

BEFORE YOU PERUSE:

To pick this skeleton of all its meat, 'tis most meet these three commandments be heeded remorselessly:

- (1) Although we have supplied no match with this missive, **SECRECY IS OF THE UTMOST**. If a first year camper were but to set his eager eyes on this page, we would be **UNDONE**. Conceal it well, but...
- (2) Hideth it not in the earth, for he who doth not first reapeth, soweth not. This is only a checklist and necessarily greatly condensed. Be sure you study well what is here set down. The most insignificant line hides the most important message.
- (3) The sage Jonas hath wisely said, "The asterisk....the asterisk....from it a lesson may be learned....Its spokes in opposite directions pull....Let us not be as it." This is the fruit of our labor. Let us use it well to entice the innocent camper.

On you the season depends (!) (Hear, hear !)
The holy 17

THE 1947 RISING SUN SEASON

This is a summary of the minutes of the meeting at the Columbia Club and at Tom Reiner's house. The conclusions reached and the policies developed at those meetings are presented to serve as a memory refresher.

A. The purpose of Rising Sun

1.) To serve as an example of a decent sort of living—based upon friendship, cooperation, giving, and understanding. It is hoped these will carry over into city life.

2.) To help develop a boy's personality and character, through a) community living b) the creation of problems calling for initiative and leadership c) individual associations d) broadening his outlooks through associations with foreign boys, and boys with different interests from his own.

In order to fulfill these two purposes and make 1947 a good season, we decided we wanted the '47 season to be (with reference to the first aim)

1. Above all, simple. No high talking about spiritual values, intangibles, etc. because these only confuse the new boy and are not at all essential to fulfillment of either aim. If he asks about the purpose of Rising Sun, we have decided to answer as above—don't make it appear at all complicated. Don't give any such maddening answer as "Well, you just can't put Rising Sun into words." High philosophical talking about the wonderful "ideals of Camp" to the average has only served in the past to confuse and delay.

2. We do not want words, but we do want action. It is up to us, the older campers, from the very first day to actually put the four principles of friendship, cooperation, giving, and understanding into practice. On how well we can do this will depend the success of '47. They are not ideals to be discussed in lofty tones; they are to be put into practice.

3. We have decide not to ask the new boys any such questions as "Well, how do you think the season is going?" Don't go off in mysterious groups to discuss how the season is going and as soon as a new camper finds you, immediately discuss the weather. If you must go off, drift off singly, and make sure no one will interrupt you.

4. Avoid all references to leaders of seasons, etc. This only confuses, and induces a sarcastic, cynical, "Let the leader do it" attitude.

And with reference to the second aim--

1. To a large extent it will be our responsibility to push the first year fellows into things, through example and through suggestion. We must encourage them to assume leadership.

2. Each second and third year camper should make himself responsible for the newer fellows in his tent.

3. Beware of bull sessions. A suggestive, friendly, subtle criticism can do much more of a good thing than sitting down in a group of five or six and methodically citing each other's virtues and defects. The latter method only hurts everyone's feelings, and rarely offers any practical suggestions on how to improve.

4. In the pre-council walks, make sure that no one is left out week after week. Also, avoid the stock questions (which are bad ones)—"Ever been to another camp? See any difference? etc. etc."

In addition to these broad points of purpose and policy, we discussed specific points about the actual functioning of camp. These follow (listed alphabetically for want of any better arrangement):

1. ALUMNI WEEKEND—We must discuss what we want it to be before August 1. It has been criticized severely.

2. BASEBALL—As the group wishes. It is good because it keeps the group from introspection, a thing which, as stated before, we are avoiding.

3. CLUBS—Have specified evening on which clubs or hobby groups can meet. Second and third year fellows take initiative in organizing them. Bring up stamps, photographic equipment, plays, chess, etc.

4. CONSTRUCTION—

a) Begin the season, for the first week, with a general camp clean-up. This will:

1. Make camp look nice the first week, instead of the last week, when the clean-up inevitably occurs.
2. Take care of the inevitable delay before projects start.
3. Give new fellows a feeling of contributing from beginning.
4. Give new fellows ideas for projects from working around camp.

b) With reference to the actual projects :

1. Discuss and plan more.
2. Make sure that new campers don't rush into projects.

They must weigh benefit to camp carefully against benefit to themselves. Also, the prominence of the project is unimportant. (STRESS THAT)

5. DISCUSSIONS—Continue current events discussions on Sunday, and the newspaper discussions

6. DRAMATICS—Just one major performance. Perhaps a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, or several short one-actors (which are better than one long play). Bring up some good plays. We can have play readings also.

7. FEATHERS—Abandon them. The instruction itself should be the sole reason for attending instruction.

We are undecided as to whether or not feathers that are on our breech cloths should be removed.

8. FOOD—Parent's shouldn't send up too much.

9. HIKES—should be encouraged. More preparation, however, is often necessary. The value of the hike lies partly in the lesson learned from lack of planning.

10. INSTRUCTION—We decided to have more camper instruction. The nature program, and to a lesser extent the handicraft and camping program will be camper-run. The staff will coordinate the program; boys who can instruct will tell the staff, who will arrange the programs. The instruction will be broken into daily units, so that variety is possible. The topics to be covered in each day's instruction will be posted on the bulletin board. Much of the first week will be devoted to getting the new campers interested in instruction—showing them the different kinds, etc.

Changes in the actual fields of instruction may include (we will discuss further at camp): installing athletic instruction. bow and arrow making (archery), sculpture and music instruction (part-time), meteorology (part-time); abolition of first aid instruction.

Both of the two types of campers who stay away from instruction—the letter-writer and the fence-fixer—should be spoken to, but tact should be used.

Naturally, the program can only be a success if enough campers volunteer to teach in the special fields, and encourage the new campers to teach after a few weeks have gone by.

11. KICKIT AND PINGPONG—will not become any problems if we set the right example at the beginning of the season and not play excessively.

12. LETERS HOME—We will have the list, as last season, in the campers room, but it will be taken down once a week and used to embarrass the non-writers. Singing for mail will also be as last year—only if the person is willing.

13. NEWSPAPER

- a) Put away all back issues—they can only set bad precedence
- b) The first issue should be carefully done (no bad precedent)
- c) Allow space for literary efforts

Two other suggestions:

- d) Limit each issue to 8 pages (save paper and improve quality of newspaper)
- e) No one may be typist or art director for more than 2 issues

14. REST PERIOD—Stay in tent, on bed. We must set the example—the tent captains do the enforcing.

15. SINGING—A new song sheet is being prepared. The tunes should be written down so they won't change from year to year. Don't sing too many new songs during the first two weeks, since they shut out the new boys. Emphasize the shorter songs.

The responsibility rests with the sachems to encourage new boys to lead.

By a vote of 8-6 THE MEATBALL SONG is officially dispensed with.

16. TALLY KEEPER—Have counselors choose them in consultation with editors. Good tally vs. good experience for the boy must be weighed. Tally should come out very next day in paper.

17. TAPS—Although talking is friendly, sleep is often much more worthwhile than the topic. Responsibility rests with the tent captain and another person to steer the talking to good topics.

18. TENT PREP AND SQUADWORK—People not on squad should not help beyond recall. They should go up, make their own beds, and, THROUGH AN EXAMPLE SET BY THE OLDER FELLOWS, they should make tentmates' beds. Tent captains should exercise tact and leadership on any fellow who takes advantage of this to dawdle on his squad.

19. TOWELS—Have sachem check a new towel once a week for the shower.

20. VICTROLA (Anslee Dynaphone, that is)—At beginning of season, have demonstration of correct and necessary precautions. Permission must be obtained with moving machine. Music on the hill and on the side lawn on Sunday is gut.