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Chapter 16: Twin Rocks Conference 1932

Frank Cole

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Pep and enthusiasm were not lacking, according to the reports. Miller Porter and Donald Edmundson led the lively singing. Elizabeth Ott (Bishop) announced the speakers and classes for the August Conference, including the chaperones—Bertha and Charles Hawthorn. Father and Mother Cope felt they were not physically able to serve longer. Chester Hadley gave the "Admiral's Orders" which he summed in in the thought "Keep On." He said he expects the C.E. Union to keep on in the activities of the Conference with a balanced ratio between recreation and work. If the balance is ever destroyed so that recreation takes too great a place, the usefulness of the Conference will be over. On the other hand, if it becomes all work, it will be seriously impaired. The word is "Keep On" in the good balance which has characterized past years. It was decided to hold the banquets in Portland in the future because of the increasing numbers attending and the difficulty of finding large enough accomodation.

Promotion during the year emphasized the joys of Conference. One writer used a commercial advertising slogan of the times "they satisfy" and "I'd walk a mile for..." He suggested that these might be far better applied to the anticipated joys of the forthcoming Conference "whose pleasures really satisfy for God is present throughout the fun." He continued, "I'd walk a mile for...is not exaggerated as it is reported that some enthusiasts are planning on foolin' ol' man depression by hiking to Conference." Extracts from the diary of a girl who attended Conference for the first time last year were printed. "We arrived! So this is Twin Rocks Conference. So far, so good, but where are we going to put our tent? Say, I feel awfully sorry for Worth Coulson. If everybody is as hard to get settled as we were, he'd either have to have a twin or resign...the evangelistic services started tonight and I attended my first Conference service, which made me want to go out and invite everyone to come to hear the Gospel...why didn't someone tell me about that rising bell? It scared me out of a year's growth...I thought I'd better go to all the classes but that didn't work, one class in a period is all I can absorb...they do everything in a big way around here, even the eats for which I paid five dollars and I've eaten that much already. What a good breakfast we had...we went swimming at five o'clock this morning...we had our pictures taken, played ball, ran races, rode horseback, went swimming...had hot dogs flavored with sand for supper on the beach and think of it! we got to stay out till 10:30...tomorrow we have to go home...what this Conference has meant to me cannot be put in words...I will be the first one here next year."

When the August, 1932, date rolled around, Allen Hadley and Elizabeth Ott (Bishop) were enthusiastic registrars who used a theme song, "Have You Registered" and some clever skits to garner 260 registrants. A new booth had been built which provided a central location for registration, information and buying candy and other items. An unusually large number of beach residents and members of various churches along the coast attended the sessions. Two local pastors dismissed their Sunday evening services and attended as a group. Boise Valley Quarterly Meeting was officially represented and fraternal dele-

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gates came from Puget Sound Quarterly Meeting and their Quaker Cove Conference.

The classes were especially inspiring. Reports declare, "no simple statement can adequately tell of the convincing manner of presentation and the resultant determination in the minds of listeners to evangelize in the Northwest and in Bolivia after attending Chester Hadley's class on 'Our ^{SK} task at home and abroad.'" Gervais Carey of Seattle presented studies in Quakerism, outlining the origin, growth, decline, revival and future of Friends. He said that our attitude toward the Holy Spirit was responsible for the success or failure of each period in Friends History. Calvin Choate taught a class on the Second Coming of Christ, using charts. Edward Mott discussed "From C's to A's in Character Development." Frederick J. Cope gave a resume of the experiences of the Children of Israel in the light of the New Testament. Levi T. Pennington's class on "The Christian's Place in World Affairs" covered race relationships, prohibition and peace in the light of the primary and secondary tasks of the Church.

Helen and Laura Cammack used a model tabernacle in their studies with the Intermediates. Mildred Raymond led the children's classes, emphasizing Scripture memorization and missionary themes. An innovation this year was a Junior chorus class led by Mary Sue Binford ^{d Newberg} that sang Sunday morning. William J. Murphy conducted the Chorus class which presented the annual Sacred Concert on Sunday afternoon to a large audience. Following the concert, a ^{Commissioning} ~~recognition~~ service was held for Helen and Laura Cammack, outgoing missionaries. Each was given a sweater with the Christian Endeavor emblem on the pocket in appreciation of their years of loyal and efficient service to the C.E. Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting.

Merrill Coffin gave the morning inspirational messages except on Friday when Floyd P. ~~Pa~~ risho, who delivered the first Conference address fifteen years ago, spoke. Walter Lee concluded the hour with a strong appeal for Oregon Friends Endeavorers to be filled with the Spirit. Merrill Coffin's evening evangelistic messages were a blessing to all, especially to those who accepted new insights into the life of the Spirit.

Recreation was under the direction of Milo Ross and Laura Cammack. Five "wagon trains" named for the five Quarterly Meetings, were appointed to compete for points in various activities. They were ^{to} start from St. Joseph, Missouri, and come to parts of the Oregon territory to settle." The program was worked out to emphasize Home Missions. There were indoor and outdoor projects, horseshoe tournaments, picking huckleberries, ball games and a championship ball game on the beach. The track meet included a race called the "Zuni Indian Stick Race." At the huge bonfire and stunt night on the beach, beefsteak and corn bread were consumed in quantity. Chester Hadley closed the evening with a brief devotional message. The report concludes, "From then on, Dan Cupid had things pretty much his own way till the wee sma' hours!"

The following year the Executive Committee of the C.E. Union continued to evaluate, plan and work. The need for a person to live on the Conference grounds all year around seemed an important new step. Sydney Alexander was appointed to take up residence and supervise improvements on the grounds.

The annual banquet was held at First Friends Church in Portland in April, 1933. The theme chosen was "Oregon Trail" and Gerald Morrison supervised decorations with miniature covered wagons and oxen, the scout with his horses, a spinning wheel. Allen Hadley was the "Trail Blazer". Three hundred young people responded to lively singing and toasts. "Tales around the campfire" were of Quaker pioneers of long ago. Chester Hadley told about the "lure of the West" to early Friends as they endeavored to spread the Gospel in new fields. Emel Swanson described the "house raising" at Twin Rocks in the early days and how the trail led over salal bushes and sand, through poverty and difficulties to the present wonderful Conference home. After the nostalgic evening, the group took to their home trails with enthusiasm, determined to trek to Conference next summer, singing

"How dear to my heart is the trail to our Twin Rocks
That lures me each summer with Conference in view.
Though many the trails that the Quakers have followed,
Yet this is ^{the} far best of all that they knew."

In the promotion for Conference the announcement of costs was surprisingly unchanging. For board the cost was \$5.00 for the week, making the average cost of each meal still 25¢. Pastors and wives were guests, with their children at half price. The registration fee continued at 50¢. Walter Lee continued as president of the C.E. Union and also served as manager of the food service. Worth Coulson was general Conference manager. Albert Cammack ~~had~~ joined the staff as assistant manager in 1932.

Elizabeth Ott (Bishop) was registrar again in 1933 and reported a total of 245 with more coming through the week and on Sunday. She reported that there was only one member of Oregon Yearly Meeting who had registered and remained through every Conference. Sherman Jay Hadley had that distinction. He was not quite two years old when the first Conference was held at Ocean Lake Park in 1918, but he was there from beginning to end, and has maintained the same record through succeeding years. He was the younger son of Chester Hadley, vice-president of the C.E. society at First Friends Church, Portland, and a member of "Quaker Pilots" Sundayschool class. In 1933 he was attending Washington High School and playing half-back on the Championship football team. There were 140 eating in the Conference dining hall, keeping the cooks busy and hard pressed to keep up with healthy appetites.

To the delight of regular Conference attenders, the Arthur Chilson family was present again in 1933, preceding their return to Africa. Edna Chilson spoke at the Inspirational ~~morning~~ Hour each morning on the subject of "the Yielded Life" based on the verse "Lord, what wouldst Thou have me to do?" Arthur Chilson emphasized the Holy Spirit in the evening evangelistic services. Many reported that they had never felt His presence so keenly. ~~More~~ More than seventy responded to the call for deeper spiritual life. On Thursday evening a young man went forward during a time of testimony. Others followed ~~so~~ that the altar was filled and no sermon was preached. Perhaps this unusual outpouring was the result of the 25 or 30 who met for prayer on the beach early each morning.

The classes reflect the concerns and interests of the planners. Herman Macy led the Chorus Class as well as a Bible class on the book of Hebrews. Merrill Coffin was qualified by his missionary term in India to present "Comparative Religions." Denver Headrick discussed "Applied Christianity" and Sophia Townsend "Missions and Me." Mildred Hadley taught a class on Christian Endeavor purposes and practice, thus offering training in the organization of C.E. work. The motto and aims were studied. During the last class period, an examination was given over the work covered, the results of which formed the basis of Christian Endeavor Expert degrees awarded on Sunday afternoon following the concert. Children's meetings were under the direction of Esther Chilson Choate who divided them into two age groups meeting at different hours. The younger group illustrated Bible stories in the sand. The older group acted out the stories in pantomime.

Recreational directors Oscar Brown and Dell Lamb divided the Conference into three groups, each representing a "logging camp" state—Washington, Oregon and Idaho camps. Eugene Coffin, Wilbur Mann and Wilma^{SP} Brown were leaders. Each side worked for "log-feet" or points earned by attending classes and services, songs at meals, individual activities and sports. There was a treasure hunt Wednesday afternoon which Idaho won. Washington won the inter-logging camp indoor baseball and horseshoe games. Saturday's track meet on the beach was won by Washington. Idaho walked away with the stunt, presenting the opera "Paul Bunyon," Oregon said, "Somebody has to be last!" The recreation program directors were enthusiastically congratulated for a great week of recreation and fun.

After the earlier beginning of the Chart Plan for the C.E. Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting, awards to winning societies were presented each year. At the business meeting on Saturday morning, the work for the coming year was outlined and explained. The shield award was presented to Vancouver, C.E. for having attained the greatest number of points. Lents C.E. placed second.

A reality of the times was the shadow of the Great Depression. Walter Lee reported to the Yearly Meeting that "the shock of the storm through which we have been passing in recent years has been felt in the Christian Endeavor work more than ever before. Yet we thank our Heavenly Father that we have been able to withstand the tempest because we have built on the solid rock, Christ Jesus. In spite of the difficulties, the C.E. has continued to make a definite contribution to the work of the Church through the publication of the "Friendly Endeavor." This paper has come to fill a large place in the work of the Yearly Meeting and has drawn us together in the common interests of the Kingdom... last year has seen several of our young people step up into places of responsibility in the Church." The vision did not change.