CYO Occidental Summer Camp History

Disclaimer: Many thanks to everyone who provided input to the CYO Camp history project. It was compiled from a variety of sources – including some conflicting information and imperfect memories, so please consider this history a work in progress. Please also excuse any plagiarism or other unattributed information. If you have any suggestions or corrections to this information, please contact Bob Dougherty at bob_cyo@lahonda.com

Early Camping (up until 1952)
In the early 1930s, Father John V. Silva purchased 12 wooded acres on Salmon Creek near Occidental, California. Father Silva transformed the former Druids Picnic Park into a wilderness camp geared primarily for groups of teen-age boys. By the start of World War II, the area had developed into a site for rugged outdoor camping. It was used this way throughout the 1940s by various groups from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Father Silva became pastor of St. Louis Bertrand Church in Oakland in 1940, and by 1946 he found that his parochial duties absorbed almost all his time. He therefore donated the campsite to the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, which was under the direction of Father Eugene J. Shea.

As the first step in its plan for development of the area as an Archdiocesan camp for boys and girls, CYO built the main lodge (later known as Crazy Horse) to provide a dining hall, kitchen and staff quarters. For the next four years, groups of boys and girls used the camp, paying a small rental fee and providing their own staff. Eventually, a CYO camp program was opened and operated by CYO under the direction of Thomas E. Lacey, Assistant CYO Director.

Our Lady of the Redwoods (1952-1969)
Msgr. Eugene A. Gallagher was appointed Archdiocesan Director of CYO in the fall of 1951, and the development of the camp became a major CYO project. In 1951, some of the area was cleared of timber and terraced to provide level areas to setup canvas tents, a playing field and a warehouse-recreation building. Msgr. Gallagher also had the support of seminarians to help build many of the structures and staff the camp. Subsequently, an infirmary, candy store, and cabin for head counselors were built, and the dining lodge was winterized.

In the summer of 1952, the camp was christened Our Lady of the Redwoods (OLR). There were two CYO employees during those early years: Mrs. Carmel Rea (mother of CYO alumni Tim, Mike, Marty and Scott Rea), secretary to Msgr. Gallagher, and Mr. Adrian Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert ran the CYO athletic programs and the summer day camp program in San Francisco for many years. The CYO day camps were located in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, along with other locations in Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

In 1956 campership had increased from about 400 to 500, with two sessions for boys, two for the girls and a special session to test out teenage camping. In the Spring of 1956, CYO had purchased 75 acres adjoining the original campsite because Camp was becoming too small for the number of children who wanted to attend. The ground was again cleared and terraced, and in the spring of 1957, a new camp had been developed with facilities for 55 teenagers – separate and independent from the lower camp used for the younger 9-12 year old campers. The area was made up of tents with rented “convenience stations” and used a building called Madonna Vista as its dining facility. Some of the teen activities included croquet, volley ball, badminton, archery, ping pong and shuffleboard. Sister Vibiani was Girl’s Camp Director during this time.

The original swimming hole before the pools were built

A swimming hole was built into, and used water from, Salmon creek, and it was later replaced with two more permanent pools. Campers were required to exchange all money
into Camp Script - brochures from the 1950s said that, “The camp store is open once each day for post-cards, stamps, candy, craft supplies and incidentals. Candy – buying is limited to 10¢ a day.” The girl campers were split into three units: Surfside for the youngest aged girls, Foreign Legion for the middle girls (said to be so named because “their tent-city reminded someone of an Algerian outpost”), and the Teen Campers.

By 1959, CYO Board of Directors meeting minutes stated that the resident camp consisted of “five two-week sessions, serving 714 boys and girls from 118 parishes. There were 512 in the lower camp for 9 to 12 year olds, and 202 boys and girls in teen camp.” The growth of Camp started to raise the concern of a stable water supply that could support the increasing number of campers and staff. At least one year in the early 1960s, Summer Camp had to be moved to a site in Cloverdale because of a water shortage. In 1963, CYO purchased an additional 130 acres of land adjacent to the existing Camp, due to the foresight of Monsignor Peter Armstrong who engaged the support of Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken.

The CYO Camp facilities was also utilized outside of the summer camping. The first CYO SEARCH for Christian Maturity youth retreat took place in March 1963 in the Lodge. The retreat was led by Msgr. Armstrong for high school students. This was the first youth-to-youth program in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States – prior to that priests, nuns, brothers and teachers always led parish and Catholic high school retreats. A SEARCH brochure from 1975-76 described SEARCH as, “an opportunity for young adults to gain a greater insight into the meaning of Christian community through the thoughts and words of those their own age.” The participants participated in mass, discussion groups, lectures, and songs. The SEARCH format is now the official retreat format in the United States and has spread to other counties - and all this from a humble start in 1963 at the Lodge at CYO Camp. The building behind the Lodge, later called Jenner, was used as a dormitory for some of the SEARCH participants.

In 1964, Msgr. Armstrong was the Resident Camp Director of OLR, and Sister Maria, M.S.W. and Sister Michaela, M.S.W. were Girl Camp Directors. According to Camp brochures at the time, Camp had “10 and 12 day sessions, $50 per child and discounts for additional children (e.g., $150 for four children) ages 9-15…Activities include hiking, swimming, cookouts, overnights, campfires, crafts, horseback riding, etc. Horseback riding $1.75 extra.” As for the staff, the brochure says that “Counselors are carefully selected university students and Seminarians trained by CYO professional staff and supplemented by Sisters of Social Service.” As with the SEARCH Program, Msgr. Armstrong believed in the youth to youth principle at CYO Camp – training young people to inspire and encourage other youth to become involved in their Communities and spread Christian ideals.

Chuck Marcia started as the Camp Facilities Manager in 1967, responsible for the overall care and maintenance of the facility. He oversaw a great deal of construction over the years as the Camp was growing. He was responsible for the water system, ensuring it met State and County standards, and the sanitation of the swimming pools. Chuck was eventually responsible for the kitchen also - its health and safety inspections, food preparation and menus. Chuck retired in 1991. Brother Arnold, Principal at Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco and close friend of Msgr. Armstrong, was also a fixture at CYO Camp throughout Msgr. Armstrong’s tenure there. Although Brother Arnold never had an official role at Camp, he helped out where needed, including driving the bus.
Monsignor Armstrong and the McGucken Center (1969-1971)

After CYO purchased the additional 130 acres of land adjacent to the existing Camp, funds were needed to develop the land. Msgr. Armstrong, with the help and support of the CYO Board of Directors, raised funds and developed plans for a year-round facility, which could serve as both a summer camp and a retreat center during the rest of the year.

Msgr. Armstrong promoting the new McGucken Center

Funding for the new Camp development came from a variety of sources. Funds came from the Guardsmen Group and the annual CYO Golf Tournament, which was the oldest golf tournament in the Bay Area (although it was discontinued a couple years ago). Other funds came from Madlyn Smyth Day and her fundraising efforts. Day was a civic leader, consultant and volunteer for many charitable organizations. She was a member of the CYO Board of Trustees and raised millions of dollars to benefit at-risk youth, including for CYO Camp. The Camp Chapel was named Smyth Chapel, after Madlyn’s first husband. Madlyn later married Curtis Day, who continued to be a benefactor of CYO Camp after Madlyn’s death. Pauline Harney was another benefactor and Benjamin H. Swig, former owner of the Fairmont Hotels, was also instrumental in raising money for the new Camp. Kay and Alfred Cleary Sr., former Vice-Chairman of the CYO Board of Trustees, along with their son Alfred J. Cleary III, were also important and consistent benefactors of Camp.

As the new Camp was being developed, workers told of finding Indian remains, but development was allowed to continue. On May 3 1969, the new CYO Camp and Center was finally dedicated by Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken, after whom the new facility was named. The new state-of-the-art facility was completed to give children from different socio-economic backgrounds a camping experience under the redwoods and create an inclusive community for the children to experience nature and grow. The new facility consisted of a lodge, with a dining room, kitchen and downstairs dormitory, nine cabins with a capacity of 22 each, a special cabin for teen-agers, which accommodated 50 campers, two swimming pools, a large recreation field, and a lake.

In June of 1969, CYO was able to offer camping for 450 young people each session. Our Lady of the Redwoods was used for the girl campers and the new McGucken Community Youth Center for the boy campers. Since the new Lodge dining area could seat over 800, both boys and girls ate together there. The three-acre lake reduced the concern about the water supply, although sufficient water has been an ongoing concern. Staff weren’t required to be Catholic, but were asked to accept and live Christian values and standards, acknowledging that they were responsible for the health, welfare and happiness of the campers. In 1969, Camp brochures stated that the cost per session was $65/child with horseback riding and an additional $2.50 or one book of Blue Chip Stamps plus 50¢. By 1971 all the tent cabins on the Girl’s side of Camp had been replaced with open air wooden cabins.

The new Outdoor Chapel in Boys Camp

The Outdoor Chapel was built in the new Camp in 1971, large enough for all campers and staff to gather in one place. A parking lot was cleared above the Chapel and a narrow road to the altar area was created where Msgr. Armstrong and later Msgr. Michael Harriman would drive the CYO jeep, often laden with speakers and other materials for mass. Nestled in a grove of redwoods, the Chapel has been used as a place of worship, play, inspiration, song, celebration and renewal. In the 1970s and 1980s, different Camp groups would be selected to decide on a mass theme, create vestments for the priest, and make other preparations for the celebration of mass. The Chapel was completely rebuilt in 2011-2013 with funding from Alfred J. Cleary III, much material and labor donations through Steve Cline, and help from many other Camp alumni donors.
The Two Camps Mature (1971-1979)

In 1971, girl and boy campers were each divided into 4 units by gender – the youngest girls’ unit (6-8 years old) was named Surfside, who lived in the dorm-style building, called Jenner, behind Crazy Horse. The next age group was Quicksilver (9-10 years old) who lived up the Road on Quicksilver Row. The next age group was Strawberry Fields (11-12 years old) who lived near Salmon creek across from the swimming pools. The teen girls (13-16 years old) resided in an area on the way to the new Boy’s Camp and they were called Wildwood. Some of the units, like Strawberry Fields and Aquarius, were said to have been named around 1969 out of the San Francisco hippie movement.

The boys were similarly divided into 4 age group units - the youngest was Aquarius (6-8 years old) (called Moon Shadow in 1975), next was Freestone (9-10 years old), next was Middle Earth (11-12 years old), and finally the Boys Teen Campers (13-14 years old), which was later named Ghetto. The original cabins weren’t winterized, but winter retreats encouraged upgrades and the McGucken Center became a year-round facility. Summer camp attendance thrived during these years, often with over 500 campers and 120 staff for each of the five 10-day sessions.

There was some movement where supporting staff lived in the 1970s-1980s on the Girl’s side of Camp, but in general: the bus drivers settled in Okinawa, nurses lived in Tek Moira, male maintenance crew lived in Gray House, Madonna Vista housed some of the male supporting staff until the mid-1970s when it was torn down, and male lifeguards/Heads of Maintenance lived in Crow’s Nest. The name Tek Moira has been alternately spelled both Tek Moria and Tek Mora in some early documents, but since the origin of the name is not known, the correct spelling of the name may have been lost. Many of the female supporting staff lived in Penthouse, previously called the infirmary or Pill Hill, and today called Fort Ross, named after both the cultural history of the area and the long-time Director of Youth Ministry, Chuck Ross, who lived there before he passed away. Msgr. Armstrong lived in Log Cabin before moving to the Vatican on the other side of Camp and eventually the female Camp leaders (Head Counselors and Head of Girls Camp) lived there. Near Log Cabin was an outdoor chapel and near Okinawa is a grotto where mass was sometimes celebrated.

At the bottom of the hill below the Boys Camp/McGucken Center is a 19th Century building named Vatican where the priests resided and entertained guests, and nearby was a trailer and another small house where Camp Manager Chuck Marcia and his family resided. The kitchen crew lived in quarters behind the kitchen on the Boys side of Camp. The male Head Counselors lived in various places, including an area below the Lodge, called Hole in the Wall.

In May of 1975, Thaddeaus W. Wyatt donated 139 acres to CYO for use as a natural camping area. It included a home adjacent to Dutch Bill Creek that traversed the property along Bohemian Highway, and included a portion of the old Northwestern Pacific Railroad line. This land, seven miles from CYO Camp, was used for overnight camping, as well as the survival overnight experience. The property was sold in 1995.

On a windy summer day in 1976, a tree fell on and destroyed two Strawberry field cabins - luckily no one was in the cabins at the time. After that summer, there was logging in the area to remove any trees that could threaten other cabins. A new logging road was built that started near Log Cabin and bypassed Tek Moira on the way to Wildwood and Eagles’ Nest.

The cost to run and maintain Camp continued to rise. Campers could stay overnight at CYO Camp for either 7, 8, 10, 12 or 14 days, depending on the year. Prices increased from...
$50 per child for a 10-day session in 1964 to $385 in 1992. Activities over the years have also changed somewhat, but often included nature study, swimming, archery, arts and crafts, hikes, campfires, canoeing, horseback riding, and overnights. The overnights were sometimes to one of several beaches or to the Wyatt property.

**Monsignor Harriman and Camp Armstrong (1979-1985)**

Msgr. Harriman at a mass in the outdoor Chapel

In September of 1975, Msgr. Michael D. Harriman, the Associate Director of CYO, became the Director of the winter program at McGucken Center. In 1979, Msgr. Armstrong left CYO Camp to be the pastor at St. Pius Church in Redwood City, the location of his first pastoral assignment in 1954, and his role as Director of CYO was replaced by Michael Marovich. In the fall of 1979, the name of Camp was changed to CYO Camp Armstrong. It was renamed to honor and acknowledge Monsignor Peter Armstrong, who devoted 20 years of service to Camp and directed its expansion.

Msgr. Harriman assumed Msgr. Armstrong’s role as Director of Camp. During Msgr. Harriman and Mike Marovich’s tenure, a deaf program from St. Benedict’s was introduced, Caritas Creek environmental education program merged with CYO, a Ropes Course was built, the Boy’s Camp cabins were updated, CYO transportation replaced charter buses that brought children to and from Camp, and an equestrian program was re-introduced. The new equestrian center added to Camp in 1983 included 20 paddocks, 2 riding rings and a full size tack room with adjoining decks. Junior wranglers from the teen camps were assigned a horse to care for and ride daily. 1989 was the last year to have the horse program.

Although Camp was under different leadership, its goals remained the same. The 1983 Staff Manual stated that the primary objective of CYO Camp Armstrong was “to bring the camper closer to God to assist him in developing a true and sincere love of his fellow man. This is accomplished, in the first place, by experiential religious education in an atmosphere that is informal and free from pressure. Secondly, by the example of a good Christian life led by all the staff members.” The manual goes on with the secondary objectives of having the Camp atmosphere contribute to the child’s social growth, character formation, and skills necessary for practical living. Msgr. Harriman took these Camp goals seriously, continuing to provide an outdoor camping experience for underprivileged campers, and Camp thrived under his leadership.

In 1986, Father Harriman became pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in San Francisco. In honor of his contributions to Camp, one of the most beautiful trails on the McGucken Center property and Harriman Hall were built and named in his honor. This meeting hall is used by retreat groups, providing a more intimate setting than the Lodge, which is still used by larger groups. With Father Harriman’s departure came a restructuring of the administration, but not without Father Harriman’s input and contribution. Father David Ghiorso replaced Father Harriman as Associate Director of Youth Activities with CYO and also assumed the position of chaplain for Camp.


Mike Marovich continued as General Director and Tim Hanretty as Director of McGucken Center, while Paula Pardini, an educator, childcare specialist and co-creator of Caritas Creek, was named Director of Outdoor Ministry in 1985. This role included Camp Armstrong, Caritas Creek Environmental Education Program and the Ropes Adventures. Paula had been a camper in the late 1950s at OLR and a Wildwood counselor in 1964. She helped start the Mendocino based Caritas Creek program in 1975, which began to use the CYO Camp facilities in the Spring of 1978. This was the first time that a woman had been promoted to this high of a leadership position at Camp, and Paula had the knowledge, experience and enthusiasm needed for success.

With administrative changes came a restructuring of the Outdoor Ministry program. Through Paula Pardini’s earlier contacts with Msgr. Harriman, CYO and Caritas Creek formed a partnership in 1984, with Caritas running the
school-year program and CYO providing financial and facility-related backing. Msgr. Harriman and Mike Marovich recognized the need for CYO Camp to make another transition to the next level of promoting child development. With Paula Pardini aboard, CYO Outdoor Ministries stepped up professionally from not just being a fun outlet for children but also a place for child development in an outdoor setting. The staff were frequently college educated and older than in the past.

Paula Pardini

Around 1986, camper units became coed with the 7-9 year old unit called Huckleberry Hollow, the 10-11 year old group called Woodridge, the 12-13 year old group called Stepping Stone, and the oldest 14-16 year old group called Wildwood. Between 1985 to 2005, teen boys lived in Tentville, near the Wildwood area. Paula Pardini left CYO in 2000 but the Camp’s popularity and high evaluation marks continued under Paula’s assistant Paul Raia.

The Campaign for Children and Youth in 1989 began the process to renovate much of Camp. The Camp continued to evolve to meet the needs of summertime campers, retreats and private groups. Steve Grant became Associate Director of McGucken Center, and the Center began a transformation and upgrades to maintain its status as a state of the art facility. The Lodge kitchen facilities have been upgraded, and the pools and bathhouses have been renovated. The Day House, named for major contributors Madlyn and Curtis Day, was built to house administrative staff and guests at McGucken Center. The low Ropes Adventure Course created in 1993 remain and it has been supplemented by the Challenge Course trail. In the late 1990s, the former girls camp name was changed to Miwok Village and boys side to Coyote Hills – The Miwok were the indigenous people who lived in the Camp area.

Catholic Charities and Camp Changes (2000-present)

Paul Raia became the Executive Director of Outdoor Ministry in 2000. About this time Camp Armstrong was renamed to CYO Camp and the McGucken Center renamed CYO Camp and Retreat Center. CYO completed its merger with Catholic Charities in 2004 and wanted to ensure the facilities could continue to provide year-round outdoor experiences for kids and retreat opportunities for community adult groups. In 2005, CYO Camp closed down the Stepping Stone unit on the Miwok side of Camp. In 2006, there was also a split between CCCYO and Caritas Creek, and Jim Wilford became Executive Director in 2007. With the help of Lou Reynaud, Caritas Creek and CYO staff merged again in 2010. Paul Raia became the Associate Director of CYO and Director of Caritas Creek in 2015. Year-round staff are now living in some of the buildings on the Miwok side – including Tek Moira, Gray House, (newly restored) Crows Nest, and Fort Ross. A large tree fell onto Crazy Horse in 2012, but it has been rebuilt and temporarily divided into several living quarters.

Today CYO Camp is thriving with outstanding programs and exemplary staffing of Summer Camp, Caritas Creek, Outdoor Education and Retreat Center. Current leadership consists of Rick Garcia (CYO Camp Director), Paul Raia (CYO Camp Associate Director and Director of Caritas Creek), and Emily Wood Ordway (Summer Camp and Retreat Center Manager).

Over the past 25 years, the current main campus of CYO Camp has been fully renovated with remodeling of the Lodge, 24 new cabins, the Day house apartments, along with many other improvements. In addition, in 2016-2017 Catholic Charities has been investing in deferred maintenance for staff housing, paint and roofs on the 24 new cabins, and a new roof on the Lodge.

However, there are still concerns that need to be addressed to ensure the sustainment and legacy of CYO Camp for future generations. Of the highest priority is the replacement of the CYO Camp water processing plant and distribution system, improvements to program facilities such as Coyote field, and rebuilding the program and living areas on the “girls side” of Camp, which are either uninhabitable or in danger of becoming such. CYO Camp Director Rick Garcia’s vision of CYO Camp is for it to be a state-of-the-art facility and, with the alumni’s help, be financially sustainable to continue to improve Camp facilities and build a sustainable campership program so that children of all demographics are able to experience the magic of this place we love so much!
Coyote Hills Side
(formerly called Boys Camp side)
This side of camp has changed dramatically from the original cabins used in 1969. The Camp is now coed and the cabins are heated and insulated, which makes them more suitable for year-round usage.

A Vatican (not shown) – This historic structure was formally used to house the residing priest and was the location to host events, like the annual Guardsmen BBQ. It is not clear when it was built, but a photograph from 1889 exists of the building. Rick Garcia, CYO Camp Director, lives there.

B Lake George (not shown) – Besides the home of the apocryphal alligator, this is the site of canoe activities and has supplied water to both sides of Camp since 1969. The Lake is fed by a creek, and during the outdoor education program a pond study is conducted there.

C Main Lodge – the Lodge, a showpiece of the new Boys Camp in 1969, is currently the recognized gathering place for all programs sponsored by CYO Camp. Meals are served here for all campers and staff. The deck has since been replaced, a new floor was installed a couple years ago, and a new roof and skylights are now being installed.

D Cleary Village – Cabins marked 1-6 are Cleary Village, named after the family of benefactors Al Cleary III and his father Al Cleary, Sr. The Cleary family provided funds to build these cabins, along with the road up to the basketball courts, various vehicles and equipment, and the meadow in front of the Lodge. These cabins are used by the younger campers, Freestone, during the summer, and they house school groups during outdoor education.

E Harriman Hall – This meeting hall, named after Msgr. Michael Harriman, is used by retreat groups, providing a more intimate setting than the Lodge, which can be used by larger groups. There is also a small amphitheater attached.

F Guardsman Village – Cabins 7-10 is Guardsmen Village, named after the Guardsmen organization that has been helping at-risk youth by raising funds for camperships and other youth programs. These cabins, along with cabins marked 11-14, are used by the Middle Earth campers during summer, and they house school groups during outdoor education.

G Day House – The Day House, named after CYO benefactor Madlyn Smyth Day, is split into two independent sides – one side with condo-type facilities and one with bedrooms and a shared bathroom. It is used for housing teachers throughout the outdoor education season and VIPs & visiting priests primarily on weekends.

H Wildwood – Cabins 15-24 are used by the Wildwood teen campers during summer camp and used throughout the school year by Caritas and retreat groups.

I Chapel – The Outdoor Chapel is nestled on a hillside in a redwood grove, was built in 1971. A parking lot was developed on top and a small road was created, originally so that Msgr. Armstrong could drive his jeep to the altar at the bottom. The Chapel was completely rebuilt in 2011-2013 by devoted alumni under the direction of Bruce Blagsvedt, CYO Camp Facilities Manager.

J Gaga Pit – Gaga is a variant of dodgeball played with one ball. The Gaga pit is a fenced area where the game is played.

K Labyrinth and Challenge Course (not shown) – To the left of the Gaga pit is a labyrinth built from the Crazy Horse fireplace bricks after a tree fell through the building a couple years ago. It is a place that can be used for spiritual meditative walks. The Challenge Course Trail is along a fire road that parallels the left side of the map going down to Lake George. The Challenge Course builds community amongst the participants. Four new elements are being installed this year, due to the generous donation of the Joe and Paula McGuinness family.
Our Lady of the Redwoods CYO Camp (The Miwok side, formally called Girls Camp side)

This map was created just after the additional 75 acres was purchased in 1956 to expand CYO Camp and build a separate teen area. For former Camp staff who were here before 1969, this was the whole CYO Camp, and for many staff here after 1969, this was known as Girl’s Camp. For those who staffed since the mid-1980’s, this side of camp is now known as Miwok. (The notes below are from a variety of sometimes conflicting sources, so this history is a work in progress.)

A  Lodge – This was the main kitchen and dining facility for Camp. It was named Crazy Horse after it was no longer used as a dining lodge. It was later used for housing the youngest girl’s unit Surfside and activities, including Arts & Crafts. It has now been split into three sections to house staff.

B  Craft Cabin – This building was used for Arts and Crafts until it was replaced by a storage building located between Log Cabin and Tek Moira (at location “P”). In the 1950s, it was used for other activities, like boxing matches. The building was later renamed Jenner, housing the youngest girl unit, Surfside.

C  Infirmary – Also called Pill Hill, this was where the nurses were once located. By the early 1970s, the nurses had moved to Tek Moira and the Girl’s Camp Director and Head Counselors plus female supporting staff, such as the lifeguards, lived there and it was re-named Penthouse. It is now called Fort Ross.

D  Okinawa – This building was used by the nuns who were the Directors of Girls Camp. Eventually, the Transportation Group lived there. The name “Okinawa” is seen in Camp documents from the 1950s.

E  Girl’s Cabins – The youngest girls originally lived here. The canvas tent cabins were eventually replaced with open air wooden cabins and it was referred to as Quicksilver row (9-10 year old campers).

F  Girl’s Cabins - Tent cabins here originally housed the middle-aged girl Group, called Foreign Legion. The area was later used by the Strawberry Fields (11-12 year old campers) unit. The area is now called Stepping Stone.

G  Lower Field Play Area – Two swimming pools were built on the left side of the field to replace the swimming hole shown on the other side of Salmon Creek at location H. The rest of the Play Field is still there and was used both as a bus stop for campers and for field sports.

H  Swimming Pool - Salmon Creek filled the original swimming hole before the two nearby permanent pools were built.

I  Log Cabin – This log cabin originally housed the priest Director of Camp, later Head Counselors and the Head of Girl’s Camp, and more recently the Director of Outdoor Ministry, Paula Pardini. It is now in disrepair and no longer habitable.

J  Chapel – This was an outdoor chapel with a simple altar within a triangular structure about 12 feet tall. The priest would come from his Log Cabin residence to celebrate daily mass there. The chapel was replaced by a larger outdoor chapel area when the Boy’s side of Camp (now called Coyote Hills) was opened.

K  Crow’s Nest – This was an uninsulated garage-like structure with a small deck in front built around a redwood tree. Supporting staff lived here - originally kitchen assistants, pot washers and table setters, and then Heads of Maintenance and male life guards lived there. Later Outdoor education staff occupied it during the school year – it went unoccupied for a while - but it is currently being renovated to house Caritas Creek program staff.

L  Counselor – This building, built in the late 1950s, originally housed Head Counselors and Camp Directors. It was later called Gray House and housed the male Maintenance crew. By the mid-1980’s, leadership staff were housed there during the summer and
outdoor education program staff during the school year.

**M** Stage – A few people who worked at the early Camp had vague recollections of a structure here – one source said it was used to celebrate mass for groups larger than the Chapel near Log Cabin could support.

**N** Madonna Vista – This was the dining lodge for teen campers and then turned into a building to house supporting staff. The building was torn down in the early 1970s. The name “Madonna Vista” is seen in early documents from the 1950s.

**O** Tek Moira – Seminarians lived here until it became the Infirmary. The name “Tek Moira” is seen in Camp documents from the 1950s. The origin of the name is not known.

**P** Craft House – After the youngest girl unit (Surfside) moved into the original Craft House (building labeled “B”), this building was used for Arts and Crafts. The building was an open storage-type structure, and staff and campers would write their names in various colors on the walls. During the mid-1980’s the name was changed to Salmon Creek Arts and Crafts Shack.

**Q** Teen Camp – Originally Teen Camp consisted of tent cabins with portable toilets. Primitive wooden cabins and a concrete bath house eventually replaced these. The area was later named Wildwood and housed the teen girls. It was used to house teen campers until 2006, but the structures would now need repairs to house campers.

**R** Upper Field – A field in this area was used by the teen campers for softball, archery and sleep-overs. In the mid-1980’s the name was changed to Orion’s Landing and provides a campfire pit for gathering during the school year and a sleepover area during summer camp.

**S** Water tanks – Water was pumped to redwood storage tanks and gravity-fed into Camp. When the additional Boys Camp acreage, including Lake George was purchased, water was pumped from the Lake first to a concrete tank and gravity fed back down to these redwood water tanks to supply Girls Camp (now Miwok). These tanks are no longer there.

**T** “Teen Pool Area” – Although the concept of a teen pool was discussed in 1958, the area was never developed as such. Instead, the area was used for overnight camping and was called Eagle’s nest. Another nearby area down the trail from Eagle’s nest was called Sleepy Hollow and was also used for sleepovers.

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