

National AOTS Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 4 November, 1979.



Merry Christmas



And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8.

"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Mat. 2:2.



And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

"I am among you as one that serves." Luke 22:27.

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 27-29, 1979 - North American Conference of Men's Work Secretaries, Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee. Theme: "Christianity in Real Life".
- Dec. 8, 1979 - Meeting of Erie Presbytery Men, Brantford, Ontario. Speaker: Alan Staig, Division of Mission in Canada.
- January 7, 1980 - Deadline for mailing material for the February, 1980, issue of the National AOTS Newsletter.
- March 2, 1980 - Toronto Conference Junior Choir Festival, sponsored by Toronto Conference AOTS Council.
- April 25-27, 1980 - 26th Ontario AOTS Round-Up, Geneva Park Centre. Planning by Manitou Conference; Chairman - Ned Brownlee, North Bay, Ontario. Theme: "AOTS in the 80's"
- May 30 - June 1, 1980 - Muskoka Men's Conference, first weekend, men only.
- June 13-15, 1980 - Muskoka Men's Conference, second weekend, ladies invited. Planning Chairman - Dr. Jim Guest, London, Ontario.
- June 6-8, 1980 - Festival of Faith for Men, Maritimes Conference United Church Men. Chairman - David Miles; Secretary - Norman Wright, Wentworth U.C.
- August 21-23, 1981 - 12th Biennial Convention of the National Association of UC AOTS Men's Clubs, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta. Planning Chairman - Dr. Fred Holberton, Calgary.
- ???????, 1983 - 13th Biennial Convention. The decision has been made to hold this meeting in 1983. Offers to serve as host should be sent to the National Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

Please note the following changes in the National Council:

- The appointment of W. Jack Banks, Toronto, Ontario, as Member-at-Large.
- The resignation of Clare Boyd, Mitchell, Ontario, as Chairman of the National Constitution Committee.

Jack Banks has been active in AOTS for many years. He is a Life Member, was editor of The Bridge Builder, the AOTS publication which ran from February, 1959, to November, 1972 (to be succeeded by Combo, a joint publication for lay men and women), and he wrote the AOTS history entitled "As One That Serves - The First Half Century" published in 1974.

Clare Boyd has served in several positions on the National Council including that of Treasurer and several terms as Chairman of the Constitution Committee, the latter dating from 1972 when, with the demise of the Board of Men, a revision of the constitution became necessary. His resignation was accepted with regret and with appreciation for his long and capable service on the Council.

We report with regret that two fall events were not held this year:

- The Toronto Conference 10th Annual AOTS Fall Rally, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 4th, at Westminster U.C. in Orangeville, was cancelled due to insufficient advance registration. An excellent program featuring discussion of several important social issues had been arranged.
- The Hamilton Conference "Make It Happen", an annual fall rally for United Church and AOTS men normally held on the first Saturday in November, alas, did not "happen". Planning was not started soon enough to make it possible to hold the meeting.

As we begin this newsletter, which for me is No. 1, having now taken over this responsibility from Executive Secretary Al Smith, I freely admit to a feeling of some concern and trepidation. Al has done such a fine job for us that I see him as "a hard act to follow". However, we must do so, so let's get on with it. As Walter Winchell used to say in his weekly Sunday evening radio newscast of many years ago, following his opening "Good evening Mr. and Mrs. America and ships at sea": "Let's go to press".

Perhaps the most important recent event was the visit of Executive Secretary Al Smith with Alan Staig, Division of Mission in Canada, to the Maritimes and Newfoundland Conferences, September 11th to October 5th. Such visits are an important function of the National Association and there have been many over the years. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, National President Murray McPherson will be visiting the London, Bay of Quinte, and Manitou Conferences this month and early December.

Their reports follow. First, from Al Smith:

"In September and early October I had the privilege and pleasure to visit many parts of the Maritimes and Newfoundland. It included attendance at the Stanhope Men's Conference in P.E.I. and the Loon Bay Camp Fellowship Weekend in Newfoundland plus many meetings with various-sized groups of men. Al Staig, Associate Secretary, DMC, was also at Stanhope and Loon Bay. We joined forces for part of the time in between the two conferences.

I don't wish to bore you with a diary report of the trip but to give some highlights and impressions.

Included in the highlights was the very great pleasure I had in presenting two National AOTS Life Membership plaques in recognition of outstanding leadership, "As One That Serves". One went to Allison MacKinnon at the Stanhope Conference, the other to Cyril Locke at Loon Bay.

One of the comments I heard most frequently was that men's work was at its best when Allison MacKinnon was active in getting around visiting and encouraging. In Newfoundland I found evidence of growth and strengthening of AOTS work there as Cyril Locke, Newfoundland Conference AOTS President, moves about visiting and encouraging. Part of the purpose of my visit was to give support to men like Cyril Locke and to help fill some of the gap left with no one doing the work that Allison MacKinnon was doing.

My 8 days in Newfoundland were planned, guided and shared with Cyril Locke. Besides the Loon Bay Conference with 100 men present, there were 8 other meetings involving 125 men from 21 churches plus an evening church service at Twillingate.

My activity in the Maritimes, besides the Stanhope Conference with 80 men present, included 9 meetings involving 75 men from 19 churches. As well I had the opportunity to speak to Sidney Presbytery, visit ACTC, meet with the Conference staff and preach at two of the three services in Petite Riviere Charge on September 30th.

Most of the meetings involved men from non-affiliated clubs and men from churches interested in organizing or reorganizing an AOTS club.

I sensed a lack of understanding but an interest in what AOTS is all about. There was keen interest in the literature I had with me. There seems to be a need for leadership training and guidance, plus a great need for communication, particularly the personal visitation type. There is a lack of knowledge about what is happening in neighbouring churches due to lack of district councils and presbytery or area men's get-togethers.

I do wish to express my thanks for the hospitality and fellowship I received in all areas including the opportunity to partake and enjoy some specifically Newfoundland food for the first time. My thanks to all those involved in the organizing, fellowship and success of the visit, especially Cyril Locke and Malcolm MacDonald. I learned much. I hope that I was able to contribute something of value. Let us strive to enlarge and strengthen our AOTS fellowship in Jesus Christ. Thank you."

And from Alan Staig:

"ISLANDS ARE SPECIAL PLACES

'When sun rays crown thy pine clad hills
And summer spreads her hand,
When silver voices tune thy rills
We love thee, smiling land.'

A hundred voices singing with the enthusiasm that is unique to the men of Newfoundland signalled the beginning, measured the progress and marked the end of the September Fellowship Rally of the Central Newfoundland AOTS Clubs in Loon Bay. Singing became a thread through the weekend that reinforced the theme addresses of Dr. A. S. Butt on 'This One Thing I Do'.

A week earlier, Al Smith and I were privileged to be a part of the Stanhope Men's Conference at Camp Abegweit, Prince Edward Island. In these two island provinces, meeting, singing and worshipping within a few feet of the ocean, we encountered two delightful and yet distinctive kinds of men --- distinctive because Newfoundlanders are unique and Prince Edward Islanders are unique --- both enthusiastic and effective in their own way in their ministry and their witness to Jesus Christ.

As a couple of visitors from Upper Canada, we were not only welcomed and made to feel at home, but were lifted up and strengthened in our faith by our contact and fellowship with the Islanders.

Yes, Islands are special places; they are breathtakingly beautiful, they respond to and are part of the sea that surrounds them, and they catch in their people a security, a joy and a drive that are in sharp focus.

Thanks, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, for having us and giving such vivid expression to the strength of the Christian Faith in your own special parts of Canada."

National Past President Dave Murphy (1977), of Charlottetown, P.E.I., reports further on the Stanhope Conference, as follows (in part):

"The 24th Annual Stanhope Men's Conference was held at Abegweit Camp with upwards of 100 men in attendance.

The guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Robert Mueller from Orangedale, Cape Breton, addressed his remarks to the theme 'Reproductive Discipleship'. He emphasized the need to 'become like' Jesus Christ rather than to adhere to a set of rules or doctrines. He said this is why Christ was so critical of the Pharisees. He suggested that many well-meaning church members today fall victim to this type of thinking, which often does not involve empathy or concern."

Life Memberships

Further to Al Smith's reference to this and of the awards to Allison MacKinnon, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., and Cyril Locke, of Springdale, Newfoundland, there are four other Life Membership awards to report:

- Ken Lane, Oakville, Ontario, National President 1975-77, and
- Dr. Bill Hastings, Vancouver, B. C., National President 1973-75, and currently our Archivist, both presented at the recent Toronto convention.
- Stan Farrow, Scarborough, Ontario, well known as a pianist at AOTS conventions and round-ups, and as author and composer of the AOTS songs "Reach Out" (1963) and "Nothing Fancy" (1979), presented on November 5th at the annual Ladies Nite of the Wilmar Heights U.C. AOTS Men's Club, Scarborough.
- Jack Cleave, Sarnia, Ontario, National President 1969-71, and currently Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, to be presented at the November 16th meeting of the Victoria Avenue U.C. AOTS Men's Club, Chatham, Ontario.

CLUB NEWS

We have asked you to keep us informed of your activities and you have indeed: 17 of about 130 clubs reporting one way or another, by personal letter, newsletter, and press clippings. Not exactly a flood but certainly ample. The following are some items which caught our eye and which we think will be of interest to others (the bracketed figure after the club name is the charter number, an approximate indication of the club's age). If you wish details don't hesitate to contact the club in question. A letter c/o their church should do it.

British Columbia Conference, 5 clubs reporting.

Duncan U.C., Duncan (016), sent us the AOTS section of the church newsletter. It reports on the AOTS contribution to the annual Fun Fair held on a local farm in June, an event for the whole congregation dating from 1954. Activities in October included a Pancake Brunch, catering "in their usual grand style" for the annual UCW Thankoffering Dinner, Laity Sunday with AOTS taking two services, and a father-son-daughter dinner that drew 72 and heard Rev. Lloyd Hooper at his humorous best. The annual Variety Concert is scheduled for Nov. 21st. The Club sent two girls to the B.C. Youth Parliament, donated \$235 to local charities, and plans to sell a whopping 3200 boxes of nuts in the annual nut drive.

Centennial U.C., Victoria (362), a garden tea in August: "Trolley Tea", featuring an exhibit of scale models of Victoria's early stree-cars made by member Gordon Hatch, netting \$233.

Fairfield U.C., Victoria (685), two issues of an interesting two-page newsletter, reporting an attendance of 49 (!) at the opening meeting in September and announcing, as fund-raising projects, the annual nut sale and annual pre-Cristmas "Social", a tea, Dec. 1st.

Gordon U.C., Victoria (757), an attractive newsletter, reporting a good start with meetings in September and October and announcing several fund-raising projects: nut/card (?) sale, choir concert, and fence project (?). The Club has planned a ladies night and will be supporting the Youth Parliament.

Oak Bay U.C., Victoria (404), another fine newsletter: \$100 donated to Sigma C boys, two \$300 bursaries created for student candidates for the ministry, and a donation to the purchase of a washer and dryer for the west coast mission boat Thomas Crosby V (Other Vancouver Island clubs have donated to this also. However, Fairfield reported later that there was not enough room on board to accommodate the washer and dryer (!!)) and so the money will be put to another use.). Coming events include a hobby show, Nov. 3-4, and the annual sale of nuts, Dec. 3rd.

B.C. Conference clubs reported the passing of several members: at Centennial - Roland Appleby, for many years a member of AOTS; at Fairfield - Albert Brooker, also a long-time member of AOTS, in his 91st year, and Eric Bloomquist; and at Oak Bay - Wilf Rae, Art Martinson, Vern Officer, Fred Vaughan, Bob Milne, and George Duncan.

Manitoba Conference, 1 club reporting.

Knox U.C., Winnipeg (195), a letter from Frank Lewis reporting that paid-up members will now be given an attractive formal membership certificate (designed by Frank), as well as the membership card, and recommending that it be framed and hung on, say, the office wall, to give membership more meaning and to let others know about AOTS.

Saskatchewan Conference, 1 club reporting.

St. Andrew's U.C., Moose Jaw (158), a fine newsletter called "The Menu", September and October issues received. Fund-raising projects include an October rag drive, Chuckwagon Dinner and Bake Sale, Nov. 3rd, the annual nut drive, and the sale of Canada Sav-

ings Bonds, as sub-agents of Richardson Securities. The Club also sponsors two teams in the Church Hockey League and plans to send 16(!) men to the annual Banff Conference, October 12-14. The second letter contains a detailed financial statement (keeping members informed) which reports a paid-up membership of 46(!) and a balance of \$2340(!), a couple of good targets for the rest of us. The Club is also re-introducing what was their practice for many years, namely, every member on a committee (when I first became a member of AOTS, in 1953 when the St. Andrew's, Rossland, club was formed, the message given us by the late Dr. Stuart Daly of the sponsoring East Trail U.C. club, as the key to success, was: "Every member on a committee, and every committee active!" --- sound advice for AOTS).

Bay of Quinte Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

George Street U.C., Peterborough (390), a newsletter, giving notice of the district fall rally to be held Oct. 27th at George Street U.C., and announcing that the Club will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Nov. 28th. The latter features a special program, with Rev. Bob Rumble, Evangelical Church of the Deaf, Toronto, as guest speaker. The sale of Christmas nuts begins in October.

Holloway Street U.C., Belleville (353), president Carl Wannamaker writes that they will be hosting a visit by two other AOTS clubs of the Conference at the October 15th meeting. He reports a donation of \$1075 to their church last year, a fine effort for a club of 20 members.

London Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

Victoria Avenue U.C. Chatham (188), known in Ontario as a very active group and becoming perennial winners of the attendance trophy at the annual AOTS spring round-ups at Geneva Park. Their newsletter reports on their part in the International Plowing Match held in Chatham this fall and announces the annual nut sale. A monthly breakfast meeting is part of their program, on a Sunday at 7:30 AM. However, it seems that a crisis has developed with the resignation of the Dishwater Co-ordinator. The alternatives now being considered are disposable dishes or an earlier start, at 7 AM(!). A special film entitled "Sex in Sweden" was announced for the October meeting but later cancelled without explanation (?).

Thamesview U.C., Fullarton (114), press clippings report the presentation of an AOTS trophy to the winner of a local boys and girls softball league. The Club took the evening service on Laity Sunday, Oct. 21st.

Hamilton Conference, 1 club reporting.

St. Paul's U.C., Oakville (103), word of a September member-wife evening picnic meeting at Bronte Provincial Park, 54 people enjoying a feast of hamburgers and fresh corn, and \$610 realized in sales of toys, handicraft items, and AOTS nuts in the annual church bazaar, Nov. 3rd.

Toronto Conference, 3 clubs reporting.

Bellefair U.C., Toronto (558), a fine newsletter by president Harry Wolfraim reporting that the men are taking the service on Laity Sunday, and that they will be selling syrup and books at the annual church bazaar, Nov. 3rd. A visit is planned to the Fred Victor Mission, in Toronto, to entertain the men there.

Wilmar Heights U.C., Scarborough (090), several club meeting notices from president Sid Bagnall (also director of the famed Scarborough AOTS Glee Club), prepared by someone with a lot of talent as a cartoonist, the latest telling of the "AOTS knight who has asked his maiden to Ladies Nite", Nov. 5th.

Don Mills U.C., Toronto (784), a new club, to celebrate their first anniversary Jan. 21. Took the laity service Oct. 21st, and to take the evening service on Nov. 18th, the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the church. Clarence Cloke is president.

Maritimes Conference, 1 club reporting.

Wilson U.C., Margaree Centre, Cape Breton (414), a financial statement reporting on a highly profitable June sale of banana splits and hot dogs, netting \$315.

Newfoundland Conference, 1 club reporting.

Botwood U.C., Botwood (023), a letter reporting on the 24th Men's Fellowship Rally held at Loon Bay Camp, Sept. 21-23, and the message brought by Dr. Butt (see Smith-Staig reports, page 3-4), the theme speaker. An offering of \$102 was given to the improvement of the Camp and one of \$257 to the Special Refugee Fund of the United Church.

Thus endeth the Club News. Please keep your newsletters, etc., coming (to Executive Secretary Al Smith, #602-70 Baif Blvd., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 5L2); we want to hear from you. And if there is a message that you particularly wish to have reported, such as an unusually successful program or project, or an important statement by a speaker, please so indicate and make sure the information is accurate and complete.

A sad note in the mail was word that Mr. E. F. Rea of Ryerson U.C., Vancouver, had died, on April 28, 1979, at age 91. Earnie Rea had been a member of the Ryerson club since about 1925. As you know, it was at Ryerson, in January 1923, that the AOTS movement began. In 1978, after 55 years of service, this club became inactive when, following a decline in membership, the remaining members felt they could no longer continue.

DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE COUNCILS

Further news comes by way of the district and conference councils, by letter and by minutes of meetings.

Vancouver Island D.C., minutes of July 20th, 35(!) club representatives attending. See encouraging signs that clubs may form at First U.C., Victoria, and in Sidney.

Regina D.C., minutes of Sept. 4th, 9 attending, and letter of Oct. 2nd from Conference President Ray Silzer. Acting on a suggestion by Harold Helgason the Council has begun a visitation program to shut-ins in hospitals, senior citizen homes, rehabilitation centres, jails, etc. About 20 men from 6 Regina clubs are involved. Each man is assigned one visiting day a month and he chooses where he wishes to make his calls. To illustrate the importance of such a program Ray described Alex Hay's recent experience:

It was Alex' day to visit and returning home from work he was thinking what he might do --- whom he might call on, should he check the hospital, or should he stay in his own neighbourhood. An answer came soon. The brother of his retired neighbour, Bill Read, approached him, concerned that Bill had not been seen that day; the house was locked and something was definitely wrong. So Alex got a tire wrench and together they broke into the house. There, at the foot of the bed and entangled in bed clothes was Bill Read, so weak that only his eyes were moving. In short order an ambulance was called and Bill was on his way to the hospital, soon to recover from his unusual accident.

In Ray's opinion there is no question that Alex Hay was instrumental in saving a life. Interestingly, there is more to the story. Shortly before Bill was off to the hospital the daughter of another neighbour came up to report that her mother, in attempting to come and help, had fallen and broken her wrist!

The moral, says Ray: "You don't have to look far to get involved."

Manitoba D.C., via National President Murray McPherson, Oct. 23rd. Recognition was given to 29 years of service by men of the Winnipeg clubs in wheeling hospital patients to in-house church services then back to their rooms. Each Sunday about 12 men perform

this service. The recognition came in the form of a breakfast, on Sept. 23rd, chaired by Rev. John Dyck, pastor at the municipal hospitals of Winnipeg. Murray reports further that this council, under the leadership of Frank Lewis, "is really rolling". Thus, Conference President Clare Bailey has been busy talking up new groups with the result that two new clubs are getting organized. And there is hope that men's clubs at Trinity U.C., Fort Garry, and St. Stephen's U.C., Winnipeg, may soon affiliate with AOTS.

Manitou C.C., by letter of Sept. 30th from President Jack Thompson, reporting that he has scheduled a visit for National President Murray McPherson to Manitou, Nov. 30th to Dec. 6th. There are to be separate meetings with the five clubs of Manitou as well as contacts with five pastoral charges where some interest in AOTS has been expressed:

<u>Date</u>			<u>Church</u>	<u>Community</u>
Friday	Nov. 30	Evening		Levack
Saturday	Dec. 1	Morning	St. Luke's U.C.	Sudbury
		Evening	Trinity U.C.	North Bay
Sunday	Dec. 2	Morning	Chalmers U.C.*	South River
		Evening		Loring
Monday	Dec. 3			Haileybury
Tuesday	Dec. 4		St. Paul's U.C.**	Cochrane
Wednesday	Dec. 5		Kapuskasing U.C.	Kapuskasing
Thursday	Dec. 6		South Porcupine U.C.	South Porcupine

*A group from Sundridge will also attend this meeting.

**A club was active here but is now dormant.

A meeting tentatively arranged at Larder Lake has been deferred until next spring.

It looks like a busy but very interesting week for Murray. And it is encouraging that there is so much interest in AOTS in Manitou Conference.

Just to fill you in a bit more on Murray's activities he is planning to visit other Ontario clubs in London, Chatham, and Belleville, on Nov. 15, 16, and 17, respectively. At the same time, earlier in the day on the 17th, in Toronto, he is to chair a meeting of National Association's Executive Committee.

And to show that he has not been idle in the meantime he reports the following visits in a recent letter to Al Smith:

Sept. 26th - to Calgary to visit the Hillhurst club and to participate in a planning meeting for the 1981 biennial convention.

Oct. 11th - invited to speak to a meeting of 40 members of the St. James Assiniboia Ministerial Association on "How to involve lay men". He found the experience interesting and very encouraging inasmuch as the Association wishes to continue the dialogue.

Oct. 12th to 14th - attended the 21st Manitoba Laity Retreat (formerly the Minaki Conference) and heard Dr. Bruce Miles of First Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, whose messages he described as "top flight" and his choice as speaker as "a real coup".

MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

National Spiritual Life Committee Chairman: Reg Atwell, Lantzville, B. C.

"When the National Council met in July, one of the recommendations was that a Spiritual Life Committee be established. This was agreed, and a Chairman was elected and installed at the Convention.

A unique characteristic of our organization is that we are 'Christ Centred'. In order to help us with our Spiritual Growth it is important to include a Devotional as part of each club meeting. This will strengthen your club, as well as be of benefit to each

member individually. If you are missing out on the Devotional at your meetings --- speak up and urge your Executive to include this period in all your future meetings.

To help with your individual spiritual growth this committee will, from time to time, suggest books to read. We hope, also, that the committee will be advised of titles of books you have enjoyed and found to be helpful, so that these can be published in our Newsletter.

A book I have used for Club Devotionals, as well as for my own meditations, is 'For This Day', written by J. B. Phillips. It contains 365 Meditations, and I recommend it to you.

Nominations and elections for 1980 Club Officers will be held soon --- be sure to include a Spiritual Life Chairman in the slate for your Club."

National Youth Committee Chairman: J. W. Sefton, Unionville, Ontario.

"The 1979 Biennial Convention has come and gone, so with renewed enthusiasm and determination we look forward to the next two years.

As Chairman of the National Youth Committee, I would like to report on the results of the D. R. Poole Memorial Award Competition.

The National winner was Victoria Avenue UC AOTS MC of Chatham, Ontario, London Conference.

Conference awards went to the following:

Bay of Quinte	George Street UC AOTS MC	Peterborough, Ont.
Manitou	St. Luke's UC AOTS MC	Sudbury, Ont.
Alberta	St. Andrew's UC AOTS MC	Edmonton, Alta.
Newfoundland	Trinity UC AOTS MC	Botwood, Nfld.
Toronto	Wilmar Heights UC AOTS MC	Scarborough, Ont.
Manitoba	St. James UC AOTS MC	Winnipeg, Man.
Hamilton	St. Paul's UC AOTS MC	Oakville, Ont.
British Columbia	Oak Bay UC AOTS MC	Victoria, B. C.

As I congratulate each and everyone of you on the support you have given to Youth Work, I would remind you that this year, 1979, is the International Year of the Child. The National AOTS Council and the National AOTS Youth Committee recommends and urges every club, if they are not already doing so, to sponsor at least one foster child somewhere in the world. It goes without saying that we in this great fellowship of AOTS from coast to coast and in Bermuda should make every year a year of interest and concern for the boys and girls in this, God's, world.

Please let us know what your club is doing in this effort. You can send it to the National AOTS Office or to me --- J. W. Sefton, 4 Hughson Dr., Box 5, R.R.#1, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2T4.

My closing word goes to the Individual Members of AOTS who are not active in a club. You do not need to be left out. You too can be active in support of our youth. You too can participate in sponsoring a Foster Child.

I expect to be vacationing in the Maritimes next summer and would appreciate the opportunity to see some of our AOTS men."

National Program Committee Chairman: Don G. Smith, Mississauga, Ontario.

"Your National Program Committee has started to work and hopes to provide Clubs and Individual Members with solid ideas and support for group meetings and personal study/action programs.

You can help us by:

1. Designating your Club Program Chairman as a contact and liaison person for our National Program Committee.

2. Sending us details of your program plans for the next six months.
3. Telling us what has been your most successful program during the past year. Also, why did it work so well?
4. Telling us your main difficulties in arranging top-notch programs and meetings.
5. What specific help would you like from your National Program Committee?

If you are an Individual Member of the National Association please drop us a note and let us know how we can be of service to you. What are the issues in your church or society, what are the most pressing needs in your own life, which concern you deeply and for which suggestions for personal study and involvement might be helpful?

We are intent on developing an effective audio-visual presentation about AOTS. Your suggestions concerning content and usage would be helpful. If you have good colour slides of significant activities in your Club, Church, District or sound tapes of your programs and projects send them along on loan to us. We'll review them, copy what we can use and return your originals to you. We are most concerned that any visual presentation represent AOTS in action in all areas of Canada and that there be a strong local flavour. We have some good shots of Round-Ups and Biennial Conventions but we need more depicting local Clubs and members in action.

We are reviewing the old Programs with a Purpose kits and Ten One-Shot Programs series. These resources are still available in limited quantities. We hope to develop a new up-to-date Program Resource Kit for AOTS in the next few months. But we do need to hear from you in order to have a genuine grasp on your interests and needs.

Send program information, ideas and suggestions to Don G. Smith, Chairman, National Program Committee AOTS, 1676 Wedmore Way, Mississauga, Ontario, L5J 2J8. All communications will be promptly handled and answered."

One item we receive in the mail is Women's Concerns Newsletter, an interesting monthly edited by Marion Logan, Ministry with Adults (Women), Division of Mission in Canada. It deals with women's rights, the role of women in the church and society, and all the various questions we associate with the feminist movement. Here are a couple of quotes for you to ponder taken from the September, 1979, issue.

From an article entitled "Following the Spirit's Call", by Rev. Elizabeth Eberthart-Moffat, Alliston, Ontario:

"Recently I was struck by the truth of an observation shared by Barbara Zikmund, professor of church history at Chicago Theological Seminary in her address to a seminar sponsored by the Movement for Christian Feminism. In observing the history of the church, she was able to recognize that the opportunities for women to share their gifts in an atmosphere of corporate acceptance have been precisely at those times when the church has focused its interest upon the doctrine of the Holy Spirit rather than tradition and biblical authority.

For those people who accept the third person of the Trinity as God's feminine incarnation, as I do, perhaps this kind of sisterly assistance by the Holy Spirit is obvious. In my own shared experiences with women and the church there are many good examples of the truth of this phenomenon."

And now from "How the women's movement is changing the church", by Barbara Brown Zikmund, the talk that is referred to above:

"Historically, every time the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been in vogue, the opportunity for women to give of their gifts has increased. I think it is no accident that there is a correlation between the women's movement and the charismatic movement. The major reason that women have been limited in their church participation and their church leadership is often the patriarchal tradition and

the authority of the Bible. Any time there is an emphasis on the direct accessibility of the Holy Spirit, intruding into lives at any time or any place, then women can claim authority that is not dependent on someone giving it to them, or on finding it in tradition or in the Bible.

Our theologies of the head have belittled and excluded female experience in favor of male thinking and male creeds and male biblical scholarship. But when feminine values have been appreciated, the authority of the Holy Spirit has been pursued as authenticating non-traditional faith and practice."

Would you like to let us have your views on this?

I suppose there is an art to writing effective headlines. One I liked and have never forgotten appeared in (Alcohol and Drug) Concerns of September, 1977, at the time the government was taking action to control a well-known sweetener that had been demonstrated to cause "some" cancer in "some" rats":

"ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND SACCHARIN --- GUESS WHERE WE GET TOUGH?"

AOTS has an archivist in the person of Dr. Bill Hastings of Vancouver. It is his job to gather up our past records, to sort and cull them, and to preserve what best tells the AOTS story and are worth keeping --- not an easy task by any means, but an interesting one, and one that becomes more urgent and important as the years slip by. He has this message for us:

"Here is one more request for archival material. I know you have it! Root it up; parcel it up, and mail it to me at 803 Younette Drive, West Vancouver, B. C. V7T 1T1. So it will cost you a buck or two! don't you want to be part of history?"

That's laying it on the line for us.

Bill adds that he was given a package of material at the recent Toronto convention. It contained correspondence, newsletters back to 1958, papers and pictures from the 4th National Convention in Saskatoon, even George Emery's 1924 receipt, for \$1.00, for membership in the Ryerson club --- which is about as far back in AOTS history as one can go.

Bill loaned us a copy of the President's (then David Sherwood) Letter of October 1958. It reports on the 4th National Convention of the "National Association of AOTS Clubs" (a department of the Board of Men) held on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan. The theme speaker was Rev. Bob McLaren (so well remembered for his work at Naramata) and there were messages from D. R. Poole, who was now Honorary President, and from his successor to the position of Executive Secretary, Phil Spence. This was the occasion when AOTS voted to join with other men's clubs in the church in a unified program of men's work under a new organization to be known as the National Council of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs. The history of AOTS in its present form dates from this convention.

Very interesting to see this and be reminded of that important event.

"The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys."

Fairfield AOTS Newsletter, Nov-Dec, 1979.

A brief word about the Harry Colnett Memorial Fund. As you know, the purpose of this Fund is to support an annual award of \$500 to a senior student in a Canadian university for studies in international agriculture, to assist in food production in a developing country. It is in memory of Harry Colnett, a past AOTS Conference President in British Columbia and Toronto, who died at the 9th Biennial Convention in Ottawa where the idea for such an award was conceived. The Fund now stands at just under \$9000. National President Murray McPherson advises that nominations for the 1979-80 award will close on December 15th and that a winner is expected to be named by about January 31st.

Advertising: "The science of arresting human intelligence long enough to extract money from it."
Stephen Leacock

November, 1979, marks an important anniversary in the United Church, namely, 150 years of continuous publication of our church paper, the Observer. It began as The Christian Guardian, on November 21, 1829. The editor was 29-year-old Rev. Egerton Ryerson of Toronto and the printing was done on a small press that was purchased in New York City and transported by boat to Toronto. With church union in 1925 it became The New Outlook, by merger with the Presbyterian Witness and Canadian Congregationalist, and in 1939 the name was changed to The United Church Observer. For many years the circulation was relatively small and it was read mainly by the "in" people of the congregation --- the elders, stewards, teachers, etc. This changed abruptly, beginning about 1953, with introduction of the Every Family Plan, the circulation rising rapidly from ~ 50,000 to the current ~ 312,000. It is produced by a small editorial staff of about six people, under a Board of Directors appointed by the executive committee of General Council. The present Board chairman is Rev. Angus J. MacQueen.

We of AOTS and the United Church are very fortunate to have, in the Observer, such a fine paper, excelling as it does in so many departments: articles, editorials, letters, quotes and comments, and others. It not only helps to keep us informed and together but it stirs us up, as it should, by dealing with a wide range of often controversial social, political and religious questions. It meets an important need for what Interim Editor Patricia Clarke describes very nicely as "a place for dialogue and debate, for Christians of equal devotion can and do disagree about almost everything, and if we cannot agree we can at least understand". Soon the Observer will have a new editor, succeeding the late Rev. A. C. Forrest, who served from 1955 until his death in December 1978. Much of the Observer's success can be credited to him. The Question Box, now missing from its pages, was his and it was undoubtedly a favourite with a great many readers. Perhaps it will return. In any case, we look forward to many more years of stimulating, thoughtful and entertaining reading in The United Church Observer.

Happy 150th anniversary!

"A soul losing its body is not sundered from a body losing its soul, rather the one, whole man who is soul of his body and body of his soul (but in death only was!) stands on a boundary beyond which he will be given no time and over which he has neither the physical nor spiritual capacity to pass."
Karl Barth

Any questions?

From the Observer, March, 1973.

Rundle's Mission --- what is it?

It is a National Historic Site marking the first permanent location selected for Christian worship in Alberta, and the first agricultural mission to the Indians. It is also a centre for Christian group activity: training, seminars, renewal, study, and worship, supported by and for the use of all presbyteries of Alberta Conference of the U. C.

The story of Rundle's Mission is given in The Rundle Journals, a volume compiled by Dr. Hutchinson, a retired U.C. minister. It is the story of Robert Rundle, Wesleyan Missionary, who departed England in 1840 to serve eight years in Canada, and to establish on Pigeon Lake (~ 50 miles south-west of Edmonton), in 1847, a mission to the Indians. Today there is a small lodge on the site, erected in 1960, and a campaign is now under way to expand the centre by constructing several residences. This campaign, which began on June 1, 1979, is being spearheaded by the Wetaskiwin AOTS Club. The Club made a direct donation of \$2500 and has undertaken to canvas the province in support of the building fund. Campaign chairman is Rod Allen.

If you would like to support this fine project send your donation to: Building Fund of Rundle's Mission, 6724-99 Street, Edmonton, Alta. T6E 5B8. Tax receipts will be sent.

"Invest in the future --- invest in Rundle's Mission"

And as the year draws to a close and you complete your annual giving program don't forget the AOTS Second Mile Plan. Send your donation to Treasurer Bob Lewis, 1286 Landfair Crt., Oakville, Ont. L6H 2N3. Tax receipts issued.

M. M. Wright, Oakville, Ont.
November 14, 1979.