

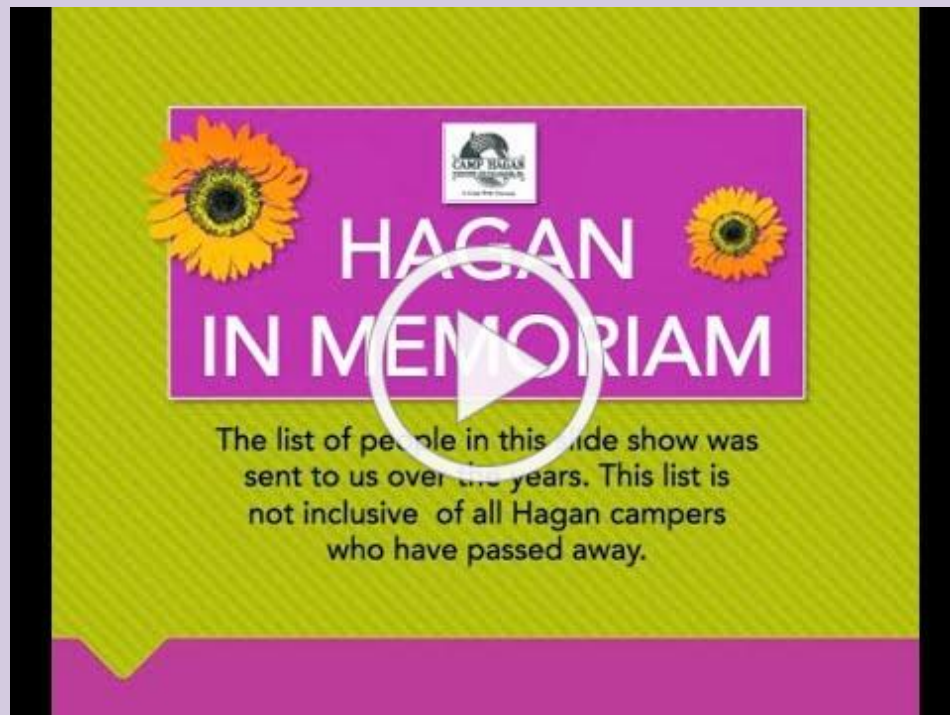
Hagan Newsletter September/2019

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

Hagan In Memoriam



Click on the arrow above to start the slide show

"Sure On This Shining Night"

Music: Morten Lauridsen

Poem: James Agee

Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.
On this shining night, this shining night.

The late year lies down the north, all is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth; hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night, sure on this shining night.

I weep for wonder, wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.
Sure on this shining night, sure on this shining night.

A Few Reminders

9 days Until Hagan Reunion 2019

. But Who's Counting

1. Don't forget to bring your embers from the 2017 reunion
2. Bring your adventurous spirit
3. Your singing voice
4. Your Hagan memories
5. Bring your love of the river, the mountains
6. Bring your vulnerability and your strength
7. Your wisdom and your heart
8. Bring your experiences and history
9. Bring your future
10. Bring your laughter and your playfulness

Never doubt that we are all deeply
connected to this Hagan Clan of ours



In recognition of the upcoming reunion, Elder Alice Royer Roy (Hagan 1945-1956), author of Folds to the Door, was moved by the sentiment of this poster she was sent. She wanted to remind us all of our "crazy singing in Great Hall and our beautiful sounds on the night air." From Alice: "Singing at Hagan brought us inspiration, comradeship and strength."

Fun-Raising Update



Once again, we are overwhelmed (but not surprised!) by the generosity of Hagan campers. We have soared past our fundraising goal for this month's gathering, and have set aside the remaining funds to help offset expenses for our NEXT reunion. Job well done.

A million thanks to all.....
Nancy Rosenquest Reeves
Hagan 1960-1969

Camper Memoir



Tocks Island Dam Chases Camp Hagan Away Lynn Sherwood Giles Hagan 1966-1971

A typical overnight canoe trip from Camp Hagan spent the night on Tocks Island, which was an island in the middle of the river just south of Camp Miller. It was a nice quiet sanctuary from the busy Delaware River. Most campers from Hagan had no idea the Army Corps of Engineers had designs on this island since the 1950s. Severe flooding in the region brought plans to build a large dam at Tocks Island which would flood the Delaware River up to the city of Milford, Pa.

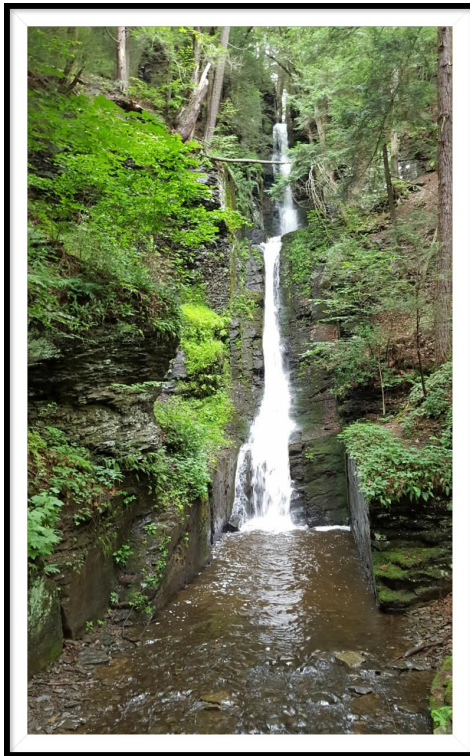
By the early 1970s the plans became serious enough to buy out all of the private property north

When the dam plans were in active consideration, developers purchased much of the land around Milford Road which was the main road between Bushkill and Milford which followed the ridge of the mountain. A few subdivisions thrived and golf courses and timeshares blossomed at Fernwood and Tamaint near Bushkill. Milford Road was forecasted to be the main drag around the large reservoir.



Delaware River Overlook

of the town of Shawnee all the way to Milford, Pa. It chased out Camp Hagan as well, and the camp was relocated off the river. Plenty of property owners that had owned their land for decades were forced to sell their riverside holdings.



Silverthread Falls

Just north of Shawnee, when the property owners exited, the buildings became a draw to a group of squatters that moved right onto the land and established a commune. The tense situation existed for several years until the authorities finally used force to evict the people living on the land and the buildings were razed to not allow the problem to reoccur.

After all the property was purchased on both sides of the river, very few buildings ultimately were saved. The city of Bushkill became a ghost town with a church, the post office, and Turns General store the only buildings remaining. Downtown Bushkill would be 140 feet under water according to the plans. The dam did not have the support of all four state governors over the years, and certainly did not have support from the locals who did not want their river destroyed.

The site itself was determined to be ultimately deficient to build an earthen dam. After many years of wrangling by utilities, government and locals, the dam was rejected in 1992 with plans to reconsider the plan in 10 years. In 2002 the dam

After the real estate downturn after 2008, these two large hotel resorts fell on hard times and both were ultimately closed. The timeshares are still open with some amenities. A casino proposal was attempted to revive the resorts but that never came to fruition. Taminent has closed their golf course and resort and Fernwood closed their hotel. The Fernwood event center was destroyed by an arson a few years ago. Milford Road has become a busy thoroughfare parallel to Route 209 thru the park. The narrow two-lane road is being widened over the past 10 years to handle the increased local traffic.

The national park that was developed instead of Tocks Island Dam is the crown jewel of the area. It is one of the busiest national parks in the USA since it is so close to several major urban centers. The National Park Service has been good stewards of the former Tocks Island Dam land. There are swimming areas and boating launches up and down the 37 miles of the park. A mountain biking and hiking trail follows the PA side of the river throughout the park. The waterfalls within the park are all public sites now. Even Turns General Store has reopened from a park service lease and is called the Roost General Store. It has been shocking to former campers to see how quickly the riverfront property of Camp Hagan turned wild and full of trees from the formerly manicured lawns of grass.

I attended Camp Hagan from 1966 to 1971. My mother and grandmother also attended camp and fell in love with the Delaware River. My parents purchased land off of Milford Road and built a summer cabin in the 1970s. My family still owns the house and has seen the local area go through many changes over the decades. For those interested in reading about the complete Tocks Island Dam story check out the book, *Damming the Delaware: The Rise and Fall of Tocks Island Dam* by Richard C. Albert.



was officially decommissioned and the purchased land became the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Hornbecks Falls

"Then & Now"

This in from Molly LeVan - Hagan 1959-1970 - In the category of somethings never change: I was rereading the August newsletter and spent some time on the Hagan packing list. My attention was drawn to the suggestion of the Sterling Name Tape Co. for iron-on name identification for our clothes. The company's address was in Connecticut, and I wanted to know if it was still in business so I Googled away. Sure enough, it is still in business and in the same place. In addition to name tapes and towels (I had forgotten that my mother ordered them for me), it offers other products and sells "packages" of items one may need to go off to camp or college. Wow, what a Hagan memory!

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