

# CHANGES IN CAMPVENTIONS

By  
Don Plummer



At first there were no planned programs just campfires at night, some time just story telling. No electric. Even in the active area or the camping area. In 1972 there were 7842 camping families at Camp Atterbury IN, with no electric or water outlets only big army trucks parked at different areas, and you carried your water from there. Sometimes you drove because it was too far to carry. A good Coleman lantern was the only lights. Many of the campers wore vest & red tams which were pulled down over the right side of the head. Patches & decals were attached to the vest to show what chapter we were members of or where we were from. They were great conversation starters.

In 1966 we camped in Kansas with a couple rows of outside Johns, not the green ones these were built over a trench to be filled after the campvention . The draft was so great that when you put paper down one hole it came up another hole (that was a real experience). The showers were a room with lots of shower heads all cold water as the water was pumped out of the lake and ran right back in the lake through an open ditch. Most of the early campventions were held in an open field or State Park where we used an open area. There were no pet parades as very few traveled with their pets. In 1994 at Sedalia, MO, electric was made available to all campers, A FIRST, and it really changed our activities. It made TV available in all our units and lights for everything.

Has Campventions Changed? You bet. Since we are a part of society in our home life the same must be true in Camping. It's TV, cell phone, water pumps, holding tanks and where's the food! Oh I can't forget the changes in the old shade tree. Where cool & comfort was found. Now it's don't park us close to the trees I won't be able to get the Satellite signal. Then is the air conditioner on?

Happy Camping everyone, however you enjoy it!!