

Perquimans People

Camping on the shore of Perquimans River

By PAT MANSFIELD

The Perquimans River attracts many types of people, for varied reasons. Not only does it offer fishing, boating, swimming, and other water sports, it also provides solitude for those interested in searching their minds and souls.

One such place on the river is Camp Cale. The camp, owned and operated by the Chowan Baptist Association, is located on the river in Whitehat Community.

Open from March through October, the camp has screened cabins for the warm months and two winterized cabins for the fall and winter. It has a full kitchen — dining hall combination with an adjacent conference room.

The ten county Association is funded by its members, 58 churches and two missions, and in turn, provides for the expenses at Camp Cale.

Land for the camp was donated by the late James Cale, in memory of his father.

Harrell cooked breakfast over a camp stove, but lunch and supper

were catered by a local restaurant and picked up at meal times.

"The facilities were very primitive," said Harrell. The bathroom was an out-door privy and the shower consisted of 55 gallon barrels that they filled each morning with water and the sun shown on them to heat the water during the day.

"At first," said Harrell, "there was no money for the development of the camp, so farmers came down and brought their tractors and even one came with a bulldozer. It was like a jungle out there. One Saturday out of each month was set aside as work day and men from the ten county associational area came to help."

The first year, 1964, Harrell became the first summer camp director. The camp consisted of tarp covered hogans and a make shift kitchen, with two huge fallen trees which served as benches for the boys and girls.

Later, regular summer camps are offered for girls and boys, and are divided into age groups. The groups are: girls, grades 3 through 6, and grades 6 through 9, and boys, grades 4 through 8 and grades 3 through 7. These week-long camps cost each individual \$45 per week.

There are also day camps during the summer, in which R.A.'s, Ac-teens, Mission Friends, etc. come for the day and enjoy the camp.

Rev. Noah Tolar is the camp director and Rev. Shaw, a retired minister and former pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, is the groundskeeper.

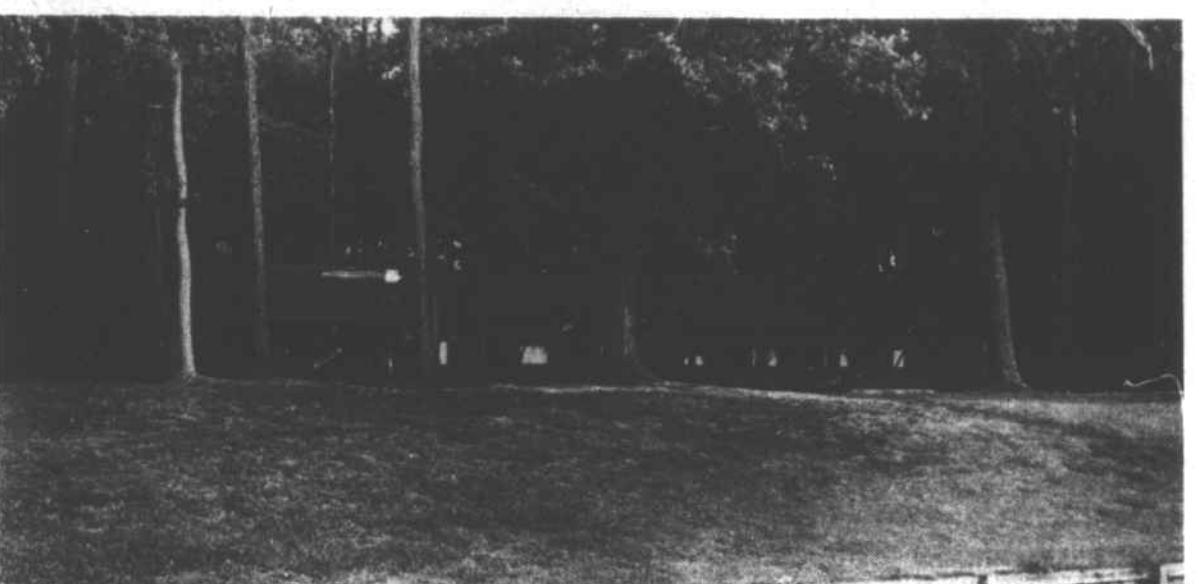
The recently added position of groundskeeper, not only requires Shaw to keep the camp clean of fallen tree limbs, but he also works as a security guard of sorts. Because of its isolated location, the camp could

be a prime target for vandalism.

The camp is open to churches

outside of the Association during March and November, at a cost of \$5

per person, per day, strictly on a first come, first served basis.



The kitchen-dining hall is centrally located and overlooks the bulkheaded waterfront. (Photo by Pat Mansfield)



One of two winterized cabins is equipped with 14 beds and two bathrooms. (Photo by Pat Mansfield)



The worship area overlooks the Perquimans River. (Photo by Pat Mansfield)

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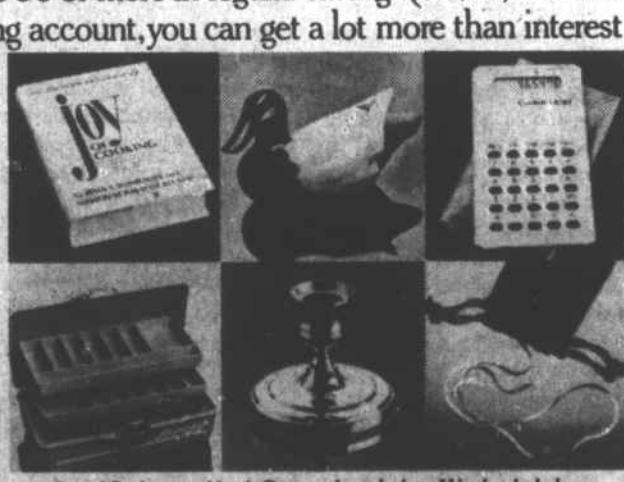
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