

~~to~~ Alba Friends Report for ^{April} 1989

2 weeks ago had a Garage Sale. The sale grossed \$116.

Last month, had a Bible study for young couples.

One Thursday night have dinner for fellowship.

For Christmas ~~the~~ Alba Friends ~~packed~~
packed Christmas sacks with toys and tools
for seven Native American reservations in
Rough Rock and six other missions.

Had a Christmas slide program, with children
from Alba ^{in a} manger scene.

Pastor Paul and three families went to Wichita Yearly
Meeting between Aug 3, and ^{7th} 1989. At Friends University.

~~My~~ ^{My} ~~husband~~ Keith and I were one of the families
that went to Wichita. With much love,

Friends from Alba Friends Club

By May Jane Harrison

Dated April 22, 1989.

Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting - State of the Meeting

January 15, 1989

The U-C Friends Meeting has had a busy few months since the October Quarterly. Our fall activities included several annual events. The children went Trick-or Treating for UNICEF and had a Halloween party afterward.

The eighteenth annual Peace Bazaar set a new record with profits of more than \$2,000 to be given to the local Sanctuary movement, a day care center serving lower-income families, the Catholic Worker House, a rent assistance program for the homeless, a public housing program, and Walk in Peace. Some funds will be used for supplies to help an Urbana woman teaching in Nicaragua. Virginia Gilmore's absence because of illness was keenly felt, but thanks to her careful planning, and Gene Gilmore's heroic efforts, the event was a great success.

Our Christmas party was, as always, a happy celebration with carols, tree trimming, and turkey. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a gift to Mahlon Day in appreciation for the many ways in which he has served the Meeting over the years.

On December 27-29, the Meeting House was the site of a well-attended Quake for the Young Friends of IYM. Back by popular demand, George Price led the group in guided meditation. Special thanks are due to Barbara Bradshaw who served as chaperon and to Danni Short, Jessica Paxson, and Thad Bales who undertook the organizing.

Janet and Ken Southwood kindly hosted the annual Friends New Year's party, usually held at the Gilmore's but transferred this year to give Virginia some peace and quiet.

Two all-Meeting discussion groups were held this fall in preparation for drafting minutes on gay and lesbian membership and same-sex marriages. The Ministry and Oversight Committee, which has undertaken to lead the Meeting's consideration of these issues, has suggested that at least one more discussion should be

held in February. While the discussions have helped the Meeting to a better understanding of the problems faced by gays and lesbians, the committee thinks that not all members and attenders have felt free to express their opinions. It is hoped that further discussion will enable us to write minutes on membership and marriage that will express the consensus of the Meeting.

The Meeting has been pleased by the formation of the combined Mattoon/Charleston Worship Group. Members of this group, including Jackie Worden and Ken Matzner, once part of the U-C Meeting, traveled to Urbana in December to take part in Meeting for Worship.

Individual activities continue. The prayer group, which has proven to be a lively sharing experience, has doubled its membership in the past year. It meets on the afternoon of the second Sunday of each month. Members of the group, Sandy Bales, Mariellen Gilpin, and Dorothy Romack, have been participating in a series of workshops in Indianapolis sponsored by Friends United Meeting. Topics have included "Community" and "Spiritual Bases for Friends in the Twenty-first Century." Ken Southwood is in the process of writing a handbook on Meeting organization. It includes a description of each committee with its responsibilities and a schedule of yearly activities. When completed, it will be an invaluable aid in maintaining the continuity of the Meeting and helping new committee members learn their jobs. Dorothy Day recently attended the National Ecumenical Conference on the Philippines, held in Chicago, which began the campaign in aid of families fleeing war. She also attended a meeting in San Diego as co-coordinator for the border committee of the Immigration Working Group of the Alliance of Sanctuary Communities. Rebecca Golden-Trist, who is spending the year with her father in Salem, Oregon, has been much missed from our small First Day School.

The celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Meeting's founding has been tentatively set for Quarterly in October, 1989. Plans include making a Meeting

scrapbook filled with anecdotes from our colorful past, a reunion of former members and attenders, and reshowing the First Day School's ecological sci-fi movie, "Betelgeuse."

The Meeting has recently been considering, through its Query discussion, a concern brought by several members that people were leaving the Meeting because of the many demands made on their time and energy. Related to this is the difficulty we have had recently in filling the position of Clerk. Chris Jocius, who has graciously served as Acting Clerk for several months, will be traveling to a number of conferences this spring. Franky and Mahlon Day, with Ken Southwood filling in as necessary, have kindly agreed to serve as Acting Co-Clerks until May. However, few want to take on the many responsibilities of clerking for a two-year period. In response to these concerns, it was suggested that we should be more sensitive to our limitations, that we should be careful not to burden others with our own projects, and that we should also try to nurture ourselves and not take on more than we can do. It was pointed out that Friends will always feel some tension between wanting to work for others and needing to care for themselves. We will continue to wrestle with these issues and look to other Meetings for ways in which we may achieve a healthy balance.

Ministry and Oversight Committee
Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MEETING

Columbia Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
100 Hitt Street, Columbia, MO 65201

7 April 1989

Columbia Monthly Meeting continues to meet regularly and carry on its usual level of activities. Officially, there are 18 resident adult members of the Meeting, down 5 from last year at this time. (This is, of course, a consequence of our location in a college and university community; all those who left were relatively new members, most relocating for academic reasons.) In addition, there are 8 or 9 members of other Friends Meetings in residence, several of whom are active in this Meeting. We also have 8-10 regular adult attenders. The attendance at Meeting for Worship is usually about 15 to 20 persons. With regard to children, there are 6 birthright members, and a total of about 10 children attend First Day School with good regularity.

We have met regularly every First Day, including Christmas and New Year's Day, even though the attendance was low then. We have changed our First Day schedule this year, starting at 9:30 a.m. with a Friendly Discussion on some announced topic. Meeting for Worship starts at 10:30 and generally lasts 45 minutes. This schedule has generally worked very well. When we have had a spiritually uplifting Discussion, as we have had not infrequently, our Meeting for Worship has often been uplifted and deeper. Of course, we sometimes have a struggle during Worship because of problems in centering, having enough silence for seeking, and finding divine guidance for our oral ministry,

Our First Day School program continues to be very successful, thanks to our Religious Education Committee. It was centered around Bible stories from the Old Testament during the fall term. A change was made this year to provide emphasis on preschoolers the first Sunday of the month, on kindergarten to third grade the second Sunday, and on older children the third Sunday. Then on the fourth Sunday, all the children and also all the adults come together for a fellowship or getting-acquainted period, sometimes with a program, called our "Intergenerational Breakfast."

We have maintained a schedule of business meetings once a month,

usually on the first First Day, except for August, and they have been held in the evening with a pot-luck supper, in the early afternoon, with and without a light lunch, and in the morning, both before Meeting for Worship and afterwards. There have been problems with finding a time that is convenient for most people; as a result, attendance is usually not very good. The 9:30 Discussion period has been found to be perhaps best for the largest number, but it is bad for some. We have also had problems with remembering to make the Business Meeting a Meeting for Worship and to wait for divine guidance. As a result, sometimes discomfort has been generated over certain issues; this became difficult to set aside for the following Meeting for Worship. It is a question whether we should discontinue having Business Meetings at 9:30 or struggle harder with our attitudes and habitual quick responses.

The topics for the 9:30 a.m. Discussion periods have been selected by our Committee of Ministry and Worship largely to develop the spiritual insights of our groups. The response to this program has been very good, both with respect to the attendance and to the general comments as to its value. We have also had an evening discussion and potluck. A list of topics covered is given below:

Probing the Silence

Making Your Personal Commitment

Several Queries (on different days):

What should a Community of Friends Be?

How Do We Show Our Caring for One Another?

How Can We Improve the Spiritual Atmosphere of our Bus. Mtg.?

How Can We Improve the Spiritual Atmos. of Mtg. for Worship?

How Should We Express Our Concern for Our Earthly Environment?

Personal Observations in Nicaragua by Lorena Tinker

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life

Capital Punishment; Our Bases for Opposition to It

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Organization & Projects

Quaker Analytical Studies

Henry Cadbury and the Book of Acts

Our Heritage from George Fox

Early Dispute Resolution

The Meeting Library

The New Foundation Fellowship

Membership in Friends--Advantages, Requirements, Responsibility
Art and Children
The Simple Life, and How Can One Find It?
The Prophecies concerning Christ and His Birth
I. Y. M. Peace Tax Fund
Update on Indian Problems and Legislation
Reports from Friends Meetings: IYM, St. Louis Retreats, etc.
Concerns (several times)

Last, but not least, should be mentioned the out-door social activities, planned by Advancement Committee. These include the children and during the past year have consisted of a family float (or rafting) trip in the spring, summer picnic, winter skating party, hikes in the state parks or countryside, bird-watching trips to Swan Lake and Clarksville (eagles), Christmas caroling, and the Easter-egg Hunt with Pot-luck.