



1. WHAT IS YOUR NAME? HOW LONG HAVE YOU ATTENDED CENTRAL MANOR CAMP? WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

–My name is Ruth Barley Swisher. I'm 85 years old. When I started coming to camp I stayed with relatives in a tent. I have not missed a year since I began attending. My daughter now has a cottage and I have 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren who come. I met my husband here. (He passed away at age 49.)

2. COULD YOU SHARE A FEW MEMORIES OF EARLIER TIMES AT CAMP?

–I grew up on a farm nearby and we had to get our work done before we could come to camp. Our friends helped us so we could get here.

–It used to be cold at camp. We had to have heaters.

–It cost \$250 to build a cabin!

–I've always cooked our meals at camp and have a kitchen in my cabin. Why? My kids liked my cooking! Edna Hank and I often shared food items.

–Other memories include the smudge pots used for light and insect control, the many old trees, and straw on the floor of the auditorium.

–Pranks were a regular occurrence to the chagrin of those in charge.

–The creeks had water all the time.

3. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE LEGACY AND LONGEVITY OF CAMP?

–The multigenerational aspect of camp has been important. Kids and parents both look forward to it all year long. It's a safe place with a lot of freedom for kids and good memories for all. Camp improves every year and the changes made are positive. Many volunteers make camp run smoothly.

(This interview was conducted during CMC 2022, by Alice Wallace.)