Mr. Moon Shines On... 

An actual letter which came to the Y recently:

Dear Ms. Godinez:

I am very happy to help with the fundraising effort to restore Center Hall. I have enclosed my check, along with other information from my memorabilia which my mother keeps in a scrapbook.

Please look carefully at the enclosed picture and count, from the left, six vertical porch screen frames. I am the little boy standing in the rear to the left of the sixth frame just to the right and behind the boy in the black and white striped t-shirt. Actually, he was wearing a red and white t-shirt. (See picture on bottom of page 3)

In the near future, my grandson is going to video tape me singing the songs that we enjoyed in the mess hall and out around the campfires of overnights. Of course, the renditions will be as we sang them in the early 50’s. Many will be considered politically incorrect by today’s standards, but as

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

The snow is melting, the flowers are beginning to poke their heads up out of the ground, and camper registrations are pouring in at YMCA Camp Lakewood. It can only mean one thing: Spring is here! Parkway School District is celebrating the 41st year of their Outdoor School program, and the Alumni Committee is lighting up the internet preparing for another amazing work weekend in May. After a record breaking Winter Camp, the camp staff is hard at work preparing for a summer to remember. We plan to have a staff return rate of over 70%, and some of our most popular camper programs are already starting to fill!

2013 will mark some enormous changes at YMCA Camp Lakewood. We are proud to announce that Jill “KC” Sells will be taking over as our new full time Summer Program Director! KC has worked seven summers at Lakewood, from Counselor to Assistant Program Director, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the full time team. KC will be replacing Brad

kids singing our hearts out in a more innocent time, they helped shape our camping experience with no moral degradation for us. You will be surprised how “Oh Mister Moon” changed over time.

This February, I will turn 71. As I reflect back on my life, my experiences at Camp Lakewood stand out as some of the most important and memorable in my life. I can’t begin to measure the positive and life lasting benefits I gained in the hills around Sunnen Lake there at Camp Lakewood. As a city boy, I acquired the confidence and skills to handle myself in the woods of Clark National Forest (Triangle C Award), identify poisonous snakes and plants, and enjoy the beauty of a wild and pristine natural environment. In adulthood, that confidence carried through, and the moral and ethical direction given me at YMCA camp provide the guidelines I live by today.

I wish you and your staff success in your fundraising efforts. Please look forward and anticipate the DVD of those songs I mentioned above.

Respectfully yours,

Walker (Wally) Michener
Golden, Colorado

Editor’s Note: After half a century away from camp, lessons learned at camp are still applicable to this day. Thank you Mr. Michener, for the wonderful letter, the sentiments and your donation to help save Center Hall.

Smith who, after five years of strong service at Lakewood, has moved on to become the Associate Executive Director at YMCA Camp Cullen in Texas. The Camp Lakewood family wishes Brad all the best at his new home, and we will surely miss Tarzan at the campfire!

2013 will also see the addition of new programs including Ranch Camp, Climbing Camp, Jr. Sportsman Camp, Animation Camp and a more traditional approach to LIT and CIT. We will see the return of Smorgasbord and a greater focus on Clinics. 2013 will be a summer of celebrating the long-standing, community-building traditions that have made Lakewood so strong over the years, like Morning Watch, Vespers, and Teen Talks. Come and see why we say, welcome to the fun, welcome to the family; welcome to camp! as we gather around the campfire!

Matt “Mufasa” Garcia
Director, Camp Lakewood
CAMP IS CALLING... AGAIN

How I fondly remember the camp of my youth, now that I’m long grown and becoming old of tooth
Her name is East Camp I lovingly recall; The stories I’d share if I could only tell all
The cabins are old friends I must readily admit; One day I’ll go back and under the pavilion I’ll sit
To bring up fond memories from back in the day, and remember East Camp glory in all of her ways

Last year, the 1st Alumni Work Reunion had the theme of “If I Had A Hammer”, which was well-attended by 52 Alumni and friends, who all came to give back to camp while enjoying the fellowship and memories.

The second annual Alumni Work Reunion will be May 17-19, 2013. Spend the weekend renewing friendships and seizing the opportunity to make new Alumni friends, while participating in projects at Camp Lakewood. Projects will include work at East Camp, Leadership Village and seating at Pannebecker Fire Ring. This is free to alumni and their families.

The accommodations will be at East Camp. Please bring your own bedding/sleeping bags and linens. You’ll gather around the campfire Friday night, work hard on Saturday, and then reward yourself with a great dinner and evening campfire that night. On Sunday morning, you can attend Chapel and then have the rest of the day to enjoy the many free activities that Camp Lakewood and Trout Lodge has to offer. The committee wants you to please remember that the main purpose is to provide a fair exchange of sweat and work in return for a fun and memorable experience.

The Friday evening meal will be “on your own”, however the rest of the meals will be provided by Camp Lakewood! The Saturday evening meal will be grilled hamburgers at East Camp (you are welcome to bring your own meat to grill if you prefer).

To register, please contact Judy Gilliam at 573-438-2154 ext. 114 by May 3rd (to receive a t-shirt), or anytime up until May 17th (may not receive shirt). Be prepared to provide the names of participants, contact information and T-shirt size (smallest size will be Adult XS and up to 4XL). Everyone participating will be contacted prior to the work weekend to discuss bringing needed items for the weekend.

This year, the committee is aiming for at least 100 participants, so gather your family and friends and make plans to attend this most amazing weekend.

*Although not mandatory for participation, the Alumni Committee is asking that you bring canned good items that will be donated to a local food pantry in Potosi, and/or your gently used shoes for the “George the Shoeman” water project in Kenya that the Y supports each year.
GOLF SENDS KIDS TO CAMP LAKEWOOD

Does the thought of a good golf game get your blood pumping? Great! Here is the chance to put your love for the game to work in helping to raise money to send children to YMCA Camp Lakewood.

On Wednesday, June 12th at Tapawingo National Golf Club, YMCA Trout Lodge & Camp Lakewood is hosting its 21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament. We are inviting YOU to attend with three of your golfing buddies in this 4 person scramble.

Your registration fee includes lunch, dinner, drinks throughout the day, entry in special competitions throughout the course, attendance prizes, awards, and the best fun you’ll ever have sending a child to camp.

If you are interested in registering your foursome, you have several options: By phone at (573) 438-2154 or (314) 241-9622 ext. 220 and ask to be sent a golf tournament brochure (just like the one on the right), or go to www.troutlodge.org/golf tournament, download the registration form and mail it in. We invite you join us for a GREAT time and even a better cause! All proceeds benefit Camp Lakewood.

IF GOLF ISN’T YOUR THING, then just come for the Dinner & Auction after the tournament. There will be fantastic items to bid on (both live and silent), and you’ll be handsomely rewarded by sending many well-deserving children to camp this summer!

SHOW YOUR ALUMNI SUPPORT FOR CAMP LAKEWOOD!

A CAMPER’S PAST COMES TO LIFE

Picture provided by Wally Michener (from front page article).

“...count, from the left, six vertical porch screen frames. I am the little boy standing in the rear to the left of the sixth frame just to the right and behind the boy in the black and white striped t-shirt...”
UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7: **CAMP LAKEWOOD OPEN HOUSE** from 1 - 5 p.m.
Tours of Camp Lakewood for prospective camper families

April 27: **CAMP LAKEWOOD OPEN HOUSE** from 1 - 5 p.m.
Tours of Camp Lakewood for prospective camper families

May 4: **CAMP LAKEWOOD OPEN HOUSE** from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tours of Camp Lakewood for prospective camper families

May 17-19: **2nd ANNUAL ALUMNI WORK REUNION** at East Camp
Help spruce up East Camp and Main Camp this May weekend (see page 2 for more information)

May 25: **SHOW-ME ST. LOUIS FILMING A SEGMENT** at Trout Lodge
First, our own Camp Director Matt Garcia was interviewed on Show-Me St. Louis regarding Camp Lakewood a few weeks ago (he did a fabulous job by the way), and on Memorial Weekend, they will be filming at Trout Lodge for an upcoming segment.

June 3: **FIRST DAY OF CAMP LAKEWOOD’S 2013 SUMMER RESIDENT CAMP**
Do you know of a child who would love Camp Lakewood? Share your memories and your love for camp with their families. Registrations are being taken now! Call 888-FUN-YMCA or www.camplakewood.org.

June 12: **21st ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT** at Tapawingo National Golf Club
This golf tournament and auction helps children to attend Camp Lakewood. Consider participating with a team entry, sponsorship opportunity or donation of a prize for our auction, all to support Camp Lakewood. You may also join us for dinner and auction following the tournament. Call Renée Godinez at 888-FUN-YMCA x220 or at rgodinez@ymcastlouis.org for a registration form. (www.ymcaoftheozarks.org/2013-golf-tournament)

If you don’t already receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact us at bcampbell@ymcastlouis.org with your e-mail address, and we will add your name to our e-mail list. You will then get the full experience of reading this publication in color. You may also visit our website at www.ymcaoftheozarks.org, click on the Alumni tab at top of the home page, scroll down until you find the most recent newsletter link, click and enjoy.