



Camp Wingfoot for Girls (1943–1985)

Camp Wingfoot was founded by W.L “Dub” Lorimer on the shore of Lake Erie in 1943. Dub purchased the land from the Goodyear Tire Company; hence he named his camp “Wingfoot” (after the winged feet logo of Goodyear Tire). After the war Dub sold the camp to his daughter Sara “Carol” Lorimer Heil and her husband Charles C. “Chuck” Heil. Under their direction and the monumental help of Assistant Director Jan Dale, the camp soon became a retreat for hundreds of campers each summer. The 100-acre site grew to include 12 cabins, a dining hall (Dobe Inn), stables with riding trails, craft shop, pool, riflery and archery ranges, tennis, volleyball and badminton courts, stage, counselor barracks, and more.



When Dub first bought camp it only had two buildings, the castle on Castle Hill and CB, used as a latrine. Eventually the castle was dynamited due to lake erosion (no longer safe for campers).

The first year of camp hosted 33 girls. The first buildings were Clearing, Lodge and Blockhouse (which housed the seniors). In 1948 Roughhouse, Court, the Infirmary and Dobe Inn were added. In 1949 the Corral was reconstructed from the stables and Cottage was built. 1952 saw the new pool, Halfway and Brookside built. Hideaway was added in 1953 with Starhouse following in 1958.

The cabins were a safe haven and home for campers and counselors. Each had its own special design and name. Whether in Cottage or Shed, prideful camaraderie developed quickly.

Scheduled activities helped campers learn how to ride and care of horses, shoot 22s, and bow and arrow. They also developed a keen sense of the arts through crafts, theatre, music and dance. In addition campers became skilled in woods lore, sports, swimming, and canoeing. Some even became quite proficient at skiing, diving and sailing.

The friendships and life’s lessons forged at Wingfoot etched treasured memories in the hearts of all who ventured through its front gates. Camp Wingfoot closed in 1985.

Snapshots of Wingfoot’s History:

Cottage housed the cubs (Named after the cottage and baby bear in the story *The Three Bears*).

Clearing was in a clearing not the woods.

Blockhouse was a replica of early blockhouses built in the late 1800s to protect pioneers from Indians.

Lodge was designed after a lodge with two distinct living sections and a long foyer.

Hub was the **H**ouse that **U**te **B**uilt, featuring doors that never opened (only to pixies, who occasionally visited) and a beautiful stained glass window.

Brookside was built over a bubbling brook.

Roughhouse was named for the rough wood it was built out of.

Court was built with a courtyard in the center of east and west.

Halfway was half way up the hill.

Hide-a-way was hidden in the woods, hard to see.

Shed was built with a roof designed for sheds.

Corral was once a real corral where the Wingfoot horses were kept.

Starhouse was so called because it housed the oldest girls and the shining “stars” of the camp.