Revisiting Camp Greentop: Processing the Personal Papers of Hattie “Anne” Hill, Junior Counselor

Mark R. Walters  Site Supervisor: Mary K. Mannix

Anne collected blank postcards of scenes and places at Camp Greentop. To the left is a postcard of a cabin for 8 campers and 2 counselors and to the right is a postcard of children enjoying the pool. Most campers from 1953-1955 were from Baltimore and may not have had easy access to a swimming pool. Anne Hill has several photographs of the young girl seen standing by the swimming ladder.

Who is Anne? What is Camp Greentop?

Born on May 18, 1924, Hattie “Anne” Hill, daughter of Samuel Troy Hill and Irene Parker Hill, was orphaned at an early age and lived with her grandparents. She was a junior camp counselor at Camp Greentop near Thurmont, MD, from 1953-1955 while attending Woman’s College, University of North Carolina in Greensboro, NC. She majored in mathematics and worked for a CPA. She passed away on Apr. 13, 2012.

Opened in the summer of 1937, Camp Greentop was the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area’s second group camp. The idea behind the creation of these group camps was to make an activity that was popular with affluent society available to underprivileged young people. The Baltimore League for Crippled Children and Adults, the first organization to be certified and granted a use permit, relocated here after operating for one year at the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Area’s first group camp, Misty Mount, to allow for expanded service and increased accessibility. The League, now known at the League for People With Disabilities, continues to operate the camp each summer. It was originally a camp mainly for children with polio. Disabilities of campers today range from ADHD to physical ailments.

Artwork on the cover of the 1953 farewell banquet. Theme: Sherwood Forest. Although the program menu says that fried quail with Will Scarlet sauce, Nottingham corn, and Friar Tuck’s peas will be served, the caption below mentions the chicken being good….

Anne’s cabin has a masquerade party. Some photographs have names and other metadata on the reverse, but sometimes the information was cut off when the photo was cut to fit it into the album!

Anne Hill plays the trombone in a musical number with other counselors at the 1955 farewell banquet. Theme: Underwater Greentop. The program says that barnacles and seaweed platter with guppies are on the menu.