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Chapter 8: Twin Rocks 1924

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Twin Rocks

1924

The Seventh Annual Conference, to be held at Twin Rocks (formerly Ocean Lake Park,) August 5-11, was announced in a special edition of "A Friendly Endeavor" published in July, 1924, after a three year absence. (The next edition did not appear till January 1, 1925.) The meetings were held on the Conference Grounds for the first time. Walter Lee reports that most of the attenders stayed at Twin Rocks in cabins. The Conference managers were working to have water piped to the grounds and enough clearing done for camping space. A few camped there. Some groups camped at Watseco, half a mile south. Some rented cottages in Twin Rocks and put up tents nearby for overflow sleeping space. Everyone ate on their own—some cooking in their tents or outside over open fires, and the rest in cabins. The big tent was erected in space cleared of salal in 1923, so attenders went to meetings on the Grounds and back to tents or cabins for meals.

In the spring Highland C.E. Society invited the young people of the Yearly Meeting to a Get-Together for the purpose of rallying interest in the Conference. This was the first such occasion and was successful enough to generate much enthusiasm which is reflected in the "Society Notes." Highland declared they were "going to the Summer Conference One Hundred Percent strong" and issued a challenge to produce a better Conference song than they had written. Words but not music must be original. Scotts Mills C.E. was represented at Highland and reported "as a result, interest in the Conference at Twin Rocks has been greatly increased. Rumor has it that we will be on the map in the song contest. Beware!" Newberg C.E. wrote that "the Conference is being talked of, thought of, boosted and prayed for in our midst." Rosedale C.E. Society announced, "Wait till you hear our Conference song. You'll wish you lived in Rosedale, the land of the loganberry and the home of the prune...when you think of Rosedale for the next six weeks think of loganberries, but we'll see you at Conference..."

Promotion by the special edition and a separate publicity dodger reflects mounting enthusiasm for the Conference idea. A summary of past gatherings and their success in carrying out the basic purposes of Conference reminded previous attenders of good times and spiritual blessings; "The Annual Christian Endeavor Conference is a success! We grant that we have been handicapped from year to year and have endured many discomforts because of lack of permanent buildings, but we refuse to admit defeat at any point. The combination of class-work and vacation has always proved meritorious, therefore we will adhere to the general plans of former programs and will look for former satisfactory results, for we believe the blessing of God has attended these gatherings. There is inspiration gained in meeting together in large numbers...the spiritual leaders undertake for us teaching and preaching that is invaluable to our young people...call to mind the evening services when our Spirit-filled ministry delivered heaven-sent messages and the close of the meetings found

seekers at our altars...you who are older do well to place your children and young people in such surroundings...noone would wish to minify the value of the recreational features... everyone needs relief these days from the nerve strain of close application to work...this is provided by long miles of beach, depth of forest, rivers for fishing, ball games, hikes, auto trips, clam digging, surf bathing, lake swimming and boating, deep-sea fishing... so we urge everyone, big and little, young and old, to come to Conference...again we say, COME."

Fred and Marietta Cope had served as chaperones before and were again appointed in 1924. They were called "Father and Mother Cope." In the special edition rules of conduct for the Conference were noted for the first time; "Mrs. Fred Cope of Second Church, Portland, will again assume the responsibility of Conference Mother. She has already endeared herself to our young people and we welcome her. However, it would be impossible for her to undertake full chaperonage of the Conference, so it is to be clearly understood that each separate group of young people occupying a cottage or a camp must have a chaperone, and report the name of such person to Mrs. Cope immediately upon arriving. Please do not disregard this essential rule."

There were two other "firsts" in 1924. Special classes for the children were announced, led by Grace Hadley, Vera Hull and Stella Hubbard. Marjorie Brown of Springbrook, Oregon, was appointed the afternoon recreation director.

The program indicates the quality of leadership for classes and services, drawn from Oregon Yearly Meeting pastors and college leaders. Three class periods in the mornings covered doctrine, Bible study and world-view topics. The Open Forum period before lunch was moderated by Chester Hadley and offered addresses on stewardship, education and leadership. The dodger announced,..."strong evening evangelistic services with L.Clarkson Hinshaw, superintendent of Oregon Yearly Meeting, as speaker."

Marjorie Brown announced many afternoon activities for one and all—surf bathing, lake swimming and boating, hiking on the beach or in the forest, deep-sea fishing and huckleberry picking were suggested and participated in with enthusiasm. The special picnic on the beach on Saturday evening, followed by stunts and songs from the C.E. Unions, was a highlight. Highland's contest-challenge song reflects the feelings for Conference as did the song written by John Brougher of Scotts Mills which won first place.

There were some interesting sidelights of the Conference of 1924. Isabella Clark (Mrs. Ivif) brought twenty Indians from the Northwest Yearly Meeting Mission at Sprague River, Oregon, on the Klamath Indian Reservation. They camped at Watsec with others who stayed there. During the week a baby died in the town of Twin Rocks. The family could find no minister on the coast within reach so Carl Miller, on the Conference program, preached the funeral message. The next day he told the gathering about this experience and emphasized that this baby was now in glory. Those present were so touched by the story that some went to prayer, praying through their own needs.

The chart shows an attendance of 290. Most came in cars and trucks. The Highland group did bring their entire C.E. Society and added some members ~~xxxxx~~ ^{from} South Salem. There is no "A Friendly Endeavor" report of this Conference, but the issue of January, 1925, indicates the determination to carry on the vision and to surmount the difficulties ahead.. That did not change!

The Executive Committee of the Christian Endeavor Union met in the months following to weigh the situation and consider the future. Walter Lee recalls, "the years of 1924 and 1925 were critical. We owned the lots at Twin Rocks, some by purchase and some by donation with the restriction that we make improvements within three years. The period was nearly up and there were no improvements to speak of. Either some building would have to be done that spring or admit defeat which would be fatal. We needed a wider base of support. We represented the entire Yearly Meeting then and we wanted it to represent everybody." Another problem was securing enough cottages during Conference. It was fortunate that 1924 was a poor tourist year. If coming years proved better for the rental business, the Conference would have difficulty finding enough housing facilities.

A financial plan for raising money to build a dining hall and kitchen was outlined in the January, 1925, issue of "A Friendly Endeavor." Again the sale of shares was proposed at \$50 for five years, payment at \$10 down and \$10 per year. They hoped for a sale of two hundred shares to raise enough money. At that time about forty shares had been sold. The reporter wrote, "this is not a get-rich-quick investment. It is really giving our money to the Lord's work. It may take a little sacrifice upon our part, but is it not worth it? Who knows but from our midst may go forth preachers and missionaries to carry the blessed story of salvation to a lost and dying world! And really it is not such a sacrifice, for ten dollars per year is only eight-three and one-third cents per month, or twenty-one cents a week which is less than most of us spend for candy and ice cream. We are at a crisis now and we must not fail. The iron is hot, let us strike! We need to do two things—pray and give..." The urgency of the situation is indicated in a special notice, "Will all those who have taken Conference shares please make their first payment immediately as we need the money very badly in clearing the property further for building..."

There was a quick response to the proposed share plan. Salem Quarter challenged the other quarterly meetings of Oregon Yearly Meeting to sell the largest percentage of shares by February 22nd. They wrote, "Let's go folks. Let's show them up." Irene Brown (Baker) of Springbrook expressed that Society's concern for the share program in the last verse of the song she wrote for the contest in 1925 to the tune of "America the Beautiful,"

Now friend of mine, if you are new, don't look for buildings fine,
Of awnings are our buildings few in which we teach and dine,
When every one will give some 'mun', there'll be some buildings there
So in the work we'll never shirk, we all will take a 'share' !

There is no record of the actual number of shares sold. It had been suggested that the C.E. Union of each Quarterly Meeting appoint a trustee and incorporate under state law. Those holding this office were W.E. Crozer of Newberg, E.Worth Coulson of Salem

Quarter, J. Emil Swanson of Portland Quarter, Rosa Allen of Boise Quarter. No name was presented from Tacoma Quarter. An insufficient number of stock holders ^{65?} were secured to make this plan possible so those who had pledged agreed to let their pledges stand anyway. In a December meeting, the Executive Committee revised the plan, eliminating the incorporation idea. Shares or subscriptions continued to be sold to raise money for buildings.

The Committee realized that it was impossible to put up an elaborate building at first, but they looked ahead to a dormitory in the future. The January issue featured the picture of a plan drawn by Donald Edmundson for "Our Conference Home." It was an attractive building, having two stories above the basement. This plan was never carried forward because of lack of funds. Development had to move slowly, but it did move!

NEWBERG FRIENDS CHURCH
Praise & Prayer Sheet
July 3, 1985

PRAISE THE LORD . . .

- ... for Nancy, David, and Kristin Thomas and their arrival in Newberg this evening to join Hal. Continue to pray for Hal's healing and for God's peace over the family.
- ... for God's power and grace available to us all! Rejoice in the reality of Ephesians 2:8-9.
- ... for a holdiay tomorrow, and for a day of extra rest for many of us!

REMEMBER TO PRAY . . .

- ... for Hank Helsabeck in his ministry tonight at the "Comfort Zone".
- ... for a miracle in Manila if God wants Jaime Tabingo to come to the U.S. to minister this summer (he's been turned down twice by the U.S. Embassy in seeking a visa).
- ... for "closure" on our 1985-86 budget (Sunday night) in a way which God will be glorified!
- ... for the Woodward and his preparation for this message on Sunday from Ephesians 5:21.
- ... for continued leading for the EFM Missions Commission regarding Rwanda.
- ... for Eric Hagen and Debbie Smitherman as they are married Saturday.
- ... for Juli McCracken, Rachel Macy, Jennifer Gay, Nicole Gay, Tasha Woodward, Lisa Magee, and Amy Mitchell as they look forward to Girls Camp next week. Pray that this week might be a time of spiritual growth for these girls.
- ... for members of our Body who are traveling tonight and tomorrow! Ask God to bring us all safely back together again.
- ... for God to work in the lives of our people, that we might be drawn closer to him, desiring to give him 100 percent of our lives, and seek to submit to and love each other as he loves us!