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University housing: Camp Gallistella, tent colony. 1937/1983

[Madison, Wisconsin]: [s.n.], 1937/1983

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The University of Wisconsin



Madison

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
A. F. GALLISTEL, A. I. A.
SUPERINTENDENT

June 23, 1937.

Mr. Robert Foss, Editor
Press Bureau
711 Langdon Street

Dear Mr. Foss:

I note an article in the Press Bulletin regarding the Tent Colony, and I am writing you with reference to several statements which are somewhat in error, with the idea in mind that they can be correctly stated if and when another release is sent out.


I would omit the words "luxurious but expensive" relating to apartments.

Residents pay a rental of \$5.00 for space rather than for the platform. "First-comers" get a platform - others camp on the ground or build a platform.

It would be just as well to make no reference to trailers, because we find them objectionable from several standpoints and are gradually eliminating them.

Accommodations are limited to out-of-town men or families not men and women. Residents resent somewhat the statement regarding modest incomes. Naturally, we do not check their incomes before making assignments.

Very truly yours,


(Sgd) A. F. Gallistel
Supt. Buildings and Grounds

Meet his honor, the mayor of the University of Wisconsin's tent colony "city", Oral W. Seipp, of Ferguson, Mo.

Mayor Seipp, who was chosen mayor of Camp Gallistela, as the tent colony is known, at an election of the colonists held this week, is shown in the above picture discussing a more or less (mostly less at the moment) serious problem of the tent colony with one of his city commissioners, Mrs. Isabelle McLeary of Brookline, Mass.

Other officers of the tent colony "city", which is located on Lake Mendota's shore out beyond Willow drive, are:

Mrs. R.H. Meyers, Milwaukee, city clerk; Gerald C. Wade, South Wayne, Wis., city treasurer; Alden G. Greene, Maywood, Ill., constable; F.W. Heath, Wilton, Wis., street commissioner; Charles C. Center, ~~xxxx~~ Quincy, Ill., athletic director; C.L. Jaquith, Milwaukee, conservation commissioner; Mrs. McLeary, and Roger Slocum, Trempealeau, Wis., sanitary commissioners; Mrs. Bernard A. Wirth, Milwaukee, editor of the colony newspaper, "The Gallistela Breezes"; and Mrs. O.J. Whitaker, Poland, Ohio, postmistress.

The five aldermen of the "city" who were elected by wards are: John S. Irwin, Galesburg, Ill., first ward; R.H. Meyers, Milwaukee, second ward; E.A. ~~Capron~~ Anderson, Capron, Ill., third ward; Henry ~~H~~ Klingbell, Bay City, Mich., fourth ward; and Arnold Wittich, Milwaukee, fifth ward.

The tent colony has about 300 residents again this year. One or more members of each of the families living in the colony are attending ~~xxxx~~ summer session classes in the University.

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U. W. NEWS

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN NEWS SERVICE, MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

4/20/56 wc

RELEASE:

Immediately

MADISON,--Whether Summer Sessions students at the University of Wisconsin choose to live in a tent or a modern residence hall they will be within easy reach of extensive recreational and cultural offerings.

A wider variety of housing is available during the summer than during the academic year, George Gurda, director of the UW Housing Bureau, pointed out today.

Married couples with children may have some difficulty in finding accommodations within their means, he added, unless they choose to live in Camp Gallistella, the University tent colony on Lake Mendota, which offers housing to married couples and their families at a reasonable rate. Campers can put up an ordinary tent on the platforms provided or build a "tent house". There is regular mail, milk, and ice delivery and a pier, wells, and two study halls are provided.

All other students can choose among a wide variety of fraternity and sorority houses and dormitories to find satisfactory accommodations. They can live in a house offering kitchen privileges or one with waiter service in a dining room overlooking Lake Mendota. The majority of these houses are located on the lake, providing easy access to boating, bathing, sailing, and all other forms of summer recreation.

Women students in French and Spanish have an opportunity to live in houses adapted to their language interests. La Maison Francaise gives students in French a chance for daily association with other French-speaking people. The house is the center of the various activities of the French Club and the use of

ad one--summer session housing

French is obligatory in the dining room and parlors. The Spanish Corridor at Elizabeth Waters Hall is a special section of the dormitory reserved for women students of Spanish. The facilities of the dormitory are available and there is an opportunity for daily practice of Spanish at the Spanish tables in the dining room.

Men, women, and married couples without children can find accommodations in the Residence Halls. Single and double rooms are available for women in Elizabeth Waters Hall and Tripp Hall, men can be accommodated in Adams Hall and Kronshage Hall, and couples in Slichter Hall.

The Residence Halls, located on Lake Mendota, provide piers, sun decks, and numerous other recreational facilities for summer residents. Through the Residence Halls Summer Association, excursion trips to the Wisconsin Dells and Blue Mounds, baseball trips, and dances are open to all hall members wishing to participate.

Listings of available apartments in Madison are carried by the Housing Bureau. The bureau will send out this information on request although it does not make direct contacts for apartment seekers.

Despite the ample accommodations available, the Housing Bureau urges prospective students to arrange for housing before Summer Sessions registration June 22. Information on the Residence Halls units can be obtained from Residence Halls Assignment Office, Slichter Hall, Madison 10. Inquires about other accommodations can be obtained from the University Housing Bureau, 434 Sterling Court, Madison.

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MADISON NEWS

*File
Camp Gallistella*

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN NEWS SERVICE, MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

8/27/57 vh

RELEASE: Immediately

*(It's under "GA" I note
in order.)*

MADISON--An affection held in common--for the University of Wisconsin Tent Colony--brought together some 60 persons for a reunion picnic at Olin Park on Monday evening (Aug. 26).

The picnickers--including many 1957 student campers, alumni of the lake-shore summer colony, their families, and honored guests--was the climax of a three-day get-together. Alumni came from as far away as New York for the sentimental event.

The UW Tent Colony, a woodland summer camp under canvas, spread along the shores of Lake Mendota, has long offered married students a rare opportunity for study while their wives and children enjoyed an out-of doors vacation. Begun in 1912 and continuing through the years, it numbered 35 families as residents this year.

Most honored of the honored guests at the picnic-dinner were Albert F. Gallistel, the University's director of physical plant planning, and Mrs. Gallistel. Year after year the Gallistels have occupied a summer cottage at the camp and served as its guardian angels. It was in their honor that the lakeshore village was formally named Camp Gallistella. Highlight of the picnic was the presentation of a moving picture on the Tent Colony to the couple. The movie was made by a UW class in audio-visual education.

Other honored guests included Mrs. Ira Baldwin, wife of UW Vice Pres. Baldwin; Atty. Fred Risser and Mrs. Risser; Lowell Gerretson, secretary of the State Builders Assn., and Mrs. Gerretson; and Delmar Anderson, engineer with the UW department of buildings and grounds, and Mrs. Anderson.

-more-

ad one--Tery Colony

Old timers from Tent Colony summers who spoke briefly of their experiences and showed their growing or grown families included: UW Commerce Prof. and Mrs. Charles Center; Malcolm Salinger, director of the UW Veterans Administration Guidance Center, and Mrs. Salinger, Harvey Waffle, teacher in industrial arts, Sterling, Ill., and Mrs. Waffle; Robert McCain, management consultant, Milwaukee, and Mrs. McCain; Roscoe Hastings, art supervisor, Freeport and Winslow, Ill., and Mrs. Hastings; Dale Durnford, school principal, Beloit, and Mrs. Durnford; Prof. Virgil Betts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Mrs. Betts; Prof. Alfred Johnson, Akron University, Ohio, and Mrs. Johnson; Duke Elkow, UW visiting lecturer in education, and Mrs. Elkow; and Arthur Willett, science teacher at Markesan, and Mrs. Willett.

Willett served as mayor for the tent village this summer.

After the supper and speaking, Tent Colony children performed some close-harmony numbers. The group sang old favorites, then cleared the assembly hall floor for square dancing.

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680
N.W. Tent Colony Returns to Pre-War Basis; Has 60 Families This Summer

2 col.
24 ft.
Cloister
bolded

file Tent Colony

The University of Wisconsin's unique tent city, nestled on beautiful Lake Mendota's shore two miles from the State University's main campus, has returned to normalcy this summer for the first time in five years, and once again has become a combination campground and scholar's study for 60 families.

Every year since 1912 persons from half a dozen midwestern states have come to the University of Wisconsin to set up their tents in the summer tent colony and attend the summer session classes. Almost all of them are graduate students, and most of them during the winter are principals and superintendents of high schools, professors, and other educational workers.

In the summer they bring their families to the tent colony while they work on their master's or doctor's degrees, in this way getting a good, healthy taste of outdoor life in Wisconsin's summer climate and furthering their education. Many of them return year after year to set up housekeeping on that wooded hillside on the shore of Lake Mendota.

I Have Own Home

The University provides 60 small wooden platforms in the camping area over which the colonists pitch their tents, each for a summer rental of five dollars.

In charge of the colony and reservations for each summer is Mrs. Albert F. Gallistel, wife of the University superintendent of buildings and grounds, who does the work for the fun and friendships involved, and who finds it more of a summer pastime than work; for the Gallistels have a summer cottage next door to the colony, and in many

ad--tent colony

ways more important, the colonists set up their own system of law and government each year.

Their municipal organization is in fact so efficient that it has been copied in at least two other "cities" recently--the two trailer camps set up for veterans now attending the University. The same "mayor" system originated by tent colonists now self-governs the families of 400 student veterans in the University trailer camps.

Mrs. Gallistel related that many of her "tenants" have come back year after year--in one instance now into the second generation. Another has been "camping" for 15 summers off and on, while a third is an old-timer with memories of summers at the colony that span 20 years. Their families each year look forward with anticipation to those weeks spent along the shore of Madison's beautiful lake.

Among the veteran colonists who have returned this summer, Mrs. Gallistel said, are O.W. Seipp, teacher in ^{the} Ferguson, Mo., high school manual training department; W.F. Oppermann, Chillicothe, Ohio, educational welfare worker; A.D. McCain, Milwaukee high school teacher; R.H. Myers, of the University's Milwaukee extension center; V.R. Plumb, Beloit high school; O.W. Anderson, of Rockford, Ill.; A.W. Krohn, of Belleville; H.W. Waffle, Davenport, Ia., and Frank Thomas, of Valley Falls, Kansas.

The largest family ever to spend the summer in the colony, Mrs. Gallistel said, was one that included seven children. In past years it has been found that the average family spending the summer in the University colony included two offspring. On one occasion, she added, the colony census report had to be increased during the summer; you guessed it--by one.

It has been found, in addition, by the residents, that expenses are much lower for families of three or more living in the colony

ad-tent colony

than they would be in city apartments--were they available. For a couple, whether the wife attended school or not, the expense is estimated to be nearly the same as for student couples living in the city.

During the summer months, when Wisconsin afternoons reach 90 degrees and over, the colonists have found that their grounds, surrounded by willows, are usually a full ten degrees cooler than the campus and the city of Madison. In fact, reservations for tent space have to be restricted to out-of-town students. Too many, it seems, have in the past tried to rent their Madison apartments for the summer, planning to move to the colony, away from the sultry city heat.

So again this year, after a wartime lull, the summer tent colony, housing healthy, brown-skinned scholars, has resumed full activity with students and their families living at an easy pace and worrying about nothing but the wind and the water--and a few examinations.

##

University of Wisconsin News Bureau
Cutlines for accompanying pixes:

- Pix 1: A view of one part of the "Main Street" of the University of Wisconsin's unique summer school tent colony on the shore of beautiful Lake Mendota, which borders the Wisconsin campus for about three miles.
- " 2: This view shows a part of the heavily wooded shoreline of Wisconsin's summer school tent colony, the unique "little city" which for 25 years has housed summer school students from all parts of the nation at the University of Wisconsin. Several of the tent homes, perched on platforms, may be seen peeking through the foliage.
- " 3: Typical of the homes in the summer school tent colony at the University of Wisconsin is this tent structure built on a wooden platform on the very shore of Lake Mendota. In this cool and airy summer home, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E.A. Moore, of Lebanon, Ind., live and study (see next picture) while they attend summer session classes at the University of Wisconsin.
- " 4: The photographer caught Mr. and Mrs. Moore, just back from an afternoon swim in Lake Mendota, busy at their studies again in preparation for the next day's classes. Mr. Moore is an Indiana teacher, doing graduate work in this year's summer school at the University of Wisconsin. His wife is also enrolled in classes.
- " 5: A colonist puts the finishing touches on his summer home in the Wisconsin tent colony. He "air-cools" his "house" by merely raising the canvas wall, after which he puts some mosquito-netting to keep out the bugs.
- " 6: Another Indiana student at the University of Wisconsin's summer session is R.V. Bollinger, of Topeka, Ind., who lives and studies in the tent colony. Picture shows Mr. Bollinger at his study desk in his tent home, his "clothes closet" at the left rear, his bed at the right.
- " 7: University of Wisconsin summer tent colony students stop at their village study hall on their way to and from classes to read all official notices put up by their village government officials.
- " 8: In some of the families living in the Wisconsin tent colony, the wife and mother stays home to do the family "chores" such as doing the family wash, and to take care of the children, while the husband ~~and~~ and father attends his University classes. In other families, both mother and father attend University classes, while their children are left in the care and guidance of lifeguards and play directors furnished by the University.
- " 9: Early morning, before breakfast, and during the afternoon and evening between study hours, finds the residents of the University of Wisconsin tent colony swimming, fishing, or hiking. This picture shows residents of the colony on one of the village piers, swimming and canoeing.

99A

A healthy, brown-skinned race of scholars who annually absorb sunshine and knowledge at the University of Wisconsin summer school will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the university's unique summer tent colony on the woody shore of beautiful Lake Mendota this year.

With every year since its founding back in 1912 by Scott H. Goodnight, dean of the summer session, the tent colony, believed to be the only venture of its kind in American collegiate life, has drawn an increasing horde of the nation's intelligentsia to the State University. High school teachers working for higher degrees and many others doing advanced work at the summer session have found the economical and healthy tent colony the solution to a combined summer of recreation and education.

In tents and other temporary shelters, cleaner but hardly more substantial than the tepees of Wisconsin's early Indian population, the summer students from all sections of the United States live with their families during the six weeks of the summer school. University officials have provided the wilderness site on the shore of Lake Mendota, one of Wisconsin's most popular waters, and the accomodation of tent platforms for the nominal fee of \$5.

But this is all that the colonists are furnished at the start and from there on the settlement is their own problem. The well-organized colony, which has become known to Madison as the "little city," is the result of the cooperative effort of the students who have made the place their home each year. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(more)

With all of the natural virtues of a sunny vacation ground, the colony is managed with the efficiency of a metropolitan city. The University also provides garbage pick-up service and postal service.

Tanned "mamas and papas" attend school at the University, which necessitates a drive, hike or boat ride of about two miles, while the younger members of the tribe, under the direction of a husky lifeguard and play director furnished by the University, cavort in the woody hills and on the sandy beach in glee which millions could not supplant. No little savages ever learned to "dog paddle" or find their way around the woods under more natural conditions than the sons and daughters of these summer scholars. Camp Gallistella (the colony has been named after Albert Gallistel, university superintendent of buildings and grounds, and Mrs. Gallistel, both of whom devote much time to the colonists each year) has remained a comparative wilderness despite its 25 year occupation.

The brown little children from the toddling age to the husky young "Indians" are more secure in their village on Mendota's shore than most of their cousins in Wisconsin's capitol city, Madison, as they are far removed from the mad swirl of summer traffic. Few cars travel the winding trail to the tent colony and no vehicle could attain a dangerous speed on the primitive turns. They possess a great advantage over their little savage forebearers in their educational frolics in the lake as swimming is under the tutelage of an accredited life guard, usually a University of Wisconsin athlete who remains at the colony constantly.

And as for study--after all the main reason for the tent colony's being--where could a student find a more propitious place for concentrating?

(more)

He studies here in the quite of a virgin wood, disturbed only by the sighing of breezes and singing birds. The children, who provide the only source of camp noise, are always weary by nightfall after their usual day of swimming and play, and seldom disturb those wishing to study. Rigid rules, however, govern the camp like a huge study hall and no encroachments on a colonist's right to study are permitted. Scholars do not have to compete in their study with the blatant roar of a radio or victrola as these are on the colony's taboo list. Students may study late in the central study hall at the colony, which is electrically equipped, but individuals must get along with more simple appliances.

Summers at the University of Wisconsin are not as bad from the point of view of heat as they are in many of the summer educational centers, but tent colonists find their village on the lake is much cooler than are the apartments and other residences on the immediate campus and in the city of Madison. Cool lake breezes find easy access in the flimsy tent structures. Colonists learn to arise early as the morning sun peaks in on them and a morning dip puts an edge on one's appetite and ambition for the day. The kids who fight the Saturday night bath at home are more than willing to jump into Mendota whenever permitted.

Many of the mothers at the summer session do advanced work at the university along with their husbands, but few of them find their household duties burdensome. Appetites are keen in such an atmosphere and the "kids and hubbies" need little coaxing at the dinner table. The colonists need nothing fancy at Camp Gallistella and a housewife finds economy simple. Keeping the tent shelters in order is also easy as few of the colonists find time to more than eat and sleep in them.

(more)

The platforms are only large enough for a single room and do not provide space enough for a gathering place. Colonists must meet and entertain around the campfire and under the stars.

The population of the tent colony has grown with leaps and bounds since its founding in 1912 until it now numbers nearly 300 on the colony's 25th anniversary. The university has increased the number of platforms each year until the camp site is now equipped with platforms for 65 tent homes. The number of people living there is not limited to this, however, as an increasing number of trailers have made an appearance at the colony to provide a "home on wheels" section. Some students have taken advantage of the economy of the colony to improve their shelters and brave the Wisconsin winter throughout the regular school session.

Older campers, looking ahead in their continued visits to Camp Gallistella, have improved their particular sites with unusual out-of-door accommodations. All of the veterans have built piers to which they have tied their boats and canoes. One of the most interesting of the improvements is a cold storage box in which one of the campers keeps the family's milk and perishable supplies cool. The cooling system is unique in that it is maintained in the ~~ground~~ ground without ice and is an accomplishment of which the whole camp is proud. It is especially valuable in taking care of the camp's daily milk and grocery supply, delivered every day by Madison merchants. The colonists have also set up a cooperative buying system through which they buy more economically such necessities of life as milk and dairy products, ice, and drycleaning services.

(more)

One of the most interesting features of the colony is the administrative machinery which the colonists annually set up to run their village for the six weeks of the summer session. The camp is divided into wards on the usual municipal government plan and aldermen are elected to a camp council. Besides the aldermen, a village president and other officers are elected. The following list of this year's officers furnishes an example of the representative population at the camp.

E. R. Holloway, Fond du Lac, Wis., first ward alderman; R. V. Bollinger, Topeka, Ind., third ward alderman; Ralph V. McCleary, Brookline, Mass., second ward alderman; Louis Slimmer, Maywood, Ill president of the village; Mrs. Ethel M. Horton, Detroit, Mich., ~~FIVE~~ fifth ward alderman; N. B. Conant, Wauwatosa, Wis., fourth ward alderman; A. L. Wilson, Struthers, O., justice of peace; Mrs. Isabelle McCleary, Brookline, Mass., village clerk; L. M. Evans, Goshen, Ind., street commissioner; O. W. Seipp, Ferguson, Mo., treasurer; Bernard Bender, Richland Center, Wis., athletic director; Irvin Anderson, Capron, Ill., conservation commissioner; Mrs. L. M. Evans, Goshen, Ind., and Mrs. N. B. Conant, members of the board of editors for the village newspaper.

The colonists have what they feel to be quite a personage at their head this year as Pres. Slimmer was a member of the football team at Illinois which Harold "Red" Grange made famous. Slimmer was one of the stalwarts who cleared the way for the "Galloping Ghost" and colonists expect he will smack administrative problems with the same success. Village officials represent more than just names as they devote time and seriousness to actually running the village as a self governing autonomy.

Camp will break with the end of the summer session in September and the village will then vanish as completely as its ~~populati~~ population of scholars who will return to regular teaching tasks throughout the country. Only the barren platforms, almost concealed by vegetation, will remain for next year's campers to build their village on, and enough veteran campers will return to/ ~~resurrect~~ ^{resurrect} Camp Gallistella's governmental system.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

SUMMER SESSION

CAMP GALLISTELLA

A Tenting Colony for Families

For the benefit of school men wishing to attend Summer Session and at the same time have their families with them, the University maintains a tenting colony on the shore of Lake Mendota, two miles from the campus. The spot is very beautiful, the boating, swimming, and fishing are excellent.

The University provides individual board platforms, two screened, electric-lighted study halls, two deep wells (tested), garbage collection, and outdoor comfort stations. Campers furnish all their own needs. There is daily mail and periodic milk and ice delivery. There is a telephone available at headquarters. Bottle gas is supplied by a local company for those who wish to purchase it. The grounds are kept as natural as possible to preserve their beauty and keep down expense. Mail address, University Tenting Colony, Marine Service, Madison, Wisconsin.

The Colony was founded in 1912 and has been very popular. Early application for space is advisable.

Children are especially fond of camp, although there is no formal program for them.

Self-government is practiced, and all cooperate in that and the social activities.

A. F. Gallistel, Director of Physical Plant Planning, who lives in camp with his family during the summer, is the administrative officer in charge.

Super markets and elaborate shopping centers are within one mile. A city bus runs within one-half mile.

Campers furnish their own transportation (very good roads), and all equipment. The main path is lighted until 10:30 p.m., but current is not available to platforms.

The University imposes the following rules:

1. Privilege of camping in the colony is restricted to men or families, that is, married couples or children with one or both parents.

2. At least one member of each family must be regularly enrolled in the Summer Session.

3. An advance fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) per platform is required, and no space will be assigned until fee is received. If written notice of cancellation is received before June 1, fee will be refunded.

4. The University reserves the right to withdraw at any time the privilege of remaining in the colony from those whose presence shall prove undesirable for any reason.

5. Campers are entirely responsible for their own business arrangements. The University assumes no responsibility for the welfare of residents of the camp, or the protection of their property, and campers may not ask for service or assistance from University employees.

6. The terrain is not suitable for house

trailers.

There are two Tent and Awning companies in Madison:

The John Gallagher Company
305 South Bedford Street

The Capital City Tent Company
2065 Helena Street

Camp Regulations

Cooperation of all residents of the group in the observance of the following regulations is absolutely necessary for the good of all.

1. All waste paper, boxes, etc. must be burned.
2. No waste material of any kind is to be thrown in the lake.
3. Bottles, cans, etc. must be deposited in barrels near roadway.
4. Garbage should be wrapped and free from cans. It must be deposited in covered cans near roadway. Do not burn garbage.
5. No trees or shrubbery are to be cut or mutilated.
6. The use of firearms is forbidden.
7. Extinguish fires when through with them.
8. Cooperate in maintaining toilets, study halls and grounds in clean, sanitary condition.
9. Quiet must be maintained after 8:00 p.m.

except on Friday and Saturday, and before 6:00 a.m. at all times.

10. All cars must be parked at top of hill.

11. Platforms are assigned to designated party for duration of the Summer Session. Garbage collection, use of Study Halls, etc., will not be available after close of session. Campers are not to rent their platforms or request accommodations for other parties. The camp is maintained solely for the use of Summer Session students.

12. Wisconsin State Law requires that non-residents obtain licenses before fishing in Wisconsin waters. Failure to do this makes one liable to heavy fine.

13. Piers are built primarily for accommodation of swimmers and boat users. No fishing will be allowed from piers when swimmers are present.

14. No domestic animals will be permitted in camp.

15. Persons with communicable disease will be quarantined under direction of the University Clinic. Report all cases of sickness at once.

16. No liquor of more than 3.2 alcoholic content is permitted on University property.

A. F. Gallistel
Director of Physical
Plant Planning

FEATURE STORY

*Housing
Tent colony*

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN NEWS SERVICE, MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

RELEASE:

Immediately

8/23/61 wb

By WALTER BUNGE

MADISON, Wis.--The University of Wisconsin Tent Colony may celebrate its 50th anniversary after all.

Earlier this year Camp Gallistella appeared doomed to extinction. Word was that the tree-studded, lakeshore haven for economy-minded summer students would close after this season. Cost of maintaining tent platforms and necessary services combined with lack of interest were blamed for the decision.

News of the verdict reached current and former campers early in the summer and soon UW officials were receiving letters urging reconsideration. Later a delegation from the colony laid arguments in favor of the campsite before UW Pres. Conrad Elvehjem.

Final upshot--the tent colony will be continued, if funds can be obtained to put it in shape and sufficient interest warrants the expenditure. Fees next year will be raised to cover costs of rejuvenating some facilities.

The colony clings to a heavily wooded bank that slopes steeply to the south shore of Lake Mendota. Concealed among maple, elm and oak trees are the tents and tent-houses of University Summer Sessions students willing to accept a little dirt and a few insect for the pleasure they get from outdoor living and studying in probably the only place of its kind on an American university campus.

The camp was started in 1912. Seven years later Mrs. Albert F. Gallistel, wife of the emeritus director of University buildings and grounds, became director of the colony. She devoted 42 years to the camp, named in honor of her and her husband who have served as patrons of the colony through the years.

Add one--tent colony

Why do students live there, some with large families? Why do they want the camp continued? Residents are eager to list reasons.

Most frequently mentioned reason is economy. A \$35 fee for the summer reserves a wooden platform on which to erect a tent, access to pure-water wells, outdoor toilets, garbage service, plenty of shade, access to a dock on Lake Mendota and a magnificent view of the evening sun setting across the lake.

Each camper has additional, individual reasons for wanting the camp to continue.

Dan Botkin, now tenting for his second year, is a graduate student in English who completed work for his master's degree this summer. "If it weren't for the tent colony I'd probably not attend summer school," he says. "For one thing, I can only study out-of-doors in summer."

He has other reasons. When studying for post-graduate degrees, tension often builds up. "Have you ever tried chopping wood to relieve tensions?" Dan asks. "It's very effective."

The Stephen Stovers and their four daughters and a son, from Milwaukee, currently hold the record for years at camp. They have been camping and studying for 10 summers. Stover earned his Ph.D. in geography and now his wife is enrolled. Economy was a prime reason Mrs. Stover listed for the camp's popularity.

"Besides," she says with relief, "it's always ten degrees cooler here than anywhere in Madison. I'll admit that living here probably scares people who are afraid of dirt. "But," she adds, "you understand why people come when you're out here on a sunny day and see the sunlight filter through the trees and glisten off ripples on the lake."

Joan Chase, whose husband Richard is a graduate student in economics and business, is from DeKalb, Ill. She was 1961 editor of "The Breezes," Camp Gallistella annual newspaper.

"The colony is a feather in the University's cap, something different than is available at other schools. Many grad students could never have continued their schooling without the camp's economy," Joan comments.

U. W. NEWS

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN NEWS SERVICE, MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

10/5/62 vh

RELEASE:

Immediately

Housing

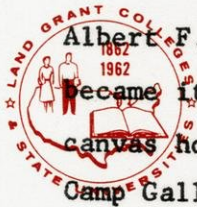
MADISON, Wis.--The half-century-old Tent Colony, summer camp home for scores of University of Wisconsin married students and their families, has been closed for good, President Fred H. Harrington reported to the UW regents Friday.

The tent settlement on the lakeshore of Mendota, west of Picnic Point, once a favorite of economy-minded nature-loving students, had only 17 residents including the resident manager this past summer, Pres. Harrington explained. Revenues from platform rentals fell short of meeting the \$1,434 in colony expenses by \$154, and continuation of the camp in the face of this deficit would still have required an expenditure of approximately \$6,000 to replace worn tent platforms and repair study halls, he said.

For the past year the colony has been administered by the UW's Division of Residence Halls. The decision to close the camp as of September, 1962, Harrington told the regents, was made upon recommendation of Newell Smith, director of Residence Halls, who indicated that "it is not financially feasible to continue it--and the facilities offered are not of the type that we feel should be subsidized with Residence Halls funds."

Lack of interest in the camp and deficit operations caused the UW to announce last year that it would close the Tent Colony, but pleas from camp alumni brought a one-year trial reprieve and the lakeside settlement was continued for the 1962 summer season.

The unique summer student camp was started in 1912. Several years later Albert F. Gallistel, UW superintendent of buildings and grounds, and Mrs. Gallistel became its patrons, lived at the camp in summers, and directed it. The cluster of canvas homes among the trees of summer Madison has long borne the official name of Camp Gallistella, honoring the long Gallistel devotions to tent colony interests.



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*draft
Letter to Stover
from Pres Houghton
Jan, 1963*

*Housing
Tent
Colony*

Dear Professor Stover:

As I indicated we would, in my letter of October 17, we have reviewed our decision on the Tent Colony. Our recheck has left us convinced that closing this facility was the only proper action we could take.

We deeply appreciate your interest and that of Mrs. Stover, Mr. and Mrs. Cross, and all the others who have sought to help us extend the Colony's life. The sort of spirit shown is what we need in support of University projects. It is difficult, in the face of such spirit, to close down this project.

There is an economic problem, we find, considerably beyond that earlier cited, and one which cannot be met with volunteer work or financed without a major investment, even if the platform problem were handled as you suggested. For many years our lakes research people have been working with the owners of land bordering Lake Mendota in a full-scale attempt to reduce the fertilization of this lake. A lake of this size, surrounded by dense habitation, suffers gradual deterioration from run-off and from such things as outhouses and garbage pits near its shores. In keeping with our own efforts, it would be necessary to install a sanitary sewer system for the Tent Colony at a major expense, since the sewage would have to be pumped uphill to connect with the Eagle Heights system, I am told.

There is a population density problem. The current population of Eagle Heights shortly will be augmented by the addition of more apartments in our own development ~~and a commercial apartment development~~ West of the Tent Colony area. To protect any semblance of natural beauty in this area, in the face of this population increase, will be difficult at best, even without the Tent Colony. Protecting the privacy of Tent Colony residents

under these new circumstances would have been impossible. A representative of my office has been informed by a member of the State Park Service that short-term camping in this area--even without the complication of the surrounding developments--would result in exceedingly heavy maintenance and service demands and an inevitable deterioration in the natural beauty.

There is the problem of husbanding our resources. In addition to the direct financial cost of the Tent Colony operation, there is the cost in administrative energies and in the utilization of land which must be reckoned. Our current intention is to keep this area in a natural state, to turn responsibility for its improvement over to a committee charged with preserving and enhancing the natural areas on the campus. As we are forced to make heavier use of our central campus land, it becomes more and more important that we preserve out-lying areas for both formal and informal study, and for recreation of our increasing student body. How long we can hold even an area like that of the Tent Colony in such a state we cannot predict. But if we are to preserve any of the "feel" of Wisconsin as a wooded, natural campus, we must make every effort to hold and expand what natural lands we can.

I am in complete agreement with your feelings on the need for low-cost residences for our graduate students. Anyone who could come up with a better suggestion than Tent Colony housing would get a sympathetic response in my office. Perhaps, though, that is a better place for us to concentrate our efforts than on the Colony which, even such vigorous supporters as you must admit, has lost its general attractiveness in recent years.

Again I want to say how much we appreciate your concern in this matter and your offer to help. I can assure you that your interest has prompted a thorough re-examination of our position and, while it has not changed our decision, has increased our understanding of your feelings toward the Tent Colony.

Sincerely,

feature story

*Housing -
Tent
Colony*

From The University of Wisconsin-Madison / University News and Publications Service, Bascom Hall, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: **Immediately**

6/15/73 bb

THOSE WERE THE DAYS--UW-MADISON TENT COLONY--OUTDOOR LIVING, STUDY, AND PEACE

MADISON--The camping rage and back-to-nature movement over the last five years is not unique to the present generation of young people.

Between 1912 and 1962, University of Wisconsin-Madison summer school students formed a tent city and combined study with the peacefulness of camp life.

The University tent colony was founded to provide low-cost housing for married men who could not afford to attend summer school and support distant families. It was located on University-owned land about two miles from campus, west of Picnic Point.

The idea began when Prof. Scott H. Goodnight, then dean of men and director of summer sessions, allowed 18 agriculture students to camp there.

About 1920, one man brought his family and the University tent colony was on its way.

The University provided screened study halls, outhouses, wells, piers, garbage collection, platforms for the tents, and sheets of house plans. For about \$50 for supplies, campers could construct light wooden frame shelters with tarp roofs and construction paper sides.

The less energetic could rent tents from Madison companies at a cost from \$7.50 to \$26 for the summer session. The University required \$5 rent in the beginning and it was raised to \$35 by 1960. Currently a student pays \$140 for a private room without food in UW Residence Halls for the summer session.

Add one--University tent colony

Originally there was no electricity, gas, water mains, sewers, telephones, or transportation. The earliest refrigerator was a hole in the ground. Most of the cooking was done by campfire and Lake Mendota was a combination bathtub and washing machine.

The colony became affectionately known as Camp Gallistella, named after the first director, Albert F. Gallistel, and his wife, Stella.

Every summer, the men formed a self-government for settling administrative problems and planning social activities like ice cream socials and Sunday night song sessions. By 1926, the self-government had evolved into a miniature city government complete with an elected mayor and aldermen.

With the exception of five years during the war when gas and tires were rationed and students were working in war plants, Gallistella grew in popularity each year. With an average of 60 families every summer, the colony covered five acres by 1953.

Then, in 1961, it was announced that Gallistella would close. An aroused public forced the University to restudy the situation and it was later decided to open the colony the following year.

But Gallistella never got back on its feet. There were only 17 residents in 1962 and platform rental revenues fell short. The colony was under the domain of Residence Halls then, and it was decided that the necessary funds could not be provided.

All that remains now is the echo of Sunday night songs for those old enough to remember how it used to sound.

TENT Colony
Housing Galistella

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or fifty summers, the tents of Camp Galistella perched on Lake Mendota's sloping banks just beyond Picnic Point. The colony opened in 1913 for

the benefit of graduate students and their families. It expanded until, at its heyday in 1938, it housed 300 people. The camp was a feature unique to the University of Wisconsin. Only in 1962 did it dwindle to a close.

Back in 1912 Professor Scott Goodnight, the summer session director, was seeking ways to increase enrollment. Taking a cue from several hardy souls who had gotten permission to camp along the lake while attending classes, Goodnight decided to offer married students "cheap and salubrious accommodations"—i.e. tents—on land of the newly-purchased Eagle Heights Farm. In the summer of 1913, eight families braved the mosquitos, lake flies and poison ivy to participate in the first tent colony.

The settlement's semi-official title became Camp Galistella in honor of Albert Galistell (longtime University physical

plant director) and his wife, Eleanor. As benign overseers, they summered for practically a half-century in their yellow cottage not far away.

Keeping a lid on this camp never was much of a problem for the Galistells. Mothers were close at hand, looking after their infants and toddlers. The men—and some of the women—passed their mornings in class at the University, two miles to the east. Afternoons might be spent reading in the study hall. This was little more than a screened shack, but it had two bare bulbs hanging from the ceiling—the only electric lights in the camp.

For kids, the colony was close to heaven, once they'd hauled the day's supply of water from the pump. The University provided a lifeguard, and in some years there were counselors to direct games and crafts. A youngster could fish and swim for hours, so baths were unheard of. In late afternoon even the hardworking students closed their books and spent the rest of the day in or on the water or around the campfire. Evenings quieted down rather early; children had to unwind, and the light of the kerosene lamps discouraged late carousing.

The colony began as a bargain and

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Tenting On The Old Camp Ground

Our tent colony was the summer home for hundreds of students.

By Ann Boyer



Photos/UW News Service

stayed that way. In 1913 a family could spend \$15 and get six weeks' use of a large tree-shaded tent platform, the pier, community pumps and privies, and the study hall. In 1960 this fee had risen to all of \$35. Throughout the 'teens and '20s the John Gallagher Co., for a small sum, provided "first-class water-proof tents, and good cots, hammocks and camp stools." By the 1930s more creative structures were appearing. Charles Center PhD '41, of nearby Shorewood, was a five-season veteran. He recalls construction methods in the late years of the Depression: "You'd scrounge used lumber—all you could get—for the framing. Then you'd attach a three-foot tier of waterproof building paper around the base, and top that with a wide strip of mosquito netting. You'd put on another band of waterproof paper and roof the whole thing with a tarpaulin. When it was done you had a 12 × 20-foot room." This sounds relatively spacious until you realize it provided summer housing for families of up to six!

Traditionally, the camp's population was primarily high school teachers, using summer after summer to hack away at master's degrees or doctorates. Lasting friendships resulted. Charles Center still keeps up with Alfred Johnson PhD '57 of Wooster, Ohio, whom he first met forty-odd years ago. Thirteen seasons did not dim Johnson's enthusiasm; in 1950 he served as mayor. (Not content with the bare bones of self-government, the residents elected, besides a mayor, a clerk, constable, sanitary commissioner, post-

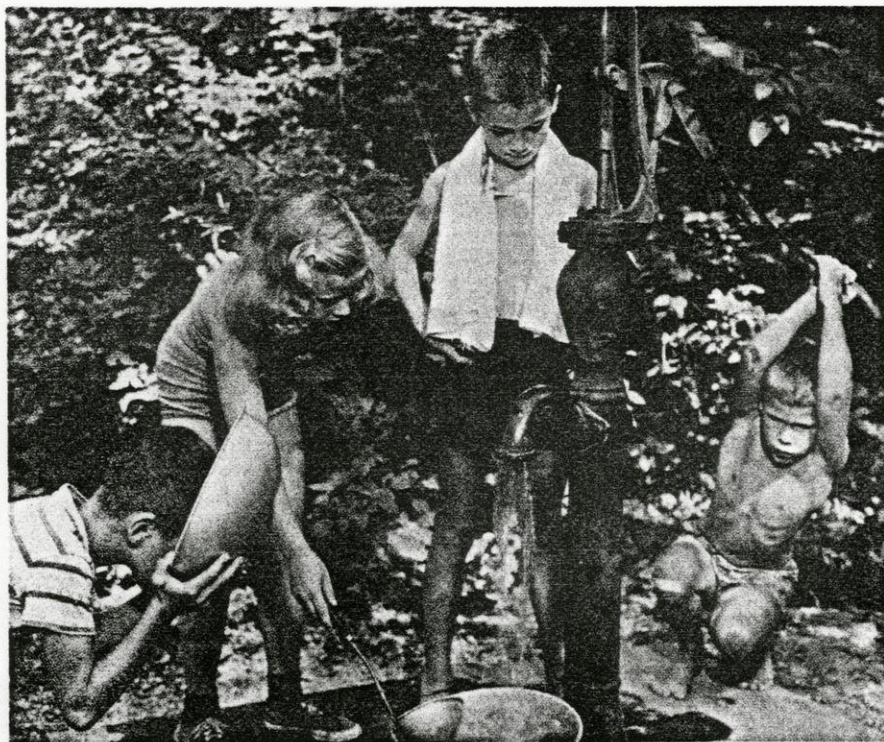
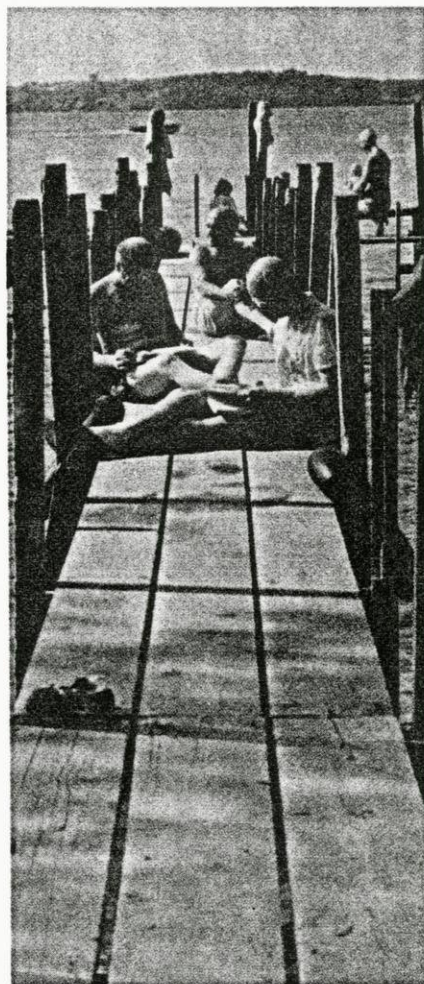
master, newspaper editors, recreation leaders, and several aldermen.) The late UW president, E.B. Fred, hailed this system as one of the few examples of pure democracy left in the world. Of course, "pure democracy" meant that a typical meeting focused on such questions as how to get the wives better organized to keep the privies clean!

To offset the tedium of hot weather study, campers filled a summer with special events. A yearly picnic and softball bash was held in the cow pasture up the hill. There was a fish fry: fillets of hundreds of perch caught earlier that day just offshore. An annual water carnival featured a queen who made her grand entrance from around the point in a canoe.

Life among the tents was primitive. A 1923 brochure warns that residents would not find the conveniences of a summer park or a Chautauqua, and they should "reckon in advance with the inconveniences incident thereto."

But there were amenities. In the early years, a launch touched at the pier several times daily and transported students to the University for 20¢. A Marine Service mail boat made regular stops. And Madison grocers delivered provisions by boat or wagon. By the '30s launches had become a memory, but the University continued to furnish postal service and a garbage pickup. Colony residents could bring cars as long as they parked in a lot some distance uphill. Only the iceman was permitted to drive right into camp.

continued on page 31



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*trands of
the electric wire
that once lighted
the study hall
are strung on
their poles,
although the study hall
is no more.
And the concrete steps,
somewhat awry,
lead us down
to the vanished pier.*