

BLUE RIVER QUARTERLY MEETING--MAY 8, 1954

The Blue River Quarterly meeting was held at the Y.W.C.A. on May 8, 1954 at 2 P.M., Peoria, Illinois. Silent worship preceded the meeting presided over by Bruce Meserve, Clerk, and Dorothy Winston, recording clerk.

The following representatives were present: Clear Creek--Helen Jean Nelson, Lucretia Franklin, Martha Mills, Albert Mills, Catherine Mills, Andrew Wolf, Edna Wolf, Carol Nelson, Kay Ashtown. Peoria--Eleanor Harker, Charles Harker, Jane McCarty, Robert Winston, Dorothy Winston, Blanche Crowl, Kenneth DeSelm and Norma DeSelm. St. Louis--Wolfgang Thron, Ann Thron, Clifford Howarth and Margaret Howarth. Urbana-Champaign--Francis Beer, Mildred Rose, Bruce Meserve, John Fogg and Grace Fogg. Decatur--Geraldine Hill.

The St. Louis Friends report their monthly meetings well and faithfully attended. The Committee on Ministry and Counsel gave some thought and discussion to ways in which the quality of worship could be deepened. A suggestion was given for individual meditation and preparation particularly at the time just before the meeting. A need was expressed for more personal contact and opportunity to better know each others needs and problems. The physical need of the meeting is to find a more suitable location for their far-flung membership. As soon as finances permit, they plan to buy property that will be suitable for their needs. The First Day School continues to serve children divided into pre-school and older age groups which are directed by selected members in turn. On alternate Saturday evenings members have met through the year in a study group. A monthly newsletter is circulated which not only keeps members up-to-date in reporting all happenings current and future about their own members, but also provides news of many out-of-town members.

For the State of Society Report the Committee on Ministry and Counsel of Urbana-Champaign Meeting is answering the Query, "Do you foster the use and growth of the spiritual gifts of your members?" The Urbana-Champaign meeting feels there is a solid foundation in their meeting which fosters the use and growth of spiritual gifts such as respect for the spiritual atmosphere of the meeting for worship, an improvement in the Meeting's settling into quietness, genuine concern for inner strength and growth of the Meeting and active efforts to find ways to improve the Meeting. The gifts of both teachers and children have been used and developed in the First-Day School, and a conscious effort has been put into making Quaker principles a part of life. Outlets for concerns of the members are provided through committees and activities, and individual members are urged to participate. Suggestions for increasing the use of spiritual gifts were made such as setting aside time in our daily lives for prayer and meditation in order to strengthen our own lives and the life of the meeting, opportunity to be drawn closer together by more social intervisitation especially with particular thought on new members, and to do our work called upon by the Meeting cheerfully and with joy for the love of God and fellowman, instead of a sense of duty and responsibility.

Peoria Friends report their meetings well attended. Meetings for Worship are held once a month in the homes of the members. Meetings will discontinue for the months of July and August, but will be resumed again in September.

STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"

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The Clear Creek Friends have been aware of the need for sharing the responsibilities of the Meeting for Worship--individuals, families and committees have been asked to actively consider their responsibility. In the past several months every family has, on request, taken a full share in the vocal ministry, and the overall attendance on First-Day mornings has been exceptionally good. One of the factors arising from the increased attendance has been the greater number of children present in the Meetings. They feel their self-discipline during Meeting will increase as their regularity in attendance continues, for they want them to come to know the comfort of worship with reverent awe. Clear Creek Friends have prepared a pamphlet which will serve as a formal welcome to anyone who may be in their community who has had no previous acquaintanceship with the Quaker way of Worship.

Mildred Rose of Urbana-Champaign gave the nominating committee report for Blue River Quarterly Meeting. The following names were submitted and the report of the nominating committee stood as read.

Wolfgang Thron of St. Louis--Clerk

Edward Wood of St. Louis--Assistant Clerk

Joe Hawks of McNabb, Illinois, Treasurer

Eleanor Harker gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Horatio Wood. An auditing committee was named and approved to audit the books. They are Florence Tjaden, treasurer of the Peoria Meeting, and John Wilson, treasurer of the McNabb Meeting. A permanent treasurer's book has been authorized to be kept for the Quarterly Meeting.

Grace Fogg gave a report on a family retreat. Details will be forwarded to all monthly meetings.

The Blue River Quarterly Meeting adopts the policy of holding quarterly meetings in November, February and May with the fourth meeting at 12:30 P.M. at McNabb on the opening day of Yearly Meeting. No State of Society reports are expected at the Fourth Quarterly Meeting. The monthly meetings will bring names of two representatives for the Yearly Meeting to the Fourth Quarterly Meeting so that they can be included in the clerk's report.

Recording Clerk,

*Dorothy Winston*  
DOROTHY WINSTON