

Sunset Lake & Camp Sunset

Click on any photo to see enlargement

type too small? try **ctrl** & "+" or type too large? try **ctrl** & "-"

Sunset Lake relates peripherally to the Esopus Project, in that it is the origin of Black Creek, which begins there in Plattekill and meanders past New Paltz northward through some other lakes and waterfalls, and eventually cascades into the Hudson River just north of the Marist Brothers property

The lake is related another way because the Marist Brothers acquired an old campsite at Sunset Lake in the late 1940s. Previously the camp was known as Camp Saint Agnes, and was operated by the parish of St. Agnes Church on 43rd between Lexington and Third Avenue in New York City. (The Marist Brothers taught at St. Agnes High School and often served as camp counselors at the camp.) When the cost of renovations and operations became too burdensome for the parish, it was transferred to the Brothers for private use as an alternate recreation and vacation site for Juniors from Esopus, but also for the Student Brothers from Poughkeepsie.

Student Brothers were expected to complete the four year program in three years and three summers. They were granted family leave only after the summer session of their second year. Brother Paul Ambrose, the Dean/President/Master of Scholastics employed a lot of creativity in getting the student to break the monotony of their Poughkeepsie environment. Camp Sunset became a site for two week vacations after the summer session was completed and before the Fall Semester began. The young brothers combined a relaxed atmosphere with some work in rehabilitating the buildings.

The site was also used for outings of the lay students at Marist until the camp was sold to others in the mid 1960s.

As of June 2011, I was unable to locate the transfer deeds for acquisition or disposition of the camp in the county clerk's office in Kingston



Sunset Lake is shallow. The campers could swim off the dock, but kept close to the dock to avoid meeting grass on the lake floor. Canoeing and fishing were favorite pastimes.



The lake in winter
2004 ==>>



<== Chapel

Administration
building ==>



<<=== Chapel

Chapel ruins in
February
2004==>>





<<=== garage



<<=== campers lodgings

kitchen helper
==>>



Painters at work



Ruins of Rec Hall and Kitchen in February 2004 ==>>



<<=== Martin Lang reading near the lake

Photos taken in 1949-1055 were in Kodachrome format. They were converted to jpeg form in 2001, but deterioration of the slides was evident. Simple attempts to enhance

the photos made in 2010 and May 2011.

2004 photos taken 8 February 2004 by Brother Stephen Kappes

most recent revision: 3 April 2009

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