



NH Camping

BY RAY LAROCQUE

A Campground Office Worth Taking Note Of

TWO SUNDAYS AGO, on a warm, sunny afternoon, I drove to Foxboro, Mass., to attend the dedication of a new campground office building.

Most campground office buildings, I'll agree, whether they are new or not, are not conducive to ceremonies. They are just a place to register upon arrival and a place to check out when you leave.

This one is different in many ways. It is at Normandy Farm Family Campground in Foxboro, a family-operated place that is in itself unique.

Twelve members of the Daniels family — sons, daughter, their spouses and children are involved. It has won awards for its attractiveness, for its operation, and accolades from campers who return year after year to enjoy the well-planned recreation program.

The new wood and stone building with the attractive landscaping that surrounds it is more than a structure. It's a memorial. It was dedicated that afternoon to the memory of Norman Daniels, the campground's founder who died two years ago.

It is difficult to describe the beauty of this building. It is spacious, with a lot of glass on the upper level that lets in the sunshine to brighten a cheerful interior that focuses on an attractive stone fireplace and a warm, cozy atmosphere.

The large registration counter has a loft above it decorated with antiques from the farm that was there before the campground. On this loft on the day of the dedication a snappy Dixieland band played toe-tapping music as guests enjoyed refreshments.

I did not count how many folks came to pay tribute to Norman but there were surely several hundred. I saw others from New Hampshire. The Daniels have friends throughout the industry.

Because of the high cathedral ceiling, the place did not feel crowded. Large electric chandeliers hung from the beautifully polished wooden beams. There were some at the dedication who said it looked more like a hotel lobby than a campground office. I didn't think so. Hotel lobbies are elaborate, too, but I've not yet seen one that radiated the warmth of this cozy interior.

Norman's wife, Jeannette was there, too, and she was honored and presented a plaque that was hung over the fireplace close to where a photo of her and her late husband hangs.

Al Daniels who was host and speaker for the occasion paid this tribute to his late father: "I loved my father because he was not an anchor to hold us down, nor a sail to take us there, but always a guiding light whose love showed us the way."

Whether you're going camping or just traveling if you are ever down Foxboro way (it's just off U.S. Route 1), drop in and take a look at this most unusual new building. You don't have to plan to camp, or even be a camper. Just tell Al, Doris, Bob, Janis, or any of their families that Ray LaRocque said this is a place worth seeing.

Judy Flander previews everything on television, every day on the TV/Entertainment page of The Union Leader.