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Chapter 18: Twin Rocks Conference 1936-1937

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Twin Rocks Conference

1936 - 1937

The Christian Endeavor Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting was growing in strength and activity during the mid-1930s. Paul Cammack was elected president for the 1935-1936 year and held the position until 1941. His reports to the Yearly Meeting reflect an attitude of continued responsibility and concern for the motto of Christian Endeavor, "For Christ and the Church." He said, "with nearly a dozen missionaries nurtured in our church and Christian Endeavor in active service and a great number of young people preparing for Christian work, we are glad to realize that we Endeavorers are going to help keep God's full message of Salvation preached...Boise Valley was outstanding in its Gospel Band work this year." The "Friendly Endeavor" had increased circulation to 1,900 copies, was running more pages and was increasingly depended upon to serve as the complete paper for Oregon Yearly Meeting. Lesson helps were published to serve more and more societies and thirteen subscriptions to these were going to Ohio and California. The Executive Committee members travelled 20,310 miles and wrote 727 cards and letters during the year, promoting the work and helping Friends young people keep in touch with each other.

The summer Conferences were of primary interest. During the year the major concern for the Twin Rocks Conference was raising the money to pay for the new dormitory. In the fall the Executive Committee had to borrow \$350 in order to keep their credit. Paul Cammack wrote, "I like to see the Lord's smile rise on the horizon--opportunities to earn money. I like to see the Lord's smile set over the opposite horizon--the use of money... the blessing I have had in spending my money for C.E. work, travel, Conferences and various other items would never be exchanged for mere coin again...as we think of our enlarging programs in every Conference project, I would admonish each pledge-holder to square your account, and you who need to invest money where it will bear spiritual interest, pay to the needs of your C.E. Conference..." He pointed out future needs and hopes. "There are four young people's groups who want to rent our Conference grounds this summer...to make it more habitable, we must partition the dormitory. There is other work that ought to be done, but we can get through this year with only the addition of the partitions...we still have a note to pay off at the bank. It must be paid. Pledge-holders, ask God to help and do not forget that you and not God unties the purse strings. We have good credit...and want to keep it good."

An interesting change was announced in February. "No, not a car for every garage but a Conference banquet for every quarter! Yep, at Boise, Portland, Salem, Newberg and Tacoma. Up to this year Salem, Portland and Newberg have been having a combined banquet, but the crowds outgrew the halls so--Here is the fun we are going to have between the banquets. The Yearly Meeting C.E. Executive Committee will set a goal for attendance at each banquet. Next Yearly Meeting in June a prize will be given to the quarter that exceeds the attendance mark by the most. Paid attenders will be the basis of credit for

this contest. How does that sound? Watch for your quota in the next "Friendly Endeavor." The cost will be 35¢ apiece."

"In the three quarters of Portland, Newberg and Salem, the West-end Executive Committee will have charge of the programs. Allen Hadley of Pacific College will be the toastmaster for all three affairs. A bit of advice—don't go to all three because the jokes will be the same at all of them...Then, the big thing is the Major Bowes Amateur Night, bringing together the best talent of the Northwest!" Paul Cammack announced the quotas: Boise Valley, 340; Portland, 250; Salem, 125; Newberg, 125; Tacoma, 75. Each quarter was to exceed the attendance quota by a better percentage than that of any of the other four banquets in order to get immediate recognition and the prize at Yearly Meeting.

The banquets were held in April with enthusiastic promotion bringing out hundreds of attenders. "Reports say that excitement is at fever height! Trucks and busses are being chartered, suits are being pressed and dresses cleaned...we hear that petitions are being circulated in several sections of the Yearly Meeting asking that the dates be moved up a week as folk can't wait any longer. Committees are meeting nightly all over the Northwest planning menus, stunts, Conference programs, transportation, music, ways and means, finances and personnel." It is no wonder that over 650 attended the three summer Conferences in 1936. Attendance continued to grow, as well as buildings and grounds. The Conference idea was spreading throughout the Yearly Meeting because of the values which continued to become apparent in the lives of the young people.

Promotion for Twin Rocks continued after the banquets at which announcements were made of the program and leadership. Esther Cammack wrote in the "Friendly Endeavor," "Are You Curious?...Have you ever thought of the Conference as a big treasure chest? Well, it is, and oh, what a treasure! Days spent there are chuck full of happy surprises." She reminded former attenders of the old and new acquaintances, the recreation programs, the sand on the beach, and "lake water around your neck and ears." Then she wrote of the "lasting treasure in this Conference chest—the spiritual values gained from God in classes, inspirational hours, and evangelistic services...If you have a healthy curiosity, seek the unsearchable riches for each one at Conference this year if they are but claimed..." Paul Cammack wrote, "Listen, if you want a blank record in your life do not come to Conference. BUT if you long for a rich experience in spiritual and physical activity pray that nothing shall keep you from Twin Rocks August 2-9."

The program announced that "a drastic reduction has been made in the charge for board this year. The price is \$3.50, so total expense for board, room and registration is \$5.50." A greater percentage of campers ate at the "Club", necessitating the building of a dining hall annex. The record of the first meal had been 90 but this year on Monday evening 182 were served. There were 351 registered by Esther Cammack with 500 on Sunday. Worth Coulson served as manager with Russell Strait his assistant. Walter Lee was business manager. Miller and Hazel Porter continued as Conference Father and Mother.

Leadership for classes and services was recruited again from long-time Conference attenders as well as from the Yearly Meeting ministers. Milo Ross conducted the Pastor's Retreat. ~~Evangelist~~ Joseph G. Reece, pastor at First Friends in Portland directed the chorus and Pearl Reece the class on Quaker heroes. Harold P. Mills taught a class, "In Case of War," and George H. Moore a study of Philippians. Edward Mott presented "The Apostles," Herman Macy "Faith and Practice" and Mildred Hadley continues her Christian Endeavor training class. Phyllis Macy conducted children's meetings in two sessions—for children up to second grade and later a Junior class for children from second grade to those twelve years of age.

Evangelists were Edward Harmon and Fred Baker, both called to the ministry and now gaining experience in Oregon Yearly Meeting. They served both the Inspirational Hour at 11:15 A.M. and the evening services. Their ministry touched their listeners in an unusual way, with conviction bringing over 130 to the altar for prayer. Thursday evening Ed Harmon turned the meeting into a "Birthday" testimony period which developed into a time of prayer for 50 young people who knelt at the altar.

The recreation program was under the direction of Elizabeth Ott Bishop and Sherman Hadley. They used the theme of "Life Saving" and organized four coast guard crews for competition. The crews were named Willapa Bay, Elvett Brown captain; Umpqua River, Lucille Hadley, captain; Yaquina Bay, Virginia Heacock, captain; Coos Bay, Gordon Reece, captain. The Wednesday afternoon get-together featured a pictorial history of life saving through different periods of modern history. Beach night was changed to "Beach Afternoon" with the stunts coming then. Coos Bay won the stunts with Paul Cammack as a lighthouse and Carrol Tamplin and Edward Harmon cast in the roles of bachelor seamen. A moonlight ride on the ocean was promised for the evening, but as there was no moon and the tide was at ebb, the moon-struck people rocked on the bay instead.

The semi-annual business meeting held during Conference helped to carry out the business and program of the C.E. Union. There were greetings from other Friends youth organizations. Quaker Hill Conference, Quaker Cove Conference, and Camp Wood, (Kansas) Conference sent letters in 1936. These were answered with appreciation. Visitors were welcomed: Anna Coffin with daughter, Catherine, and Carl Voget from Berkeley, California, and Mrs. Lewis Russell and daughter Florence from N.E. Tacoma, Washington, Carrie Wood from India and the Carroll Tamplins from Bolivia were warmly welcomed and added much to the week. The report of the Chart-judging Committee gave the names of societies with the highest number of earned points. McKinley Avel, Tacoma, was first and the plaque presented to Herbert Hathaway to deliver to that Society. Star, Idaho, was second and Newberg third. The theme for the new chart was "Friendship Cruise." Mildred Hadley presented the new Constitution which was to be printed in the "Friendly Endeavor" and voted on by each society.

The sacred concert at 3 pm on Sunday was another highlight of Conference with many

people attending from the coastal areas. After the music, over \$500 was raised to help with improvement projects. The benefits of the week of fellowship, recreation, spiritual growth and blessing were reflected in the enthusiastic response to the plea for money to carry on the program at Twin Rocks. The vision was being fulfilled as each year brought new attenders and former devotees to enjoy Conference blessings.

The ~~next~~^{following} year brought continuing concern and implementation relating to improvements on the grounds. By the next Friends Conference, the grounds had been used by three other groups--thirty-two days altogether. Western Baptist Theological Seminary held a weekend Conference in May for thirty-one students and faculty. Hinson Memorial Baptist Church rented the grounds for a weekend later in May for over 70 young people. Epworth League held an institute in July for 150 Methodists and the Nazarene Young People's Society gathered in September. More than 1,000 young people attended gatherings on Twin "ocks Conference grounds during the 1937 summer.

The continuing growth of the Christian Endeavor Union brought some changes in programs and promotion. The five banquets to promote the summer Conferences became so large that it was difficult to get accommodations adequate for the increasing numbers. In April of 1937 Rallies were held instead and points for the Chart program given for attendance. In March a C.E. Rally was held at Piedmont Friends Church, Portland. Prune Hill, Washington, won 500 points at this one. There were eight churches represented. Members of all the churches in the area attended. The Rally included the evening service. Conference was always promoted.

A "Big Super-Rally" Contest was announced in early spring, rewards going to the society "that advertises the most and the best." Members were urged to keep track of posters paper clippings, records of visits, carbons of letters, affidavits--"anything that is material evidence that you advertised the Big Super-Rally that is going to be held at the Pacific College gymnasium, April 23rd at 7:30...why not get some fun out of this? Why not bring in some modern original advertising ideas?? Show us old fogies who's got the pep! We'll tell you who gets the prize." Boise Valley used similar methods to rally support for the Quaker Hill Conference in Idaho.

The "Friendly Endeavor" ~~had grown through the years in size and coverage.~~ It had become a Yearly Meeting paper, more comprehensively covering the entire program. For a time different quarterly meetings of churches would publish one of the pages, giving news of activity and programs. In the April issue huge headlines on a page entitled "Friendly Journal", edited by Fred Baker, pastor of the Prune Hill Church in Washington, announced the "Big Super-Rally..." Eleven members of that church attended and became ardent fans of the Twin Rocks Conference. In fact, 375 Endeavorers from Oregon and Southwest Washington crowded the halls of Pacific College for the pep rally. The report says, "a well-planned program ranging from mild hysteria to inspiring reminiscence and prayerful expectance for the coming Conference held the attenders at keen attention..." The award for advertising went to Lents Young People's C.E., Portland. It was a colored, framed picture of the Twin Rocks.

~~Other~~ promotion was carried on through the year by the Executive Committee members as they traveled over the Yearly Meeting. Another medium was the use of posters which had been used since 1925. Some were very large and ~~used~~ ^{with many} pictures, large print and exuding enthusiasm. They were placed in areas of the churches where they could remind former ~~att~~ attenders of past pleasures and blessings and encourage others to go for the first time and urging all to go next year. There were bright badges to wear each year at Conference and often attenders would wear last year's badge to the banquet or rally, ~~preceding next year's Conference.~~

The July ¹⁹³⁷ issue of "Friendly Endeavor" used a picture of the tabernacle at Twin Rocks on the front page and printed announcements. The cost in 1937 was \$5.75 for the week. Again, anyone who procured ten paid up customers ahead of time received free board and room. Samuel Mosher of Ohio who had been the Conference evangelist in 1930 was invited to serve again and returned a warm greeting of anticipation, "my heart burns within me when I think of the good time spent with you in the past and the prospect of once more enjoying your fellowship." Another announcement called attention to "a rare treat in store...the girl's trio of Portland Bible Institute composed of Misses Betty Beckelhymer, Dorothy Pike and Marie Ellis will be present during the entire week...their messages in song will be a great inspiration and blessing to the services and we are fortunate that their schedules allow their attendance."

Sleeping accommodations improved each year. It was announced in the spring that "ticks are welcome at Twin Rocks Conference grounds." Not wood ticks, nor fever ticks, but straw ticks of all colors and dimensions. In June an appeal was made over the Yearly Meeting for permanent ticks for the grounds and fifty were sent in just prior to the Methodist Conference, June 5-11. Twenty-five more are needed to cover every spring on the grounds so that the maximum capacity of 213 people can be reached. Every year previous to this one it has been necessary for each one to bring a tick of his own. This year the appeal is being made to secure permanent ticks which can be left on the grounds. Surely it will be a grand and glorious feeling not to have to fill your tick and lug it to the second or third floor or into a tent or under a tree. Send your ticks to Sidney Alexander or bring them with you. Have you done your part and made a tick?"

Chester Hadley wrote, "Final preparation for Conference was completed during the first two weeks in July when Grace and I with Carl and Minnie Miller of Newberg, Carl and Russell Fouts, Elvett Brown and James Armstrong of Salem, and Sidney Alexander spent the entire time getting the grounds ready for occupancy. The first improvement was leveling of the hill south of the grounds and filling in the swamp in front of the tabernacle. This was done in three days by the use of a giant county bull dozer, making it possible to park vehicles on what was once waste land."

"Upon arrival on the grounds it was the intention of the workers to put the second flooring on the second and third stories of the dormitory, but the group arrived in one of the severest storms of years and found that the rain was beating through the walls, covering at least three or four feet of the flooring...The committee decided that siding for the south and west side was more important than flooring so the south and west sides were ^{COVERED} shingled with oil-dipped shingles twelve inches to the weather, making them appear as shakes. Carl and Russell Fouts, Elvett Brown and James Armstrong did the shingling."

"Year after year complaints have come to the committee about the condition of the bedsprings...this year Chester Hadley ruthlessly marched down the halls of the dormitory, entered each room where old springs were found and tossed them out the window...forty new springs were installed. There are now comfortable sleeping quarters for 145 people in the dormitory. Besides these are seventeen tents in which there are two full-sized springs making an additional accommodation for 68 more or a total of 213 people..."

"Chester Hadley and Sidney Alexander waterproofed the 10 x 12 tents. The workers are not giving a written guarantee to every tenter that he will not get wet if it rains, but they can honestly say that they did their best to make the old tents, which were secured ten years ago, to hold water this time...the spraying was made possible through the donation of Everett Heacock of the Heacock Sash and Door Company who very generously loaned his spray gun which was used on both the tents and the shingles for the siding of the dormitory."

"For several years we have suffered for the lack of plenty of hot water at the Conference grounds. It has been a serious problem and we are glad to report this year a hot water system has been donated and installed by Gilbert Shadd, Russell and Donald Strait."

The record for registrations was broken at the Conference of 1937. Ava Brown, registrar, "thrilled the audience on Tuesday evening with the report that up to that time 290 had registered as official members. From that time on, the number kept climbing until on Sunday 406 were wearing the official badge, the largest number since 1928." Worth Coulson was Conference Manager with Russell Strait his assistant. Walter Lee served as business manager. Grace Hadley, Bessie Gardner and Bertha Heacock did the cooking again—not only for the Twin Rocks Conference but also for some of the other groups renting the grounds.

The theme "Shaping My Life" was carried out in all the classes. Chester Hadley's class discussed the topic "In His Likeness," Frederick Baker "The Minor Prophets"; Paul Cammack used "In My School"; Edward Harmon, "In My Church" "For a Vocation" was a discussion class led by Jessie Mae Ruhndorf. A class "For Foreign Service" was a special blessing in 1937 as there were five foreign missionaries on furlough present. Each morning Emily Moore, Carrie Wood, Jack and Laura Traschel, and Helen Cammack shared their testimonies of their calls to service and their experiences of God's leading in their work.

The evangelist, Samuel Mosher, brought messages in the Inspirational Hour and in the evening services. He used the figure of mountain climbing to point the hearers to basic tenets of the faith—regeneration, sanctification and the second coming. Behind these

stand the larger peak which governs the other three, "The Will of God." The privilege of bearing Jesus' cross was emphasized. Each message struck the hearts of young people and many yielded to Him and found the joy of commitment. The girl's trio from Portland Bible Institute brought special blessing to each service with their beautiful music. Joseph Reece directed the chorus and the song services with the assistance of Bethel Mayes Unruh at the piano.

Esther Cammack and Francis Ohse directed the recreational program, dividing the attenders into four mountain-climbing parties to climb Mts. Illimani, Matterhorn, Fujiyama and Everest. Miles were added to miles by participation in various sports: hiking, swimming, ball games, scavenger hunt, and stunts. Esther Cammack presented a trophy to the captain of the winning team at the service Saturday evening.

The business meeting on Saturday recognized delegates from other Conferences. Irwin Alger came from Camp Sequoia, California and George Plumb and family from California Yearly Meeting. There were letters of greeting from Milo and Helen Ross and Ralph and Esther Choate. Missionary interest had continued strong in the C.E. Union as former attenders had gone out to various countries from Oregon Yearly Meeting, some from Conference. Each year a committee was named at Twin Rocks to write letters to the missionaries.

A highlight of the business meeting was the announcement of ^{the} Chart Committee of the first place winner for the year. This honor went to Star, Idaho, with Greenleaf High School Society in second place and Boise Society third. This was the first time Boise Valley Quarter had won the first prize. Ruth Gulley presented the new Chart with the theme "Circling the Globe with C.E." This committee was given special commendation for excellent work.

The report of the 1937 Conference concludes ~~with~~, "With grateful hearts we thank the Lord for His bountiful blessings, His loving protection, and for the special mountain peak experiences of this year. Truly, Twin Rocks Conference will remain a mountain peak of strength in the days to come." And so the vision continued to be fulfilled. It did not change.