

Rushmore Music Camp Newsletter

Fall 1999

Notes From The Editor

Hello to all in the Rushmore Music Camp family! Welcome to the first issue of the Rushmore Music Camp Newsletter. My name is Ellen Diischer, and I have been asked to serve as the editor of this new project!!

This is an exciting time for the camp and for its founders, Paul and Lois Hedge. The summer of 2000 will mark the 30th anniversary of Rushmore Music Camp!!

Many changes have taken place since the camp was founded in 1971. The members of the Board of Directors of the newly developed Rushmore Music Camp Corporation have suggested that a bi-annual Newsletter will serve many needs: it will provide former and present campers and staff with updates on the camps to come; it will provide opportunities for former and present campers and staff to reconnect with each other; it will provide fundraising information; it will provide a forum for all in the Rushmore Family to share camp memories and ideas for future camps.

Toward these goals, please share information with us by contacting me with your comments, questions, short articles, or updates on where you are and what you are doing now.

In this first issue, you will find a wrap-up of the 1999 camps as well as dates for the 30th Anniversary Camps. Deb Yess, long-time camper and faculty member shares some thoughts, and there are comments and information about the newly established non-profit status of the camp from founders Paul and Lois Hedge. There will always be a joke or two, and a "Do You Remember?" section in the upcoming Newsletters!

Again, welcome!! We hope to hear from many of you **soon**. Please plan to share in the 30th anniversary of camp by coming out to the Black

Hills next summer, by sponsoring a band student's trip to camp, or simply by writing and sharing your best memories of camp! Read on!

1999 Junior High Camp Wrap-Up

The 1999 Junior High camp was held July 25-July 31 at Camp Judson. There were 103 campers from eight states. The following new staff members were welcomed to their first Rushmore Camp: Julie Anderson, flute instructor from Rapid City; Dave Martinson, clarinet instructor from Sturgis; Brad Hakeman, (long-time camper!) counselor from Wentworth, SD; Larry Peterson, counselor from Huron, (where he is the Senior High Band Director); Barb Harvey, camp nurse, from Lead, SD. Dr. Randy Kohlenberg has been the low brass instructor at Senior High Camp for many years, but this year for the first time, he came a week early to serve as the Guest Conductor for the Junior High Camp.

Campers enjoyed the evening activities, especially the "Millennium Games" where flour-throwing and balloon volleyball continued to be favorites!

After a week of extreme heat and humidity, the day of the final concert dawned dark and cloudy. Then, it poured!!! For only the second time in the history of the Junior High Camp, we were forced to go "Plan B", which meant that the concert was held indoors, while family members vied for chairs in the bandroom, on the porch and in the dining hall.

The Jazz Bands, Rushmore Singers, Choir and Modern Dance Classes all performed in the dining hall. Then the video team moved their equipment across to the bandroom, where the Concert Band played under the direction of Dr. Randy

Kohlenberg. Though it was wet and cold, the campers and their families showed their true spirit by demonstrating patience and fine performances throughout the morning. It was another year to remember! Thanks to all campers, the Rushmore Staff, and our hosts, the Camp Judson Staff for their excellence this entire week. Who knows what may happen NEXT year??!!

Deb's Dozen

Top twelve reasons to attend Rushmore Music Camp:

12. There is an exciting rear view of Mount Rushmore.
11. You may act like a local and wave frantically to tourists on the 1880 Train.
10. You want to add a new Rushmore Music Camp T-Shirt to your collection.
9. It's a place to use your new-found skills for the water balloon blanket toss and Olympic Flour Phooing.
8. You've finally figured out the signals for the Main Lodge, Outreach, and the Craft Hall. But...Where is the Fire Circle?
7. You develop a craving for Ellen's M&M's after singing in the shower.
6. It's the only place in the world where the rules never change. You still can't climb Frog Rock, build rip-roaring fires, or tamper with the railroad tracks.
5. The winds blow, the percussionists percuss, and the mountain goats are able to leap Mount Baldy in a single bound.
4. The staff skit from last year has finally become clear to you.
3. The air is clean, the tunes are fine, and the hiking still leaves you breathless.
2. The Hills are alive with the sound of music.
1. You will have life-changing musical experiences with life-long friends.

Rushmore Music Camp...For a Week or for a Lifetime! Do You Remember?

Do you remember any of these Rushmore Music Camp Traditions?

- Sitting with friends around the Campfire Circle

- Singing "*Johnny Applesseed*" before every meal
- Hiking to Mount Baldy, Mount Rushmore, or Horsethief Lake
- Raids and concerts for the 1880 Train
- Celebrating the wedding anniversary of founders Paul and Lois Hedge
- Skits full of crazy stories, songs, and inside jokes
- Performances on kazoos, wind whips, nose flutes, or plastic tubing
- Clean and dirty cabin awards, bribes, and poetry
- Performing the "*Pledge of Allegiance*" at the base of Mount Rushmore
- Fudge, taffy, and souvenirs from Keystone
- Cabin parties or s'mores by the campfire
- Camp sweeps
- F.O.B. after lunch
- "*Taps*" and "*Reveille*" on every instrument from trumpet to timpani
- Exciting final concerts—rain or shine
- Hugs instead of handshakes
- Evening mail call...do I want mail or don't I
- Musical joke-wars

A Camper's Perspective

MY WEEK AT RUSHMORE MUSIC CAMP

At Rushmore Music Camp you not only get a good experience, but you have tons of fun. We learned six band pieces in one week, three chorus pieces, and a dance. You could of also been in *Show Choir* and you would of learned three more pieces. Same with *Jazz Band*. Well, for fun we played sports, rode on the 1880 Train, horse back riding, hiked to Mount Rushmore, put on a talent show, and listened to the counselors put on a show for us. You meet so many people too. You also get to work with specialists for each instrument and voice lessons. You don't have to worry about eating because the food's pretty good and there's a camp store to get nachos, big pretzels, shakes, ice cream, root beer floats, candy, and soda. So, as you see, you learn a lot, meet new people, and have a lot of fun. So why not jump on this opportunity I experienced myself and I'm not lying and it's only my second year. I expect to go to it every year!

— Submitted by Stephanie (7th Grade Camper)

1999 Senior High Camp Wrap-Up

The campers and staff enjoyed a much appreciated break from the heat and humidity during the Senior High Camp. Eighty campers from eight states attended the camp, where Ken Bloomquist, Professor Emeritus from Michigan State was the guest conductor.

New staff members included: Frederik Hemke, sax and jazz band instructor from the University of Missouri at Columbia; Craig Spangler, percussion instructor from Augustana College in Sioux Falls; Grace Nutting, camp nurse from Cody, Wyoming; Tom Edrington (long-time camper) counselor from Kemmer, Wyoming.

This year's camp featured faculty and camper recitals...plus both faculty and campers enjoyed the recital given by the Black Hills Jazz Band. Their appearance on Monday evening, which featured Dixieland swing music, was very well received.

Three hikes to Mount Baldy gave many brave campers several chances to see the Hills from on high!!

The Modern Dancers opened the Jazz Concert at Mount Rushmore on Friday evening. The concert was well-attended, and all went well, UNTIL the Rushmore Singers sang "*Pennies from Heaven*" and the Jefferson Jazzers, under the direction of Fred Hemke played "*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy.*" During the Rushmore Singers performance, the sky began to look ominous. Then, a few minutes later, with about 48 measures to go, the jazz band (and everyone else!!) was soaked with the usual Black Hills sudden downpour. With much scurrying, all equipment, instruments, and people managed to get to a dry place within about a minute. Fred now feels that he has been initiated into the Rushmore family!!

Saturday's Grand Concert was held under beautiful weather conditions. The Trumpet Ensemble, Rushmore Choir, and the Concert Band all performed well to an appreciative audience in the Mount Rushmore Amphitheater.

Good-byes were shared with many long-time campers who have graduated from high school and are now going on to college. Their commitment to fine music and excellence in performance have been noted by the Rushmore Staff since these students began coming to camp. We wish them well, and hope that they will share their

enthusiasm for music *AND* for Rushmore Music Camp!!

Dates for Camp 2000

Rich Kallendar, Director of Camp Judson, has notified the Board of Directors that the dates for Rushmore Music Camps will be: Junior High Camp, July 30-August 5; Senior High Camp, August 6-August 12, 2000.

Our surveys tell us that band directors, former campers, parents, and friends provide the most influence on camp attendance. Encourage your students or prospective campers to start planning NOW to attend one of the 30th Anniversary camps! What a great way to spend the first summer of the new millennium!!

There is a registration form on the back of this newsletter. You may make as many copies as needed for your students or friends. Also, a brochure will be coming your way in the next few months with more camp information. Post the brochure or share it with your friends and band students. YOU are Rushmore Music Camp's best promoters!!!

Rushmore Music Camp's 30th Anniversary!!

Junior High Camp

July 30 - August 5, 2000

Guest Conductor: Dr. Randy Kohlenberg

Senior High Camp

August 6 - August 12, 2000

Guest Conductor: Ken Bloomquist

Rushmore Music Camp Granted Non-Profit Status

We are happy to announce that in 1998 Rushmore Music Camp was granted a federal and state charter as a non-profit corporation. This was done to ensure that Rushmore Music Camp can continue into the 21st century.

Black Hills area band directors to see if they would help with this venture. Included were Leo Getsgo and his wife Dorothy from Sturgis, Darrel Jensen from Spearfish, Milo and Ruth Winter of Rapid City, and LaVern Clark of Deadwood. Several church camps were considered as sites for the camp, and Camp Judson was selected as the best to suit the needs of the camp. Camp Judson also had a week open when the camp could be rented.

The first teaching staff included: Alfred Reed as guest conductor, William H. Hill as woodwind specialist, Haskell Sexton as brass specialist, and Skip Swenson came as a part-time staff member to teach percussion. The specialists were paid with only the money earned from teaching lessons. The previously names Black Hills band directors took the sectionals, and also acted as counselors in the cabins. (Lois and Dorothy too!)

The camp started with students from grades 7-12 included in the one week of camp, but separating into two bands. By the fifth year it was determined that there was a need for another week of camp: one for junior high students and one for senior high students.

South Dakota State University, Brookings, offered sponsorship and their teaching faculty 1973 - 1980. Northwest Community College in Powell, Wyoming took over as sponsor 1982-1990. Since that time the camp has been independent.

Rushmore Music Camp has always had the policy of bringing nationally known conductors to work with the high school students. Those have included: Alfred Reed, University of Miami; John Paynter, Northwestern University; Ken Bloomquist, Michigan State University; Jack Snider, University of Nebraska; Eugene Corporan, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley; Eldon Janzen, University of Arkansas; James Curnow, Stone Mountain, Georgia; James McKinney, South Dakota State University, Brookings; Jerry Junkin, University of Texas, Austin; Miles Johnson, St. Olaf, Northfield, Minnesota, Dale Lonis, University of Missouri, Columbia.

The policy for Junior High Camp was to have directors who either had or were presently working with students on that level. Guest conductors have included: Milo Winter, Rapid City, SD; John Colson, South Dakota State University, Brookings; Ken Bloomquist, Michigan State University; Bill Long, Bozeman, MT; Dean Kranhold, Aberdeen, SD; Joe Brice, Smoky Hills High School, Aurora, CO; Don Downs, Rapid City Stevens High School, Rapid City, SD; Dr. Randy

Kohlenberg, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC.

A unique feature of Rushmore Music Camp is the counseling staff of sixteen college music majors or teachers, one counselor for each seven students. Many counselors have started at camp while in college and have continued to be camp counselors, devoting one or two weeks each summer to the camp for many years after become music teachers. Counselors are carefully chosen for their musical ability as well as being good role models for the young people with whom they work. They have contributed outstanding leadership and are strong teaching assistants as well.

The teaching staff has also been carefully recruited through personal acquaintance or strong recommendation of other faculty members. They are all dedicated and accomplished teachers who work hard to instill their love of music in their students. Many have been on the teaching staff for 15—20 years. Rushmore Music Camp is proud of their dedication and proud of the quality of their teaching.

In 1991, Dr. Paul Moxness offered his help in the administration of the camp, and Peggy Letcher took on the job of processing registrations and correspondence with students. Paul and Lois Hedge, camp directors continue to express their thanks especially to Paul and Peggy and to all of the teaching and counseling staff who keep “pushing” them to have music camp one more year----and one more year!! As we all say, “Our summer just wouldn’t be right without Rushmore Music Camp!”

***Now, Rushmore Music Camp
moves into a New Century!!***

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