

Then and Now...

27th Annual

Lutheran Bible Camp

of
Northern California

1949

Pioneer Year

at

OUR NEW CAMP

"A Cathedral in the Redwoods"

BEN LOMOND
CALIFORNIA

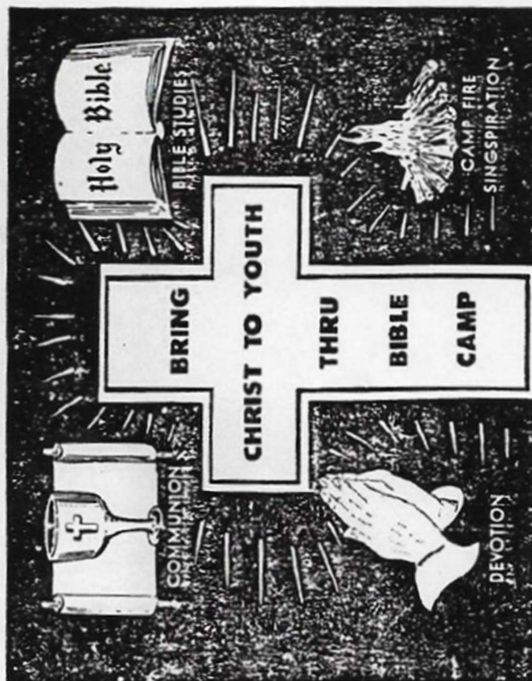
Theme:

"BUILDING WITH CHRIST"

1 Cor. 3:11

"For other foundation can no man lay than
that is laid, which is Jesus Christ"

TO



LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP — Ben Lomond, California
Return Postage Guaranteed

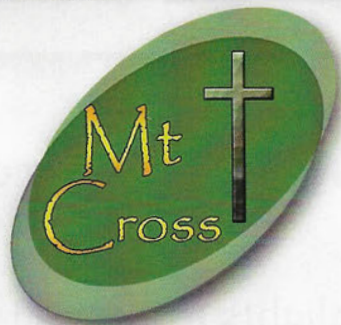
(Actual cover of the first summer camp brochure!)

Some of the highlights from the History of Mt Cross

Mt Cross was purchased with the intent to develop a Lutheran retreat site. Pastor Harold Brown was undoubtedly the leader of this activity and Tim Enander was the most influential and involved early employee. Excerpts from their written accounts and those of several other contributors make up this picture of the past history of Mt Cross.



Then and now... Summer Staff 1962
and Summer Staff 2007.



The Purchase:

Mt Cross was purchased in 1948 for \$40,000 with the campaign slogan, "A picnic with a purpose". (Mt Hermon was already in existence but was more a family retreat; Mt Cross was intended more for youth.) Pastor Harold Brown held an organizational meeting at Mount Hermon in July 1947.

The first actual visit to Mt Cross occurred in 1948. A committee had been formed to look at potential sites to start a Lutheran camp. Over 200 sites were considered and forty of these were visited. Pastor Brown asked Ron Beatty to take a look at this (Mt Cross) site. Here is what Ronald Jr had to say. "Great Grandpa was asked by Pastor Brown to check out the property, but when we got there, Uncle's Bob & Dick had to hack out the berry vines so we could drive up to the old lodge. Guess what, there was also poison oak in those vines and I was in calamine lotion for weeks!"

The "Picnic with a Purpose" event was held in May 1948, and the grounds were dedicated to the Glory of God as a great 'Lutheran Cathedral in the Redwoods' on Labor Day 1948.

At that time, there were 6 Synods involved: (ELC (Norweigen), ALC (German), ULCA (German), Augustana (Swedish), Suomi (Finish), UELC (Danish). A Pastor and a lay person were each elected from each Synod to be on the Board, for a term of two years. Over the years the Synod's merged. In 1976 the LCMS, Missouri Synod, was added to the Lutheran Bible Camp Association of Northern California's constitution.



Luther
League
1951





*"Marines say, 'The difficult we do immediately.
The impossible takes
a little longer.' I was a Marine."*

(Tim Enander)

Kermit (Tim) Enander:

In 1949 Tim and Vi Enander were Luther League advisors at Trinity Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

In 1951 Kermit was hired. There was a need for some public relations to be done during the coming months. Pastor Harold Brown asked him, "Would he consider contacting the Lutheran churches in Northern California in the interest of the camp? It should take about ninety days to do this little public relations stint."

That little stint of ninety days turned out to be two-and-one half years. Not only was he public relations director, Kermit also did fund-raising, and was utilized as a builder, truck driver, electrician, engineer, disciplinarian, match-maker, water quality controller, fireman, was known as 'the appeaser', camp director and a few other titles.

"Retreat. Lutherans like to retreat.
It seems as though we are always, 'meetin, eatin and retreatin.' It is hard to
believe that it has been more than 55 years that we have
been retreatin' at Mt Cross."

(Tim Enander)



Kermit's Story of the building of the Kitchen:

Kermit (Tim) Enander recalls building the kitchen. There were 91 inches of rain that winter season of '51-52. They worked through the storms. Here is his account.

Clarence Bradley had given the camp a 1934 Chevy one-and-a-half ton flatbed truck with one-foot side boards. The bridge at that time consisted of two large logs spanning the creek, with the deck of the bridge made from 3-inch by 12-inch planking. The bridge was deemed unsafe for trucks or emergency vehicles. No fire, gravel, or cement trucks would cross the bridge to the camp. Since, gravel, sand, and cement had to be delivered to the kitchen building site, driving that 1934 Chevy was a matter of necessity. Said Tim, "When I crossed that bridge with a load, I did so with driver's door open in case the bridge cracked and I had to jump!"

Twenty-seven yards of fill gravel had to be trucked, unloaded, and shoveled through the opening which now separates the kitchen from the Dining Hall. Following the fill gravel, 12 yards of sand had to be trucked in. (A yard of sand exceeds 3200 pounds.) The Chevy one-and-a-half-ton truck was loaded with about three yards per trip. Crushed rock was next. The road to the quarry is a short distance south of Felton, but up a very steep grade. To determine how much gravel you were to pay for, the quarry weighed you in and out. "One time I came back down the steep grade in compound low with the rear end in low range having left the scales at a gross weight of 13,800 pounds on that ton-and-a-half Chevy." Next were the sacks of cement; Tim took a load of nearly 4,000 pounds per trip. The gas pedal was a round piece of steel mounted on a steel rod which came through the floorboard. "It would get so hot that I would hold it down with a hammer handle. You can be sure that the door was also open in case one had to abandon the vehicle."



A 40-yard cement pour was planned. The weather was questionable. This fresh concrete was to be poured out in the open. (There was no roof on the kitchen or toilet units). A sudden rain storm would have left the cement in a pitted mess. Tim recalled, "It can be said that God looks after Fools, and he did look after us on that appointed Saturday. We hired a cement contractor who came with a 'skip loader.' It did not rain Saturday, Saturday night, or Sunday. The cement had a chance to set, and then it rained most everyday for two weeks." That was part of the 91 inches of rain in the winter of 1951-52.

One of the lumber companies agreed to cross the bridge and deliver lumber to the kitchen site. The call for carpenters went out. These had to be volunteers who would bring their own lunches and coffee (or beer). Work party by work party the kitchen and the rest rooms took shape. Etc., etc..

"In those days the differences among different churches and Synods were more obvious. At one of the volunteer days, when it became lunch time, one Lutheran had coffee, another milk-and I thought they were going to spill both when a German Lutheran member opened his bottle of beer for lunch." (Tim Enander)



The lady to the right was one of our two cooks.



History of buildings:

When the camp was purchased, there was an old lodge on the site. It had a kitchen, an assembly area, a massive fireplace and several bedrooms. (Folks ate outside.) This lodge building served as the chapel and main meeting room until Jensen Hall was built. The adjoining large woodshed was very important. The site also had a Cook's House (The Place) and a nearby workshed. The buildings we see today were constructed over time, mostly between 1950 and 1965. Before the pool was built folks swam in the San Lorenzo River.

An architect by the name of Oakie Johnson was given the task of preparing an overall plan for the camp, which was adopted in 1948, and he designed some of the buildings, most notably the Dining Hall. Mt Cross also utilized a builder named Werner Jasper, although volunteer labor was used to great extent. Mr. Kannelaud was the first regular caretaker.

Building	Year Built	Square Feet
Cook's House	1913	638 sq ft
The Barn	Probably around 1913	760 sq ft
Redwood Dorm/Addition	1949 and 1955 addition	2,016 sq ft
Evergreen Dorm/Addition	1949 and 1958 addition	2,016 sq ft
Kitchen (and restrooms)	1952	1,600 sq ft
Director's Residence	1954	1,376 sq ft
Caretaker's Residence	1954	946 sq ft
Dining Hall	1955	3,955 sq ft (inclusive of kitchen and restrooms)
Pool House & Pool	1956	743 sq ft
Oaks Lodge	1958	2,016 sq ft
Jensen Hall	1964	4,608 sq ft
Madrone Cabins	1965	372 each sq ft
Office Addition	1986	1,334 sq ft
Trading Post	1989	288 sq ft
Storage Bldg near Madrone	unk	198 sq ft
Total square Footage of all Buildings		23,870 sq ft



Fun facts:

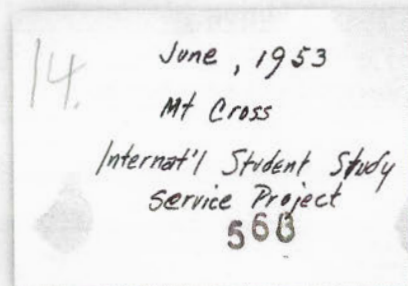
Finances: In 1951 income from all sources including gifts, church support, and registration totaled \$19,301.76. Total disbursements including salaries, taxes, food, and loan repayments totaled \$18,213.77 leaving a cash balance of \$1,098.98. , (but accounts payable of \$1,150.59 and interest payable of \$3,000.00.) The net worth of the camp at that time was \$13,570.07.

The first summer campers came in the summer 1949; The dorm shower rooms had been built in 1949 and tents were erected at either end. Camping was expanded in 1952 as the kitchen and adjoining bathrooms had just been completed, but campers still ate outside. The cost was \$18.50 for a week at camp in 1952, and that was for seven full days. A \$1 deposit would hold your spot. The food budget was figured at \$1 per person per day.

In the summer of 1950 422 campers attended. It was the wettest season since 1889 getting 7.1 inches of rain in 24 hours.

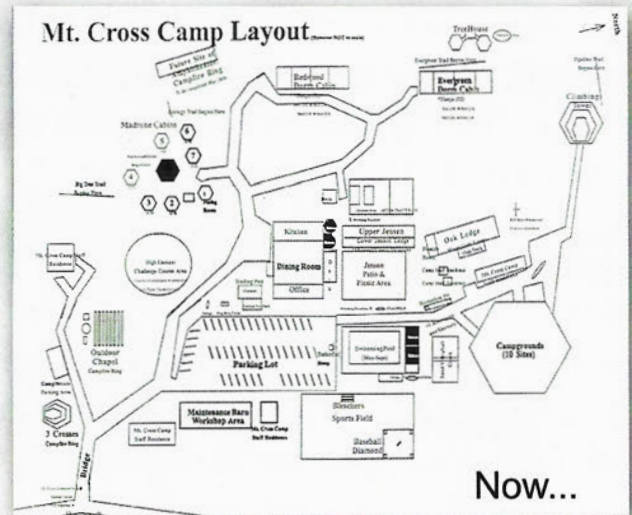
The first issue of the Mount Cross Builder had been printed in December 1950. Three issues went out in the fall 1951, winter 1951-52, and spring 1952. Twelve thousand of these were printed each time. A \$5 donation would recognize you as a significant donor.

In the fall, the men of the church came for a retreat. The Men of Patterson built the barbeque that was on the patio (until it was torn down two years ago). They used to roast hogs on it!



THE DAILY PROGRAM (This was a typical daily schedule at camp in the early years)

- 7:30 Rise and shine
- 8:00 Breakfast
- 8:45 Matins conducted by the Camp Dean
- 9:30 Bible and Study Hour
- 10:15 Recess
- 11:00 Inspirational Hour
- 11:45 Projects: choir, newspaper, handicraft
- 12:30 Lunch
- 2:00 Recreation
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Vespers conducted by the pastors
- 9:00 Fireside conducted by the campers
- 10:30 Dorm devotions conducted by the counselors
- 10:45 Lights out

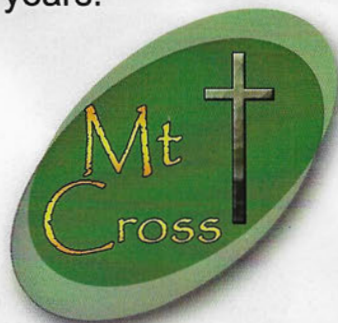


Naming of the Bible Camp

The name of the camp was chosen from a list of suggested names solicited from Lutherans in Northern California. "Mt Cross" was the suggestion of a Rev. Ylvisaker, who at that time was pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, in Lafayette, California. He explained that the "Mt" was for the terrain of the property and the "Cross" was derived from "Santa Cruz" meaning Holy Cross. At first the unofficial name of the camp was simply "Lutheran Bible Camp". The first camp Director was Dr. N.M. Ylvisaker.

"Explorer Don Gaspar de Portola named the San Lorenzo River in 1769 in honor of Saint Lawrence." (County Assessor)

Jensen Hall was named in honor of Roscoe Jensen. Roscoe's daughter had given \$1,000 toward the construction of a new kitchen and a greater sum for the construction of a new hall. Roscoe had gradually become blind and his daughter used to lead him around Mount Cross in his later years.



The Summit Trail, the Pipeline Trail and the Big Tree Trail.

Pastor Ernest Zoerb from Daly City started the Pipeline trail with his Boy Scouts. The Summit Trail, named for its high peak, was originally developed by Mr. Hendrickson of Santa Cruz. The Big Tree trail was named for the large old growth Redwood at its apex which was affectionately called 'Big Tree'.

Plaques On-site:

Plaque in the main patio – dedication to Kathryn H. Thomsen – 1974
Plaque on the Bell – Dedication to Reverends Silas W. Young, William E. Crouser, Clarence F. Crouser and William C. Crouser - 1997

The Bell:

The Bell was given to Mt Cross by Our Savior Lutheran Church of Santa Clara via its previous site in Grace Lutheran in San Jose (now gone) and its first site at a church in Salinas. It honors the Crouser family.

The first Board of Directors for Mt Cross (known at that time simply as "Lutheran Bible Camp". Taken from the first, 1949, "Pioneer Year" summer camping publication and corroborated by Rev. Harold Brown's written account:

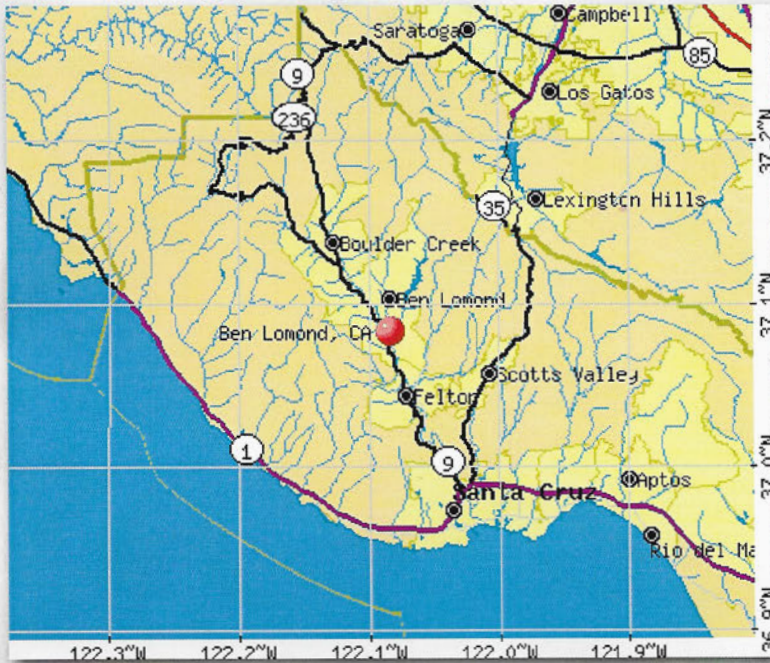
Mr. Clarence Bradley
Pastor Harold J. Brown
Pastor Dale Click
Pastor Paul Frykman
Mr. Chris Gjerde
Pastor Ed. A. Heye
Mr. Oakie Johnson
Mr. Henry Jorgensen
Pastor O. Kononen
Mr. Milton Nelson
Pastor Spener S. Petersen
Mr. Gordon Saylor



A group in front of the fireplace in the Old Lodge. Photo from 'The Builder', 1950.



Mt Cross Now



Mt Cross is located in The Santa Cruz Mountains town of Ben Lomond. The camp is situated near many family attractions, parks and beaches.

Mt Cross is still undergoing growth, changes and improvements. Here are just a couple great additions from the past few years!

THE DAILY PROGRAM (This is the 2008 day of camp)

- 7:30 Polar Bear Swim (Optional)
- 8:00 First Word/Breakfast
- 8:45 Morning Pleasures (clean and prep)
- 9:00 Alpha (daily theme discussed)
- 9:30 Bible Encounter
- 11:00 Choose Your Own Adventure
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 J.A.M. (Jesus and Me!)
- 1:30 Cabin Adventure Time (swim, hike, sports, crafts)
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Discovery Centers (learn something new)
- 7:00 All Camp Activity (games)
- 8:30 Campfire
- 9:45 Omega, Lights Out



Climbing wall at Mt Cross



Jensen Hall gets new, energy efficient windows 2008



Many, many thanks to the contributors of this publication:


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And the many others who have passed on who left records of their memories.

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