

Camp Molloy

Laurel, Suffolk County, New York

Presented by

The Mattituck-Laurel Library

Mattituck, New York

Kay Zegel, Director

Jeff Walden, Assistant Director

Jerry Matovcik, Reference Librarian

631-298-4134, Ext. 5

mattitucklibrary@gmail.com

PLEASE CONTACT US

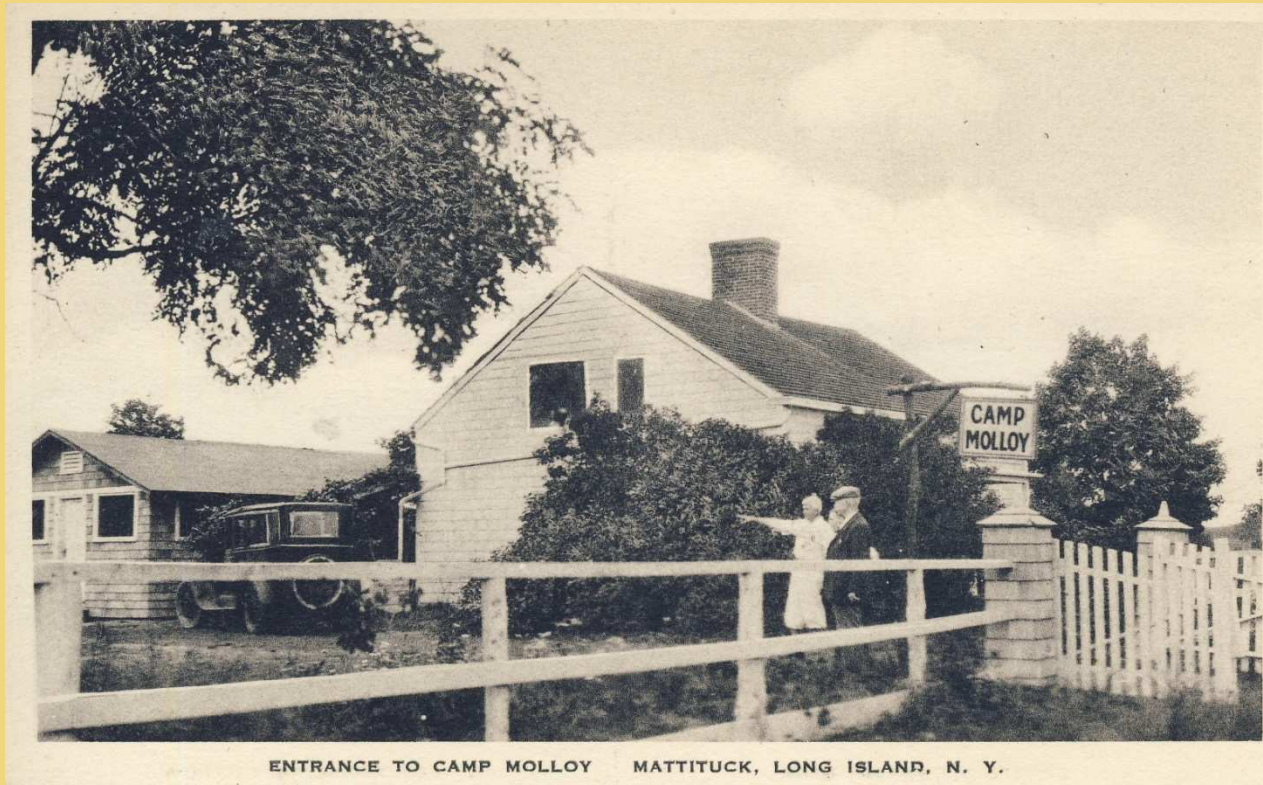
If you have any postcards, photos, letters, stories, artifacts, etc. from the Camp Molloy years, please contact Jeff or Jerry at:

631-298-4134, Ext. 5

jerryliberry @ gmail.com

or

mattitucklibrary@gmail.com

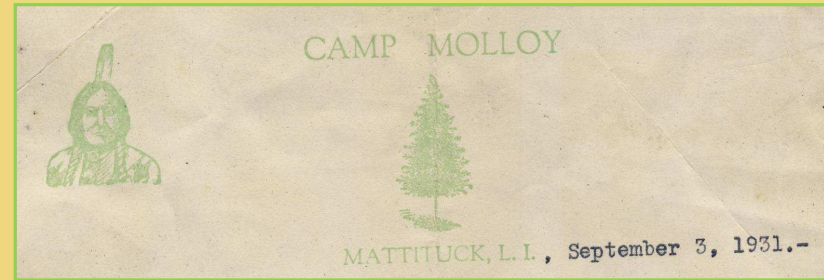


As part of our local history project, we have produced this brief PowerPoint presentation on the history of Camp Molloy with the hope that viewers who were participants in the camp's history might contact us with any additional information, stories, or photographs.

We will add these submissions to the presentation, courtesy of the donors, in order to preserve Camp Molloy's rich history and contributions to the youth of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Rockville Center.

We hope you enjoy the presentation and contact us by phone or email with your comments and feedback.

CAMP MOLLOY



Camp Molloy, and its sister camp, Camp Immaculata (originally called Camp Catholic Daughters of America) , were camps founded by the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn in 1926 for children from the city to enjoy part of their summer in the country. Mrs. Annie Silkworth sold her property on the Main Road to the Diocese so it could be developed into a camp.

Camp Molloy provided outdoor activities for innumerable children in its 50 year span. The camp closed in 1977.

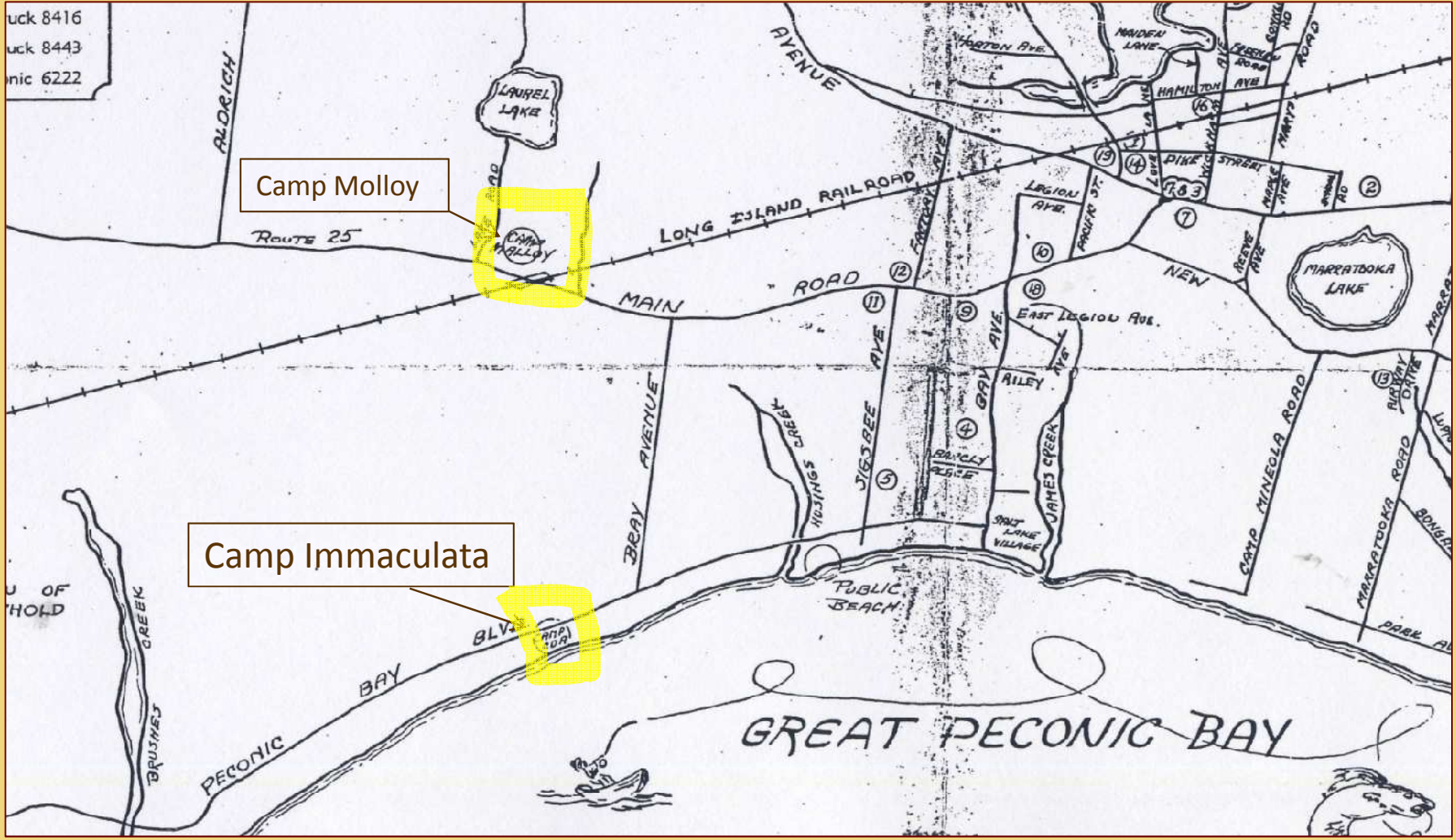
The maps from 1948 on the next slide show the location of Camp Molloy on Main Road and Camp Immaculate on Peconic Bay Blvd. in Laurel, Suffolk County, New York.



uck 8416
uck 8443
nic 6222

Camp Molloy

Camp Immaculata



St. John's College Football at Camp Molloy

ST. JOHN'S SQUAD GROWS.

Margolies and Maloney Join Football Team at Mattituck.

Special to The New York Times.

MATTITUCK, L. I., Sept. 17.—Abe Margolies, veteran halfback, and John Maloney, former St. Francis Xavier High School star, joined the St. John's College football squad today at Camp Molloy, increasing the total of aspirants to thirty-three. The usual double practice was held today with a signal drill and play formation comprising the morning session of one hour and a half.

The linemen were drilled on defensive and offensive plays for one hour during the afternoon practice, while the ends and back field players were sent through a tackling session. A scrimmage concluded the day's program.



Period Photo

Sept. 18, 1930

CAMP MOLLOY, 1931

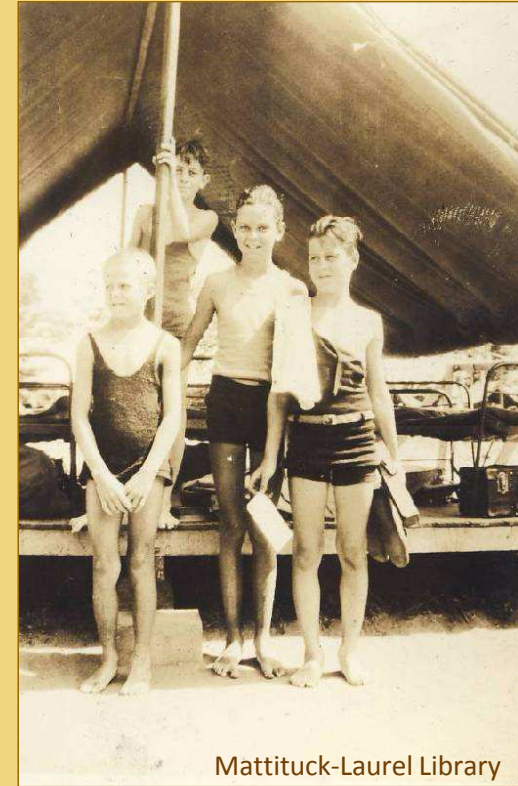


CAMP MOLLOY, 1931

Mattituck-Laurel Library



Mattituck-Laurel Library



Mattituck-Laurel Library

There were 200 boys attending Camp Molloy in 1931.



AT CAMP MOLLOY MATTITUCK, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

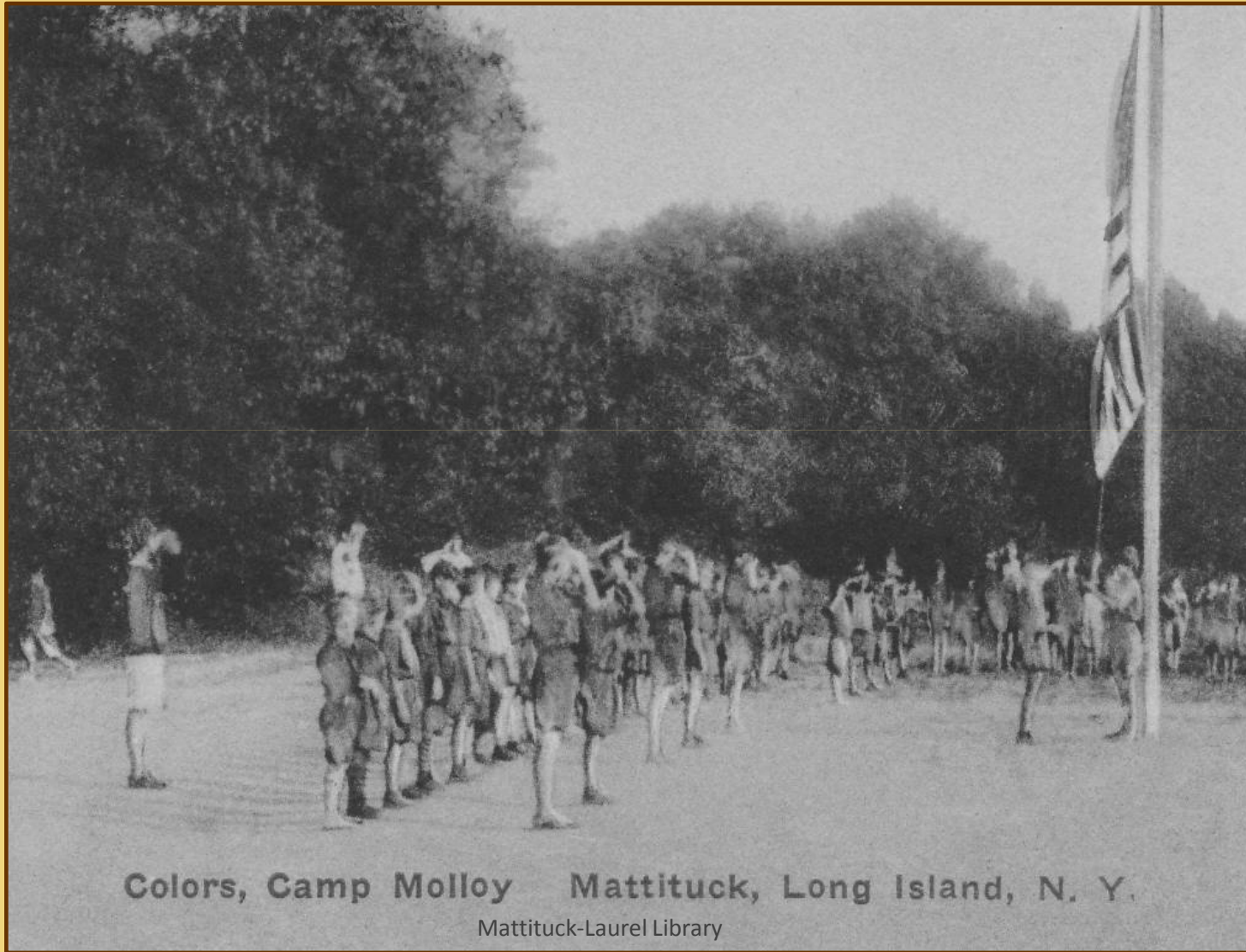
CAMP MOLLOY, c.1931



Camp Street

Mattituck-Laurel Library

CAMP MOLLOY, c.1931



Colors, Camp Molloy Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.

Mattituck-Laurel Library

Benediction Service at Camp Molloy, c. 1938



Mattituck-Laurel Library

CAMP MOLLOY, 1950's



Campers swimming in Laurel Lake in the 1950's.



Campers at Woodcraft Instruction.

**Flag Raising at Camp Molloy
Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.**



Mattituck-Laurel Library

M. D. McCoy
"Campers' Lodges" Camp Molly Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.

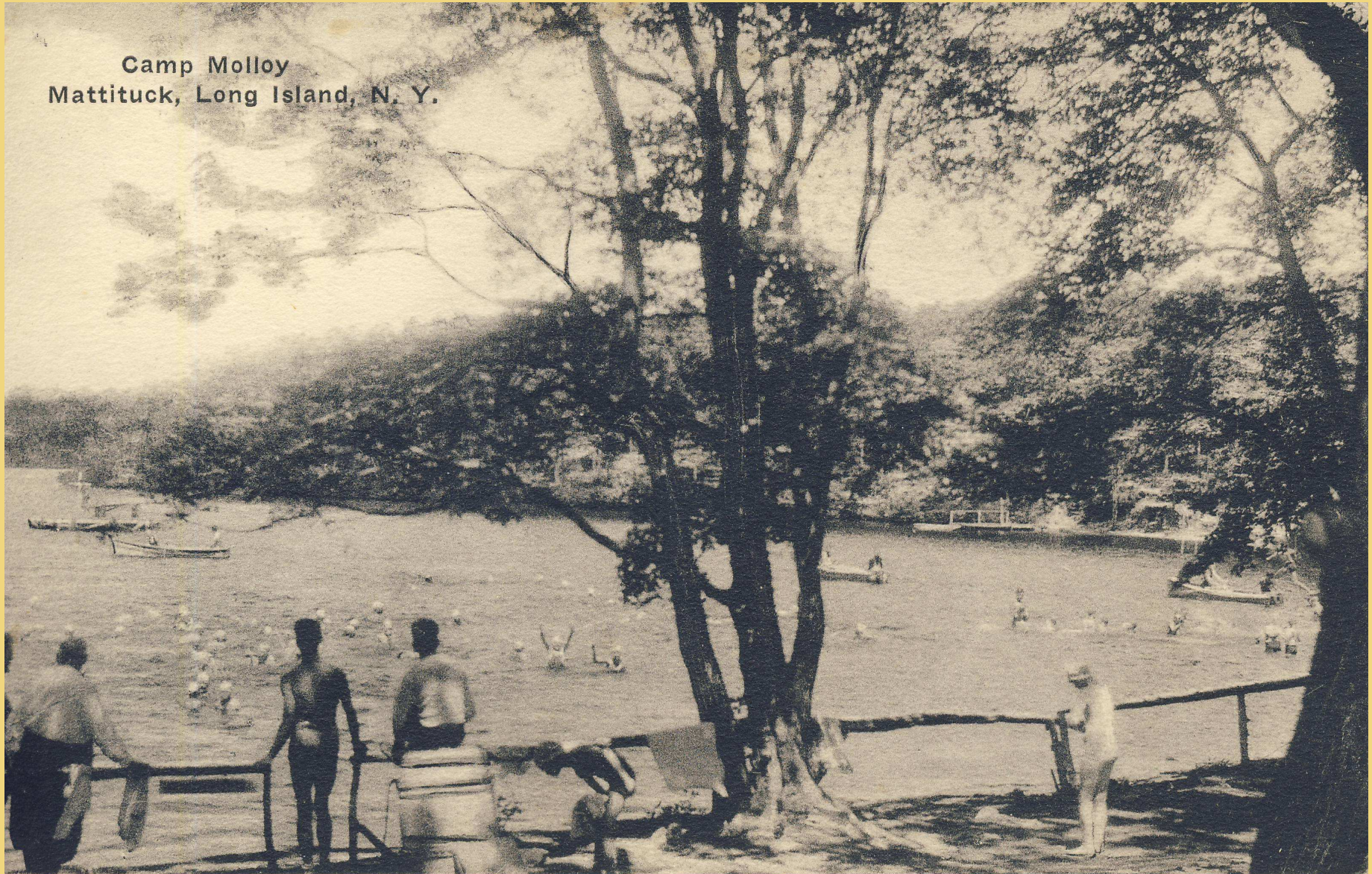


Bathing at Camp Molloy Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Camp Molloy
Mattituck, Long Island, N. Y.





The outdoor, open-air chapel.



Carl Santoro's Memories of Camp Molloy

"In the 50's, I went to Camp Molloy every summer (1956-60), starting from the Seneca tribe all the way up to the Oneida. The following year I worked there as a "K.P." (Kitchen Pig as the campers used to say). Before all the structures were taken down, my cousin retrieved an actual "Cayuga Tribe" sign (above) that was hanging outside one of the cabins."



Carl on KP Staff with a young camper from Camp Immaculata.

Carl returns to point out his name on the cabin wall.





Mattituck-Laurel Library

First Row (L to R): Joe Caruso, Bob Siccacio

Second Row:

Third Row:

Top Row: John Dennis Sullivan, Don Russo



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Seated (L to R): ?, ?, Priest?, Joe Caruso (Director), T.P. Ryan, Frank Gillen
First Row (L to R): ?, ?, Bob Siccacio, Dick Bachert, Ed Carey, Danny McNulty, John Reilly
Second Row: Don Russo
Third Row: Left - ; Right – Charles Guarino, Buddy Ribaud
Top Row:

Outdoor Chapel



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Left to right: ?, Ed Carey, John Reilly, John Dennis Sullivan, Jack McLaughlin, Ernie Fierello, Bob Toner, ?, Bud Ribauda, Don Russo, John Krane.

Outdoor Chapel

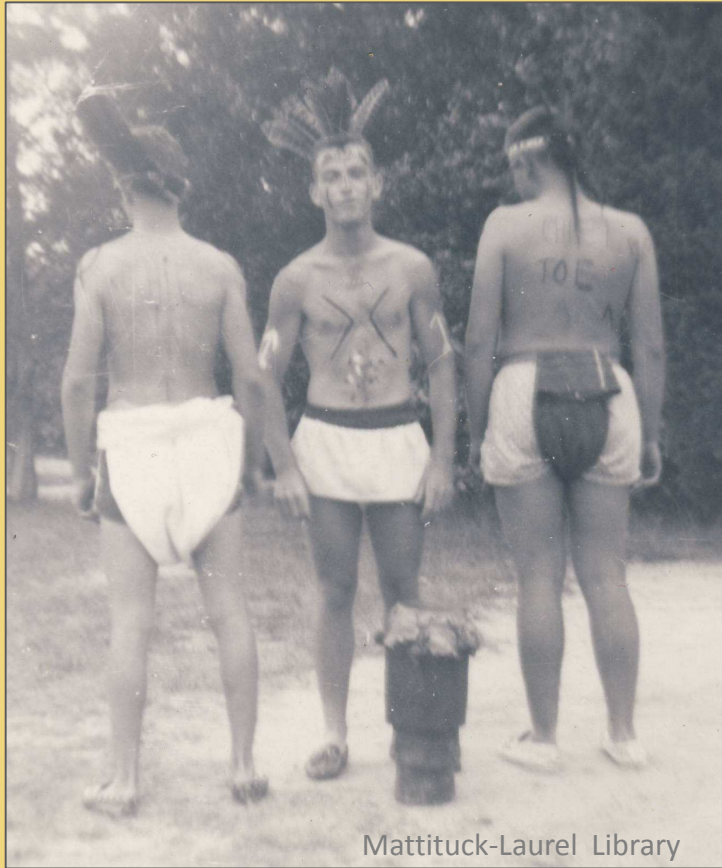


Mattituck-Laurel Library

Left to right: John Reilly, John Dennis Sullivan (hidden), Don Russo, John Patten, ?, Ernie Fiorello, John Krane, Charles "Bud" Ribaud, Jack McLaughlin (back toward us in cassock & surplice).



Left to Right: ?, Rev. George Deas, Ken Nee, Rev. Jim McMahon, T.P. Ryan, ?, Bill McLaughlin, Bob Saccacio, Frank Gillen, ?, ?, ?.



Mattituck-Laurel Library



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Left to Right: John Moore, and Don Russo
wears a sign on his back reading, "Eat at the TREE," referring to the notorious AppleTree restaurant, which served strong drinks and was patronized by some disreputable women. A "den of iniquity" off limits to counselors.

Tony Okeefe's Memories of Camp Molloy, 1963

I was in the age group called the Senecas, then the Onondagas. All the age groups were named after the Iroquois tribes. The younger groups were the Senecas, Onondagas, and Oneidas; the oldest group was the Tuscaroras. I think I was in cabin 12 and then cabin 14. I remember the mess hall and "bug juice" we drank at all the meals. The showers were between the Onondaga and the Tuscarora cabins. I remember Mass at the open air chapel. I remember the lake really well and swimming it to the other side where there was another camp (Camp Momaweta) that we played softball against.

The cabins...I could be sitting on my bed right now and remember it as though it were yesterday, with screened windows that had wooden shutters that opened upward.

We had aluminum row boats and canoes and swam in the lake with that dock and then there was a float out about 25 yards from the dock. There were little turtles all over the place.

6:30 or 7am was wake up to a record with a trumpet playing reveille.

I remember all the nature hikes and finding box turtles. Ah—one of my counselors was Donald Beckman. Great guy and then there was another counselor who was also great and would hit balls and I would shag fly balls from him. I was voted MVP of the softball team in '63, quite a thrill for a 10 year old. The softball field was also between the same cabins. There was a stretch of cabins and then a right angle to the left where the Oneida and Tuscarora cabins were and the softball diamond was at that right angle between the cabin line.

There would be camp fires and the counselors would tell scary stories like 'who stole my golden arm' and scare the heck of us kids!

CAMP MOLLOY, 1966



Campers and counselor from Cabin 18



Counselor Jerry Matovcik with camper, Joe Morena

Laurel Lake Preserve



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Photo courtesy of Mike Richter Photography

This is an area critical to the drinking water supply of Southold. In 1985, Jack McFeely purchased a 31-acre wooded parcel from the Diocese of Rockville Center that had been “Camp Molloy” from 1928 through the mid 1960s.

Jack and his wife, Mary, had a strong appreciation for the natural beauty of the land, so instead of developing it, they worked with the Peconic Land Trust to preserve it. The protection of the McFeely property has enabled the Town and the Trust to create an accessible trailhead



Mattituck-Laurel Library

Today, the open-air chapel is now a visitor's center.



Mattituck-Laurel Library

The administrator's building before it was torn down.

Today, Camp Molloy no longer exists, but the property is part of the Laurel Lake Preserve with hiking trails. The trailhead begins on the site next to the former outdoor chapel, which is now an open-air information center.

Some traces of the foundation to the mess hall remain not far from Laurel Lake. None of the cabins exist; many were sold to property owners throughout the village to be used as summer cottages. The administrator's building on Main Road had been in disrepair for many years and was razed in 2009.

Then,
1938



Now,
2009