

Date: Dec.5/74

Place: 264 Sunview, Waterloo

Participant: Fred Cressman

Pre-War

- in Alberta - lived in several communities, some non-Mennonite
- baptized in Stirling Ave. church
- it was his mother who emphasized on him the way of peace
- was married a year before he left for B.C.

War

- enjoyed the work he was doing except for the tree planting which, he said, was boring
- felt that many were there because they had been pressured by their parents and/or pastors; in the West, the boys had to go before tribunals to defend themselves publicly; felt that this might have been a good thing to have in the East as well, to "weed out" some of those who, by their behaviour, were a discredit to the majority; there was some fear that this dissatisfied "vocal minority" would discredit the truly nonresistant in the eyes of the officials; but the officials recognized the good work of the majority and commended the CO's for their contribution
- appreciated the witness of some non-Mennonites, who were more consistent in their peace witness than many Mennonites
- while it was difficult to be away from his wife for 1 ½ years, and to have a son born during that time, he found the experience worthwhile - fellowship and dialogues which eventually led to a more visible, consistent, and meaningful manifestation of the Anabaptist vision in terms of the witness of organizations such as VS, MDS, and MCC