

Date: March 10/75

Participant: Andrew Steckly

Place: Wellesley

#### Pre-War

- from the Depression – learned a sense of values and to appreciate things
- church was an important part of life; nonresistance was not emphasized until the war came; but still, it was understood, because of the teaching of the home and the church, that it was a part of the Christian life

#### War

- at Montreal River the work they were doing seemed to be very unnecessary - "it was just a place to put up to satisfy the authorities that we were being given something to do"; but, they did not allow this to bother them; besides, there was much good fellowship
- in B.C. the work as fire-fighters was worthwhile; it was explained to them that the menial work they did otherwise (eg. road-building) was to put in time and that their prime responsibility was to be their in case of fire; gave them a feeling of making a tangible contribution (felt that tree-planting was also worthwhile)
- camp officials treated the boys very well - were very generous with the weekend leaves
- recalls one visiting minister who had a knack of eating sunflower seeds such as he had never seen before (from Manitoba)
- twice, for periods of about a month, he left Dollarton to plant trees on Van. Island near L. Coquitlam
- the hardest part of the whole experience was not knowing how long they would be there; he was finally sent home in March/44, a month before the camps were closed for good; had to be sent home early because he had suffered some broken ribs in a friendly boxing match
- appreciated getting to know the Russian Mennonites, who he felt were more "worldly-wise"; felt a certain spirit of kinship with them because of his background of living in a non-Mennonite community where he also had had contact with the outside world