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# The "Fires" of Southern California

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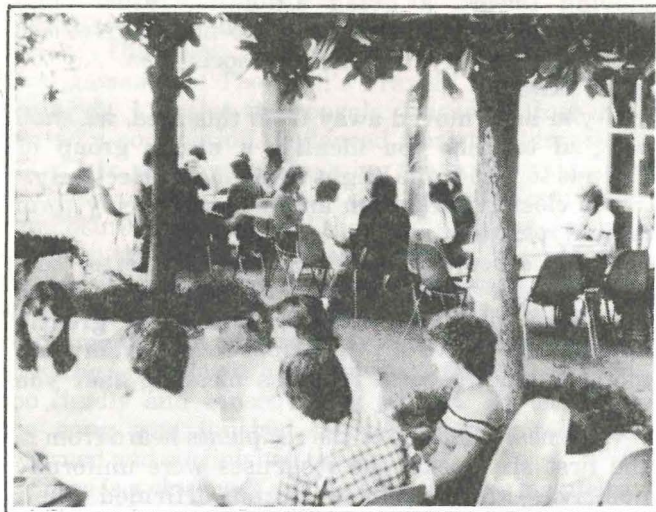
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One of the enjoyments of Youthquake '80 was sitting on the patio of the hotel at Arrowhead Springs having lunch and looking down the mountain at the top of San Bernadino. □ Musical talent was aplenty at Arrowhead Springs and one of the best was Kathy Saylor from Peaceful Valley Friends, not far from Lynn, Indiana, singing at a morning Bible Hour. Photos by Don Rubendall.

## The "Fires" of Southern California

by Paul Anderson

In early December, the San Bernadino hillside was ravaged by a fast-moving brush fire which destroyed more than 200 homes and damaged many more. Later that month, however, a fire of another sort came ablaze on the hillside. It was the spiritual fire of nearly 500 young Friends from 11 yearly meetings who converged upon the Campus Crusade Headquarters at Arrowhead Springs, from December 26 to January 1, for the second gathering called "Youthquake."

As a participant I was most impressed with the conspicuous level of maturity and interest shown by these high school and college-aged folk. One campus crusade staff member commented, "I can't believe the way everyone is so interested in what you're doing. We've never had kids participate in programs like this before!"

As can be expected the week was not without its perils (such as complications with registration and luggage losses), but these did not eclipse the fine program which was enjoyed by so many. Much credit for the success of the

week is due to Billy Lewis, Jim Settle and the other dozen or so members of the planning committee who represented various yearly meetings. Perhaps the main reason for the success of the program was the interplay between solid teaching, good music and rich fellowship.

With as many as 50 interesting workshops to attend, many were able to select the classes most pertinent to their needs. Don Green of the Reedwood Meeting in Portland, Oregon, brought a continuing study on Colossians each morning session, and in reflection, this proved to be a major highlight. We were deeply touched by his prayerful exegesis and his challenge for Friends to be "people of the dawn." Other speakers included C.W. Perry, Kara Cole, Richard Foster, and Tom Mullen.

Larry and Shirley Mendenhall sang and led singing to prepare our hearts for worship. Other groups and individuals also contributed such as Sweet Deliverance (William Penn College), Tim Henley, The Common Meal Quartet (Earlham School of Religion), Ralph Fry and his family, Dayspring (George Fox College), and One Truth.

All and all there were 11 yearly meetings represented; California sent 78 people, Canada 1, Eastern

Region 11, Indiana 112, Iowa 48, Mid-America 11, North Carolina 24, Northwest 171, Rocky Mountain 3, Western 25, and Wilmington 5.

Because of such a widespread selection, Friends from all over were able to learn, play, worship and laugh together with virtually no awareness of any distinction due to affiliation with one group of Quakers or another. This fellowship may indeed be the greatest result of Youthquake; and its impact may not even be evident for some time.

If the love and maturity evidenced by these youth is any indication of the future character of Friends, I'd say we have good reason for hope. The visionaries who set out from Swarthmoor Hall in the 1650's to bring a message of Life and Light to the whole earth and were later called "The Valiant Sixty" were largely in their twenties. The cottage prayer meetings of young Quakers across Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Kansas sparked the "Great Revival" amongst Friends in the latter part of the 1800's. It is my hope that the "Fires" which burned in the heart of young Friends gathered in Southern California will not only warm, but enkindle many a local meeting in need of a fresh touch of the Spirit.

*Pastor of the West River Friends Meeting near Hagerstown, Indiana, Paul Anderson was part of the Earlham School of Religion's Common Meal Quartet that sang at Youthquake.*