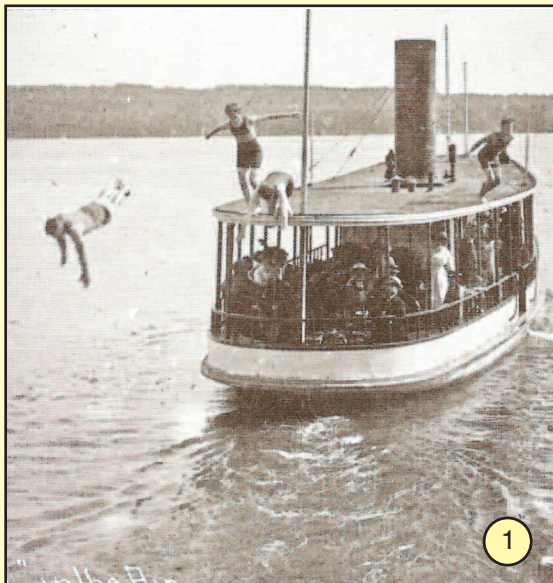


Moments in Time: Camps of Geneva Lake



This collage of images and corresponding text (sometimes edited) from Lake Geneva's past are from the book, "Images of America: Camps of Geneva Lake," by Carolyn Hope Smeltzer and Jill Westberg. These photos represent but a small sampling of the offerings of the book, which is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. Visit www.arcadiapublishing.com for more information.

Excerpts from the book's introduction

Long ago, people built homes to protect their families from the elements of nature but at the same time longed for their children to experience the wilderness, where purity, natural beauty, quietness, and simplicity abounded. As families became city dwellers, summer camps gained in popularity.

Camps held a very important place in Geneva Lake's cultural heritage and history. Beginning with Camp Collie in 1873, the camps hosted a broad range of people, both economically and ethnically. Many of the camps were begun by Christian groups who felt closer to God when they were in nature.

Camps on Geneva Lake provided a respite from polluted and congested city life (such as the atmosphere in Chicago). Children from low-income homes attended some of the camps for free. Other camps hosted children with disabilities and chronic diseases.

1. Employees of one camp enjoy their free time. (Photo courtesy of Peg Williams)
2. Swimming attire in the early 1900s was dra-

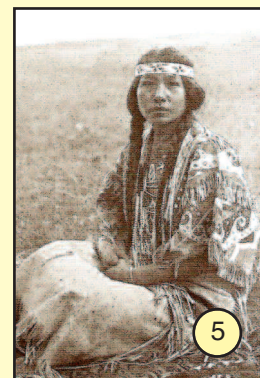
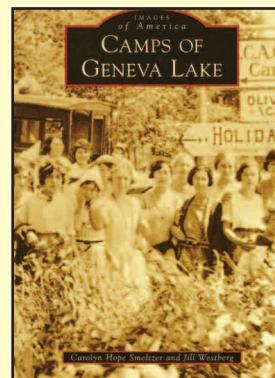
matically different than it is today. Even though swimming suits were modest, when walking to and from their tents or cottages, swimmers were expected to cover up. (Photo courtesy of Peg Williams)

3. The "Pyramid Squad" performs at a Lake Geneva summer school in 1917. (Photo courtesy of GWC Archives)

4. As noted in the introduction, preference to attending some camps was given to "delicate children." (Photo courtesy of Bill Herron)

5. Also as noted in the introduction area camps were welcoming of people from all ethnicities. In 1890, a Sioux woman, Susie Bearchief, attended a YMCA conference at the YMCA camp. (Photo courtesy of GWC Archives)

6. Campers cool off in the lake at Norman B. Barr Camp. (Photo courtesy of Ethelyn Wolf)



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