agondonter



Bortowa

FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

FALL, 1975

Sacramento Hosts Regional Conference

Folks Come from Far and Wide

Over 100 Urantians from all over the West Coast and elsewhere converged for a one-day fellowship conference in California's capital city, Sunday, October 12. (See map.)



They came by car and plane from Los Angeles, the Bay Area contingent was out in force, clusters of faith-fellows arrived from the northern outposts, and Dennis Shields reports that he came from Hawaii via a specially chartered fandor flight.

The day's activities began at 11:00 AM with group worship discussed and conducted by Vincent Ventola. Other speakers included West Coast Field Representative Julia Fenderson, international radio broadcaster Vern Bennom Grimsley, Family of God staff members Bettina Gray and Nancy Grimsley, and Concordex author Clyde Bedell.

A highlight of the day was David and Sue Kantor's and Connic Aller's sound synchronized slide presentation, "Genesis: Matter/Mind Metamorphosis," a fine depiction of the awesome story of evolution, from planetary birth to Andon and Fonta.

Musical interludes were led by Francyl Streamo and Jonathon Johnson, with many joining in melodic and spiritual fellowship into the late evening.



Readers convene in Sacramento

FUSLA Elects New Officers

At its August 10 meeting, the membership of the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles met to elect the Officers and Committee Chairmen who comprise FUSLA's Governing Committee.

The Society membership unanimously ratified the slate submitted by the nominating committee with the exception that the nominee for Hospitality Committee Chairman declined due to personal commitments. At its first meeting on September 7, the new Committee unanimously elected Felice Long to fill this post. On Saturday, October 4, the Committee again met for a four hour work session at the home of Scott and Carol Forsythe.

The new Governing Committee will serve for one year, and is comprised as follows:

President:
Vice President:
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Chairman
Book Chairman
Education Chairman
Newsletter Chairman
Hospitality Chairman

Scott Forsythe
Dorothy Hicks
Leonard Kidd
Pat Bedell
Julia Fenderson
Kermit Anderson
Vincent Ventola
Charles Montgomery
Felice Long

Bob and Sara Wed

In a lovely outdoor Urantian wedding ceremony, Bob Blackstock and Sara Lindoerfer were married Saturday, October 11, at a park a few miles north of Berkeley. Amid stately eucalyptus trees, they exchanged rings and solemn yows.

Following the ceremony, all partook of a grand feast of roasted-on-the-spot beef, delicious salads, and tasty main dishes. A wooden wine cask graced the drink table, and the meal was topped off with a wonderful three-decker carrot wedding cake.



Then the dancing began. Square dances and the Virginia Reel, accompanied by live country bluegrass music. What a sight it was, to see sixty or seventy people all holding hands in a circle dance, on that grassy meadow under the sunny-cloudy October skies!

Others played volley ball or frisbee, or simply shared the warmth and glow of the day over rose wine and carrot cake.

Finally, toward evening, a sudden shower forced us to disband, and we began to make preparations for the conference in Sacramento the following day.

Funny, we didn't see Bob and Sara at the conference. Wonder where they were!

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The Agondonter is published quarterly by the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles, and is wholly supported by FUSLA.

Donations are appreciated and should be in the form of a check, payable to FUSLA.

Items of mutual interest are welcomed from Societies, study groups or individuals. Shorter items are given preference.

Write to: Agondonter, PO Box 563, Los Angeles, CA 20053

Production Manager: Editorial Consultant: Circulation Manager: Leonard Kidd

Charles Montgomery Bill Sherwood Julia Fenderson

Editorial Board:

Jeff Bedell Charles Montromery Scott Forsythe

On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over inauperable difficulties even when alone."*

*page 579
*Experpt from The URANTIA Book, Copy right o 1955, Urantia Foundation -- Used by permission-

Priorities in Loyalties

In discussion at the last FUSLA meeting, it was pointed out that there are many routes to the Father and that the "Eternal Verities" remain the same, whether or not we have The URANTIA Book.

We agree, and know that the Father is first, and this URANTIA Book second in our order of loyalties. However, equally true, is the fact that many of us would have lost the way to the Father had it not been for this great revelation -- The URANTIA Book.

This Book came to save souls and let us cherish it and study it and make it available intact, to save thousands and thousands more souls for the Father.

--Julia Fenderson

PHOTO KEY

Chick Montgomery Agondonter Editor Rich Keeler Wheeler- dealer	Bob Hunt Math professor & proud papa (See picture below)	Bonnie Abbott Concocting goodies Brentwood School kitchen
Bill Brehio with Dylan Hunt 1975	Julia admiring Bob & Bonnie Hunt's new addition, Dylan 1975	Bob Blackstock at the 1973 Brentwood painting party
Wally Ziglar Businessman contemplating the Universal Absolute	Scott Forsythe FUSLA President	Ace Young Radio announcer blinded by spiritual light

"On Campus" Expands Air Coverage

Vern Bennom Grimsley, a student of The URANTIA Book for nineteen years, visibly strives to live the injunction literally to go into all the world and proclaim the good news of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

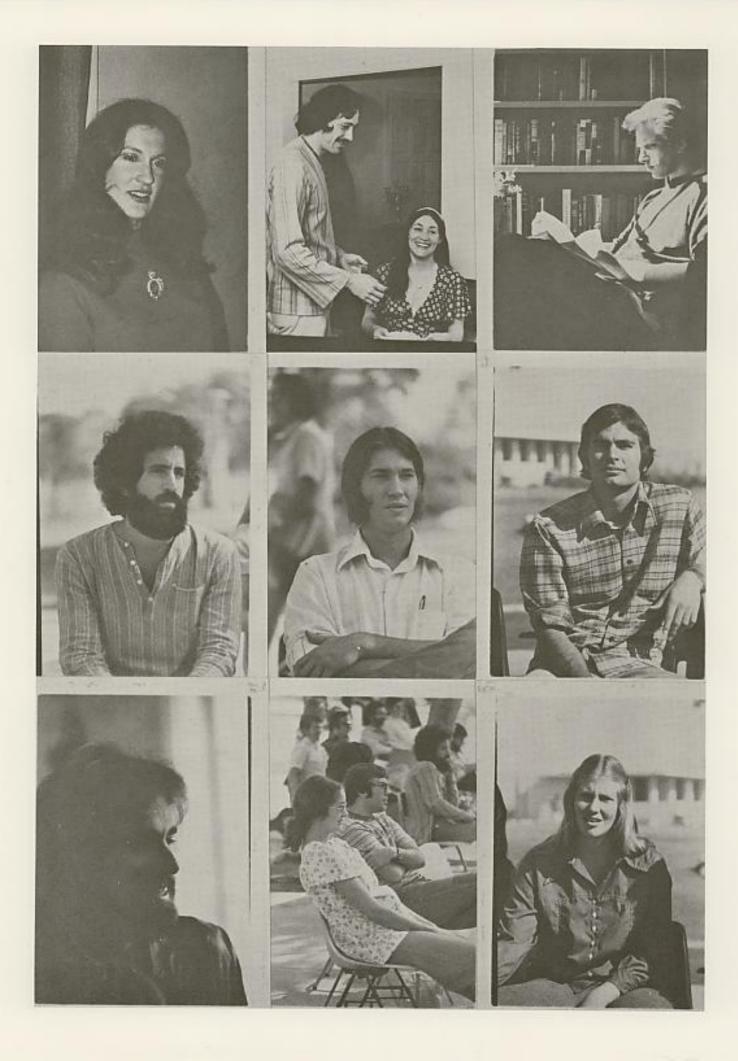
Struggling for years with a dedicated volunteer staff, he has developed himself into such a compelling speaker and his radio program into a vehicle of such technical excellence that "On Campus" was recently accepted by the American Forces Radio Network to be carried over a potential of 874 outlets and relays around the world. Thus Vern will now be heard daily in numerous countries, islands, trust territories, and ships at sea...all over the planet.

Although The URANTIA Book is never quoted or mentioned on the air, it is Vern's intention that the program be consistent with the book's teachings, and we think be succeeds admirably.

Congratulations to Vern for his wholehearted and continual willingness to seek and to actually do the will of the Father. And congratulations to the many behind-the-scenes workers who provide essential support for this work, the loyal members and friends of the Family of God Foundation.

"On Campus" may be heard on Saturday nights in the Los Angeles area, at 10:30 PM over station XEMO, 860 on the dial. In the Bay Area it airs twice on Sundays, first at 8:15 AM over KGO and then at noon over KFAX.





The Chicago Conference One Person's Experience

by Bill Sherwood

Was the Chicago Conference a wonderful experience? You can certainly believe it! The talks and presentations were invigorating, and even though I, personally, was most impressed by the loving fellowship of our many brothers and sisters, both of old and new acquaintance, it was inspiring to see the tremendous wealth of talent that we, a small but powerful group, possess—a group surrounding the world with a net of love and brotherhood.

I saw the movement reflected in the dynamic leaders and speakers whom we selected, but those who were there know that the experience of being with 360 truly dedicated students is like freely floating in a living, loving sea.

These people brought many joys and touching moments to share.

Sharing the overflow

There is one outstanding occurrence that I'd like to relate. It happened Saturday evening at the social, the last scheduled gathering of the conference.

There already seemed to be a kind of nostalgia as we joined in song. Perhaps it was because we all knew it would be some time before we could all be together again in force. But nostalgia was commingled with new enthusiasm and courage to face the living of our daily lives—to share the overflow. Some of us were from areas in which we were virtually alone, but now we had an experience that could re-vitalize us in the months to come.

◀PHOTO KEY

Mary Echlin Teacher Member of Family of God	Kermit Anderson Jackie Montalbano	Vern Grimsley in late 1960's
Vincent Ventola Coordinator of the April Celebration Los Angeles 1975	Greg Harris hearing Vern at Fullerton 1974	Rob Buzzell also at Cal State Fullerton 1974
Bill Sherwood Agondonter Production Manager	Jan & Leonard Kidd hearing the "On Campus" broadcast Fullerton 1974	Vickie McNelly again, at Vern's broadcast Fullerton 1974

Presently a lady asked three of us to follow her. "I have a surprise for you," she said.

She asked us to form a circle. In the center a chair was placed.

"What is this?" I asked.

"It's a love feast," she said.

"A what?!!"

"A love feast. Here's what we do. One by one we stand behind the person seated in the center, put our hands on his or her shoulders, and we whisper our name."

Tightening the bonds

So it went. But it was really far more than the simple instructions would imply. Each of us, one by one, had the opportunity to share a personal communication with the person in the chair, and each in turn got a chance to sit in that central spot.

What an experience! I felt overwhelmed as my mind considered the possibilities of this as a technique for tightening the bonds within a study group. It seems as if this method, among others, could be used to bring out the real purpose in forming thousands of study groups—establishing the Brotherhood of Man,

I don't know if this would go over in every study group. Some people might not be comfortable with the touching aspect, and others might not be able to handle the close personal communication just yet. But I really felt close to those people... individually and severally, as we "feasted" on our love for one another.

"another door had been opened"

We ended in a circle seated on the floor with our hands clasped. We flowed in and out and all over the universe, and it was worship as I've always hoped it could be. We were truly bathed in light—cleansed by our experience.

But then it came time to go. We parted with a vow to meet again in Oklahoma City in June. In the meantime, even though it was unsaid, we knew that another door had been opened and that we would bring ourselves and our love to as many as would allow.

Chicago left me with a profound impression.

These are my feelings. I hope I have given you an idea, because although the techniques are many, the goal is one.

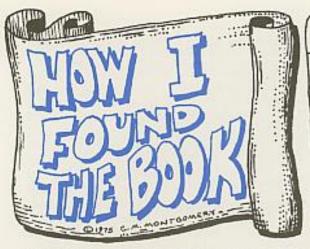
I pray that all of us will reach out to our brothers and to our Father again and again, within and without our study groups, and in greater and greater numbers until love flows unhindered and we all sit together in worship.

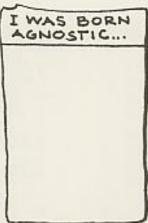
Upcoming Conferences

MAY: On the third weekend in May, 1976, there will be a conference in Oregon.

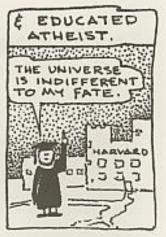
JUNE: On the last weekend in June, 1976, there will be a national conference in Oklahoma.

SUMMER: Sometime in the middle or late summer there will be a western regional conference somewhere on the central California coast.



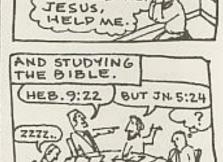












I KEPT PRAYING

FOR FAITH ...

GOD, HELP ME













Reflections

--by Vince Ventola

These thoughts are for all my little brothers and sisters. And if you are too young to read, I hope someone you love will find this and read it to you.

There are many secrets in this world. Many stories waiting to be told to anyone who will listen. Will you listen?

Where do we come from?

Can you let your mind's eye open to a sky filled with suns and moons and planets? Can you picture other worlds inhabited with beings very much like us? Do you ever wonder why we are here? Or where do we come from?

Another New Day

For Young Children



Concept from P. 1928:4 - The URANTIA Book Adapted to Young Child's Vocabulary

So many people never wonder about anything. I love to wonder about everything! So many people spend all their time worrying or fighting or eating or collecting money and buying things they don't really need. So many people have forgotten how to relax and experience peace of mind. Everyone is in such a hurry! Smoking cigarettes and being nervous!

What an enormous family!

I like to walk on the beach and feel the wind and listen to the ocean. I look out as far as I can see and feel like I am standing on the edge of the world. My mind fills itself with the sea—the sky—the setting sun—the wind—and I feel so happy and thankful for just being alive. Life is one of God's greatest gifts to us. And because he loves us more than we can imagine, he has promised us eternal life. It is very hard for us to understand everything about God. He never had a beginning...wow! And he will never end... far out! And because he created each and every one of us he is our Father. And that makes us all Brothers and Sisters. What an enormous family!

God is everywhere and in everything. We live in Him and He lives in us. He really does! Imagine, a piece of Infinity is right inside us. We are all star children of the universe, born on our Planet, Urantia, learning and growing.

Someday we will leave and explore other worlds and other universes. Our physical bodies can't make the trip but that's cool; we will have new bodies made of light. And we will continue living and growing and glowing until after billions and billions of years we get back to where we started and we stand before the very God who created us. We really get to meet The Great One! Fantastic!

But you know, we don't have to wait until then. We can start now. We can talk and rap with God wherever and whenever we want. We can learn many things about Our Father from studying the life and teachings of Jesus.

God loves you...

Jesus is very far out and He knows God very well. Jesus is cool—he is one of our best friends. In fact, he is a good friend and brother and father to us all. And is he ever Real!

If we could only learn to Love the way Jesus Loves us we would be able to experience so many wonders, and there are so many wonders waiting, just waiting to be seen.

Keep looking! Keep listening! And remember, God Loves You. ...and so do I.

Editorial... break into print!

First, on behalf of all who have enjoyed the Agondonter in recent years, I want to thank and congratulate Jim McNelly, the retiring editor, for the outstanding job he has done in bringing this newsletter to its present state of quality and also for contributing many fine articles himself. Jim certainly deserves the heartfelt thanks and deep respect I'm sure we all feel. Special thanks also to Bill Sherwood for his expert technical assistance in professionalizing the newsletter format. We will depend greatly on his continued service as production manager.

Second, I want to pledge my intent to carry on the fine work which has been begun. I hope to contribute in some way to the further evolution of the Agondonter.

Third, I earnestly request anyone so inclined to assist me in this effort by providing

(1) Comments, feedback and suggestions;

(2) Articles, announcements, news, features, fillers, photos, testimonials, and other items of mutual interest for possible publication;

(3) Any change in your own address, and the names and addresses of others you know to be sincerely interested in receiving this publication; and,

(4) Monetary donations if and as the spirit moves you.

Our address is: Agondonter, PO Box 563 Los Angeles, CA 90053

With your help, I hope to keep the Agondonter informative, enjoyable, and inspirational, and to facilitate its continued growth as a useful communications medium for Urantians locally and around the world.

Love is Fixing Your Friend's Roof

Last May, Julia told the fellows in Rogue River that Vern's roof leaked so badly that they had to use a pump to keep the water levels down in the back room behind the kitchen every time it rained.

"By golly," they replied, "we're just gonna have to get down there and fix it before the rainy season starts."

Sure enough, just as soon as the Sacramento conference was over, David Clearwaters, Terry Watson and Rod Ralston hightailed it over to Berkeley and worked two days putting new roofing on the Arch Street abode.

In an unrelated incident, when Michael and Felice Long needed help putting a new roof on their new home this summer, three or four Urantians immediately showed up to help get the job done.

Urantians don't just talk about love; they demonstrate it!

I am a Son of God

I was lost and searching.
My soul was tormented with uncertainty,
My life was filled with pain.
Suffering was all I could feel.

My seeming endless search for light,
Led me through philosophies and religions,
The religions of my evolutionary fathers:
Superstitions and mystical beliefs,
All things I could believe,
But somehow knew were not truth.

Truth found its way to me, And now my soul sings. Joy is filling my being, And love has opened my heart.

Now I realize my eternal heritage: I am a son of God. I am a brother of all brothers. I am in love with the universe.

My love grows with each passing moment.
Just to know these things,
Gives me the will to live my life
in service to God;
To make my life a loving service,
To my fellow men and our Glorious Father.

I have found the answer. I am a happy son of God.

--Laura Mabery

PHOTO KEY		
Jeff Mark Bedell Hastings At "On-Campus" broadcast, 1974	Painting Brentwood School, 1973 The so-called "Holy Rollers"	Dylan Hunt at 2 months A new child for the Father
Pat Bedell FUSLA Treasurer Communing with the Father	Pat McNelly Sage of Fullerton	Fred Shupp Family of God member and former FUSLAN
Jim English Gerry Ricci Performing at the 1973 conference	Cheryl and Bob Boden at LA Conference June, 1973	Sue McNelly Jim McNelly Hearing Vern at Fullerton 1974





















San Diego

Loses some, wins some

Marvin Gawryn and Francyl Streano have moved from San Diego to Berkeley to add their considerable talents to the deepening pool of spiritual power that is the Family of God Foundation. In view of the greatly expanding radio ministry of that group, their decision is most timely.

Dick and Cheryl Prince were blessed with a daughter, Christine Ananda, born auspiciously enough on August 21, Jesus' birthday! The Princes, who have spent some time up north in Eureka, plan to return in November to San Diego, their city of former residence.

So... San Diego loses two and wins three. Net gain: one.

Thoughts

We are only an egg, Not yet grokking, Waiting will fill, Body-mind locking.

Life is beauty, And we are eternity; Love is truth, And all are ecstasy.

-- Doris Passaretti



◀PHOTO KEY

Harry McMullan Former F.O.G. pioneer, now of North Carolina	Barbara Newsom Carol Forsythe Doris Passaretti & Felice Long at Dorothy Hicks'	Vern & Nancy Larry Neff in background Jamming at the 1973 conference
Jim McNelly Former Agon- donter editor Now of Illinois	Vince Ventola & Cheryl McCade visit Julia at her home June, 1974	Terry McCade Sue McNelly Succumbing to the Reversion Directors
Gerry Ricci Jim English Buck Weimer, Now of Colorado	Julia Fenderson at Foundation headquarters in Chicago	Joanne Eichmann Rapid Transit Station Agent F.O.G. member

"Dear Aggie"

Dear Aggie,

I am not clear on the Urantian attitude re: meat, alcohol and life styles.

-- A Northwest Sister

Dear Northwest,

I think it's safe to say that Urantians as a group have no official attitude on these issues, although Urantians individually often have strong views.

As for what The URANTIA Book has to say, I would not presume to attempt to interpret it. You have probably noticed that the book is positive 'throughout and does not contain the Old Testament "Thou Shalt Nots," nevertheless, the more one reads the book the more one realizes that its positive standards for high conduct are very high.

(By the way, I don't think any of us would claim to be living up to the really high standards of the book. And heaven help us if others judge The URANTIA Book by the way we, its readers, live!)

As for my personal observations in the matters you mention, most Urantians I know eat meat, although quite a few are vegetarians. Most partake at least moderately of alcohol, although some do so only in the remembrance supper, and some are total abstainers. The life styles of Urantians vary greatly from ultra-conservative to ultra-liberal. Both extremes and the broad middle spectrum are well represented in our membership. Urantians are anything but uniform, and it is this diversity of background, life experience, and viewpoint, I believe, that helps to make us strong.

That every conceivable type of person is drawn to The URANTIA Book is testimony to the book's universal power to reach all people and unify them in faith.

Aggic Donter

Personal to D.

No, I don't think it's selfish to insist that your mate be a Urantian, but it may be unrealistic.

a.D.

Readers, Forum

QUESTION: How did you find The URANTIA Book, (or how did the book find you!) and what were your immediate reactions?

QUESTION: When people ask you, "What's that book you're reading?" what do you tell them? How do you describe the book to someone who is not familiar with it?

Readers: Send us your answers to these questions.

Perhaps we will share your response in a future issue of The Agondonter.

Study Groups in the West

This is a partial listing. Do you know of others? Our goal is to have 100 study groups by summer.

Study group leaders: Send us news of your group. What format works best for you?

Everybody: If you aren't in a group, join one... or start your own! Two is enough to start.

Los Angeles County

Polly Friedman 18863 Muirkirk Dr. Northridge, 91324 (213) 360-4018 (Meets Saturdays)

Jonathon & Karen Johnson 5138 Denny Ave. #5 No. Hwd. CA 91601 (213) 763-2339 (Meets Sundays)

Michael & Felice Long 3993 Drysdale Ave. Los Angeles, 90032 (213) 222-9566 (Meets Wednesdays)

Vince & Cathy Ventola 1610 California Ave. Santa Monica, 90403 (213) 393-0892 (Meets Thursdays)

Scott & Carol Forsythe 12815 Pacific Ave. #8 Los Angeles, 90066 (213) 390-2573 (Meets Thursdays)

Chas. & Dorothy Hicks 11357 Berwick Los Angeles, 90049 (213) 472-8722 (Meets Wednesdays)

Bill & Carol Brehio 9045 Orion Sepulveda, CA 91343 (213) 892-8739 (Meets Thursdays) Ruth Flanders 15313 Florwood Ave. Lawndale, CA 90260 (213) 676-6109 (Yests Thursdays)

Michael McQueen 4164 Howard St. Los Alamitos, 90720 (213) 430-9215 (Meets Sundays)

Bob Linnel 801 Orizaba St. Long Bench, CA 90804 (213) 434-5288 (Meets Saturdays)

Orange County

Jeff & Pat Bedell 2560 W. Glencaks Anabeim, CA 92801 (714) 826-7968 (Meets on Mondays)



Marley Ross 1201 W. Memory Ln. Santa Ana, CA 95472 (714) 776-1588

Duane & Lucile Faw 11912 Arroyo Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 832-1955

Leonard & Jan Kidd 2018 S. Purton Santa Ana, CA 92707 (714) 979-9289

Riverside County

Russ & Gladys Marquart 8224 Acaputes Pl. Riverside CA (714) 657-5257 (Meets Wednesdays)

Beverly Wold 42741 E.Florida #64 Hemet, CA 92343 (714) 827-1015 (Meets Wednesdays)

San Diego County

Rich Keeler 807-C Beach Front Dr. Solana Beach CA 92075 (714) 755-3246

Capt. & Mrs. Hazzard 4388 Arcadia Dr. San Diego, CA 92163 (714) 259-4195

Northern California

Bob & Bonnie Hunt 1425 Buttermilk Ln., <u>Arcata</u>, CA 96621 (707) 822-4938

Bob & Cheryl Boden Route 1, Box 8 Loleta, CA 95551 (707) 733-5589

Central Catifornia

Bob Ghen 612 Andamar Way Goleta, CA 93167

Bon Davis 3516 Bajament Way Carmichael, 95608 (916) 944-9848

Bruce Thurstin Richard Coenenburg Planetary Country School Tuolumne, CA 95379

San Francisco Bay Area

Dr. Robert Slagle 2010 Coffee Lane Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 823-0876

Vern & Nancy Grimsley 1849 Arch St. Berkeley, CA 94709



William Jonke 1502 20th St. San Francisco 94107 (415) 647-2047

George & Barbara Thornbury 831 Belden St. #2 Montercy, CA 93940 (408) 624-9004

Outer Space Levels

Pat & Tuckey Hayes SRA 1547 J Anchorage, AK 99507 Ph: 344-5009

Lowis & Alice Clark 243 S. Georgia Ave. East Wenatchee, Washington 98801 (509) 884-4655

David & Rose Clearwaters 838 South Side Rd. Grants Pass, Oregon, 97526

Elcuise Wells Child 200 S.E. Tide Ave. Lincoln City, OR Oregon 97367 Ed Oscarson 6916 Christy Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109 Ph: 821-8196



Dorothy Elms 1333 Marron Circle NE Albuquerque, NM 87112 (505) 299-1929

Evelyn Sooter Star Route <u>Clarkfork, Idaho</u> 83811

Wally & Marilyn Sharpe Box 12 Lytle Star Route Colorado Springs 80903 (303) 576-0407

Buck & Arlene Weimer 419 W. 22nd St. Pueblo, Colorado 81003 (303) 544-8752

Mo & Peggy Siegel 702-1/2 Spruce St. Boulder, Colo. 80302 (303) 447-0033

Bill Lindsay 3649 Nthipall Rd. <u>Honolute</u>, HI 96821 737-3424 or 373-2191

David Saunders Box 816 Captain Cook HI 96704

Eva Sepp 389 Kailua Rd #310 Kailua, III 96734 Ph: 262-7783

Marian Salmo Box 1126 Hilo, HI 96270



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