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Chapter 12: Twin Rocks Conference 1928

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Twin Rocks Conference

1928

July 31 - Aug 5

A milestone year! The tabernacle was a reality. Chester Hadley wrote in the July issue of "The Friendly Endeavor," 'I'd rather look at that picture with only the ribs of the auditorium showing and see Dave Delano up on the roof hammering nails, and Wendall Murphy working down on the ground that to fill this issue with 'proposed' buildings that look nice but are only on paper.' Elizabeth Ott Bishop reminisces that this year was her first Conference. When the car she was in drove onto the grounds, a cheer went up because before them was the ^{new} tabernacle. She and Elizabeth Hadley, Mildred Hadley, and Mildred Watt washed windows to help get the building ready by the time all attenders arrived. The push to get the building erected carried through the year, following the money-raising efforts of the 1927 Conference.

The executive Committee of the Christian Endeavor Union met in December in Portland and discovered that "the enthusiasm has never died down. The fire burned and flamed as we talked and planned...as a result of our deliberation, we concluded that our president, Walter Lee, could bring to you some of the spirit of our meeting. We appointed him our representative and asked him to visit as many of the Meetings as he possibly could, to present the plans...above everything else, we want you to pray that God will open a way for us to raise the needed funds so that when we meet next August, we can dedicate the Tabernacle." Walter Lee and Chester Hadley engineered a campaign of selling seats in the new Conference home at one dollar each. The \$255 raised in a short time was added to the gift of \$500 May Wiley had given in 1927. The annual banquet offered another opportunity to ask for pledges and cash. By late spring there was enough in cash and pledges to actually begin.

Work had been going on all year on the grounds. Lowell Murphy recalls living in Twin Rocks, north of the lake, for a few months during 1927-1928. He went to school in Rockaway. He remembers Walter Cook and Frank Roberts helping clear land and working on the tabernacle. There were huge trees lying in the way. An explosive wedge was used to blow the logs apart. A hole was filled with black powder and set off. The logs were blown into manageable sizes. Tent frames were built. Gladys Cook and Alice Roberts were there some of the time--helping with cooking and general housekeeping shores, as well as giving moral support.

In February, Portland Quarter invited the young people of Oregon Yearly Meeting to the annual rally and banquet at First Friends Church in April. Wilfred Pearson was the Quarterly Meeting Superintendent and announced that the admission cost was, "A liberal supply of Conference Pep!" Walter Lee accepted the invitation on behalf of

the C.E. Union and suggested making this banquet the largest ever, and wondered which Society would have the biggest percentage of its membership there. Rachel Lundquist (Huntington) reported that there were over 300 present. Fifteen drove down from Tacoma and N.E. Tacoma. There was much singing, reminiscing by Enel Swanson, up-dating of progress by Walter Lee and announcements of the coming Conference program and leadership. The report ends with, "Everyone present is all worked up over Conference already, and I hope the enthusiasm spreads all over Oregon, Idaho and Washington...this was the end of a glorious evening, and we bravely faced the rain for our trip home, wishing more folks could have been there...let's start planning right now to be at Twin Rocks, July 31 to August 5."

Homer L. Cox was an appropriate choice to serve as evangelist, as he was one of the first to catch the vision of a summer Conference on the coast. He had been pastor of First Friends Church in Portland but had moved to the midwest. He came back to Oregon for this ministry, the first evangelist to hold services in the new tabernacle.. Leaders and teachers were chosen from the faithful Conference supporters through the years: Ida J. Lee, Edward Mott and Helen and Laura Cammack. Others were serving for the first time: Gervas Carey, Everett Scotden and E. R. Martin. Bess Owens Runyon led chorus class, Lulufern Hudson was the children's meetings director, Charles Beals planned the recreation and Wilfred Pearson was registrar. Frederick and Marietta Cope served again as "Father and Mother."

The arrangements were much the same. There was a Reservation Blank printed in the paper for the first time, to be sent as usual to Worth Coulson at Scotts Mills with \$5.00 used to secure accommodations and was not a registration fee. There was a 50¢ fee on arrival which was used for the entertainment of the leaders. Children under twelve paid 25¢. The cost of room and board was \$10.00. People were reminded to bring extra money for the deep sea or launch trips on the bay. Straw was provided for campers using straw ticks. As there were no flush toilets, it was advisable to bring extra tissue.

"POP! BANG! Off started the performance of Tuesday evening, with a lively song service led by Mrs. Runyon. Charles Beals 'lowed as how' the societies ought to be introduced. Presto! The fireworks began as various societies made their presence known with songs or skits. The speakers and leaders were introduced, people from other denominations were given a chance to make themselves known...Conference songs were sung and Walter Lee brought the evening to a climax by a thought-provoking talk on our appreciation for the new tabernacle, applying it to the building of character. We went away knowing each other better and loving our Master more deeply."

On Wednesday afternoon Piedmont won the song contest. Numbers were drawn for or-

der of performance. Some societies were insignia to illustrate their songs. Sunnyside, Lents, Entiat (with three members present), and Highland brought songs besides prize-winning Piedmont. Charles Beals received the slip from the judges announcing the winner. Piedmont had a penalty imposed—to get copies for all the rest of the Conference. A girl in Tillamook offered her services for typing copies.

The subjects of the classes indicate again the concerns for the spiritual building up of young people: Quaker history and testimonies, the Second Coming, Old Testament studies, Home Missions, C.E. Methods, five vital questions; The Bible, creation, sin, redemption, atonement. Appreciation for the inspirational and evangelistic messages by Homer Cox was expressed in ensuing issues of the paper. Through them "the Holy Spirit spoke definitely to people who yielded their lives to Him and had their needs met...God's mercy was extended in giving deep conviction which caused a Godly sorrow, bringing repentance. Others experienced the work of cleansing by the Holy Spirit..."

The children's meetings were significant. There were 32 present at first with about 60 coming through the week. In the girl's prayermeeting under the leadership of Mary Mills, one girl was saved and in the boys' prayermeeting directed by Lulufern Hudson, four boys found Jesus. These children need our prayers as they largely come from non-Quaker homes.

The recreational activities were based on the resources at hand—ocean, beach, forest, lake and Garibaldi Bay. Thirty went deepsea fishing, starting out on a quiet sea but finding the bar very rough on the way in. Charles Beals caught the first fish with Calvin Choate and Gervas Carey following his success. The night on the beach was held Saturday evening with about 325 participants. Hot dogs on buns spread with mustard, coffee and hot chocolate, and doughnuts were consumed in quantity. Stunts followed, including a surprise pageant by the children depicting the children of Israel as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. At the close Bess Runyon led a song and Homer Cox brought a devotional message.

~~A business meeting was~~ Chester Hadley was manager of the food service and reports indicate that "eats were fine." Grace Hadley, Emma Fogg and Bessie Gardner were cooks, with several young people working for their board in kitchen and dining room. A new bell had a picture of Twin Rocks painted on its face. Mr. Nate Wiley provided this added attraction. There were 228 persons staying on the grounds, with 53 tents providing shelter. Many came for the weekend and some for shorter periods during the week. Sunday dinner was the largest meal and the morning and afternoon services the largest in attendance.

A business meeting was held, during which the Constitution was revised to include the statement "that the Conference property shall be held in trust by the executive Committee, in whose name the Conference is now incorporated." The financial report of the C.E. Union showed a balance of \$2.44, the rest of the budget having been spent on travel, banquet, printing, incorporation expense and the Conference tent. A significant new development in 1928 was the decision to hold a "Twin Conference" for young people of Idaho at Perry, Oregon, from August 28 to September 2. Some of the leaders at Twin Rocks helped with classes and oversight of arrangements. The evangelists were Inez Batchelor and Nettie Springer. This was the beginning of a second Conference held annually in Idaho, permanently located later at Quaker Hill.

Perhaps the climax to the Twin Rocks Conference of 1928 was the dedication of the tabernacle on Sunday afternoon. It had been a long time coming, with difficulties, problems, and hard work along the way. The experience of meeting together in the new building at last and having the message brought by Chester Hadley, founder of the Conference, brought great satisfaction and blessing to everyone. There were 500 present. The inspiration of the occasion brought a number of new pledges. A large cash offering showed the enthusiasm of Conference attenders for making Conference a permanent event in the life of the young people.

At Yearly Meeting in June, 1929, Walter Lee reported on the work of the Christian Endeavor Union for the year. He said fifteen Quarterly Meeting rallies were held throughout the area. The young people were learning to take leadership and contribute to the life of the church. One society holds mission services, another jail services. Some give food and clothing to poor in their areas. One society held a revival service in its own church. Others presented programs and conducted services for worship. The annual banquet drew 340 attenders. "The Twin Rocks Conference was a time of great blessing and help to our young people, reaching a record attendance mark of 580 on Sunday morning. The new auditorium was completed and is entirely paid for. This is a cause of great rejoicing among us. A very fine plant is being developed at Twin Rocks but there is much yet to do." So the work progressed, stimulated and inspired by its continued success and the apparent validity of the original vision. That did not change.

**C. E. CONFERENCE TREASURER'S
REPORT FROM NOV. 1ST, 1927,
TO NOV. 1ST, 1928.**

Credit

Balance on hand November 1, 1927	\$ 47.83
Payments on shares	295.00
Contributions and special offer- ings	630.34
Special Tabernacle Fund	1142.62

Total\$2115.79

Debit

Building Tabernacle	\$1393.50
Improving grounds	490.38
Incidentals including Conference expenses	196.83

Total\$2080.71

By balance on hand November
1st, 1928\$ 35.08

E. W. COULSON, Treas.

The Lord has blessed our Christian Endeavor Union in this great project—the Conference—in a special way. We have been enabled to build our plant thus far without any debt. Isn't that blessed? Let us keep praying that we may advance in the Lord's plan and use the property we have, to the glory of God and salvation of souls. (Editor's Note).

FINANCES

PR. BND. MAR. '29