



## The first Shady Trails Reunion

For 63 years Shady Trails was a magical camp for children with speech and hearing challenges. Located a few miles outside of Northport, Michigan, campers and staff would gather each summer first for 8 weeks and later for 2 weeks for speech therapy, but MUCH more than that. The camp was a life-changing experience for thousands of campers and staff who came from around the United States.

Welcome to Shady Trails  
Reunion 2012

## PUBLIC NOTICE



## REUNION

August 11 & 12, 2012  
Any Camper, Any Staff  
@ the Northport, MI campsite  
1-240-380-0939  
1-505-341-1188

<http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/reunion.html>

On the weekend of 11 August 2012, a Shady Trails speech improvement camp reunion was held at the old camp location at 6880 N. Shady Trails, Northport, MI 49670. The reunion was organized by the tireless co-chairs:

Howard Hodges and Jim Emery



Still called “Shady Trails” the camp is now being used for 4 weeks each summer as a day camp for children.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Shady Trails Camp website. At the top, the title "SHADY TRAILS CAMP" is displayed in a blue, serif font against a green background with a small tree icon. Below the title is a dark blue navigation bar with white text links: HOME, ABOUT US, PROGRAMS, FORMS, FAQ, EMPLOYMENT, PHOTOS, AREA INFO, CONTACT, and MEMBER PASSWORD REQUEST. The main content area features a collage of photos: a girl archery, a girl in a colorful hat, and a group of three girls smiling. A text overlay on the photos reads "SUMMER CAMP 2012! REGISTER NOW". Below the photos is a large orange section with the word "WELCOME" in white. To the left of the text is a white silhouette of a Christmas tree. The text in the orange section includes: "Shady Trails is a summer day camp located on Grand Traverse Bay near the village of Northport. Our mission is to provide enjoyable learning experiences and recreational activities for children in a natural setting. Please use our site to learn more [about our camp](#), our many [programs](#) and the beautiful [Leelanau County area](#). [View our Welcome Song](#) [643 KB Quicktime Movie]". To the right of this text is a blue box with white text: "SHADY TRAILS SPEECH CAMP REUNION" and "click here for details". Below the orange section is a green footer with white text: "A CHILDREN'S DAY CAMP ON BEAUTIFUL GRAND TRAVERSE BAY". At the very bottom, a dark green bar contains white text: "SHADY TRAILS CAMP || 6880 N. SHADY TRAILS - NORTHPORT, MICHIGAN 49670", "PHONE: 231-386-9880 || FAX: 231-386-9882 || EMAIL: [INFO@SHADY-TRAILSCAMP.COM](mailto:INFO@SHADY-TRAILSCAMP.COM)", and "© 2010 SHADY TRAILS CAMP. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED."

But the “old Shady Trails” is also being wonderfully preserved and remembered!



The old sign is gone (from 1985)



**Turning left out of Northport, a new Shady Trails Camp sign also welcomes former campers who still visit.**







**The drive into the camp brings back memories. . . and sometimes tears.**



# Checking in – in the lodge





**Re-acquainting with old friends around display tables (though we may have changed a bit, the tables and chairs in the lodge/dining hall are those we remember)!**



# Welcome to Shady Trails

Reunion 2012





**Earliest Shady Trails Camper at the Reunion**



JOHN CARTER  
RONALD COLE  
PAUL ELLIS  
"SANDY" GORDON  
"BUD" HALL  
"TED" HOGLAND  
JOHN HODGE  
JACK FELL  
BRUCE BJORSETH  
"DAVE" SMITH  
CHARLES SKALA  
JACK WATSON

LOUIS BURNS  
GUY DUFFIELD  
"BOB" KLEIN  
FRED KRIMENDAH  
TOM MCKINNEY  
DON McLEAN  
"BILL" PARTALIS  
"JIM" SHANNON  
"BILL" SHANNON  
"TOM" SHAPLEY  
ALAN SMALL  
DON WEBB  
"CHUCK" WORTLEY

"JOE" ANDERSON  
"TOM" HEISKELL  
JOHN INGWERSEN  
"BILL" McDONNELL  
RICHARD MOORE  
CHARLES PEAK  
"HO" SEXTON  
"BILL" SPURGEON  
"BOB" TRIBBLE  
"TED" SMITH  
JOHN WATKINS  
"DAVE" WILLIAMS

"BOB" CAMPBELL  
"AL" ALBER  
"AL" CLIMIE  
BRUCE KING  
"CHUCK" PARSONS  
OLAV SMISTAD  
"PETE" STADELMAN  
"BILL" SPEAR  
"JIM" ROBBINS  
"BOB" TIMMONS  
DALE VINCENT  
"DICK" WHITING  
"TOM" WORTLEY

GEORGE GREENBAUM  
"DAVE" GROW  
CLYDE HAMILTON  
FRANK HARNEW  
"DON" KIEPERT  
"RONNIE" KOSKI  
BARRY LUCK  
"TOMMY" LUCK  
"BOB" PARDON  
"DAN" VAN LEEUWEN  
"RAY" WALL  
"MIKE" WELDON



SHADY TRAILS CAMP... 1945



Much memorabilia has been preserved







ueitt  
Bemis

STAHL  
ROWLAND  
ANSON  
MARK WILLIAMS  
MATT ATKINSON  
ROBBY BRADFORD  
The 1979 Cave  
SEAN BURKE  
HOWARD GOFSTEIN  
TONY KWAPLEZ  
DAVID KRAMER  
BOB WHILTSEY  
RICH JOHNSON  
MIKE RABY  
JAMES BAILEY

MARINERS



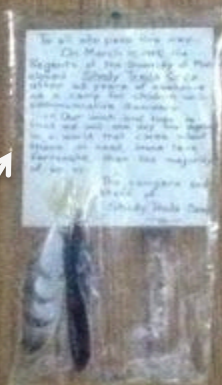
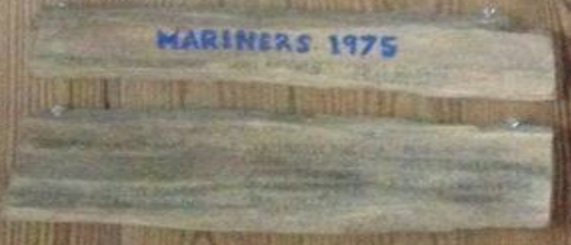


**NEOPHYTES**

NAME	COUNTRY	Year / Distance
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988
W. R. R. L. L.	USA	1988



IAHL  
 ROWLAND  
 NSON  
 The  
 MARK WIL  
 MAITAIKI  
 ROBBY BRAC



see next page

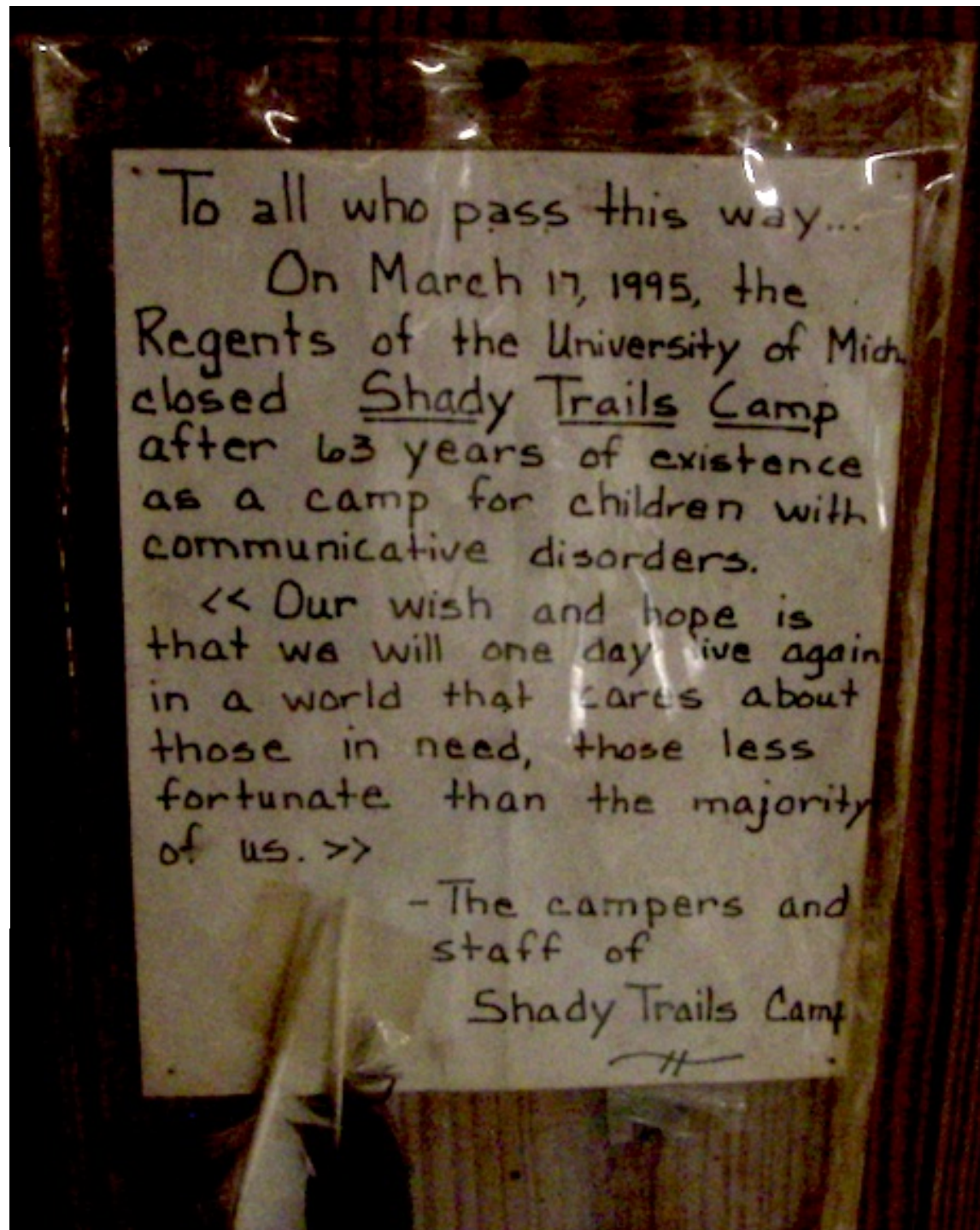


**Two notes found after Shady Trails  
camp was closed**

**Where Magic Rose From The Ground  
like steam from a mourning pond  
Where one's pain, making them shine  
With sadness, was comforted by the  
beauty and natural grace of this place  
In a world so touched by violence, hate  
& greed, This was the shelter and the  
loving touch for all those faces.  
Those children need this place, and  
this place needs those children.  
Decisions made too distant from the  
lives they change.**

**So farewell my bright star  
May I walk in the wake of your passing  
as you did. ....**

**with grace  
CW**





**The current Shady Trails director, Jack Moorlag, welcomes us**





Jack shared many interesting stories, including how he painstakingly restored the original drinking fountains!



Jack also restored the benches and picnic tables.









And told how some original items, like the plaques, including the one that was on a rock near the athletic field at one time, have sadly disappeared



**... and took us on a tour of the camp**



















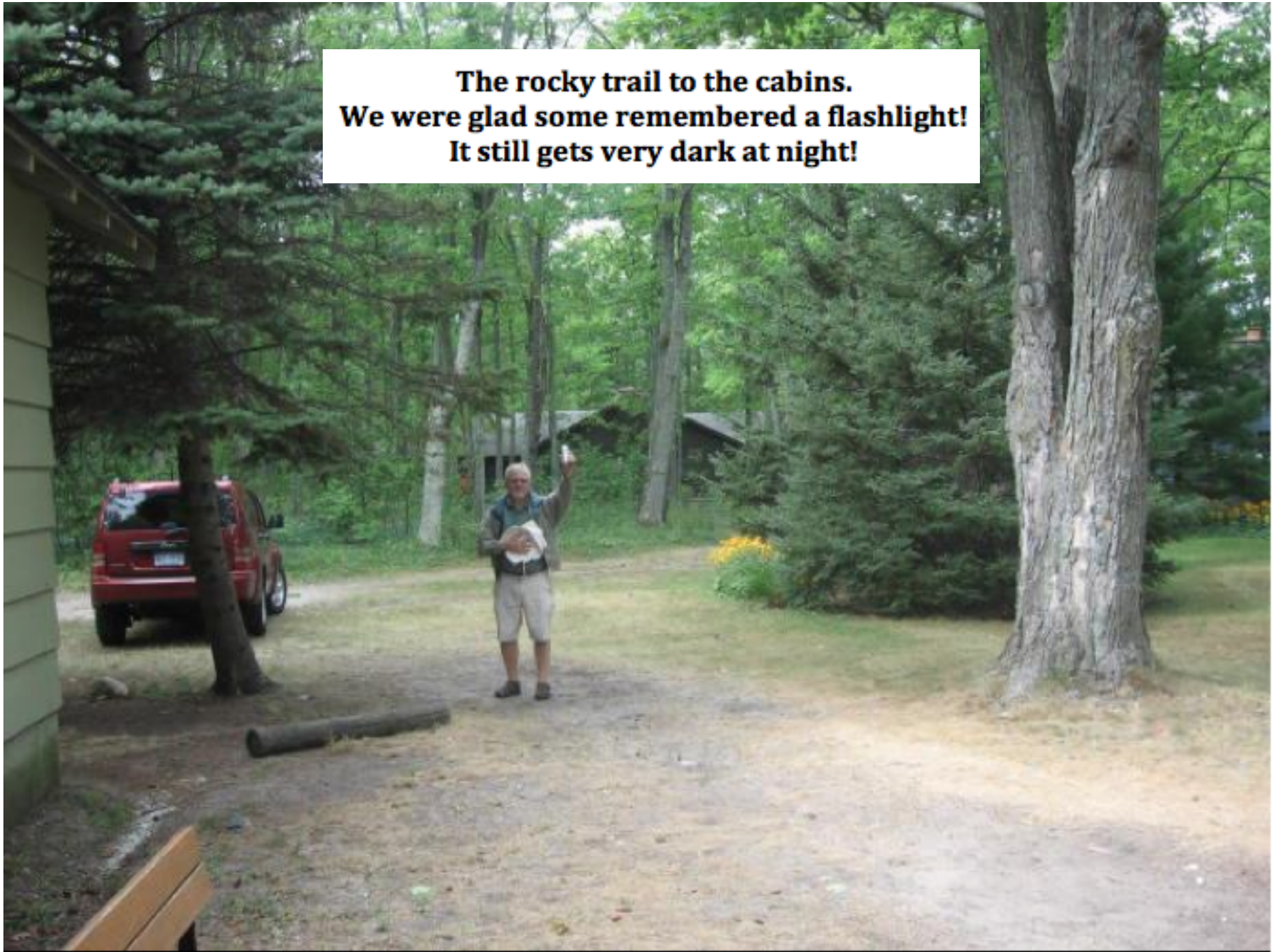


# The director's residence





**The rocky trail to the cabins.  
We were glad some remembered a flashlight!  
It still gets very dark at night!**





# The Cave was renamed Raccoons







**Four to a room - sixteen to a cabin in the Cave!**



Paula Flees mom, Ruthie was the Shady Trails cook for 40 summers!





**We miss Ruthie, but the food at the reunion was great  
.... and so was the company**





# Several were interviewed by reporter Patti Brandt for a great article in the *Leelanau Enterprise*



## Former Shady Trail speech therapy campers talk it up at reunion

By Patti Brandt  
Of The Enterprise staff

You would never know the group of men gathered at Shady Trails Camp on Saturday were afraid to talk when they were children.

Now you can't get them to stop talking, especially when it comes to how much the Northport camp helped them to get over their stuttering. About 45 former campers and counselors recently gathered there for a two-day reunion.

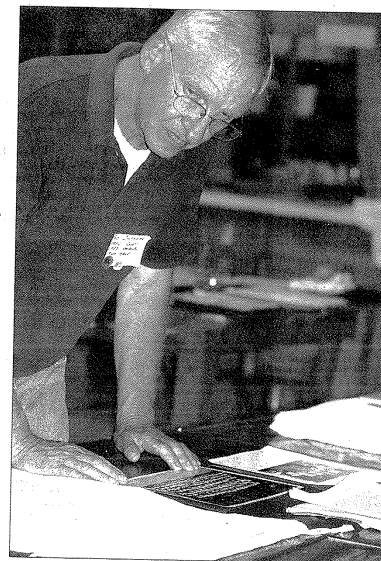
"It taught me how to relax and taught me how to speak fluently," said Mark Singer, of Philadelphia, who was at the camp from 1960-63. "It was a wonderful program. It was a fabulous experience for boys and I wish it was still here."

The camp was founded in 1932 by John Clancy, who was a stutterer, as a summer program for boys with speech and language impairments. Back then campers slept in tents. It moved to its present 26-acre location just south of Northport in 1947, and now has 27 buildings. In 1949 the camp was purchased by the University Of Michigan and became the University of Michigan Speech Camp. Clancy, who had earned a master's degree in speech correction, was the camp's director.

The camp was mostly staffed by graduate students from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and boys — most of them severe stutterers — would come from all over the country for the eight-week program, famous for its high rate of success, with more than 2,000 children staying there through the years.

"We were literally forced to talk and to use what we learned as much as possible," said Jim Emery, of Albuquerque, N. M., who helped plan the reunion. "We were expected to do it and if we didn't do it we got told about it."

Many of the boys who attended Shady Trails had a severe stuttering problem and former campers tell of boys that would 'freeze up' for 15 minutes or more, or even pass out from the effort of trying to speak. But the



**FORMER CAMPER** Bob Crissman, of Schoolcraft, on Saturday looks over a collection of pictures from his days at Shady Trails.

intensity of the program, which was focused and delivered in a controlled environment, often did the trick.

"A great majority of the kids would leave the camp fluent," said Ash Bishop, of Irvine, Calif., who was an athletic director at the camp. Some of the kids with the most severe speech impediments made amazing progress, he said. So much so that "We would have done this for free," Bishop said.

But probably the most beneficial part of the program was that the boys were among other children who also stuttered.

"When I came here I had never met another stutterer," said Bob Vorhees, of West Bloomfield, who was at the camp in 1959 and 1965. "Because you were around other people that stuttered that stigma was taken away."

Many of the men have memories of being made fun of and laughed at as boys because of their stutter.

"What bothered me was in school when you got up in front of class and kids started laughing you stuttered more," said Joe Barresi, of Traverse City, who was at the camp in 1951.

As boys they were afraid to talk in school, so many felt like they had no voice. The camp, they said, gave them a chance to be heard.

"You could speak and fail and still be accepted," said Tim Carter, of Canton, who was a camper in 1959-60, and was a staff counselor from 1967-74.

Barresi, who grew up in North-

port, learning to relax his stomach muscles, which would clench up when he tried to talk, making communication nearly impossible. Barresi's stutter plagued him throughout his life until he retired, he said. That's when he was able to fully relax and enjoy a mostly stress-free life, he said.

The Shady Trails program had a big emphasis on athletics, with boys spending half their day in athletics and half their day in speech therapy. The idea was that if their confidence was built up physically, it would spill over into other areas of their lives.

Children were also taken out into the community twice a week, where they would have assignments such as asking a complete stranger for directions. It was a difficult task for most of the boys and they would practice before going out.

"As a camper I just recall that it was such a well-rounded program," said Bob Crissman, of Schoolcraft.

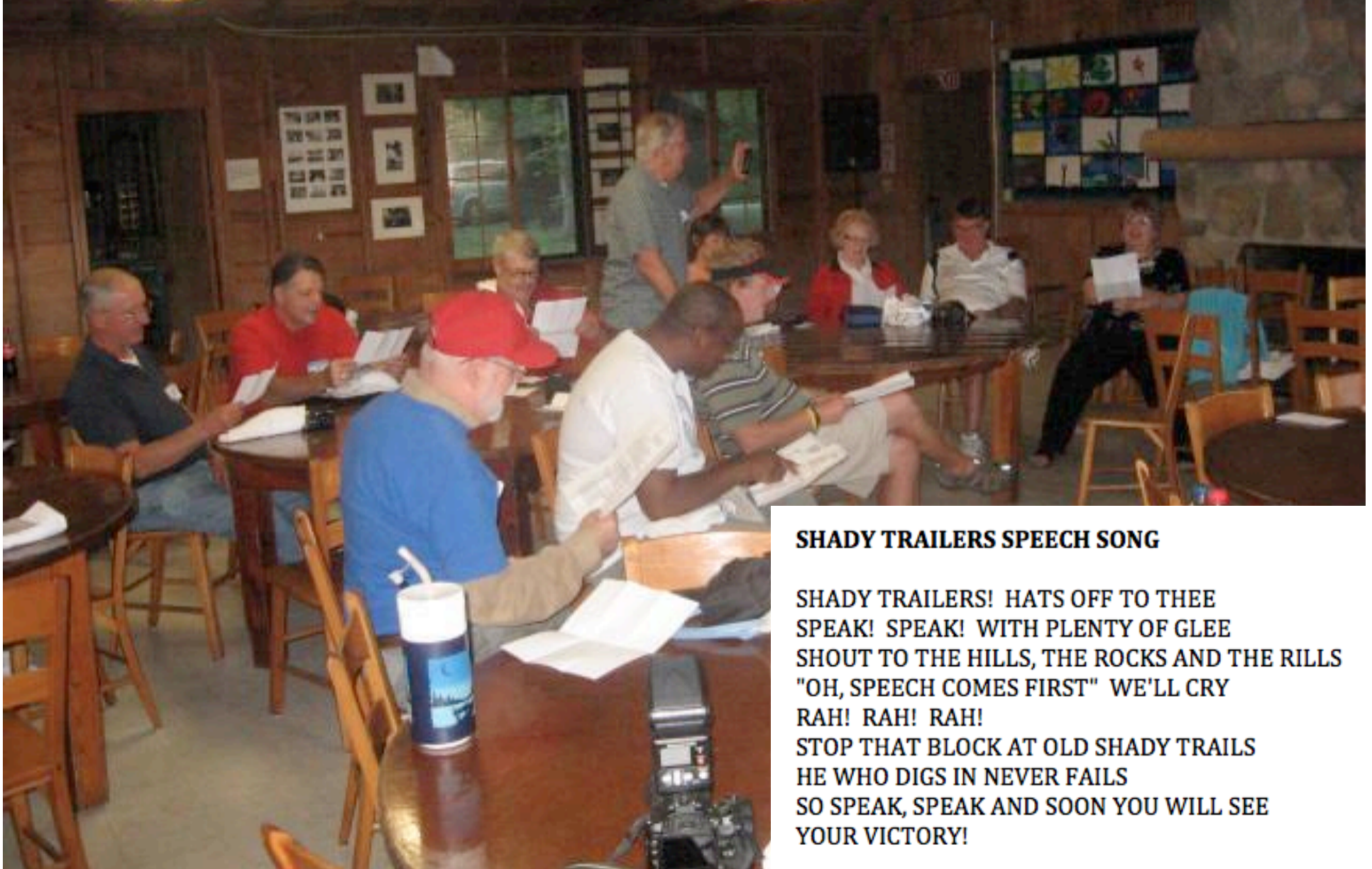
In the 1970s the camp shifted to a program for deaf children. It also became co-ed. Brooke Publiski, who is deaf, was a camper from 1991-'94.

"I wanted to come back in 1995 and become a counselor, but they closed," Publiski said. "I loved it from day one. It's an awesome place and it helped me to be not as shy."

Shady Trails closed in 1995, but reopened three years later and is now a day camp for children 5-14 years old. Run by Jack Moorlag, this year the camp hosted children from 23 states



**During the "Round Robin" we shared songs and stories!**



**SHADY TRAILERS SPEECH SONG**

SHADY TRAILERS! HATS OFF TO THEE  
SPEAK! SPEAK! WITH PLENTY OF GLEE  
SHOUT TO THE HILLS, THE ROCKS AND THE RILLS  
"OH, SPEECH COMES FIRST" WE'LL CRY  
RAH! RAH! RAH!  
STOP THAT BLOCK AT OLD SHADY TRAILS  
HE WHO DIGS IN NEVER FAILS  
SO SPEAK, SPEAK AND SOON YOU WILL SEE  
YOUR VICTORY!



MARINE INCINERATION CEREMONY

Introductory Music.....Campers arrive  
by cabin groups

A Camp Prayer  
Introduced by.....Mike Bernabo, P.A.

Marine Incineration Purpose.....Richard Crandall,  
Cave

Fire on the Water Ceremony.....Torchbearers:  
Mr. Karzen  
Mr. Mitchell

Music....."Ride of the  
Valkries" Wagner

Address.....Dr. Daly  
Introduced by.....Mike Ashbaucher

Philosophy of Shady Trails.....Nat Krieger, U-Club

Music....."Fire Music"  
Wagner

Announcement.....Mike Jurva, Mariner

Prophecy of Shady Trails.....David Briggs, Wolves

Tolling of the Bell

SHADY TRAILS

1974

MARINE INCINERATION

Campers and staff will watch the "Fire on the Water" together, in silence, from the shore. In this, the most serious moment of the camp season, each of us will be united with all of the campers and staff, past and present, who have put something of themselves into a summer at Shady Trails.

From opposite ends of camp, two runners bearing torches will come together and ignite a flaming beacon on the bay. As the torches come down the paths, they gather from each of us a spark until, in the fire on the water, the spark becomes a flame. In the flame each of us will see a different thing... perhaps the desire of one person to help another... perhaps recollections of past failures and expectations of future successes...perhaps the efforts of those who have gone before us to leave something behind for those who will follow...perhaps a bright light surrounded by darkness and unknown...perhaps only our dreams.



"A FIRE ON THE WATER"

PURPOSE

Not long ago a young man sat out on the dock late in the evening and thought...a fire on the water. This man was, and still is, a big part of Shady Trails Camp. Let us try to recapture some of the thoughts that might have been running through his mind that night.

Perhaps he thought of the weeks that had passed at camp and of the fellows who had failed to grasp the opportunity that was theirs. Perhaps he was impressed with another man's wish to help others and make it become a reality. Perhaps he was just dreaming that night and felt the spirit of all the old campers crowd in upon him and wanted to capture that moment...wanted to remember all their hopes and dreams. Perhaps he thought of his experiences with these young men and their problems. Perhaps he thought of the beautiful memories of camp at the end of another season. Maybe he just wanted to see a fire on the water.

This man was Mr. William Bulto. All of us know him only by the plaque located on the edge of the Athletic Field which bears his name. He spent a good number of years here helping to build and strengthen the camp. Camp will soon be coming to a close, and we will be returning to our homes and friends.

Now, as then, we pause to reflect...













# Gull Island (not a submarine;-)





# Modern camper Melissa's mural of Gull Island

(Guess the significance of the white covering of the island!)





**Some of us climbed the Sleeping Bear Dunes again!**





Sunday morning – time to say good-bye





Although on Sunday we left Shady Trails once again, we left it in the very capable hands of the Shady Trails manager, Jack Moorlag, who also knows and appreciates the magic that is Shady Trails, and loves it as much as we do! Thank you, Jack for welcoming us and for being there!





**Jack also promised to display a plaque about “our”  
Shady Trails to help former campers find us!**





# credits

- Howard Hodges and Jim Emery - co-chairs of the first Shady Trails reunion
- Jim Moorlag – current director of Shady Trails Camp
- Pictures are from
  - Shady Trails yahoo group members posts
    - [linda\\_rabold](#)
    - [knatflorka](#)
    - [cedric\\_jemison](#)
  - Ron Dougall
  - Russ Hicks
  - Tom Kuster
  - Eric Muladore
  - Bob Voorhess
  - Bernie Weiner