

The Quarryvillian

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LABOR DAY CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

BY DOROTHY PARTINGTON

There's something about Quarryville that is very special. The beautiful Pennsylvania hills certainly contribute to the pleasantness of the time spent at the Conference, but it is the people and the spirit of Christian fellowship that make Quarryville so unforgettable. For the benefit of those who have not been there, I should like to give you a picture of the wonderful time we had this Labor Day.

On Arrival

It was after midnight when Betty and I finally felt the bus jerk to a halt and we tumbled off to discover Mr. Dyrness there with the car. What a welcome sight! I was sure that my mother must have sneaked some bricks into my suitcase when I wasn't looking and the thought of trudging up that hill so late at night was very discouraging. Probably the people in the New Dorm didn't appreciate the commotion we made in preparing for bed, but I defy anyone to tuck sheets in those bunks without bumping his head or knocking the wall.

Saturday

Saturday was sunny and warm. Even before breakfast a couple of fanatics were hitting a pingpong ball across the net—alho from the way they ate I don't think they needed to work up an appetite—and others kibitzed or just chatted. Finally the bell rang and we all rushed to find seats. What a breakfast! Let this paragraph take care of all the meals, difficult tho it will be, for food at the Conference reaches a new high each year. Fruit juice and cereal (oatmeal made Dr. Strong), eggs and fried potatoes and jam and milk or cream for those that snitched it from the pitcher to use on their cereal. We were really fed right! Even Betts and I reached a point where we had to sigh and pass things across the table to Jimmy Strong. Jim, by the way, never gave up; he was still eating bread when I left. It would be a crime not to mention the last supper on Monday; buffet style it was, with two long tables covered with food, hot and cold. There comes to my mind the picture of a very sad "reverend" whose eyes were bigger than his stomach. At the end of the hour he had to admit that he just couldn't eat a bite more, in spite of the fact that his plate was still half full.

Main Speakers

The main speakers were the Rev. Richard Gray and Dr. Gordon Clark. Mr. Gray is well known to us in New Jersey, so we looked forward to hearing him again. His messages were even better than we expected; he spoke on the Christian life as typified by the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. Saturday he showed his author-

Continued on page 3

EXPANSION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY DIRECTORATE

Plans For 1946 Conferences Approved

BY ROBERT STRONG

The annual meeting of the Quarryville Conference directorate held Oct. 23 in the Quarryville manse was the longest and probably the most significant session of the conference association. It was decided to purchase the Reasler property, three acres directly across from the conference grounds. It was decided to run four weeks of conference in the summer of 1946. It was decided to erect a new dormitory on the conference grounds. These were the outstanding actions of a day full of constructive planning.

Property Purchased

The Reasler property is an investment of \$11,000. Its principal building is of cement blocks and is 30 feet by 60. This building will be converted into a boys' dormitory in time for next summer's conferences—no more basement sleeping, fellows!

The conference schedule for next summer will be as follows: Boys Camp: Tuesday, June 24 to Monday, July 1; Young Peoples Conference: Monday, July 1 to Tuesday, July 9; Girls Camp: Tuesday, July 9 to Monday, July 15; General Conference: Tuesday, August 28 to Tuesday, Sept. 2. Several new names are to appear on the conference program and many familiar ones, among them Everett C. DeVelde, Gor-

don H. Clark, James Price, Edward Kellogg, Carl Schaufele, Richard Gray, Robert and Roberta Strong, Charles and Norma Ellis, Alexander Davison, Robert Marsden, Franklin Dyrness—yes, Frank Dyrness has at last been prevailed on to be a speaker as well as prime mover behind the scenes.

Dormitories Planned

To relieve the crowded condition of the girls' dormitory a new building will be put up. Fully as acceptable will be the news that 200 double-decker bunk beds are being purchased and mattresses to go with them—this will undoubtedly mean that the girls will from henceforth be sound asleep by 10:15!

Let a further word be said about the plans for the General Conference, 1946's General Conference was the best attended yet and in 1946 there is every reason to expect an even greater enrollment. The conference will run for a full week, though those who simply cannot get away for longer than the Labor Day weekend will be as heartily encouraged as ever to come. A special invitation will be given to all returned servicemen and women who were ever at Quarryville to be present for this, the Reunion Conference. To all of these the rate charged will be one-half.

The Executive Director, Mr. Dyrness, reported to the directorate that the conferences of last summer were attended by 270 full time delegates and 23 part time delegates. Receipts for the conference year were over \$6000. These statistics spelled progress so clearly that the directorate felt warranted in borrowing the thousands of dollars necessary to expand the facilities of the conference in the way described above. \$2400 was received in the last conference year in gifts from individuals and churches. The directorate is hopeful that the friends of Quarryville Conference will endorse the expansion program by continued and even increased giving to the work.

Incorporation

It may be of interest to list other decisions taken at the meeting of October 23. A Quarryville winter banquet and rally will be held at Calvary Church, Willow Grove, on Friday evening, January 4, 1946; there will be a spring rally in Bridgeton. The directorate voted to approve articles of incorporation. D. C. Boyd, Estel Wagner, Judson E. Wagner, Mrs. V. M. Jaster, and F. S. Dyrness were elected "life members" of the conference association. The following officers were elected: President, Robert Strong; Vice-President, Richard Gray; Secretary, Everett DeVelde; Treasurer, D. C. Boyd; Executive Director, Franklin Dyrness.

WINTER RALLY SETS RECORD

The annual winter rally of the Quarryville Bible Conference was held at the Calvary Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove, Penna., on Friday night, January 4th.

An overflow crowd came for the well-prepared banquet early in the evening, and filled the church to capacity at the meeting which followed. Dr. Robert Strong, pastor of the host church, reported that 185 persons had been served at the tables.

Delegations were on hand from East Orange, Morristown, Westfield, Middletown, Quarryville, Silver Spring, Bridgeton, Pittsgrove, Vineland, Collingswood, Trenton, Ringoes, Mediator Chapel, Nottingham, and Willow Grove, with additional representatives from other churches.

At the rally Rev. James Price led some spirited singing, Dr. Strong introduced Rev. Frank Dyrness who gave a preview of the 1946 Conferences, and Dr. Alexander K. Davison who gave a soul-searching message on "What It Means To Be A Christian."

It was a grand occasion, with the delight of renewing many old Quarryville acquaintances.

CRITICISMS OF CHRISTIANITY ANSWERED

BY GORDON H. CLARK

Before this recent war liberal theologians and irreligious psychologists often attempted to debunk Christianity and to belittle orthodoxy by arguing that orthodox Christians were conditioned in childhood in favor of such ideas; and if those so conditioned would only grow up and become broadminded, they would put away their childish notions.

This psychological argument against Scriptural religion is nothing other than an attempt to browbeat Christian people. We who learned of Christ at our mother's knee are supposed to admit the fact and be ashamed of it.

There is a very pertinent reply to this type of psychological argument. It should be noted that those who attack Christianity were also conditioned in their childhood. They were conditioned against God and His Word. In their homes there was no family worship. More often than not they read the Sunday paper instead of going to church. God and the Bible were ignored, if not explicitly attacked; and the whole course of their parents' conduct taught them that religion is useless and somewhat foolish. Now grown to maturity these people complain that orthodox Christians have been conditioned in childhood, and they browbeat us and deceive themselves in forgetting that they too have been equally conditioned, though in an opposite direction. Let us no longer accept such sophistry as a refutation of our beliefs or as an explanation of them.

Now later with the coming of World War II another attack was made and continues to be made against orthodox Christianity. During the recent months it has permeated the popular magazines. The attack gains plausibility and a sympathetic hearing by first calling attention to Hitler's attempt to exterminate the Jews. From this easily understood atrocity, the argument demands civil and social equality for all creeds and races. The argument then suggests that all creeds like all races are of equal worth and are equally true, or equally meaningless. It implies that civil and social equality depends on the removal of definite religious beliefs. The orthodox churches are disparaged by calling them sects. Note how frequently the popular magazines speak about sects instead of denominations. The cry of sectarianism is the smear technique. And the impression is produced that anyone who believes his religion is better than another's is a dangerous person. The public is given to understand that those who will not admit that Judaism is satisfactory are therefore anti-semitic and want to murder the Jews. And also any Protestant that has any doubts as to the politics of Romanism is pictured as a menace to America. A religion of definite beliefs, particularly Scriptural Christianity, is called bigotry, and to attack bigotry is a social virtue. The attack on the Bible

is thus made a social virtue, but the believer's attempt to preach the blood of Christ is fascist and deserves the concentration camp.

But is it true, is it even reasonable to suppose that a man must be anti-semitic if he disagrees with the religion of the Jews? If a Christian wants to convert a Jew, if a Christian wants to persuade a Jew—or anyone else—does it follow that he wants to murder him? The argument is utterly absurd; and had it not been for Hitler's abominable persecutions, few would have been deceived by it. But the sympathy which Hitler's victims so greatly deserve has led a none too religious populace to the conclusion that all definite religious ideas are evil. Religious differences violate social equality, they argue; and those who originated this argument hope that a godless government will suppress all religious differences. But the Bible-believing Christian must give forth his witness still, for the issues at stake are those of life and death.

Y. P. CONFERENCE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

BY CHAS. G. SCHAUFFELE

On that first soggy evening at Quarryville, who can ever forget those raucous real McCoys as they double-toed across the campus in their verdant caps? Oh yes, those intellectual MacGregors sidled in broken columns hardly aware of time and space, thinking only in obtuse abstractions. The Macduffs became quietly aware of the great ones in their number and dug in to clean up on clan competition for the whole conference. Grounded by the rain-weighted atmosphere, those floating Macleods went drooping off thinking only of fleecy fluffs on yellow armbands.

Arrows zinged to the bulls eye on Tuesday evening as infallible judges spotted "firsts", "seconds" and "thirds". Even though every decision was challenged by McCoy Smith, that great man of the stables, the contest went on.

Find a minor prophet of one chapter! Locate a general epistle of one chapter!

Where would you look for the Ten Commandments?

What book records the first miracle of Christ?

Poor Flo could hardly keep the colored arrows straight, they flew so thick and fast.

Again on Wednesday evening, the intellectual Macgregors should have shame, just didn't. Hymnology was the subject. Once more a new set of "infallible judges" at the risk of their lives called the winners. Again every decision was challenged by that great equestrian, McCoy Smith. Again the competing clans struggled neck and neck for the winning score.

"Who wrote the Battle Hymn of the Republic?"

"What blind woman wrote hundreds of popular gospel hymns?"

"Upon what occasion did Kipling write the Recessional?"

"Who is associated musically with Dwight L. Moody?"

Bible drills, true false quizzes and heckling by the McCoys marked Thursday's after dinner hour. Was anyone satisfied with the judges' decisions? No, say the McCoys.

"Who is the famous woman barber of the Bible?"

"What queen of Persia proved that the way to a king's heart is through his stomach?"

"What woman brought lavish gifts to King David to atone for her husband's rudeness?"

It was close; that is the escape of the judges' lives, for the McCoy's didn't win.

Real dramatic ability came to the fore on Friday with scenes from the Bible presented with no restraint as to propriety nor true portrayal. Half the conference broke for their lives as Mordecai was being honored by Haman. Not only clans, but church group representations brought plain as well as obscure scenes from The Book.

Saturday evening, four clans put forth their best in the 24-foot council ring. The Dog Calling contest put most of the faculty on the ground in stitches. Cracker eating and whistling brought in the Army for Macduffs. Girls "marooned on a desert island and seeing the footprints of a man" evinced dubious expressions in "Statues", and the McCoys fought for every point.

But originality coupled with fantasy produced the climactic scenes of Quarryville 1945 on Monday evening. Dormitory life, recreation, class room scenes and not the least, dining hall decorum in the grand manner! New plans and ideas by the bushel for the directors!

Well, one thing could be said about those after dinner periods, "Never a dull moment." Why? Those raucous McCoys disputed every decision. And guess who won? The McCoy's.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

BY FRANKLIN S. DYRNESS

The Directorate from the first has established a Sustaining Membership in the Conference for all interested friends. Those who give a gift of \$2.00 or more are given such a Membership for a year. A Life Membership is granted to those who make a gift of \$100 or more. This money is used to expand the work of the Conference and to make improvements that could not otherwise be made. The following have been voted by the Directorate as Life Members:

1941—Mrs. W. D. Bradford
1943—Mr. Theodore Stratton, Sr.
1944—Mr. Henry Allen, Jr.
1945—Mr. Estel Wagner
Rev. Franklin S. Dyrness
Mr. Judson E. Wagner
Mrs. Violetta M. Jester
Mr. D. C. Boyd
Mr. Ira W. Ressler
F. E. Casper

The total number of Sustaining Members in 1945 is at present 113. Our goal is 200 for 1946. Have you considered taking out a membership?

[184]