



**50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
WHITE RIVER YOUTH CAMP
SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2021**

Welcome friends, alumni, and campers to White River Youth Camp. Our hearts are full of the love and support that WRYC has been blessed with for the last 50 years. We hope that you have a wonderful day exploring the campgrounds, renewing and creating friendships, sharing memories, and having some fun! WRYC has been blessed with dreamers, visionaries, selfless servants, donors, Godly leaders, volunteers, and many followers of Christ from the very beginning. We are so very thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon White River Youth Camp.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate 50 years!

**WRYC 50th Anniversary
Celebration Schedule**

1:30-3:00 PM

WRYC Through the Years Reception

- Parking Patrol and Golf Cart Shuttle Service available as needed
- Reception
- Memorabilia
- WRYC Store

Welcome in the Pavilion

3:00-5:00 PM

Tours, Trading Post, and Fellowship

- Camp Tours and History - Golf cart shuttles available as needed
- Trading Post - refreshments for a nominal fee
- Rec Room
- WRYC Store
- Arts and Crafts
- Open for business - Crafts available for families (small fee may apply)
- Outside games
- Water slide and bounce house
- Pool Open for family swim time
- Train Rides

5:00-6:30 PM

Dinner

- FREE Meal

5:30-7:30 PM

Tours, Fellowship and S'mores

- Camp Tours and History - Golf cart shuttles available as needed
- Trading Post - refreshments for a nominal fee
- Rec Room
- WRYC Store
- Arts and Crafts
- Open for business - Crafts available for families (small fee may apply)
- Outside games
- Train Rides
- Coffee and fellowship in dining hall
- Smores at Fire Pit

7:30-8:00 PM

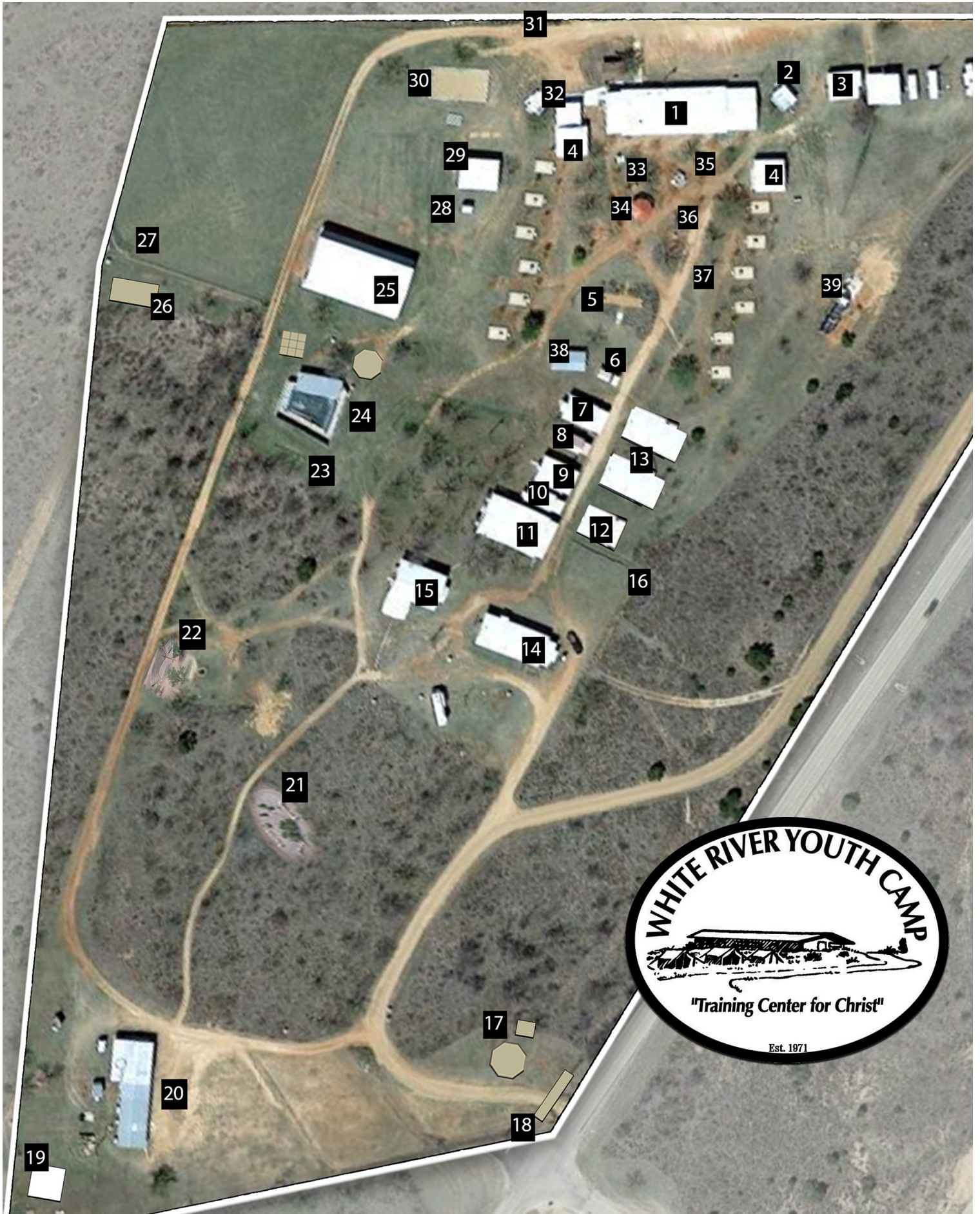
Camp Sing Along and Silly Songs

- Old and New Silly Songs, Spool Songs and Sing-Alongs

8:00-8:30 PM

Singing and Closing Remarks

- Campfire
- Devotional Songs



Locate the coordinating numbers for information about the facility or amenity for documented history. This information is gathered from articles, interviews, and several other resources. We have so many willing volunteers that donate their time and often without ever telling anyone they completed or fixed a need. We want to thank those individuals for their love for the Lord and WRYC if they were not mentioned by name. If you have additional knowledge or memories of the facilities and amenities, we welcome that information by emailing wrycamp@gmail.com.

Enjoy the tour - keep an eye out for arrowheads!

1. Dining Hall, Kitchen, Staff Room, Papa's Storage and Office - The first Dining Hall in 1971 was a circus tent. In January of 1972, the new dining hall, kitchen, office and Trading Post had begun and was completed that spring. The kitchen was enlarged to 16 x 36 in '83, and a walk-in cooler and laundry room was added in '84. Robert Johnston of Lubbock built a new addition to the north end of the dining hall in '91. In the fall of 1997, a new metal roof was put on the dining hall (by Womack Construction of Floydada).

In 1999, two new commercial ovens were used for the 3rd session and a new commercial stove added for the 4th session: cost for the new kitchen equipment was \$9,535 (thanks to anonymous individuals). In September of 2000, the board approved to order a commercial mixer and fryers. Our electric supplier, South Plains Electric Trust, donated \$1000 toward the cost of \$6582 for added kitchen equipment. In 2011 at the 40th Anniversary, the kitchen was named "The Wright Place" with a plaque over the entrance to the kitchen from the dining hall. This was done in honor of the dedicated service of Russell and Nelda Wright in serving in the kitchen for 40 years.

New technology was added to the dining hall by the board in 2017. The sound system was updated with new speakers and a large monitor was hung. This update also included the improvement of WIFI across the camp ground.

In 2017, the Dining hall was repainted and the staff room was renovated and an additional storage space known as "Papa's Storage" was added between the staff room and the addition to the north end of the dining hall. These additions were done and paid for by the Caddell family. A new staff table was built and donated by the Bozeman family. In 2019 the office was remodeled to allow for a more functional working space. A vinyl WRYC logo was added to the front of the dining hall office window, which was donated by Elite Signs & Design.

The kitchen was again remodeled for the 2019 camp year. The remodeling included replacing the two old previous walk-in coolers and the addition of a new walk-in cooler. It also included additional space for food preparation, and storage. Tables and chairs were replaced in the dining hall. An air conditioning unit for the kitchen, dining hall and the extension on the north end of the dining hall were also installed. The remodeling and air conditioning were paid for with donated funds from the El-lison family.



2. Trading Post -The first Trading Post in 1971, was served out of an army tent. After the dining hall was built in 1972, concessions were served from the staff room into the dining hall. When the north addition of the dining hall was completed in 1991, concessions were still sold from the current staff room but toward the new space known as the Rec Room. In 1997, a new standalone Trading Post was built by Crosbyton on the slab where the girls shower house had once stood.



3. Manager's Cabin - Prior to the cabin being built, the assistant director/manager stayed in various travel trailers that were loaned or donated to the camp. The camp Manager's cabin was built in 1984 in memory of Joe E. and Viola Johnston and Ivy and Gladys Lawson, parents of Joseph and Zane Johnston. In the fall of 1997, a new metal roof was put on the manager's cabin (by Womack Construction of Floydada). An additional room was added to the front of the Manager's Cabin in 2010. In 2021, new siding was added to the cabin.



4. Bath Houses - In 1971, shower houses were constructed by Eugene Jenkins and in 1972, he designed and built restrooms to the shower houses. By 1980 the shower houses had been updated and enlarged. In 1997, two new shower houses (30x30) were built with a cost of approximately \$100,000. A grant of \$20,000 from M.S. Doss Foundation of Seminole helped with the cost. You may notice our stalls look bleached out or have the appearance of water spots left behind. In the summer of 2020 we successfully ran camp by the grace of God, the medical expertise of Dr. Jeff Hannel, and under the direction of Papa Beene in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic and were required to constantly disinfect and clean shared spaces.



5. Indian Mound - In 1973, a box car was buried to be used primarily for a storm shelter but also doubled for storage and classes. Currently, High school campers in Tent 1 generally use it for singing each session on Thursday evenings and the entire camp takes a picture on the Indian mound Sunday evenings of their session. The story is told that the hole was dug prior to the box car being delivered. When the box car arrived, surprisingly the wheels were still attached. The box car and wheels were dropped into the hole and were taller than the hole. The box car was then covered with a mound of dirt. Hence, the Indian Mound! (Donated by the Santa Fe Railway Co.)



6. Jail - In 1978, the Cactus Drive church of Levelland built the Jail and decorated the jail. The addition of the jail was inspired by the western street shootouts. The front and facade were updated in 2018. The jail is still decorated as an old-time jail cell, wanted posters, and western props.



7. Sheriff's House - Heston and Ruby Bennett of Lockney donated the Sheriff's House for the camp Director in 1977. For camp '98, metal roofs were installed to the Opry House, Acuff and the Sheriff's buildings. Some updates have taken place on the Sheriff's House over time including new windows but it underwent a large remodel in 2018. This remodel included the kitchen, bathroom and enclosing the living room to create an additional bedroom. The facade and porch were repaired and painted in 2019. The porch is a favorite hangout on Western Street.



8. Bank - In 1977, the Girard church moved in a building (now known as the Bank) and remodeled it for the cooks, Russell Wright and his wife, Nelda, also of Girard. Russell Wright once said that the building had been a hamburger stand. Over time some updates have been made to the bank such as new flooring in 2019. The Bank received a facelift with a repair and paint to the facade and porch front in 2020.



9. Acuff Hotel - The idea and plans for a 'Western Street' began in 1974, with Acuff's construction of the Acuff Hotel (living quarters for teachers and staff). The porch was even used as a location for a Bible class for a few years. For camp in 1998, metal roofs were installed to the Opry House, Acuff and the Sheriff's buildings. Harold Herron added a middle door to create a front and back half to the Acuff Hotel sometime after 1998. Later, in 2017, the board suspected that the Acuff Hotel might need to be torn down due to the floor sagging. Ramon Johnston, then Board President, headed a crew to investigate. It was determined that it could be saved with additional floor support. It was then restructured on the inside including new bathrooms, new placement of doors, hot water heater and new flooring. In 2020, the porch and facade were given a facelift. Acuff Hotel is another favorite place to hang out during recreation time and swing. We now have scheduled recreation activities on Western Street each day.



10. Doc Bozeman - In 1979, following the death of Ken Bozeman, his family provided funds for the Doc Bozeman Infirmary (Nurse's station). Before this building was built, the nurse stayed in a travel trailer loaned to the camp. In 2019, the Nurse's station was remodeled and was given a new look including new floors, new bathroom fixtures, and new furniture. TJ Bruns and the Idalou C of C youth group did the demolition for the remodel. Wendy Simmons and Amy Caddell did the re-organizing and decorating. Repair was made on the wood of the facade and then in 2021 it was repainted. Several years ago, the DSHS changed the requirement that a registered nurse or equivalent had to be on the campgrounds during each camp session, we are so thankful for the nurses that come out to volunteer each week.



11. Opry House - In 1971, skits/talent shows were held in the church building. Skit night was moved to the Dining Hall in 1972, with the tables and chairs all moved to one end and everyone sitting on the floor. In 1977, the Afton church donated their building and it became the Opry House. Around 1997, the Opry House received an upgrade with new paint, curtains and decor thanks to the Ellison family. In 1998 metal roofs were installed on the Opry House, Acuff and the Sheriff's buildings. Around 2003, Jackie Qualls donated and installed a sound board set up that is connected to a projector, speakers and microphones. In 2019, the Main St. C of C in Petersburg donated church pews which were used to replace the ones in the Opry House. The Opry House is still used for skits, talent shows, spiritual graffiti, and bible class. It is our dream to soon have a bigger and new building structure to serve the camps current needs.



12. Johnston Feed and Seed - In 2017, the Board approved the purchase of a 24'x30' building that would become "Johnston Feed and Seed". This buildings purchase was presented to the camp Board by Papa Beene. The building was a portable classroom from Panhandle, Tx. During 2017 it was used as air-conditioned classroom space. By the beginning of the 2018 camp season the Johnston Feed and Seed had been remodeled on the inside to be used for additional housing with two rooms with private baths and one large bunk room that sleeps eight with two baths. It was completed with a wraparound porch and swings by Jim Bob Conner. Jim Bob also added the "Western Street" gate and parking barrier at the East end of western street. Construction on the Johnston Feed and Seed was done by Board members and others including Ramon Johnston, Papa Beene, Kevin Tate, Michael Jimenez, Jessie Jimenez, Jim Bob Conner, TJ Bruns, Roy Chisum, Sammy Bradley, Alston Becker, the Caddell family, the counselors of 2018 and many others. Lights, poles, and electricity were added to western street by Danny Caddell soon after. The Board voted to name the building in honor of Joseph and Zane Johnston for their vision and many years of camp service. Their daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn (Johnston) and Tim Rehmel were among the first to spend the week in the Johnston Feed and Seed during 1st Session 2018.



Zane & Joseph Johnston

13. New Buildings - The purchase of two new buildings was presented to the camp Board by Papa Beene and was approved. The buildings are four portable classrooms that are 24'x64' each. The buildings were brought in and set up in the spring of 2020. That year they were used for air-conditioned classrooms with steps up into each of four rooms. One of the four classrooms was filled with recreational equipment which were donated through an Amazon campaign, this is the new "Rec Room". By the beginning of 2021 camp season, a wraparound porch was added which connected the two buildings, including a ramp. Many welders and friends of WRYC volunteered their time to build this porch. During the construction of porches, camp was awarded a grant from Betenbough Homes to help pay for the construction. The porches and facade that face Western Street were not quite finished in time for the 2021 camping season, but the completion of the Western Street porches and facade were finished in time for the 50th Anniversary on September 18th, 2021. Sam Wallace donated the funds for the completion of the porches and facade. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time including the Caddell family, Ramon Johnston, Roy Chisum, Papa Beene, Michael & Jessie Jimenez, Sammy Bradley, Cody, Kelly & Shelly Powe, Randon Ragsdale, Brayden Bruton, Kyle Dunlap, Zach Gragson, Heath Fellhauer, Wheeler Osborne, Josh, Rachel & Phebe Myers, Dillion Willison, Zach Sawyer, 2021 counselors, Heston Graves, Robert Wilson, Remington Ridge C of C and Baker Heights C of C, Debbie & Wayne Kitchens, Josh Martin, Sam Wallace and others. It takes a village!



14. White River Lake Church of Christ - Joseph Johnston had an idea to offer worship services at White River Lake and began looking around at potential locations and buildings. Arnold and Patsy Sanderson just so happened to have land available to use. So, in 1970, a church of Christ building in Abernathy was purchased by Brother Ken Bozeman and moved to where it sits today. The church received a loan from the bank in Post, to pay Brother Bozeman back. The congregation, with Joseph Johnston serving as minister, met each Sunday morning in the spring, summer and fall months. (1970-1994) Many who lived or vacationed at White River Lake attended. In 1975, a larger foyer was added. In the fall of 1997, a new metal roof was put on the church (by Womack Construction of Floydada). The classroom at the back of the building and the nursery were removed to make more room for campers as the sessions have grown. The inside of the church was recently painted and new curtains were made for the windows. The counselors decorate the front of the building each summer in the camp theme and hang signs with the week's memory verses on them. This area is also used as classroom space during the camp sessions.



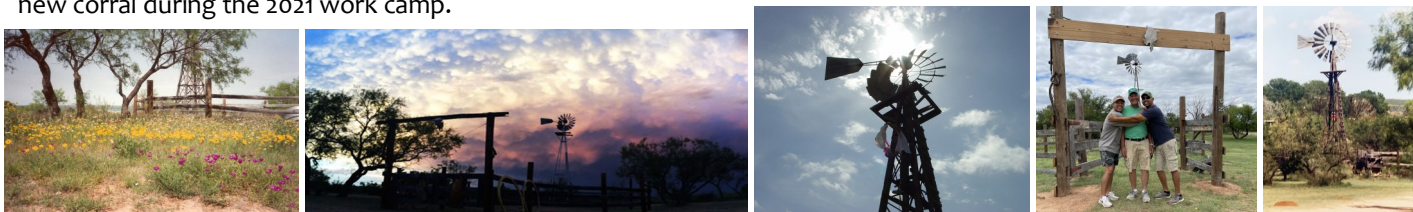
15. McAdoo - In the Spring of 1985, the McAdoo church building was moved to the camp. It was first used for Bible classes and storage but in late May of 1999, Harold Herron and the Sojourners remodeled the McAdoo into six apartment units and two large bathrooms to accommodate extra staff. Luke Bower from Baker Heights Church in Abilene, along with a crew from work camp, made wooden bunk beds to increase the amount of people the rooms could sleep. Some of the current furnishings were donated through the Amazon Campaign. Some of the rooms have been adopted for updates and others are still in need of being adopted. There are two apartments on the east side of the main McAdoo housing area, "Paty's Room" and "Kickapoo", which provide additional housing for summer volunteers. In 2021 these rooms were remodeled with help from several dedicated servants to become ADA accessible. During the renovation process, we had an anonymous donor donate a large sum to help with the remodel.



16. Boot Hill Cemetery - It was built sometime around 1977 as a replica of the real Boot Hill Graveyard in Arizona, to go along with the western theme. There have been tombstones for western icons over the years like John Wayne and Billy The Kid, and every once in a while, a tarantula, turtle, or a sun fried pair of rubber flip flops. In the spring of 2020 when the new buildings were brought onto western street, boot hill entrance had to be relocated to get the buildings in.



17. Corral and Windmill - In 1978 or 79, the Cactus Drive church of Levelland built the corral and windmill on Western Street. For several years, a Western Gun Fight was staged on Western Street. The Gunfight at the OK Corral was re-enacted, along with several humorous skits. Arnold Sanderson would also bring his horses down on Western Day for the campers to ride. In 2011, Roy Chisum of Jayton donated a new windmill for Western Street. In the spring of 2020, the corral on Western Street was taken down so the new buildings could be moved on to Western Street. In 2021, the corral was erected closer to the gate. The youth group from Jefferson St. C of C in NM, their preacher Clay Martin, and Brayden Bruton helped build the new corral during the 2021 work camp.



18. Camp Gate - Around 1974, a cattle guard with the camp name was placed at the original entrance to the camp. Brooks and Belinda Ellison of Crosbyton built a new gate and fence entrance in the Spring of 1996. Based on the master plan created by Tom's Tree Place in 2012, the entrance to camp was redesigned. An extension of the gate and a new fence at the front entrance was put in by Jim Bob Conner. In 2018, Howard Woods paid for a camp flag to be designed and printed. Howard and Ruby were the Camp Managers for 12 years. Howard, along with his son, installed the three flag poles with lights by the gate in memory of his wife Ruby who passed away in 2017. In 2019, the Petersburg C of C, donated to camp in memory of their long-time preacher, Owen Carr, who had taught Bible at camp for several years and is the father and grandfather to many at WRYC. Trees and shrubs were planted at the gate and the pine trees in honor of his grandchildren. Four additional Elm trees at the gate were donated and planted in memory of Loyd Thomas Hare by Kathy Hare-Prather (Camp Registrar) in 2019. They are dedicated to Loyd's children, their families and his long-time friendship with Papa Beene.



Papa Beene & Owen Carr
Loyd Hare



Ruby & Howard Woods

19. House on the Hill - Roy Chisum approached Papa Beene in 2020 about donating a house that he secured from Jayton ISD. It had been used as teacher housing. Upon Board approval, the house was brought in and set on a concrete foundation and cinder blocks. It has 2 bedrooms, one bathroom, living room/dining area, kitchen/laundry room. It was placed on a hill behind the shop so that it faces the front gate of the camp. The house will provide overnight accommodations year-round. It is a work in progress.



20. Arts and Crafts/Shop building - In 1971, Arts and Crafts was located in the army tent, along with the Trading Post. After the Dining Hall was built in 1972, crafts was located on the south end of the dining hall, with craft supplies sold out of the Trading Post. Due to the hassle of clean-up right before supper, Arts and Crafts was then relocated to the newly purchased Skyline Cafe in 1976. (The Baitrite store and Skyline Cafe were purchased in 1975 from the Sanderson's, with the owners of the Baitrite store being allowed to continue to operate their business.) In approximately 1990, the Baitrite store closed and the process began to utilize the space as the camp "shop". Arts and Crafts was updated by Jan Collier and Belinda Ellison and family in the late 1990's. Around 2010, Jarita Moses financed putting in a refrigerated air conditioning unit which has made it a popular place for recreation time!! In 2018, it was remodeled by the Jennifer and Derek Bozeman family, along with Amy & Lexi Caddell. The remodel included removing the counter and stools left from the Skyline Cafe, creating a rolling stand for the string, new tables and chairs, paint, metal corrugated siding, wooden trim and more. The outside of the building has been updated with a more "Western" theme look. Wood siding was added by Luke Bower and the Baker Heights C of C youth group. The Western look on the doors was done by Jeremy & Leah Smith. Jackie Qualls added the wooden window and door frames and in 2020 Danny Caddell created the facade with a Western flair.



21. Prayer Garden - Upon the passing of Brother Adrian Weir, the family chose the Prayer Garden from the camp's "Wishlist" to be built in his memory as part of his estate donation to the camp in 2018. He had volunteered many years in the kitchen and was befriended by Russell Wright. The Prayer Garden was built and designed by Tom's Tree Place. Kevin Tate, Papa Beene and Jeremy Smith helped facilitate the installation of the garden.



26. Ropes Course Part 2 - In 2021, an additional ropes course area was built through funds donated by an anonymous donor. It is located by the softball field. It has multiple challenges in this one area. Cole Jones, current board member, former camper and counselor along with Tom's Tree Place have been working on the ropes course. It is near completion!



27. Collier Sports Field - In early 2008, funds were given by an anonymous donor toward the new sports field and dedicated in honor of Wade "Doc" and Jan Collier. The land that was once the camp fence line was extended and cleared off for the sports field. Construction of the baseball/sports field (backstop and fence) was completed by Guy Galloway, Kyle Dunlap, Tom Mann, Jay Kingston, Roy Chisum and others. In 2020, Kevin Tate, current board president installed a light on the field for nighttime games. Campers enjoy several evenings of games each week on the sports field!



Near the sports field and the pavilion are the games Nine Square and Gaga Pit. These games are popular places for the campers to hangout. It is the dream to build additional games like these on western street.



28. Sports' Shed - In 1976, the Sports' shed was given in memory of Kam Huntley. With time, the original Sports' Shed would no longer protect the equipment from the weather. Around 2008, Russell Wright and Papa Beene initiated the installation of the new sports' shed.

29. The Day Cabana - In the fall of 2006 the construction began for a pavilion type structure behind boys tent one. It was built on top of the old concrete basketball court. The Day Cabana is in memory of Courtney Day and Richard Day; the Daughter of Tim and Lisa Day and father of Tim Day. Tim and Lisa met at WRYC as campers. Tim was also a potwasher and counselor, and they both spent several summers as bible teachers. The Day Cabana was built by Jim and Laura Melsha (daughter of Harold and Leta Herron), Zach and Danny Nutt, Guy Galloway, Harold Herron and others. The Cabana was donated by the Day Family of Lubbock. The Cabana serves as a place for bible class, devotionals, a recreation spot, shade, and home to our weekly shaved ice day.



30. Sand Volleyball Court - There was already a volleyball court for campers, but it was just a net and dirt. In October of 2010, Jim and Laura Melsha (daughter of Harold and Leta Herron) donated the sand for the new volleyball court, set up pipe side-lines, and a new net. Harold, Jim and Laura built the sand volleyball court. It has been loved and enjoyed by campers for volleyball, nukem', burying one another, and sand castles!



31. Archery and Air Riflery - In 1976, the Archery and Air Riflery field was created on the west side of the camp, across the fence line, on land owned by Arnold and Patsy Sanderson. Additionally, over the fence line the camp could take hikes and would walk to a hillside devotional one morning during the week (arrowheads were often found here). In 1999 Bruce Sanderson told Papa Beene that the wild hogs were getting worse and asked that the camp didn't risk hiking anymore. Air Riflery continues to this day.

**Arnold, Patsy, and
Bruce Sanderson**



32. Wright Dry Storage - The Wright Dry Storage was donated in memory of Russell and Nelda Wright in 2015. It was a much-needed addition and extension for the kitchen. It was designed and donated by their children Teressia Marley and Donna Carr.



Nelda & Rusty Wright

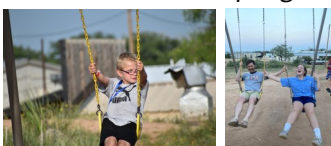
33. Fountain of Youth - In 1974, the Fountain of Youth was built by Eugene Jenkins. It originally had two water faucets so that you could get a cool drink of water from. A few years later it was filled in with more concrete to keep people out of the fountain. The fountain of youth has served as a place for the little ones to play in the water, a place to get a drink of water, a photo drop background, a place to sit and talk, a place for dogs to get a drink, and a place for Papa to drench counselors in their attempt to drench him first. We know its colors have for sure have been dark green, light blue, bright blue, white, and beige.



34. Gazebo - In 1986, the first Gazebo was built by Joseph and Carolyn Johnston (Rehmel) in memory of Eugene Jenkins, who died in 1980. The gazebo was torn down due to age, weather, and deterioration. A new metal gazebo was donated and built by Jim and Laura Melsha, and Harold Herron in memory of Leta Herron in the Spring of 2008.

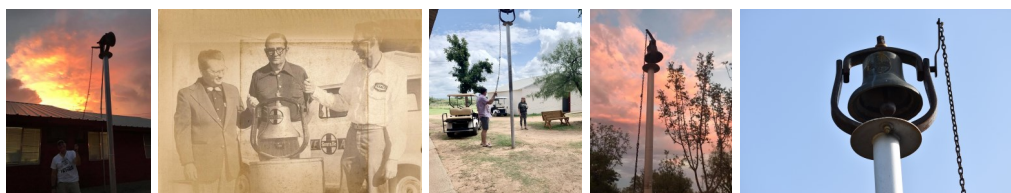


Leta Herron



Near the gazebo is a swing set. The swing set is one of the favorite spots to hangout. It is the dream to build an additional swing set near the pavilion.

35. Bell - On November 28, 1972, the Santa Fe Railway Co. out of Amarillo presented the camp with a locomotive bell to be used to let campers and staff know what time they were to assemble for activities. The bell is still rung to this day to let campers know it is time to wake-up and then when to move from activity to activity during the day. The bell is a sound that can bring you “home” and makes the heart flutter the first time you hear it ring after being gone for a while. Everyone knows that it is Papa Beene’s job to ring the bell or one of his assistants, but it never fails that a camper asks to ring the bell daily, we think it’s cute!



36. Trees - Trees were planted around 1972 in front of each tent, but only a few survived. A couple of those trees are now providing large amounts of shade. New trees were added to the campgrounds by Tim Oliver of Lubbock in 1987. In 2016, Papa Beene launched a campaign to friends of WRYC to “Shade WRYC”, forty-two trees were added to the camp landscape with a drip irrigation system to help sustain the trees. Trees are marked with tags by those who donated them, in memory of someone, or in someone’s honor. Eight more trees were added with the Prayer Garden and seventeen other trees were added by the gate in memory of Owen Carr and Loyd T. Hare. As the 50th Celebration approached, Papa Beene again reached out for donations for trees. His dream was “50 (more) trees for 50 years”. These trees are scheduled to be planted in December of 2021 by Tom’s Tree Place, with the goal close to being met. The campground is looking a little greener and the campers have a little more shade. They have been a wonderful addition.



37. Tents - The first year of camp in 1971 were rented. Each tent was different and had dirt floors. The original plan was to use tents the first year and then build cabins later, but the campers that first year loved the tents so much that they begged to keep using tents. In 1972, twelve concrete slabs were poured with metal frames to be used for custom built tents. Those tents were red canvas for the girls and green canvas for the boys, they were HOT! Around 1978 the camp started to switch over to the type of tents that we use today, white for the girls and yellow for the boys. In the spring of 2009, the Board reconstructed the tent bottoms by tearing out the old wood boards and installing metal above the concrete slabs. In recent years an architect did a research study over the campgrounds, its vegetation, functionality of various factors, comparison to similar camp sizes in the area and developed a plan for the future as part of a doctoral degree. One of the items that was strongly suggested was to never get rid of the tents, it was one of the main factors that set WRYC apart from the rest. There is NO intention to get rid of the tents, but definitely to keep planting trees to add more shade! Campers and counselors still clean or not clean their tent daily for tent inspection awards. It has been fun over the years to watch the dedication and tactics transform. Feel free to go in the tents to look around, take photos, and reminisce.



38. Brush Arbor - In 1971, the Brush Arbor was built as an area to have Bible classes. The roof was covered in branches and “brush”, thus the name. A metal roof was later added, but due to weathering and corrosion the Brush Arbor was torn down and replaced with a metal “Barn” in 2021. Metal sides and doors will be added in the future.



39. Little Big Horn - Ramon Lee Johnston purchased two containers for camp to use. One was buried behind the girls' tents for an additional storm shelter and storage. Jim Bob Conner built the doors on the container behind the girls tents, which was named “Little Big Horn”. The other container was put behind the camp shop for storage. An additional container was secured by Papa Beene in 2021 and was also put behind the shop. These two containers are now joined by a concrete slab and are in the process of being built as an outdoor shop which will have a steel roof.



Brief History of White River Youth Camp

The information documented from 1971-1987 was from a newsletter written by Joseph Johnston.

The idea of a Bible Encampment at White River Lake was suggested at a business meeting of the White River Lake Church of Christ, by Joseph Johnston, in January, 1971. The plan was to invite area families to camp around the church building with Vacation Bible School classes during the day, and singing and preaching at night. A meeting was called in March of that year, with supper at the Skyline Café (now the Crafts building) and a planning meeting at the church building.

A large number attended and various presentations on camp work were considered. Among the visitors was C. A. "Pop" Farley, long time director of Camp Blue Haven. He maintained that camps for the youth seemed to accomplish the most good. So it was agreed that a camp for kids would be the best way to go and could accomplish a ministry for Christ.

Other meetings were held in the following weeks. Committees were appointed over different areas of the project. Guy Goen was selected to head up the cooking, and he would be using the chuck wagon from his ranch. Silas Short, Ken Bozeman, and M. B. Stanton were on the tent committee. Joseph Johnston was appointed Camp Director. A Board of Directors and officers were selected. Our officers were: Arnold Sanderson, President; Roger Turner, Vice-President; Gary Williams, Secretary; and Joseph Johnston, Treasurer. August 9-14, 1971 was selected as our first camp session. Camp applications were printed and distributed to area congregations. Joseph Johnston contacted "Pop" Farley to become Camp Director and Joseph then became the Assistant Director. Teachers and counselors were also recruited. Tents and toilet facilities were rented and shower houses were constructed by Eugene Jenkins. (Lake houses were available to use in the case of bad weather. They were never needed.)

A circus tent was used as a dining hall, an army tent was the trading post, and the campers stayed in several mixed-matched tents. It rained a lot that first year and campers either dug trenches around their tent to try to keep the water out or dug trenches that went through their tent so that they could claim to have "running water."

From approximately 1972-1983, Don Parker, the postmaster from Crosbyton, delivered the mail to the camp via airdrop from his airplane. He got the idea from another guy that occasionally would airdrop the mail to the nearby girl scout camp. He thought dropping the mail to WRYC would be something he could do and have some fun as well. He liked to throw out rolls of toilet paper before he dropped the mail, but sometimes he would drop balloons with bubblegum tied on the end that his wife and daughter helped him make. He always had to be careful when dropping the mail, that he kept the bag close to the wing so it wouldn't get caught on the tail. However, one time the bag did get caught on the tail of the plane. He tried a few maneuvers to shake it loose without any success. So he flew low to the ground and hollered at Curtis Mayberry that he was going to land the plane on the highway. Curtis ran inside the dining hall and grabbed Russell Wright, the cook. They drove to the highway that runs parallel to the camp with Russell stopping traffic at one end and Curtis at the other end. Don landed the plane and gave the mail bag to one of the staff members that ran to get it. Then he took off. Russell told Don later that some intoxicated guy drove up and Russell stopped him and told him to wait because a plane was about to take off. The guy told Russell, "Ain't no plane gonna be taking off from here." About that time, the plane took off! So the guy was very surprised. There were always others wanting to ride with Don when he did the airdrop and many had the opportunity. Larry Yowell took photos of the camp from Don's plane that were later used on camp postcards. Don also worked at the camp from its beginning in 1971. He traveled with Joseph Johnston to look at various buildings to be used as the church building in 1970, served on the camp board of directors, traveled to area congregations with Joseph to present a camp slide show to promote the camp, and also traveled on his own to area congregations with a slide show. He also helped out in the kitchen from 1971-2020!

Billy Bob Wright with some brethren from Ralls, built the brush arbor and erected the flagpole. 71 campers attended and 8 were baptized into Christ. Even before this session ended, plans were underway for a camp in 1972.

The name was changed to White River Youth Camp. Marvin Shurbet was appointed Building Chairman and Ken Bozeman became Finance Chairman. "Pop" Farley was again selected camp director and in January, 1972, work on the new dining hall, kitchen, office, and trading post was begun. It was finished in early spring. Eugene Jenkins designed and built restrooms to the shower houses. The original plan had been to rent tents for the first year and then build cabins. However, those first year campers loved staying in tents so much that they begged to keep using tents. So, concrete slabs with pipe frames were constructed for our new custom-made tents. Our first session for July 9-15 was soon filled to capacity. A second session for July 16-22 was announced with Roger Turner as Director. The second session was also filled, with many being turned away for lack of space. In November of 1972, the Santa Fe Railway Co. out of Amarillo presented a locomotive bell to the camp, to be used to let campers and staff know when to assemble for activities.

Following the success of 1972, plans were made for three sessions in 1973. When Brother Farley's health would not allow him to continue as Camp Director, Dick Laird was selected to be the director. Our amphi-theater was designed by Dick and donated by the Monterey church in 1973. The amphi-theater was originally all dirt, but concrete was later added in 1975. In June 1973, a steel box car was presented to J.O. Bell and Ken Bozeman, (representing the camp) to be used as a storm shelter and storage. A hole was dug but when the box car arrived, surprisingly the wheels were still attached. So when the box car and wheels were dropped into the hole it was taller than the hole. The box car was then covered with a mound of dirt. Hence, the Indian Mound!!

We again had full sessions for the three weeks. Jay Don Rogers, of Acuff, became Camp Director in 1974. The idea and plans for a "Western Street" began with Acuff's construction of the Acuff Hotel. Jim Strawn became cook and Eugene Jenkins became building and maintenance foreman. The Fountain of Youth was built by Eugene Jenkins.

Prior to the swimming pool being built, the campers rode a bus to the other side of the lake to swim in the pool at what was then the Country Club/Golf Course. It was a very time-consuming process, and also involved crossing a few stream beds. So discussions were started to build a pool at the camp, and it was completed in 1975.

In 1976 the Bait Rite Store and Skyline Café were purchased from the Sandersons and a fourth session was added. Arnold and Patsy Sanderson donated the 20 ½ acres of land that the camp was using, and in the next few years many additions were made to Western Street. A Sports Barn, to store sports equipment, was given in memory of Kam Huntley.

In 1977, the Girard church donated a building (The Bank) and remodeled it for our new cook, Russell Wright and his wife, Nelda. Heston and Ruby Bennett, of Lockney, donated the Sheriff's House for the camp director. The Afton church donated their building and it became our Opry House. In 1978, the Cactus Drive church in Levelland built the Jail and in 1979, following the death of Ken Bozeman, his family provided funds for the Doc Bozeman Infirmary (Nurses Station). We also had use of a travel trailer donated by W. A. Holeman, and saw Guy Goen and Brother Jenkins build the Bar-B-Q pit. The Cactus Drive brethren added the corral and windmill around 1978 or 79. For several years we staged an old west "shoot out" on Thursdays. Horses, provided by Arnold Sanderson, were brought down on Western Day, for the campers to ride. Jay Don continued with us through 1980, after which he became a missionary to Canada.

David Barnett became camp director in 1981. He previously served as a counselor and teacher and is married to Diane Daniels, who was one of our first campers in 1971.

During the years of 1981-1986, some 2500 campers attended, with 175 baptisms. Buildings and facilities have been constantly improved with year-round use in the near future. The kitchen was enlarged in 1983 and a walk-in cooler was added in 1984. The camp manager's cabin was given in 1984, in the memory of Joe E. and Viola Johnston and Ivy and Gladys Lawson, parents of Joseph and Zane Johnston. The McAdoo brethren donated their church building in 1985 and was being used for Bible classes and living quarters. In 1986, the first Gazebo was built in memory of Eugene Jenkins, who died in 1980. At the close of our 1986 sessions, David resigned to begin a ministry with the church in Graham, Texas.

In 1987, Russell "Coach" Beene of Lubbock Christian Schools, was selected director.

End of newsletter that was written by Joseph Johnston and then edited in 2021 by Carolyn Johnston Rehmel.

In December of 1988, Tony Mauldin of Snyder was elected as the new camp Director. Spring of '89, the camp purchased a '73 International school bus to be used for camper transportation. Camp fees were \$65 with a free t-shirt in '91. William Eudy of Crosbyton was elected as new camp Director in the fall of '91.

In 1994, after serving at the camp for 24 years, Joseph and Zane Johnston retired from camp work. Joseph (Tonto Joe) served as Treasurer on the camp Board of Directors for all of those 24 years. He was also the Assistant Director for 9 years (1971-79) and was the Camp Manager for 15 years (1980-1994). Zane worked faithfully for all of those years, running the Arts and Crafts program and was in charge of camper registration. Joseph and Zane had also spent many hours traveling to area congregations and college lectureships, with a slide show presentation, to promote the camp and raise funds.

August '95, Wade and Jan Collier of Crosbyton are hired as new camp Manager (care-taker). After 4 years, William Eudy resigned as camp Director and in February '96, Matt McCook was elected as new camp Director. Camp fees were set for \$95 for campers of '96. WRYC board underwent an extensive and expensive camp improvement for camp '97. Two new shower houses (30x30) were built and a new concession stand, also known as the Trading Post was built.

October '97, Russell Beene of Lubbock was hired as new camp Director: Family members- wife, (Sue), daughters (Kristy, Amy and Marci) were part of the package. In May 1998, a retired church of Christ ministry group called "Sojourners" of Fairfield (John Boothe) came to WRYC and donated time/labor in needed repairs around the camp grounds. For camp '98, metal roofs were installed to the Opry House, Acuff and the Sheriff's buildings. Due to inflation, the Board raised camp fees to \$115 for '99 camp registration. Russell Wright (head cook) along with Russell Beene (director) united WRYC with the South Plains Food Bank to help decrease food costs for camp '97.

In 1999, horses were once again added back to the 'Western Day' activities and brought down by the Wyrick family of Floydada. In October of 1999, after 4 years, Wade and Jan Collier resigned as camp caretakers. In January of 2000, WRYC was given a large donation of \$5000 from the Hollen Wayne Lawrence Estate of Lorenzo and was put into the WRYC Foundation (established in 1996 and overseen by Joey Pierce of Morton). Also in January, the Board hired Harold and Leta Herron of Anton to be the new camp caretakers.

Day Camp was added to the fourth week for K-4th grade campers from M-F, 9 AM to 4 PM daily in 2000. WRYC was added to the world wide web by Kohen Josey and in 2003 Cal Zant redesigned the site and domain that is currently in use. Two new commercial ovens and a new commercial stove were added to the kitchen thanks to anonymous individuals. In September of 2000, the board approved to order a commercial mixer and fryers. A new fence was added to the pool to comply with TDH regulations.

For the 2001 camp, the Board raised tuition to \$125. In May of 2001, WRYC celebrated 30 years (1971+2001) with a reunion and an article ran in the Lubbock AJ featuring the camp and our prestigious cooks, Russell and Nelda Wright and their daughters; Donna and Teressia. In 2002, the Board hired Howard and Ruby Woods of Anton, as the new camp managers and in charge of retreats/reunions. In January 2006, Joyce Williams of Floydada donated a 95 Chevy 4x4 Suburban to WRYC and later sold it for \$3000 due to high insurance and liability cost. In November '06 the Board raised the camp fee to \$155.

The WRYC Cookbook was published in 2006. Teressia and the Wright family were in charge of gathering all the recipes and an anonymous donor paid for the publication and all money raised from the sales of the cookbooks of \$20 was put back into the camp treasury.

In the Spring of 2007, Arnold and Patsy Sanderson sold WRYC seven (7) additional acres for \$1 per acre. The land stretches on the south border of the campgrounds.

In January 2008, Arnold Sanderson of Post (husband of Patsy and father of Bruce) died.

Before camp 2008, Guy Galloway and other Board members pursued the purchase of a John Deere 790 utility tractor with a loader for camp use. Many individuals and congregations gave toward the cost of \$15,688 and was paid for in full with no camp funds, only by donations. Ronnie Stamps of Anton donated time/labor and septic system for the dining hall/kitchen.

In December of 2010, a donation of \$50,000 was given to WRYC by an anonymous individual. The Board decided to put 60% toward the Foundation and 40% toward the Building Fund.

Early 2011, the Board purchased a commercial washer and dryer at a cost that was nearly \$6,000. Roy Chisum of Jayton donated a windmill for Western Street.

After working in the kitchen since 1971 and being faithful and dedicated servants of the Lord at WRYC, Russell and Nelda Wright passed away 6 months apart in 2014 and 2015. Their daughters, Donna Carr and Teressia Marley grew up serving alongside Rusty and Nelda and continue this legacy to this day. Sammy and Sandra Bradley began working in the kitchen with Rusty and Nelda learning the ropes and have now completed over 15 years of service.

For several years, day camp ran concurrently with the 4th session but when the numbers grew in 4th session and in day camp it became too much to be on the same week. Day Camp was then moved to the week prior to 1st session each year. As the number of campers grew over all and with the addition of a large youth group transitioning to WRYC, the board saw the need to add a 5th Session in 2016. In that same year, an online program was purchased for registration. Kathy Hare-Prather did registration on paper for several years and continues to do registration through the online program. She serves diligently in this capacity and has done so for over 15 years. The fee for camp attendance is \$195 in 2021 with the summer enrollment for Work Camp, Day Camp and 5 sessions at 773.

Howard Woods resigned as Camp Manager and caretaker in 2014 due to poor health of his wife, Ruby. Jack and MaryAnn Gordon were hired as the Camp Managers and caretakers from 2015-2019. The Camp Manager position had traditionally also been responsible for camp maintenance and camp rental for outside retreats. The Board decided to offer these as two separate positions in 2020. Debbie and Wayne Kitchens were hired in 2020 as the Camp Caretakers and Michael Jimenez was secured as Retreat Manager. Michael is also currently one of the assistants to the director.

In 2018, upon the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Weir, camp was notified that WRYC was the benefactor of a substantial donation from the Weir estate. Funds have been used to build the Prayer Garden, to improve facilities and for long term investment for camp security. For several years, both of the Weirs volunteered each summer, working in the kitchen and loved the ministry of WRYC.

Camp continued to operate during the Pandemic in 2020 as one of 13 camps in the state of Texas with the guidance of our camp doctor, Jeff Hannel. Many alterations to camp life had to be made, such as meeting in the pavilion for worship services and talent nights. Coordinating boy and girl tents sat in groups 6' away from other tents. Older and younger campers had separate meal times and meals were served behind a screen. Temperatures were taken before each meal by the nurse. Boy and Girl tent groups did all activities together. Bible teachers did activities with the tents that they were teaching. An alternate drop off and pick up system was created to prevent close proximity to others. Many of these things promoted closeness within the tent groups and many said it was their best year. It was a difficult year to manage, but it was great to be together and learn about our creator. We had 621 face to face campers and 76 virtual Day Campers. Many thanks to Dr. Hannel for his guidance, our kitchen staff who worked extra hard in making the necessary changes, the 2020 counselors and the unimaginable counseling year they had, the Board's approval to have camp, ALL who came on Sundays to help with set up and assist with drop off, and the office staff who tirelessly worked to keep things safe so we could have camp!

In 2021 we kept the outdoor drive-through registration process. We had great success with it in 2020 and our office staff was all for it, but this year families were allowed the option to park and get their campers settled or still choose drop and go.

2021 Water Line upgrade and replacement:

The camp main water line has been replaced with a new resilient line which has greatly increased the volume and the pressure in the camp water supply. The new system will last for the next 50 years. This replacement was imperative for the future of the camp. There are now eight different shutoff valves around the camp which will allow for maintenance in specific areas and we will no longer have to shut off the whole camp system to work in a particular area. This has been done at a considerable maintenance cost. Thank you to the board for the vision for the future of the camp and to others who have done an excellent job of installation with great patience. We look to the future with anticipation of the benefits of a sound water system.

From 2011-2021 many changes have been made to the WRYC facilities.

Below is a list of updates. Details of each are in the numbered tour.

Wright Storage was built

Dining hall, staff room, office, kitchen remodeled and the addition of a secure storage area.

Doc Bozeman was remodeled

Acuff Hotel was remodeled

Sheriff's House remodeled

Gaga pit and 9 square were built

Trees added to the landscape

Prayer Garden was built

Johnston Feed and Seed was bought, brought in and remodeled.

"New Classroom Buildings" were bought, brought in and continue to be remodeled.

ADA updates to porches and to "Paty's" apartment on the east side of the McAdoo

Kickapoo apartment on the east side of McAdoo was remodeled

Barn replaced the Brush Arbor

"House on the Hill" has been donated, brought in and is in need of being remodeled.

Camp gate updated with trees and flag poles

Arts and Crafts updated

Corral was moved

Low ropes course part 2 was built

Little Big Horn storm shelter & outdoor shop

