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Chapter 14: Twin Rocks Conference 1930

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Twin Rocks Conference

1930

New developments in the ongoing life of Oregon Yearly Meeting were reflected in the growth of spiritual concerns of the Christian Endeavor Union. At Yearly Meeting in June, Chester A. Hadley was called to be the General Superintendent and a new mission field in Bolivia, South America, was adopted. The young people rejoiced in having the superintendent one of their best friends in his devotion to their Conference at Twin Rocks. He continued his active role. They were challenged by the new mission field and decided to raise \$300 toward the support of Juan and Tomasa Allyon, whose lives and ministry were reported in the "Friendly Endeavor." Carroll and Doris Tamplin, who had served in Guatamala under California Yearly Meeting for four years, were called to be the first missionaries from Oregon to Bolivia to work with the Allyons. The Conference planners asked them to conduct a class on Missions which gave them the opportunity to tell about Bolivia and her people. Thus the Christian Endeavorers ~~would~~^{ed} learn about the Aymara Indians to whom their support would go.

The annual rally and banquet was held at Highland Avenue Friends Church in Salem March 30th. It was reported and promoted enthusiastically. "Everyone is coming. It will be the greatest banquet yet...there will be toasts, songs and yells, skits and everything new and different...great plans are brewing now for the big event the first of August...it only costs a quarter." It was reported afterward that a general migration swept toward Salem that night as 375 people came from all over the Yearly Meeting to spend an interesting evening. It left everyone attending more excited than ever about Twin Rocks Conference. Chester Hadley offered the "chance of a lifetime" by announcing that "if there are 100 paid boarders in the dining room, each and every eater will only pay the paltry trifle of five dollars for the WHOLE week. And furthermore, this is the beauty of it, anyone getting ten people to sign up to eat at the dining room on a five dollar rate and extracting the money from them will get a pass free at the club. Methinks this news is like sweet nectar to some canny Scotchmen..."

During the evening Laura Cammack presented the "Friends with Christ" chart and showed the bronze shield which was the prize for the best work. Elizabeth Ott announced the program for Twin Rocks. Allen Hadley, an Intermediate, spoke on the attractions of Conference to those his age. Chester Hadley told of the beginnings of the Conference and traced some of its history, showing how prayer and faithfulness had brought success. Walter Lee spoke last, pointing out that Twin Rocks is the ideal training camp for young people, sending them out prepared "to fight the fight of faith." He stressed the fact that a successful Conference must have the present^d of Christ and urged all to pray and

then prepare to go.

The promotion for Conference was intensified following the banquet. Walter Lee and other members of the Executive Committee visited Quarterly Meeting rallies and some Society meetings, urging their support and attendance at Twin Rocks. Milo Ross wrote in "The Friendly Endeavor": "You read the article entitled 'Chance of a Lifetime' in the last month's issue. Then 375 of you heard all about it at the banquet...we can all eat the entire week for only \$5 (five dollars). That is cheaper than you can board anywhere except at Grandmother's...just get ten of your friends to give their five dollars and you send fifty dollars, with their names and yours, to Chester Hadley...you can go to Twin Rocks... ~~If you get a ride,~~ if you have your board paid through this plan, if you get a ride, if you get someone to take you deep sea fishing, then if you ask someone if he has room for you on the way home, and he does, the Conference will not cost you a cent. If this is not an adventure, name it!" The depression was causing financial problems for many families. This new plan was a creative effort to help young people get to Conference in spite of financial strain.

A banquet and rally were held at Greenleaf Friends Church in Idaho May 9th to promote their Conference and Twin Rocks. There were 180 present at this first ~~such~~ banquet. Idaho's Conference was held in 1930 at Wallowa Lake, Oregon, with Chester Hadley the evangelist. Later the Christian Endeavorers of Boise Valley established a permanent Conference home at Payette Lakes, McCall, Idaho, where ~~there~~ Conference was held thereafter. A truck load of young people continued to drive to Twin Rocks for several years.

The C.E. Union had hoped for an opportunity to establish a permanent work at Twin Rocks. During this year Evert Tuning was sent to Twin Rocks to hold a regular Sunday-school and such other services as were possible. The spirit of outreach, both foreign and home, was an important growth in the life of the C.E. Union.

The leadership for Conference was drawn from Friends across the Yearly Meeting, except for the evangelist, Samuel J. Mosher, superintendent of Ohio Yearly Meeting. He came across the continent for this ministry. His messages were timely and unctuated by the Holy Spirit. "Many young people knelt at the altar during the week and gained blessed spiritual victory...these days proved to be the turning point in many lives..." During the Inspirational Hour, he considered the subject of prayer, using the Lord's Prayer as ~~his~~ ^{the} basis for his talks.

The classes were inspiring and educational. William Wright, musical director of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, trained the chorus each day and presented a Sacred Concert on Sunday afternoon. He also led the singing at each service and sang solos. The report states that "the spiritual message of each song gripped the hearts of listeners as the Chorus sang with the Spirit and with understanding. Miss Florence Ritter of Portland accompanied the Chorus in a splendid way."

Charles Haworth, pastor of South Salem Friends, discussed the teachings of Jesus.

Edward Mott, president of Portland Bible Institute, outlined five essentials in character building. Elizabeth Ward, teacher at P.B.I., presented an outline of prophecy, useful for further study. She came in place of Edgar Simms who was traveling in the East. The Intermediates were led into a study of Quakerism by Marjorie Votaw, pastor at N.E. Tacoma, Washington. There were forty to fifty in attendance and they were inspired by the story of George Fox, Judge Fell's family and William Penn. She told some of the adventures in the faith of these forefathers and some intimate things about the persecutions and the young people's meetings of those days. On Sunday the class experienced a half hour of quiet Quaker meeting, many taking part by testimony.

Ethel George of First Friends, Portland, led the children's meetings. She had felt a call to children's work and was the leader of the Junior Christian Endeavor in her church for many years. She ministered to twenty children on timely topics, having them make booklets which included the main points of each lesson. She also sponsored recreation hour for the children on the beach Saturday afternoon.

A new format for the afternoon recreation program was developed by Walter and Gladys Cook, pastors of Kelso Friends Meeting in Kelso, Washington. They announced Bluff College with a catalogue for the year outlining classes and organization. There were the usual four classes-senior, junior, sophomore and freshmen. Each was to choose a color, have a song and a yell, choose teams to enter sports contests and appoint a class editor, class bluffer, and a class howler. There were "coarses" for study. One was sociology which required "a curve upward on the mouth, a funny bone, and the ability to grin." Everyone made a high grade and "social life" was good throughout. Dietetics covered "eticut" and eating, supervised by Chester Hadley. The cooks were Grace Hadley, Bessie Gardner and Bertha Heacock. It was reported that "eats were fine! The cooks cannot be beat, for they know how to beat all the rest at good thoughts about menus. The waitresses carefully brought us the proper food at the proper time. Surely this class was appreciated by all!"

"Marine Biology" was studied during the deep sea fishing trips. "Some students caught fish, pulled them to the deck so as to study their anatomy and then took them home for cooking and tasting in order to know the texture and taste. Some preferred to leave the fish in their native habitat but to feed them so that they might fatter grow..." Sportology, Phymology and Dentistry completed the curriculum.

Class activities were lively and varied. The Juniors entertained the Seniors at an annual reception in the dining room annex. Dillon Mills and Clare Berg were Class Bluffers and Wilfred Pearson the Class Howler. The seniors chose Marjory Votaw as Class Bluffer. Sophomores initiated the Freshmen in various ways. The Freshmen won the indoor ball game, and the boy's rowing contest, and several races on the beach. Commencement was held Saturday night in ideal weather for the hot dogs, bonfire and the usual fun.

usual fun. After eating, Bluff College assembled around the fire for the last time.

Chester Hadley, the Council Bluff, chaired the evening. Ed Harmon led in Bluff College yells. The "big bluff" was rendered by Samuel Mosher. Paul Brown read the class will. Seniors received their Bluff sheepskins (bread wrappers tied with crepe paper) and their degrees. Degrees were conferred on Sherman Hadley, Doctor of Divinity, Fudge, on Walter Lee, Bachelor of Hearts, and others. Some failed because they had not mastered the art of bluffing. Wilfred Pearson, registrar, reported that the term ending August 3, 1930 showed an enrollment of 264 or a 1.3928440% increase over last year. The Bluff College Annual was dedicated to Chester A. Hadley, Founder of Twin Rocks Conference.

The recreation program was a great success. For many years thereafter, the directors planned the four-team format, using various subjects or themes. The spirit of fun in the four-way competition carried into the dining room where there was singing, joking and general rivalry. Special ^{report} gifts came to light in the team activities of the attenders. The program helped carry out the purpose of the Twin Rocks Conference—to provide Christian young people with wholesome vacations and fun along with spiritual inspiration.

At the business meeting new charts for the C.E. Society work for the year were explained. Scotts Mills was presented the plaque for the best chart for the ^{last} year. Chehalem Center ran a very close second. Those who completed all the points on the Missionary items were Scotts Mills, Chehalem Center, Piedmont and Tacoma. Rosedale and Kelso completed all the Better Meeting Goals. Chehalem Center completed all the Tithing Goals. Greetings were read from Ohio and Puget Sound Conferences. Denver Headrick reported his visit to the Puget Sound Conference. It was reported that the German Baptists used the Conference Grounds for the second year.

Walter Lee gave the report of the Christian Endeavor Union of the Yearly Meeting in June. He said, "this has been a year of great progress...while there is yet much to do, we face the coming year with ^{added} ~~added~~ zeal and enthusiasm. Our confidence is in the Lord of Hosts." With every step of progress, came the assurance of God's leading. The vision did not change.