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Manuscript

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Memories of Frankfort, Indiana, camp-
meeting and Bible school, Pilgrim Holiness
Church, 1975.

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The people were gathered at the Fair Ground at Frankfort, Indiana rejoicing at their first Camp Meeting. What a time they were having shouting and praising the Lord in the old fashioned way. They had to pay for the use of Fair Grounds, so decided to charge ten cents to get in. Bro. Bogue was appointed to see no one entered without paying.

He was watching every nook and corner, with a club, seeing that no one slipped in without paying. Finally the dear Lord said Bogue what are you doing? clubbing the unsaved people to keep them from coming to Camp Meeting. From that time on there wasn't any charge.

The next time it was decided that the conference and Camp Meeting would be held at Sullivan, Indiana at the Fair Grounds. Crowds were coming and the saints were praising the Lord, many were coming to the Lord; when suddenly a big circus tent, with all the Animals, Clowns and all the paraphernalia that goes with it was pitched near the Camp Meeting tent. Of course every one was stired. The Devil had come in on them. It did increase the crowds as many of the show people came and some did get to the Lord.

One Teen age girl was saved and didn't want to continue with the Circus, so Rev. and Mrs. Osie Myers took her under their wings. She was dressed in rags and her hair was cut, which at that time was considered offensive even to the non Christians.

An Elephant got loose and ran through the crowd which almost broke up the Camp Meeting. People were running and screaming, trying to get out of its way. Finally it was caught in a wire fence, and was rescued by the show people, and taken back to do its performance. No one could say they had not seen a show.

All these problems made the conference and Camp Meeting Board, think they better get a home, so they decided to buy the present Camp Ground at Frankfort Indiana. As I understand it was owned by a group of doctors and had been used as a T. B. Camp. Several one room cottages were on the grounds, they were not sealed and the windows had sort of wooden louvers over them. At that time they must have believed that freezing would kill the T. B. germs.

In 1914 there was a real Camp Meeting, the people rejoiced, no more wondering from place to place, they had a home that belonged to them. Every one had worked to prepare for this big event. Small tents with bunks filled with new straw, for people to stay in for a small fee, the T. B. cottages, also the big tent for

for Camp services. No one thought of sanitation as we do these days, but there wasn't any one sick during the Camp Meeting, it seemed Heaven came down their souls to meet.

From year to year they improved the Camp Meeting Grounds. A Tabernacle was built and a crude dining Hall, where meals were served for 25¢. a lot of food was donated, the farmers bringing in fresh corn on the cob, tomatoes and fresh meat. The ministers and their families who received very little money for their labors for the Lord were given free meals for working at the many jobs it takes to carry on a Camp Meeting.

Lots were sold and people built small cottages to live in during Camp. The Tabernacle was enlarged as the crowds increased.

The young people sat in the elevated seats on the back of the big platform, the orchestra made up of Trumpets, Guitars, drums, accordions and what have you on the north side, the ministers on the south side. The Evangelist and song leader in the center. Not all talent, every one was welcome to participate, they played and sang in the Spirit. At times the Holy Spirit would come on them and they would march off the platform playing their Instruments singing and shouting, the congregation following.

One time they marched up town, around the square and back to the Camp Ground. All this had a deep impression on the town people and helped to bring people to the services, as people like to go where there is action.

As time went on more buildings were put up to accommodate the crowd. They were crude inside and out, barns they were called. The Sheff family and others staying in these, another shed made of rough boards, back of the Tabernacle, was occupied by a German lady, dear Sis. Kesslering and her family, the mother of Warren Kesslering. There was dear Sis. Jones from Indianapolis who pitched her tent near the Tabernacle, lived in it, cooking and caring for her children while she enjoyed the blessings of the Camp Meeting. Two of her daughters married ministers. Mrs. Edith Deal and Mrs. Martha Bradfield. What a heritage her children had because of her faithfulness to her Savior.

Bro. and Sis. Jones a baker from Delphsia who gave freely to the camp, built a crude building on the north side of the Tabernacle, they were regular attendants with their family, living on this building, bringing their children up in the admonition of the Lord. The wife of the former Rev. Carl Reed was their daughter.

The children enjoyed Camp Meeting as well as their fathers and mothers, playing hide and seek among the many tents and cottages, patronizing the Lunch stand with their pennies. The Teen Agers with love in their eyes walking up and down the walks near the Tabernacle, many of the older people found their mates at Camp Meeting. Some have already gone to the great Camp Meeting in the sky.

Rev. A. M. Ewing, the Presiding Elder had a vision from the Lord, showing him a Bible School should be started at Frankfort Camp Ground. A building program started, it seemed every one was interested. If we were to continue as a Bible Centered Church we needed trained missionaries and ministers, that were filled with the Spirit.

A Concret Block was made into class rooms, and furnished with equipment for teaching. Another building that was used as a dining hall for Camp was ~~put~~ changed into a Dormitory for girls. Soon another concrete building was put up that matched the girls dorm, this was for the boys. The two were connected together, which became a parlor, where the boys and girls who were sweet hearts, could get to gether. And any one could enjoy the home like atmospher of the big room, furn-

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ished with a library of many books, and over stuffed furniture, not new, but good looking, the towns people were happy to give, a Christian School was coming their way, it would bring more business to the stores.

Every one was kind, not much money, but love, looking forward to giving our boys and girls a Christian Education, that they might go through out the world proclaiming the gospel of the living Christ.

Soon the new students were coming in, helping with all the work that had to be done, the boys doing the carpenter work and other chores. The girls cleaning, cooking and preparing food for the winter, farmers were bringing in potatoes, tomatoes, corn and other vegetables. They didn't have refrigerators in those days, so food had to be preserved in other ways.

The girls did their own washing and the boys in the Armstrong way, it was wash a dub, dub in a tub. Clothes had to be ironed, and the girls did that, they were allowed to pay their school bills by their work, as many didn't have money.

As time went on the Tabernacle was enlarged more people were coming to Camp Meeting. The Dormitory rooms that housed the students were used by

the Camp Meeting, not many tents were needed and the crude buildings were torn down, making the Camp Ground look better, in fact it became a beautiful Campus.

Each morning Rev. Ray Smith came through the ground during Camp Meeting ringing a bell and praising the Lord calling, 'Arise and shine for the Lord'. Soon all were gathered at the Tabernacle for the morning Heater.

Another feature was six P. M. Ring service with Rev. Clem as leader, what a time they had, shouting testifying and singing with Bro. Clem, playing his Guitar in his unique enthusiastic way.

After the ring meetings the evening services began with some of the best song leaders in the country, and well known Evangelists. Our own Rev. Clarence Jester, Bud Robison, Seth Reese, Dr Goodwin P. F. Elliot (Senior) and many others.

In it was decided a new more up to date Tabernacle was needed, the old one had many leaks in its roof and the old boards were decaying. A new generation was coming on, and modern facilities were needed.

Thanks to the many who sacrificed and labored to start the first Camp Meeting and school, their efforts no doubt have been felt around the world, by the missionaries and ministers that have gone out to proclaim the wonderful plan of Salvation

To day we have a beautiful concrete Tabernacle with modern equipment, several beautiful buildings, thirty five acres of land, many shade trees, a great opportunity for this generation and all are paid for. Praise God from whom all blessing flow.

Verna E Shepherd. March 1975.