

1942

## Chapter 21: Twin Rocks Conference 1942

Frank Cole

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/twinrocks\\_cole](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/twinrocks_cole)

---

### Recommended Citation

Cole, Frank, "Chapter 21: Twin Rocks Conference 1942" (1942). *History of Twin Rocks Conference*. 1. [https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/twinrocks\\_cole/1](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/twinrocks_cole/1)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Twin Rocks Camp at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in History of Twin Rocks Conference by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact [arolfe@georgefox.edu](mailto:arolfe@georgefox.edu).

## Twin Rocks Conference

1942

Twenty-five years and going strong! The goals of the first vision were being fulfilled again and again. The work of the many faithful planners, managers, teachers, leaders, evangelists, cooks, nurses, and the continued support of families such as the Cammacks, Coulsons, Swansons, Hadleys, Lees and many more bore fruit in the lives of those who attended Conferences through the years. Friends in all walks of life had received spiritual impetus and growth at Conference and were serving Christ and the Church. Summer Conferences had become an integral part of the program of Oregon Yearly Meeting.

Joseph G. Reece, named General Superintendent of Oregon Yearly Meeting in 1941, had ministered at Twin Rocks through the years and remained a staunch supporter of the young people's programs. The Yearly Meeting was \$3,000 in debt, so in March a "Self-Denial Month" was called. The Christian Endeavor Union responded to the challenge. Arthur Roberts, president, urged all Societies to get behind the financial drive and "consecrate our lives fully to the Cause uppermost in our hearts."

There was a spirit of outreach throughout the Yearly Meeting. Milo Ross, pastor at Greenleaf, Idaho, issued a call: "WANTED! consecrated young men and women, full of the Holy Ghost and power, to go into business in the Northwest to establish and build up Friends Meetings. Training, as good as possible. Salary, little or nothing. Opposition guaranteed by false religions, poverty, false brethren, indifference, spirit of war and hate, sin, and disappointment. Opportunity limitless! Steady work. No vacations. Success assured through prayer, zeal, ambition and God's blessing..." He urged anyone interested to write to Joseph G. Reece.

A request came from the community church in Rockaway, Oregon, for pastoral ministry each week. Calvin and Virginia Wilkins, students at Cascade College, responded to this call and spent their weekends on the coast. They met with a group of young people Saturday evenings for a time of fellowship, with attendance between eight and seventeen. They started a choir and carried on the Sundayschool and morning services with increasing attendance. Also, on the Twin Rocks Conference grounds a vesper service on Sundays was held in the home of the Harold Mills family through the spring. Their living room could be arranged to hold about twenty people. Later, the group moved into the dormitory and worshipped by the fireplace. During a visit in the spring, Ethlyn Shattuck conducted two mid-week Bible studies. There was some response of attenders toward the Gospel and the group expressed regret when the Mills family moved away.

A major change in the publication program of Oregon Yearly Meeting came with the name and format of the paper. The Christian Endeavor Union recommended that the name be changed to "The Northwest Friend" and it be given status as the yearly meeting paper. Mildred



Hadley had resigned as editor, having served since 1936. Under her leadership "The Friendly Endeavor" was taken out of debt, increased in size, enlarged in scope and interest for both the C.E. Union and the Yearly Meeting. The first issue of "The Northwest Friend" came out in September, 1942.

Promotion for the Twin Rocks Conference went forward during the spring. A notice appeared that Elvett Brown would continue to show pictures of Twin Rocks in black and white and color upon request. Ruth E. Wilde announced the annual banquet to be held at First Friends Church in Portland in April, "a bigger and better program." There were 345 who responded to "A Search for Treasure," carrying out a "pirate" motif. James Armstrong served as captain for a lively "Log" of speeches and music. Max Collver, Hazel Cooper, David Thomas, Marian Edgely and Jonathan Tamplin gave talks. Quartettes from Pacific College presented musical entertainment. Elenita Mardock led the spirited singing. A girl's trio with Doris Jones, Marion Doble and Joyce Perisho sang. Edward Harmon announced the Conference program and leaders. Endeavorers were relieved to learn that Conference would go on in spite of war conditions as Wauna Mer did not have a Conference this year. Arthur Roberts, president, challenged the group in a "Pieces of Eight" message to respond to the war atmosphere with the determination to live for Christ and to spread the Gospel by united effort. All were urged to come to Twin Rocks prepared "to work and play the Christian way!"

For the first time the Conference planning committee outlined age groupings: Adventurers, ages 11-14; Explorers, ages 15-18; Crusaders, 19-22; Kingdom Builders, ages 23-and older. The program explained, "These names were chosen to picture a growing interest in God's Kingdom and a growing desire to take an active part in its work. Those who attend faithfully will be promoted from one group to another and finally graduated as Kingdom Builders. These honors will be given to those who come to Conference every year and are present at not less than four of the five sessions of their class. Interesting topics have been prepared for each group. This is but the beginning. Start this year to earn credits."

Attendance in 1942 was smaller than usual due to war-time situations and work demands. Registration continued at \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for intermediates, 25¢ for juniors and \$2.50 for families. Hazel Cooper, registrar, announced 246 by Sunday afternoon. Monday night was the official opening instead of Tuesday so that a work day could help improve the grounds. The worst electrical storm in Conference history occurred during the opening service and caused a complete blackout for the entire night. The war situation required attention to government regulations. Military rulings about crowds on the beach cancelled the usual beach night. Darkness was requested at night along the coast, so a "dim-out" was necessary in the dormitory, greatly restricting the girl's primping habits. Every effort was made to improve recreation areas and facilities on the grounds so the acti-



vities could carry on there. A brand new stove gleamed from the north end of the kitchen. Bertha Heacock and Bessie Gardner were familiar and welcome cooks, while Lucille McCracken, Freda Lehman and Bertha Eichenberger helped them.

The business meeting usually held at Twin Rocks was held at Quaker Hill, McCall, Idaho, this year. Arthur Roberts, president, introduced delegates from Twin Rocks. Greetings were exchanged with California Yearly Meeting C.E. Union. Carroll Tamplin sent greetings and regrets. The fellowship among the young people from the various areas of Oregon Yearly Meeting was inspiring and enlarging.

The goal of the early vision of Conference was that young people have a good time both physically and spiritually—a Christian vacation. Burdell Knobel and David Thomas served as recreational leaders in 1942 and saw to it that everyone had interesting activities. The theme was "Cruising" so the Conference was divided into four "ships" with captains Dean Macy, Eleanor Swanson, Dorothy Barrett and Preston Mills. Points were earned in swimming, boating, hiking, playing ball or anything else done for pleasure. The first ship to make enough points to come in sight of the home port, Twin Rocks, won the race. Dean Macy's side came in first with Eleanor Swanson's second. Everyone appreciated the work of the leaders. Visitors often remarked at the ability of the young people to move quickly from the recreation to the spiritual periods of Conference. The high standards of previous years continued in 1942. Though there were changes, much remained the same.

The new class programs were very successful. There was a general class at 8:15 A.M. which presented home and foreign missions. Doris Tamplin described the lives and beliefs of the Aymara people of Bolivia and summarized the work of Friends among them. She emphasized the vast areas still untouched and in need. Walter Lee led the home missions periods. Joseph Reece showed pictures of all the Friends churches in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, along with the parsonages and pastors. Some of the smaller outposts were unfamiliar to many so this period was inspirational. On Saturday Walter Lee pointed out the importance of young people taking their places in the church. He said, "You are not the church of tomorrow, you are the church of today!"

The Explorers were taught by Edward Harmon how the discipline of Oregon Yearly Meeting functioned. The formation and function of monthly, quarterly and yearly meetings were described. In the second half Frederick Baker, Earl Barker, Dillon Mills and Edward Harmon helped the class establish monthly meetings. Officers were selected and some practical experience gained in conducting business according to Quaker methods. Two quarterly meetings with officers were formed. This training helped to carry out the motto of Christian Endeavor: For Christ and the Church.

Gervas Carey helped the Crusaders understand the doctrines of Friends. He emphasized the positive side and discouraged the negative. He pointed out the Friends belief that man's relation to God is personal with no intermediary priest necessary, as Christ is the priest. Most important of all is the implicit...obedience to God.



The Kingdom Builders were led by Mary Sutton, Dillon Mills and Clark Smith. They considered positive Quakerism and Kingdom standards. Mary Sutton said that in order to be Kingdom Builders we must first be born into the Kingdom. "We cannot help build anything we are not in." The class discussed how they could help the boys in C.O. camps and those in army camps by writing letters and sending Testaments. Dillon Mills listed the testimonies of Friends that differ from other denominations: peace, refusal to take oaths, spiritual interpretation of the ordinances etc. Clark Smith discussed the laws and standards for Christians found in Christ.

The children's program was led by Virginia Heacock and Lois Harmon. Their study was built around the verse, "upon this rock I will build My church." The first morning a small church was actually constructed out of a wooden frame and covered with stone-patterned crepe paper. The next day the words of Christ were read, "I am the door." A door was added to the building. On succeeding days windows and a bell in the steeple were added so that on the last day the little church stood complete, a real model of a building used for worship. "It is doubtful that the children will ever forget this splendid presentation in their class period."

On Sunday afternoon the sacred concert was presented under the direction of Marie Ellis Chapman with Esther Mae Weesner assisting at the piano. The chorus class had prepared a program for this traditional concert as well as singing at the evening services. Part of the program was a presentation by the children. Each child was dressed to represent a different country and spoke to that country's need of Christ. A short skit showed various Sunday diversions which cause churches to be empty. They urged people to attend church on Sunday. The deeply spiritual tone of the concert and the excellent presentation by the children made a beautiful contribution to the inspiration of the week.

Joseph G. Reece was the evangelist for both the Inspirational Hour and the evening services. He outlined the four mountain peaks of the Redemption story, showing the great love of God. The Sunday morning service closed with a moving altar service, when several answered the call to service on the home or foreign fields. Others dedicated their lives to Christ for work at home in their own churches. Sunday evening Joseph Reece used the theme for the Conference of 1942: "For such a time as this." Many found the Lord following his message. There was a time of praise and testimony. The presence of the Lord was deeply felt as young people witnessed to the leading of the Lord in their lives. A report concludes, "this was the best service of all...and made a fitting climax to the Conference of 1942."

At the end of this first quarter-century of Twin Rocks Conferences, many reflected on the values and accomplishments. Ida J. Lee was the only living Friend who had assisted in the founding of all three Conferences of Oregon Yearly Meeting. She wrote, "back



of every worthwhile movement there has always been a definite purpose and objective... in our Yearly Meeting the concern for our young people was their salvation and development. This materialized in the meeting of leaders and youth called a Conference...providing for recreation, social contacts and spiritual help...the effects and results have proven the wisdom and Divine guidance of the entire movement...recreation and rest have been enjoyed, friendships formed, and above all, the spiritual life of many begun. All have deepened and developed in the study of God's Word...surely the Conferences of Oregon Yearly Meeting have been vines of God's own planting as its fruit bears evidence."

Laura Cammack Trachsel, member of the Executive Committee of the C.E. Union for many years wrote, "As a small girl at the first Twin Rocks Conference, I received impressions for life. The rugged strength of those early leaders has stayed with me...the infectious enthusiasm and spiritual fervor of those first delegates who believed in the dream along with Chester Hadley and Homer Cox...the dream has come true in our present Twin Rocks Conference...I thank God for the lean years as well as the recent richer ones...doubters urged Chester Hadley to give it all up, but faith kept on and on. Many a dark hour in China in missionary work, I have held on because of the leaders of Twin Rocks Conference in those dark years held on...faith in a great God was built into me by Twin Rocks Conference..."

Walter P. Lee was president of the C.E. Union for eleven years. He wrote, "The Conference Idea of Oregon Yearly Meeting, with its balanced program in instruction, evangelism and recreation, was surely a divine inspiration. The blessing of the Lord has been so evident in the phenomenal growth of the Conferences as they spread from Twin Rocks in Oregon to Quaker Hill in Idaho and then to Wauna Mer in Washington. So large a group of young people, active in the church in so small a Yearly Meeting, is a real tribute to the effectiveness of our summer Conferences. They have developed a solidarity among our young people, a loyalty to the church, and a foundation for definite Christian service into which many have been called..."

Dillon Mills, a pastor, wrote: "The summer Conference program for the young people... has proven a valuable aid to the pastors in solving the problem of reaching and holding their young people...the interest and understanding that the pastor longs to develop for the wider work of the church is fostered by their meeting and becoming acquainted with the leaders in various lines of work of the Yearly Meeting...not least in value is the inspiration of fellowship with the large number of fellow-Christians... the consciousness that they are an integral and vital part of the larger group enables them to carry on their work with greater enthusiasm."

Edward F. Harmon, superintendent of Boise Quarter C.E. and evangelist to all three Conferences wrote: "As I look back on my sixteen years of association with the Conferences of Oregon Yearly Meeting, I am brought to the realization of their great value. It has been my privilege to look at the Conference through the eye of a sinner, a person saved at Conference, a pastor, an evangelist, a teacher and a manager. In my mind the Conferences are the Yearly Meeting's greatest asset. Going through the list of preachers, leaders and loyal members will show that many of them have been saved, sanctified and



established at one of the Conferences."

The twenty-five years of development, through thick and thin, have proved that the time of the Conference Idea had come in 1918. The cloud of witnesses to the value of the vision continues to enlarge and expand. The vision continues to inspire Friends in the Northwest to carry on the summer Conference programs in order to win and nurture young people to Christ and the Church.