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CONFERENCE DIRECTORY.

President—W. J. STONE,
3735 N. Capitol ave., Indianapolis.
Vice President—W. D. CURTIS,
Boggs town, Ind.
Secretary—W. A. YOUNG,
New Britton, Ind.
Missionary Secretary and Treasurer—W. C. McCUAIG, 626 E. 11th st., Indianapolis.
Field Secretary—C. J. BUHALTS,
626 E. 11th street, Indianapolis.
Sabbath-school Secretary—Mrs. R. W. McMAHAN, 1236 S. Main st., Anderson.
Executive Committee—W. J. STONE, W. D. CURTIS, J. C. HARRIS, W. A. YOUNG, MARTIN DUNN.

OUR ANNUAL CAMP-MEETING

I wish to talk to our brethren a little in regard to our annual camp meeting and conference.

Many of our camp meetings, held by Seventh-day Adventists in the past, have been held more for the convenience of our own people than for the real purpose for which God designed in holding these annual gatherings. Many times they have been held from one to four or five miles from the heart of the city, so that the attendance of those from outside was very small.

The Lord has given much instruction in regard to the location of our camp meetings and the manner of conducting them; also the object in view in holding them.

While the camp meeting should be made a source of great encouragement and help to our brethren and sisters, the primary object should be to get the truth before those who have never heard it. Our camp meetings should be located as near the heart of the city in which they are held as possible, in order to secure the attendance of those not of our faith. Then the Lord has spoken especially in regard to our following our camp meetings with a tent effort,

making a strong effort to establish a church. In order to do this without any interruption, or break in the meetings, the camp meeting should be located near enough to the people, so that the tents will not have to be moved to another location when the camp meeting proper breaks up. All these features must be looked after carefully in the selection of our grounds the present season.

DATE OF MEETING.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, about the middle of August will suit the brethren and sisters of Indiana better than any other time. Last year, some in the northern part of the state felt that the meeting was a week or two too early for them to attend, as it came right at the threshing season.

In arranging the camp meetings which are to be held in the Lake Union Conference, when the delegates were together at Berrien Springs, our camp meeting was arranged to begin August 18. A workers meeting will precede this one week. We hope that our people as far as possible will begin to plan at once to attend this annual gathering.

LOCATION.

The location is not yet definitely settled. Greencastle, Putnam County, has been talked of as a good location for the meeting. There is not a Sabbath keeper in Putnam County to our knowledge. Greencastle is about thirty-five miles west and a little south of Indianapolis. Some may think that this will be a long distance for the brethren living in the north and eastern part of the state; but, the cost will be but a trifle more than it would be if held in the center of the state. And the brethren in the southern part of the state say, that if the meeting is held at Greencastle they will endeavor to attend; and even if it is held as far south as Greencastle, the brethren at Tell City will then have about as far

to come as those living in the north-eastern part of the conference.

Elder W. C. White related at the Lake Union Conference, how our brethren in Australia located their camp meeting one year about five-hundred miles from where the most of our brethren lived, and notwithstanding this, our brethren generally, turned out and they had an excellent meeting; followed it with a tent effort, and a strong church was raised up, thus extending the work into new territory. And this is what we should do in Indiana and every other conference where there is new territory which has not been entered.

Our brethren should get their minds off from the little extra expense of traveling, and center their minds upon the importance of carrying this message that God has intrusted to us to those who are in darkness.

When I lived in Montana, many of the brethren who attended the camp meetings there had to travel from three-hundred to five-hundred miles. The state is seven-hundred miles long, east and west, and notwithstanding this, many of our brethren drove two-hundred or three-hundred miles to reach the camp meeting. The greater the effort put forth, the greater the blessing. We hope to be able to announce definitely in the next issue of the Reporter the location of the camp meeting. Much will be said in regard to this annual gathering in future issues of the Reporter, but let all begin to prepare for a grand rally and a feast of good things.

W. J. STONE,
Pres. Ind. Conf.

Elder Stone was with the Indianapolis church and spoke to them Sabbath afternoon, May 29th. He gave a report of the Lake Union Conference, and the meeting was a source of encouragement to all present.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

There was a large attendance at the Sabbath School Convention, held in the Manual Training Academy near Boggstown on Sabbath, June 4, 1904. The members of the Boggstown Sabbath school were nearly all in attendance, and supplied the children's exercises that formed no insignificant part of the program. Valuable papers were read by Professors Machlan and Boyd, Mrs. Machlan, and Miss Mayne Miller, upon questions that were ably discussed by Elder Curtis, Brother John Possman, and others.

The academy orchestra rendered good instrumental music. The vocal solos by Mrs. Miller and Miss Carson, were second to none in the appropriate selection of songs.

There were representatives present from Anderson, Waldron, Franklin, Rocklane, and both of the Indianapolis Sabbath Schools.

The questions discussed were many. The most important ones were, "How shall we secure a better interest in the study of the Sabbath School Lessons?" And, "What are the best methods of teaching?"

Many were persuaded that Sabbath school conventions should be held frequently to increase our interest in the Sabbath school work.

OUR TITHE TREASURY.

While we have been constantly reducing our tithe fund indebtedness for several months, I feel that it is necessary to say a few words again in regard to this subject.

As our brethren are well aware, our laborers have only been drawing half pay most of the time thus far this year, and it makes it almost impossible for them to support their families without considerable embarrassment.

I was very sorry to see our tithe for the month of May fall considerable short of what it was for May, one year ago. There should be no good reason for this falling off, as crops were fairly good and there has been no special depression in business.

We had hoped to see our indebtedness on the tithe fund entirely wiped out by the time of our annual camp meeting and conference; but, unless all are faithful, this cannot be accomplished. And I wish to earnestly request all our brethren and sisters

to be faithful in the payment of tithe, and let us see if we cannot bring our tithe fund entirely out of debt during the next three months. Our laborers have been making sacrifices, and we are doing our best to place our finances in a condition where we will not be embarrassed and where all will feel like taking hold and doing more aggressive work.

Will not all of our brethren and sisters respond to this call and see that your tithe is paid in by the 25th of each month? And then let our treasurers forward it promptly to our state treasurer that it may reach him before the last day of the month, so that it may come out in the first issue of the Reporter the following month. We thank our brethren for their faithfulness in the past, and we believe that you will respond to this call and that we will see advancement in every department of the work.

W. J. STONE.

THE NOVEL-READING MANIA.

More than nine-tenths of the books taken from public libraries are books of fiction. The novel-reading mania has become a form of mental dissipation which, in its baneful influence, rivals the intemperance evil itself. As a people holding advanced truth for this time, we have no right to any longer remain silent in reference to this subject. For this reason we have issued the June Life Boat as a special anti-fiction number. It not only endeavors to create a love for the Bible and other wholesome reading, but shows the real causes of this withering curse.

Among those who have contributed timely articles for this number are: W. S. Sadler, Mrs. M. C. Wilcox, Mrs. E. E. Kellogg, Mrs. E. H. Whitney and many others. We believe it is the most valuable publication ever issued on this subject. Pastors of other churches, Sunday School teachers, and educators will all appreciate it, and it will lead them to look to us for truth on other subjects. Do not let this opportunity go by. Order a liberal quantity. It will be supplied at two cents each. Address, The Life Boat, Hinsdale, Ill.

Elder J. C. Harris and U. S. Anderson are planning to conduct a series of tent meetings at Bedford. It is hoped that the work at Oolitic may also be strengthened by this effort.

SHORT VISIT TO BOGGSTOWN SCHOOL

On a recent visit to Indiana, my old home conference, it was a great privilege to me to be permitted to make a short call at the new industrial school at Boggstown.

It was an agreeable surprise to find a building of such size and accommodation, with so large an attendance of young people of that conference, some of whom were very small children when I last saw them eight or nine years ago. I was most gratified at the excellent management: those at the head of the school are doing some earnest, painstaking work and are seeking conscientiously to carry out the trust placed in them in the training of the young people in their care.

On visiting various churches in the state, there was to be seen more or less of a disposition to question the location of the school, and some even expressed themselves as unwilling to give it support because of it not being located as they thought it should be. Surely this ought not to be. Whether it is properly located or not, as far as the actual spot of earth is concerned, the school is doing a very good work under excellent management, and surely ought to have the hearty support now of all the members of the conference. The important question is not now whether the school is in one place or another, so much as it is, how shall the youth of the conference be properly trained for their future usefulness in the cause. The brethren in charge of the school need encouragement in every way possible to be able to properly carry forward the important work that is expected of them.

A personal visit to the school will evidence to any one that such support is deserving. I wish I could say something that would help to secure it.

L. A. HANSEN.

Jas. Blankenship is having good success with Bible Readings in Pulaski county. We hope that he will also succeed in his delivery of the orders. Brethren, pray for our canvassers now at work, and ask the Lord to send others into the field.

Plans for the new Second Indianapolis S. D. A. church are being drawn and work will soon begin on the building.

NEWS and NOTES

Amanda J. Moore of Frankton, writes that her mother is improving in health.

We are pleased to note the substantial donations to the tent fund mentioned in this issue.

Sister Sarah I. Slater reports good success with "Our Paradise Home" near Portland, Jay County.

U. S. Anderson is spending a few days at Elwood preparatory to his beginning tent meetings at Bedford.

All connected with the Academy took especial pains to make the visitors at the convention comfortable and happy.

John F. Steele reports quite a good interest and attendance in a series of meetings that he is holding at Hatfield, Indiana.

Brother and Sister Niehaus are getting hold of the work nicely in Peru, and it is hoped that they will accomplish a good work.

J. E. Collins is seeking a location and expects to move his family near Tell City and make the southern part of Indiana his field of labor.

Theresa Thompson went to Franklin last week to engage in Bible work as the way may open. She passed through Indianapolis and stopped a few hours at the office.

Mrs. Grace Britton writes that Mr. Britton expects to accept a position as book keeper in a large banking house in Indianapolis, and that they will move to the city about August first.

J. Theresa Thompson is located at Franklin and will engage in Bible work there. The little company at Franklin will doubtless be pleased to have Sister Thompson with them again.

Elder F. M. Roberts is now at his home at Jonesboro doing some manual labor and trying to recuperate his health. He will not be in the employ of the conference for a few months.

In planning for the tent companies this summer and their locations, it has been decided to locate one tent at Williamsport, Warren County, Indiana, with Elder C. H. Bliss and J. E. Dunn in charge.

We are obliged to delay several orders for Volumn 8 of Testimonies, because the Review & Herald publishing house at Battle Creek has not been able to obtain a large shipment of them from Oakland in time to fill our order of 18th of May.

Let all read the list of donations and pledges to our tent fund published in this issue of the paper. We are glad to see this list growing, and we hope that our brethren and sisters will immediately assist us in making up this fund that the work may go forward.

Raymond Brooks will take up the canvassing work at LaFayette. A number of our young people have a burden for this work and we hope that our brethren will pray for their success and encourage them to remain in the field and do thorough work.

As we begin tent meetings in different places, we ask the earnest prayers of our brethren and sisters throughout the conference that God may greatly bless the efforts put forth the present season and that many souls may be brought to a saving knowledge of the truths for this time.

We received tithe from several of our churches a day or two too late to come into the tithe report for May. This will appear in the report of June tithe. We hope that our treasurers will be a little more prompt, that their tithe may reach the office by the last day of each month.

Elder Stone was in Noblesville last week looking after church matters there. The church building has been moved onto a new lot, a vestibule built in front, and is being papered inside, and they expect to paint it on the outside. When it is completed they expect to hold a series of meetings and try and revive the work at Noblesville.

H. S. Browning says, "I am in demand at the Covenant Congregational church again, having an invitation to 'Come over and help us.'" He has had good success with our large publications. See canvassers report. Brother Browning is of good courage. He says however, that he is not oblivious to the fact that Satan is always at work.

FUND FOR NEW TENTS.

We give below a list of names of those who have thus far contributed or pledged to the tent fund. Let others send in pledges as quickly as possible:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| W. J. Stone and wife..... | \$10.00 |
| Mrs. L. B. Victor paid | 10.00 |
| W. D. Curtis and wife | 5.00 |
| W. A. Young | 5.00 |
| J. C. Harris | 5.00 |
| Martin Dunn..... | 5.00 |
| C. H. Bliss | 5.00 |
| J. H. Niehaus and wife | 5.00 |
| W. C. McCuaig and wife | 5.00 |
| Mrs. R. W. McMahan | 5.00 |
| U. S. Anderson..... | 5.00 |
| J. W. Covert | 5.00 |
| C. J. Buhalts and wife paid | 5.00 |
| Sadie Carahooft paid | 5.00 |
| Prof. B. F. Machlan | 5.00 |
| B. F. Anderson..... | 5.00 |
| Mrs. W. H. DeWolf paid | 5.00 |
| Louise Burkhart paid | 5.00 |
| E. Hayes paid | 2.00 |
| J. E. Dunn paid | 2.00 |
| Glessner Johnson paid | 2.00 |
| J. E. Collins | 2.00 |
| Mary Beck paid | 1.00 |
| Mrs. A. M. Hand paid | 1.00 |
| H. S. Browning paid | .50 |

SOUTH BEND

I visited the church at South Bend May 27 to 30. There were some things that needed to be corrected. Six meetings were held for the church and it is to be hoped that they will now "Run well." All seemed of good courage at the close, and the work there now gives promise of advancing.

Sister McMahan also worked for the young people at the same time. They were of courage, and if all will now walk in all the light they have, putting away differences and gossiping, they will see the truth shine and prosper in their city.

W. A. YOUNG.

A LETTER

Rockport, Ind., June 1, 1904.
Elder W. J. Stone.

Dear Brother:—We are working in the garden spot of southern Indiana. Fine improved farms, rich land, fine country, fine people. So far our work is a success. Great crowds, great interest, great attention. The *message* is being telephoned all over the country. Our meeting place is nearly in the centre of it. The attendance increases every night. The Spirit of God is here, and to Him be all the praise and honor and glory. Yours in the work,

JOHN F. STEELE.