

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING – NOVEMBER 13, 1948

For the first time the St. Louis Monthly Meeting was to host the Blue River Quarterly Meeting, at the Downtown Y.M.C.A., where their regular meetings for worship are held.

A meeting for worship was held at 2:15 PM, followed by the business meeting at 3:00 PM, with Albert Mills, Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting, presiding.

The following list of representatives of the various monthly meetings was read. All were present, except as noted:

Clear Creek Meeting, McNabb, Illinois

Robert and Audrey Whitney
Joe and Gynetha Hawks
Albert and Martha Mills
Andrew and Edna Wolf (absent)

57th Street Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

Harold and Alice Flitcraft
Erna Lowenberg
Evelyn Veolin
Howard Marshall
Jeannette Cox (absent)

Penn Valley Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri

John and Gertrude Oliver, and John, Jr.

St. Louis Meeting

Members

Jeannette Newhall
Phillipina Schneider
Verna and Galen Wood
Edwin and Gertrude Oldendorph
Edgar and Dorothy Anderson
Edward Wood
Mary Curlee
Keith Reeder
Helen Johnson

(For the evening)

Arthur Curlee

Non-Members

Helen and Hiram Hunnicutt
David Swaney
Dwight Ayres
Josephine Lockwood
Althea Grossman
Mrs. Fred Taussig
Gertrude Wood

Iris Shirley

State of the Society:

Letters regarding the State of the Society from 57th Street Meeting, Madison Meeting and St. Louis Meeting were read and are a part of these minutes. Advice is available to COs, financial aid if needed. There is resistance to U.M.T., relief is extended to European sufferers, and love of our fellowmen expressed in work camps.

A verbal report from the Clear Creek Meeting was given by Robert Whitney. They have a regular attendance of between 20 and 25, and gained one new member last year. Their Sunday School, under the leadership of Gynetha Hawks, is doing very well.

John Oliver reported verbally on the Penn Valley Preparative Meeting, of Kansas City. Their average attendance is 20 to 25 at their meetings for worship, which are held at 6:00 PM on First Day. They are continuing their program of CARE packages. A study is being made whether to establish this as a regular monthly meeting.

There were no written reports from the Salem and Peoria meetings, and no representatives were present. The Field Secretary, Robert Eastman, reported that three members of the Salem Meeting continue to meet regularly, although they are quite discouraged over the prospects of the Meeting. They show great stability and peace of mind, yet inquire into new things. Richard Eastman thought they would appreciate hearing from anyone regarding their situation.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting were read and approved.

General Meeting in Evanston late in October:

The Clerk read a letter from Weldon Reynolds, chairman of the joint Blue River and Chicago Quarterly Meeting, saying that about 200 were present, 158 of whom registered. Their contributions were adequate to meet expenses, with some left over for General Meeting work. It is hoped that there will be a second general meeting for all friends in the central midwest area, especially Chicago and Blue River Quarterly Meetings, to be held at McNabb. (Robert Whitney said he thought they would have such a meeting next Fall.)

The Clerk commented that there seems to be a holy impatience for divine unity, and this seems to be a step towards organizing unity, which all will doubtless want to support.

American Friends Service Committee Work:

The Clerk mentioned an article by Clarence Pickett, entitled "From Relief to Rehabilitation".

Edward Wood told of the work of his sister, Lucretia Wood, who has spent nine months in Europe for the A.F.S.C.

It was announced that free material for children's clothing can be obtained from the Chicago office of the A.F.S.C.

Work of the Field Secretary:

Richard Eastman gave a progress report. He has written to all monthly meetings within the Indiana and Illinois Yearly Meeting, describing the New Zealand scheme of sending letters to children of the meeting who are out of immediate contact with the meeting. The letters cover the range of Sunday School material in a very charming and personal way. There is some question as to who should write the letters, but it will probably develop that there will be one person in each meeting who can take care of them.

Universal Military Training

The Clerk asked if the meeting wished to take any action on U.M.T. Jeannette Newhall described the plan the St. Louis Meeting will follow. One member will take care of inquiries from conscientious objectors, and when necessary, will refer them to a committee set up by the F.O.R. for this purpose.

Martha Mills expressed the concern that all should send letters to Congress stating that they as individuals are very much against U.M.T. Letters from individuals are more important than those from Meetings. These letters should be written before Congress is in session. This procedure has been recommended by Mrs. Stuart, who works with Raymond Wilson, and is president of W.I.L.

Erna Lowenberg expressed concern that members back up young Friends who are conscientious objectors, both morally and financially. The 57th Street Meeting plans to have a fund to provide help. They have a board of six counselors to help the young men. Edgar Anderson expressed the belief that one Quaker in jail is worth a million letters to Congress.

Alvin Fawcett Fund and Hoopestown Fund

The Clerk explained these two funds belonging to the Quarterly Meeting, and said it has been the custom to leave the interest until after December 30, when it increases slightly. For the past several years this interest, amounting to about \$30, has been distributed among several meetings and the A.F.S.C. It was the sense of the meeting that the interest be given direct to the A.F.S.C. this year.

The business meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM, and there was a recess of about fifteen minutes.

Discussion Period

An hour's discussion was held, with Edgar Anderson as leader. The subject was the first section of the questions in the Leadership Training Course on "The Message of Quakerism", which is to be studied by the St. Louis Meeting on alternate Saturday evenings during the coming winter.

Evening Session

After dinner, served by the Y.M.C.A., we heard a most interesting talk by Dr. Barry Commoner, professor of Physiology at Washington University, St. Louis, on "Science and the Citizen", after which there was a question and discussion period.

Abel Mills, Clerk

Mary Curlee

Temporary Assistant Clerk