

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



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www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae

A Former Kitchen Boy Pays Tribute

"60 Miles at 60 Years" hike for the Judy Mac Memorial Scholarship Fund

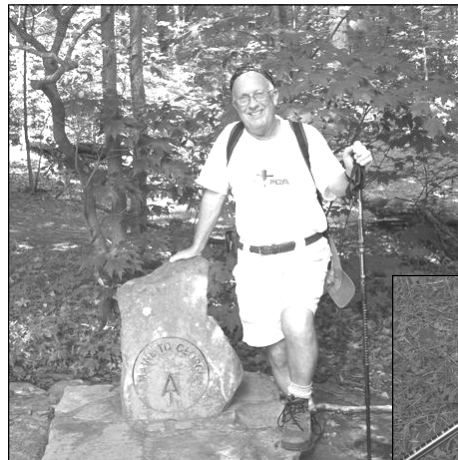
by Eddie Cole aka "The Original Louisiana Mountain Boy" (Kitchen Boy '63-'69)

As a 16-year-old kitchen boy at Crestridge in the early '60s, I learned some valuable life lessons that have served me well: to experience God in other people, the staff and campers at camp; to see God in the beauty of nature as I worked in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains; and to see God in the beautiful music that has always been an integral part of camp.

One of the best things about washing dishes in the camp kitchen was its proximity to the Chapel. We had almost a front-row seat to the numerous choir rehearsals that were part of each day. Orchestrating much of that beautiful music was Judy MacMillan, the Music Director. She directed everything tirelessly with endless enthusiasm and yet always had a warm smile and a kind word for

those of us who labored in a different venue.

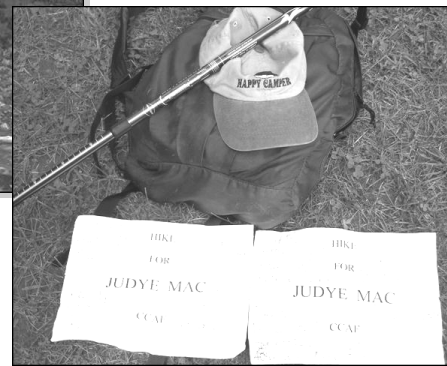
Over the years, Judy and I occasionally corresponded, and I enjoyed seeing her at the



alumnae reunions. When I learned of her tragic death to ovarian cancer last summer and of the Crestridge alumnae association's desire to remember her in a special way, I tried to think of some unique way that I could pay tribute to her as well. Thus was born the "60 miles at 60 years hike

for Judy Mac," and I was excited to be able to partner with CCAF in this undertaking. The idea was to solicit pledges on the mileage I could attain with the proceeds to go to an endowed scholarship in Judy Mac's memory.

The problem



was, I had never hiked more than 35 miles on the Appalachian Trail, and that was when I was young and had two good knees. Nevertheless, on June 10 I departed from

Unicoi Gap in north Georgia, heading south on the Appalachian Trail. My ultimate destination was the Visitor Center at Amicalola Falls State Park, a mere 59.3 miles away. I planned to make up the additional seven-tenths of a mile on some blue-blazed trails along the way.

As I took off to hike 14 miles on my first day, I was humming *Climb Every Mountain*. By the time I staggered into Hogpen Gap 10 hours later, I was humming *Nearer My God To Thee*. Along the way, I met interesting people, Scout troops, church groups, fathers and children and a lot of individuals trying to "find themselves" on the trail. All had a kind word and

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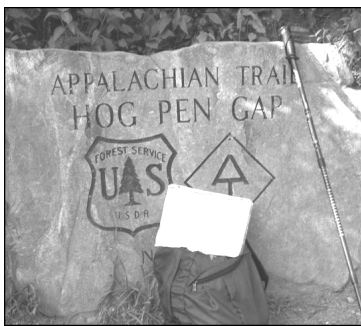
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encouraged me on my journey. I endured a record-setting heat wave, my allergies, and more uphill climbs than the Himalayas. I also saw a bear, a snake, a deer, numerous squirrels, centipedes, and butterflies. I began each day with a prayer for Crestridge staff and campers past, present, and future. Thinking about them and the sustaining prayers of many kept me going when I didn't think I could make one more step uphill.

Each day for my devotional, I meditated on Psalms 121:1-2 and Isaiah 40:31. They were an encouragement and comfort during my trip. And as I started, for inspiration, I thought about Judy Mac and all the lives she touched while she was at camp. At the end of each day, when my legs were aching and my lungs were burning, I thought about her courageous battle with cancer and used that to inspire me

to "keep on keeping on." As I neared the end of my journey and the goal was in sight, and the trail



was more downhill than uphill, I thought of Judy Mac in heaven, free from pain and suffering and probably directing a "Heavenly Musical." My spirits lifted and my pace quickened as I arrived seven days later at the Amicalola Visitor Center.

I started out to try to honor another person, but along the way, in places like Blood Mountain and Three Forks, I was reminded that the same God I first met in the mountains of Ridgecrest more

than 40 years ago still loves me and cares for me today. I'm excited to honor a person who, like so many before her, has touched lives in a way she could never know, and I'm excited to partner with the Crestridge Alumnae and Friends organization to ensure that countless other young women will have an opportunity to encounter God in a brand new way as they discover the joys of Camp Crest-ridge anew.

Editor's note: To date, pledges and donations received for Eddie's hike total \$2,915. Added to the \$2,310 given previously toward an endowed scholarship in Judy MacMillan's name, we are now more than halfway toward the \$10,000 needed. If you'd like to help grow this fund, please send your donation to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington, KY 40522-2038 and clearly mark it "Judy Mac endowed scholarship."

Bookmark our new website!

If you haven't given us your e-mail address, you probably don't know that CCAF has been working with a professional web designer to create a snazzy new website. On this site, we will be able to keep the alumnae directory up to date daily. Be sure to visit us at <http://ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae>. The old website will soon be defunct, so be sure to bookmark this one.

To find out your login and password, please e-mail alumnae@windstream.net, and we'll let you know. The directory can be accessed only by logging in, so don't delay! You'll love being able to locate your friends. *Hint:* On the "all records" part, you can easily search for anyone by using your computer's search and find function (CTRL + F on PCs).

We now have the capability of e-mailing everyone on our directory, so if we don't have your e-mail address, be sure to let us know. (We promise to use this privilege judiciously.) Also, we'd like to add the years you attended camp to the directory, so please let us know those, and whether you were a camper, JET, or staffer, so let us know that, too.

Many thanks to Ramey Driggers Schutz, who coordinated this months-long project.

<http://ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae>

The hive is buzzin'

Have you been to Camp Crestridge for Girls lately? There are many things taking place that you need to know about.

Last year, Ridgecrest Summer Camps hired Sharon Aylestock full-time to work for Crestridge. Sharon's responsibilities include recruiting campers, hiring staff and assisting the summer director, Marva Rawlings, with the daily activities of camp. Crestridge is so fortunate to have a young lady who is so devoted to Christ and Crestridge!

The board learned at Maintain the Memories that LifeWay is preparing to invest a large amount of money in Crestridge in the coming months to help reduce the camper waiting lists. See the article below for details. Things are really buzzin' on the mountain.

The alumnae board is excited about the summer of 2009, Crestridge's 55th summer. Many people have felt the need to add more space for the camp store and museum. The board is starting a campaign for a new building (see below). It is our desire to see a new Bee Hive for the campers to enjoy for many years.

As you can see, things have never been busier, brighter or *better* for Crestridge! We hope you'll share in the excitement of the coming year and renew your love of the mountains and Camp Crestridge for Girls.

Project for the 55th Reunion

The Alumnae board is in the process of collecting information about building a new camp store/museum/storage area. It is our vision to raise enough money to build a new building where the existing store now stands. This two-story, multi-purpose building would house the store, museum, refreshment sales, mail-room and a basement area for storage for athletic equipment. It would also provide two much-needed rest-rooms.

We have talked with several builders/contractors about the project. The lowest amount quoted is about \$150,000 to \$160,000, based on a building of about 1,000 square feet. More inquiries are being made before plans are finalized. We are praying that this will be a project that will help with the growth of Crestridge.

LifeWay projects in the works

LifeWay Christian Resources (an arm of the Southern Baptist Convention that is the parent organization for the camps) has noticed the success of Crestridge in the past summers, and plans to do a lot of up-grading during the off-season, to be completed before camp starts in 2009. These improvements will allow more campers to be accommodated and help eliminate long waiting lists.

The improvements will be most obvious in the cabins. Five new cabins will be added, one per village, and all the old ones are to be completely renovated from the floors up. They will also be redesigned with bathrooms in the back. Cheyenne and Choctaw cabins will be enlarged so that all cabins will be the same size and have the same layout.

We know what you're thinking: *What happens to all the signatures on the cabin walls???* Well, they can't be saved, but camp is having a photographer capture all of the names. Photos will be available for a fee. Also, there might be a time when people can come to camp and retrieve parts of the cabins. That time will be announced soon, probably by e-mail, so if your e-mail address on our website directory isn't current, be sure to let us know at calumnae@windstream.net, so you won't be left out.

Other upgrades that LifeWay is planning are: expanding the dining hall to accommodate more people and building a new administrative building in the area behind the Bear Trap. LifeWay will be offering opportunities for a family, or group of families, to sponsor a cabin through a one-time donation. In return for their sponsorship, LifeWay will place a large plaque of recognition at the entrance to their cabin. The donations will be used to help us offset the costs of the renovations. Details will be available soon.

Order some memories from the CCAF online store

Need a gift for someone who loves Crestridge? Or just a treat for yourself? Be sure to check out the “store” option on our *new* website, www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae, and see what one-of-a-kind items you can order that will also help support CCAF.

We have a new **ornament**, No. 2 in the series, that would make a terrific Christmas gift. We had planned to introduce it at the 2009 reunion, but it’s so good we just couldn’t wait. It depicts the pavilion and campfire area. Also, our **sterling silver charms**, **campfire mugs** and brown **“camp is good” T-shirts** were really popular sellers at session closings this past summer. They’re long-sleeved in adult sizes, short-sleeved for kids. We also have the charms in 14K gold! And don’t forget the **framable art**: Camp Friends, High Ideals and the Chapel print. There are also some great stocking stuffers such as **clutch pins**, **carabiners**, **Croc charms**, **zipper pulls** and **refrigerator magnet frames**. And for your younger children or grandchildren, there are adorable **Future Crestridger and Future Ridgecrest T-shirts**. But don’t delay: We have plenty of everything in stock now and we guarantee delivery of in-stock merchandise within two weeks.

Here’s what former camper Marty Wynne Patterson wrote about one item she purchased:

We move a lot. Unless you count things like sofas, I have no clutter. I have a shoe box of old letters from my sweet baboo when he was in Vietnam, my children’s baby shoes, 25 books from which I will not be parted and a wooden box in my top dresser drawer that holds my old key chains. In their small ways, they tell about my life: Vanderbilt. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. University of Alaska Anchorage. Georgetown University. The American Cathedral of Paris. Cairo Museum: Tutankhamen Exhibition. Salzburg. Roma. The White House: Washington D.C., 1998. My children have visions of cashing them in on *Antiques Road Show*. There’s a new retiree in the box now. It was from Tiffany’s in New York and had some fancy engraving on it about a recent accomplishment. I loved it, but it’s retired now because I have a new key chain.

It is chartreuse, a rounded triangle. It has a black cloth strap with a compass affixed. Then there is a plain metal ring for my keys. No King Tut. No cathedral. No culture or power or tourist destination. Just an oddly-colored carabiner, a mountaineering tool that has “Crestridge” engraved on it, a waffley compass, and my keys. Why would I retire a beauty from Tiffany’s for this?

My new key chain is more than a reminder of camp. It is a Crestridge voice speaking to me as it did all through my past, speaking to me still. You have the tools to climb any mountain you chose. Through grace, you have been given the skills to find your way. Your connections are strong. You are the key for yourself and for others.

Poor old Tiffany’s never had a chance.

Indulge yourself or plan ahead for Christmas! Order your merchandise at
<http://ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae>

2008 scholarship goal reached

The Scholarship Committee is very happy to report that Camp Crestridge for Girls continues to be blessed by the helping hand of our scholarships. Thanks to your generosity, \$12,000 has again been given to help young ladies fulfill their dreams of attending this wonderful camp.

To further our goal of assisting as many girls as possible, the board has set a guideline for awarding scholarships: Only first-time applicants are considered for full two-week scholarships; repeat campers are considered for partial scholarships based on need. We like to encourage repeating campers to save as much as possible for the next summer. Our purpose is to give as many girls as possible a chance to enjoy the wonderful life of camp, and the joy of meeting God in those beautiful mountains.



THE GRAPEVINE



by Anja Aloia Cleveland

Jan Silvius, Queen

Crester 1960 and staffer 1961-63, has been married for 42 years and has three grown sons who all attended Camp Ridgecrest. A Christian author and speaker, Jan is currently speaking with Women of Faith. This summer, she delighted in watching her granddaughter, Rachel, attend Crestridge for the first time.

Please remember **Teri Martin**, camper 1975-1982, in your prayers as she serves in the U.S. Army, currently deployed to Iraq. She is a physician assistant and holds the rank of captain.

Leslie Hardwick Cragwall has taken on the life of an "Army wife." Her husband, Jesse, is based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., and is deployed to Iraq. Let's also remember them in our prayers.

Niki Crook DeLoach Martin is remarried to a local minister. They are working toward opening a rehab that specializes in addiction and helping victims of domestic

violence. Niki is a mom of five.

Maran Milling Grace, camper 1984-91 and staffer 1992-96, is married to Wade and has one daughter, Sarah Catherine. She has two nephews who attended Camp Ridgecrest last summer; they were fourth-generation Ridgecresters.

Where, oh where, is **Bobbie Stewart**? Bobbie worked with the horses in the 1960s and taught school at a college. **Mary Edwards** was in charge of the stables then and taught at Meredith College. If you know the whereabouts of either of them, please share it with us so we can let **Libby Cannon Daniel** reunite with her camp friends.

Sara June Davis Osborne and family left for Cameroon, West Africa, on August 6th to serve as missionaries at the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary. Their website, www.sendtheosbornes.com, gives more details.

Former staffer Beth

White is busy sending care packages to soldiers overseas who have military K-9s working with them. These dogs, mostly German shepherds, sniff out roadside bombs and alert their handlers. They save soldiers' lives on a daily basis. If you are interested in helping out by sending donations for these packages, please contact Beth at 828-674-5110 or piedrasundance@hotmail.com. Also check out Beth's involvement with this program at www.blueridgenow.com/article/20080719/NEWS/807190310/1018/FEATURES/NEWS/Operation_K_9.

Please take a moment to browse our new website. <http://ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae>, and send us an e-mail to alumnae@windstream.net with updated information on you and your family. We'd love to share about you in our next newsletter.

Save the date!

The 55th summer reunion is set for
July 3-4, 2009!

Do you remember the sound of the creek beside Chip 8? How about the hostess bell? What about the crickets and bullfrogs as night fell? Nostalgia abounds! Crestridge is celebrating its 55th summer in 2009, and we want you to come experience those joys all over again. We will gather the weekend of July 3-4 (Friday evening through campfire on Saturday), and the celebration will include an auction led by Susan Cheatham (can you hear her shushing cabins during rest hour?), lots of singing (in both the chapel and the dining hall!), many reunions of old friends (remember that feeling on opening day?), and a chance to make new memories at a place we all love so much. Mark your calendars now; your name is echoing through those hills. Will you come answer the call? We'll be waiting for you in the Bear Trap ...



Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends

P.O. Box 22038

Lexington, KY 40522-2038



With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.