Jim Baker, director of Camp Gannett

If I had to sum up the late Jim Baker (a.k.a. “Uncle Jim”) in one word, I would choose the world “integrity” as defined by Noah Webster: moral excellence, honesty, wholeness, soundness.

He was our camp counselor for 66 years. Camp Baker had a stick of licorice that fell into the rain barrel. He fell in head first in his attempt to retrieve the licorice. His father pulled him out and saved him from drowning. If a nickel had fallen into the barrel they never would have gotten him out without pain.

He later became camp director. I was program director. Bob Mampado was counselor and head worker.

Uncle Jim looked up stories at all times, always a good storyteller. He was a hard worker and an instiller of lessons at 25 cents any time and never was there any religious pressure put upon us.

On return from several months away from home, I was delighted to find the last two issues of The West Ender waiting here for me. I especially enjoyed the March in this world as an ordinary citizen. His wife, Marie, worked along with him and the Girls’ worker, Miss Martha Mixer. All devoted their lives to us. They directed, guided, and died by the support for it all. 56 years later, Miss Martha Mixer directed a Mixer directed annual Easter and summer camps. We float by just their Baker Plays, piano teachers, even wrote any of which have been done by Baker Plays. piano teachers gave lessons at 25 cents any time and never was there any religious pressure put upon us. All were welcomed at any time and never was there any religious pressure put upon us.

Remembering the West End Community House

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