



Vol. 1. No. 5

Box 444, Soo, Ont.,

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THE DAM OF PEACE

The cadenced beat of countless feet
Resound in every city's street,
Each city hears the dreaded call
And into lines her soldiers fall;
As wheels in every factory
With feverish activity
Begin to turn, preparing for
Another devastating war.

Submitted by
George Ewanovitch.

Like some huge monster taking shape,
From which there can be no escape;
The call goes out to young and old,
To rich and poor to join the fold.
Those found unfit to carry arms,
Must stay at home and run the farms;
But abled bodied men must go
And fight against the country's foe.

The situation is so tense,
Such need of adequate defense;
The womanhood they cannot spare,
She too her country's peril must share.
It is on her they must depend
To see that wounded bodies mend,
The ammunition to provide,
And many other things beside.

The order comes; the soldiers leave,
Leave home and friends what tho' they grieve
The nations honour is at stake,
and they cannot their flag forsake.
They leave as heroes one and all,
In answer to the country's call.
and as the loaded train pulls out,
"God's speed," is echoed in a shout.

God speed, and they are on their way,
To soon be slain or else to slay?
But what has God to do with it?
With modern carnage not a whit:
God says, "They that take the sword to wield
Shall perish on the battlefield."
For He is able to defend.
All those who will on Him depend.

They go and soon the tales drift home
Of those who never more shall come,
But men with bodies torn and maimed,
Return to heroes be acclaimed,
But still the war goes on a pace,
Civilization to afface;
Oh no? not to destroy they say,
This war is fought to save the day.

What mockery to think that wars,
Will ever close to bars our doors;
And bring about a state of peace
Till we from fear shall have release.
Wars breed but wars and discontent,
With lives and money needless spent;
To have the peace of which we sing,
We need a God appointed King.

We need a King, and he will come
In splendor to Jerusalem
From there establish His domain
Till he in righteousness shall reign,
The world wide over then wars shall cease;
And not till then shall we have peace.
Come King of kings to Zion's Hill
and there perform thy Father's will.

THE NORTHERN BEACON

Published the first and third Saturday of every month at Montreal River Alternative Service Camp, Box 444, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Religious Director, Rev. J. Harold Sherk.

PRESS PERSONNEL

Editor-in-Chief	Wes. Brown.
Circulation Manager	Cecil Bell.
Publisher	Allen P. Vinall
Assistants	Harold Evans
	George Heeman
	Bob Iviney

LAST IMPRESSIONS--LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Rev. H. D. Groh.

One last longing look into the corner which has held our earthly belongings, and which we have called home! One glimpse of the long lines of bunks as the door closes behind us! One last farewell! A sob of mingled emotions as familiar scenes of rocks and hills, river and lake are left behind! The episode of Montreal River has become history.

But not the history which we studied at school--read, and forgotten as soon as the test was past. For the remainder of our lives we are on test. Many a day and year will these familiar surroundings with their sacred memories return to cross our paths. How often shall we pause to recall the experiences, which at the time were mingled with ingredients of sorrow and joy, loneliness and companionship, pain and pleasure, and many kindred (or shall we say, conflicting) feelings! Each experience and each emotion has left its indelible imprint upon our characters. How well we have learned our lessons will be revealed in the years to come, as we face life's problems, its cares and its joys.

As the water of Montreal River tumbles down in great confusion from the heights above to mingle with the quiet lake; so our lives, though disturbed and confused by the experiences of the past months will merge more quietly into the larger sea of life.

SUNDAY SERVICES

On Sunday March 29th; Sunday School was held with two classes, taught by Bob. Iviney and Sheldon Wilston.

After Sunday School, Bro. Groh preached to us from Gal. 2:20 on "The Cross in Christian Experience". Paul identified himself with Christ on the Cross. It was his glory, all of which he could boast. The Christian today has no good of Himself. Yet through that great sacrifice of Christ he has a Heavenly Guide, Brother and Friend and the certainty of eternal life.

In his evening message Bro. Groh compared the Creation of the Universe with the re-creation of man, when man is restored to the position God intended for him through faith in Jesus Christ. As the earth was without form and void--before the creation, so is man without God--useless and purposeless; as God brought order and purpose out of chaos He is able, yes anxious, to give all men a new life.

A TRIBUTE TO BRO. GROH.

Bro. Groh left us rather suddenly and quietly. If we had known he had to return to his mission so soon we should have told him how much we appreciated the many services he rendered us. His message from the Bible inspired us to a better Christian service. More important yet was the example of a self-sacrifice Christ-life spirit which could only have come from constant communion with his Saviour and Lord,

May God bless Bro. Groh as he works for his Master at Danforth Mission.

FAREWELL FIFTH

On Wednesday, April 8th, trainees in group 5 will have completed their present period Alternative Service and will return home on that date. Much spiritual growth has marked their service, benefitting them greatly and influencing fellow Conchies. It is hoped their conservative manner of behaviour, sense of fair play and conscientious application to work will be an example followed by future men.

So-long Fifth, may God always guide you.

EASTER

Harley Wideman

Over nineteen hundred years ago Jesus died and rose again an event without parallel in world history. Truly a wonderful and all important happening. He had declared, "Because I live. Ye shall live also." Wonderful words--as true today as when they were spoken. Why then is humanity subject to reverses, social upheavals, trials and tribulations of such complexity as to create world chaos? It is because the vast majority have not heeded the words of Jesus, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Mk. 8:34. God compels no man to come to him but allows him his free will and to reap the results of his own selfishness and folly.

At the time of Easter let us meditate humbly and prayerfully on His death and resurrection. Let us consider whether by our lives we may crucify him afresh and put him to an open shame. Let us in these

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THE NORTHERN BEACON

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"YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

Matt. 5: 13.

Rev. J. Harold Shork.

From early times salt has been a common article in the commerce and daily use of man, and that because of two functions, the seasoning and the preserving of food. "Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?" is an ancient reference to the place and importance of this mineral in the diet of man.

Salt, when used for seasoning, is one of those articles of which a little goes a long way. The quantity which is used in cooking or at the table is almost always minute in comparison with that which is seasoned, but that small amount must be present or the best food is tasteless and unwanted. The history of the people of God has shown that genuine godliness has usually been represented by a small--sometimes very small--minority of the people of earth, but almost all that we have that is essential to human well-being has come, generation after generation, from that small minority. Genuine Christianity has always blessed all whom it has touched and has improved immeasurably every right relationship of life, and this influence has been brought to bear upon each generation not by the mere publication of abstract truth of the highest quality but by lives in which that Divine truth was incarnate. Daniel in the court of Nebuchadnezzar, Wesley in the pulpit of Lutterworth church, Paul in a dungeon in Rome, were of the salt of the earth, wielding a power for good that was utterly beyond the proportion one could have expected because of their native gifts or the outward circumstances of their lives.

Salt has also a preserving influence. Even the small quantities which are used for seasoning check the growth of harmful bacteria in foods. Much greater has been the influence of godly men in many an ungodly place. Even so poor a Christian as Lot could, for a little time, save his city from utter destruction. How much more the influence of an Abraham or a Wesley or a John Knox!

Salt, to be most useful, must be pure. In the presence of certain mineral impurities it will rapidly deteriorate, "lose its savour" and become useless or even poisonous. The Lord was much concerned that His disciples should be so separated as to their "saltiness" should be preserved. "If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me", "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth" are some of the expressions of the Lord's concern for a pure--and therefore effective--Church.

The world into which the Lord cast the saving and savouring influence of the regenerated and sanctified lives of Peter and Paul and Priscilla had scarcely greater need for such lives than has ours with its ever-burden of "blood, sweat, and tears". There is no work today that is more important than just being Christian and no field of service which will bring greater returns than that of the Church of Christ, the Salt of the Earth.

GROUP SIX BECOMES ACCLIMATIZED

There is no initiation ceremony at Montreal River Camp but it is always interesting to note the reactions in a new group as it adjusts itself to camp life. Most of the boys in Group Six came from city homes but already are giving evidence of being made of pioneer stock.

Hard work and good hours is doing much toward better health in the new group. Already a number of them are looking more physically fit. Noteworthy, too, is the fact that Group Six has an excellent appetite. At first they showed signs of looking down on our humble bean (?) but now they are right in there, digging with the rest of us,--beans, meat and potatoes--all good healthy food for good healthy working men.

As is usual here in camp the latest newcomers have their quota of snoring men. Ways and means are over at hand for dealing with that menace to communal sleep. Group Six has learned that useful fact also.

These boys have some really fine musical talent in their number. Already we have been made to appreciate and enjoy their contributions to camp recreation.

By this time a number of them have considerable mud on their new breeches and boots. Does that worry them? Not. They go right to work with the best of us. Several of the boys found it necessary to purchase rubber boots from the departing Group Four. That was a wise decision. While our mud here is good clean mud, it is also very muddy mud. However the worst is past; the snow is nearly gone, and Spring is just around the proverbial corner.

Group Six is also awake to the vast opportunities in amateur photography. While they will have to work fast to equal some records already established, they may be seen but before breakfast trying to catch the sunrise or in the evening trying to capture by camera the last red rays of a Spring sun on the shimmering waves of old Superior.

Keep up the good work boys; you have made a good start.

SUPERIOR WAVES

HATS OFF--To the weatherman, our thanks. March come in like a lamb and went out like fried mutton. The mercury moved as high as 72 in face of the smiling sun. Snow has disappeared from the clearings tho' it is still quite deep in the bush.

LITTLE RED FOX--Abe Willms surprised fellow C.O.'s by his sudden burst of energy last week. Abe and Jake Andras were out hiking when suddenly a little red fox was sighted. The boys gave chase and caught "Red" in the deep snow. It was discovered that Red was blind explaining why he was an easy catch.

BUNGALOWS BUILT--After much experience constructing many buildings around camp, Vern Yager says to order your bungalows from him. Well boys, why not? The recreation building will soon be completed.

STILT WALKING--To pass time profitably and put himself on a higher level, Jake Willms has been practicing stilt walking. He seems to fall for the idea. He has no competitors in stilt strutting tho' "Whippo" claims to have been a stilt walker of note before he got his '31 Ford. Frank Showier of course, doesn't need the added leg length.

SEWING CIRCLE--Any evening Ben Hotchkiss many be seen mending his stockings. He used his last patch the other night for a particularly large heel hole, employing a piece of his underwear over the opening. "Grandma" Crone and Ben could spend many a happy evening together by the old kitchen range.

BARBER'S HOURS--The barbers are now forming a union for better hours. They refuse to cut hair until after dark when they return from baseball. Barbering is no bald game here, but we catch on.

MAIL MISSED--Cec. Bell did not bring sufficient mail to the fellows who had been anxiously awaiting it for some days. He is still in the doghouse wondering why he had to make that trip to the Soo. Spirits seem to go down Cec. due to mail-nutrition.

SNORE REMEDY--When a person snores apply a little salve on the end of their nose, pepper wall and wrap head in a towel. Snoring ceases immediately without awakening the patient, doesn't it Ken?

HOLDOUT--Of course Geo. Ewanovitch doesn't believe in marriage, but does it stop him from having pictures of beautiful girls decorating his bunk? If George only knew how they got there -- ?!

WASHROOM--Completion of our new washroom and showers is not far in the offing. Gord Smith and blacksmith, Jim Russell are adding the last trimmings. It will be ready for groups 7 and 8.

APRIL FOOL--Ken Williams is still looking for Bert in the office as are three embarrassed boys looking for a mother bear and her two cubs! Has anybody seen Bert?

WELCOME--We are happy to see "T.J." back with us. The office seems more normal now, humming with its usual activity.

NEW FOREMAN--In the vacancy of Mr. A. De Forge a new foreman Mr. J. McPeake arrived in camp on Tuesday. Mr. McPeake has been on construction and contract work for many years and his experience is highly rated. We look forward to working under such a fine foreman.

DISTURBING--The absence of group 4 Conchies is noted by the lack of noise and pranks. The silence is most disturbing but the comparative solitude is most restful! So long Vassey Street.

RECREATION BUILDING

Last week, carpenter Vern Yager and his crew started construction of the new recreation building. Already much framework ends and rafters rise in the sky to outline our new sports centre. It is 50 feet by 24 feet housing the religious director's quarters in one end. A trussed roof obviates centre posts leaving the entire room free from obstruction. Large double doors in the south end are entrance for the rush and single doors on either side become exits. Eight large windows allow for healthful sunshine and fresh air. Many evenings of worship and relaxation are looked forward to in our new hall.

RECREATION

The weatherman has been very kind to sports enthusiasts for the last couple of weeks. The campus is now clear of snow and a baseball diamond has sprung forth. Each evening after supper the many hurlers and batters gather for practice. Teams are picked and a rousing game is always certain. It is not yet clear whether the ball fans in or the players receive the most enjoyment. "Miss Tom again, Bulldozer Ben" played his first game of baseball, giving the audience a great deal of fun. Better stick to tree cutting Ben or practice in your own backyard.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalms 90: 12.

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. Proverbs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In remitting for my subscription to this latest addition to the publishing field, I wish to congratulate you on the way in which the variety of interesting subjects are dealt with in your first edition. I wish also to express my appreciation for the spirit that apparently is behind this publication.

I sincerely wish you every success in the publication of this paper as I believe that many of our people will appreciate this medium of contact between home life and life at Montreal River Camp. May it serve the purpose expressed by its name and bring cheer to all in these days of anguish and a hope for brighter dawn.

N. M. BEARINGER.

To the Editor:

It was awfully good to receive your initial (officially released) copy of the Beacon. Enclosed is my subscription fee of \$1.00. You are to be congratulated on producing such a fine picture

of the experience that is at the moment yours. You can well imagine that some of the lads who may succeed you were greatly interested to learn something of the situation.

The positive values that pervade the whole copy but repeat and confirm the faith of the creative souls of all generations; yours is the high privilege of adding to their witness their worth for that world which will be achieved by men who dare to walk all the way with God.

REV. JIM FINLAY

Trainee Francis Starr now finds himself back where he started from almost four months ago. Recently he returned to the position of assistant to Malcolm the stoneboat teamster, a job he held in early December. The reunion was very cordial but Malcolm's enthusiasm cooled when Starr grasped Rock's tail going up a hill one morning. The next day when Starr hung his coat on Rock's harness. On the way home from work Malcolm spoke quite plainly to our ox-nurse concerning his impositions on Rock. Those who know Malcolm know that when his feeling are aroused he speaks with unusual forcefulness and clarity. Trainees who were present when Sailor stepped in Malcolm's tea during dinner at the tent one day realize this.

Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessedness.

Sorrow is the mere rust of the soul.
Activity will cleanse and brighten it.

FIRST AID CLASS COMPLETES COURSE

Although unable to qualify for the certificate offered by St. John's Ambulance Association because of the lack of a qualified instructor, our class of 35 enrolled members has now covered the work necessary for such a diploma.

The instruction in this course was possible because of the fine co-operation of Cec. Bell and several boys who have their First year Diploma from St. John's Ambulance Association. Mr. DeForge, General Foreman, who holds his Third year Medallion, assisted by instruction and practical suggestion.

The classes were of two-hour duration. The first hour was given to instruction, the second to demonstration and practice. The manual used was "First Aid to the Injured," authorized text-book of the St. John's Ambulance Association.

High points in the course were;

- (1) bandages--how and when to use them.
- (2) fractures--explanation and treatment
- (3) pressure points--effective means of stopping loss of blood.
- (4) artificial respiration--when and how.

In the final lecture a review in the form of an oral questionnaire was held. Judging by the number and nature of answers given, the boys have acquired a sound understanding in the elementary principles of First Aid. It is felt that this knowledge will be valuable to those who wish to carry on the study at a later date.

We hope that this course will be continued by future Groups in Camp and that it may be possible to arrange for the presence of a qualified instructor.

by FRANCIS STARR

The boys in Milt Noak's new gagn gang Don Crone, Harold Evans, Ross Blotsoe, and Bill Spencer were discussing girls while they shovelled gravel the other day. After many enlightening remarks had been made Don Crone summed up the various ideas with "Women are like elephants. I like to look at 'em but I'd hate to own one."

Henry Wichert was the camp hero this week when he helped to put Rock (one of Malcom's horses) back on his feet after he fell over the fill.

Cecil Bell's latest pastime--dropping spoons down trainee's neck during meal time.

EASTER

Cont'd. from Page 3.

troubled days determine to serve Him faithfully remembering that as Christ's followers we are not promised ease and security but rather persecutions and perhaps death (Matt. 24:9) in which conditions Christ said we ought to be truly joyful. Matt. 5:10.

CAMP MOVIES SHOWN

An evening of entertainment and fellowship was featured March 23rd the last night group 4 was in camp. Rev. Groh planned a program which was thoroughly enjoyable. Many boys rose to tell their appreciation of Alternative Service and thank the Conference of Historic Peace Churches and representatives of our Government for such privilege. Mr. C. E. Tench, camp engineer, replied and spoke briefly on the purpose of the camp. Mr. J. A. DeForge drew the attention of the fellows to the necessity of retaining their fitness and health.

Rev. Groh then recited the "Prisoner of Chalon" giving a magnificent rendition. Musical numbers were given by the camp orchestra and songs by the Barbershop Quartette. Musician Mitch Glecoff rendered an excellent violin solo. Camp movies, taken by Rev. J. H. Sherk, one of our Religious Directors, and shown through the courtesy of Jack King, were enjoyed by everyone. Singing of God Save the King closed our program.

The camp movies were again shown on March 28th for the benefit of group 5 and 6.

CULVERT

A culvert below the big fill is well on its way to completion and should be finished before group 5 leaves. Lorne Wideman, George Ewanovitch, Len Raiser and Gord Smith are making a good job of it, having dug the channel, felled the trees and trimmed them for use. We are proud of their progress.

SAILOR'S BUNKHOUSE BLUES

Sailor, our camp dog, has the blues-- real low down blues. He misses the friendship of group 4 boys very much. After they left Sailor didn't know what happened or what to do about it. He didn't get his usual wide home from work in the first place and upon bursting into north bunk found it empty--pals gone. All evening he just moped around, bit two trainees and looked generally sick. Fortunately, Joe Hall purchased Al Shuarts brooches and boots and Sailor soon discovered this. Al was Sailor's closest friend and now Joe is O.K. by Sailor.

The man who gets along best in this world is the one who can look happy when he is not

WHO'S WHO

BRUCE NIX--A member of Brethren in Christ Faith. Before coming to camp he worked on a farm in the Stevensville district. Bruce is a happy go lucky fellow and since coming to camp has spent most of his time working in the gravel pits, spent a week peeling spuds. As a sportsman he thinks skating is the "Tops" and hopes to learn the art of skiing. His highest ambition in life is to be a successful "Married" farmer.

FRANCIS STARR--Francis was born about 13 miles from Ohio (U.S.A.) and on account of being such a nice looking baby boy his parents decided to call him "Francis". He must be a Jack of all trades as his jobs have been many--chauffeur, head cook, ice cream salesman, gardener, farmer, and here at camp he is working as a teamster's helper. During a mild epidemic of flu in camp he took the job of nursing the boys back to health; one of his favorite remedies was to drink lots of water and work harder.

BASIL BROCK--A Seventh-day Adventist by faith. Comes from a farm near Iron Bridge. Before coming to camp he was a student of the Oshawa Missionary College and found his lectures very interesting. Basil is a wood cutter in camp and is kept plenty busy as wood is always on demand. He finds the boys very friendly and enjoys the fellowship with them.

TED HARDER--Born in 1915, his home at present is on a Beamsville fruit farm and although working as a truck driver for the past 6 years his heart is still in fruit-farming. Ted likes singing; first tenor with a quartet back in Vineland United Mennonite Church. Works as night fireman and keeps the many fires burning while the camp sleeps.

VERNON YAGER--Is a Selkirk farmer, a member of the Mennonite Church. He says his middle name is Mason and has done some masonry in his time but not enough to be called a Masson. At present he is working as a carpenter on the new Camp recreation building. Vernon is still a bachelor; he says girls are alright but not to take them too seriously.

ROBERT SIMPSON--A Christadelphian by faith calls Toronto his home town. Robert talks more about motorcycles and is generally in the middle of any discussion that the fellows seem to start just for his convenience. He also has a great interest in pigeons. He worked as an assembler for the E. C. Smith Typewriter Co. In camp Robert hauls wood, keeping the bunkhouses and kitchen well supplied.

THE NORTHERN BEACON
BOX 4443
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

*Rev. J. Harold Sherk,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
Box 250*

