Kids say the darndest things—especially when they’re miles away at summer camp. And while that letter about the old toothless alligator that lives in the lake may be funny in retrospect, it was likely disconcerting to the parents reading back at home. Here are two collections of letters from local campers who made it home safe and sound.

**Barry Kuhn**

What was the name of the camp attended?
Shady Lawn Farm Camp, Oakdale, California

How old were you when you attended camp?
I attended from age 6 to 14; this letter is from age 9, I believe.

What’s your best camp memory?
Singing competitions between the cabins at dinner. We sang songs from commercials. I also enjoyed the campfires and skits. Working in the kitchen or nurse’s office to earn “merits” was interesting, as was swimming in the irrigation canals and lake.

Worst camp memory?
It was soooooo hot there—about 100 degrees most days. On the hottest days they gave us salt tablets to take. Also, the schedule was exhausting; there was so much to do. I slept for two days when I got home.

What are you doing now?
I’m a semiretired maternity nurse and a stay-at-home mom. That’s probably why I liked the nurse’s office and the kitchen.

Barry Murray (now Kuhn) is seated on the bottom row, second from the right. She addressed her letters to her parents and her dog Ego as well as to the television set and the family beach house.
ED CABALLERO

What was the name of the camp attended?
CYO Camp Armstrong, Sonoma, 1989

How old were you when you attended camp?
12 years old

What’s your best camp memory?
My best memory of sleepaway camp was being in nature all day. Growing up in San Francisco, I had never done anything like camping before, so to be able to row canoes, do archery, ride horses and play capture the flag in a quarter mile of forest was all new to me. I also remember there was a dance on the last night. I was particularly excited because my junior high didn’t have a dance until eighth grade. I packed a special all-white outfit just for the event: white jeans, white high-tops, white turtle-neck and a gold chain. I looked pretty sharp — or so I thought in 1989.

Worst camp memory?
We were served “beanie weenies” for lunch one day. During the mile-long hike from the cafeteria back to our cabins I suddenly had an emergency. Word to the wise: always go to the back of the hiking group if you suddenly need to go while on the trail — don’t run ahead.

What are you doing now?
In 2004, I cofounded Edventure More, a nonprofit enrichment company that operates Camp Edmo and Camp EdTech as well as In Class and After School programs during the school year. We partner with top Bay Area museums like the California Academy of Sciences, Children’s Creativity Museum and the Museum of Children’s Art to bring innovative science, art, technology and recreation programs to local communities. Five percent of camp proceeds and 100 percent of donations support camp scholarships and subsidize the cost of our hands-on science programs in schools. Our very first camp location in 2004 was at Marin Horizon School in Mill Valley. This year we will be hosted at Old Mill School in Mill Valley as well as Hal Brown Park at Creekside in Greenbrae for our nature camp, Edmo in the Park.