

Hagan Newsletter December/2019

Hagan | Hagan | noun
a place of comfort,
to play, connect and remember;
where the heart is.



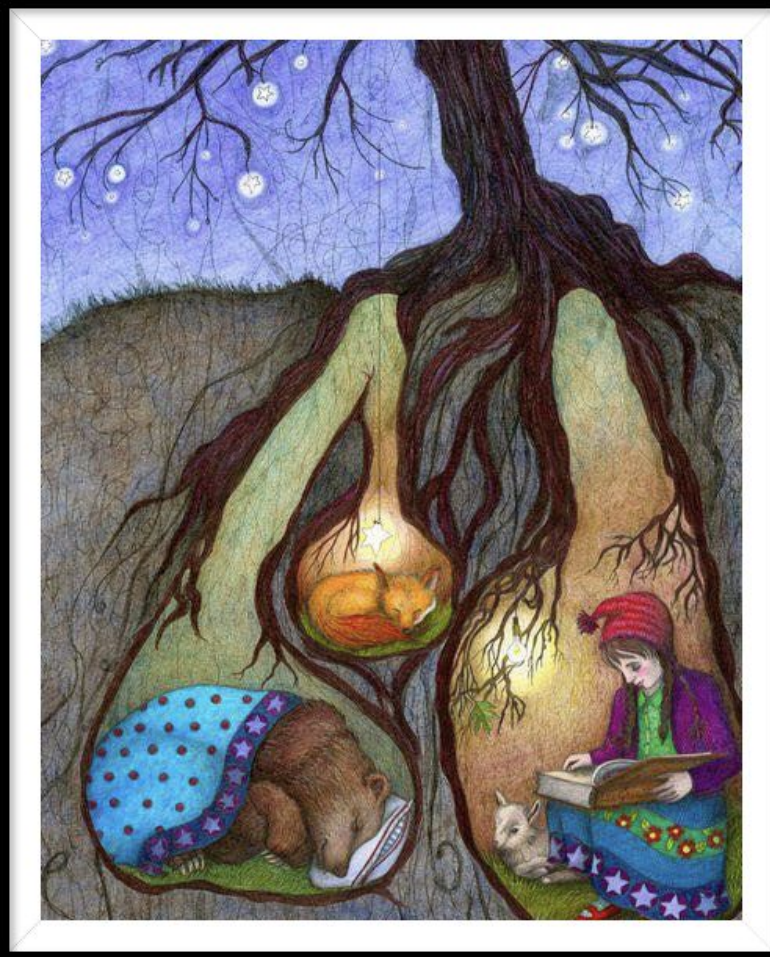
09.10.19
41° 0' 44" N
75° 6' 39" W

A Trip Back to Hagan with Jeanie Semon and Mary Goldsmith Westhuis



Click on the arrow above to watch this wonderful 6-minute video, created and narrated by Jeanie Semon (Hagan 1964-1969) and Mary Goldsmith Westhuis (Hagan 1960-1970; Miller Hagan 1971-1974). They take us on a journey to what Hagan looks like today, as of June 2019. For those who have not been able to get back to our Hagan campus, now under the stewardship of the National Park Service, this will be an eye opener. Instead of rows of condos, the land is forever protected.

In Honor of the Winter Solstice
Sunday, December 22, 2019



Sit with your friends;
don't go back to sleep
Don't sink like a fish
to the bottom of the sea.
Life's water flows from darkness.
Search the darkness,
don't run from it.
Night travelers are full of light,
and you are, too;
don't leave this companionship.

Rumi

"It was Solstice night, the longest night of the year. For weeks the days had been shrinking, first gradually, then precipitously so that it was now dark by mid-afternoon. As is well-known, then the moon hours lengthen, human beings come adrift from the regularity of their mechanical clocks. They nod at noon, dream in waking hours, open their eyes wide to the pitch-black night. It is a time of magic. And as the borders between night and day stretch to their thinnest, so too do the borders between worlds. Dreams and stories merge with lived experience, the dead and the living brush against each other in their comings and goings, and the past and the present touch and overlap. Unexpected things can happen."

Once Upon A River by Diane Setterfield

2019 Reunion Photos now available on the Hagan Website



Photos from the 2019 reunion are now on the Hagan website.
[To access the 2019 Reunion photos, just click here](#)

Camper Memoir



**"Go to Camp, Experience
the World!
Jeanie Semon
(Hagan 1964-1969)"**

The best job offer was back in PA ... close to where I grew up ... in my field of study, accounting. Within 6 months I knew accounting was not going to be my career. At the time, my salary was exceptional; I planned to save, quit and travel. Three years later, in 1985, I was able take a year to travel around the country; basically, I explored the 4 corners of our country, including Alaska.

Realizing that full time work was not the key to my happiness. In 1986, I started to work by contract for a tour guiding company in Philadelphia, dressed in an 18th century costume; a throwback to my theater days. Loved being a tour guide, but it was a financial struggle.

The six years at Camp Hagan (1964 – 1969) were actually a life changing experience for me. Camp Hagan has always been significant to me for the

people I met and the activities I participated in. My first cabin was Senior 1, so I didn't start at an early age. My family life was good, in fact the reason my parents sent me and my sisters to camp was to have the experience of being away from home ... before our wedding night. Can you imagine? Though for my mother that was important as it was something she had struggled with when she married my father. Little did she realize how much I would be affected. Most of my adult life has been about having experiences; primarily centered around travel.

Actually, my first experience, outside the norm of my family life, was performing in regional theater. Having participated in various productions at Hagan I realized how much I love to sing. So, I started to take voice and dance lessons; while working full time and going to college at night for business. Oh, to be in my 20's again. The highlight of that experience was being part of the summer stock company at the Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, PA. Though, I had my sights on something else.

I had decided to audition for "The Kids of Kingdom" at Walt Disney World; moved to Orlando, FL wanting to be available every time there was an audition. To pay my bills, I interviewed for any type of work at WDW, they decided that the Resort Division was the best fit. Mostly because of the business courses I had taken and real-life experience in the business world. I auditioned frequently, though never secured a full-time position in the entertainment department of WDW ... however, the hotel business was fascinating. After another life changing experience, five years later, I decided that central FL was not for me; which is another story altogether.



Portraying Betsy Ross

Beginning in 1995, I started to work for companies that plan corporate meetings and events; which has given me the opportunity to travel the world. Sounds a bit glamorous, but the hours are long; sometimes I only see the hotel and/or the convention center where the event is being held. However, there have been some unique experiences; getting clearance from the U.S. Department of State to assist with and/or give tours to US Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state; along with being the "handler" for various entertainers and guest speakers.



Training the Dolphins on the Big Island of Hawaii

Over the years I have taken advantage of some locations and stayed to explore; visiting 4 continents multiple times. Though, I've never been asked to work in Antarctica; waiting for the opportunity to go to Africa and Australia.

I thank my parents for sending me to Camp

Me as Dale kneeling/far left

Hagan, so that I wouldn't get "homesick" on my honeymoon; which I have yet to experience....there's still time.

Stay Connected -
Visit the Camp Hagan Website

The next Hagan only reunion will
take place on September 14-16, 2021.
We will start the Hagan Newsletters
again on January 1, 2021.

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