

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION----SPRING 2007

Submitted by Dick Lallensack, 5/14/07—Rose-Harms Post 355 of Grafton

The annual opening of Wisconsin's Camp American Legion for the 2007 season is well under way as of the writing of this report. Last week was Ozaukee County's work week with (35) Legionaries in Camp from our County. Posts represented were: Grafton with (14), Saukville with (6) including Second District Commander Chuck Watry, Fredonia with (1) and Belgium with (14). Grafton Legionaries were: Art Albers, Ron Kuta, Bob Wrecza, Mike Karrels, Mark Weston, Marty Wegner, Herbie Mentzel, Butch Paegelow, Leroy Mueller, Ken Nawrocki, Peggi Gehling, John Rieck, Dick Lallensack and my brother Bob who is recently retired. Other Counties represented were: Dane, Crawford, Washington, and (2) others I was unable to get from the sign-in sheets. (56) Legionaries were in Camp from throughout the state.

The weather was really great all week. It rained Tuesday night and off and on a little into Wednesday morning. Thursday it was 84 degrees in Wausau.

Major item completed on our Cabin #17 was the roof repairs. Myself, my brother Bob, and Joe Schneider of the Fredonia Post, with John Rieck helping by getting tools and such, removed the old roofing and replaced it with new membrane and duplex roofing on the 9' X 25' section that was leaking. We also did the small flat area over the bathroom addition. Butch P. took the time to light the pilots on the hot water heater and furnace. Butch and Leroy repaired or replaced several lights in the Cabin and then repaired the "street light" near the cabin.

Lots of the normal jobs for the spring opening were completed by various groups including putting the piers in by a group from our Post.

The boats were to be going in this week by a group from Tomahawk.

Lots of plumbing repairs were done by one of the Belgium groups including getting the pump back in and primed and all set out at the Flowage.

Some leaks in the skylights on the roof of the Therapy Building were sealed by, I believe, a group from our Post.

Last fall Jim indicated to me that many of the Air Conditioners were plugged up and not cooling well. Steve Hubing agreed to spear head this project and do the work this spring as he was very familiar with how and what to do. A big THANK YOU to Steve, Dan Gasser, and Ron Mullins for doing all that work, they cleaned (31) Air Conditioners.

Refurbishing the old storage building next to Cabin 19 to make a "Craft Shop" is well on the way. Art Albers went up on Sunday and started by cleaning out the building then did lots of head scratching, figuring, and digging and eventually figured out the Electrical feeds to the Cabin. He also installed (3) windows that were salvaged from the old Cabin 6. A group from our Post along with a group from Belgium jacked up and leveled the building Thursday morning. Art completed the wiring on Thursday and the Belgium group installed (3) more new windows and was just about done putting in the insulation, chip board, and peg board on Friday.

The new Cabin 6 is well on the way to being ready for the season. Lots of final details need to be completed yet and it does consume a lot of Jim and Linda's time.

The group from Dane County was installing a door on their Cabin 5 that will give access from the road side of the Cabin in addition to just the back side.

There was a rumor in the state that there was a fire in the Kitchen in the Lodge several months ago---Jim doesn't know how or where it started---there was NO FIRE. However, the Camp did replace the "Fire Suppression system" in the kitchen to bring it up to code.

A group from Marshfield will be in this week to construct the concrete slab and retainment wall for the above ground fuel storage tank. The old underground tank will be removed within a week or so as required by the DNR.

A worm bed has been constructed by a group from Clintonville and, Jim thought, from Sauk County to supply fishing bait---should save \$300 a month on worm purchases.

Reservations for the summer are just over 200---slightly ahead of last year.

On June 23rd a "Rock with a Plaque" in memory of past Camp Director Hal Bowen will be put out at the Flowage. The Flowage was one of Hal's favorite places.

Ozaukee County donated funds to replace the water heater in the Bath House with the plumbing and installing completed by a group from Kimberly.

Belgium Post donated a STARMAX double basket Deep Fryer, 20 cases of vegetables, and (18) cases of pie filling.

2nd District Commander Chuck Watry has (2) sons (Allan and David) that work for Kimberly-Clark. Commander Chuck wrote a letter to Kimberly-Clark and asked if they would consider donating some paper product supplies to Camp---not sure I have stated that all correctly. However, last week several pallets of toilet paper, tissue, and paper towels arrived---all DONATED by Kimberly-Clark. A big THANK YOU to Kimberly-Clark! Jim and Linda said there is enough for the entire season.

Jim and Linda say a big "Thank You" to our Grafton Post 355 for (2) \$100 gift cards at Menard's to go for the Craft Shop that we donated to Camp

Our Post member Ken Nawrocki donated a "Rascal Scooter" that was barely used---and he got his picture taken sitting on it by Post member Peggi Gehling.

Mike Karrels donated a box of several hundred pens.

I donated an old adding machine, several 3-ring binders and a bag of used manila folders that was being discarded at work.

I was able to install the AUTOCAD LT98 program on the Camp computer and started making Architectural prints of the Cabins. Jim was very pleased with the end results and what I am able to show and put on these prints. This will be a year+ and more in the process. I am working in conjunction with Warren Atkinson of the Greendale Post. Warren is developing a complete asset list of the Camp that can/will be used for budgetary purposes.

Jim stated that most of the Staff from last year has returned.

Jim also indicated that they want to clean up the hole to the north of Cabins 17 & 18. A group from the village of Lake Tomahawk will be spear heading that cleanup.

Lastly, I need to apologize to Post member Butch Paegelow. Butch had something to do with a donation for the "water cycle" last year. THANKS a bunch!

All in all, as always, it was a GREAT work week up at Camp and lots of work was accomplished. Jim and Linda Youngquist continue to learn more and more about the logistics of opening the Camp and are always ready to listen to suggestions and input from anyone. They definitely display a very positive attitude with a passion to make things happen. As I always say, "Consider coming up next time, you will enjoy it"!