

Robert Prettyman

September 2013



Google earth

feet
km



4000



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Virgil Prettyman - Passions

Virgil was born 13 March 1874 in Townsend, Delaware to Reverend Cornelius Wiltbank and Emma Prettyman. Reverend Cornelius was a Methodist Minister who never served at a church for more than 3 years. He and his family moved at least 15 times between 1871 and 1916 to serve churches in Delaware and Maryland. Virgil's brother, Cornelius William (aka Billy), was born in 1872. He spent most of his career at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was a German professor for 44 years and was President from 1944 until his death in 1946. Virgil's other brother, Ovid, was born in 1876 and died at 27 years of age.

Virgil matriculated at Dickinson College graduating in 1892 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.¹ In 1890 he was first banjo in the Banjo Club. In 1895 he received a Master of Arts degree and in 1905 he received a Doctorate of Pedagogy, awarded honorably to distinguished teachers. His social fraternity was Beta Theta Pi and he was elected Phi Beta Kappa, an academic honor society. Between 1894 and 1897 he was a graduate student at Harvard and Columbia. His nickname at college was "Prit" and it stuck with him for life. Lambert Jr. and his wife Kathleen referred to him as "Daddy Prit."

Virgil's wife, Lulu, was born 21 June 1872 in Milford, Delaware to Sheriff Frank and Sallie Reedy. After 57 years of marriage, Virgil lovingly wrote, "Lulu was very popular in Delaware – attending all parties and dances including the Governor's Ball in Dover."²

On 23 March 1897, Virgil and Lulu were married. They had two sons, Lambert born in 1897 and Virgil Jr. (aka Bobs)³ born in 1909 and a daughter Mary born in 1914, who died at a young age.

Virgil had three passions in his life. Horace Mann School was Virgil's most public passion and one that never relented. In a letter written when he was in his 80s, Virgil reflected on other job offers he received during his career "... but I stayed with Horace Mann – it was my baby and still is."⁴ His passion with Horace Mann School is closely intertwined with another passion; Camp Moosilauke. Camp Moosilauke, a summer camp for boys, was founded as a continuum of Horace Mann School and was intended for Horace Mann School students. In reality, Horace Mann School and Camp Moosilauke were the same passion; namely, develop the youth in his charge to their fullest potential. Virgil's third and most precious passion was Lulu, his wife.

The following biography is about the passions in Virgil's life.

¹ The picture on the first page of this biography is most likely Virgil's senior picture at Dickinson College

² Prettyman, Virgil; Prettyman Family Biography – Letter to Lambert; transcribed document in Appendix

³ Virgil Jr. was not named very quickly so his English nanny called him "Bobby" (English for "boy"). The name was Americanized to "Bobs" and it stuck with him for the rest of his life.

⁴ Prettyman, Virgil; Prettyman Family Biography – Letter to Lambert; transcribed document in Appendix

Horace Mann School, etc.

After graduating from Dickinson College in 1892 at the youthful age of 18, Virgil took a job as a Greek and Latin Instructor at Dickinson Preparatory School. In September 1894, Columbia University hired Virgil as an "Instructor in Latin and Greek for Horace Mann School."⁵ That December President Hervey of Teachers College appointed Virgil principal of Horace Mann School, an adjunct to Teachers College, Columbia University. At the time, Horace Mann School was a co-educational institution with 150 students in a single building. The class of 1895 had only a single male so Virgil began a concerted, long-term effort to increase the representation of boys. Since he looked younger than most of the male students, he also grew a goatee and moustache. In 1898 the tuition for kindergarten was \$40 a year and High School was \$200.⁶

Virgil thought athletics were key to personal development but Horace Mann School had no athletic facilities. In fact, the basketball team was forced to play in the street. It wasn't long before Virgil received permission to use a rock-covered lot on Broadway and 120th (now Union Seminary) for use as a playground.

Virgil was a stalwart defender of Horace Mann School students and didn't hesitate to use the New York Times to help make his point or win a battle. In 1902 a Horace Mann School student, Irving Brown, was arrested and thrown into a cell for 2 hours after a "well aimed snowball dislodged (a) policeman's helmet."⁷ Virgil authored a New York Times article and summarized the event by saying "I cannot congratulate Magistrate Zeller on his perspicacity"⁸ on how the case was handled. In another incident, after 2 years of frustration dealing with the Board of Health, Virgil used the New York Times to focus attention on his plight. After a 3-day exchange consuming many inches of print, Virgil closed the disagreement by writing "I wish to express my appreciation of the prompt measures taken to investigate what seems to be a gross neglect of duty (on the part of the Board of Health)."⁹ It was another victory for the students of Horace Mann School.

By 1906 the high school students attending Horace Mann School numbered about 450. Consequentially, about 80% of recent graduates went on to college. In Virgil's paper *The Curriculum of the Horace Mann High School*¹⁰, Virgil said "Horace Mann graduates are now matriculated in Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Massachusetts of Technology, etc.." He went on to say "It is thus evident that preparation for college is the chief problem of the Horace Mann School." The rest of the paper contained Virgil's proposal of a curriculum serving a small population of students destined for a diverse set of colleges or in some cases, no college at all. His obvious quandary of satisfying such broad needs was the catalyst that eventually created a separate campus for The Horace Mann School for Boys.

Preparing students for college continued to weigh heavily on Virgil's mind. In 1907 he authored a short

⁵ Columbia University employment record

⁶ Oct 2, 1898 advertisement in the New York Daily Tribune

⁷ February 28, 1902 New York Times Article

⁸ Virgil apparently had an excellent vocabulary and a fine sense of sarcasm. Perspicacity means "Acuteness of perception, discernment, or understanding."

⁹ New York Times articles, April 25, 26 and 27, 1900

¹⁰ *Teachers College Record* Volume 7 Number 2, 1906, p. 131-135

<http://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 11600, Date Accessed: 10/28/2012 8:18:56 PM; see Appendix

paper "Vocational Studies for College Entrance Requirements"¹¹ that was included in *The Sixth Yearbook of the National Society for the Scientific Study of Education*. He argued the merits of including vocational subjects such as "manual training, drawing, music and commercial branches" as acceptable college entrance requirements. He prophetically asserted "It is only a question of time when any graduate of one of our best secondary schools will find it possible to enter any college of the land on the subjects he as studied in his secondary school."

Not only was Virgil an excellent administrator but he was also an active participant in the development of his students. The mother of a student wrote:

... Mr. Prettyman has given up every Saturday afternoon, and with several assistants, men equally interested in the welfare of his boys, has joined in their games, played basket ball, handball, and other games, arranged matches with other schools, swam and dived, and even been "ducked" without have a "grouch" on the fellow afterward in the pool, and in this way has provided healthy, happy Saturdays to a crowd of boys right up to the Easter vacation. ... It seems to me that a man who is willing to give so much of himself, freely, to the boys entrusted to his care, must be above criticism, and can be trusted to act only for the best interests of all his pupils.¹²

Virgil ran a long campaign to raise money for an athletic field and although hundreds of small donations from alumni were received, an athletic field was always out of reach. Finally, the Trustees told Virgil "find the field and we will buy it."¹³ In 1909 Alumni Field was purchased on 246th Street in the Fieldston section of the Bronx for a cost of \$20,001. Virgil got lost while looking for the property and a homeless man showed him the way for a \$1 fee to buy a quart of hard apple cider. The other \$20,000 was for the property.

On February 1, 1910 Virgil was "granted sabbatical leave first half year 1910-1911."¹⁴ Virgil, Lulu and Bobs spent the winter in Bermuda.

Shortly after the purchase of Alumni Field, Virgil thought the school was ready for a major transformation. When Dr. Russell, Dean of Teachers College, heard Virgil's idea, he declared "There would be a boys school over my dead body!"¹⁵ However, a campus was established for Horace Mann School for Boys in the Fieldston section of Bronx, New York in 1914 where the school still flourishes. Virgil attributed the implementation of his idea to a Trustee dinner party where he cornered Mr. Chambers, President of Board, Clark Williams, Treasurer and Everit Macy¹⁶ for 15 minutes and delivered "the best selling job I ever did!"¹⁷ A few weeks after the dinner party, Dean Russell called a meeting of the Horace Mann School faculty and announced that the Trustees of Teachers College decided to build a boys school at Fieldston.

¹¹ Included in Appendix

¹² May 14, 1908 New York Times article

¹³ Prettyman, Virgil; Horace Mann School Memories; transcribed document in Appendix

¹⁴ Columbia University employment records

¹⁵ Prettyman, Virgil; Horace Mann School Memories; transcribed document in Appendix

¹⁶ The Macy family was a long-time benefactor for Horace Mann School. Among other gifts, Mr. & Mrs. Everit Macy gave Horace Mann School the building at 120th Street and Broadway in Morningside Heights in 1901

¹⁷ Prettyman, Virgil; Horace Mann School Memories; transcribed document in Appendix

Virgil was elected Headmaster of Horace Mann School for Boys. When the school opened in September 1914, “... every one of the 236 boys was required to take part in some branch of athletics for two hours a day.”¹⁸ Virgil immediately started another money raising campaign for a gymnasium. Once again, hundreds gave small donations but the Trustees had to give the balance. A member of the 1902 Class of Horace Mann School, Fred F. French, designed and constructed the gymnasium today known as Prettyman Gymnasium.

After opening the new campus, Virgil wrote “I immediately organized the Fathers Organization with a view to buying the property from Teachers College and becoming independent.”¹⁹

In 1915, shortly after Horace Mann School for Boys was established, Virgil wrote:

*The educational problem before Horace Mann School for Boys can be best appreciated by comparing it with that of the co-educational school from which it grew. The old school attempted to do anything for anybody; to educate together boys and girls, able students and backward, pupils heading for college, for business, for art school, for home life, or for nothing in particular; and this, with a total enrollment of five hundred. The result of this attempt to do very many things was that no one of them could be done thoroughly. When the school was divided, those responsible for the Boys' School decided to address themselves to a single problem: that of giving the best possible preparation for college boys to intellectually and personally profit by going to college. This means not only fulfillment of college entrance requirements, but more especially preparation for college life.*²⁰

In a 1955 speech at the Horace Mann School for Boys Dedication of the Prettyman Gymnasium, Lambert said Virgil’s motivation for establishing Horace Mann School for Boys was threefold:

1. He wanted to establish a boy’s school with educational and physical facilities second to none in the city.
2. He wanted to get away from the domination of Teachers College and the dependence on another institution.²¹
3. He wanted to “get away from crying females” – Virgil was uncomfortable when girls cried on his shoulder because of difficulties with their studies.

Virgil was active in many educational associations. He was a member of the National Education Association, president of the New York Schoolmaster's Association, president Principal's Athletic Council, of the Private Schools Athletic Association of New York City, and of the Association of Colleges and Schools of the Middle States and Maryland. He also co-authored the text books *Inglis & Prettyman's First Book in Latin*, published in 1906 and *Easy First Lessons in Turkish*, published in 1934.

¹⁸ Prettyman, Virgil b) 1874 1914 New York Times article; Nov 18, 1914; published the day after Horace Mann School for Boys was dedicated.

¹⁹ Prettyman, Virgil; Prettyman Family Biography – Letter to Lambert; transcribed document in Appendix

²⁰ Prettyman, Virgil, 1915; “Ideals of The Horace Mann School For Boys”; *Teachers College Record* Volume 16 Number 1, 1915, p. 11-14; <http://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 6143, Date Accessed: 10/28/2012 5:03:33 PM; copy in Appendix

²¹ Horace Mann School for Boys obtained complete financial and administrative independence from Teachers College in 1947 one year after Teachers College closed Horace Mann School (1946).

Virgil recalled "... the sad day when I told the Horace Mann staff I was leaving. The meeting ended in hysteria – I broke down and there was not a dry eye among boys and faculty."²² In a December 19, 1919 letter from Perky to Chum, both Horace Mann School students, Perky wrote about the announcement:

*"He told us all his ideas and principles and then with tears in his eyes and a broken voice, he came to his climax. He then said that he was going to resign as principal and go into business. He then broke down completely and Mr. Nagle completed the exercises. We all went out in the hall and shook hands good-bye with him. Some of the fellows broke into tears and all the teachers were crying."*²³

The 1920 Horace Mann Manniken reported "... he was everything a Head of School should have been: a friend of the boys, a firm head master, just and above all – a man."

New York newspapers found excellent "copy" from his resignation in 1920.²⁴ In an editorial the New York Mail said:

The reason why Virgil Prettyman resigned the principalship of Horace Mann School is interesting, apart from the evident fact that one of the city's most prominent and successful educators has elected in middle life to enter a new occupation because of the meager compensation offered in the field to which he had devoted himself for a quarter of a century.

This is the way Mr. Prettyman spoke to an Evening Mail reporter the other day of the decisive reason that induced him to enter business life in an executive position in the textile industry at a time when most men regard their path in life too rigidly determined to permit any digression from it:

"It was no impulse that prompted me to resign from Horace Mann. The school and I have grown up together. To leave the boys, the grounds and association was a wrench to my heart strings. It was an assured position, a very comfortable home went with it, and subway crowds had no part in my life. That is why I resigned. It was too easy. "When a man's job is conquered, he begins to grow old. Every year devoted to something mastered is a backward step of six months."

In this interesting statement Mr. Prettyman, who we are sure will do very well in his new occupation, put into a few words the spirit that made America possible; the spirit that has led millions of pioneers since the historic voyage of the Mayflower across the ocean to help build up a new civilization.

Not long after he resigned, Virgil decided Horace Mann School also needed a swimming pool to accompany the planned gymnasium. Virgil knew just the person that could contribute the necessary funds ... Mr. Pforzheimer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. After "about 30 minutes in Pforzheimer's office he asked about what a pool would cost. I went to Fred F. French Co and got an estimate. The next day I took Pforzheimer the figure and he said OK."²⁵ Mr. Pforzheimer later gave

²² Prettyman, Virgil; Horace Mann School Memories; transcribed document in Appendix

²³ Prettyman, Virgil b) 1874 1919 Letter from Perky to Chum; it is not known how the letter ended up in Virgil's files

²⁴ Virgil was granted a "leave of absence (from Columbia University) on full salary from Jan 1 to June 30, 1920"

²⁵ Prettyman, Virgil; Horace Mann School Memories; transcribed document in Appendix

another \$15,000 when the sewer connection to the west of the property turned out to be “just a hole in the ground”²⁶ and a trench to lower Broadway was required.

Virgil’s sons Lambert and Virgil Jr. graduated from Horace Mann School in 1914 and 1927 respectively and his grandson Lambert Jr. graduated in 1944.²⁷ Lambert Sr. was in a group of 20 students that graduated high school in 3 years. Lambert Jr. boarded while at school in a dormitory with about 50 students at 5001 Delafield Avenue.

Virgil left Horace Mann School for Boys for an executive position as the Sales Manager of the Manhattan Shirt Company. Within two years he had reorganized and rebuilt that phase of the business and was ready for a new challenge. Virgil took a job working for Fred F. French who was an outstanding builder of greater New York and also a former student at Horace Mann School. Virgil was president of the Fred F. French Investment Co., president of the Fred F. French Security Company and vice-president of the parent concern, the Fred F. French Company. Virgil wrote about his role - “Fred had never been able to get capital to work with. I became the fair haired money getter and the result (was) the mushroom growth of the French Company.”²⁸ During the 7 years Virgil worked for Fred, New York City building permits totaling \$28M (\$343M in 2011 dollars) showed Fred French as the architect. This was a 5-fold increase over the prior 7 years.²⁹

In 1925, Virgil and his son Lambert supervised the building of a seventeen story apartment building for the Fred French Company that was later known as the Miami Everglades Hotel. It was here that Virgil outfoxed the Coast Guard who were blocking access to the port due to the sinking of the Prinz Valdemer in the mouth of the harbor while the railroad was embargoed. Virgil chartered the S.S. Elizabeth, an old Bush Line freighter, and ran the ship onto the mud bank only a few yards away from Biscayne Boulevard. From there, a temporary bridge to the shore was built and the cargo was loaded into trucks. At one point, he had a shift of riflemen posted to guard the hotel and ordered them to shoot anyone who interfered.³⁰

The Fred F. French Company developed an area of New York City known as Tudor City. Tudor City is an aggregate of apartment houses and other buildings now adjacent to the United Nations. It consists of 12 apartment buildings containing 3000 housing units, 600 hotel rooms, shops, and landscaped parks. At its inception in 1926, Tudor City was the largest housing project ever undertaken in mid-Manhattan. Its apartments were intended for the middle class of New York City and were designed to rent for \$500 a year per room, exclusive of baths and foyers. Nine building permits were issued between 1926 and 1929. In 2011 dollars, the estimated cost of those buildings was \$249M. Two of those nine permits showed Lambert as the owner of the building and Fred French as the architect. Both of their addresses were shown as 350 Madison Ave.³¹ It is not known when Virgil left the Fred F. French Co; however, on September 13, 1931 Fred wrote Virgil a letter saying “I am overjoyed to realize that your health has so far recovered that you are able to go back into active business.”³²

²⁶ Lambert Prettyman’s speech at the 1955 Dedication of Prettyman Gymnasium

²⁷ Virgil’s great great grandson Ryan’s finance’s grandmother, Vira Patton, was in the Horace Mann School class of 1943. Vira’s last name was changed to Patton from Shalomon.

²⁸ Prettyman, Virgil; Prettyman Family Biography – Letter to Lambert; transcribed document in Appendix

²⁹ Prettyman, Virgil b) 1897 1929 Fred French Building Permits and Prettyman, Virgil b) 1897 Building Permits Summary

³⁰ Undated newspaper article “The Beachcomber”; probably from a Ft. Lauderdale newspaper; author – Wesley W. Stout

³¹ Prettyman, Lambert b) 1897 1929 Fred French Building Permits and Prettyman, Lambert b) 1897 1930 Tudor City Buildings

³² Prettyman, Virgil b) 1874 1931 Letter from Fred French

The Roaring 20s treated Virgil well. In 1930 he was living at 1010 Fifth Ave, New York City, across the street from the New York Metropolitan Art Museum attended by 2 live-in servants.³³ The building was designed and built by Fred F. French and Fred occupied the 14-room penthouse surrounded by lavish landscaping and a handball court.

By the end of the 1920s, Lambert was also enjoying the fruits of the Roaring 20s. Lambert had seat on the New York Stock Exchange that Virgil bought for him in 1928.³⁴ Lambert and his wife Ruth lived in a nine-room apartment on Park Avenue, New York City, also attended by 2 live-in servants.³⁵ However, the Great Depression of 1929 spared no one and the entire Prettyman family converged on Lambert's Park Avenue apartment to weather the financial crisis. Some of the family's servants continued to serve the extended family in exchange for room and board. In 1931, Virgil started Prettyman and MacFarlane, Inc, a mutual fund investment company but the Great Depression snuffed out any hope of a quick rebound in the financial markets.

Virgil and Lulu lived with Lambert until 1932 when Virgil took a job working for Paul Monroe,³⁶ president of Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey. Interestingly, Virgil accepted no salary and was paid only for transportation and living costs.³⁷ Paul and Virgil were hired to steer Robert College from bankruptcy and they succeeded. Virgil wrote "Mother (Lulu) immediately fitted into the life in Istanbul and was loved by every one that knew her – it was there we formed the friendship of the Morrow family."³⁸ The Morrrows were the parents of Anne Morrow, the wife of Charles Lindbergh.³⁹ Lambert Jr.'s wife, Kathleen has a book given to ~~Ruth~~ ^{Lulu} that was authored and autographed by Anne's mother, Elizabeth Morrow, *Quatrains for My Daughter*. Virgil and Lulu returned to the States in 1934 and 1935 to visit. The 1935 visit started with a month long Mediterranean cruise. Before leaving Istanbul, Virgil was offered the presidency of Robert College but he turned it down.

After a six-month stay in Paris, Virgil and Lulu returned to the United States on April 8, 1936 and found the Great Depression had not yet relinquished its hold on their sons. Virgil used a good portion of his remaining wealth in 1937 to buy Virgil Jr. the New River Groves, an orange grove located in Davie, Florida. Virgil also bought Lambert a house at 10 Rocky Wood Rd., Manhasset, New York and settled Lambert's outstanding debts.⁴⁰ Virgil and Lulu then retired to 2522 Castilla Isle, Fort Lauderdale, Florida where they lived out their lives.

³³ 1930 Census; The building permit was issued in 1924. The estimated cost of the building was \$2.4M (\$32M in 2011 dollars)

³⁴ Prettyman, Virgil b) 1987 1955 Letter about Lambert; the seat was purchased the same year that, adjusted for inflation a seat on the stock exchanged reached an all-time high.

³⁵ 1930 Census

³⁶ Paul Monroe was associated with Teachers College, Columbia University. Lambert Jr. remembers visiting the Monroe house by Camp Moosilauke but it is unknown whether (that) Monroe and Paul Monroe are the same person.

³⁷ Information provided 31 July 2008 by Cigdem Yazicioglu, Robert College Alumni & Development Office via email.

³⁸ Prettyman, Virgil; Prettyman Family Biography – Letter to Lambert Prettyman; transcribed document in Appendix

³⁹ Lindbergh was a world famous aviator who in 1927 was the first person to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic

⁴⁰ I have a Tiffany's silver cigarette case that Lambert presented to Virgil. The inside of the box is inscribed "IOU".

Camp Moosilauke

In 1900 Louis Rouillion⁴¹ and Virgil were operating Camp Penacook, a summer camp located in North Sutton, New Hampshire. In 1902 Virgil wanted to start a summer camp of his own so in September he set out to find a suitable location with assistance of a neighbor's brother, Benton MacHaye. Touring New England in a horse and buggy,⁴² they found 200 acres situated on Upper Baker Pond in Orford, New Hampshire that they said was the "best location in New England."⁴³ In November 1902 Virgil purchased the property that is known today as Camp Moosilauke. The setting is so scenic and rural that when the Appalachian Trail was eventually created, it passed right by the camp. In the summer of 1903 Virgil built the Mess Hall, Ice House, the Boat House and dug a fresh-water well. In the spring of 1904, 7 cabins were built to house the campers arriving that very summer.⁴⁴ In the early years, campers were from Horace Mann School and spent about half their time in academic endeavors. Twenty-one campers in 1904 certainly got their money's worth as the Camp Moosilauke staff included counselors from Harvard, Columbia, Yale and a PhD from Dickinson College.

On August 9, 1904 Camp Moosilauke counselors Benton MacHaye and Knowlton Durham took 8 campers on a long hike including a summit to Mt. Washington. The trip was documented in *The Tramp of the Tattered 10*⁴⁵ and it was this excursion that marked the start of Benton's career as a distinguished conservationist. However, Benton is best known as the originator of the Appalachian Trail, an idea he presented in his 1921 article titled *An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning*. Many years later, Benton wrote a letter to a friend describing the 1904 conversation when he told Virgil about his vision of the Appalachian Trail. Virgil replied "A damn fool scheme, Mac!"⁴⁶

Camp Moosilauke was fairly progressive and in 1913 they were teaching the boys "structure and driving of automobiles."⁴⁷ They also continued to offer academic assistance as they promised instruction in "all school subjects."⁴⁸

Virgil operated Camp Moosilauke until 1916, Lambert's last year at the camp. Virgil's brother Billy ran the camp until 1930 or so when Virgil began leasing it to Horace Mann School teachers and staff. In 1938, Gordon "Moose" Miller⁴⁹ started operating Camp Moosilauke opening the adjacent girls camp, Camp Merriwood in 1949.

⁴¹ Louis Rouillion was associated with Teachers College, Columbia University

⁴² Benton MacHaye, Larry Anderson, pg 42

⁴³ Personal letter from Benton MacHaye to Virgil Prettyman; April 15, 1956

⁴⁴ The source of Virgil's capital is unknown. However, 25 years later when Virgil was working for Fred French, Virgil characterized his role as the "fair haired money getter"

⁴⁵ Authored by Knowlton "Cub" Durham; document was among MacHaye Family Papers in the Dartmouth Library; Hanover, NH

⁴⁶ Sept 5, 1932 letter from Benton MacHaye to Harvey Broome; letter among MacHaye Family Papers in the Dartmouth Library, Hanover, NH

⁴⁷ 20 March 1913, "The Christian Advocate" advertisement for Camp Moosilauke

⁴⁸ *ibid*

⁴⁹ Gordon "Moose" Miller was the Athletic Director during part of his 1937-1969 career at Horace Mann School for Boys. One of Gordon's son's, Gary, retired from Horace Mann School as the Director of Recruiting

Camp Moosilauke and Camp Merriwood were owned by the Prettyman family until 1968 when Virgil Jr.'s widow, Helen sold her 50% share to Gordon. Not too long afterward in 1972, Lambert's widow Ruth also sold her share to Gordon. The camp is still owned and operated by the Miller family. Although there is no longer a business relationship, the Miller and Prettyman families are still associated.

Virgil built a summer cottage he named Meadowside at the opposite end of the lake from the camps.⁵⁰ In 1951, Lambert Jr. and his wife Kathleen honeymooned at Meadowside. Lambert sold that property in 1954 and built another cottage closer to the lake a few hundred yards away.⁵¹ In 1983, Lambert Jr. sold that cabin to Gordon "Moose" Miller's son, Port Miller.

Seven generations of the Prettyman family have worked, played or visited Camp Moosilauke or Camp Merriwood:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Rev. Cornelius Wiltbank | - Virgil and Billy's father |
| 2. Virgil and his brother Billy | - Virgil was the founder of Camp Moosilauke |
| 3. Lambert and Virgil Jr. | - children of Virgil and Lulu |
| 4. Lambert Jr. | - son of Lambert and Ruth |
| 5. Linda, Robert and Kevin | - children of Lambert Jr. and Kathleen |
| 6. Ryan, Meghan and Kelly | - children of Robert and Pamela |
| Jack and Sam | - sons of Kevin |
| Scott, Sean, Courtney and Jessie | - children of Linda and Chester Fream |
| 7. Grant | - son of Courtney and Neal Carignan (grandson of Linda) |

⁵⁰ Corner of Upper Baker Pond Rd and Prettyman Rd, Orford, NH

⁵¹ In Virgil's Family Biography letter to Lambert, Virgil said he loved Meadowside so much that he and Lulu cried when it was sold.



Figure 7 - Picture taken at Meadowside, Prettyman Rd, Orford, NH. Camp Moosilauke is at the other end of the lake.



Lambert Prettyman Jr.

Lambert Jr. was Virgil's only grandson and was born in 1926. He was a boarder at Horace Mann School for Boys during his high school years (1940-1944) and spent the summers of his youth at Camp Moosilauke. After graduating Horace Mann, Lambert attended Columbia University for a semester before joining the Navy on Nov 3, 1944. He trained to become an Electronics Technician and gained "over seas duty" status when his ship, the USS Frontier, went a few miles off the coast of San Diego, CA. He was honorably discharged July 10, 1946. He graduated from Columbia University Jun 8, 1950 with a BS in Industrial Engineering. He continued to work for Hamilton Banknote & Engraving Co. before joining General Foods, Maxwell House Division on February 5, 1951. He left General Foods to be the Vice President of Manufacturing of Kohner Toys, a General Foods subsidiary, but returned to GF to be the Plant Manager of the Maxwell House plant in San Leandro, California. Lambert retired on March 31, 1985.

The portrait of Virgil that originally hung at Horace Mann School for boys is just above Lambert's left elbow.

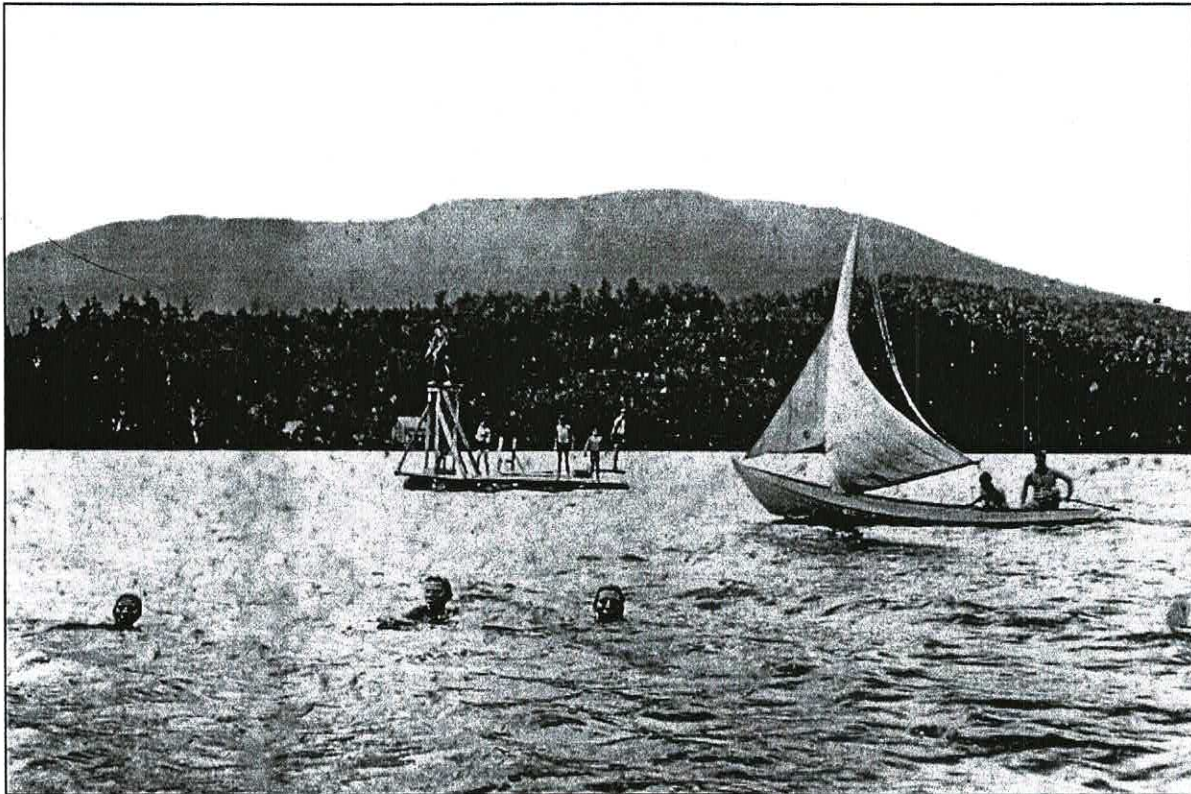


Figure 14 - Visible across the lake is a structure known as the Boat House. It was later moved to the camp's main campus probably during the winter when the lake was frozen.

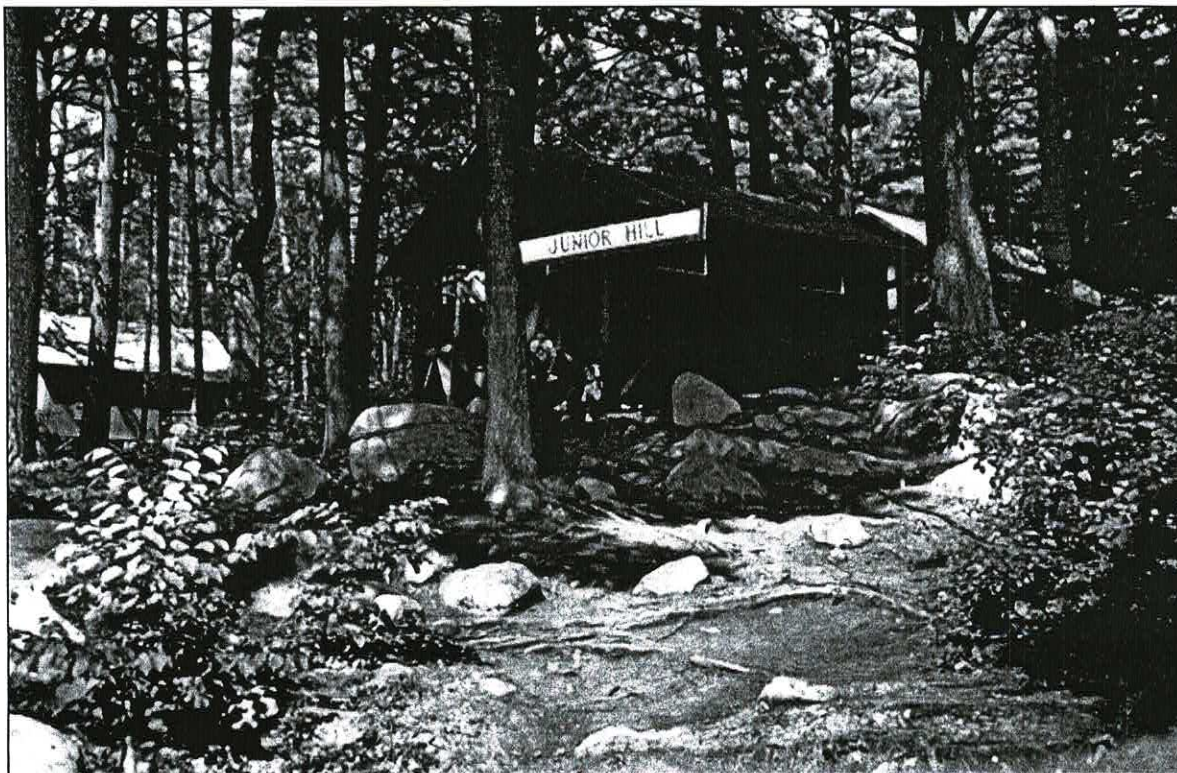
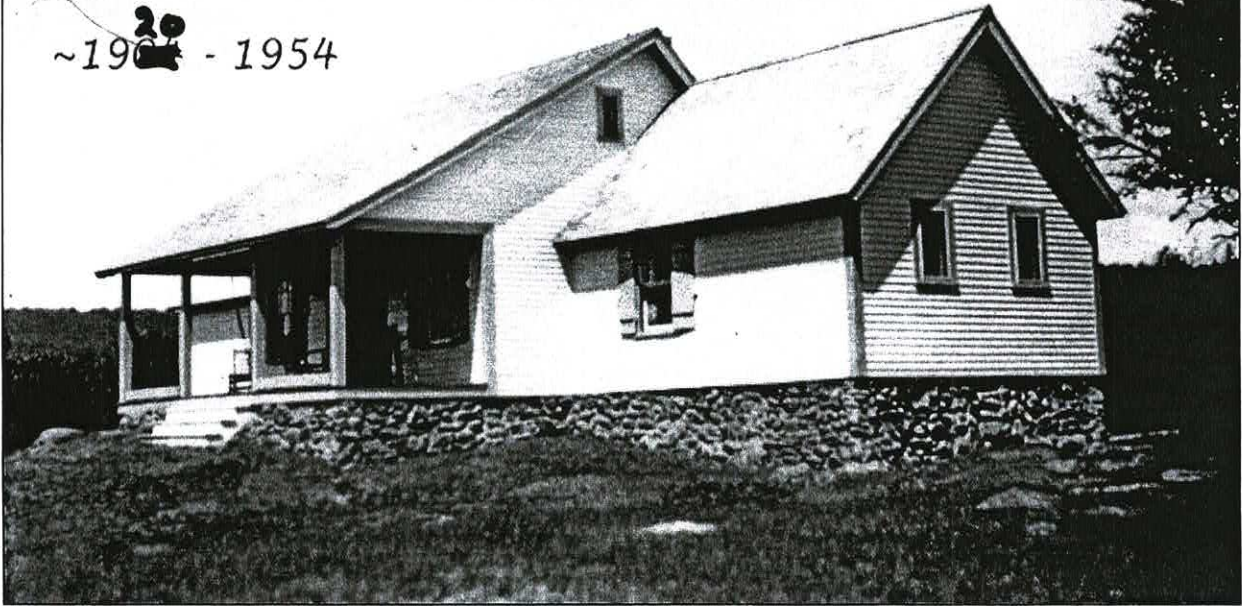


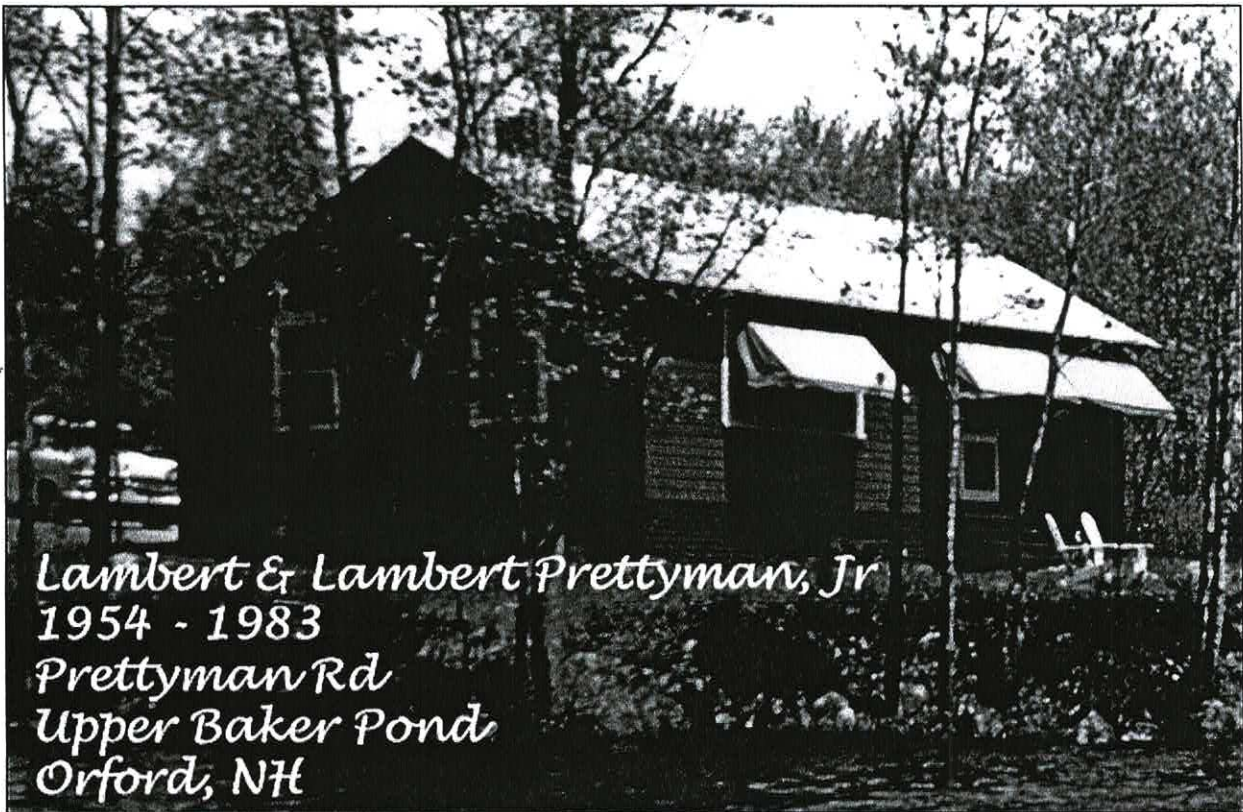
Figure 15 - One of the cabins on the way up to the Mess Hall

Virgil Prettyman
Meadowside
Prettyman Rd
Orford, NH

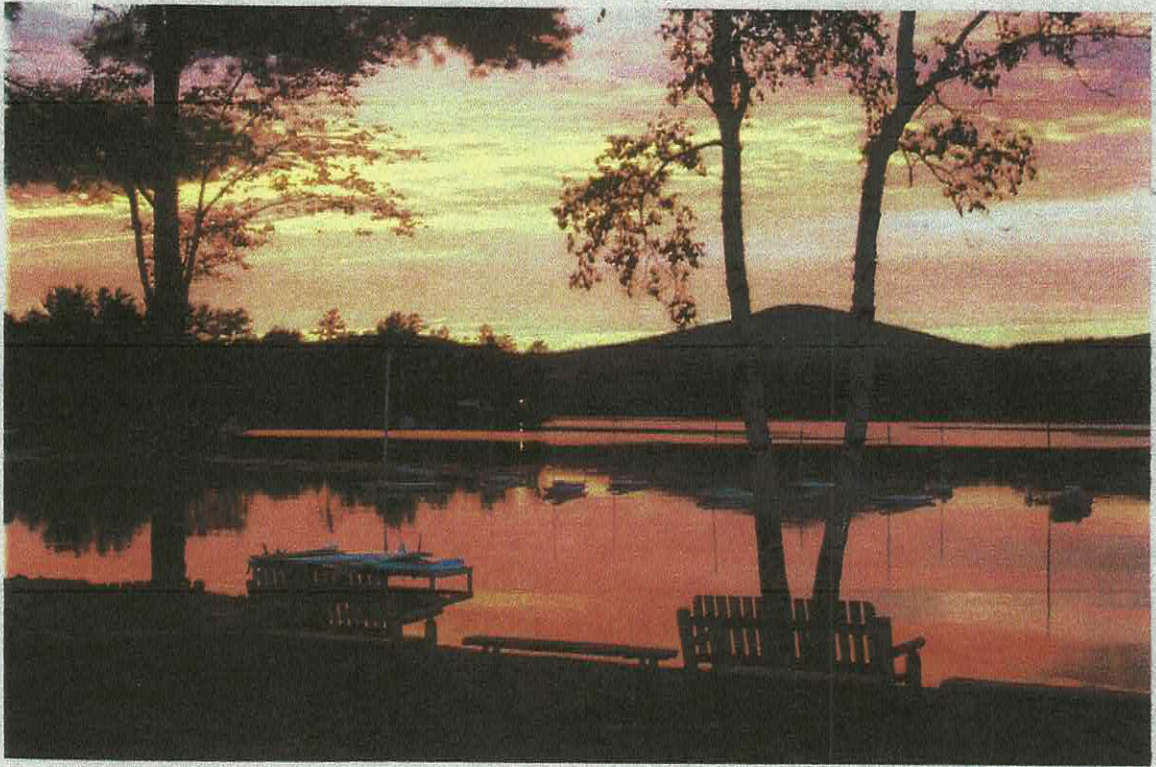
~1962 - 1954



Lambert & Lambert Prettyman, Jr
1954 - 1983
Prettyman Rd
Upper Baker Pond
Orford, NH



CAMP MOOSILAUKE AT 100!



An Abbreviated History
with Tall Tales and Scary Stories

By Porter Miller

Camp Moosilauke
35 Camp Road
Orford, NH 03777
1-800-353-4546
www.moosilauke.com
cmoosilauk@aol.com

IN THE BEGINNING

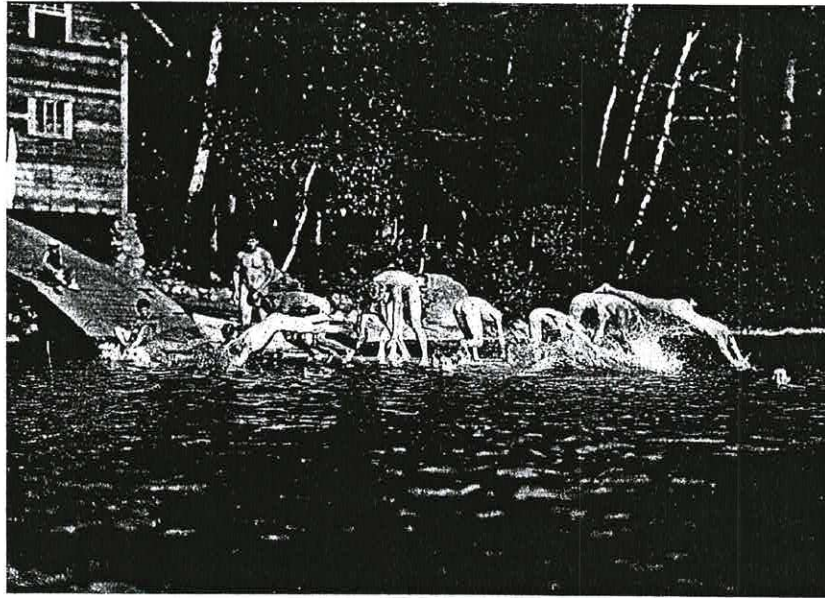
It was early on a foggy morning. The haunting wail of the loons echoed across Moosilauke Lake as 50 Moosilauke campers, barefoot and clad only with a towel wrapped around their waists, sleepily made their way to the boathouse at the Point. There was little noise except for an occasional yelp from stepping on a stone or tripping on a tree root.

The morning was warm although the sun had not yet appeared over the mountain. Many campers, no doubt, were thinking about how cold the water might be at such an ungodly hour. For all of these boys, it was a new experience, for this was 1904, the first year of Camp Moosilauke, and their first introduction to one of many traditions that would continue for years to come.

Suddenly, the first rays of the sun peeked through the pines just as the boathouse came into view. As though on cue, the group quickened its pace and shouts of “Last one in!” rippled through the crowd. Towels were dropped at water’s edge and all manner of cannonballs, dives, and jumps sent waves across the once calm surface of the lake.

Few, if any, of these Moosilauke campers could have known that the skinny dip experience would continue for more than eighty years. And in that time, this tradition would spur many stories as generation after generation enjoyed and/or deplored the experience. But, like all Moosilauke traditions, whether loved or hated, when remembered as an adult, they would always bring a smile.

It all began with the vision of a remarkable man, Virgil Prettyman, a well known New York educator who thought it made sense to have a summer escape for boys who lived in the city. It would be health promoting and a new learning experience. Staffed mainly by teachers and college professors, Moosilauke offered a wide range of athletics, water sports, overnight hikes, and academic courses for campers who ranged in age from eight to eighteen. Most arrived by train from New York and landed in the tiny town of Wentworth, New Hampshire. From there it was a horse and buckboard ride for five long miles to the remote Moosilauke campus nestled at the base of Mt. Cube and located on the shores of Upper Baker Pond. This would be home to some fifty campers in the early years and then for 150 in future years. The next eight weeks would come to be known as the Moosilauke Experience — special, magical, breath taking or, to use a more recent term, awesome!!!



The Morning Skinny Dip

An early description of the camp philosophy reads as follows :

“Camp Moosilauke offers boys an opportunity to spend their long vacation in a healthful and agreeable manner in an environment of mountains, lakes and forests. Assurance is given of growth--physical, mental, and moral.

Each boy is given three careful physical examinations by the Camp Physician and his exercise is prescribed in accordance with his physical condition. Regularity of sleep, diet, work, and play, is the basis of a wholesome physical existence.

In order that the long vacation not cause a cessation of mental activity, each boy spends his morning hours under instruction in one or more of the various occupations--nature study, shop work, school studies, scouting, boxing, wrestling, canoeing, swimming, etc. Informal talks by the Director and Masters are the basis of necessary ethical instruction.”

The events of the season were captured in a weekly “Log” which was published at the end of each summer. The events were described as “pleasant reminders of the life in the woods.” Selected entries from the Logs of 1913 and 1930 follow.

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| July 18 | The campfire was by far the best of the season. Two flash light pictures were taken by the photographer. |
| July 22 | Pemigewassett gloriously defeated in tennis. Whitmore appears to study clad only in his birthday clothes. |

- July 24 Mr. Nagle feels it is in his heart that Woman Suffering should be advocated. Box 5 leaves camp to do Moosilauke and the Franconia Range.
- July 30 A business man has been uncovered and a new way to make money brought to light. Teddy Fields bought a case of pop from Pug Chase for eight cents a bottle. Today he was selling it for five cents and declared a profit of seventy-five cents.
- August 5 The three horsemen of the New Hampshire plains started out on a 24 mile ride and were given a great send off. When they returned an hour later one horse had lost 25 pounds.
- August 20 Herzog swims the lake in thirty minutes. Immediately after supper the Vaudeville Show cast departs in hay-ricks for the Wentworth Town Hall. The feature of the evening was the marvelous sense of humor shown by our rural friends.
- August 24 The day of departure draws near. Last physical exams, finding stray socks and shirts and autographing sailor hats is the order of the day. And now here we are at the long awaited banquet- climax to all the good times Moosilauke has given us.

THE MOOSE MILLER YEARS



In 1938, Moose Miller took over as sole director of Moosilauke. Over the previous years the camp was directed by several teachers from the Horace Mann School at the invitation of Virgil Prettyman who owned the land and who would “lease” it to the directors for a nominal fee. The co-director in 1938, Al Briggs, decided to start his own camp and in a transaction resembling the sale of Manhattan, Moose “bought out” Al Briggs with a number of rowboats and a dozen beds and mattresses!

Moose’s reign began under the worst of circumstances. The hurricane of 1938 unceremoniously dropped trees and limbs on most of the cabins and the cleanup in order to open the next year was enormous. With virtually no financial resources, Moose and Janet Miller slogged through the mess and single handedly got Moosilauke in condition to open. This required the two of them to work sixteen hour days and doing everything from repairing roofs to sewing mattresses by hand. Slowly but surely, the camp began to prosper and to gain a solid reputation. The will of Moose and Janet was severely tested in the 1940s as well when the camp was hit with seven cases of Polio, one resulting in a fatality. But their honest approach to an awful situation led to a huge bond of trust between the campers’ parents and Moosilauke and the very next year enrollment actually increased!

During the 1940s and beyond, Color War was introduced, baseball became a favorite activity, soccer was inserted in the program, and an array of canoe trips was scheduled including a three-day round trip from Orford to Hanover and back with canoes carrying all the gear and supplies. In addition, deep sea fishing in Portsmouth was offered for the first time and three- and four-day trips in the White Mountains were reinstated.

Moosilauke survived WWII with its rationing, and its siphoning off of almost all counselor age young men. In 1949, Moose and Janet Miller opened Camp Merriwood for Girls which continues to operate successfully.

In the early days there was a heavier emphasis on inter-camp competition at all levels, including counselors. Camp Pemi was always the traditional rival and games were fierce, especially counselor games. In one game, our head counselor, the soon to be famous Vince Lombardi was tripped by the Pemi shortstop as Vince was heading to third. Vince went sprawling but made it safely. From the base he yelled to the shortstop, "If you do that again, I'll slit your throat!" Fortunately, the intensity levels have diminished somewhat and we retain wonderfully positive competition with Pemi and other fine camps today.

THE PORTER MILLER YEARS

The late sixties in America were turbulent times. It was especially difficult for my father to deal with long hair, beards and new views on authority. It was at that time that I took over the running of Moosilauke. Head counselors over the next thirty years included Brad Fancy, Bix Bush, Chet Slaybaugh, Jim Ownsworth and Hank Goldstone. My wife, Heide, was (and is) the business manager and our children, Ken, Sabina, Ingrid and Thomas all grew up as participants in the Moosilauke Experience. My early intention was to offer an increased emphasis on outdoor life to balance an already excellent athletic program. As such, a host of new trips were offered including the Saco, Allagash, and Rapid River canoe and rafting trips and regular treks up Washington, Moosilauke, Cube, and Smarts. In addition, the waterfront activities were upgraded to include more sail boats, kayaks, a ski boat, and the replacement of aluminum canoes with ABS trip canoes.

The change was not easy. Campers were reluctant to go on trips and it took a number of years to motivate campers to meet the trip challenges being offered. At one brief point, pre-breakfast exercises were mandatory- not a popular decision! It was also the time when speciality camps had their greatest success. Moosilauke stuck with its core business of offering a traditional camp experience, and slowly, this began to pay off.

During this time, Color War "break" became a huge production. Jumping out of fires, the use of horses in an Indian raid, and a variety of graveyard scenes certainly perked up the campers' imaginations. Perhaps one of the more memorable was the revenge ceremony for Chief Passaconaway. As the story goes, the chief was intent on coming back from the land of the great spirits to avenge the slaughter of his village by one Captain John Baker. The entire camp walked the white ape trail to the point carrying torches. When they arrived, they saw a coffin on a raised platform. As the camp gathered, a sudden loud explosion ripped through the silent, somber setting. Simultaneously, a mummy with Indian war paint leaped from the coffin and ran into the lake, followed by dozens of campers. The problem was, the mummy was supposed to run down the trail with all the campers following! It turned out to be a very wet Color War break.

The snipe hunts also became popular and infamous events. Counselors and campers alike were convinced of the existence of the pure white snipe worth anywhere from \$200-500. My father and I would search for a likely looking bird (usually a rooster or chicken) and release it in the woods as the snipe hunters neared. The snipe was not always cooperative. Once, it got loose well before the hunt and flew up into a pine tree. There was no way to get it down easily so the final and regrettable solution was to shoot it down. But the show must go on—even with a dead bird. We went ahead and laid the snipe out on the soccer field. Sure enough it was found by a camper. A crowd gathered and unfortunately the camper who found it was looked upon with some suspicion and horror for a cardinal rule was to never kill a snipe. Years later, this same camper came to me to verify the snipe was not alive when he found it. Somehow the label of snipe killer had bothered him over the years!

During the early 1980s the third generation of future Moosilauke directors and staff - Ken, Sabina, Ingrid and Bill McMahan (our future son-in-law) were learning the ropes through work as counselors, kitchen crew, waterfront director and assistant director. Consequently, the transition to present day Moosilauke has been smooth and very successful.