

# GILEAD GAZETTE

*75th Anniversary Edition*



## *The Story of "Jimmy Coal"*

**KATHY GRIFFITH OSTRAND**

*Jimmy Coal lived at Victory Circle. I know he was there because I heard about him when I was going into 4th grade! Yep, as far back as my brother and I remember, my dad, Pastor Johnson, first started telling the story about Jimmy Coal in the late 50's.*

*When I was a camp counselor, we counselors met at the beginning of each new camp week with my dad or the Camp Director. And they would always entuse us to really work hard at giving the campers just the best time of their lives, alllll week! But then, when Friday morning came, they'd say "You'd better make sure your campers know how much they need Jesus to be the Lord of their lives. And if there is any doubt in your mind, get them off alone today and be very clear about their individual need of a Savior, and a relationship with Him. And if they already know the Lord, make sure they know how to keep growing and learning." So, that was our plan and goal for each week!*

*(continued on next page)*



*Check out page 3!*

**In This Issue**

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**Hidden Bucky**

*As a camper, I of course didn't know that. But I sure remember those Friday nights at Victory Circle. All of us campers were feeling sad to think about leaving the next day. We'd come to fireside like we had all week and try to sit in the front row close to the fire. But it seems like we were a lot quieter as we sang that night. We'd sing How Great Thou Art for the last time together, and we'd look up to the sky and see the amazing world He had made for us. And we were sad about leaving it all. And then we'd listen to Pastor Johnson tell the last story. You know, in many ways it was the best part of our days, but now it was the final night. So, on this Friday night, and every future Friday night, my dad would go over and pick up a long stick and poke around in the fire. He'd stir up those hot coals, and then he would focus on the brightest red one. And that's when he introduced us to the camper, little Jimmy Coal.*

*Jimmy was red hot and on fire, and that was a picture of us. We had spent an amazing week in a fun and happy place, and we had really come to love the Lord, as well as our new friends and counselor! Many of us were ready to go home and tell our parents and friends all we had learned. But right now, our eyes were glued on Jimmy! But then dad showed us what Jimmy Coal looked like when he was out of the fire. He'd take his stick and just drag him out. Like, away from the heat. Away from the Source. Jimmy Coal's color became less bright. He was no longer hot. He got more and more dark. Just lifeless. But it was because he was away from light! And dad said we could easily become like him! Our lives just might not stay bright, because once we're home, we would be removed from all the love of our Christian friends and counselors, and perhaps we wouldn't even be able to go to church. We would gradually become cold to the stories of Jesus and indifferent to God's love. We would be as lifeless as Jimmy Coal! But when dad pushed Jimmy Coal back in the fire, guess what happened! He was revived and red hot once again. I can remember being so happy to see him back on fire again. It's where he belonged! We had tears in our eyes because we were happy to see him bright!*

*So, the little story of Jimmy Coal showed us something that we learned that week, and what we needed to keep doing. God was our Source, and any goodness in our lives was all wrapped up in Him! But we needed to make the effort to go to Him, ask Him to come into our heart and live forever, lean on Him when times were hard, and find friendships with others that loved Him. That would keep us on fire for the Lord. No matter that we were leaving camp. God was coming home with us. And Jimmy Coal reminded us to stay close to Him!*



*Kathy Griffith Ostrand  
Daughter of Forrest Johnson*

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**MISSED AN ISSUE OF THE GAZETTE?**

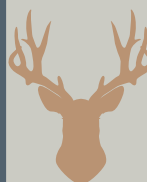
*Visit [www.campgilead.org](http://www.campgilead.org) to catch up on past issues!*

## FULL TIME STAFF

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Director:</b><br>Jack L. Moyer               | <b>Registrar:</b><br>Sara Moyer        |
| <b>Program Director:</b><br>Kimberly Mallory    | <b>Maintenance:</b><br>Josh Mallory    |
| <b>Program Assistant:</b><br>Elizabeth Anderson | <b>Food Service:</b><br>Stephanie Bird |

*New Contest!* →

**Newsletter Producer:** Kimberly Mallory  
**Editor & Design:** Elizabeth Anderson



### HIDDEN BUCKY

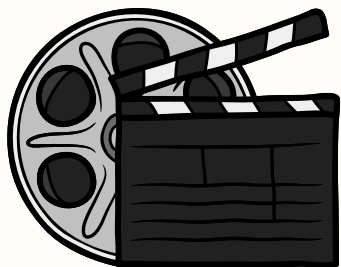
*Be the first to find the correct number of Hidden Bucky images hidden in this issue of the Gilead Gazette, and win the untradeable Hidden Bucky button!*

*Email Elizabeth Anderson at [elizabeth@campgilead.org](mailto:elizabeth@campgilead.org) with your best guess.*

DREAM

*Quest*

**NOW  
SHOWING**



**ON YOUTUBE!**

# CAMP GILEAD

## HISTORY MUSEUM



One of the featured experiences of the 75th Anniversary Weekend was walking through the Camp Gilead History Museum.



## FROM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

### Kimberly Mallory

*It is often said that during a time of significant spiritual awakening in a person, the songs, smells, trinkets and friendships a person experiences are heightened and of extreme personal value. It can be years later that a person will come across something that reminds them of that time of intimacy in their relationship with the Lord and it will bring back those special moments as if they were yesterday.*

*For literally thousands of boys and girls over the years, summer camp at Gilead has been a place of spiritual awakening. It has been a place where God has drawn them to Himself in a special way, and confirming His intense love for them through interactions with camp counselors, camp speakers, Creation and through His Word.*

*Part of our 75th anniversary weekend involved putting together some of those mementoes, that campers from all eras would recognize and recall. The museum was located in the lower cabins 5, 6 and 7. Each room was dedicated to a theme; The First 25 years, The Next 25 years, and The Last 25 years.*

# FIRST 25 YEARS

*While all of the rooms were filled with photos, there were some fun items of significance. In the First 25 years room, there was an old songbook made out of linoleum samples that had been donated, songs typed out and bound into a sturdy book that campers used as they sang along in chapel. A vintage photo book was also present, complete with photos that were taken during the week of camp, and developed by one of the staff members there, so that campers could go home with these tangible reminders of their week. Documents of business meetings, early camp visionary drawings, camp brochures and postcards also graced the museum tables of this first room.*



# NEXT 25 YEARS



*The Next 25 Years room moved us into the 70's, 80's and early 90's. Pictures were now in color and the songbooks included Praise Books and overhead transparencies. There were vintage camper shirts, a 50th anniversary Golden Gala mug and whirligigs that maintenance man Bob Mehner had built to put around Gilead. Vintage staff shirts made into blankets were displayed along with staff memory booklets from as early as 1993.*



# PAST 25 YEARS



*The Last 25 years room brought us from the 90's to the present. Team Champions pennants from every theme since 2001 filled the room with color, along with vibrant photos, photo books and t-shirt blankets made out of vintage staff shirts. Scrapbook style theme picture frames were displayed that included all camp pictures from every week of camp for each summer beginning in 1998. A stuffed mini dinosaur (1999 - In the Beginning Dino) sat proudly next to some branding irons from summer 1997's theme; Branded. A VHS tape that launched our Capital Campaign and the brochure that explained our desire to build a water system was also displayed. Camp curios, a dirtboard and other items from Pops Inn were also included.*





*As guests passed through each room you could hear “ooos” and “ahhhs” as items were recognized, photos were discovered of themselves and camp buddies, while the memories flooded back. Staff alumni led their children through, showing them where they were in a staff photo, and you could see in their eyes that it felt like just yesterday that these moments had taken place.*

*Why do we take such effort to recall the past and its history? Because it is through looking back that we can see the faithfulness of God, remember truths and experiences that the busyness of life may have allowed us to forget and to, ultimately, draw us closer to the Lord. For those that have spent a week or a summer at Gilead, there has been impact. It is our prayer that through their time looking back and remembering those moments, that God would continue to speak to them, draw them to Himself and lead them into a closer walk with Jesus. We know that God can use something as simple as a collectable mug, or a significant photo to revisit His holiness, faithfulness and goodness. May He continue to shine favor over the simple pleasures of a week of summer camp ... and all of the things that come with that experience.*


*Kimberly Mallory*



The Early Years



The Recent Past



The Next 25 Years

# REFLECTIONS

*Thank you, Camp Gilead, for the wonderful celebration of 75 years providing memories for so many people. I had the privilege of being baptized by Forrest Johnson when I was 10 years old at Tabernacle Baptist Church, which at that time was located on Capitol Hill in Seattle. It was there I had the opportunity to memorize Bible verses and earn points to get a free week at Camp Gilead. The Sunday school superintendent had a passion for children memorizing Bible verses with a wonderful incentive of looking forward to going to camp. I enjoyed being a camper, working in the kitchen, a camp counselor and even a lifeguard.*

*Later, my four children and niece and nephews all enjoyed being campers and enjoyed many family camps. My mom, "Grandma Dorothy" was with her grandchildren at many family camps. Her grandchildren cannot think of Camp Gilead without thinking of their grandma. So many wonderful memories. Grandma Dorothy is in heaven probably enjoying reunions with many people she met at camp that are now also with our Lord. I can't help but think that there is a sign up in heaven saying, "Camp Gilead Reunion Here". My granddaughter Ashley, now 10 years old, is our family's 4th generation who has had the privilege of building memories at camp.*

I can't help but think that there is a sign up in heaven saying, "Camp Gilead Reunion Here".



*Thank you to all the people who have invested their time, talents, resources, and prayers to keep Camp Gilead going for 75 years. With deep appreciation for the visionaries and the workers that have made Camp Gilead what it is.*

*Karen Erickson Witham Brown*

# REFLECTIONS

*It's hard to just write a short paragraph about such a wonderful day. It was great to see friends like Tom Ruhlman, Jerry Cudney, Neil Gardenhire, Jack and Sara Moyer, their wives and families. I was able to talk to some people that were campers when Dad was the director, who went on to become counselors and sharing their story of God with young people just like it was when they were campers the first time. It was so fun to go through the girls dorm museum displays, looking at all the pictures and memorabilia brought back so many great memories from 50+ years ago when I was a camper.*

*The Dream Forrest movie was very emotional for me seeing Mom, Dad and Randy. I know they watched the video and saw everyone who attended, from Heaven, along with other beloved camp family who are there with them. We learned so many things we did not know about Forrest Johnson and the work he put in and inspired and led to prepare the property and to build the structures to create Camp Gilead. Then his lifelong dedication to the kids who were served by attending camp. The gift of the property by Mrs Jenkins, and the Camp Gilead name and meaning.*

*The way the trees were cut higher really opens things up and the grounds look great. Victory Circle and the recreation areas look so tidy and groomed. And the paved roads, walkways and parking where needed, create safe and cleaner access without taking away the beauty and feel of nature on the camp grounds. It will be exciting to see the restrooms reimaged and rebuilt - but it was kind of fun to see them somewhat updated but still where big groups of teenage girls would wash their hair in ice cold spring water in the bathroom sinks after using up the hot water supply. Then frequently blow the fuse with every bathroom outlet plugged with hair dryers and curling irons in the 1970's!*

## CINEMA





# REFLECTIONS



*And I still think the goat tied on the chapel bell in the middle of the night with hay placed just out of reach was a hoot, thank you for that memory kind of becoming camp legend! I have many mischievous and fun activities we did when I was a young camper that will stay with me the rest of my life. It was special to remember Saturdays when the last busload of campers drove away and the camp staff would get to work cleaning bathrooms and sweeping cabins, scrubbing the kitchen and washing tables, restocking Pop's Inn, sweeping out the lodge and chapel, mowing and trimming, cleaning the horse barn, dumping trash.....when all the work was done the counselors and kitchen crew would all go into Redmond for a pizza party. It was hard work but such a special time together afterward!*

*I want to personally thank the whole Gilead staff and volunteers for the way you set up the camp to welcome us old timers back home. I don't know all the names of people involved in setting up this anniversary, but know Jack & Sara, Kim & Josh and their families and apprentices were great team leaders making this day so perfect. God has worked so many miracles in people's lives for years and it was so nice to come back and hear some stories of how God is still blessing Camp Gilead and the people that keep it going. Perhaps one day our grandchildren will get to create their own joyful memories of time as campers at Camp Gilead.*

*I know there are still things that need repair or replacing around the camp and challenge you to give your time, money, equipment and supplies to Camp Gilead to keep it moving forward for another 75 years.*

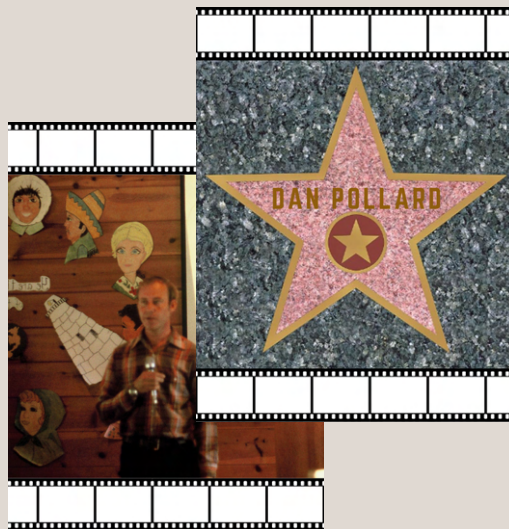
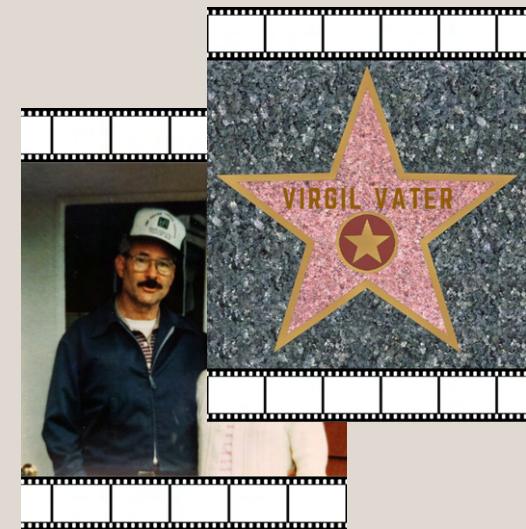
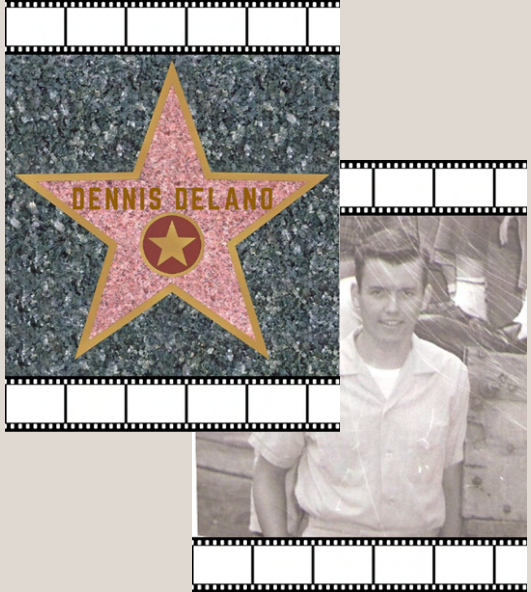
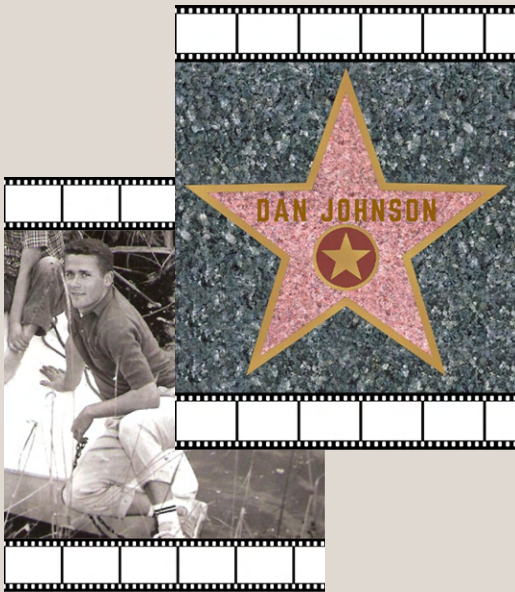
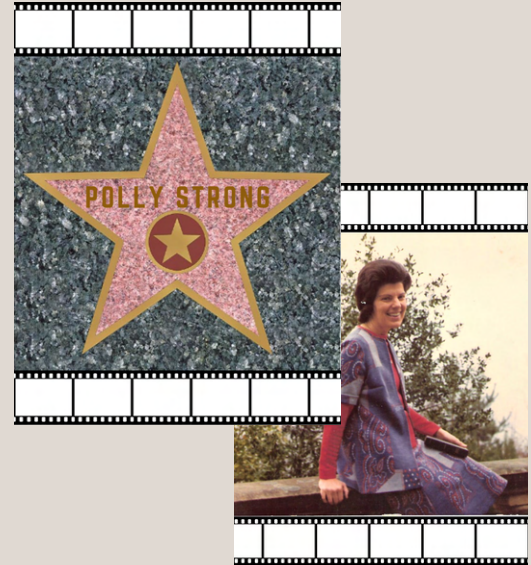
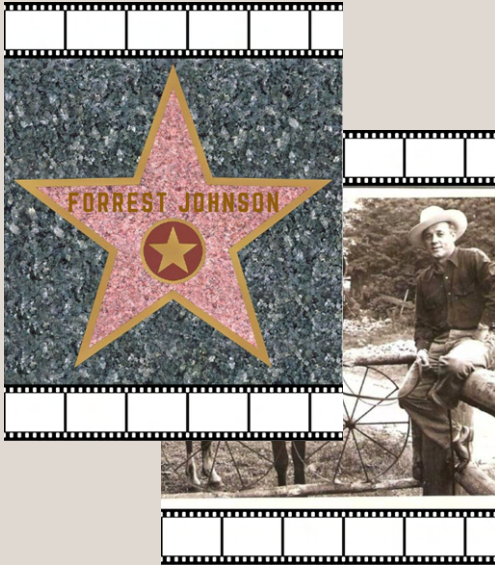


*Ron & Jana Vater*

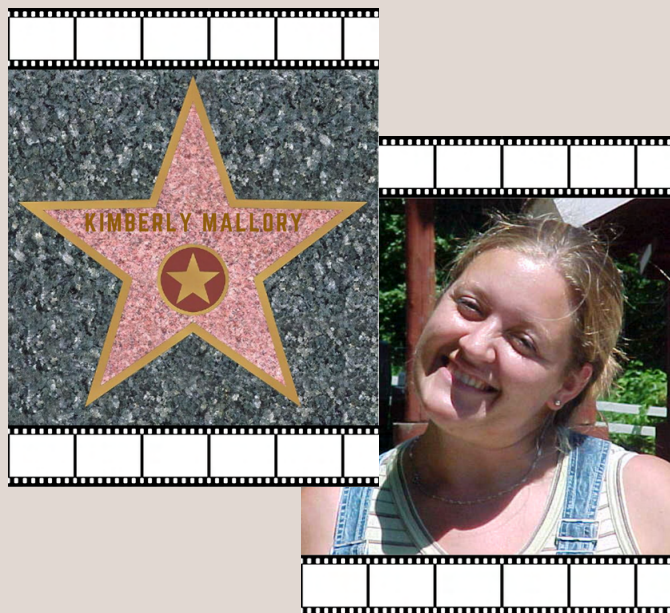
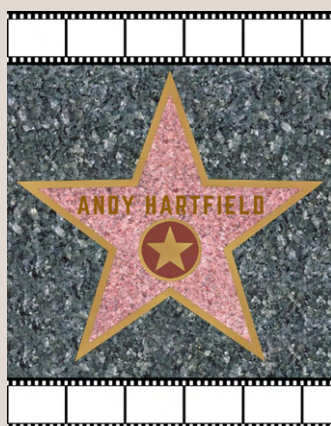
*Son of Director,  
Virgil & Marty  
Vater*



# WALK OF STARS



# WALK OF STARS





# GILEADVENT

A DRIVE THROUGH CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

December 17-18 : 5-8PM

*Help us decorate  
for our 4th annual  
GILEADVENT*



## GILEADVENT WORKDAY & DECEMBER 1-2 & DECEMBER 8-9

Bring a staple gun & lights... or use  
ones we have already! Help us  
decorate for our 4th annual  
GILEADVENT



AMAZON WISHLIST



*Every little bit helps!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS



Speaker:  
**Doug Dahl**



REGISTER TODAY!

[www.campgilead.org](http://www.campgilead.org)



Speaker:  
**Kiyle Decker**  
*Pastor - First Baptist Church Ferndale*



Cost: \$85  
includes tubing ticket  
@ Snoqualmie Pass  
\$50 for leaders



*Grades 6-9*



**GROUP REGISTRATIONS ONLY**

Email [kimberly@campgilead.org](mailto:kimberly@campgilead.org) for more info.

# Calendar at a Glance



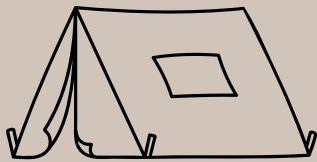
**11/3-11/4 \* Father Son Adventure Weekend**

**12/1-12/2 \* GileAdvent Volunteer Weekend**

**12/8-12/9 \* GileAdvent Volunteer Weekend**

**12/17-12/18 \* GileAdvent**

**1/14-1/15 \* Jr High Snowblast**



## AS SEEN ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA...



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