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## Chapter 18: Twin Rocks Conference 1938-1939

Frank Cole

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## Twin Rocks Conference

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1938 - 1939

The planning committee for the 1938 Conference chose the theme, "Prove Me!", (Malachi 3:10b). Promotion through the year included banquets again. The western C.E. Societies held theirs in April at the Centenary Wilbur Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, announced as "the forerunner of the Twin Rocks Conference." Phyllis Macy Cammack was program chairman, assisted by Esther Miller, Esther Cammack and Eilene Kenworthy. Betty Bishop was in charge of decorations. The February issue of "The Friendly Endeavor" said, "Old man gloom will not be a bale to preside over any part of the banquet...as there will be plenty of room for all deserving to attend...Since you are to be one of the four hundred or more, you will want to know that tickets will be 35¢ each or two for 70¢." The Conference cooks: Grace Hadley, Bertha Heacock and Bessie Gardner were to prepare the food. The announcement read, "This is one time when people forget about diets and calories and thoroughly enjoy food midst intrepid enthusiasm and Conference hysteria." An African theme was chosen, "Jungle Convocations on the banks of the Zambesi." The song leaders, called "Jumba Rumba Masters" were Randall Dicus, Allen Hadley, Sherman Hadley and Gordon Reece. Bethel Unruh was "Tom Tom beater, accompanist. Dorothy Choate (Cannical Queen) was master of ceremonies. Walter ~~A~~ Lee, Allen Hadley and Paul Cammack spoke on the challenge and blessings of Conference. Eilene Kenworthy drew from a large kettle on the speaker's table announcements of the leaders and evangelist for the August Conference. ~~Al~~ were pleased that the Portland Bible Institute's Girls Trio would be present again.

Another promotion event was a Twin Rocks Rally held on the Reed College campus in Portland by the C.E. Societies of Prune Hill and Oak Park, Washington, and Second Friends Portland, Oregon, in July. The program was directed by L. Dell Lamb. Following ball and group games, the 105 attenders gathered around a crackling fire for a wiener and marshmallow roast followed by singing and skits designed to engender enthusiasm for Twin Rocks.

There were 408 registered in August at Conference, reported by Myron James, registrar. The youngest attender was Janis Bishop, daughter of James and Elizabeth Bishop. She was nearly one year old. There were four "Deans" appointed. Deans of Women were Alberta Swanson and Nora Pemberton. Deans of Men were Edward Harmon and James Bishop. Mrs. Swanson also served as camp nurse. Various rules and suggestions had developed by experience. There had been concern regarding bathing dress. A committee had been asked to investigate the availability of suitable swimming suits. Elizabeth Bishop, Mildred Hadley and Edward Harmon went to several manufacturing plants making knit suits and found



that there were conservative suits obtainable in a reasonable price range, in all sizes and most colors, including black. The committee reported in "The Friendly Endeavor" in February and suggested that Christians be as careful about their testimony by their dress as by word and action. They wrote, "We do not need to make ourselves conspicuous by dressing as they did in 1890, but we should be careful that fashion and style do not rule our lives..." The Executive Committee of the C.E. Union recognized the changing standard of the day and urged the young people to use discretion and true modesty in their conduct and apparel while going to and from the beach and lake and while bathing or playing in those areas. The Deans ruled that lights should be out by 10:30 P.M. and that those living off the grounds were expected to observe rules prevailing on the grounds. They posted tide hours daily and urged care while bathing in the surf. Illness and other problems were reported to them. Conference Manager, Worth Coulson, urged attenders to cooperate in keeping the grounds clean. The main source of littering was the candy wrappers. Several young people fell to and helped clean up the grounds.

Two building and grounds projects were underway. The third floor of the dormitory were undergoing transformation with a part of the south half partitioned off to room twenty-five girls and their matron. A well-lighted hallway was being completed at the head of the stairs. A water main had burst so some public-spirited men undertook to repair it, under the leadership of Ralph Bell and Don Strait. The local water company had furnished the Conference grounds with free water for the past ten years so it behooved the management to do the repairs themselves. Their work helped the company and raised the water pressure on the grounds.

On Wednesday afternoon everyone met in the tabernacle to hear the announcement of the recreation leaders Don Strait and Esther May Weesner. The group was divided into four teams for the "Olympics": Oregon Beavers, Max Colver, leader; Idaho Coyotes, Leila Crisman, leader; Washington Cougars, Betty Lou Gardner, leader; and California Bears, Lloyd Brown, leader. Various games, contests, water carnival, races, track meet, hikes and the annual deep-sea fishing expedition were planned for points. Blue, red, white and yellow ribbons were awarded the winners.

The classes on the theme "Prove Me!" were led by veteran ministers and some new faces. Dr. John Brougher used lecture, charts and moving pictures to show that scientists were proving God through Science and that the Bible is true. Pearl Reece led the class of early teenagers on "Prove Me in Accomplishments." Sophia Townsend cleared many questions relative to Friends doctrines, customs and government in her class on "Prove Me in Your Denomination." The class on "Sensible Living" was divided into three subjects. Irma Lewis discussed the effects of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana, Dr. Brougher described the right use of the body and Paul Cammack the right use of amusements and use of



the Sabbath day. Merrill Coffin related the fellowship of Jesus with His Father and with others to God's missionary program. Chester Hadley's class concerned the making of important decisions of life, chief of which are accepting Jesus as Savior and then the cleansing of the heart.

Margaret Dicus and Marie Ellis led the children's classes on the theme, "Prove Me in the Home." Several children found peace in Christ during their class hours. There were fifty children in attendance on Sunday, the largest class of the week.

The ministry of Walter R. Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, was used of God during the week in the evangelistic evening services and the morning inspirational hours. The theme, "Prove Me" was accepted as a challenge and a promise. He pointed out two classes of people--those who have become new creatures in Christ and those who have rejected Him. He spoke about "What is thy name?" The name we have is the name we are making by the things we think, the choices we make and the life we live. "Every man carries on his body the mark of his master...you are not responsible for your baby face but you are for your face at age forty!" Every evening service found young people praying about their spiritual needs. On Thursday evening more than 100 people gave a witness for Christ. After the evangelist returned home, he wrote to Oregon Young Friends, "The days which I spent at Twin Rocks have brought new blessing to my life...to God be all glory and praise! May the victories won at Conference be permanent...once more our lives must be dedicated to God, fully His, that He may fill us with the Holy Spirit, use us how He will and where."

Sunday more Friends joined the Conference throng, notably forty brave folk who left Highland Friends Church in Salem at 6 A.M. to journey by truck to Twin Rocks for the day. Total attendance swelled to over 500. Under the direction of Joseph G. Reece, the concert in the afternoon was "a thrill to the listeners as well as the singers. The shine on the faces of the singers revealed that the experiences of the songs were real to their hearts."

At the business meeting several visitors and official delegates were recognized. Betty Byrd and Mary Jane Dedrick came from Tacoma Quarter. Merrill and Anna Coffin, with daughter, Catherine, came from Berkeley, California. Jean and Eugene Coffin came from Fresno, California. Ed Harmon, Helen and Milo Ross, Marita and Helen Williams represented Quaker Hill Conference in Idaho. A report from our official delegates to Quaker Hill were given by Esther Cammack and Betty Lou Gardner. The Chart Committee's report showed Prune Hill C.E. Society in first place with Star, Idaho, second. Nampa, Idaho came in third. The plaque for first place was given to Burdell Knobel of Prune Hill for that group. Paul Cammack, president, was asked to appoint a committee to write letters to the missionaries.



In the September, 1938, issue of "The Friendly Endeavor" several loyal attenders wrote their enthusiastic response to the Conference experience. Olive Terrell said, "As an older C.E. member I can say the 1938 Conference meant more to me than any thus far..." Earl P. Barker wrote, "My first opportunity to attend Twin Rocks Conference has resulted in a great blessing to me. I have enjoyed and appreciated fellowship with such whole-hearted young people." Dr. John Brougher wrote, "The entire Conference was a balanced vacation, although all too short...let us begin boosting for next Conference." Other attenders wrote about the blessing and inspiration of Conference. The large attendance and unfailing enthusiasm continued. The vision of 1918 was being fulfilled each year, as the testimony of the attenders attests. That did not change.

Promotion went on through the year between Conferences. In April Prune Hill and Camas, Washington, societies started a "Twin Rocks Contest." Points were earned for C.E. Membership, church membership, tithing, quiet hour, Bible reading, tract distribution, and church attendance. The first award was a week at Twin Rocks with all expenses paid. Second place received a free dining club ticket. Third award was free transportation and the fourth a free deep-sea fishing ticket. Combining the Conference with the work of the Societies resulted in twenty-five members attending in 1939.

Salem, Newberg and Portland Quarterly Meetings of Friends C.E. Union suspended the usual banquet-rally and announced "a gala outdoor Christian Endeavor pep rally picnic boosting the Twin Rocks Conference at Champoege Park, south of Newberg on the Willamette River on July 1st. This will make the first time the three Quarterly Meetings have united in such an outstanding youth get-together, and anticipation is rapidly gaining momentum...sports activities will fill the afternoon. Everyone will bring his basket lunch and unite in the picnic fellowship at 6 P.M., following which will be the evening program...highlight will be a four-minute-limit speaking competition from the stage of the semi-open auditorium of Champoege Park...any Endeavorer of any age is invited to enter the thrilling speaking contest on the subject, 'Why I am Going to Twin Rocks Conference' Each Society may have one representative with local winners entering district eliminations which will be judged by the Quarterly Meeting superintendents and the committee." The first prize was a certificate entitling the winner to full accommodations at Conference. Around 100 enthusiastic C.E. Young people enjoyed the rally. Miss Francis Cool of Prune Hill C.E. Society, was the winner of the speaking contest. Miss Ruth Gulley of Springbrook won second award and Miss Wilcox of Salem, Oregon, third.

In June Walter Lee, dining hall manager, announced that the waiters and waitresses for Conference would be chosen from each meeting in proportion to the number from that meeting planning to attend. All who wanted to work in the dining hall or kitchen were to



send their names to him. Applicants were to give name, age, experience and the name of their meeting. The club plan continued to attract the major number of Conference attendees so the help required offered the opportunity of work for board and room.

Through the years various groups had rented the Conference grounds. In May, 1939, Portland Bible Institute announced a "Twin Rocks School of the Bible/" from June 19 to July 14. It was an intensive course by faculty members of P.B.I., including study of both the Old and New Testaments. Each student could enroll for two subjects and earn a total of four semester hours. Classes were to meet in the mornings with recreation and study in the afternoons and evenings. The cost for the four weeks was \$30 outside transportation.

In July the Conference committee announced the theme and program for 1939, "I am ready" from Romans 1:15, "as much as in me is, I am ready." The purpose of the planning was to direct thought into channels of growth and fruitfulness. A faculty of spiritual leaders was invited to be class teachers because of their close touch with young people, their ability to meet the problems in a satisfying way and their oneness with the youth in their play. The challenging theme was carried throughout all the classes.

Carl Miller used the topic "I am ready to win others" for his practical class on methods of witnessing. Herman Macy presented a helpful class on "I am ready to walk with God." Walter Lee directed thought on "I am ready to face coming issues, using three leaders through the week. Joseph Reece led thinking on "What about War and Me?" Chester Hadley discussed frankly with the young people standards of conduct for Christians. Walter Lee and George Moore helped their hearers consider their positions on smoking, movies, and other conduct-related issues, including how to handle persecution. Helen Wylie Clapp of Cascade College (formerly P.B.I.) taught a practical class on the subject, "I am ready for Sundayschool Leadership."

Two Intermediate classes helped young people learn about Christian Endeavor leadership, taught by Orpha Presnall. The challenge, "I am ready to play the game" considering the true basis for Christian character, was taught by Frederick Baker. The children's classes under the leadership of Virginia Heacock and Mildred Hadley were well attended and the amount of excellent work was revealed in a demonstration on Sunday afternoon.

"Adventuring with Christ" was the theme of the opening evening service, led by Frank Davies of Long Beach, California, evangelist for the week. He was formerly superintendent of Kansas Yearly Meeting. He pointed out the censorship of the world against the things of God and challenged his hearers to accept the rule of God and live with Him throughout the entire year. He said, "the only narrow thing about Christianity is the door that leads into it. After one enters therein, there is the vast universe of God's spiritual universe to explore." About fifty young people outwardly accepted the challenge,



but inwardly everyone in attendance made great spiritual advancement. During the Inspirational Hour each morning, Frank Davies outlined twenty-one reasons why he was a Christian.

A large crowd of 500 filled the tabernacle on Sunday afternoon. All were inspired and blessed by the annual sacred concert under the direction of Marie Ellis with Esther Mae Weesner pianist.

The recreation program was directed by Walter and Gladys Cook, Betty Lou Gardner and Max Collver. Attenders were divided into four Indian tribes who vied for honors during the week. There were sports, archery contests, Indian golf and a daily "council ring." An Indian oyster bake on the beach was an innovation the opening day. A huge bonfire on Saturday night brought the week to a fitting close. The "Indian Chiefs" were commended on their excellent program for fun and enjoyment.

The business of the C.E. Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting was carried on in June at Yearly Meeting and in August at Conference. In 1939 Lois Roberts and Ruth Baker were appointed to write letters to the missionaries. L. Dell Lamb went as a delegate to Wauna Mer Conference in Tacoma Quarterly Meeting. Delegates from the Idaho Conference were welcomed. The Chart Committee announced that the Intermediate C.E. of ~~Idaho~~ Boise, Idaho, was awarded a pennant for achievement in the program. The first place plaque was given to Melba, Idaho, C.E. Society. The new theme for the year was to be "Empire building for Christ in the Northwest." Appreciation was expressed to Phyllis Cammack for her faithful work on the C.E. Lesson Helps, and to Walter Lee and E. Worth Coulson for their continuing work as dining hall and grounds managers.

Lawrence McCracken, registrar, reported a registration of 376, with the largest gathering on Sunday Afternoon. Deans of Men and Women were: Joseph Reece and James Bishop, Pearl Reece and Evelyn Moore. These had been chosen because of their rapport with young people and their love and concern for them. A comment in the December "The Friendly Endeavor" said, "One of the outstanding contributions to Twin Rocks Conference was the work of the cooks Grace Hadley, Bertha Heacock and Dora Wright." So the purposes of the Conference continued to be fulfilled. Each year brought repeaters and new faces, all to be renewed in body and soul as they responded to the challenges presented to them. The vision with its fulfillment did not change.