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Chapter 20: Twin Rocks Conference 1940-1941

Frank Cole

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Twin Rocks Conference

1940 - 1941

There were two major developments that influenced the Conference in the next few years, both program and grounds. In the report of Paul Cammack, president of the C.E. Union, to Oregon Yearly Meeting in June, 1940, he said, "From a ~~hy~~man standpoint the young people of Oregon Yearly Meeting might be tempted to be discouraged. Their beloved leader and superintendent, Chester Hadley, has been called home. World unrest and war eat like a canker at the hopes of youth. But from God's viewpoint, and we are glad to hold it up, 'God works all things together for good to them that love Him...' Losses will be made up and the future will be allright as we go step by step with God."

Chester Hadley had died suddenly of a heart attack in June. The shadow of this unexpected loss was felt deeply during the sessions of Yearly Meeting. At the business meeting of the C.E. Union a memorial to him was ~~w~~ritten and included in the minutes. "Chester Hadley was the loved advisor of the Christian Endeavor Union of Oregon Yearly Meeting of Friends. His young spirit and his ability to see as young people saw, found in us a warmth of fellowship. This gave us a greater appreciation of his advice and fatherly counsel. He became active in young people's work during his father's ministry at First Friends Church in Portland. Following this, he became president of the Yearly Meeting Christian Endeavor Union. From this his interest grew in C.E. work. He, with Homer Cox and others, saw the vision of a young people's summer conference. With untiring effort and sacrifice they brought their desires to reality, establishing Twin Rocks Conference. From their foundation of young people's work came Quaker Hill and Wauna Mer Conferences. Other yearly meetings as well have caught this vision as a result of this pioneering spirit. Since the founding of the Conferences, he has remained active in our Conferences in business management and spiritual leadership. In the light of these many activities, his passing leaves a vacancy which is impossible to fill, but the memory of his devoted life stirs in us a challenge to "Launch Out" with renewed determination to 'press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' "

During the spring of 1940, the promotion of Conference went on in all areas of the Yearly Meeting. The Salem, Portland and Newberg Societies decided to have a banquet again. Marjorie Haines announced in the March "The Friendsly Endeavor", "Yes, we're having a banquet! ~~again!~~ As this is a democratic country, we obey the wishes of the people—and you, the people, have been saying, 'We want a banquet!' So—we give you one...if you don't know what Twin Rocks is, you'd better come and find out! On April 27th at the Centenary Wilbur Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, there will be a banquet to advertise the Twin Rocks Conference. The price per plate will be 40¢." In the April issue Esther May Weesner wrote, "Stop! Look! Listen! Make way for the Twin Rocks Limited. Here comes the

train full speed ahead. Its destination? The Twin Rocks Banquet...We suggest flagging it because we know you don't want to miss out on the fun...when the passengers pile out, we'll find over 300 enthusiasts...gathered around the banquet tables...what happens when a group of lively Christian Endeavore~~s~~s get together? There will be peppy songs, group singing, speakers who will keep everyone laughing...a toastmaster who is certain to keep everyong guessing and most of all you will hear the plans for the 1940 Conference..."

The banquet was well attended. The program was based on a "China" theme, with Keith Macy the "Hi-Lo Chime Leader and Esther May Weesner "Gong Clanger." The "Firecrackers" leading the singing were Roger Taylor, Ralph Chapman, Keith Macy and Claude Pike. Esther Gulley, missionary to China, brought greetings from her field. Emil Swanson reminisced about Conference days. Max Collver, Esther Cammack, Myron James, Betty Lou Gardner and George Haines gave toasts. Joseph Reece sang and Paul Cammack brought a message. The announcements were made about the program for Conference, 1940.

The theme was to be "Choosing Rather" from Hebrews 11:25. The July issue of "The Friendly Endeavor" was a Memorial Edition honoring Chester Hadley. Knowing of his great interest and concern for Conference, the program was promoted with the usual enthusiasm, adding pictures of the leaders. Conference Deans were named: Walter and Gladys Cook, Carl and Minnie Miller. The total adult cost was to be \$5.75. The recreational leaders announced that the "swiftly running Church Fathers would play those formidable College Boys, wondering who could out-sock that Conference ball!"

Lawrence McCracken, registrar, reported that 352 signed up. The report said, "Although in past years registration has been larger, this year's Conference was one of ~~the~~ outstanding spiritual victory. Not one service was without seekers and there seemed to be an unusual spirit of melting and yielding." The class leaders represented the ministry of the Yearly Meeting. An excellent class in Quaker Evangelism and Church Extension, taught by Frederick Baker, sought to determine the reason for the great advances of Friends in George Fox's time, and to see how these vital principles could be applied to the present." Earl Barker discussed the doctrine of Holiness—what it is, why it is necessary, and how to get it. Gervas Carey taught a Bible Study on the book of Romans. He emphasized that what a man sows he shall reap, we shall be judged according to our knowledge of right and wrong, God does not differentiate between races. A Scriptural approach was ~~brought~~ brought to the subject, "To fight or not to fight" presented by Edward Mott. Esther Cammack and her class thought about dancing, movies, drinking and smoking and their effect on Christians. She used Mrs. Melva Mittby, Irma Lewis and Gladys Cook to assist her in presenting these subjects for study.

Forty-five children attended Junior Conference, directed by Virginia Heacock and Marjorie Haines. Their theme was "Choosing rather—Unselfishness, Self-control, Loyalty,

Courage and Love.

Hubert Mardock was invited to be the evangelist. He had conducted special meetings in several churches in Oregon Yearly Meeting and elsewhere, so the committee was glad he could attend to serve this year. He based his messages on "Whatsoever He saith to you, do it." He reached his hearers in an unusual way, so that many found new spiritual help and growth. His talks at the morning Inspirational Hour emphasized that the plan of salvation is "wonderfully simple and simply wonderful and is accessible to whosoever will."

Recreation leaders Mignon Macy, Marie Ellis and Lee Strait divided the group into four "Ships" headed by Magellan, Mary Sandoz; Ponce de Leon, Esther Cammack; Sir Frances Drake, Clynton Crisman, and Balboa, Paul Strait. They all set sail to find the "Fountain of Youth." At the end of four days of good-natured battle in which first one ship and then another seemed to be ahead, Magellan arrived at the Fountain one jump ahead of the Ponceys followed by the Drakes and Balboa.

At the business meeting a significant change in administration was begun, designed to set up a permanent organization for Twin Rocks Conference. The Yearly Meeting C.E. Union was making changes in its constitution so that each of the three Conferences would have its own administration. This was to be voted on during the Conferences. The Twin Rocks Conference voted in favor and began preparing to organize its own management. Visitors were welcomed. Fraternal delegates from Wauna Mer Conference were Lois Simpson and Virginia Brown. Marie Ellis spoke for the number who attended Quaker Hill Conference, reporting a good experience for all. Greetings were exchanged between Quaker Hill and Quaker Cove Conferences in the Northwest and also Quaker Meadows Conference in California. Earl Barker was preparing to attend Quaker Meadows so was appointed to convey greetings in person. The Chart Committee awarded first place to Boise Senior Society, with Greenleaf High School C.E. Second and Melba Senior C.E. third.

A recommendation was read from the Executive Committee suggesting that the tabernacle be named "Wiley Tabernacle." Walter Lee reminded the meeting of May Wiley's donation which made the construction possible. She did not feel that she would care to have the building named after her, so it was suggested that she decide on a name. The Conference decided to place a plate in the tabernacle to express appreciation for her gift.

Sunday was a special day in 1940. Keith Macy had conducted the Chorus Class during the week with Olive Terrell pianist. The Sacred Concert in the afternoon could have been entitled, "Singing His Praises." An additional feature was the music of the Cascade College Quartette. Following the inspiring concert, a short but impressive memorial ceremony was held, naming the dormitory after Chester A. Hadley, founder of the Conference. Don Strait read scripture, Emel Swanson, E. Worth Coulson and Walter Lee spoke of their association with Chester Hadley in Conference work and what his life had meant and will continue to mean. Joseph Reece sang the song which was the final promise to Chester Hadley when

he answered the call of God to the ministry, "I Will Guide Thee with Mine Eye." At the close the name was unveiled. Oscar and Ruth Brown had made an attractive sign which was placed on the center dormer reading "CHESTER HADLEY HALL," where it remains to this day. The emotional overtone at the 1940 Conference helped emphasize the value of the 1918 vision of Chester Hadley and other faithful Friends who hoped to inspire the young people of Oregon Yearly Meeting to seek and follow the will of God in their lives. The three Conferences continued to carry out the purposes of the vision which did not change.

In October, 1940, an announcement went out urging C.E. members to gather for a Twin Rocks Rally on October 11th at Second Friends (Lents) Church in Portland. The purpose was to set up a new Twin Rocks Tri-Quarterly Meeting C.E. organization to manage the Conference. The Rally drew 225 enthusiastic Endeavorers. Marie Ellis led an inspirational "sing" with Marjorie Haines at the piano. The local Sundayschool orchestra contributed special numbers. Paul Cammack presided over the business meeting which elected the new Twin Rocks Conference Board. They named three managers—General Manager, Walter Lee of Portland Quarter; Don Strait, Dining Hall Manager, of Newberg Quarter; E. Worth Coulson, Grounds Manager of Salem Quarter. There were three members at large and three pastoral advisors—Betty Lou Gardner and Gervas Carey of Newberg, Lawrence McCracken and Owen Williams of Salem, Marjorie Haines and Carl Miller of Portland. The three Quarterly Meeting Superintendents were Mignon Macy of Salem, Sylvan Mardock of Newberg and Clynton Crisman of Portland. The Quarterly Meeting superintendents were elected at Yearly Meeting and the Conference managers at the business meeting at Twin Rocks. Lawrence McCracken was elected treasurer of the Conference. The new Board was introduced to the audience as Edward Harmon offered a prayer of installation. The program continued with stunts relating to the Chart contest, musical numbers by Myron James on his clarinet, the Newberg girl's trio—Betty Lou Gardner, Mary Frances Nordyke and Irene Lewis, and a chalk talk by Marian Edgley accompanied by Olive Terrell singing. Finally, Joseph Reece showed pictures of Twin Rocks Conference, especially impressive in the new color film. The evening was such a success that the audience called for more Tri-Quarterly Meeting Rallies.

Betty Lou Gardner announced the annual spring banquet-rally in the February issue of "The Friendly Endeavor." She wrote, "it will be held in Salem March 29th...this is the time for fun, nonsense, good fellowship, peppy singing, witty speeches and the time when the Conference program is announced! Of course no one would miss this occasion which rates second only to Conference." She was chairman of the program committee, assisted by Lois Harmon, Paul Lundy and Myron James. The report reads, "Salem knew something was happening as a crowd of 330 young people in cars of all descriptions paraded the streets of the city with Salem Quarter in the lead, escorted by police. The procession ended at Salem High School where the paraders flocked into the cafeteria, filling it to capacity. After ravenous appetites had been satisfied, Walter Lee, announcer on station T.R.C., welcomed listeners to the annual broadcast and urged all to use its product. The Emcee, Sherman Hadley, introduced that song bird of the air, Kate Smith, alias Marie Ellis, who led

us in rousing shoruses. The main feature was the one and only "Dr. IQ," who conducted a quiz, the answers to which revealed officers and teachers at the forthcoming Conference. Famous personages questioned were Max Collver, Lansing Bulgin, Mary Frances Nordyke, Mrs. Walter Cook, Mrs. Carl Miller, and Edgar W. Coulson, jr. Miss Nordyke, with her ready wit, won free registration at Conference. Joseph Reece and the B.M.I. trio from Pacific College performed musical numbers...after a stirring talk by Edward Harmon on the Christ-centered life, the banquet came to an end, to become another happy memory."

A new outgrowth of Twin Rocks Conference was announced in large type across the back of the May issue of "The Friendly Endeavor!" It proclaimed "Quaker Boys Camp, July 5-12 on the Twin Rocks Conference Grounds. 7 days for \$5.00. Spiritual fellowship, fun and wholesome food!" Harris Higgins wrote in the June issue, "How many of you can look back to the first session of Twin Rocks Conference? To you who can, there is no doubt a mixed feeling of thrill and spiritual realization that you were an integral part of a movement that has grown so great, and is now an institution of spiritual importance to Oregon Yearly Meeting. The week of July 5-12 ushers in a new phase of youth activity. Boys ages 9 to 15 will begin the first annual camp--Quaker Boys' Camp. Under the spiritual leadership of Clyde Thomas, camp Bible teacher and vesper ~~your~~ leader, your boy will grow in the knowledge of God's plan. Alberta Swanson, camp mother, and nurse will give the best care, medical attention and guiding love whenever needed. Jim Armstrong will be camp director. Working with him are boys you all know--Don Strait, Lee Strait, Walter Thomas, George Bales and Lewis Haisch. Program features cover Bible classes, camp fire stories, outdoor activities, such as softball, hiking, swimming, track...plenty of good wholesome food and lots of sleep..." In the fall Clyde Thomas reported on the success of this first Boys' Camp and prospects for the future of this type of work, including the establishment of a Girls' Camp on the same plan.

In July an appeal was made for two special needs on the grounds. "First, we need at least a dozen new straw ticks about 4'4" x 6'6"...if you or one of your Sundayschool classes or your Ladies' Aid can furnish one or more, please notify Walter Lee...as soon as possible so the management may know what to expect. The other need is painting the buildings...the need has been obvious for a long time. Pledges have been received already and it seems now that if many of us will cooperate, no one will have to pledge too largely to see the job done." Work on the grounds and buildings went on all the time. Having a caretaker on the grounds through the year had proved a wise investment.

The Conference of 1941 was planned on the theme, "Fear Thou Not" from Isaiah 41:10. Attendance was somewhat smaller than usual, due in some measure to the growth and success of the two other summer camps. The delegation was smaller from Idaho. Lawrence McCracken and Hazel Cooper, registrars, reported 300 on Sunday. Walter Lee, Don Strait and E. Worth Coulson served in their usual capacities. The experience and faithful labor of these leaders helped make the Conference run smoothly. The Deans were Minnie Miller, Esther Cammack, Carl Miller and Clynton Crisman.

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The report emphasizes that it was truly "A Christian C.E. Conference." Significant was the choice of Milo Ross as evangelist. He had attended from his youth so that returning in this capacity underlined the training and growth of leadership which was always a potential fruit of the Conference program. His evening ministry spoke to a large number of attenders who were helped spiritually through the week. On Friday evening almost 40 seekers knelt at the altar. Milo talked about crises young people face and urged repentance and restitution. He also conducted the morning Inspirational Hour, using characters in the Bible as subjects for meditation. On Friday morning he talked about "Love and Marriage," giving a guide for choosing a companion.

The first class each morning was about missions and was for everyone. Howard and Julia Pearson, missionaries in Bolivia, told of the life and customs of the Aymara Indians. They shared from experience what a missionary must know before going to the field, as well as the responsibility of the people at home. Other interesting classes were Prophecy by Herman Macy; How to Study the Bible by Walter Cook; C.E. Leadership by Gladys Cook; Quaker Heritage by Paul Cammack; Partnership with God by Edward Harmon. Junior classes were held every morning, directed by Lois Harmon and Erma Williams. The Chorus Class was led again by Keith Macy with Dorothea Macy, pianist. The Sacred Concert on Sunday afternoon was well attended and blessing to the listeners.

On Wednesday afternoon the recreation program started off with a BANG! goes the report. Lee Strait was sound effects man, handling the fire crackers. "Feuding" was the theme and the four sides were named "Yocums and Scraggs, the Martins and the Coys." There were softball games, water carnival, swimming in surf or lake, horseback riding, bibyble riding, hockey, golf and volley ball. Saturday was Sadie Hawkins day with the race in the afternoon. Although it rained, there were several in the race with Donna Jean Heacock proving herself to be a true Daisy May by catching her fellow. The stunts on Saturday evening were about mountain life, with the Coys climaxing the evening of fun by bringing a live duck to their performance. The great success of the recreation was due to the efforts of Burdell Knoble and Lee Strait, directors. The team captains Evangeline Shattuck, Kathleen Smith, Jonathan Tamplin and Burl Kirkpatrick aided them in the program.

1 The newly elected president, Arthur Roberts, presided over the business meeting. The Chart Committee presented the first place plaque to Boise for permanent possession as they had won it for three years. Greenleaf C.E. won the Intermediate pennant. Appreciation was expressed for the faithful work of the Chart Committee, as this program generated enthusiasm and motivation for the work of the Societies. Appreciation was expressed to Paul Cammack for his years of service as president. Reports indicate that as many as thirteen meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the year, with good spirit and a sense of responsibility.

In his report to Oregon Yearly Meeting in June, Paul Cammack had mentioned the shadow of war over the world. The seriousness of the political situation in Europe weighed on all Friends. Consideration of the Christian's responsibility to witness to the message of Christ was given in the Conference classes. "The Friendly Endeavor" carried several articles on the Friends position on War and Peace, written by various ministers. The Service Committee of the Yearly Meeting reported their concern for the situation of young men faced with the draft. Earl Barker outlined the provision of Civilian Public Service Camps. Pearl Harbor was just ahead! One of the purposes of the summer Conferences was to speak to the condition of young people in whatever situation they might find themselves. The vision of spiritual preparation and growth did not change, whatever the current conditions in the world.