

THE BEGINNING – 1944 TO 1948

In 1944, the Allegheny Conference of the United Brethren in Christ Church purchased the Robert Buhan farm located on Route 30 about 4 miles east of Stoystown, PA. The farm was 106.75 acres located on the north and south sides of Route 30. It was purchased for \$4000. A contest was held to find a name for the camp. The winning name was submitted by Charlotte Wiemer of Somerset, PA.

The development plan to change the land from a farm to a camp started with the renovation of the grounds. The plan also included repairing the barn, providing water and sewage systems, erection of a kitchen and dining hall, worship/meeting center, housing for campers and staff, and administration/office space. All of this needed to be accomplished based on being able to obtain materials needed during WWII shortages.

The Camping Committee asked the Sunday Schools of the Conference to contribute \$1.00/member to help fund the development of the camp.

Volunteer work camps were started in June 1945 and continued all summer through 1946, 1947, and 1949. Work groups came from all the churches in the Conference. Each volunteer was asked to bring with him 10 red and 10 blue points from their ration books for the week. People contributed beds, tables and chairs, dishes, and cooking utensils to the farmhouse for the work groups. Others contributed, a tractor and other work tools.

By the fall of 1947, the first building was erected. It was shaped like a letter V. The kitchen was the bottom of the V, one wing was the dining hall, and the other wing was the worship/assembly meeting area. Today this building is called Acorn and houses indoor games for the campers. By the fall of the year 10 cabins had been erected from surplus Army barracks. There was an appeal to churches and Conference organization to sponsor a cabin for \$750.

Dedication Day was held on August 8, 1948. It was attended by over 5000 people. The Sunday Schools donating special offerings that day. This donation by Sunday Schools continued for many years at the Anniversary Day Celebration.

The work continued throughout the fall of 1948 and winter and spring of 1949 in order to make it possible to hold the first camping season in the summer of 1949.