

1950 – 1959 – THE FIRST DECADE

After just one season of camping, the Camp Committee decided that they should add an experimental camp for Junior Campers ages 9-11. The whole EUB denomination did not think that the junior age group would respond well to a camp experience, but the Allegheny Conference didn't agree. They decided to run one week to prove that 9-11 year old children would have the same great experience as older campers. They were right and added several junior camps the next summer. In addition, the whole denomination began to add camps for this age group.

The campers in the inaugural season were asked to comment on their camping experience and make recommendations for improvement. The biggest recommendation was for a swimming pool. The pool and bath house were dedicated in 1952. The pool was 100 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 2 feet to 11 feet deep. The pool has been in continuous use as of this 2023.

The first Family Camp was held in 1952. In 1951, the caretaker's home was built. The first caretaker was Mr. Pecht who died in 1954. Cecil Wagner was hired in 1954 to be the caretaker and his wife; Ruth, was hired as Camp registrar. The individual camps were becoming so large that both wings of the dining hall were needed for dining. This meant that there was need for a new building to be used for classes and recreational activities especially in inclement weather. The building needed to house chapel services and large assembly activities. Ground was broken for The Camp Center in 1954. The building was in the shape of a cross with a large central stage and a large fireplace built in one of the transepts. A small steeple with a bell was added. The Conference Brotherhood raised money to build the structure.

In 1955, the dish storage area was enlarged by closing in the space between the two wings of the dining hall. The store was relocated in front of the dish storage and dish washing room. The dishwashing machine was donated by the Kephart Memorial Church. A dam was built across the creek to provide a pond that was used to fill the swimming pool. At that time, it was also used as a site for vesper services.

A typical day at camp was:

7:00 – Rise and Shine

8:00 = Breakfast

8:40 – Morning Devotions

9:00 – Cabin Cleanup

9:15 – 11:30 – Classes and interest Groups
12:00 – Lunch
1:15 – Rest Period
2:00 – Interest Groups, hobbies, crafts
3:00 – 4:30 – Recreation, games, swimming
4:30 – Cleanup period
5:30 – Dinner
6:45 – Vespers
7:30 – 9:30 – Evening Programs
10:30 Lights out

Overseas students and nationals were assigned to the summer camps by the Department of World Missions. This gave campers an opportunity to meet and talk with Christians from other countries. Camp Allegheny was blessed with many students, some young and some older. These students came to the USA to further their education. They stayed at camp for the summer sharing their culture and faith with the campers.

In 1955 an experimental camp for Junior High boys was held across the road from the Main Camp. This was a rustic type of camp where the campers fixed their own meals and slept in tents. This type of camping grew in popularity and the site at Horseshoe Spring added hogans, teepees, and covered wagons for sleeping. The camps were open to girls also.

In 1958, the flag pole was installed and dedicated in “loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Buhan” by their daughters. The Conference bought the land for Camp Allegheny from the Buhan’s.

Cabin 12, a three season cabin was built by a work camp, the dean was Rev. Donald N. Ciampa. This cabin has now become the Nature Center.

The Camp Schedule for this decade was:

Junior Age – 6 weeks
Junior High – 4 weeks
Senior High – 2 weeks
Family Camp – 1 week
Post High – 1 week (Work Camp)
Men’s Retreat 1 weekend

