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URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

November 22, 1976

Lewis A. Clark
Field Representative
243 S. Georgia Avenue
E. Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear John,

First, let us say a big thank you for the letter heads.

Then we will go into past business with a detailed report of our Get-Together in October. The Report included is one which went out to the participants and a few others who were interested.

WHY DID WE DO IT? All of our group agreed with the idea of doing such a thing as a worthy and also enjoyable enterprise. But we are a small group without strong entertainment talents, such as music or speech making.

The actual triggering event that got us started was a trip to Grants Pass to the Oregon conference. When Julia and Vern and others in his group showed some enthusiasm for coming to Wenatchee to help us, Janis and Alice took it upon themselves to announce that we were going to do it, probably on October 2nd. Upon our return to Wenatchee we discussed the idea with our group and it was agreed that we would go ahead with it. With such friends as those who came from California and Chicago and backed us, we were able. They were the ones who really made it go.

Basically, our reason for doing what we did was the result of our contacts with new readers. The majority of these are young people who have been searching for "Truth" in all sorts of ways. Frequently what they have delved into is garbage, some of which is still sticking in their minds (since the human mind works the way it does--computing new information through already established input) and sometimes they are off balance. The best way to counter-act this is to establish a new pattern of thinking through mature reasoning and leadership. This can be done on a one-to-one relationship, but this is a slow and impractical method since we have not been free to travel to meet each new reader, nor is it possible for all of them to come here.

The really practical way is for people to get together in their own locality wherever possible, and to experience group dynamics as they study together. So our purpose was to bring people together so they could get to know each other well enough to make an effort to get together for study. We believed that if they could be part of a group situation which would bring out that wonderful spirit of brotherhood that seems inherent to groups of URANTIA Book students, they would be inspired to work toward study groups in their own areas. But more than this, we feel that if new readers can be made aware of the importance of the keeping of the original concepts and the dangers involved with misuse of them, there will be less likelihood of copyright infringements. In this case, an ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure.

This seems like a very simple type of program compared with the things done in more advanced areas like Oklahoma or Los Angeles, but it fitted our situation here. We were thrilled at the build-up of enthusiasm that developed in so many of our visitors, especially some we knew to be somewhat lukewarm in the beginning (this one's wife, or that one's husband, or the children who just came along).

Of the people who came, 11 were from southwest British Columbia; 7 came from the Portland area of Oregon; and 17 were from the general area of Seattle, Washington. Most all live near enough to someone else that there is a real possibility of getting together to form a study group. And they are getting together, as we have received letters telling about it.

The Seattle study group has enlarged enough that they are seriously considering how they can become a society!

HOW DID WE DO IT? We looked at the success of the Oregon conference and decided we could do something similar. With the promises of some wonderful and talented people that they would come and help us, we believed we had the makings of a good get-together. All we had to do was make arrangements for a place, and invite the people.

The county park seemed like an ideal place: not too far from town, easy to find, private, scenic, clean and well kept, available, and free. Also there were camping and camper facilities right there. There was a big picnic going on there on the day we went there to check it out, so we were unable to discover the effect of traffic noise under the roof over the picnic tables. This was unfortunate.

We keep a file of all readers who write in to Chicago and are referred back to us. We also had the attendance list from the Oregon conference, and a list of our own contacts. This gave us about 130 addresses to which we mailed flyers announcing our plans about 35 days before the event. (It would have been earlier except that we had not allowed enough time to get an okay on our flyer from the Chicago headquarters.) This mailing served a double purpose, because we were able to up-date our mailing list, changing to new addresses where indicated and eliminating those that were undeliverable.

Another flyer, giving details about the program and information about camping and motel facilities, was mailed immediately to all who indicated an interest in coming. We re-used the second flyer as a program for the day, by merely replacing the map showing how to find the park with one showing how to find the gas co. hall in town.

We found the Chamber of Commerce happy to supply us with a list of local camps and camping facilities and a list of motel accommodations. Later they also gave us a generous supply of pamphlets on local and state activities which we could give to our visitors. (The unused surplus was returned to them afterward.)

WHAT WOULD WE CHANGE IF WE DO IT AGAIN? We do plan to do it again, and we did sit down after our meeting to go over the whole thing, analyzing each part and writing it down for future reference so we would have a record of what had caused problems and what had been good, and why we thought so.

Although we had planned this as a one-day meeting, it actually became a two-day one. Most people stayed overnight, and so they accepted our invitation to come over to Clark's to enjoy some more fellowship on Sunday. Since we had expected this we had planned a hot dog picnic for all who came. At least a dozen young people came over and spent the night, enjoying a campfire and singing before rolling into their sleeping bags Saturday night. There was a big crowd for breakfast Sunday morning because we had also invited our earlybird special guests who had to meet a plane in Seattle to come over for a last visit before they left. It was a day of visiting and fellowship and a lively volleyball game for those who felt young enough. Julia gave her paper on Love which had been omitted at the park because of the noise problem on Saturday.

One of the events most enjoyed by this particular group was the sharing circle at the park. We sat on the grass in the sunshine, and it was an ice-breaker that succeeded beyond our fondest dreams. None of our visitors had had an opportunity

to participate in such a sharing experience before.

Even more interesting than the information and answers to questions, was the opportunity to talk - to share and fellowship with other URANTIA Book students. The discovery that age, station in life, color, or outward appearance made no difference to the spiritual report was so delightful and added depths of understanding not possible to the lone reader. Our accent on study groups was just what they needed at this time.

Another time the accent will be on something else, depending on what seems to be of special interest. Some likely prospects are: Family Relationships and Child Development; Using Arts & Crafts to Promote URANTIA concepts; What Are Acceptable Methods of Outreach to the World? We would expect to repeat some of our activities but in a slightly different way to fit a more advanced group. There will always be some of the new ones included in such events so our meetings will be kept on this simple format for some time perhaps.

Most of the people enjoyed the outdoor setting and the informality. They liked the activity mixed into the sitting, such as the volleyball break at noon. But in spite of the good things about having the meeting in the park, it proved to be the source of most of our difficulties, and we will probably not use it again. Because we had not anticipated the amount of noise made by traffic on the highway, we had not thought about providing a loud speaker system. Another problem was in trying to get people to register midst the confusion of greetings and mixing around, to say nothing of how the wind blew papers. This was one reason our man who was supposed to get lunch orders at the beginning of the day, didn't and thus delayed the picnic for many.

Our planning breakfast for the leaders was a successful necessity, but it did make a very long day for them. Next time we will have the main meeting begin at 2:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. Then the leaders can get together at 10:00 for their planning meeting. Probably there will be a catered evening meal, which may have to be at a different place from the afternoon meeting. Nothing will be planned for Friday evening, but there will probably a campfire included for Saturday night. And we will plan for a continuation of fellowship activities on Sunday with a picnic at noon for those who do not have to leave sooner--breakfast again for any of our special guests who have to leave on account of catching planes.

The evening program was a complete success and we will plan something similar next time, no matter what alterations we make otherwise.

The cool wind that chilled our program at the park was a disappointment. For this reason we have set our next date a month earlier--either the first or second weekend in September. One other thing will be better. Although we bought material we failed to find the time to make an identifying URANTIA banner. Next time we'll have it to identify where headquarters is.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: A small group can plan and put on a successful and significant conference, especially if a few leaders from outside can come in to help put it on. The reason being, that these outside leaders add the reinforcement of maturity and point out the reality of the Brotherhood and Foundation connections. Their mere presence adds spiritual enrichment, and does wonders for the subjugation of those last-minute jitters of those in charge at the local level.

The cost need not be overtaxing. We were able to secure free meeting places, so our expenses were for promotional materials, food, communications, and incidentals and totaled slightly under \$100. Some of this was recovered by charging a \$1.00 registration fee for adults.

We are convinced that this small-group type of meeting is important and necessary. It reaches people who cannot come to larger more distant conferences, and

it is extremely important that these people be reached, because it gives us a chance to direct their ministry toward wholesome and constructive ends. It also gives us insights into the thinking of these new readers, which will perhaps be useful in guiding our future programming for the URANTIA Brotherhood.

Part of the reason for our success was that we had made a complete outline of events, programmed to cover the areas of information we thought should be presented, but the timing was left very flexible. Even who would do what was left for the planning session to decide that morning after we knew who was there. The whole presentation was done on a very informal level, and we deliberately left plenty of time for questions and answers all the way along. There were no speeches, as such, and reports were kept short. There were plenty of breaks for Francyl's music making, and for coffee and cooky munching and mixing together. But there was a gradual build-up to the final exciting and energizing presentation by Vern.

This format was great for bringing together and inspiring this entirely new group of URANTIA students. A more mature group, better grounded in the book, will want more subject matter in the program and will be more willing to sit through longer presentations, particularly if something can be worked out to include variety: audience participation, big charts for statistic type reports, pictures or slides for illustrations, group presentations, use of drama, etc.

One thing we would like to include next time is more group singing. This requires a talent for directing. We keep hoping such a one will appear in our area.

Copies of the flyers are to be included in this mailing. Also our updated list of addresses. Present membership in the Seattle study group, as recently given to us, is indicated--especially because of their interest in beginning the process of becoming a society. A new study group is being formed in the Portland area under the sponsorship of Fran Huntington and we expect it will mature into something permanent.

We wish all of you there at the headquarters a happy Thanksgiving and a really nice holiday season ahead. Wenatchee area remains loyal and happy in our devotion to the URANTIA cause--not shaken by Sherman-type incidents, but we do appreciate what Julia was able to tell us. We need to be aware of such happenings.

We would appreciate any information you can send us in regard to setting up new societies. The Seattle group is inquiring, and we would like to be on top of the latest requirements.

Please feel free to copy this report for anyone interested. Tom and Meredith will be interested, we're sure.

John, we really appreciate working with you. You have been most thoughtful and cooperative and we think you are doing a top job.

Sincerely,

Law Clark
and Alice

REPORT ON 1976 NORTHWEST GET-TOGETHER

for students of THE URANTIA BOOK

Wenatchee
River
County
Park ←

The 1976 Northwest Get-Together came to Wenatchee, Washington, on October 2. More than sixty people (also several children) from Washington, Oregon and British Columbia, with special guests from California and Chicago, enjoyed a full day of informal activities. For the leaders it began with a planning breakfast at 7:00 a.m. For the rest the day began at 10:00 a.m. in the park with prayer and singing by Francyl and Marvin Gawryn from Berkeley, California, and ended with singing around the campfire by Clark's corral at midnight. The last end was enjoyed by the dozen young people who elected to bring sleeping bags, vans and campers to Clark's to spend the night.

One of the highlights of the day was the sharing circle at the park when each participant stood up and told how he or she found The Urantia Book.

Because there was a cold wind blowing, the afternoon program was moved to the Cascade Natural Gas Company hall in town after the picnic and volleyball game at the park.

Tom Kendall, Urantia Foundation President from Chicago, gave a talk on the Foundation; and Art Born, also a Foundation member from Chicago, talked about the Urantia Brotherhood financial program. There was a short presentation of the FOG radio program by members of this organization. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to questions and answers and discussion on the importance of study groups.

Julia Fenderson, from the Los Angeles area, began the evening program with her interesting slide pictures, showing some history followed by shots of study groups she has visited in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Australia.

Musical interludes were provided by Francyl and friends at various times during the day and the whole build-up was given a tremendous climax with Vern Grimsley's inspirational talk. Vern is President of the Family of God Foundation at Berkeley, California.

Constant coffee and cookies were provided for nibblers. Conversations evolved and friendships bloomed under the influence of the spirit of brotherhood which prevailed. It was the first time that most of the visitors had experienced such a gathering and they were having so much fun getting together that they were reluctant to leave the hall and end the day.

The leaders of this Get-Together had promised inspiration, information, fellowship and fun, and we felt it had been a successful day on all counts.

Much thanks for the success of the day goes to our Urantia friends from California and Chicago for coming and helping. Without their devotion and participation it would be difficult to provide such a program.

#1

For URANTIA Students ~ Another Northwest Get-Together

October 2

at WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON

THIS WILL BE AN ALL DAY EVENT.

WE HAVE PLANNED A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES.

GUEST SPEAKERS are coming from California and other areas.

We have reserved the PICNIC AREA of WENATCHEE RIVER COUNTY PARK for all day,
so bring picnic food and eating equipment and join us.

The program will be informal, with time for questions and for discussions.
Bring your musical instruments, or other talents for informal "break time"
sharing. There is a play area for children. Tenting and camper spaces are
available, for a fee, should you desire to stay there overnight, and a Fri-
day night campfire time is being planned for those who come early. The pro-
gram for Saturday evening will be at Cascade Gas Co. Building in Wenatchee.

Sponsored by FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF WENATCHEE

For further details return the form below to Lewis A. Clerk, 243 S. Georgia
Ave., East Wenatchee, WA 98501

It will help us to know if you are planning to come.

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

Mr. _____
Mrs. _____
Ms. _____

Street _____
City, State _____
& Zip code _____

I (We) will ___ can't ___ come to Wenatchee for the October 2 meeting.

Number of people in our party: adults ___ children ___

We desire information on: camping facilities ___
motel/hotel accommodations ___

Please keep me on your mailing list _____

#2

1976 Northwest Get-Together

For Students of The Urantia Book

October 2

Sponsored by

First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee
at Wenatchee, Washington

At the Park:

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 - 10:45 Inspiration and Praise
- 10:45 - 11:15 Break time
- 11:15 - 12:00 Introductions, announcements, reports
- 12:00 - 2:00 Noon break
Picnic, lawn games, Arts & Crafts show
- 2:00 - 3:30 Discussion
- 3:30 - 4:00 Break time
- 4:00 - 5:00 Answers to questions
- 5:00 - 7:30 Supper break



Reconvene at Cascade Natural Gas Bldg.

614 N. Mission in Wenatchee

- 7:00 - 9:30 Talks & presentations by guest speakers
- 9:30 Music & refreshment break
- We expect the weather to be sunny and warm, but if it is not we will move to the gas co. hall for the afternoon program as well as the evening.

Arts & Crafts show: Since so many Urantia Book readers are talented in various ways we thought it would be fun to share our creations. We hope you can bring some of your paintings, carvings, metal work, jewelry, or whatever you work with for the display. If the weather is uncooperative we will set this up at the gas co.

Food: There will be opportunity to order from town for those coming too far to bring a picnic lunch.

Clothing: Informal. Nights will be cool. Bring coats, sweaters and warm things in case the day is windy or cool.

Friday night: 7:30 - 9:00 at the park we will have a big camp fire with singing and music and marshmallow roasting. The park is six miles north and west of Wenatchee if you are staying at a motel in town.

Sunday: No program is planned for Sunday, so you will be free to visit, see the interesting places nearby, or start home early.

Music: Singing and instrumental music will be encouraged at every break time, so bring your instrument and plan to join in.

It will be a time to meet new friends, find inspiration, share ideas and have fun.

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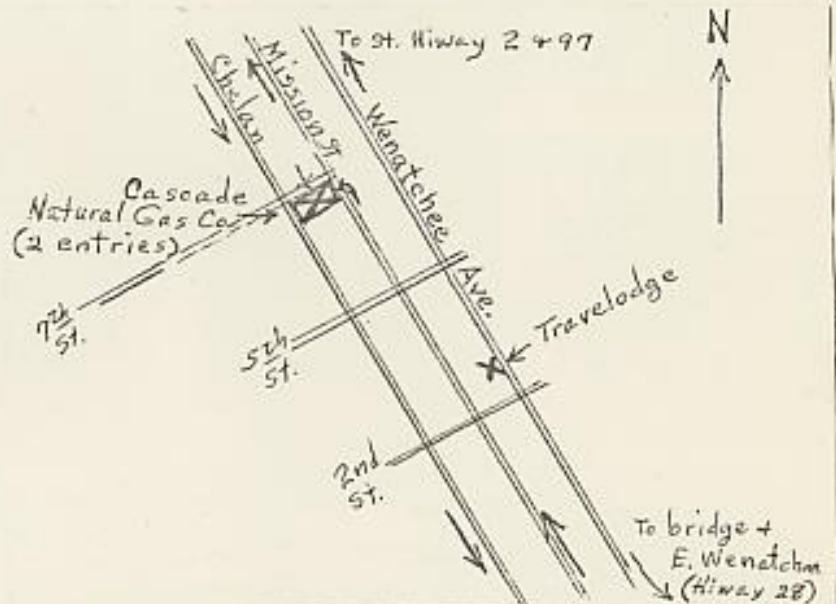
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