

Thanks for the memories!



Hagan Newsletter

October / 2017



Here is a sneak peek from our September 12-14, 2017 reunion. Just click on the arrow above and enjoy this 5-minute slide show from our recent time together. Stay tuned for a complete Photo Gallery coming in early November. (The music is "Building the Barn," from the film *Witness*. You might remember that the community came together to re-build a neighbor's barn that had been destroyed. They worked cooperatively and with love.)

How to Order *Folds to the Door*

Hagan campers celebrated the publication of Alice Royer Roy's wonderful new book, *Folds To The Door*, at the September 12-14, 2017 reunion.

If you would like to purchase a copy of this highly interesting and engaging book, please contact Sandy Sofranko O'Brien (Hagan 1957-1966) by email or phone:

aobrien610@aol.com or 610.613.8447. Sandy is helping Alice with the book distribution. The cost of the book is \$20 plus shipping/handling.



Alice Royer Roy (Hagan 1945-1956) signing her book at the 2017 reunion



The Camp Hagan Model Cabin

Mary Goldsmith Westhuis (Hagan 1960-1970; Miller Hagan 1971-1974) transferred the Camp Hagan Model Cabin to its permanent home at the Bushkill-Lehman Historical Society (BHS) on September 15, 2017.

Connie Wiegmann Robinson Hagan 1959-63, 1966-70; Miller-Hagan 1971-1972) and David Robinson were on hand at the reunion to talk about the experience of building this amazing structure.

There is a section in one of the rooms at BHS that will be devoted to Hagan. If you are in the area, please drop by and take a look. The Hagan area is a work in progress, and we will be adding things over the next year.

Directions to the Bushkill Historical Society, 2879 Milford Road, Bushkill, PA

Go North on 209 to Bushkill. Go left at the light onto Bushkill Falls Road. Take a right onto Milford Road. BHS is the first building on the left. (Milford Road makes a T with 209. There is a small group of buildings on 209 on the left at the T.)

Through our Model Cabin T-Shirt sale at the reunion, we raised \$135 to help support BHS. (\$5 of the \$20 cost for the t-shirt went to BHS)

Hagan 1958–1967

Over the past two years, a group of us have had the distinct honor and pleasure of interviewing some of our Hagan Elders. One of my favorite authors, Kent Nerburn, says, "It takes a person of great heart to see the wisdom the elders have to offer, and so serve them out of gratitude for the life they have passed to us."



The 16-minute film, "The Legacy of Camp Hagan," is a tribute to these wonderful Hagan trail blazers.

[Click here to view and download the film, "The Legacy of Camp Hagan"](#)

Or, you can also watch the film by clicking on the arrow below.



Hagan Bingo at the Reunion

Susan Davit Maxwell

Hagan 1958–1969

You all remember how to play Bingo. Well, because this was Hagan Bingo we did things just a little differently. We created a Bingo card with 25 spaces and the center one was the free spot with a picture of campfire stew on it. After all we all remember campfire stew. The object of the game was to get to know each other since we were from a few different generations of Hags. You needed 2 signatures for each box and could only sign 2 boxes. Many of us had a good time running around asking



questions like: Did you smoke at camp? Were you in Junior 1? The winner was Ruth Clegg Whitsel and the prize was a miniature replica of a Hagan bunk bed and trunk.



The boxes ranged from ordinary to silly. Let's see how many of those you might have been able to sign:

1. Was a Department Head (DP)
2. Was in Junior 1
3. Was in Senior 8
4. Did a Play Day at another camp
5. Walked to Bushkill
6. Went on an overnight hike
7. Attended CH for at least 10 years
8. Camper or Counselor pre 1950
9. Camper or Counselor post 1950
10. Had a brother at Miller
11. Earned more than two ties
12. Was in a play at Camp
13. Skinny-dipped in the Delaware
14. Was Captian of a "Special Day" team
15. Smoked a cigarette at camp
16. Became at least a yellow cap
17. Spent at least 1 night in the Pill Box
18. Can build a log cabin or teepee fire
19. Got into the "Penthouse"
20. Drank your first beer at camp
21. Used diaper pins on uniform shorts
22. Ate lunch at "The Rock"
23. Was in an Honor Cabin
24. Invited to Honor Council or awarded Citizenship

We found out some things about Hags that we thought we knew well! Some of us even needed reminders about some of the things we did at camp. Many of us admitted to smoking a cigarette and having our first beer either at camp or at Port Jervis, NY while at Hagan. Some of us even admitted getting into the "Penthouse" where the kitchen boys lived for the summer. An amazing number of us, especially our "elders" did admit to skinny dipping in the Delaware.



THANK YOU BOB WILSON

Hey there, Bobby Wilson, this is a million dollar shout-out to you for your extraordinarily generous donation of \$100 for our Hagan cocktail hour. We thought about you, told stories about you, and toasted you.

A Hagan t-shirt is on its way to you, sent with lots of Hagan love.!



Campers' Reflections About the September 12-14, 2017 Hagan Reunion

A powerful experience to say the least...profound. The reunion touched the very heart of Hagan, its essence, its true spirit. Hard to explain what I mean. Special note: the addition of the Elders to the guest list was pure genius. Their presence was an amazing gift. Such an inspiring, lovely, delightful group of women. Kudos to the entire Host Committee. Well done, ladies. Mission accomplished. Heartfelt thanks and more.

It was better than I expected, and I expected a lot from Hagan Hags. What I liked to do best, when there was someone I really did not know, I would look at when they were at Hagan and then I would think if I was a camper, counselor, or Department Head. That would set the scene so we could talk.

Kudos to everyone who contributed to the planning and execution of Hagan 80th birthday celebration. Very evident it was a labor of love by all. The reunion stirred up some new insights about myself and the girl I was (and still am) as a Hagan camper.

Thank you for all the work put into making it such a special time. I don't think it is necessary to have so many activities – at least for me. The cabin replica was a work of art! It is always a treat to spend time with old friends and mentors.

While I always knew how special Hagan was to my contemporaries, because we went through similar experiences, it was especially rewarding to share the reunion and talk with "the elders." It reinforced my knowing that Hagan was a special place for generations of women!

Extremely well planned, covered a lot of areas, fun. Just as actually attending Hagan was a "let the rest of the world go by" experience, so was the reunion. I got the feeling that most attendees are involved in all kinds of useful, serious, real world activities, but the reunion was so focused on common experiences and memories that we all got a break from bad news.

Loved, loved, loved just being all together :-)

Wonderful women! You were all so generous with the gifts; kind with your attention; fun to be with; happy to sing with, and, of course, I am in love with the river, and THERE it was. Peace I Ask of Thee oh river was brand new to me. The words and the melody were inspiring. Thank you for introducing it to me. I will not forget hearing all of you who knew the words singing it with our wonderful river at your backs. Paddling on the river once again after all these years was such a joy. The model cabin was so lovely, so precise and so perfect. I am so glad that it and the books (Folds To the Door and Let the Rafters Ring) will be in a Historical Society to tell people who we were and how we lived. I had two favorite counselors in 1950 and 1952, Midge Wilkinson VanSant and Inge Rau Coleman, who was also my CIT head. How great it was to see them, and enjoy them as peers all these years later. It surprises me that these nurturing role models were only a few years older than I was when I was a camper. I love the book, and I am so proud of Alice for pouring herself into it for so long. Thank you so much for the generosity and love you poured into this event.

It brought back so many fantastic memories! I especially loved the campfire and the prayer flags. It was so peaceful!

Emotionally spectacular!!

Such a successful reunion. So good to have the elders join us. New friends, old friends and fun...that's a Hagan reunion.

There is such a value to these reunions! Time to say things that never got said, apologies made, joy shared, new friendships made. For those that have been hanging back and not attending the reunions, I would strongly encourage you to commit to attending the next one. Need to feel accepted? Come. Need to feel valued? Come. Need to see a genuine affirmation that Hagan women are who they are today because of their time at camp? Just come and share in the fellowship and beauty of the river and mountains!

Prayer flags were an excellent idea. I loved the concept of leaving behind physical evidence of our presence. I especially enjoyed watching the joy in the faces of our elders as they reunited with one another and expresses their interest is what happened to the traditions at Camp Hagan after their time.

I enjoyed the interesting workshops, such as the Drum Circle and loved the chance to canoe on the beloved Delaware once again. The opening dinner was really fun. I was very touched by an "elder" sitting next to me at the Council Fire, who dabbed at tears in her eyes as she told me she was so grateful to her parents for sending her to Hagan. As usual, singing our songs, hymns and grace in three-part harmony was very special, and not only for us. I believe that other guests at the resort were surprised and grateful for our beautiful songs.

I love all of it. My very favorite part was getting to know and be with the elders. What an inspiration these women were for me!

A magical event that combined activities, nostalgia and community. Thank you so much.

What a wonderful time I had gathering with my fellow Hagan sisters on the shores of the Delaware River. To spend so much time outdoors in that setting made it all the more special. The canoe trip, the campfire and all our singing together were highlights. Count me in for a repeat performance!

From the time I arrived until the time I left everything was very well planned and executed. Kayaking with my good friend truly was a highlight for me! Reliving my Hagan experience was truly a gift. How thankful I am that my parents were able to provide that wonderful childhood experience for me. How often I have realized that my Hagan experiences influenced the way I faced challenges in my life. Truly, my spiritual life was born at Hagan and has continued to guide me through ups and downs that life has presented to me. For that I am most appreciative. Knowing how many of my Hagan peers are no longer with us reinforces my goal to live each day to the fullest, reaching out to help others when I am able.

Seriously, thanks to each of you for all your time and effort. I organize smaller events at work and I know how much attention to detail these things require. I loved all the "Legacy" things, which I didn't think would be as gripping as they turned out to be. It is always so wonderful to hear others who had the same happy, insightful, maturing, thoughts and reactions to camp as I had and am....thanks to you all. If you haven't attended a camp reunion yet, DO SO! You will love it! You CAN go home again! All former campers are most welcome, whether you were there for one season or many seasons.

It became clear to me during the canoe trip, that as a camper, and even as a staff member, I was not fully aware of the serene beauty of the river! Maybe the tight bathing caps, cold water, strong current, and wild splashing had something to do with it. And then, we were always in a hurry to get to the next activity! I was a lucky girl to be able to have spent a great deal of my childhood surrounded by and nurtured by Mother Nature at her finest! And to share summers with friends, who because of the reunions, will remain friends for a lifetime. Thank you.

So much attention to detail in every aspect – beautiful table decorations, thoughtful additions and new ideas such as officer of day and buddies. The trivia was fun. We can NEVER SING ENOUGH! Loved stories and insights from elders. Loved the warmth of spirit. I feel renewed and refreshed. There really is nothing like the warmth of the spirit and sharing of memories of Hagan hags. There is nothing to compare to the beautiful sweet harmonies of songs that carry us back to a happy time in our youth. Thank you so much to the large group of hags who spent some much time and energy planning and organizing this wonderful few days for us. We may have left as campers or staff fifty years ago, but for a few special days we felt young again. We felt a special CH bond again.

Good for the soul. Just a fabulous event. I thought the Bingo game was a marvelous idea. It certainly started conversations that would not have happened otherwise. And the cabin - a fantastic idea for the 80th and the execution was impeccable. Talk about a time warp. Loved sharing memories and life stories at breakfast. The Elders video proved that no matter how long ago you experienced Camp Hagan, it never leaves your heart or your soul. I was watching Alice at the campfire. I wish I could have heard what she was thinking. Imagine - decades later she sings at a campfire with women who came long after her, and everyone is united in their love for Hagan. Playing the Bingo game, I discovered the elders had skinny dipped at Hagan too! Thank you for more Hagan memories.

As a first timer at a Hagan Reunion and knowing very few of the women who were attending, I appreciated the friendliness of everyone and the desire to make me feel

as comfortable as possible. What a beautiful setting the Shawnee Inn was for the Hagan Reunion— peaceful except for the bees! All the creative thought and planning, the working together of so many of you made the reunion memorable. And I thank all those who worked so hard putting the reunion together. I liked the DVD of the Tribute to Hagan Elders and the special little touches and gifts at the tables. Thanks also for the songbooks. It was nice to see Hagan memorabilia displayed on the table, and I loved the Hagan cabin. I loved the evening campfire and singing the Hagan songs. It brought me back to the times I received my award ties and the Citizenship Award. Hagan is one of many experiences that shaped me into the person I am today. My experiences at Hagan helped me to be accepted for a counselor position at the International Ranger Camps where I spent one summer in Denmark and another in Switzerland. I enjoyed the 2017 Hagan Reunion and hope to participate again.

It was nice to catch up with friends that I hadn't seen for years and to see what we now have in common besides Hagan. How we have developed through the years, or jobs, or families and children and grandchildren. Having the Elders there just reinforces how important Hagan was and is to us and for many different reasons. We were so young as counselors, given the care and education of young campers. I certainly didn't think about that then. We hopefully influenced them in a positive way and didn't realize what a salvation Hagan was for some of our campers. In talking with everyone, I think there is a high percentage of us that stayed with teaching and helping children. Interesting.

I badly need more friends as a result of some recent life experiences. I am hoping to reach out to some of my Hagan sisters. After the reunion I realized that I felt better than I had in months! It was wonderful to know how many friends I actually did have, folks that loved and accepted me – even liked me. I needed that!!

It was lovely, no question but, personally, the reconnecting, reminiscing and traditions are more special to me. But that's just me. Regardless, the planning committee never disappoints in ensuring that everyone is included and that there are a variety of opportunities for an enjoyable reunion. Great to reconnect with even more Hagan sisters and delighted so many Elders were able to attend. We do, indeed, have a lifelong bond of friendship.

As this was my first reunion, my heart was full. Camp was my favorite community where I felt the love of friends, endless outdoor activities, counselors who I admired and wanted to become, songs that made me laugh as well as cry, and the spirit of God that reached out and touched my soul in the council fire and chapel. To return after 50 years set me a glow; my students laughed over my Hagan stories. The scar of not making CIT buried long ago was healed as I sang, laughed, and swam in the river. Thank you for creating a place to remember and rejoice over that holds a unique place in each of our hearts.

I'm so glad I came. For about 48 hours I could meet and greet those I knew and didn't know. Our memories of those years so long ago came alive again. We remembered all that Camp Hagan meant to us then and how those experiences have been a part of who and what we are through the years. All that we did and experienced transported me back to those years so long ago as a camper and counselor, those years that were unencumbered with all that complicates our lives today. Seeing again those who I was a cabin mate and counselor with tugged at my heartstrings as we told stories, laughed, shed tears of joy, remembered and so forth. This allowed me to remember how those years so influenced me throughout my life. Hearing what Camp Hagan meant to those who followed the "elders" was exciting. It made me realize the only difference between us in memories was the years spent at Hagan—40s and early 50s vs. the 60s. Hagan touched all of us with a depth of feeling and connection that influenced each of us throughout the years. Thank you to all of you who made this

time so meaningful. I deeply appreciated all you did—the time and effort you spent in allowing us to travel back in time and relive a most precious time in our lives.

Getting to know women I had admired and loved as counselors, now as peers was wonderful.

Hagan was refuge from my home life. At camp I was accepted for who I was, not someone who had to be changed to fit my mother's mold of the perfect child. My life at home was a nightmare. Why I never signed up for the full 8 weeks of Hagan is a mystery to me. My biggest regret was not becoming a CIT after being accepted for that honor.

Reconnecting with dear friends is what it's all about!

The creativity of ideas for activities continues to amaze me! This reunion is indeed a gift to all of our lives. The continuing tribute to the Elders throughout the reunion was very touching. I think the current members of the planning committee do an exceptional job and enjoy working together, and we are truly fortunate that they contribute all their time, e-mail and phone discussions that it must take. However, I think it would have been appropriate at some point in the reunion to issue a call for additional volunteers to help with the next one. Volunteers don't have to have a new novel idea, but may enjoy just being involved and being told what kind of help is needed (when that time comes). While I continued to love all the activities and gifties offered in the past three reunions, I was especially struck this time by the depth of influence that Hagan has had on the lives of women of differing ages. A shout-out to the editor of the newsletter is very overdue. Reading the profiles helped people at the reunion engage more significantly with the people featured. When I find myself caught up with the negative news of the day, I plan to stop and try to recreate the calm and serenity and thankfulness that I felt many times during the reunion. Thank you to the Committee for creating a wonderful gift for all of us!

It was an unbelievable joyous event! Loved the Himalayan prayer flag, buddy tags, newspaper costumes, etc. You outdid yourselves many times over. The table decor at both evening meals was SO attractive! Who was the decorator. Would have liked to spend more time viewing the cabin, which was so clever and full of memories. Never had time to do drumming as we drove around exploring old haunts and visiting the new Park center. The tribute to Alice and her "Folds to the Door" was extremely touching. We "elders" truly won the lottery!!! The love and sharing and awesome gifts you bestowed upon us will never be forgotten. We felt so very honored. Blessed be the tie that binds....

Loved the care you gave us ELDERS. Everything was WOW!!!!!! Seeing that most friends are as warm and wonderful as then....

Loved all of the singing!!

It was great fun. I thought doing the prayer flags was meaningful. This Hagan reunion was so well organized just as the last one. More than that however, it is obvious that a great deal of thought went into choosing the activities to capture again how important Hagan was to so many of us. I want to thank all members of the committee for their contributions to a wonderful time full of memories and friends.

I live close enough to Shawnee to be able to attend each reunion. I appreciate those of our members who have to travel a distance. It says so much about the connection we have with Hagan and other Hags. It was so good to see a mix of ages there and hear the stories of what camp was like in the earlier years. The activities were a good mix of active and relaxing.

The reunion was ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL! You all did an AMAZING job in EVERY aspect of the event!!! I thought the Buddy Board was an excellent idea. I hope that becomes a reunion tradition—at least for September. Hagan Bingo was fun and I learned some new things! The cabin Connie and her husband made is incredible. I am so glad we all got to see it and that it has a home in which it can be viewed, taken care of, and keep our history alive. The MANY favors were truly over the top! The DVD is absolutely incredible! What an absolutely amazing piece of digital art! It looks like it was done professionally under a well known (by the world - not just Hagan) director! I am so glad Griggs saw the pottery ornaments and decided to invest in those. I got an acorn and I love it. I am also glad that Anne gave us a lovely copy of the poem about the tie that binds (so true). I am beyond thrilled that Margie Bartleson Perry took up painting. Her cabin picture puts me right back at Hagan! I am also glad to have the scarf – can't believe the time was taken to hand make each acorn, the marble and the river rock with CH on it. I want all of you to know that I mean that I am VERY glad to have EACH of these keepsakes and that I am enjoying and will continue to enjoy them through the years! I also need to say that the centerpieces each night were GORGEOUS and WONDERFUL reminders of Hagan! I appreciate the time that went into thinking of each idea and seeing each to fruition. I am glad we highlighted the elders and that so many were able to join us. Being able to get a copy of Alice's book, "Folds to the Door," made this 80th birthday celebration so much more special! I think the OD ties were great and it was a really good idea to split up the duties so everyone had a chance to enjoy the reunion without the stress of being in charge the entire time. A huge thank you to Mary and her husband for clearing a path to the altar. That is the easiest trip I had to that special place since I was at camp!!! What a difference their efforts made for all of us. All of you worked so hard. Your time, effort and love were evident in every aspect of the reunion, and I want you to know that I appreciated EVERYTHING more than words can express. I had the BEST time I have ever had at a reunion! I got to see people who weren't at other reunions I attended. I also got to know some people - who were not in my age group (you know, a year or 2 older or younger than me –lol) better. I would have been very happy with just visiting, singing and a campfire; but I was elated with ALL that you did. Thank you! (I fear I am forgetting to say something important. If you read this and wonder why I didn't mention something, I apologize.

We are a remarkable group of women who have accomplished much for ourselves, our families, and our communities. To the Hagan core, we share similar values and have common characteristics. We are by nature givers, not takers. We are good leaders and should be proud of ourselves and one another.

Camper Profile

Kathryn (Skipper) Reinbold Goldsmith
Hagan 1937–1941



Kathryn (Skipper) Reinbold Goldsmith
Hagan 1927-41

News & Updates

- Please send Sandy Dempsey any photos and videos you took at the September reunion. Email them to: HaganGathering@gmail.com You can send them in batches if you have a lot of them.
- **Another option is to use WeTransfer.com** It's a FREE, safe and easy way to transfer a larger number of photos, documents, videos at one time. You can sign up for the FREE version without any hassle at all. They do not send you any emails or bug you in any way.
- Photos from the Hagan Reunion will be uploaded to the CampHagan.com website in early November.

Newsletter Editor: Sandy Dempsey

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