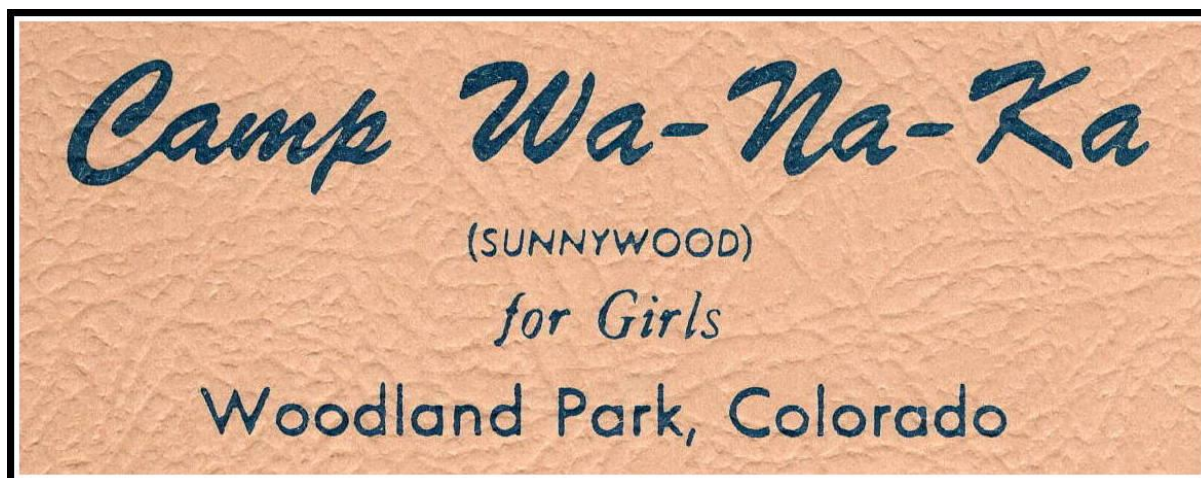


Camp Wa Na Ka

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Camp Wa Na Ka was a girls camp just 2 ½ miles north of downtown Woodland Park on the Deckers Highway. Its 250 acres were situated immediately adjacent to the Paint Pony Ranch development. Camp Wa Na Ka was built and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Bernard English of Ft. Worth, Texas although Mr. English did not participate in any part of the camp what so ever.

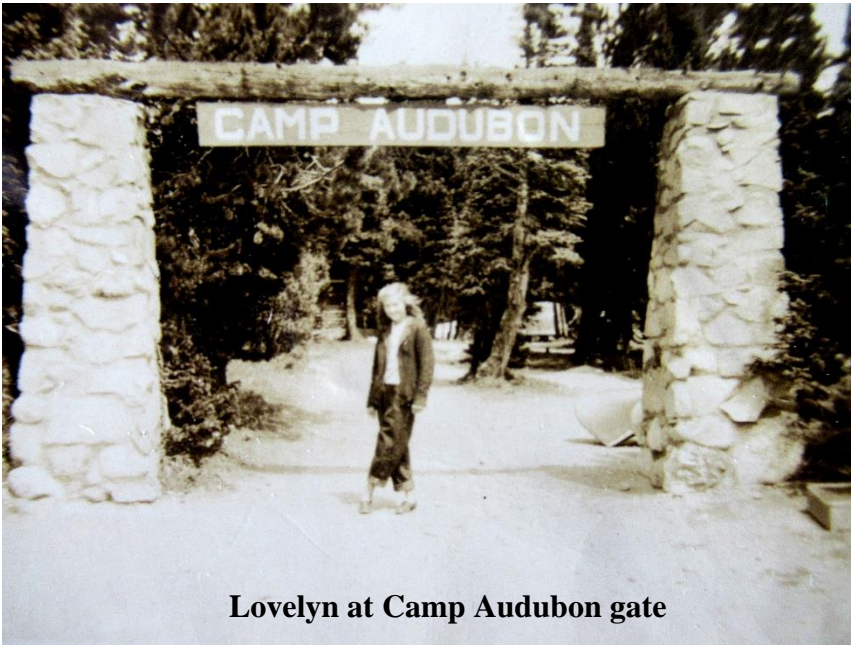
Bernard English was born in 1903 in Lake City, Florida. He was a 1929 honors graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Laws degree. He also was a 50 year member of Beta Theta Pi. From 1930 to 1935 he was a Florida State Senator, prior to that he was a municipal judge. He served and retired as the Southwest Regional Director of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Ft. Worth, Texas beginning in 1939. Also an attorney, he practiced transportation law after his retirement from the ICC. He was 89 years old when he died in 1992.

The single driving force and Director of Camp Wa Na Ka was Mrs. Quinelle English, better known as “Sunny” English. Sunny was born July 16, 1912 in Montgomery, Alabama but had lived in Ft. Worth since 1937. Her personality and nature was so bright and bubbly at the age of 9, that camp counselors in North Carolina gave her the nickname that would stick with her all of her life. As a young woman, she was a counselor at Camp Audubon in the mountains west of Boulder, Colorado outside of Ward, Colorado. She later was the director there.

Because of her serious love of the outdoors as a child and camper, she dedicated herself to passing that love on to generations of children. The English’s bought their property from L.E. Maag (uncle of Fern Hammer, great uncle of Connie Hammer Carpenter) in the fall of 1950 and opened Camp Wa Na Ka in June of 1952.



Sunny and daughter Lovelyn



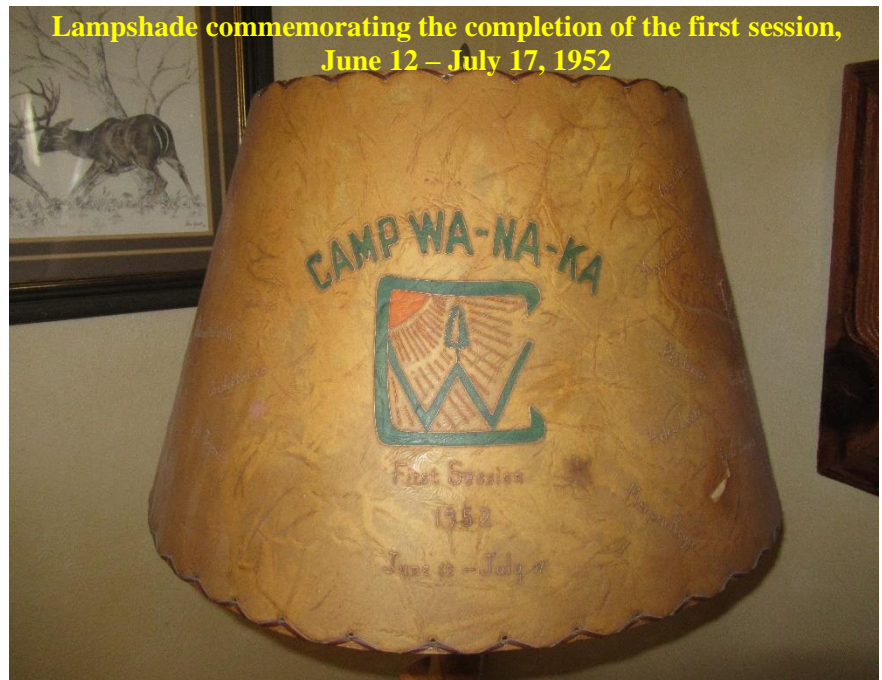
Lovelyn at Camp Audubon gate

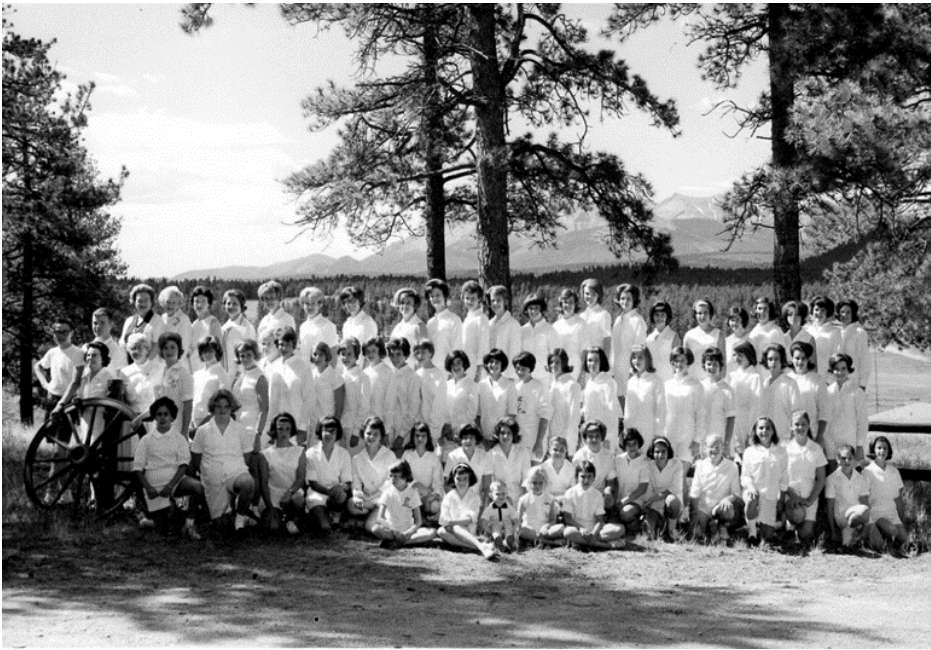
The camp held two four week “sessions” per summer. That first year they began with 60 girls between the ages of 8 and 18. As much as Sunny loved the outdoors, she was still very much a lady and very well dressed. Sunny was always interested in the welfare of young people and her camp was more of a “finishing camp”, or a “white gloves kind of thing” for girls rather than the typical 1950s camps. Not uncommon was that many of the girls were debutante’s or would be when they were of age. At her Ft. Worth home Sunny would host a springtime swim party for girls planning to attend Wa Na Ka. She would also hold reunion parties at her home for dozens of girls that attended Camp Wa Na Ka. One of

the most popular activities at the camp was learning to ice skate at the Broadmoor Ice Arena twice a week. Also popular were the swimming classes held at the camps own swimming pool (the first two years, then filled in and held at Paint Pony), the horsemanship classes (the horses were provided by Paint Pony Stables operated by Howard Stull and Jerry Mills, later the camp bought 14 of their own horses), drama classes, the camp melodrama and the art classes. Both the drama and art class were taught by renowned professionals. Other activities offered to the girls were the opera up at Central City, chuck wagon dinners down at Garden of the Gods and of course visits to Cripple Creek.

Sunny’s daughter Lovelyn and her husband Pat Hughes became involved in the day to day operation of the camp in 1957.

Besides serving as president of the American Camping Association, Sunny was also very civic minded. She held various offices in the Woman's Club of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Lecture Foundation and president of the Bible Section of the Junior Woman's Club. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church of Ft. Worth. She was councilor of the senior high department at the First Methodist Church. The English’s belonged to prestigious country clubs, such as the Fort Worth Petroleum Club, Ridglea Country Club and the Garden of the Gods Club in Colorado Springs.





Camp Wa Na Ka closed in 1972 when it was sold to local land developers Richard Cox, Ron O'Dell and Fred Mills. The planned 250 acre development would consist of 350 homes and was named "Sunnywood" in honor of Mrs. English.

Quinelle "Sunny" English died on August 9, 2005 and is interred at Greenwood Memorial Park and Mausoleum in Fort Worth, Texas.

- According to Lovelyn Hughes, Sunny researched and found that the phrase "Wa Na Ka" meant "Sun in the Woods" or "Sunnywood"

and that is how the camp was named.

- Also according to Lovelyn, Sunny was a counselor at Camp Audubon and later was the director of the camp. When that camp lost their Forest Service lease and had to close, Sunny was persuaded to start her own camp by her Fort Worth friend, Mr. Bill Allen. Bill and his wife Dorothy in 1946 created, owned and operated the Blue Mountain Ranch for youth in Florissant, Colorado which is still family operated today.

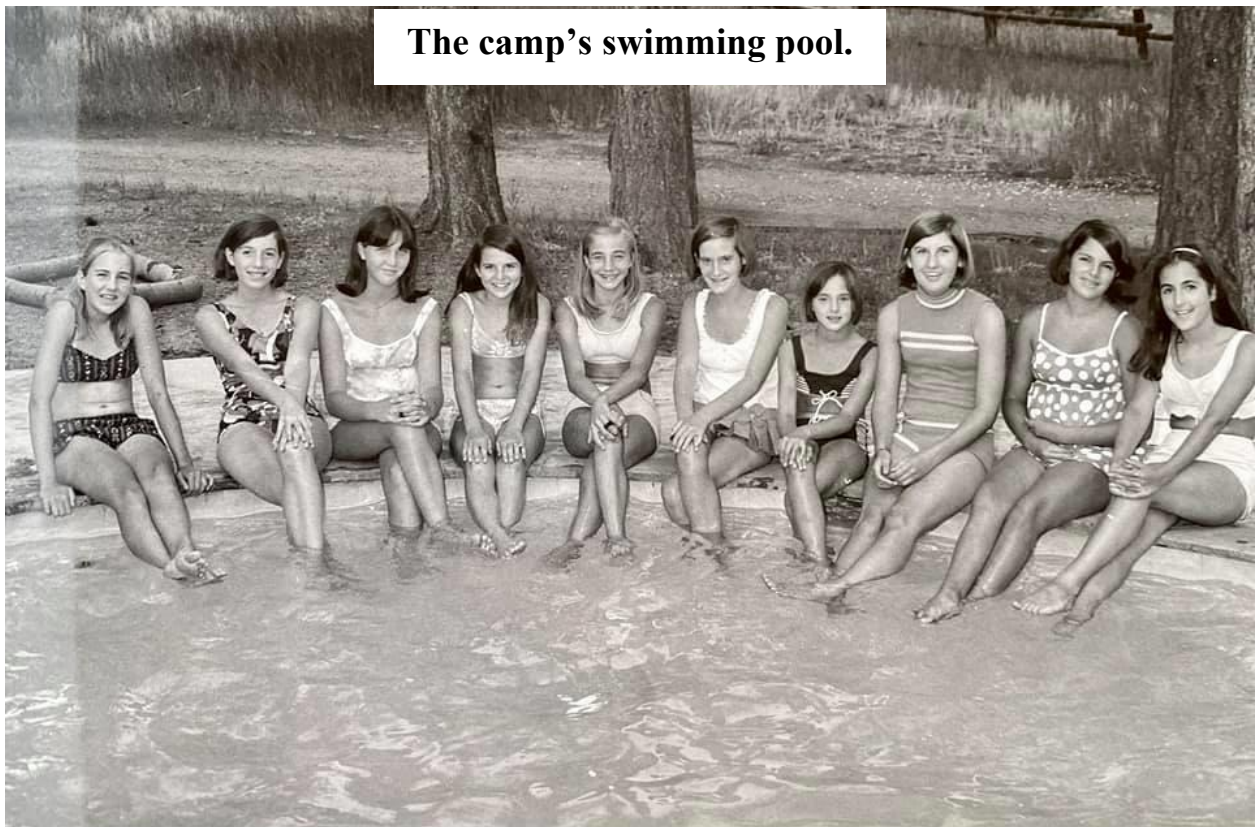


- Local resident Ralph Hines would bring the girls from the railroad station in Colorado Springs to the camp in his buses. Also, Divide resident Fred Shoemaker would haul all of the luggage and trunks from the depot to the camp.



Sunny English at her Camp Wa Na Ka office desk. Always dressed to the nines.

- Camp Wa Na Ka's swimming pool was only in use for two years. It was found to be too much of a losing proposition and financial drain just as all of the other early day swimming pools in the area were and was shut down and filled in. The girls then enjoyed the nearby Paint Pony Country Club pool.
- A registered nurse was resident throughout the summer when camp was in session.
- All of the western style tables and chairs were made by Woodland Park's Harold Robinson.



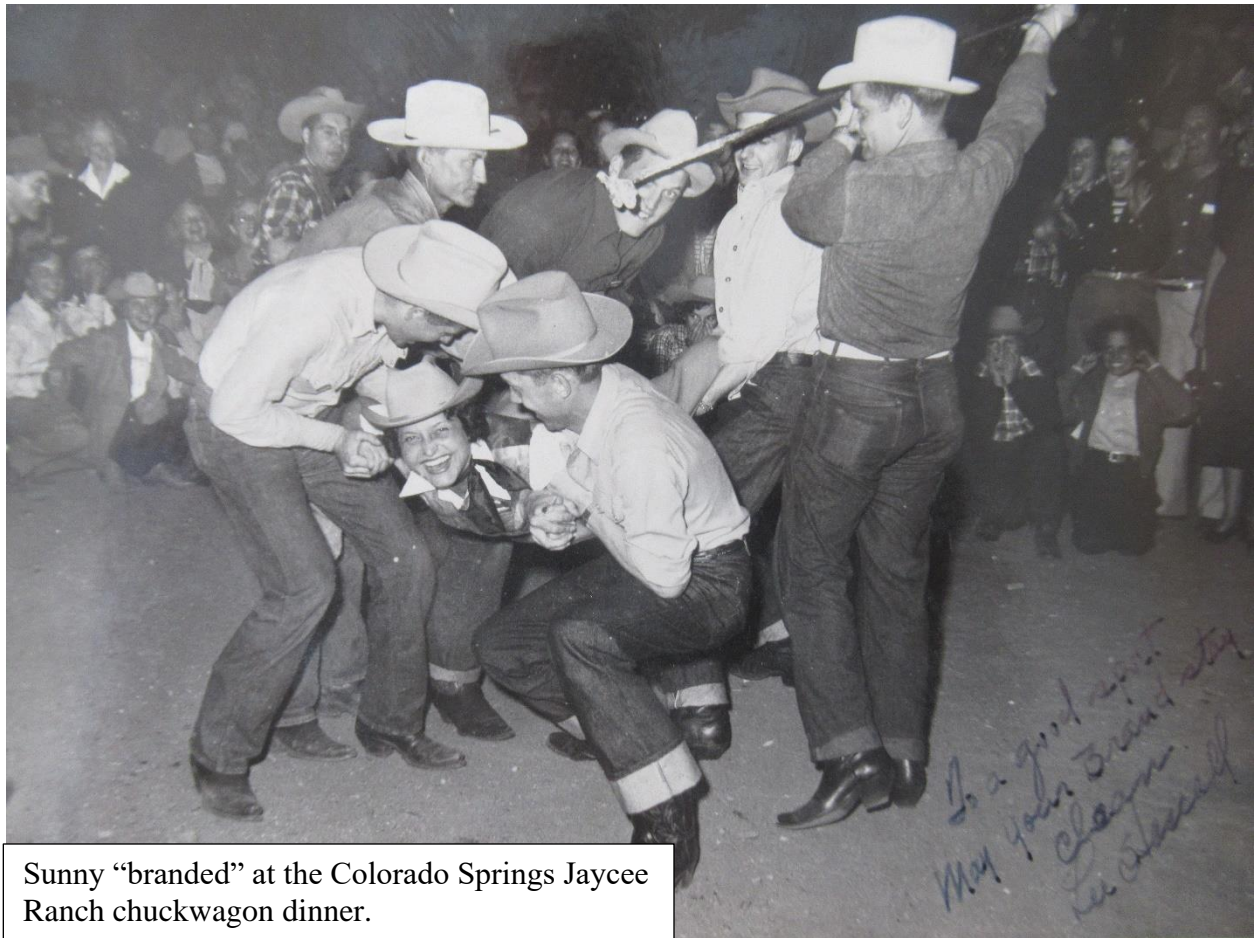
The camp's swimming pool.



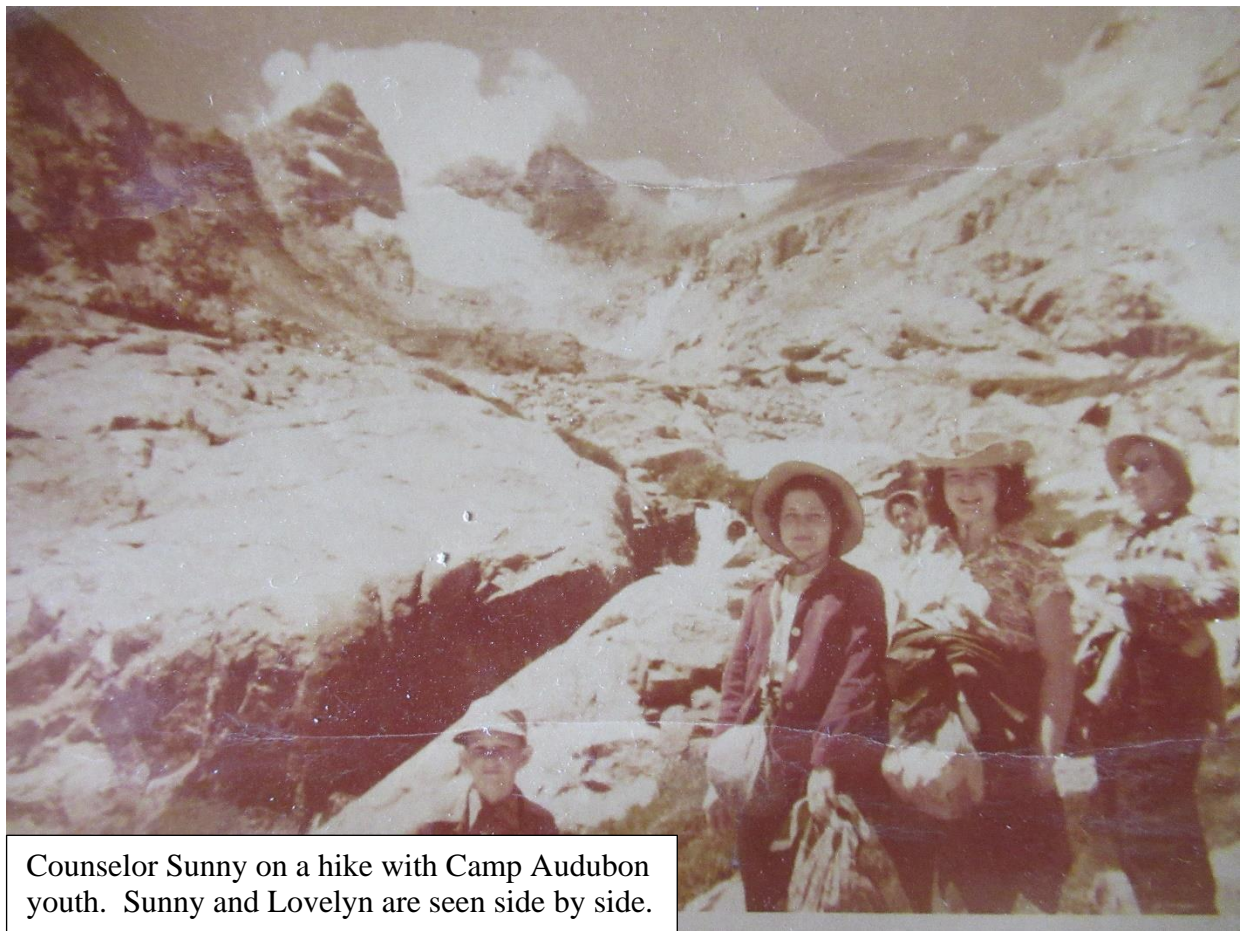
**Lovelyn (English) Hughes at her Sunnywood residence, July 21, 2021.
The house is part of the old camp and the upstairs was also Sunny's
residence during the Wa Na Ka days.**



Camp Wa Na Ka melodrama cast



Sunny "branded" at the Colorado Springs Jaycee Ranch chuckwagon dinner.



Counselor Sunny on a hike with Camp Audubon youth. Sunny and Lovelyn are seen side by side.





With enrollment limited to 60 girls each term of camp, WA-NA-KA offers the opportunity of a unique camping experience. Free from the pressures experienced in our mass education system, the enriching programs of WA-NA-KA deal not only with land sports and outside activities, but also equal emphasis is placed on the arts and social graces. The large staff assures that each camper can receive individual help in the various activities. During the first two years of camping, girls are encouraged to take part in as many activities as possible to give them the broadest possible background. In their third year most choose to specialize and earn honors in one special activity. At age 14 and with three prior years of camping experience a girl can enter the counselor training program, which leads to their future certification as qualified counselors. The close family like association of staff and campers of all ages, learning and doing together, produces the self-reliance, confidence and poise that will make your daughter a "WA-NA-KA GIRL".



WHAT TO BRING

The only uniform required is—at least two pairs of white shorts and blouses to be worn on Sundays and other special occasions.

Two or three white outfits.
 Traveling suit for the trip home.
 Two or three cotton dresses or skirts and blouses.
 Colored shorts or sunsuits.
 Four pairs Blue Jeans.
 Colored shirts.
 Any slacks or riding clothes you may have.
 Sweaters—cardigan or pullover.
 Rain slicker.
 Bath robe.
 Two Pair Pajamas.
 Two Swim Suits and Cap.

Cowboy boots—if desired.
 Sturdy shoes—plenty large to allow room for heavy sox.
 Any loafers or play shoes you have.
 Tennis shoes, racket, and balls.
 Socks—ten pair soft and thick.
 Any costume you may have.
 Ice skates, if you have.

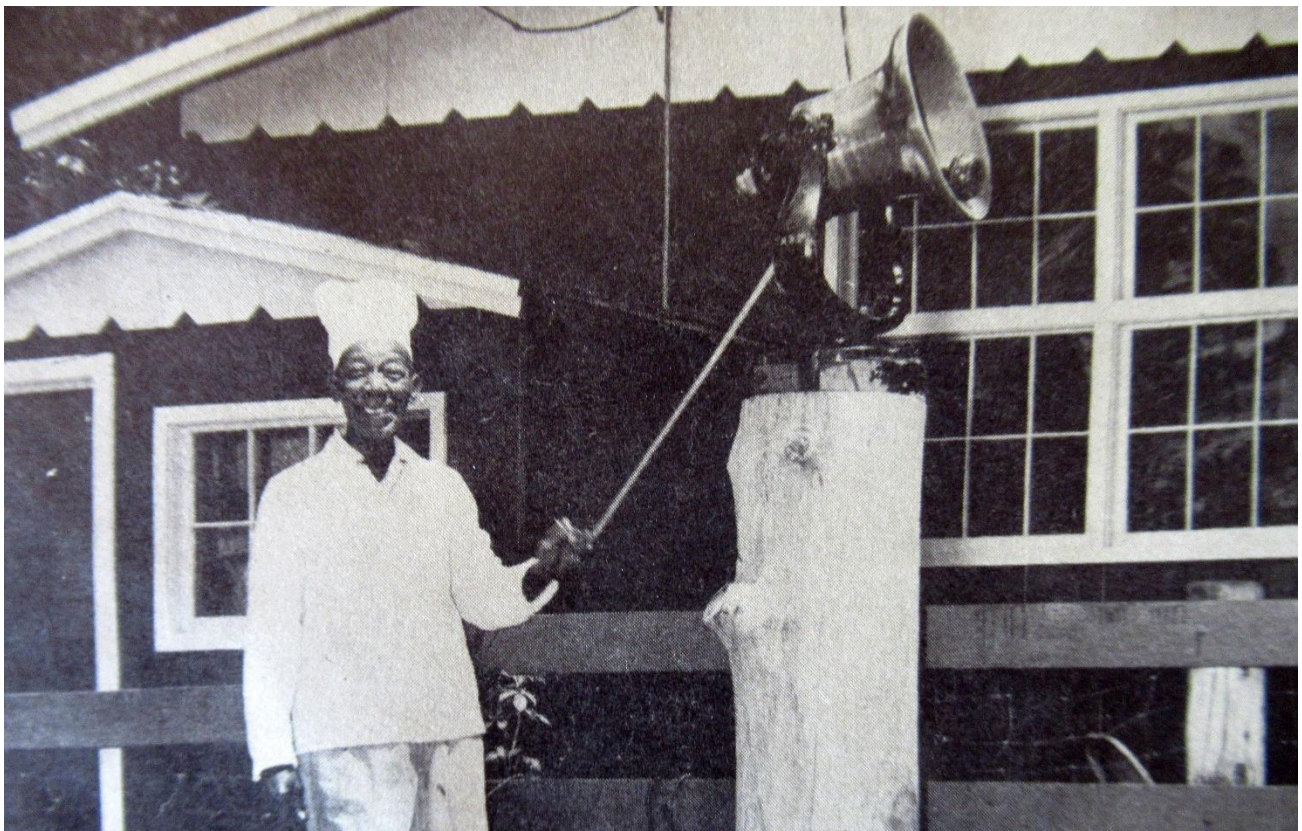
Flashlight and extra batteries.
 Tincup, knife, fork, spoon, and plate for outdoor cooking.

BEDDING:

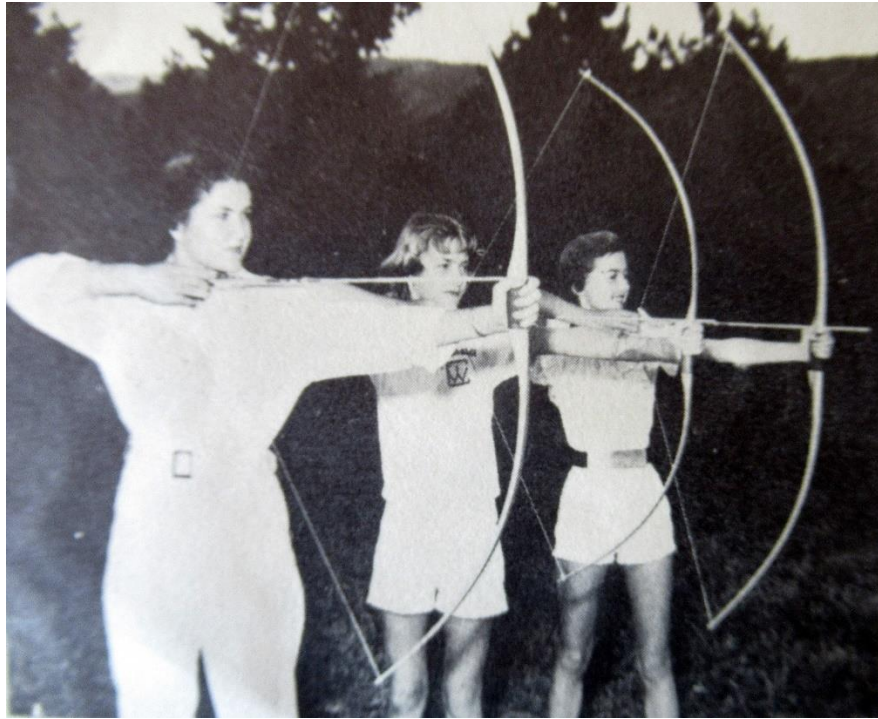
Four sheets for single bed; two pillow cases; pillow; two woolen blankets; dark blanket for out-of-doors; sturdy bedspread or Indian blankets; towels and washcloths; laundry bag.

A foot locker for packing clothing and duffle bag for packing bedding.

PLEASE mark each article sent to camp with owner's name in indelible ink or with name tapes.

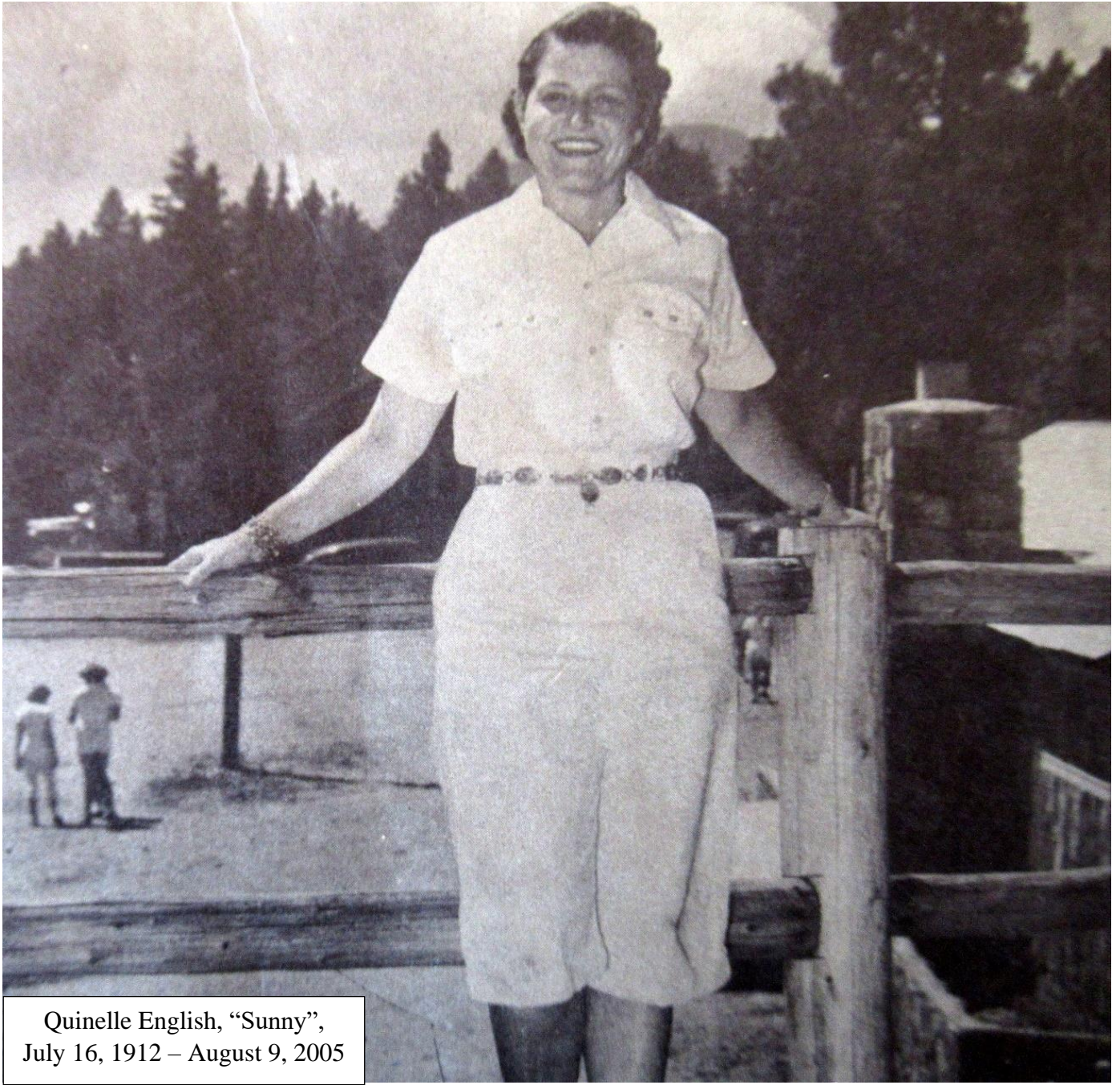


Dan, the camp cook ringing the dinner bell. This locomotive bell was given to Sunny by the Burlington Railroad. She used their rail service to bring campers to Colorado Springs. They would arrive at the depot on Pikes Peak Ave. and depart from the depot on Sierra Madre.









Quinelle English, "Sunny",
July 16, 1912 – August 9, 2005