me ever, by Thy Spirit,
Strong and pure and true.

by Mary S. Edgar

2. PEOPLE WITH A PURPOSE

The new owners of the property at Geneva Point Camp, as they called it, had their own very interesting history.

The International Sunday School Association (ISSA) was primarily a grassroots lay movement. Many ordained clergy cooperated, but did so as individuals, not as representatives of their congregations. The Association brought together Sunday School officers and teachers from many denominations and organized them into local, county, state and national units.

In many new communities across America, the first organized religious expression was a Sunday School. Even before they had a church, concerned parents would gather the children and youth to teach them about the Bible, moral values, and spiritual life. The ISSA, organized early in the 1900's, grew as a movement to help these teachers.

In the early part of the 20th century, religious education was becoming a strong and growing movement. Church colleges and seminaries were emphasizing the education of children and youth. There was a lively and growing interest in the cities, as well as, the growing communities around them.

It is also helpful to recall that this period before the First World War was a period of strenuous optimism. The YMCA and YWCA were developing their youth programs, including many fine camps. The Boy Scouts of America were organized in 1910.

The ISSA had two major emphases: The first was Adult Work to help the teachers and officers of the Sunday Schools with their methods and materials and also to provide inspiration and support in their efforts.

The second emphasis was the work with youth. With the dream of discovering thousands of young men and women who would develop their fullest potential —

mental, social, physical, spiritual — they would provide a great pool for the future leadership of the churches and their educational programs. This was the dream of the ISSA as it developed its "Four-Fold Life Program" under the direction of John L. Alexander, the National Superintendent of Youth Work for the Association.

In 1914, the first summer youth camps, one for girls the other for boys, were launched at the Conference Point Camp on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Drawing on the great network of state and provincial associations, the camps grew rapidly. Within five years the popularity of these camps was such that there was a great demand for additional camps. The strong Sunday School Movement in the northeast pushed its claim for a camp in its region. That is why the New Hampshire property was purchased in 1919.

A third camp, Geneva Glen, was founded in Colorado in 1921 to meet the needs of the western part of the country.

Changes Ahead

We will write more in detail about the programs that were developed to move toward the dreams of the ISSA in the next chapter. Let us, for the moment, continue to trace the lineage of the succession of owners and operators of Geneva Point Camp because it is a fascinating example of how the denominations work together to express their unity in Christ's Mission.

While the ISSA had been growing, the various denominations were also becoming interested in strengthening their educational programs. Most of the national denominations had created some kind of department or board to promote Christian Education.

Inevitably these boards began to publish courses and materials and to hold meetings to establish their distinctive denominational emphases. Aware that the educational experiences were part of the total life of the church, they called their classes "Church Schools."

Some denominations developed their own camp sites.

It was not long before these denominational educational leaders felt the need to get together to help each other with their mutual concerns. They banded together to form the Council of Church Boards of Education (CCBE).

Likewise, it soon became evident that there were great similarities between the work of the CCBE and the ISSA. Some folks thought they were wasteful duplication. Others thought they were competitive. Whatever it was, the situation caused great concern and conversations were begun that led to the merger of the two groups.

The International Council of Religious Education

In 1922, the ISSA and the CCBE merged to become The International Council of Religious Education, often referred to as the ICRE. While their goals as separate organizations had been similar, their forms of organization and procedures had been different. These differences were to lead to some tensions and upheaval along with the gains of the merger.

One of the assets the ISSA brought into the merger was the Geneva Point Camp, with all of the beauty and resources we tried to describe in the preceding chapter. Another asset was the ISSA's staff for its Youth Department.

John L. Alexander had developed a staff to help with the camps at the three sites. R.A. Waite joined him in 1918 and Preston Orwig in 1920. These three men had directed the ISSA camps during the summers and worked with the state and county youth groups during the rest of the year. They became well known to hundreds of youth across the country. They continued to direct the camps for the ICRE during the 1922, 1923, and 1924 seasons.

John Alexander had also developed considerable financial support for the camps from several businessmen, notably from Mr. William H. Danforth. As laymen and businessmen, all four of these men had developed a style of working with youth that had a directness and freedom about it that did not have to depend on committee decisions nor wait for months of study before launching a project.

With the coming of the ICRE, all programs had to be approved by committees that represented all of the participating denominations. To Mr. Danforth, this seemed to be a cumbersome arrangement; so, in 1924 he created the Danforth Foundation with Mr. Alexander as its Director and Messrs. Waite and Orwig as its Youth Staff.

For the summer of 1924, the ICRE made a special arrangement with the Danforth Foundation for these men to direct the Geneva Camps. In 1926, the Danforth Foundation, which later became the American Youth Foundation, began to operate two camps at new sites, one in New Hampshire and the other in Michigan.

Another asset of the former ISSA was that it included several of the Canadian denominations. When the new ICRE needed a new youth staff it invited Dr. Percy R. Hayward, who was Boys Work Secretary for six years before becoming General Secretary of the Religious Education Council of Canada.

From 1922 to 1950, the International Council of Religious Education held title to the property, and managed it through a Geneva Point Administrative Committee, which it elected. This committee hired the Camp Manager and authorized the budget and staff to care for the property, staff the operations, and work with the various departments of the ICRE for the events that were scheduled on the site.

As the camp grew, improvements were made. Campers and staff stayed in the Inn and some of the

cottages that were on the farm property. There were also tents with wood floors. Electricity did not reach the Inn until 1926, and then only to the kitchen, dining rooms and meeting rooms. Kerosene lamps were used in all of the sleeping rooms.

Until 1930, the largest meeting place was the old chicken house of the Roxmont Poultry Farm which could accommodate only about one hundred and fifty persons on a level floor.

Dr. Erwin Shaver remembered it well. In his tribute to "Winni" in 1947 he wrote:

"The first chapel services were held in the Chicken Coop— a conglomerate structure with rain-stained and whitewashed walls; the floors were part board, part dirt and the original exits for the poultry still preserved! If one wanted to support the argument that the spirit of reverent worship can be had under the most ugly and incongruous surroundings, here was ir-refutable evidence!"

Obviously, a more adequate auditorium was needed for worship and educational purposes. The new Chapel was dedicated on August 5th, 1930. It was a white, two story structure with four white columns across the porch in front. There was a stage and auditorium, plus six classrooms. Later the two classrooms on the second floor were opened to permit a balcony into the main auditorium and two on the first floor were opened to enlarge the auditorium. As the result of recent anonymous donations, one of the remaining classrooms on the first floor has been converted into a meditation room for individuals and small groups.

At the rear of the stage there are three windows, a tall one in the center with two shorter ones on each side. They are all clear glass, so when the drapes are drawn aside, the worshipper can look on the grove of

pine trees with the sun shining through the branches. Beneath the windows is a wood carved quotation taken from the old Danish hymn beloved by many campers:

*That cause can neither be lost nor stayed
Which takes the course of what God has made ...*

During the years that the camps and the ICRE had been growing, there was also a great expansion in the wider ecumenical movement. In the 1940's there were at least thirteen Protestant organizations which had developed some unity in the cooperative work of the denominations in various specific fields. There were the Protestant Radio and Film Commission, Stewardship Council, Missionary Education Movement, United Church Women, Federal Council of Churches, Councils on Home Missions and Foreign Missions and several other organizations in addition to the International Council of Religious Education.

Each of these organizations had its special focus in the work of the Church, but they all felt the urge to demonstrate more fully their unity in the Cause of Christ and to cooperate more efficiently in carrying out that endeavor.

After some years of consultation and planning, in 1950 these organizations merged to form The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (NCCC).

The National Council of Churches

The ICRE became the Division of Christian Education of the new council and brought with it the property at Lake Winnepesaukee. The Division Unit Committee, comprised of representatives of all the denominations cooperating in the Division, elected the Geneva Point Committee, which, in turn, administered the camp on behalf of the Division. The women and men elected to the GPC Committee generally included both members

of the denominations and the state councils of churches, so there was a close working relationship with the ecumenical agencies in the northeast.

The Geneva Point Committee reported to the Rev. Dr. Gerald E. Knoff, executive of the Division. As Associate General Secretary for Education, Dr. Knoff reported directly to the General Secretary for the NCCC. During his six year tenure on the staff of the ICRE before the formation of the NCCC, he was familiar with Geneva Point Camp and continued to give it his strong support throughout his twenty-two year NCCC administration and on into his retirement years.

The financial officer for the new Division was Mr. Howard Woodland, a dedicated layman, who took a special interest in the Camp and helped immeasurably in setting up the early financial procedures and in raising support for the Camp.

Throughout the succession of sponsoring organizations — ISSA, ICRE and NCCC — the purposes of those who gave their strength and resources to the dream remained the same: having been led to the place, they felt called to use the beauty of its setting and the space of its facilities for the building of persons in the Christian Faith to serve the world.

Among the advantages of the merger forming the NCCC, was the closer working relationships with the other divisions and units of the Council. For instance, the Missionary Education Movement, which published under the name of "Friendship Press," had two study themes each year; one on a Home Missions project, the other on a Foreign Missions project or issue. Often these themes are used as the basis for the summer programs at Geneva Point.

Nearly every summer there is a leader or family "in residence" from one of the areas of study for the coming year. To secure leadership from Ethiopia or Papua New Guinea or mainland China was no easy task but it

certainly was facilitated by the close working relationship with the Division of Overseas Ministries.

Geneva Point also became a resource for many of the other units of the NCCC as a center for conferences and a leadership training laboratory. This kept the Camp abreast of many new ideas in Christian thought and programming. For instance, the Committee on Outdoor Education of the NCCC used the property in the development of GPC's camping area and later, with the cooperation of the Committee on Family Ministries, conducted several training programs for leaders of family camps from all over the country.

In recognition of this increased role, and to more accurately identify its function, the name was officially changed to Geneva Point Center in 1966.

The Geneva Point Center

One of the results of this additional function ("additional" because the Center was continuing to work with youth) was the need for more adult housing. In 1966 the Lake View Lodge was built providing ten double bedrooms, each with private bath, plus a common room with kitchenette for the occupants of that building. Dr. Knoff was succeeded by Dr. Emily V. Gibbes serving as Associate General Secretary from 1972 until 1980. Her eight year term was marked by the complete rebuilding of Cottage F, considerable renovations in the Inn and Chapel Line Cabins, as well as, other improvements to the facilities. Dr. Gibbes was also instrumental in the design and inauguration of a number of new and outstanding programs at the Center.

During her administration she was strong in her support of the Center, and continues to have a great interest in it. Since her retirement from the NCCC, she has served several terms on the GPC Committee including a period as Chair of the Program Committee.

During her visits to the Center she often volunteers to serve ice cream in the store!

Dr. Gibbs' successor was the Rev. David Ng. He served the Division as Associate General Secretary from 1980 to 1985. Dr. Ng provided strong encouragement to the GPC Committee and the staff to pursue the mission of the Center during a time when the Division as a whole was struggling with defining its role and mission for the future.

In 1981 a new building was completed including ten additional double bedrooms with private bath, a kitchenette, and two large rooms suitable for meetings or informal gatherings. The new facility was named in honor of Dr. Emily V. Gibbs, after her retirement.

With the changing of the times and the sometimes violent social upheavals of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, all institutions have had to reconsider their roles and functions, as well as their resources. Certainly all religious institutions have felt the pressure.

While Geneva Point has basically paid its way, it has, from time to time, borrowed funds from the NCCC for major improvements such as the building of the Gibbs House and the installation of a new sanitary system. The Center in each instance has met the obligations agreed to with the Division.

Over the years there have been certain issues that have created problems. While there were many advantages to being owned by the national organization, it meant the Director, to fill his obligations as a member of the National staff, had to make several trips each year to New York City. Additionally, policies and procedures were imposed that at times were not consistent with general practices at camps and conference centers and in New Hampshire. Also, all the finances were required to be handled through the New York office, which incurred a service charge from the headquarters' office.

In the New York offices there were also financial pressures. Many of the programs in the Division of Education and Ministry were in need of funds. It was tempting for some persons to think of the money that could be gained by selling the property on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee. In addition there were those who questioned the rationale of a nationwide organization being the "landlord" for a property and program that was essentially a "regional" operation.

As these questions began to surface repeatedly, there gradually developed a proposal for action. The National Council would divest itself of the property but, instead of selling it on the open market, it would turn the property over to the Geneva Point Committee, which would incorporate itself as a nonprofit organization to carry forward the purposes of Christian education and leadership development.

This plan would relieve the National Council of the responsibility for continuing maintenance of the property and administration of the program. At the same time, it would also insure that the purposes of the founders and all those who contributed to the Center throughout the years would be carried forward.

The proposal to transfer the Center to a separate nonprofit corporation was endorsed by the Unit Committee of the Division of Education and Ministry in 1984. The following year David Ng returned to his former denominational pursuits and the Rev. Dr. Arthur O. Van Eck was elected Associate General Secretary. Dr. Van Eck has worked diligently in arranging the transfer of the property.

All in all, the succession of Divisional Executives has been a distinguished group. They have given great effort and time in representing the Center in the highest levels of the National Council of Churches.

3. PARTNERS IN PROGRAM

The previous chapter has given a brief review of the succession of organizations which have owned and operated Geneva Point, both as a camp and later a conference center. The foregoing has tried to indicate the basic vision that motivated the Center's work and its growing involvement in the life of the denominations. The following pages will look more closely at the partners who have helped to make the dreams a reality.

Throughout the early years, the six week seasons were directly sponsored by the owners and consisted of three sessions: the Adult Leadership Training School, the Older Girls Conference and the Older Boys Conference, each with a two week duration. The Boys Camp traditionally closed on the Labor Day weekend.

Adult Leadership Training

The Adult Schools were pioneering events in what is now called "Adult Education." They brought together men and women who were dedicated to a great purpose and gave them new insights and skills along with inspiration for the task. In a beautiful setting, with a warm fellowship, inspiring teachers and a worshipful atmosphere, it was a perfect setting to achieve their goals.

Teachers of children, intermediates, youth and adults were given courses appropriate to the age they were teaching. Sunday School officers — superintendents, treasurers, secretaries, pianists and other musicians — were helped to do their jobs better and to understand the educational significance of their position.

The teachers of these schools were of the highest quality. Men like Roland Bainton, of Yale; O. W. Warmingham, of Boston; and H. Shelton Smith, of Duke and women such as Georgia Harkness, of Garrett Biblical

Institute were among those offering courses. Outstanding pastors taught courses in Bible, worship and spiritual growth. Lay leaders from the fields of psychology, education, music and the arts were also leaders and teachers. There was a Demonstration School for the children who came with families.

These were eager, hard-working folks. Every morning began with a morning devotional service. Then, following breakfast, there were four 50 minute class periods from 8:00 AM until noon. Afternoons were for recreation and swimming, but there were also special interest groups available on an informal basis.

It is interesting to note that every course was numbered in accordance with the program which had been developed by the ICRE. Each numbered course had an outline of the material to be covered by that course so that any place in the United States or Canada could offer it if the teacher's plan covered the material adequately. The teacher's plan had to be submitted to the national office in Chicago in advance.

After students completed a certain number of courses, properly distributed over the various groups of subjects, they were awarded Certificates of Leadership whether the courses were taken during the summer or in their home community during the winter. This was all part of the great plan to upgrade the teaching in churches all across the continent by certifying teachers under one overall plan in which all the member churches were cooperating. It was a great plan and functioned quite well for more than thirty years from the thirties until it succumbed to the social turmoil of the sixties.

Youth Work

The Youth Camps were designated "Older Boys" and "Older Girls" to distinguish them from the many children's camps that were developing around the

country. The age range was from fifteen to twenty five. In a sense, the three Geneva Camps sponsored by the ISSA were to be "graduate schools" for youth who had been through the camps that had been developed by the YMCA, the YWCA and some denominations or other youth serving agencies such as the Boy Scouts.

All campers were assigned to cabin groups with an adult counselor. A cluster of cabins would be given an Indian tribal name and form the basis for participation in sports and other activities.

Mornings were filled with classes some of which were from the basic sections of the International Leadership Training Series used with the adults. Other topics would deal with issues related to vocational careers and other immediate questions facing youth.

One meaningful feature of the camp experience was the plan of growth. Every camper was expected to select an adult member of the faculty or staff to develop an appraisal of his or her personal strengths and weaknesses in relation to the Four-Fold Life (Spiritual, Mental, Physical and Social). After completing the appraisal they would then develop a plan for growth and improvement for the coming year.

When the camper returned the following year he or she would go over the plan with the counselor and evaluate the progress made during the past year before making a new plan for the next year. This kind of planned development, with the help of an understanding adult and supported by an atmosphere of a total group, made a lasting impression during those formative years.

Changes Come

We have mentioned earlier that the original youth camps sponsored by the ISSA made much use of Indian lore. Groups lived in tribes. Some of the adult leaders were given Indian names. Evening campfires were

called "pow wows." The tribes competed against each other in sports and there were individual competitions in various activities. In any two week session there were as many as twenty or more individual or group prizes.

When Mr. Alexander and his two associates left the staff in 1924 some of the church educators had been questioning whether the level of competition might be reduced.

With the coming of Dr. Hayward the opportunity seemed ripe for a fresh look at the program for youth. Let us pick up the story as it is told by John B. Ketcham in his booklet "Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Christian Youth Camps, 1914-1939."

"In 1927, after consulting many young people and adult leaders, a committee of the ICRE representing most of the Christian youth agencies of North America suggested that youth work and group work be built around the idea of life as a quest. Indian lore, which had been widely used in the camps of the past, again supplied the equivalents in the language of certain group ideals. Each youth now became an "Akita," one who is on a search or a quest, and was a member of a group of searchers called a "Wicota." Each Wicota focused on a certain type of quest:

*Iye Search for inner best self
Kola for friendships
Teca for new discoveries
Onspe for greater heights
Wowichika for unattained truth
Wakantanka for new experiences with God
Gahistiki for Peace (added 1936)."*

The camps were only part of the youth program of the ICRE. Throughout the year the staff also worked with the denominational youth staffs as well as with the youth programs of the state and regional councils. It really was an interlocking network of interdenominational cooperation at the state and provincial level covering most of the North American continent.

The three Geneva Camps with their vital youth leadership training programs, played a major role in the developments that followed. Continuing with Jack Ketcham's story:

"The ideal of the quest influenced the entire camp life, from worship to the total camp curriculum, and was widely used by young peoples' conferences across the country. The Christian Quest ideal became the center around which leaders of young people sought to build a curriculum for youth on the basis of their life experiences and actual needs.

"Roy A. Burkhardt, who had been a leader in the camps, was called in 1927 from the Youth Department of the United Brethren denomination to become the Associate Director of Youth Work for the ICRE. Working closely with Dr. Hayward, "Burkie" devoted much of his time to the direction of the camps, serving for several years as Director of Camps and Leadership Schools of the Council. Until 1935, when he turned to the pastorate, Burkie's influence on the camps and conferences was widespread and warmly appreciated."

The nature of the program was changed somewhat in 1936 when Geneva Point Camp became the eastern region planning center for the United Christian Youth

Movement and also became co-educational. The United Christian Youth Movement (UCYM) was organized in 1934 at the Christian Youth Council of North America meeting at the Lake Geneva Camp in Wisconsin. This meeting brought together representatives of all the denominational youth groups and the state councils of youth; plus other youth serving agencies such as: the National Christian Endeavor Union, the YMCA and YWCA and the Student Christian Movement.

The times were influenced by the growing surge of cooperation among all churches, so the UCYM grew rapidly and by 1936 it was able to sponsor the first United Christian Youth Conference for North America. Three thousand delegates gathered at Lakeside, Ohio. Geneva Point continued to help Christian youth to quest for life's meaning but added the dimension of regional planning for the UCYM.

Dr. Hayward served the Youth Department of the ICRE for fourteen years, from 1924 to 1938. For eight years, from 1927 to 1935, Roy Burkhardt was his Associate, giving a major portion of his time to the camps and conferences.

In 1937, Ivan Gould came to the staff to take responsibility for the camps and conferences. In 1938, Mr. Gould became Director of the total Youth Department when Dr. Hayward became the Editor of the International Journal of Religious Education.

World War II began in Europe in September, 1939, even as some of the U.S. delegates were on the high seas, returning from the first World Conference of Christian Youth which had brought three thousand youth from all over the world to Amsterdam, Holland. The war changed many things. Even though the United States did not enter the war until 1941, organizational life and time priorities were shifting. When we did get involved directly, in 1941, all of the country's resources were thrown into the war effort.

Ivan Gould had been in consultation with the Commission on the Chaplaincy about the needs of service men under wartime conditions. The International Council had loaned his service to the Commission during the planning period. However, when they were ready to launch the program, the Commission invited Ivan to be the Director of the Christian Servicemen's League. This was a call that he could not refuse, so Mr. Gould resigned his post with the ICRE to serve his country and the youth who were caught up in the great struggle.

Mr. Isaac Beckes was appointed to the Youth Department as the new Director until the UCYM dissolved itself when all the disruptions of the 1960's made it impossible to maintain itself.

The dissolution of the UCYM did not mean the end of GPC's ministries with youth. A group of six churches in the South Shore area near Boston brought their combined youth groups every summer for twenty six years. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of New England initiated its youth camping program at Geneva Point Center in 1976.

Special Health Camps

During recent years a number of weeks have been devoted to camping for youth with specialized needs such as:

Sickle Cell Anemia — Developed in connection with the Harlem Hospital in New York City.

Juvenile Diabetes — Developed in conjunction with the New Hampshire Diabetes Association.

Mental Retardation — Developed first with the help of the New Hampshire Association for Retarded Citizens, this camp for mentally handicapped incorporated itself as an independent venture in 1975, with the name "Camp Friendship," under the direction of Nor-

man H. Osborne, R.N.

Inviting boys and girls for a two week experience in the out of doors, Camp Friendship used the facilities of the deep woods camping area. It grew until it reserved those facilities for eight weeks during the summer season. Another program for mentally handicapped adults who had been institutionalized, called "Project Experiences," was initiated in 1978 under the leadership of Dr. William J. Egan, Jr. It was his idea to give these men and women a break from their institutional setting to give them the opportunity to explore new experiences in a beautiful and protected setting.

Subsequent to the loss of his daughter from cancer in 1985, Dr. Egan initiated a second program called "Camp Carole" for children with cancer. The program is designed to give these children an experience in the out of doors and the freedom to develop their responses to the new experiences. Their weeks at camp also gives their families a respite from the constant attention some of them require, because of the nature of their illness.

Family Ministries

From the very beginning, families have been part of the programs at Geneva Point. They started coming with the Adult Leadership Training Schools of the ISSA, during which the children and youth were involved in the demonstration school. In the Youth Camps there were always some courses related to the preparation of campers for Christian marriage and family life.

As the accommodations at the camps were increased there were some weeks when not all of the spaces were occupied by the organized groups scheduled for the period. In a letter Harry Blaisdell, of Palm Harbor, Florida, (formerly of North Attleboro, Massachusetts) tells of his wife, Evelyn's, family's early associations with GPC. He writes:

"As far as we know, Evelyn and her family were the absolute first purely guests that ever were taken in at GPC. She was but 11 years old in 1929, but she remembers that her family had been staying at Brown's Long Island Inn, which today is still standing as the last building on the left before you enter the gates of the old Greene estate.

"Before leaving the lake after a summer vacation at Brown's, Evelyn's father drove into the grounds of GPC on a whim to see if they took guests there.

"Mr. Abbott greeted him and thought a moment upon being asked this question and replied that they had never had guests in before "but maybe we can work something out." As a result, Evelyn, her brothers and sisters, and Mom and Dad all stayed a few more days that summer at a dollar a day per person.

"This is the story Evelyn heard her Dad repeat to others over and over, so assuming it is correct, they were indeed GPC's first guests."

Since that time families have been coming to the Center on their own. While not part of an organized group program, they do participate in many of the educational activities of the Center such as nature walks, vesper services, arts and crafts, special moving pictures, visiting speakers, and concerts.

Certain groups of families will agree on a week that has available space and make reservations to spend the week together. Perhaps the most interesting evidence of that ministry is what is now known as Scandia Week. Some fifty years ago, the Lutheran Churches of

New England sponsored their youth camp at Geneva Point. It became so popular that the Lutherans acquired their own camp at Lake Ossipee. For a variety of reasons, as they grew older and acquired children many of the folks kept coming to Winni from various communities all over New England, they would gather for a certain week each season.

While participating in the Center's guest program they also developed many traditions of their own. Of course there is the annual Smorgasbord Dinner. Also the after dinner hymn sings accompanied by Elin Gustafson at the piano. There is much jocularly in the dining room, particularly between the Swedish and the Norwegian descendents.

But, with all their fun making, there is a serious side also. Being together every summer for fifty years made them a "support group" before such a fellowship got that label. When the Gibbes House, the newest major accommodation was being built in 1981, this group undertook to provide the furnishings for the main lounge, which was named the Scandia Room in recognition of their support.

From time to time, other efforts were made to minister to families. In 1981 and 1982, a special week's program was offered to families with children with disabilities. (We learned a great deal and had several moving experiences.)

One family phoned from Pennsylvania to get more information, after their pastor called their attention to the announcement. The mother was disbelieving. She had a son twenty years old, confined to a wheel chair because of cerebral palsy, and she went on to say, "This is the first time in all those years that anyone has invited us to come on a vacation as a family." This family came for two successive years. The second year, the son was "adopted" by the Project Experiences campers and at the end of the week they gave him their

"Best Dancer" award because one of their nurse-counselors had joined him (wheel chair and all) in a dance at one of their parties.

The ministry with families having disabled children has been absorbed into the mainstream of the Center's work with families. Most of the program buildings have been made accessible. Gibbes House was built with a fully equipped room and bath for paraplegics. Special diets are provided by the food service and special medications can be administered by the staff of the Health Center.

One of the newer developments of the last decade in the Center's ministries with families developed in an interesting way. Dr. Robert LaCamera, a pediatrician from New Haven, Connecticut, was active for some years in the Northern New England School of Religious Education (which continues the tradition of the original Adult Leadership Training Camps). Because he was very interested in the Center, he was elected by the NCCC's Division of Christian Education to the Geneva Point Center Committee.

When Committee was considering possibilities for new programs, Dr. La Camera unburdened his heart about his concern for many of his patients and their parents, especially those parents who were trying to raise their children alone. Could the Committee offer a week for one parent families?

The venture was approved for the 1978 season. Careful plans were made for a balanced program that would give parents a relaxing time with their youngsters and also have some opportunities to explore with trained leadership and each other some of their experiences with "solo" parenting. Professional resource persons were made available and the program was launched. Within three years the One Parent Family week had grown to over one hundred persons and the event is now an established program each summer.

More recently the Center has added a Marriage Enrichment Weekend program to help couples make good marriages even better. Leadership for these weekends has been provided by the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Van Eck. They are certified leaders of the Association of Couples in Marriage Enrichment.

One of the ways one can tell how much Winni has become a part of peoples lives is the number of former campers and staff who return to the shores of Winnepesaukee for their weddings, anniversaries, and family reunions. Recently a four generation family reunion was held at the Center, all four generations having included GPC campers.

Ecological Concerns

The two hundred acres that comprise the property are more than a treasured jewel in a beautiful setting to simply be admired and enjoyed. They are also an ecological laboratory in which one can discover the life giving processes of God's Creation. As stewards who hold this property in trust, the administration has tried to open the eyes and ears and the minds and hearts of all who come to this place to the lessons Nature would teach us. This has been a consistent and persistent part of all the Center programs throughout the years.

Harry Widman, the present Director, personally leads one or more "Nature Walks" every week to introduce the features of the property and the interactions of Nature's processes. The weekly program for guests usually includes an evening program or film dealing with the ecology of the Lakes Region. Over the years, the guests who return each season immediately inquire, "How are the loons doing?" The loons had been one of the great features of the environment, but with the increase of vacationers and the building around the Lake, plus the development of power boating, the Common Loon has become a threatened species. The

New Hampshire Audubon Society developed a Loon Preservation Project which has won national attention. They have developed a census count of loons each year, spotted and protected the nesting places, created floating nesting sites to thwart predators, and provided help in emergencies such as high or low water. It is a fascinating tale, and each chick that survives is greeted with rejoicing. In recent years the number of chicks has been growing in response to all the efforts.

One of the "Loon Rangers" who patrolled the Lake all summer would remind us that in earlier times, coal miners used to carry canaries with them down in the mines, because the birds had a high sensitivity to poisonous gases and would give the men warning. Then she went on to say, "The loons are our birds. When they can no longer survive, we can be sure we are on our way out also."

Hosted Program

Many of the programs described thus far have been those sponsored by the GPC administration and staff. It was mentioned earlier that various denominational and kindred groups began to use the property during the open weeks in the summer schedule.

It is interesting to note that the summer program now extends more than six months from mid-April until late October. This means that various denominations, and other religious organizations have been able to have their meetings at Winni with the Center providing food, lodging and program services.

In 1929 the Disciples Churches in New England had their New England Regional Meeting on the grounds. Later a Youth Camp was arranged to coincide with the adult meeting, making it attractive for entire families to come at the same time.

The official denominational meeting was shifted to another time space, but a considerable group of Dis-

ciples who had come to love Winni continues to come together for a week each season and continue a program of Bible study, worship and discussion of contemporary issues. Ms Altha Brigham, of Worcester, Massachusetts, who was a member of the second class to graduate, in 1930, continues to attend every summer.

It is interesting to note that in 1989, while Geneva Point is celebrating its seventieth anniversary, the Disciples group will be celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of sharing in the ministries of the place we call "Winni".

The Ministers in the Boston Area of the Methodist Church began their Annual Pastors' Assembly early in September, 1930 and have continued almost every year since.

The Luther League began its program at Winni in 1931 and a Lutheran Bible Conference continues to be held at the Center each year.

After the National Council of Churches stopped administering Adult Leadership Training Schools there was a continuing demand for such training. A group that had been meeting at the University of New Hampshire called "The Northern New England School of Religious Education" transferred its operation to Geneva Point Center and their program has become one of the largest of the regular season.

For many years the Business Manager of the School was Lester Rowe, who was administrator for the non-denominational committee responsible for the school. In addition to training for Christian Education in the churches, there was always a strong emphasis on families, with the children and youth participating in demonstration classes and other programs.

Another feature of the School is special classes for adults by specialists from the fields of science, economics, civic affairs, and other fields.

The continuing program of the Northern New Eng-

land School of Religious Education is an illustration of a strong, regionally based, church centered, but lay led program that holds much promise for the future of Geneva Point Center.

The New England Region (of the United Church of Christ) Mission Conference has held its annual meeting at Geneva Point since about 1978. This always brings many international guests for a stimulating discussion of the world-wide work of that denomination.

The New England Office of the American Friends Service Committee held its annual AVON training and program conference on the grounds from the late 1950's through the late 1970's. Since the AFSC is noted for being on the growing edge of movements for peace and racial justice, they brought many interesting persons both in their leadership and in their attendees.

One summer in the late sixties, when racial tensions were at their peak, some people in the AVON group decided to protest what seemed to them the economic injustice and racial inequality of the Lake View Lodge being occupied by all white folks. They staged a "sit in" and took over the lodge for about twenty four hours until there were some negotiations and an understanding was reached.

There has been only one nationwide denominational convention held at the site. In 1984 the Swedenborgian Church brought their delegates to Winni from all over the country. They had a fine program and fellowship. Their convention had the distinction of electing the first woman ever to be the Chief Executive of a national denominational staff in this country. In addition, three new clergy were ordained during the meeting.

One feature of their program especially involved our GPC staff. Since the three hundred delegates came from all over the United States, including Hawaii, the

Planning Committee wanted to give them something with a special New England flavor. They asked if the staff could put on an authentic New England Clam Bake. After checking with Win McCormick, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, and Al Jackson, the Food Service Manager, it was agreed "We could give it a try."

A fire pit about twenty feet long, ten feet wide, and three feet deep was dug on the West edge of the Common between the Inn and the Chapel. A fire was built and tended for twenty four hours to provide a sufficient base of coals for the baking. Crates of clams and lobsters and the seaweed needed to cover them were ordered. Corn in their husks were ordered so they could be roasted along with the clams and lobsters.

All in all it was a great experience, especially for the visitors from a distance. They carried away something of the flavor of New England as well as an experience of the "can do" spirit of the staff.

The Assemblies of God Fellowships for Men and for Women each had two weekends for many years, until the Women wanted to combine their two conferences. Since each of their conferences were large enough to fill the available accommodations, the women had to seek a larger facility. The men liked Geneva Point so much, they decided to stay.

Many local congregations use the Center for weekend meetings of a whole variety of purposes such as planning boards and committees, spiritual development, youth weekends, choir training, couples clubs, family enrichment. Often in the spring or fall, youth groups will spend a service weekend helping the maintenance staff prepare the facilities for opening or closing.

There are two international nondenominational Christian movements that have full week conferences at Geneva Point every summer:

The Christian Ashram Movement for New England

has been meeting at the Center every summer since 1961. The Christian Ashram Movement was founded by E. Stanley Jones, the outstanding missionary to India. When he returned to the United States he felt the Christians here could benefit from some of the Indian style of worship and spiritual development. He developed a program of prayer, Bible study, meditation and community in a simple type of life with a disciplined use of time. His methods proved quite helpful as the Movement spread across this country and then was carried overseas.

Camp Farthest Out (CFO) grew out of the experiences of Glenn Clark, a professor at McCallister College, in Minnesota. As a Christian layman, Dr. Clark felt that many persons were not living up to their fullest, God-given potential. He was a vigorous man who had also done some athletic coaching.

Dr. Clark began writing and speaking about the need to push ourselves to the limits of our talents and abilities, and how we had to train and discipline ourselves like athletes, even in our spiritual growth and development. He challenged his listeners to live their lives to the "farthest out" limits of their abilities.

The programs of CFO camps include the usual Bible study, worship, recreation and prayer groups. In addition, every person is scheduled for an hour of "rhythms" which is an hour of exercising to music. A second hour is spent in doing something "creative." There are groups for poetry or prose, painting, music, etching, crafts or just about anything else you have ever had a hankering to do. Groups can be self-initiated or the work done solo, just so you are testing your creative limits. This CFO Movement has grown into an international organization with groups in more than sixty countries.

A more recent program partner, extending the Center's ministry to older persons has been the Elderhostel Movement. Elderhostel invites persons over

sixty years of age to a week of informal college level courses. The first Elderhostel was held at the University of New Hampshire in 1975. Since that time it has experienced phenomenal growth and now operates worldwide.

The Elderhostel plan is, to put it quite simply, a synthesis of providing simple shelter for travellers, and an opportunity to learn something about an area of interest. It meets the needs of many older persons who want an opportunity to travel, to meet some new friends and to satisfy their curiosity about life.

The Elderhostel office sets standards, does the promotion and registers the applicants. Geneva Point Center, as one of many host institutions provides the accommodations and staff and arranges courses, teachers and some evening programs. The courses can be on just about any topic under the sun: history, ecology, other contemporary issues, the arts in all forms and hobbies and crafts. Sometimes a unified theme is selected for the week, all three courses dealing with that week's subject. One theme very popular at Geneva Point has been "British Week" with courses on British history, music and humor.

Camp Family

From the very beginning Geneva Point managers and directors have placed great emphasis on the quality of the staffs they hire each season. Most of the staff hired have been college students.

In the early days most of them were young women who served the tables in the dining rooms as well as cleaned the cabins. A lesser number were men who maintained the grounds and buildings. Since the early fifties the staff has grown because of additional tasks in housekeeping for more adult accommodations.

Throughout all the changes, the administration has regarded the employees more as a family. They have

their own fellowship, worship services, tours, and activities.

The Camp Family also contributes programs for the total community of guests. They frequently invite anyone on campus to their talent shows, often put on as "Coffee House" evenings.

As one might expect, those who work together often develop lasting friendships. Several families are now in their second generation and a few have even had a third generation on the GPC staff.

Another insight into the importance of the staff experience for the lives of their members occurred when a memorial service was held for Norman Abbott in 1984. Mr. Abbott had started work at the Center in 1922 and was Manager for more than thirty four years before his retirement. The memorial service attracted more than one hundred fifty former members of the staff, some of them from the mid-west and west coast. They had a wonderful time comparing memories of their experiences with Mr. Abbott. Many agreed to come back the following year for a weekend together.

At the first reunion the committee arranged a lively program. It included a stunt night and the committee had charge of the Sunday worship service in the chapel. The attendees brought many old photographs and other memorabilia to share with others.

The success of this first "Roundup," and the large attendance of alumni at the Abbott Memorial, was due in large part to the dedicated effort of Bill Copeland. He and his wife, Priscilla were both members of "Camp Family" in the Abbott Years. Bill spent untold hours and a considerable amount of personal funds in a nationwide hunt for staff members whose whereabouts were totally unknown. Bill and Priscilla have done a tremendous job contacting college alumni offices, employment records, church rolls and many other networks to build a roster of former staff.

Anyone reading this who knows of anyone that has ever worked on the staff, either paid or volunteer, and who may not be on the Camp Family Mailing List, is urged to contact the Center Office with information to be passed on to the Copelands.

Thanks to the diligence of the Copelands, the Roundup has become an annual weekend event to which all former staff members are invited. There is an understanding that every fifth year will be a special program with attractions for those who live at a distance. The "Call" to the first of the "Grand Reunions," planned for July 28-30, 1989, included the following from Dave Cook:

"Oh how times have changed, we used to be the "Camp Family." Now it is the "Geneva Point Staff." I'm not casting aspersions on the latter, but as I reflect on the former and my experience in returning to my "Camp Family" two of the last four summers, I realize again not only how important my own family is, but how important were some of the larger "families" to which I belonged. Chief among them was the Camp Family where Clara and Norm Abbott were Ma and Pa and you all out there my brothers and sisters. The bonding we experienced to a common place, a common set of values, a common period of time in our lives and, of course, to each other — in different ways and in varying intensity — was brought home to me anew with my return to "Winni" in 1985 and again in 1987."

So "Winni" remains a living memory for those who attend these gatherings.

The Crossroads Gift Shop

One further evidence of how the whole atmosphere of the Center is designed to strengthen its mission is the Crossroads Gift Shop. It all started with the work of Harry Blaisdell whose letter cited earlier gave us the story of how his wife's family became the first guests to stay at Geneva Point.

After their marriage Harry and Evelyn came as guests for the summers of 1948 and 1949. During their visit Harry was asked by Norman Abbott if he would be willing to share his skill in silk screening with some of the guests if any were interested.

About eighteen to twenty people showed up in the Craft House to take the course. Harry taught them to create their own art work, cut their own films and mount the films into a hand-operated screen printing device.

Harry continued, "My best pupil, believe it or not, is one of our present friends during Scandia Week, Gladys Soderberg. She enjoyed her experience with this new craft, all of which came about because of Norman Abbott's suggestion that I might try it out to see if it caught on."

The Blaisdells missed a few summers while they were having their family and moving because of their business. When they returned in 1958, Harry, who had become a jewelry designer and manufacturer, "brought along some jewelry including a Lone Pine circle pin I had made up on my own for GPC."

"People seemed to like these items and word got to Mrs. Sewall that the camp would like to try a limited number of items which the office staff would offer for sale at the window where the bills were paid and reservations made, which, of course, is now the window that looks into the Crossroads Gift Shop."

When the office was moved to the new Abbott Administration Building, the shop went with it and the

former space was designated a classroom. Since the jewelry sales were a supplemental activity, it wasn't even called a gift shop. Gradually, other guests began to bring objects of their own crafts that the office could sell as their contribution such as knitware, handmade Christmas decorations, silk screen cards, note paper, etc.

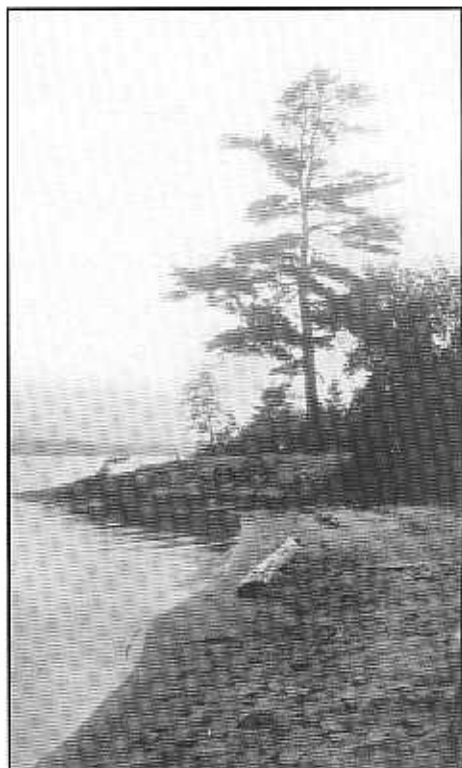
The collection of items for sale became too large to be handled at the registration desk so that they were stored and displayed for sale at special limited times such as after dinner before the evening programs. After a while it seemed wise to store the inventory in the small room in the Inn at the top of the stairs leading from the Fire Side Dining Room.

Since there was no budgetary provision for a gift shop, the display and sales were done on volunteer time of staff members. In 1977 Betty Genné, who was on the staff as a Program Coordinator, was invited to manage the Gift Shop. Harry Blaisdell's jewelry was still a major staple and the handmade Christmas items were also popular. Betty Genné decided to make the Gift Shop an adjunct to the purposes of the Center. Aware of the emphasis on the world wide mission of the church, she developed a relationship with S.E.R.R.V. (Sales Exchange For Refugee Rehabilitation Vocations) which is the Christian agency for selling the craft products of refugees from all over the world and of the church's effort to rehabilitate them. The products of their work in the refugee camps were made available through the shop.

Soon the Gift Shop was brightened with gaily painted animals from India, wood carved items from Africa, mats from Southeast Asia, etc. Creches and other Christian symbols from around the world also reminded guests of some of our background and traditions.

The stewardship of God's Creation was emphasized

Right:
Lone Pine Point
(July 1927) —
before the tree
was felled
by a storm



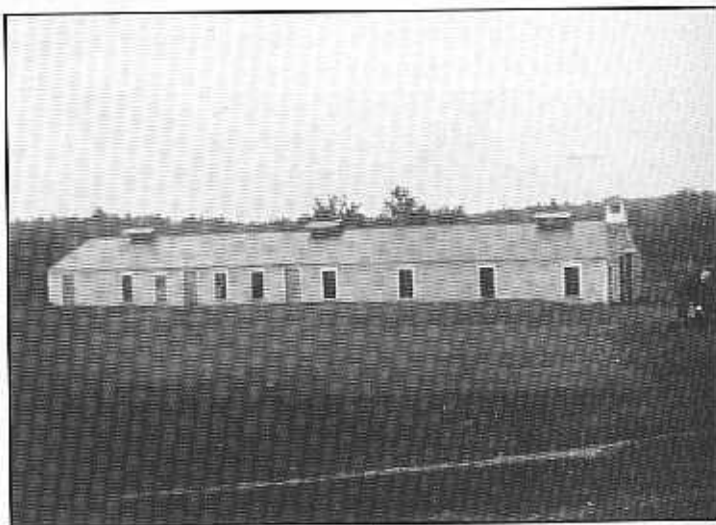
Below:
Winnipesaukee
Inn from the
back door
(1928)





Above: Off on a boat ride from the dock at camp (1930)

Below: The Chapel as it stood until 1930 — a former chicken house on the Roxmont Poultry Farm (1927)



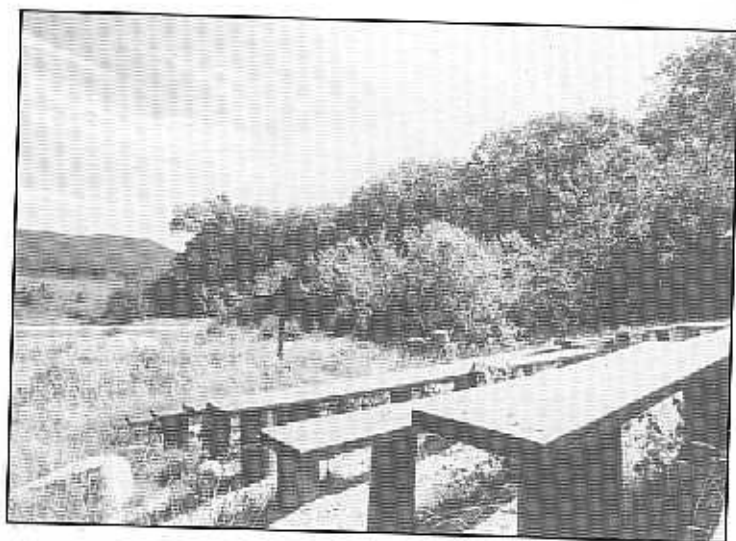


Top: Up
with the
new
Chapel
(1930)



Above and left:
The Chapel as it
stands today

Photos by Carter



Above: The Outdoor Chapel

Below: Worship Service in the Chapel

Photos by Carter





Above and Below:
Worship Services in the Chapel

Photos by Carter





Above: Joyous worship of God

Below: Meditation on the veranda

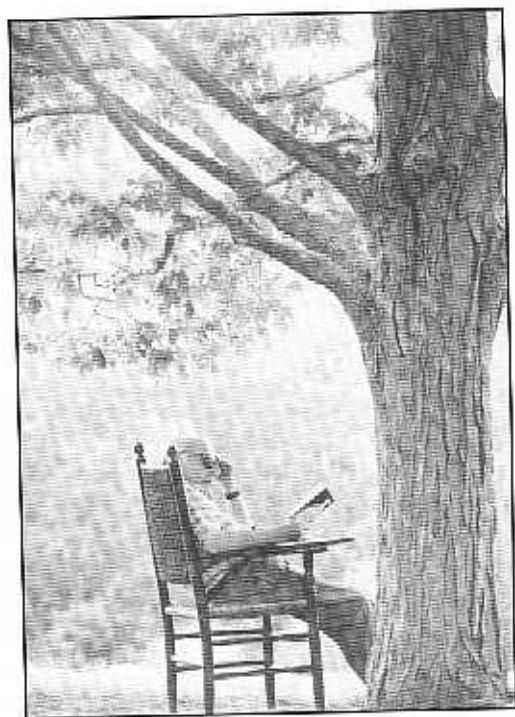
Photos by Carter

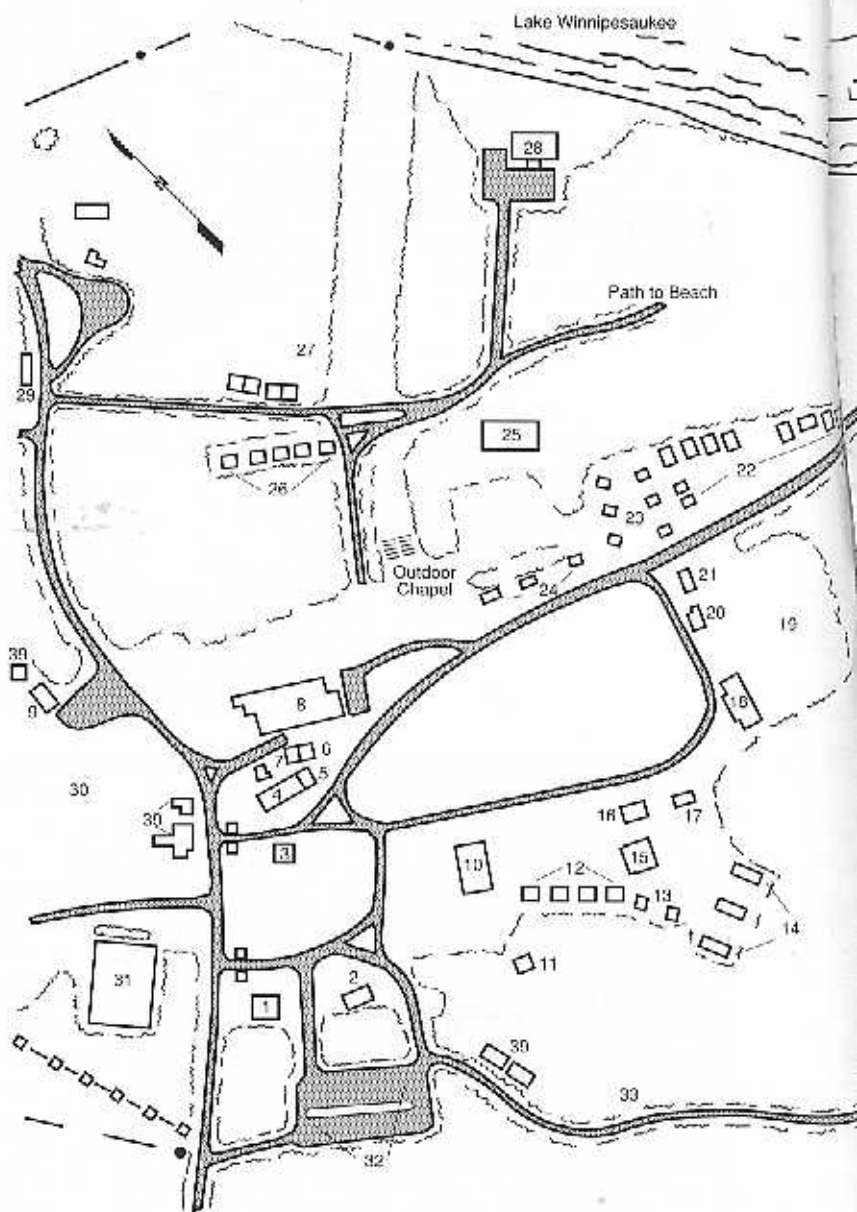


Left:
Quiet
study

Below:
Sunset at
the Tryst

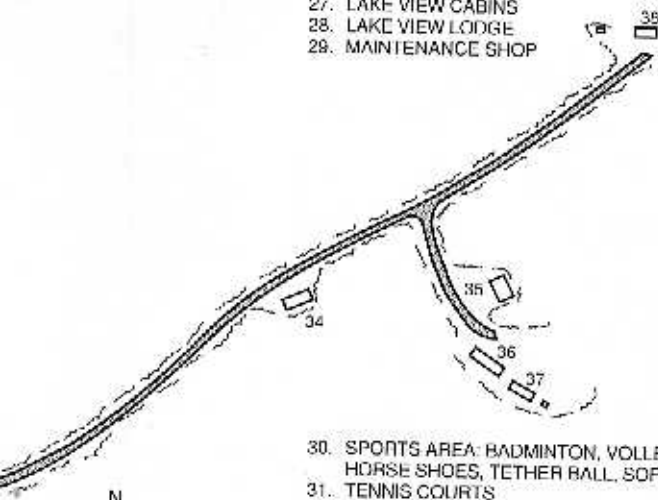
Photos by Carter



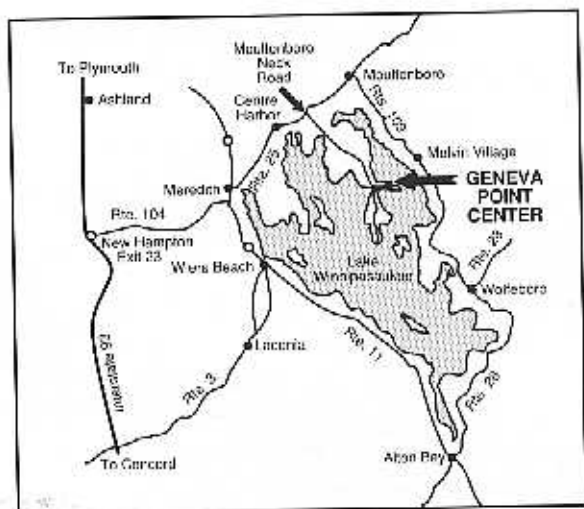


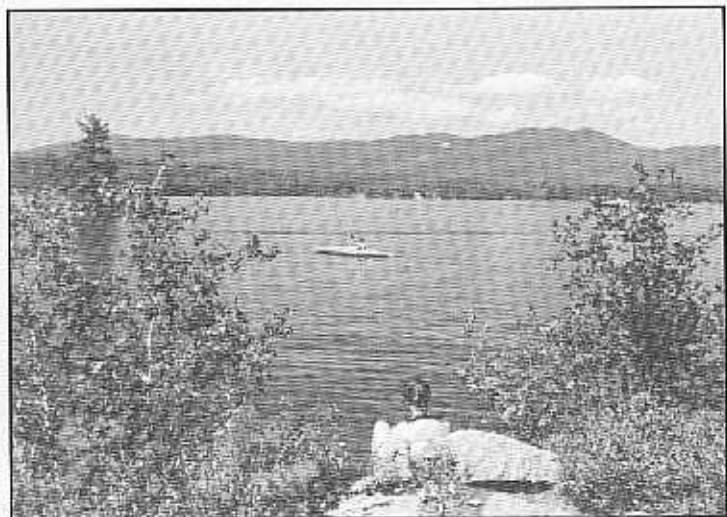
GENEVA POINT CENTER

1. THE ABBOTT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2. GPC DIRECTOR'S RESIDENCE
3. WELL HOUSE
4. COTTAGE A
5. GPC STORE
6. LAUNDROMAT
7. GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS DEPARTMENT
8. INN (DINING ROOMS ON GROUND FLOOR)
9. CENTER LAUNDRY
10. THE CHAPEL
11. PINE HAVEN
12. CHAPEL LINE CABINS
13. PEAT/PEAT CABINS
14. PASTURE LINE CABINS
15. COTTAGE F
16. MALDEN — THE HEALTH CENTER
17. COTTAGE E
18. THE BARN
19. TENT AND TRAILER AREA
20. THE CRAFT HOUSE
21. SHOWER HOUSE
22. DOCK ROAD CABINS
23. COLLEGE ROW CABINS
24. CABINS V, W, X, Y, Z
25. GIBBS HOUSE
26. STATE LINE CABINS
27. LAKE VIEW CABINS
28. LAKE VIEW LODGE
29. MAINTENANCE SHOP



30. SPORTS AREA: BADMINTON, VOLLEY BALL, HORSE SHOES, TETHER BALL, SOFTBALL
31. TENNIS COURTS
32. PARKING AREA
33. ROAD TO RESIDENT CAMPING AREA
34. CAMPING AREA TRADING POST
35. CAMPING AREA SHOWER HOUSE
36. CAMPING AREA DINING SHELTER
37. CAMPING AREA PROGRAM LODGE NO. 1
38. CAMPING AREA PROGRAM LODGE NO. 2
39. STAFF HOUSING





Above:
The view
from Lake
View Lodge

Below: The
wonder of
Nature —
examining
fungi on a
tree during
a nature
walk

Photos by Carter





Above: Outdoor fun

Below: Indoor fun

Photos by Carter

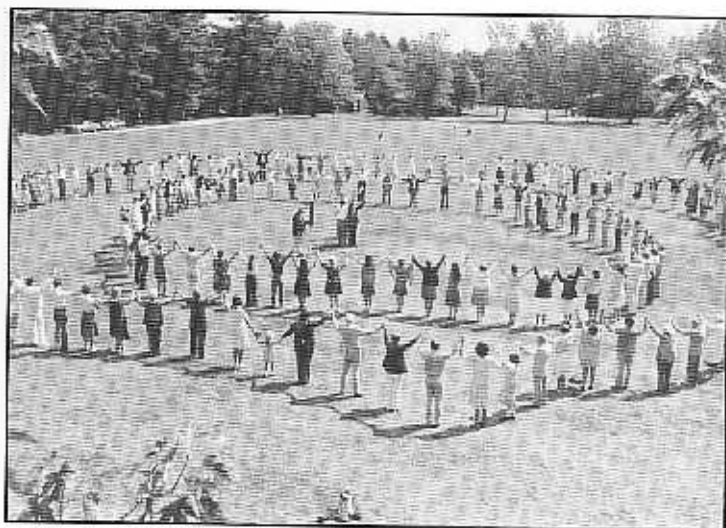




Above: At the beach

Below: Friendship Circle

Photos by Carter





*Left and
Below:
Scandi-
navians
during
Gibbes
House
Dedication
Weekend*

Photos by Carter

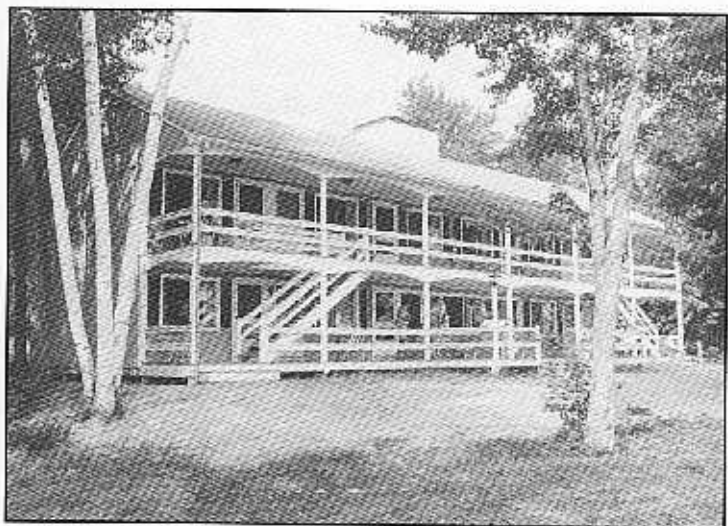




Above: Abbott Administration Building

Below: Lake View Lodge

Photos by Carler





**Activities at
Gibbes House**
(At left is Emily Gibbs,
for whom the building
was named.)

Photos by Carter



in pictures and pamphlets on the loons and other natural beauties. Many neighbors began to share jams, jellies, syrup, and other products native to New England.

With the growth in the volume and variety of the inventory, the shop needed more space. It was decided to move it to the classrooms across the hall, altering them to provide more display space, as well as, a sizable storage room. This brought the salesroom back to the room with the big window overlooking the lobby of the Inn which had been the Registration Desk in 1958 when the original sales began on such a small basis. So, it seems, the Crossroads Gift Shop has also come full circle, back to the site of its beginnings.

The name "Crossroads" was triggered by an incident in the shop one afternoon in 1983. A Mrs. Jansen was browsing around the shop. While chatting with Betty who had commented about her skirt which had come from the Philippines, Mr. Jansen came in with a note he had found on his car which said, "Since your car has an Oregon license, you might like to talk with the lady managing the Gift Shop who is also from Oregon."

As Betty and the two Jansens were getting acquainted, he mentioned that his work as an ethnic musicologist had taken him to Japan and they had picked up their car in Oregon on the way home. At this point, another older woman guest in the shop addressed Mr. Jansen in Japanese. He answered her in Japanese and as they continued to talk, it came out that the Jansens had attended the same church in Japan that the lady's father had founded years before and that she had spent her early life there before coming to the U.S. to attend high school.

The incident transpired in no more than twenty minutes but it was similar to so many other meetings in the shop that someone made the comment "this shop

is a crossroads of the world" and someone added "a crossroads for people, for art, and for ideas." So the "Crossroads Gift Shop" was born! When Betty retired in 1985, her daughter, Nancy Baker, who had been helping her mother for some years, volunteered to take over for the 1986 and 1987 seasons.

The Crossroads Gift Shop, still staffed by volunteers, continues to serve the Center with its message and its income.

4. THE PRODUCTS

Your scribe did not have the resources of time or money to seek out all who have been to Geneva Point, but some who saw the announcement of this project in the GENEVA POINT NEWS responded with letters enclosing snapshots, memorabilia, and recollections.

Probably no one will ever know how many lives have been touched and how deeply each person was shaped by his or her experiences at Winni. But, to get some flavor of the testimonials, let us look at some of the letters received:

Dr. Olivia Pearl Stokes is the Executive Director of the Greater Harlem Child Guidance Center in New York. She was the first black woman to be awarded a doctorate by Columbia University. She has held a number of positions in the field of Christian Education, including Director for the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. She has also been a consultant to several projects in Africa. She writes:

"In 1935 I went to 'Winni' as a youth representing the Youth Division of the New York Federation of Churches. It was there in the evening trysts that I affirmed my commitment to work all of my life with people in and through the church and in civic and human service organizations; for me that was an exceedingly meaningful decision."

"I am grateful to 'Winni' for the beauty of the earth, the water of the lake and the quiet to commune with God and His people."

"'Winni' led me into a life of ecumenical experiences for which I will ever be grateful."

Another person who wrote at some length about the impact of "Winni" on his life was Donald F. Campbell, who retired after many years as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut. He writes:

"There is no question in my mind that what had the greatest effect on me was the close fellowship with the leaders of the conferences. I can't name them in order but here are a few:"

"Roy Burkhart, one of my closest friends later on — a man of outstanding charisma with a unique capacity to express concern, compassion and love."

"Paul Limbert, [later Executive of the World Council of YMCA - ed.] quiet, but a true scholar."

"Fritz Biederstedt [a business man] whose influence had as much to do with my pursuing higher education as anyone. Carolyn, his widow, invited me to share in his funeral and the committal ceremony, which was at Winni. Fritz was one of the finest Christians I have ever met."

"Mrs. Dallas Pollard, 'Polly,' who was superb in teaching religious drama. I lived with the Pollards in Vermont while studying at UVM."

"Henry Reed Bower, 'Harry,' whom I came to know as well as any of them because of our Youth Council work in New Jersey."

"Lewis Galbraith, 'Bish,' who became a long time friend, sincere, progressive and loyal. He performed the wedding ceremony for us at Lone Pine Point. I have great respect for his wisdom."

"Trust was always helpful: there I learned a bit more about myself. Of course I relished the athletic activities: softball, swimming, hiking with Ernest Rand, 'Randy,' and special track and field events. I was always encouraged in these events by Purd Dietz, who also taught me something about song leading."

"In later years I returned as one of the teaching staff and once as Convocation speaker, following Dr. Roland Bainton of Yale. It was a difficult act to follow."

"There have been many experiences in the lives of all of us which have helped determine our destiny, but I can think of no other single influence, other than my home, which so shaped my thinking and the direction of my life, than those weeks at Winni."

Don's wife, Charlotte Morris Campbell, adds a postscript:

"Although my student days at 'Winni' preceded Don's by a few years, our association in the New Jersey Youth Council of Religious Education brought us together and our mutual love of Geneva Point Camp was a strong bond. My father, Charles A. Morris, also became a counselor, and I was greatly influenced by Percy and Mrs. Hayward, Burkie, Polly Pollard, and the others whom Don has mentioned."

"Remember the tribes ... Wakantanka, Wowichika, etc.? Somehow the feeling of belonging and the encouragement for leadership, gave us all a sense of importance and confidence which has been a 'plus' all our lives."

Not all of our former campers were motivated to go into professional religious work. Their quest took them into many and various vocations.

John Campbell, Don's brother, became a plant pathologist at the Rutgers University New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and a leading authority on potato diseases.

George Abernethy has recently retired from a distinguished thirty year career of teaching philosophy at Davidson College in North Carolina.

Bill Simpson became an executive for one of the largest soft drink manufacturers.

Geneva Point shed its blessings, not only upon the youth, but also upon any adults who took the time to enter into its Spirit.

Hollis French was a pastor when he first came to the Center to attend the annual Methodist Pastors' Assembly in 1953. He was so moved by the experience that he prepared a printed booklet with pictures of some of the sites for individual worship to add to his meditation about the experience. He begins his writing with the following two paragraphs:

"When Winnepesaukee first cast its spell over me, I could scarcely spell the name correctly, though I quickly learned its meaning: the Indians called it 'the smile of the Great Spirit.' I call it 'New England's Galilee.' I feel that Galilee must be very much like Winnepesaukee."

"For here is one of the places of earth made holy by God's meeting with man, at the burning bush, the stone at Bethel, the mountain at Sinai, and the shores of Galilee."

Another person who came to know Winni as an adult was Mrs. Ivan Gould whose husband joined the

staff of the ICRE in 1937 to assist Dr. Hayward with the camps and in 1938 assumed full responsibility for the Youth Department in the ICRE. She writes:

"Of course my 'Winni' memories are very precious — from chilly morning dips to blessed meditations at evening tryst. In between move a host of wonderful people, most of them not noted or eminent, but all the more deserving as genuine, warm, attractive Christians."

"I recall Ruth Seabury, Dr. Uasa, Emily Parker, Helen Kim, among the many good leaders. The campers ranged from Robert Blood, later Governor of New Hampshire to Richard Thornberg and Wallace Viets who became Methodist District Superintendents and a host of others who undoubtedly became pillars of their society wherever they might be."

"Winni was indeed a special place. It agonized over the merging of the Boys and Girls Camps and agonized some more about becoming the regional conference for the United Christian Youth Movement. It suffered from the experience of interracial camping; the war years split the young people into the ethical tangle of pacifism and/or patriotic participation. At no time was it dull! Always it was vibrant, challenging and, above all, heart warming. A very special place. I hope it continues to be special for future generations."

Dave DeRogatis, a Presbyterian clergyman from Massachusetts tells of a humorous incident among a group of veterans of the second World War who wanted to return to Winni to get a fresh grip on life:

"I particularly remember 1948 when we had three separate youth programs at Winni, a Junior High, a Senior High and a Youth Conference for those up to age 26. I was a leader in the Youth Conference and was responsible for a cabin full of returned war veterans who wanted to come back to Winni after the war — remembering happy times there before going off to war. There was no way that these veterans were going to conform to the usual 'lights out and go to sleep' which was standard procedure for the other units on the campus."

"One night I noted that Hank was not among those getting ready to retire even though it was well past curfew. I agreed to sit up and talk with my gang, some of whom, I suspected, knew where Hank had gone. It was at this point that the Conference Director, making his rounds, dropped in and joined us. A moment later, Hank arrived with a large watermelon and the exclamation: 'Ah, I made it!' thinking he had eluded the Director. 'Oh, no!' he exclaimed as he took in the scene. The evening ended happily with all of us enjoying the feast, including the Director."

"I still meet 'older adults' from time to time who remember "Winni" with great affection."

5. THE PROSPECTS

As Geneva Point Center celebrates its seventieth anniversary in 1989, it marks a significant milestone. Milestones have two purposes: First, to tell us how far we have come, and secondly, to tell us how far we have yet to go.

The negotiations regarding the National Council's transfer of the property to the Geneva Point Center, Inc. have taken over four years, placing a terrific load on the staff and the volunteers who have had to administer the program, as well as, spend considerable time on the affairs related to the transfer.

Hopefully, the details can be completed within the next few months, so that the celebration of the anniversary can be the inauguration of the new era in the saga of GPC.

It is reassuring to know that the members of the Board of Directors of the new corporation are the same persons who have served on the Geneva Point Committee, elected by the National Council of Churches. Those signing the "Articles of Agreement for Geneva Point Center, Inc." on July 7, 1986 were:

Charles C. Kujawa, President of the Corp.,
New York City, NY.

Mary Ambler, Vice President,
Newington, CT.

Douglas W. Addison, Sec. of the Board,
Hartford, CT.

Ronald A. Baker, III, Treasurer,
Montclair, NJ.

Mildred Beach, Secretary of the Corp.
Wolfeboro, NH.

Emily Gibbes, Director, New York, NY.

James M. Webb, Director, Hyannis, MA.

Herman E. Wornom, Director Emeritus,
New York, NY.

There have been more than thirty meetings between this Board and various committees in the National Council of Churches to work out the details of the transfer. And that does not include the many hours of research and preparation that were necessary to get ready for these various sessions.

These are the dedicated persons to whom God has entrusted the future of Geneva Point Center.

Among the greatest assets inherited by the new corporation are the years of service of the Widmans, with Harry as Director and Anne as Director of Administration.

During the Widman's eighteen years of service, they have built a strong foundation for the future of the Center. Sometimes it is hard to realize that the annual budget for the Center is now over five hundred thousand dollars. Everyone knows that it takes some real management skills to administer a half million dollar enterprise.

Harry, however, has never allowed the financial concerns to become his bottom line. His primary concern is people; not only the guests, but also the staff and the neighbors. He has a pastoral heart. At the height of the season when he would be putting in eighteen hour days, he has been known to spend three hours with a young man who seemed to be having trouble fitting into his job and the staff family. Staff or guests who had to be hospitalized would find Harry taking time out to visit them. Harry is a "people person." It was typical of Harry to be the one who would think of bringing the Senior Citizens from the Carroll County Home for a day's outing and luncheon at the Center.

Harry also brings another precious asset; his love for the out-of-doors and the beauties of nature. His nature walks help both children and adults see things they never saw before as they walk through the woods. He is a faithful steward of the property that has been

entrusted to him and many folks have caught his enthusiasm. He is active in preserving the ecology of the Lake through the Langdon Cove Association and in the Loon Preservation Project of the New Hampshire Audubon Society. He keeps his hand in direct contact with the work by caring for the special plantings around our public buildings.

Another talent Harry brings to GPC is his creativity. He is always thinking of new ideas for program, as well as for the property and management requirements. It has been under his administration that the old staff collage was removed and the old Lake View Cabins were moved to the Camping Area Road and modernized. In their stead, Harry supervised the building of Gibbes House and the acquisition of two double units which were placed west of the Vista. All of these new units have private bathrooms.

He is always on the alert for new program ideas and for new speakers and leaders to enhance the program. The recent addition of the Marriage Enrichment program and the conferences on the Bible and the Devotional Life are an indication of his ability to keep in touch with innovative programming.

Anne Widman, in her own right has become one of the great assets of the Center. Over her desk come all the scheduling of the various groups which want to use the facilities, both the events which GPC sponsors and those the Center hosts for other organizations. Her knowledge of the facilities, both for accommodations and program activities is phenomenal, especially when there are three or four groups planning to share the facilities at the same time.

In addition to the group programs, there are the individual and family groups that come as guests. Anne seems to know all their relationships and preferences: whose uncle is also somebody's cousin, and which are their favorite lodgings. Her capacity for carrying all this

information in her head is mind boggling.

These tasks are but the core of a whole network of organizations to which the Center maintains relationships. Anne Widman has served on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Camp Directors Association and the New England Section of the American Camping Association. For the ACA she has chaired the Kindred Group for Religiously Affiliated Camps. Most recently she has chaired the last two annual conferences of the International Association of Conference Center Administrators in her capacity as First Vice-President of that organization.

Anne also works with Harry on ideas for new programming, and the interior decorations for the housing units, as well as acting as hostess for many of the visiting leaders. She is, indeed, a woman of many talents.

As Geneva Point Center moves toward its Diamond Jubilee in 1994, it has some tremendous assets:

1. The beautiful site described in the first chapter.
2. A variety of accommodations, from simple bunk-bed cabins, to some quaint guest rooms in the Inn, to cozy cottages, and the completely modern guest rooms with private baths in Lake View Lodge and Cabins and the modern Gibbes House.
3. A reputation for good food.
4. A variety of sports and recreational activities.
5. Audio-visual equipment and other aids for conferences.
6. A great reservoir of goodwill among "alumni" and the "Friends of Winni" who support financially by making annual gifts to Geneva Point Center.
7. The recent development of a more planned recruitment and supervision of volunteer staff —

there have always been good folks who would pitch in to help with some special projects or emergency.

During the last several years, several adults have volunteered to give a week or two of their time. Some have offered to help when large enrollments have strained the seasonal staff. Others have contributed special skills such as painting the Inn or working on the water and electrical systems.

Elderhostels have helped the Center realize that older persons have many skills and abilities. Also more church groups are interested in work projects. With more and more folks taking early retirement, there seems to be an increasing pool of resources that can be tapped for this kind of help. Many denominations are carrying announcements of just such opportunities. The directors of the new corporation are making plans to develop this resource.

As part of the transition back to an independent institution, a kit has been prepared to help program planners for groups wishing to use the site. Plans are underway for a major emphasis on "marketing" among the New England churches and other nonprofit organizations who have yet to discover Geneva Point Center.

There will need to be some financial assistance to bridge the gap between anticipated income from program and the costs of operating, maintaining, and improving the property.

Plans are being worked out to expand the Membership of GPC, Inc. who elect the Board of Directors of the corporation.

As the Center moves forward to its Diamond Jubilee in 1994, the prospects are bright, even though we face realistically the need to increase the Center's constituency, and broaden its financial base. Faced with these facts, we remember the words carved in the Chapel and

the rest of the hymn from which they are taken:

*That cause can neither be lost nor stayed
Which takes the course of what God has
made;*

*And is not trusting in walls and towers,
But slowly growing from seeds to flowers.*

*Each noble service that we have wrought
Was first conceived as a fruitful thought;
Each worthy cause, with a future glorious
By quiet growing becomes victorious.*

*Thereby itself like a tree it shows:
That high it reaches, as deep it grows;
And when the storms are its branches
shaking,*

It deeper root in the soil is taking.

*Be then no more by a storm dismayed,
For by it the full grown seeds are laid;
And though the tree by its might it shat-
ters,*

*What then, if thousands of seeds it
scatters!*

Christian Ostergaard
Translated by J.A. Aaberg

APPENDIX A.

NORMAN H. ABBOTT
RELATES EXPERIENCES AT
GENEVA POINT CAMP
1921 - 1963

NOTE: Mr. Abbott retired as General Manager of Geneva Point in 1963, after more than forty years of service. At his retirement party he was asked to give some reminiscences. We are grateful to his son, Kendall Abbott, for making available the text of his father's remarks. The Abbott Administration Building was named to honor the distinguished service of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Abbott.

"Where should this episode start?" is the first question I asked myself after receiving Dr. Knapp's request to relate some significant experiences at Geneva Point. It is no easy matter when one considers that the experiences cover a period of forty-two years — 1921-1963.

Well, I decided to start at the beginning and believe it or not, my relations with Geneva Point started in the classroom during my first year at Boston University. Professor Herbert Mayer, at the School of Religious Education offered a one semester course in Camp Management. Herb Mayer was also Assistant Director of the International Sunday School Association's Girls' and Boys' Summer Conference at Geneva Point. In addition to a grade of B+ in the course, apparently I looked like a good dishwasher, so he offered me a six week job at Geneva Point. Little did I know that the dishwasher's responsibility was one of many and varied jobs, that included being maintenance helper, building tent platforms, erecting tents, and transferring baggage.

One morning early in July I found myself on the Boston and Maine train headed to the Weirs where I was to take the boat "Governor Endicott" to Geneva Point Landing, via Greene's Basin. The passenger list on the

boat included over 200 conferees from the Adult Conference sponsored by the International Sunday School Association. The conferees and the dishwasher arrived at Geneva Point at the same time.

I recall vividly that we arrived at the Geneva Landing a few minutes before the scheduled six o'clock dinner. The conferees went directly to the dining room, but my first job was to help transfer the baggage from the dock to the Inn. Those were the beginning days when the Model T Ford Truck could not plow through the muddy road. The horse power was supplied by the conferee men who pulled a flat-bottomed hay rack with a stout rope. It was a long pull.

Within minutes I was ushered to the kitchen where dinner was in process, the dirty dishes were piled high — no time allowed to change my clothes. We talk now of large conferences of 300-350 people but my dishwasher pal and I washed dishes for 305 conferees with no running hot water and using wooden tubs. Large twenty gallon copper boilers of cold water were placed on the flat wood-fired stove and, when hot, we hauled the boilers to the tubs. We finished my first dishwashing experience soon after ten o'clock.

The housekeeper, a good old soul, met me at the back door of the kitchen and handed me one of the dozen oil lamps and pointed to Cottage C saying, "Your cottage is down that road and good night." I started out but as luck would have it my lamp blew out and I stumbled down the road. Fortunately, it did not rain because if it had I would have found early that the roof was anything but leak-proof. The next day was more dishwashing and was the start of a schedule of three meals a day, seven days a week. Thanks to Providence, my dishwasher comrade was an interesting Floridian, studying at Illinois University who tried to talk like a New Englander. He had a marvelous sense of humor and we enjoyed the fellowship. After finishing our dishwashing chores we assisted in

making tent platforms and erecting tents in preparation for the arrival of the International Girls' and Boys' Conference.

The lack of water, plumbing facilities, bedding equipment, and leaking roofs, soon indicated that little repairing, or maintenance, had been done since the Winnepesaukee Inn and Hotel was purchased by the International Sunday School Association in 1919. My Camp Manager, Mr. Huntington was a kindly young man who had had little experience in running a conference property. His Assistant was J. Henry Carpenter who became Camp Manager the season of 1922.

Apparently my work as dishwasher was satisfactory because I was appointed as Assistant Manager the next season, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter, as Camp Managers, did a superior job in the face of many limitations of facilities and finances, since the Camp was supposed to operate within the income from board and room registration. The Carpenters should be recognized as the ones who set the pattern of high-level selection of the Camp Family and developed the Camp Family Christian fellowship program and service offered to conferees.

Early history of Geneva Point should include a mention of our outstanding New England character Forrest Boody — "Fod," as he was called by the natives. He was the only person carried over from Dr. Greene's Winnepesaukee Inn organization. Many interesting stories were related about early days of the property. He was our gardener and handled the herd of cows. If you were near the barn at milking time you would hear endearing comments to cows. Maybe that was why the cows provided such high milk production. Mr. Boody's vegetable garden was the envy of the New Hampshire farmers. He produced more vegetables per acre than any other farmer around. His stuttering slowed down his speech but not his working schedule.

Winnepesaukee Inn was originally a barn, housing

race horses. On the property at one time, there was a chicken farm with 10,000 or more chickens and there were evidences of the dozen large and small chicken coops. Our Assembly Hall was a 100-foot long chicken house. When we cleaned the floor we used a rake instead of a broom since there was a dirt floor. Our present Chapel replaced the chicken house in 1930. We were grateful for the contributions of Simeon B. Chapin and J.L. Kraft to help finance the \$10,344 building. The sale of a narrow strip of land to Gibson brought us \$1,800 and the balance of \$7,200 was financed through board and room receipts in two seasons.

Currently our Administrative Committee is recommending the removal of the cupolas on either end of the Inn. How little we realize how important they were in the early days. The one on the west end housed a large open wooden water tank which provided gravity feed to our water system. There was no automatic pressure water system, and frequently the tank overflowed and caused water damage to the rooms below.

Something happened during the camp season of 1922 which changed my relations with Geneva Point and created a situation that took me away from Geneva Point for the next three years. I invited Clara Russell and her Mother to visit me at Camp. During Mrs. Russell's visit I made several attempts to approach the question of marriage to her daughter. Finally, in a daze, I walked her to the pig pen and after much stalling I finally asked for Clara's "hand in marriage."

During my next college year, and the summer of 1923, I was anxious to finance the purchase of an engagement ring. Traveling from Maryland to Nova Scotia, as Advance Representative of Swarthmore Chautauqua, was my assignment. It paid \$60.00 per week and expenses, which looked far bigger than the \$75.00 for the season which would have been paid me at Geneva Point. Upon completion of my academic studies,

the next two years were spent at the Hartford YMCA as Associate Promotion Secretary. After our marriage in August 1924 we settled in Hartford until July 1, 1925, when I returned to Boston University.

Little did I realize that I would return to Geneva Point in 1926 and start my long and uninterrupted management relationship. Fortunately, there was more light shed on my work; that was the year the first electric lights were installed by Rust Brothers, electricians at Meredith. I was reminded recently that our present electrician Edward Holland was employed by Rust and worked on our first electrical project at Camp.

From now on, my discourse will, in many cases, replace the 'I' pronoun and the 'We' will be used. Clara was appointed as bookkeeper, cashier, dietician, office assistant in addition to the responsibilities of our first child, Russell. Kendall arrived in 1930. Cottage A, the old farm house of Dr. Greene was our first abode, a 125 year old construction. These were the days before it was remodelled. There was no running water, and toilet facilities were in the outside building between Cottage A and the Inn. Clara did the babies' washing in a bucket on the front steps of Cottage A. May I add that Russell and Kendall grew up to realize their life's ambition: that is, to pack their bags and trudge down over the hill and join the Camp Family working group. They started from the bottom of the ladder and finally attained that enviable height of chef's assistant and truck driver. Then off to college.

The record stated that Mr. Carpenter, Camp Manager, resigned in 1928, after giving eight years of difficult and constructive efforts in building Geneva Point. The selection of the working organization and high ideals were reflected in the "Winni" spirit which has been shared by thousands of conferees and guests. Certainly the lack of modern facilities did not discourage attendance. They came year after year, regardless of the use of

oil lamps, unfinished walls in the Inn and Cottages, use of three-quarter sized iron beds assigned for two persons, leaky roofs, and limited running cold water. Hot running water was unheard of. In spite of it all, we built an enviable reputation for providing high grade, well balanced and satisfying food for \$7.00 to \$8.50 per week.

It was on Monday, January 28, 1929 at the Republican Club in New York City that the Chairman of the Winnepesaukee Camp Committee, Hugh R. Munro, together with Sidney A. Weston, and Hugh S. Magill, Secretary of the International Council of Religious Education, elected me as Camp Manager at the age of thirty years. One of my first responsibilities was to seek a \$1,000 loan from Meredith Trust Company with the instruction that the note must be paid by the end of the camp season from proceeds of the Camp operation since there was already a deficit of \$2,800 on the books. The loan was received and the note was repaid according to instructions. Throughout my whole management responsibilities, at no time, did we have a deficit in camp operation.

On our first trip to camp in the spring of 1929, the mud of Moultonborough Neck Road started at the main road seven and a half miles away. It was a discouraging sight. Several years later the town started building a short stretch of black top yearly 'til it finally reached the cemetery. From there we would walk in with supplies. On spring weekends, with Charlie Mac, Maintenance Assistant, we would connect the plumbing and Mr. Boody would meet us with wheelbarrow to carry supplies. It was nothing to sink in the mud up to the ankles. We worked hard on those weekends, went home dead tired with a feeling of accomplishment. (The Abbots had no automobile and on many trips Frank Appel, our truck driver, would transport us. We purchased our first automobile in 1935).

The boat dock landing was damaged by ice during the heavy winter, and Wharf Builder Lavallee and Captain of

the "Governor Endicott" (capacity 400 persons and baggage) repaired the wharf at a cost of \$300. In those days automobiles were luxuries and nearly 100 percent of our folks came by boat starting at the Weirs, a two hour trip.

After investigating the sources of milk we found that local farmers would be unable to supply us due to our need of large quantities. We could get milk at Meredith Railroad Station where large dairies would deliver. This would require a daily trip over bad dirt roads or by boat. In each case the cost was prohibitive for our operation. The answer was to rent four cows at a reasonable price and return them in the fall. We soon found it necessary to purchase cows and sell them in the fall. Thanks to Forrest Boody's knowledge of the value and care of cows, Clara and I soon became adept in seeking out, purchasing and selling cows. The milk market was getting 15 cents per quart and we produced milk at less than 5 cents per quart. After many years, Mr. Boody finally said, "No more cows" and we located a dairy who could supply us.

We also arranged to rent a litter of young pigs and solved part of our garbage problem. Farmer Greene paid camp 4 and 5 cents per pound for fat we put on the pigs! It was a plan that we often thought would be valuable if our camp family would pay us for poundage we added to their weight.

The season of 1929 started the Disciples Conference to Geneva Point. Except for a brief period, the Disciples have held their conference every year including 1963. The Ministers started their long relationship with Geneva Point in 1930 and the Luther League Conference started at Geneva Point in 1931.

On Tuesday, August 5, 1930, the students in attendance of the International Leadership School and the Winnepesaukee Camp Committee dedicated the new Chapel. The sturdy and beautiful colonial structure was built by Wildred Canney who has constructed nearly 50 buildings at Geneva Point.

No story of Geneva Point would be complete without an understanding of the heavy and varied responsibilities during the early and difficult years. Clara and I could not confine our camp responsibilities to a part of the year. It required year round attention, handling bookkeeping, food purchasing, meal planning, personnel selection, conferences, promotion and secretarial duties. She was the boss during the days I was forced to be in Boston to carry my full-time responsibilities at Boston University, since I was on a twelve-month educational assignment there.

We are grateful for the efficient and conscientious work for nine seasons of Chef, Frank Welch. Those were the war years when we met food shortages, substitutions and particularly the lack of meat. Fortunately, we maintained excellent relations with Swift and Company and their wholesale house manager, Ralph Baker at Laconia. It did not make any difference what we ordered, they sent what they had. When Mr. Baker was lucky enough to receive a freight car from Chicago he parcelled out what he had among his good customers. Geneva Point was the largest summer customer and we fared well. The large Luther League conference encouraged attendance because we served more meat than they were able to get back home.

One of the most notable decisions ever made by the Camp Committee in 1942 was to continue operations during the War. History showed that many hotels, camps and conferences closed for the duration. The decision proved to be the turning point in the extension of enlargement of service to Christian summer conferences. In spite of restrictions of gasoline, transportation, regulations and management difficulties, the camp prospered and enlarged its influence. Isle of Shoals off Portsmouth, New Hampshire was taken over by the Government, and the Shoalers came to Geneva Point during that period. Only one conference failed to maintain its commitments,

and left us with a \$2,000 income loss.

Getting back to the difficult, earlier years, we were fortunate in having a conscientious, helpful and competent group in our Camp Family. We will not forget the three staunch men who shared our problems in our early years, Francis Dailey, Assistant Manager, Frank Appel and Edward Foss, truck drivers, and Charlie MacMurphy, maintenance assistant. They had no definite work schedule of seven or eight hours per day or days off, but they worked and continued working as long as there were things to be done. We could also say the same about Mother MacMurphy and Ivy MacMurphy, kitchen mainstays who were with us for twenty years or more.

On August 5, 1949 the Camp Family and some guests recognized the occasion of Clara's and my 25th wedding anniversary with a surprise party. We were serenaded at our Cottage by more than a hundred Camp Family and guests headed by the Ford Truck carrying an old, upright piano and several musical instruments. A well planned program, Chinese lanterns, spot lights and a buffet spread turned the yard into a gala occasion. During the preparation of the festivities one child was heard to say, "I know what the Abbotts are going to get for a present, a piano!"

Upon completion of 25 years of management of Geneva Point in 1949, my annual report reflected some of the happenings during the quarter century. Without giving too much space to the significant financial figures of Geneva Point, just let me mention a couple. In no year was there an excess of operating costs over income. In 1947 our balance was \$10,459.35 at closing. In 1929 the total meals served was 27,135 compared to 62,369 in 1949. The biggest year serving meals was in 1946 with 71,302.

The Camp Committee arranged for the twenty-fifth Anniversary at the Harvard Club, Boston, on the evening of November 17, 1949. Clara and I were honored by the

Committee and invited guests. We are now cherishing the hundred or so letters which were bound and presented to us on the occasion.

In a review of events for the twenty year period, we should like to recognize hundreds of friends and colleagues who have contributed to the growth and influence of Geneva Point. Space is limited and I hope the lack of the names would not detract the respect and appreciation which Clara and I have for each one. Let me mention a few: Dr. Hugh S. Magill, Harry S. Munro, Dr. Harold McFee Robinson, S.B. Chapin, Dr. Sidney A. Weston, Alfred H. Avery, Dr. Roy G. Ross, Phillip C. Landers, Clyde C. Smith, Dr. Walter D. Howlett, Henry H. Dennison, Dr. Herman E. Wornom, Murray C. Stewart, Dr. Erwin S. Shaver, and Wilber C. Parry.

The year 1950 opened a new phase in the management of Geneva Point. Little did we realize that I would be unable to submit my 1950 Annual Report on the scheduled date in November. On October 19 I went to bed and was in a coma for ten days. Nine weeks were spent in the Massachusetts General Hospital. With a capable neurosurgeon, a competent and helpful wife and the Great Physician, a miracle happened and I was soon able to start the period of recuperation. This was the time that Clara again filled the gap in handling management responsibilities in addition to her usual tasks as bookkeeper, cashier and dietician.

In 1951, Chef Frank Welch, after nine years of superb service resigned to become a staff member of the Wilbur Management Food Service. Dr. Milton Huber became Assistant Camp Manager with the excellent assistance of Herbert Colcord, office manager and Ralph L. Ward, maintenance man, all giving immeasurable assistance to Clara who handled most responsibilities that I was unable to assume.

My recovery was terribly slow and in view of my health, Clara and I submitted our resignations in April of

1952. However, Mr. Avery, Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Ross and the Committee was unwilling to accept the resignation but provided additional assistance. They added Linwood Gatley as Assistant Manager responsible for summer activities. In 1953 further assistance was added to the management team in the personage of Reverend John Edward Thomas. He was responsible for promotion of conference enrollment and general promotion of interest in summer conferences at Geneva Point for one year service. Clara gave up her work at this time.

It was in 1954 that Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Sewall were selected as Camp Manager and Assistant to the Camp Manager with responsibility to the General Manager, the title I was given. The Sewalls were highly regarded and provided excellent leadership and maintained a high plateau of Christian atmosphere. The growth of guest attendance was significant. Duty called Mr. Sewall to Pittsburgh and wider education responsibilities in 1961.

The year 1954 provided a new form of Camp Management at Geneva Point. Previously the Camp Management basic responsibilities were placed on the shoulders of the Camp Manager reporting to the Winnepesaukee Camp Committee as an advisory group. With the increased influence of the National Council in connection with camp and conference leadership expansion, the responsibilities were placed on an administrative committee thus developing a committee management.

During the past nine years, the Youth Work Camp philosophy has been introduced, in addition to the strengthening of the objectives of the conference program.

In recognition of the accomplishments during the most recent years, we are indebted to the entire Administrative Committee under the leadership of Dr. Forrest L. Knapp; the present Camp Manager, Robert J. Ripley, and Connie; plus the Executive Secretary of the Division of

Christian Education, Dr. Gerald Knoff; and present Secretary of the Committee, Howard N. Woodland.

How inadequately have I related experiences at Geneva Point on the previous pages! Pages and pages would be necessary to include many events that have developed during the past forty years. Looking back on the material, I am aware of the lack of the names of hundreds of people who have shared in making "Winni" a place for worship, recreation, work and Christian educational purpose. To all of these good people, Clara and I are deeply grateful.

In the "Book of Appreciation" presented to Clara and me at the occasion of our 25th anniversary there is a statement by Dr. Forrest L. Knapp, Chairman of the Camp Committee, that is fitting to repeat at this time, fourteen years later:

"Here is a suggestion: prepare a file of the names and present address of all the persons who have come to Winnepesaukee in your twenty-five years of service there. Read each name and think about the person for two minutes, knowing as you do so that your service at Winnepesaukee is making some difference in the life of that person today. Then, with the inspiration gained, continue at Winnepesaukee for another twenty-five years".

The time has now arrived for Clara and me to put aside some of our burdens of work and enter in the mood of reminiscence. We will relive in memory and in imagination the scenes, episodes, and experiences at "Winni."

November 4, 1963

APPENDIX B.

GENEVA POINT
ROSTER OF ADMINISTRATORS

1921	Mr. Huntington	Manager
1922-1928	J. Henry Carpenter	Manager
1922-1926	Norman H. Abbott	Assistant Manager
1929-1953	Norman H. Abbott	Camp Manager
1953-1963	Norman H. Abbott	General Manager
1954-1961	Charles Sewall	Camp Manager
1963-1965	Robert J. Ripley	Camp Manager
1966-1967	Robert J. Ripley	General Manager
1968-1969	George Downey	Managing Director
1970-1971	John Gardner	Interim Managing Dir.
1971-1988	Harry Widman	Director
1989-1989	Harry Widman	Executive Director
1989-	Ronald A. Baker, III	Interim Exective Dir.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

1958-1966	John Reiner	Supervisor
1965-1966	Winston McCormick	Asst. Supervisor
1966-1988	Winston McCormick	Supervisor
1988-1989	Richard Abbott	Supervisor

APPENDIX D.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is impossible to acknowledge all those persons who have contributed to the writing of this essay about Geneva Point Center. The teachings, the friendships, the beauty, and the inspiration of this place have lived with me daily for sixty-two years and it would be impossible to itemize them. However, in connection with this particular project there are a few people to whom I want to express my gratitude for their help:

To Kendall Abbott, an ex-staff member, who provided the text of his father's reminiscences and some pictures of the early Camp Families.

To Ron Baker for keying the text in his computer in preparation for the printer, and for his editorial helps and other suggestions, without which all of this endeavor would have failed.

To Altha Bingham who sent many snapshots of the early Disciples Conferences and who still attends their conferences every summer.

To Harry Blaisdell for his letter and all he did to help the Crossroads Gift Shop. His editorial suggestions were also most helpful.

To Don and Charlotte Campbell for their letter quoted in the text and several pictures of the various boys' and girls' camps they attended.

To Grace Clark who provided the archives with two albums of photos, beautifully bound in book covers she learned to make at the Arts and Crafts Camp at "Winni" in the Forties. She has been a faithful attendee over the years at the Girls' Camps, the Music Camp, the Arts and Crafts Camp, and now as a guest each year.

To Dave DeRogatis for his letter cited in the text.

To Emily V. Gibbs for her Introduction and assistance with some corrections to the text.

To Helen Gould not only for her letter in the text and her editorial assistance, but also for her cooperation with her husband, Ivan, while he was in charge of all the youth camps of the ICRE from 1937 to 1942. She continues her visits to GPC, often with her son, Ivan, Jr. (usually called Toby) who is a member of the Board of Directors of Geneva Point Center, Inc. Her grandson, Bryan, has also been a member of the seasonal staff.

To Dr. Olivia Pearl Stokes for her letter and response.

To Anne and Harry Widman for their many helps along the way and for their many courtesies during its preparation.

Last but not least, to my wife, Betty, and our family who changed their vacation plans several times and made many other adjustments while this has been in preparation.

I want to add a special thanksgiving prayer for Jack Kelcham who was one of the teaching faculty at my first "Winni" Boys' Camp in 1927 and later a colleague on the staff of the National Council of Churches. A few months before his death in the Summer of 1988, he sent me a letter expressing warm interest in the project and a packet of memorabilia for the archives including his report on the earliest Youth Camps referred to in our text.

APPENDIX E.

RESOURCES

Archives of Geneva Point Camp/Center

Archives of Laconia, New Hampshire Historical Society

Archives of Moultonborough, New Hampshire Historical Society

Cannon, Jr., Le Grand: *Look to the Mountain*, Bantam Books

French, Hollis: "New England's Galilee"

Genné, William H.: "The Development of Youth Programs in the International Council of Religious Education" (M.A. Essay, Yale Graduate School, 1936)

Ketcham, John B.: "Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Christian Youth Camps 1914-1939" I.C.R.E.

Shaver, Erwin; "Winni," I.C.R.E. 1947.

APPENDIX F.

Geneva Point Center Inc.
 Charter Membership as of July 3, 1989

PATRON

Virginia Kreyer

Kathleen Wroe

SUSTAINER

Nancy E. G. Baker
 Elizabeth S. Genné
 Helen J. Gould

Ronald A. Baker III
 William H. Genné

SUPPORTER

Douglas Addison
 Adam Y. MacDonald

Mary Ambler
 Jane C. MacDonald

CONTRIBUTOR

Anna Addison
 Emily V. Gibbs

Mildred Beach
 Marjorie Stuart

MEMBER

Britt Elizabeth Aegeson
 Thomas Aegeson
 Marjorie K. Arp
 Amy Roc Baker
 Angela Baker
 Desmond R. Baker
 Gene P. Baker
 Nelson G. Baker
 David W. Bell
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 Donald S. Boyer
 Harold B. Bristol
 Nola Bristol
 Annette Cannaday
 Kenneth Cannaday
 Ethel R. Coder
 Norman K. Crowder
 Ruth E. Crowder
 George F. Dalrymple
 Teresa E. Dennis
 Edwin H. Elsentraut
 Lucille M. Elsentraut
 Johanna Firbank
 Bryan Gould
 Ivan J. Gould
 Merrick Gould
 Susan Gould
 Natalie Gutridge
 Stanley H. Gutridge
 Alfred Hesemeyer
 Winifred Hesemeyer

Wesley A. Howe
 Blahoslav Hruby
 Olga S. Hruby
 Suzanne G. Hruby
 Bonnie B. James
 Edwin A. James
 Leslie Johnson
 Lois F. Johnson
 Ima Jean Kidd
 Madeline Klenzle
 Rosalie Kinkad
 Eloise B. Kintner
 Curt Kretschmann
 Charles Kujawa
 Edith M. Lane
 Ralph V. Lane
 Alfred W. Leuschner
 Theresa Leuschner
 Margaret L. Lewis
 Marie L. Lippott
 George F. Mayrer
 Meredith Getty Mayrer
 Elizabeth Miller
 Gregory Miller
 Marion E. Modean
 Marie Mueller
 Rebecca Parkhurst
 John B. Penny
 Nancy I. Penny
 Suzanne W. Pritz
 Elizabeth Robinson

Evelyn Page Richardson
 Ruth H. Rowe
 Dorothy Siftar
 Robert Siftar
 Elizabeth B. Stoddard
 Henry T. Stoddard
 Frans E. Strandberg
 Elsie Strong
 Thomas Dexter Strong
 Burton Stuart
 David Eugene Stuart
 Joan E. Stuart
 Katherine B. Stuart
 Ralph A. Stuart
 Richard Harrison Stuart
 Richard T. Stuart
 Russell A. Stuart
 Helen M. Toussaint
 Theodore F. Tucker
 Wallace T. Viets
 Orin D. Watson
 James M. Webb
 Herbert E. Wedler
 Kevin L. Weston
 Rose M. Weston
 Thomas Weston
 Barton Bouchard Williams
 Women's Fellowship of the
 NH Conference, UCC
 Laura Anstadt Woodward
 Herman E. Wornom

POSTSCRIPT

I have been intrigued by the opportunity to write this review of Geneva Point Center's first seventy years because this place has been part of my life for sixty two of those years.

In the course of my trying to understand what was happening to "Winni," I became aware not only of many changes there had been over the years, but also of certain fundamentals that remain constant, basic principles.

I found myself asking, "Is this the way God works in the world?" At this point I began to see a pattern working out.

First, there was the International Sunday School Association, a group of lay men and women who sought to help each other know God through the Bible and their experiences together in study, fellowship, and worship.

Then there was the International Council of Religious Education in which more formally trained Christian Educators worked through their respective denominational organizations to promote the educational work of the total church.

This was followed by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., during which the Center became the agency for educational programs of the total denominations cooperating in the NCCC.

Now Geneva Point Center stands at the dawn of a new day as its own independent organization in response to the leading of God's spirit.

The one big difference is that Geneva Point has all its past experience. It knows about the God whose spirit works when and where it will, primarily through individuals who discern and dedicate themselves to the leading of God's Holy Spirit.

I remember sitting one Sunday on the Inn veranda. In the Gould Outdoor Chapel I could see and hear a

congregation from Boston singing their joyous, happy, hand-clapping hymns so characteristic of our Black Churches. In my right ear, however, I kept hearing the deeply moving, majestic liturgical music of the Greek Orthodox Church from the Chapel building where the Bishop was conducting mass for the Greek Youth Conference.

The music was so different it could have been a cacophony but, in that setting, it showed the breadth of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts and lives of believers. A deeper sense of ecumenicity impressed itself upon me.

Then I remembered also the early experiences of the leaders and youth who tried to create the Christian Quest Youth Program to create a cooperative style of education to move us from competitive to a more peaceful style of life. It split the staff and cost the International Council considerable financial support. The development of the UCYM proved the value of having specially trained leaders working in the Church.

These were the years in the National Council when every statement, program and policy had to have the approval of the General Board, composed of the highest levels of executives of the member communions. Although the procedures were slow, their actions carried much greater weight with the public.

So it seems the answer to my question is that God works with individual men and women who are openly dedicated to the Holy Spirit, who sometimes call them to a lonely, pioneering task.

God also works through people who have specialized training and gifts to further the building of the world-wide community of love in special ways.

God also works through the great traditions of the denominations, enriching them, but always reminding them that they are only a part of The Church and calling them to cooperate to the fullest extent for the building of that Holy Church.

Geneva Point Center has had experience at all three levels. The need is to keep all these factors moving with some balance of emphasis, but always moving toward the Community of God's Love. Some individuals and some organizations need to be ready to die to bring in the larger Community of Love.

If the history recorded here will help some searcher continue the Quest, it will have been worth while.