

GENERATION TO GENERATION, CAMP LIFE IS PASSED



The Journal-News/Warren Inglese

Deerkill Day Camp Director Robert Rhodes instructing campers on boat safety. The campers are, from left, Scott Jamieson of New City, Anthony Ruocco of Pompton Lakes, N.J., and Jason Gerard of Bergenfield, N.J.

Irwin Rhodes met his wife, Midge, at a summer camp in Pennsylvania. They've been married 49 years. Their kids went to the family's Deerkill Day Camp in Suffern.

Irwin's son, Bob, and his wife, Karen, met at Deerkill. They've been married 22 years and their kids go to the camp.

Jennifer Rhodes, 17, is a tennis counselor at Deerkill. She may or may not find romance among the ponds, nature trails, pools, tennis courts, crafts buildings and playgrounds of Deerkill. However, there is a family pattern that began when her great-grandparents, Abe and Jean Rhodes, established Camps High Lake and Wonona in Lake



RICHARD GUTWILLIG
ROCKLAND'S COLUMNIST

Como, Pa. in 1925.

Irwin, now 77 years young, closed his parents' camps in 1947. But in 1959 he started Deerkill, a sprawling children's camp on Wilder Road.

Last night, Deerkill celebrated its

30th anniversary with a slam-bam party, replete with dance band, dinner, speeches and awards.

How does a camp celebrate? One must first accept the premise that summer camps are animate beings, not just buildings, grounds and apparatus. Camps have souls, are living breathing organisms with or without campers.

Of course, it does help to have 550 happy children from ages 3-15 scampering about to bring camp to full, pulsating life. Such was the case at Deerkill this week as the campers finished week seven with only one more week to go before the 1988 season

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