

More and More Thousands Attending Religious Retreats

By GEORGE W. CORNELL
NEW YORK (AP) — In the quiet places of the land, a search is being made today for God.

It will go on all summer, and hundreds of thousands of Americans will take part.

"They'll look for him in the clouds, and listen for His voice on the wind. They'll hunt His handiwork on the face of the hills, in the splash of waterfalls and in the silent stars.

All over the country, at hundreds of Bible camps and religious retreats, youngsters and grown-ups are gathering for various intervals to seek spiritual refreshment.

The annual succession of these outings of worship and relaxation began last month. Church leaders say more people than ever are participating.

"There is a steady trend upward in attendance and in the number of church camps," a United Lutheran Church spokesman said.

"The camps have become a terrific religious educational program, and are growing from year to year," a Methodist Church official said.

"The program is expanding greatly," said a Roman Catholic Church spokesman. Similar reports come from other denominations.

There are dozens of religious camps in nearly every state, at such places as:

Camp Mariastella, Wrightwood, Calif.; Mount Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Ark.; Camp Luther Ridge, Arden, N. C.; Mt. Wesley Encampment, Kerrville, Tex.; Star of the Sea, Lake Springfield, Ill.; Camp Nawakwa, Biglersville, Pa.; Camp Yaliwa, Seven Oaks, Calif.; Lakeside, near Sandusky, Ohio; Camp Waupaka, Pine Lake, Wis., and Ocean Grove, N. J.

For periods of a few days, a week or several weeks, people leave their work, their routine and their brick-walled churches to find new sanctuaries in nature in these and other retreats.

The aim is to get a clearer perspective of what is important, to gain a closer union with what is real and eternal beyond the clutter and pressure of modern living.

Many of the camps are operated and owned by the various denominations. Others are leased for intervals by churches or church groups.

Some have been extensively developed, with dining rooms, cen-

tral buildings and well-built sleeping quarters. Others have the barest facilities — a few huts or even tents.

There are sessions for adults, young people, couples and mixed groups.

Numerous expeditions are run by such groups as the Catholic Youth Organization, Christian Endeavor, the Luther League, Baptist Training Union, and other church brotherhoods, sisterhoods and societies.

Programs vary. At the young people's camps, outdoor recreation is blended with devotions and Bible study. There are counselor-teachers on hand.

At some adult retreats, there is more emphasis on the secluded atmosphere, on keeping out distractions, on quiet discussions and private meditation in the outdoors.

But there also are speakers, usually outstanding ministers brought in to lead discussions and bring daily messages to the campers.

Most of the pilgrimages are denominational. Others are inter-denominational.

An unusual series — called "Christian ashrams" — will be attended this summer by about 1,400 Christians in groups of 200 at camps in Oregon, Virginia, Wisconsin, New York, Texas, California and Ontario.

The schedule, at these retreats will be a daily morning period of corporate silence, devotional service, Bible reading, an hour of manual labor, informal discussions in

the open, a walk or rest, and evening vesper.

The idea of the "ashrams," borrowed from the Hindus of India and adapted to Christianity in this country, is to seek closer touch with God through spiritual repose, prayer, meditation and unhurried talk.

"They are open to all who seek a closer walk with God and who desire to break new trails in Christian dedication," said Dr. H. H. McConnell, field secretary of the National Council of Churches, which sponsors the "ashram" outings.

"They are international inter-denominational and interracial, and their only center is Christ," he said.

As in years past, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, former missionary to India who introduced "ashrams" to this country, will deliver daily messages at the camps. Twenty-five other Christian leaders from this country and abroad will aid in guiding the devotions.

But in these, as in the other journeys into the quiet places, it is not from the speakers or the preachers that the most stirring teachings are supposed to come — but from eloquent nature itself.

In the mountain refuges, on the lakesides, in the wooded valleys and along the murmuring streams, the search for God is pursued in a way set down long ago:

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul."

Marines Training Gets the Bird

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — So it's the tough U.S. Marine Corps, eh? And the tough U.S. Navy.

A mother robin built her nest in the boom of a huge crane used by the Marine and Naval Reserve Training Center at Kalamazoo.

Major C. E. Westbrook found it. He posted Cpl. Harold E. MacMillan as a temporary guard. Then

U.N. Disputes Under Attack

TOKYO (AP) — Delegates from five nations excluded from the United Nations have urged that organization to admit all nations of the world. The appeal was in a resolution adopted by the Conference of Non-Members of the United Na-

tions meeting here. Delegates were present from West Germany, Cambodia, Ceylon, South Korea and Japan.

The resolution said that since the U.N. was founded 20 nations have been turned down for membership because of "disputes among member nations" and said this was in violation of the charter.

Dan Cupid Divides Pals

PERU, Neb. (AP) — Oren Argabright, 21, and Ben Duerfeldt, 21, started their education together at a country school where both made the county honor roll and went on to high school where they topped their class scholastically.

They graduated together at Peru State Teachers college with highest academic honors in the class.

Now both are going to college teaching jobs in Kansas, but their ways are separating. Argabright plans to be married. Duerfeldt says he'll stick to bachelorhood for a while.

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