

1942

Chapter 6: Fifth Annual Conference, Barview 1922

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Recommended Citation

Cole, Frank, "Chapter 6: Fifth Annual Conference, Barview 1922" (1942). *History of Twin Rocks Conference*. 16.

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Fifth Annual Conference
Barview 1922

Barview, Oregon, in Tillamook County, is just north of the bar at the entrance to Tillamook Bay. It was chosen as the site of the fifth Conference because it is only two miles from Twin Rocks (where the C.E. Union had purchased eight lots) and had buildings available for rental. The town had ambitions for becoming a resort, so a dance hall, bowling alley and a lake for swimming, which included a slide, offered features attractive to the general public.

A printed brochure describing the coming Conference August 22-29 was widely distributed to encourage people to attend. There was no "Friendly Endeavor" to promote attendance. The momentum of enthusiasm carried the day as there were approximately 175 registered, indicating a gradual increase in attendance through the years.

The directions for getting to Barview indicated that, "by auto the road is fine. Get a good road map and follow directions. By rail, come to Portland and take the Southern Pacific train for Tillamook. Get off at Barview and we will be there to meet you." Walter Lee reminisces about his auto trip. "We came over from Highland in Merl Jackson's truck. He had an old Model T truck. We got to Grand Ronde and we blew a connecting rod. Had to stay there all night while they got parts, so were two days getting there."

The estimated cost was "hard to tell but judging from past Conferences won't be over \$10.00. You can't get such an outing anywhere else in the country for that price. The meals are excellent and BIG. If you don't believe this, hunt up someone that was there last year. The rooms are comfortable with wood and light furnished." Suggestions were offered as to what to bring, "Top bedding, old clothes suitable for hiking, plenty of wraps, heavy shoes, tennis shoes and racquets, your fishing outfit, a good appetite and a GOOD DISPOSITION. If you don't have any of the other things, don't forget the disposition. It's absolutely necessary for your comfort as well as others."

In the promotion brochure the purpose of the Conference was stated again, "First, for the Christian Fellowship of young people on their vacation. Second, for the spiritual uplift that such a program as we are offering brings to the young people of the Yearly Meeting. Third, because we feel that the united fellowship thus gained helps us to understand our problems as a Yearly Meeting Union." The impressive program of classes and services indicates the quality of the provision for spiritual growth and enlargement of vision. There were two class periods with timely subjects—Mission Study with Carrie Wood, missionary to India; Bible Study with Frederick J. Cope, pastor of 2nd Friends of Portland, study of the book of Ephesians by I. Garney Lee,

Friends history by Ida J. Lee, pastor with her husband I. Gurney Lee, of Highland Friends of Salem; World Conditions by Levi T. Pennington, president of Pacific Call-
 ege; Study of the book of Ephesians by I. Gurney Lee; Finding Our Life Work by Ed-
 ward Mott, president of North Pacific Evangelistic Institute. An Open Forum per-
 iod, chaired by Nathan Swabb, pastor at South Salem and director of the Conference,
 provided messages by Levi Pennington, Edward Mott and Carrie Wood. It was a little
 startling to Friends to hear announcements that a group was requested to meet in/
 the dance hall or that Ida Lee was teaching her class in the bowling alley!

The evenings were carefully planned and described in the brochure. "Tues-
 day evening, the first of the Conference, will be a get together social time, when
 we will all get acquainted and rehearse the glories of past Conferences. DON'T MISS
 THIS FIRST SESSION if you have to let the rest go. (If you are there for this,
 you'll stay for the rest!) Wednesday evening will be rest night. Everybody to
 bed early. Remember we are combining a vacation and a conference, so we must rest
 some. Thursday evening we will have our regular weekly Prayer Meeting with Lyle
 Hubbard, of Marion, as leader. Friday evening will be Camp Fire song fest. We'll
 just sing and sing and sing--old familiar hymns, old familiar songs, and as many
 new ones as we can learn. Saturday evening is STUNT NIGHT. Remember last year?
 O, you weren't there?? Well, you'll remember this year! A good, better, best time
 with lots of fun and plenty of jokes. Sunday we will have all the regular services
 as we do at home. Monday will be a real vacation with no classes. Everyone does
 as he pleases all day long."

The afternoons were spent in "wholesome recreation provided by the Entertain-
 ment Committee." This was the first year the Conference recreation program included
 deep sea fishing, which became a tradition through the years. Walter Lee reports
 that when he became director of the Conference in 1923, he took over the business
 of renting a boat for Conference attenders. "Sometimes they had to take two trips
 a day to accomodate all the passengers. The charge was \$1 apiece and they took 40
 or so to a boat. They wouldn't think of it today! It was sometimes rough getting
 out over the bar and many got sick. The boatmen seemed to know where to go even
 without navigation aids or buoys. There was some sort of breakwater made with rocks
 but not a jetty as there is today."

At the business meeting held Saturday evening, the main item of business was
 the development of the property acquired at Ocean Lake Park (Twin Rocks). It was
 decided to sell shares at \$50.00 per share payable in five years, making it \$10.00
 per year. Two hundred shares needed to be sold to raise the required \$10,000. When
 the amount was raised, the C.E. Union of each Quarterly Meeting was to appoint a
 trustee and incorporate under the state laws. Those holding this office were
 W.E. Crozer of Newberg Quarter, E. Worth Coulson of Salem Quarter, J. Emil Swanson
 of Portland Quarter

of Portland Quarter, and Rosa Allen of Boise Quarter. No name was presented from Tacoma Quarter. Further steps for incorporation were taken, but an insufficient number of stock holders were secured to make the proposed plan possible. Those who had already pledged themselves to purchase shares agreed to let their pledges stand regardless of how many more were required. There is no record of the actual number of shares sold or of the money raised in this fashion. The matter was reviewed in 1924. *See 1924*

The "Twin Rocks Summer Conference Song Book" first published in 1925 includes songs written for the 1920 to 1925 Conferences. A later addition included songs through 1930. The custom of having each Christian Endeavor Society submit songs about the Conference, usually presented from the Quarterly Meeting C.E. Union, began in 1920. It became a contest each year, with judges choosing the best for the year. The following song submitted by Newberg Quarter was chosen for 1922. The words and music were written by Mary E. Pennington, daughter of Levi T. Pennington.

I do not know, I cannot tell why such a funny feeling,
At thought of Young Friends Conference should o'er my heart come stealing.
I only know I cannot tell, the fun I cannot measure,
At Barview Beach, at Conference time, where I have known such pleasure.
Young Friends' Conference thrills me so, so, so, my old heart is all
aglow, glow, glow.
Doubtful friends you have to show, show, show,
They must go, go, go, don't you know, know, know-
Ya! Ya! Ya!
That is just the reason why, why, why, Everybody has to try, try, try,
When the Conference time is nigh, nigh, nigh.
Would I miss it? NO, NOT I !!

The song reflects the enthusiasm which continued to grow as attenders found the purposes of the Conference being fulfilled in their lives. The brochure promoting the gathering at Barview in 1922 concludes "Tuesday, GOODBYE and tears, but a settled determination never to miss a Conference as long as we live." So the vision continued to inspire the leaders of the C.E. Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting to carry on their plans for the future of what ^{became} the Twin Rocks Young Friends Conference. The vision did not change!