

NOTES FOR ANTICIPATED TALK IN Des Moines ON APRIL 11, 1987, ON HISTORY OF THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE. THE FIRST REGIONAL PROGRAM APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN WITH THE GRINNELL INSTITUTES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FIRST HELD AT THE COLLEGE IN 1935.

Interspersed with the institute program was the hostel for Jewish refugees on the campus of the then vacant Scattergood School near West Branch. That program, sponsored by the national office of the AFSC, operated from 1939 to 1944. Martha Balderston and Jay Newlin, among others, were central to this operation. During this same wartime period the AFSC joined in the sponsorship of a hostel for relocated Japanese-Americans in Des Moines during 1943 to 1946. (The West Branch community was not ready for Japanese-Americans due to lingering hostility toward them.) Ross Wilbur was involved with this along with John Copithorne. These items are confirmed by George Willoughby who was around Iowa during those years.

To manage the Grinnell Institute program and later the Drake Institute was Par Danforth who was in Iowa for over two years. Guy Solt, later to become a national career fund-raiser for the AFSC, was briefly an Iowa-based supporter of the institute program during its halcyon years. Guy Solt (a native of Central City, Nebraska), was a protege of Ray Newton who headed the national AFSC's ambitious new peace education program based on ten-day residential institutes (and so-called one-day conferences) with the support and advice of Harold Chance and Raymond Wilson. Later Raymond Wilson (a native of Morning Sun, Iowa) became the founder and long-time power in the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington. Harold Chance, also a native of the midwest, remained with the AFSC until his death. Later in his career Harold was the person who long and tirelessly tried to relate AFSC to the Society of Friends at large -- an heroic but often futile exercise.

According to George Willoughby, the first office of AFSC was on the Drake campus for two years after the institute was moved from Grinnell. Office space at Drake was unsatisfactory so an independent office for AFSC was rented at 918 Locust in downtown Des Moines in 1946. George Willoughby, upon his release from Civilian Public Service (CPS) in 1946, became Par Danforth's successor for AFSC. Also, Roy Clampitt, semi-retired from farming in Hardin County became a material aids volunteer at the new office on Locust Street. Roy commuted regularly to Des Moines from the family farm near New Providence. George recalls that Roy's first project was collecting buttons for overseas relief, and that the small office was often submerged in sacks and strings of thousands of donated buttons.

The AREA work of AFSC soon outgrew the office on Locust Street and a large residence building was rented at 1116 E. University in 1948. This was the office when I joined the AFSC in September 1949. The word AREA is used here because in those days there were regional offices, area offices, and branch offices as post-war AFSC sought to network its work and messages nationwide. The national board of AFSC was deciding what kinds of "franchises" to grant key areas such as California, Chicago, Des Moines, Wichita, Seattle, Portland, Boston, Columbus, New York, High Point, etc. Each area was apparently required to show it had a substantial Quaker base for governance and an adequate means for reasonable financial self-support. George Willoughby confirms my belief that two couples in Des Moines were determinative in getting regional office status conferred on the Des Moines AREA Office. They were Jay and Ruth Newlin and Ernest and Minnie Zelliot. They were, of course, joined by others such as Ross and Elizabeth Wilbur, Everett and Sylvia Davis, Lyle and Becky Tatum, Roy and Pauline Clampitt, and numerous other Quakers mostly in Iowa and members of the Conservative Yearly Meeting.

Some individual Quakers in the Oskaloosa Yearly Meeting were supportive of the AFSC and the First Friends Church in Des Moines (the only organized Friends group in the city at that time) was generally behind the move for REGIONAL status. Regional accreditation was granted in 1948 and Jay Newlin became chair of the regional committee and a member of the national board in Philadelphia, then headquartered at the famous address of **20 South 12th Street**. Others on the regional executive committee as of December 1949, were Everett Davis (pastor of the Friends Church), Cornell Hewson, Abel Moffitt, Lyle Tatum, Minnie Zelliot, Fred Nora, Donald Ogren, Elma Thompson, and Arthur Williams. The regional budget that year was \$71,000. Other names appearing in the minutes in 1949 are Mine Allen, George Lewis, Mildred Standing, Irving Smith, Merle Tjossem, and John Bailey. The staff in 1949 consisted of Willoughby, Walter McClenegan, Garnet Guild, Roy Clampitt, and Wilmer

Tjossem. Support staff people were Matilda Henderson, Bettejane Morrow, and Mary Offutt. Emil Deutch, a former resident Austrian refugee of Scattergood and regular employee of Pioneer International, was accountant and bookkeeper for the regional office. In those days there were so-called MINIMUM standards for a region: Executive secretary, peace secretary, material aids secretary, college secretary, and, finally, a finance secretary. The Des Moines Regional Office now had all its paddles in the water.

The new regional office moved quickly into the thick of the fray generated by the Korean war and the rise of McCarthyism. The former ten-day institutes of international relations gave way to week-end institutes. They were started in Cedar Rapids, Rock Island, Omaha, Lincoln, Des Moines (Hoyt Sherman Auditorium), Minneapolis, Kansas City, and northwest Iowa. Simultaneously, high school institutes in international relations were being run at the YWCA camp near Boone, Iowa. The so-called Boone camps were started in 1946 by me, at the invitation of Willoughby, while I was still a student at William Penn College. The promotion and management of those camps were later taken over by Alice Brown, a newcomer to the Des Moines Quaker and AFSC community. Among the several distinguished leaders we were able to attract to these camps, attended by about 50 to 60 teenagers annually was Theodore Sorensen, then a law student at the University of Nebraska. As most will recall, "Ted" later became chief counsel to and speechwriter for President John Kennedy.

In 1950 Clarence Pickett retired from twenty years as national executive secretary of the national AFSC. He was succeeded by Lewis Hoskins who took an active role in the affairs of the region. Cornell Hewson succeeded Jay Newlin as regional chairman. In 1951 the materials aids work ballooned because of the Korean War. Ten tons of clothing were shipped from Des Moines to the Philadelphia warehouse in 1950-51. Mary Cadwallader became a volunteer in archives work. Kermit Whitehead of New Providence became a new member of the regional committee. Bradford Lytle of Chicago became associate peace secretary, LaNelle Nelson of Austin, Texas, became the new high school secretary, Howard McKinney was employed as a projects secretary, Pauline Clappitt came on as a clothing work volunteer, Cornell Hewson resigned his regional chairmanship to head the so-called JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM in Kansas City, and Dick and Jo-Marie Ruddell headed a new Native American project in Rapid City. Office support staff became Kathleen Anerson, Evalee Haig, Virginia Lee, Phyllis Rockwell, and Winifred Nellis. In three years the regional office had nearly doubled its program outreach. A new emphasis called community relations had equaled the previous emphasis of primarily peace education.

The feverish post-war work for peace and prevention of peacetime conscription through institutes and conferences was weakened by both McCarthyism and a lingering public unease about pacifism. The Boone conferences (among eight nationwide) were attacked by what now appear to be "dirty tricks" by the local FBI, and the adult institutes were viewed by much of the general public as too stacked with left-wing and socialist advocacy. Whether or not those public views were well-founded, as a fund-raiser for those institutes I received vigorous resistance from many who were formerly institute supporters. One by one, the week-end institutes in the numerous cities and towns closed down for lack of local support. But a vigorous program of one-day conferences (lecture tours) continued for several years with Kirby Page the star performer. After each lecture (and there were many lecturers) contributions and names were solicited and the names, hundreds of them! were added to the regional mailing list. A growing base of support emerged despite the general public mood. In fact, in some instances, support was enhanced. In Omaha, for example, the effective opposition of the OMAHA WORLD HEROLD to a local institute resulted in a substantial financial windfall for the region from a retired inventor, Ummo F. Luebben. Luebben was the inventor of the Allis Chalmers rotary hay baler. His attorney was arch-conservative Roman Hruska, then the senator from Nebraska.

In September, 1953, the regional newsletter announced a new location for AFSC in Des Moines -- 4211 Grand. With the substantial personal financial help of Roy and Pauline Clappitt and Jay and Ruth Newlin and the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank, the some \$40,000 purchase price of the impressive one-family dwelling was raised. Later a life income gift by Mrs. D. E. Graham of Ottumwa, Iowa, and part of the Luebben windfall helped complete financing of the building and soon thereafter to pay for many thousands of dollars worth of renovation, repairs, termite control, and to meet unexpected requirements of the city code for multiple occupancy and office usage. The purchase was complicated by the policy of the AFSC nationally, at that time, not to own real estate. This problem was solved with the creation of a separate corporation known as **FRIENDS HOUSE, INC.**

In 1953 Joan and I were given the opportunity to spend the summer together in Europe to participate in work camps (Germany and Austria) and visit other European AFSC projects. This was the beginning of a general AFSC effort to encourage staff people to get experience outside the region. Howard McKinney was busy with the Ruddells in Rapid City to assist resettlement of Native Americans who were moving in large numbers from Pine Ridge and other South Dakota reservations into the city. Rapid City authorities made an initial grant of \$15,000 to AFSC to do the work. This development is important because it launched regional work with Native Americans that continues to this day. Projects were sponsored through the following years in both Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota, and Iowa. In 1953 Irving Smith, What Cheer, Iowa, became regional chairperson and Don Ogren was nominated to the National Board, succeeding Jay Newlin. The regional committee had grown to nearly eighty-eight. It included nearly every Quaker in the region who was felt to be sympathetic with the growing number of regional program. This group met quarterly. An executive committee of twelve met monthly. Ten program committees met regularly or on call.

In 1952 family camps were started and were held several years at the Danebod Folk School, Tyler, Minnesota. These became so popular that by 1956 three week-long such camps were held in succession with average attendance of over 100 children and adults. Several family camps were later held in Colorado. Many alumni of these camps still believe they were among the most useful activities of the AFSC during those times.

As central as work for international peace and war relief were to the life of much of Quakerism and the AFSC at this time, there was also a surge of concern about inequities and injustice within the U.S. This concern found its structure in what is now known as the community relations division. Race relations, so-called, emerged as a major effort. There was a belief that Quaker credibility and integrity in international relief work could be extended to internal affairs. Aggressive work with some charitable foundations in the country did produce grants for some community relations work with minorities and Native Americans. However, the general constituency of the AFSC at that time was not persuaded that the AFSC was uniquely qualified to carry on significant community relations work. Therefore, it was difficult to find enough designated money to sustain community relations projects long enough to achieve convincing results. The result in the region was that two or three years was about the maximum applied to community relations even though donors assumed and expected that their contributions were being applied to international relief work and efforts for peace.

Raising adequate funds for community relations work in the North Central Region was difficult because the Midwest did not see itself as a particularly needy or stressful area. The advocacy of AFSC for "empowerment" of the poor and minorities did not seem to be particularly urgent, though many recognized that perhaps it would be a good thing. But most did not see that this was a priority for AFSC. The result was that there was a high turnover among community relations staff in the region and there were at times severe levels of frustration. Also many new organizations were emerging who were attempting to deal with the same problems the AFSC was addressing. Perhaps history, still unwritten, will tell us more about the fruits of our regional community relations efforts that started with Rapid City and the Job Opportunities Program (Kansas City) early in the life of the region.

In 1955 the members of the regional executive committee were Emil Deutsch, Alice and William Brown, Dorro Treadway, Roy Clampitt, Willard Reynolds, John Bailey (chairperson), Bernard Standing, Emerson Shideler, and Irving Smith. This is apparently, as far as my records reveal, the first time the names of the Browns appeared. They were soon to become central figures in the next developments in the region.

In December of 1955 two regionally historic announcements were made. One was the addition of the states of Kansas and Colorado to the region. The region was then renamed **NORTH CENTRAL**. The other announcement was the appointment of Cecil Hinshaw to be peace secretary to succeed Walter McClenegan. Both announcements require some elaboration. For many years there had been a regional office in Wichita. Its main program was the Kansas Institute of International Relations co-sponsored with Friends University. During the early 50's the institute fell on hard times and the regional structure was considered by the national board of AFSC no longer to be viable. There was great anguish among some Wichita Quakers over this decision, especially Anna Jane Michener, the Quaker peace activist and leader in the state, and Guy Gebhardt, long-time executive secretary,

and his successor Lloyd Spaulding. But the decision of the AFSC board was firm, the office was closed, and the two states, Kansas and Colorado, became part of the new North Central Region.

With the taking on of Cecil Hinshaw, a well-known Quaker native of Kansas and alumnus of Friends University, the Kansas peace activists were placated with a pledge from Des Moines that, under Cecil Hinshaw, the institute would continue unabated. The appointment of Cecil to the Des Moines staff, however, was not without its difficulties. Oskaloosa Yearly Meeting people had developed considerable antipathy to Cecil in the 40's, while he was president of William Penn College, because of his vigorous promotion of pacifism (non-registration for the draft, for example), and his espousal of an interracial faculty and student body. It was then felt by some, especially Roy Clappitt, that bringing Cecil to the Des Moines AFSC would negate the carefully cultivated effort to build support among the so-called "pastoral" Quakers in Iowa and surrounding states. Those fears proved to be unfounded as it later turned out. The Kansas Institute, due largely to Cecil's hard work, did continue and became the most durable in AFSC history -- over thirty continuous years. An institute program was also started in Topeka at the urging of members of the Menninger family and others at their foundation.

Colorado was referred to in regional minutes of that time as an AFSC no-man's land. There was no activity of record there. In 1955 I made a first formal AFSC visit to Denver and found two Quaker families urging an AFSC presence in Colorado. They were Robert and Matilda Michener and Bernard and Dorothy Aldrich -- and later Arthur Evans who was soon to become regional chairperson. For starters, these people formed an AFSC program committee whose emphasis was on peace education and work with destitute minorities (primarily Native Americans) in the city. Quakers and others in Boulder, Ft. Collins, and Colorado Springs joined in the excitement of a new AFSC presence. Soon we had an official COLORADO AREA COMMITTEE that became celebrated throughout the U.S. as an example of the power of a volunteer (non-staffed) group. John Bailey, an active member of the Marshalltown Friends Church, had become regional chairman and Howard McKinney was executive secretary. This was the year that the Moorman Foundation (Quincy, Ill.) worried about its annual \$10,000 grants to the region. The loss of those grants would be a serious financial blow to the region. In those days \$10,000 was a lot of money! Some members of the foundation board were unable longer to support what they felt was AFSC's excessive support of conscientious objectors and "leftist" causes. Clarence Pickett, elderly and ailing, came out to Quincy to meet with the board, and we prevailed. Jay Newlin arranged for and financed the dinner meeting at the Lincoln-Douglas Hotel. Clarence died shortly thereafter, so it was in Quincy that Jay and I last saw him. As a tribute to the memory of Clarence and Jay it is well to note here that a decade later Mrs. C. A. Moorman, the foundation president, gave the AFSC \$150,000 to compensate for the misapprehensions of her board people who finally terminated grants in 1962.

Dan and Mildred Neifert became new staff members located on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In effect they succeeded Dick and Jo-Marie Ruddell in that area. The Neiferts were to try to help Native Americans find means for remaining on their reservation rather than move into Rapid City. Also a summer work camp for college students was sponsored on the Nett Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota and an institutional service unit was arranged in Missouri. Despite heroic efforts in Kansas City, adequate local financing for the Job Opportunities Program (JOP) did not develop. The program, designed to promote employment of minority people in leading business enterprises in the city, was staffed by former regional chairperson, Cornell Hewson, and backed by John Oliver (prominent local Quaker attorney) and Rabbi Mayerberg. The early closing of the program as a setback for AFSC credibility in Kansas City. Weekend institutes of international relations were sponsored with moderate success for a few years, however, which led to the opening of an AFSC area office in the Kansas City Friends Meeting House located in an apartment house owned by Virginia Oldham. Virginia Oldham, a public school journalism teacher, was for years a pillar in all AFSC work in the Kansas City area.

In December, 1956, Howard McKinney announced his resignation as executive secretary. Income and expenditures for the year were \$61,000. Cecil Hinshaw launched what he called "community peace education" as a sequel to the more formal institutes that were no longer proving viable. Our first regionally stimulated deferred gift was established with Ottilie Herzog in St. Louis (\$15,000), the beginning of a finance emphasis with far-reaching benefits to the region and to the AFSC at large. Addison Parker and Robert Mannheimer, young Des Moines attorneys, were to play an increasingly important role in this program both regionally and nationally. Earlier, Parker and Mannheimer had distinguished themselves with Iowa Friends and the AFSC by courageously

winning the constitutional test of Kenneth Boulding's right to U.S. citizenship despite his refusal to declare he would accept military service. Kenneth, at that time, was a Quaker professor of economics at Iowa State University, Ames who had held British citizenship. Later Addison Parker, as a member of the AFSC's national bequests committee, was to have a timely impact on AFSC's process for distributing proceeds from the growing numbers and amounts of bequests. It was Addison who recommended a pooling of all bequests at the national level and the distribution of proceeds on an equitable basis throughout the entire AFSC. Thus ended a source of much finance-based contention in the then decentralizing AFSC family.

In 1957 William Brown succeeded John Bailey as regional chairperson. To that time he had served as clerk of the regional personnel committee, a role that contributed substantially to renewed high staff morale. His sensitive listening and his good judgment were timely gifts to the region. Our letterhead that year showed William Brown as regional chairman; Garnet Guild, college secretary; Roy Clampitt, material aids; Cecil Hinshaw, peace secretary; and Wilmer Tjossem, finance secretary. The new regional board (the word "board" is used advisedly here because of the further reorganization of regional governance) was made up of (in addition to William Brown, chairman): Irving Smith, John Bailey, Arthur Evans, Eugene Gould, Elizabeth Jensen, Tedford Lewis, Raymond Mesner, Anna Jane Michener, Bryan Michener, Richard Newby, Jay Newlin, and Addison Parker. Administration of the region was in the hands of a staff consortium because of a deliberate delay in appointment of a new executive secretary. The region had outgrown former governance patterns and staff appointments took on increasing importance. Nominations to the new so-called regional BOARD were to be carefully considered and representative, geographically, of all key program areas in the eight-state region. The Board was to meet not less than six times a year with transportation expenses provided from regional funds. The secretarial staff that year was Mary Bremhorst, Patricia Bosse, and Bettejane Harris. Alice Brown conducted the World Affairs Youth Camp at the traditional YWCA camp near Boone. The regional mailing list had grown to 8300. The structure of regional programs was based on area committees in Minnesota, Colorado, St. Louis, Kansas, and Iowa. Owen Newlin headed a new open-occupancy program for Des Moines, i.e., efforts to provide equal access for minorities to housing anywhere in the city. Perhaps the most historic youth event of the year was the Green Lake, Wisconsin, conference on Individual Liberty and the Bill of Rights featuring well-known Joseph N. Welch and Jackie Robinson. Chet Randolph was in charge of the Iowa delegation to the conference that had many hundreds in attendance. Chet also managed some of the UN-Washington traveling seminars.

The year 1958 saw the appointment of Clarence "Mike" Yarrow to be executive secretary of the region (he had been an associate administrative secretary at the national office), and the departure of college secretary Garnet Guild to become executive secretary of the Texas regional office in Austin. The Indian Visiting program was started in Denver under the guidance of Quaker anthropologist Ruth Underhill. This program connected established Anglo families with relocated Native American families for the purpose of assisting the latter in orientation and adaptation to urban living. Wynona Leonard of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mulford Sibley of St. Paul became new members of the regional board. An attach on the Boone Youth Conference published by the weekly SIOUX CITY PRESS DISPATCH (?) was reprinted by a couple other Iowa weekly newspapers, much to the consternation of teachers and parents in the respective areas. We learned that the Press Dispatch was a non-existent newspaper and the local FBI official laughed the whole thing off. Our guess at the time was that the FBI had planned and financed the whole thing. Charles Ransom, editorial writer for the Register and Tribune and long-time resource person for the Boone Camps, was added to the regional board. The Minnesota Area Committee began sponsoring weekend institutional service units at mental hospitals in the Minneapolis vicinity. Kenneth Kirkpatrick, a native of England and a graduate student in political science at the University of Minnesota and protege of Mulford Sibley, became successor to Garnet Guild in the regional college program. Betty Maxwell, Earlham, Iowa, was nominated to the regional board and became its secretary. She was later to become an administrative secretary in the Des Moines office. The DOCUDRAMA "Which Way the Wind" was the AFSC theatrical event of the year. It was featured at the Des Moines Community Playhouse and dramatized the hope for human survival in the nuclear age. Under the leadership of Mike Yarrow and Owen Newlin a "Statement of Conscience" was published in the Des Moines Tribune. More than 2200 Des Moines residents publicly signed a statement saying: "We welcome into our neighborhoods any residents of good character, regardless of race, color, or national origin." This was reportedly the largest numerical response in any city at that time.

On October 22, 1960, the first Colorado annual report meeting was held at the Kent School in Denver. Stephen Cary was featured speaker and Arthur Evans of Denver was introduced as the new region chairman. Dr. Ruth Underhill, distinguished Quaker anthropologist whose specialty was Native Americans, was also featured for her leadership of the Denver Indian Visiting program. She later gave the entire corpus of her charitable foundation to the AFSC for work with Native Americans. It was also in 1960 that Warren Witte joined the Des Moines staff as youth projects director and recruiter. The time-honored Kansas Institute of International Relations was under severe attack by the Wichita John Birch Society. Edward Allen (proprietor of World Wide Travel Service in Ames) and I were making plans for the first AFSC-sponsored Around the World Seminar to be led by Mike Yarrow in 1962. Regional chairman Arthur Evans was urged to accompany the seminar group, which he did. The purpose of the trip was to visit AFSC projects. Kenneth Kirkpatrick, college secretary, resigned to take a staff position in the Seattle office. During the summer of 1960 Joan and I were directors of an AFSC youth service project in rural Mexico at San Francisco Tepeyacac via San Martin Texmelucan, Puebla. New names appearing on the regional board were Elizabeth Jensen, Wynona Leonard, Raymond Mesner, Bryan Michener, Elizabeth Paszter, Marion Rains, Willard Reynolds, Herbert Standing, Richard Taylor, and Orren Tjossem. New Des Moines secretarial appointees were Vivan Cole and Ann Crauer. Colin Bell became the new national executive secretary, succeeding Lewis Hoskins. Strong Colorado and Minnesota Area Executive Committees were appointed and approved by the Des Moines regional board. A new area committee was being organized in Iowa City headed by Bryan Michener. Rupert and Ann Stanley were appointed to direct a Native American project in Newtown, North Dakota. That project was to assist Fort Berthold Indians who had been displaced by waters of a large Federal dam in the Missouri River. The project was financed by a grant from the Hill Foundation in St. Paul. Pat Van Breman became a new board member and Bettejane Harris reappears as a secretarial person. During all this period from 1948, the name of Jay Newlin appears without fail at literally every board and finance meeting -- probably a record in the annals of all the AFSC. Also at this time the region mourned the deaths of both Ernest and Minnie Zelliot who were co-founders of the Des Moines regional office in 1948. Their daughters, Carolyn and Eleanor, made a memorial gift to the office of an A.B. Dick offset press (\$1500) and immediately improved the quality of printed materials prepared in the region. The offset press replaced the faithful Gestetner mimeograph machine that also had served the region well in earlier times. (The printshop was closed as of September 1992, and the press was sold.)

The year 1962 brought new faces on the regional board: Weston Webb, Mary Wells, William Connor, Mary Flower Russell, and Orville J. White. New staff people were Leonard Tinker (peace education) and Larry Martin (youth projects). Cecil and Pauline Hinshaw moved to Denver to staff the growing Colorado area program (financed by a large St. Louis bequest) and an office was opened in the downtown Denver United Fund Building. It was becoming apparent to the regional board there were limits to what a local volunteer committee could be expected to do in the administration of growing and complex programs. Plans were rapidly developing for the building of a Friends Meeting House connected to Friends House. This was being considered with great care by Friends House, Inc., and the regional board because it was feared that if the Des Moines Valley Meeting became so physically connected to the AFSC building it would alienate AFSC further from pastoral Friends in Iowa and surrounding states. Roy Clappitt was particularly concerned about this because he and others had labored long and diligently since the late 40's to bring the Oskaloosa Yearly Meeting people into the AFSC family. Roy and Pauline finally consented to the building of the new Meeting House and the project proceeded. The result of these deliberations are of course obvious today. New faces in the support staff lineup were Wilma Maynes and Iris Deskin and part-time clerks in the office were Pauline Hinshaw and Joan Tjossem. Pauline Clappitt was the clothing room supervisor. Many tons of quality material aids were being sent by semi-trailer truck to the Philadelphia warehouse each year. Most of the basement of Friends House was given to storage and processing of clothing that poured in from Friends Meetings and other groups throughout the region. Several people did exquisite knitting. A retired professor in Cedar Falls knitted literally hundreds of sweaters for needy youngsters overseas and when she died she left the AFSC \$200,000 as bequest. I knew her well.

During this time help was offered for Algerian refugees. For reasons that perhaps only the Lord knows, Roy and Pauline Clappitt actively worked tirelessly at helping refugees. Their efforts started with Hungarian refugees who were seeking resettlement in the U.S. in the early 50's. Suffice it to say here that throughout the decade of the 50's and the early 60's, Friends House was the temporary residence of a steady flow of refugees whom Roy and Pauline were hosting and helping to find employment and resettlement.

The eighth annual UN-Washington seminar (1963) was the largest ever. Two charter bus loads of regional people went east during the month of October. The AFSC photo exhibit "For More Than Bread" (190 mounted art photos of all sizes -- all of AFSC work) toured the region. It was exhibited at the University of Minnesota, in Denver, Topeka, and Duluth. William Connor of Iowa City became the new regional chairman. Mike Yarrow left the region to become the international affairs secretary in the national office. Many people in the North Central Region believed he was called back to Philadelphia in part because of his brilliant management of the ROUND THE WORLD SEMINAR in 1962. In any case, his administration for five years of the work of the North Central Region was distinguished in all respects. Margaret Yarrow, his wife, was an effective and loving partner in all he did for the region. Other events of that time was the launching in Denver of the COMMUNITY STUDY HALLS - a program to help dropouts (primarily minority students) from the local schools. That summer I was sent abroad to visit and participate in most of the AFSC projects in Europe and North Africa. Upon my return in the fall I was asked to be acting executive secretary for the region upon the departure of Mike Yarrow. Vivian Cole was named office manager in Des Moines and Betty Maxwell commuted from Earlham to help as my administrative assistant. Leonard Tinker became the peace secretary for the region. The search started for a successor to Mike Yarrow. FRIENDS HOUSE, INC celebrated its 10th anniversary. Board members then were Jay Newlin (chairman), Roy Clampitt, Marion Rains, Addison Parker, and Herbert Standing. Honored guest, that October evening was Mrs. D. E. Graham of Ottumwa who had provided much of the money for Friends House.

The autumn of 1964 brought more personnel changes. I declined the kind offer from the regional board to become its executive secretary so Cecil Hinshaw, area secretary in Denver, was invited back to Des Moines to take on those duties and Joan and I were given the option, which we accepted, to transfer to the Denver office and to continue my finance responsibilities for the region from there. However, it was believed that my being in Denver could help develop the considerable financial potential for AFSC believed to exist in rapidly growing Colorado. Sallyann Garner, a recent graduate of Earlham College, was to become an able assistant in finance work. Mary Flower Russell, an AFSC stalwart in Denver, was appointed Colorado Area Program Director, a staff position. Warren Witte, after graduation from the University of Colorado, resumed youth service responsibilities in the Colorado office. Later, as noted below, he became the college secretary for the region. Betty Maxwell resigned her duties as administrative secretary in Des Moines to go to Kenya with her family. Bob Maxwell was to be an AID administrator there. Ross Wilbur and William Connor began encouraging AFSC to undertake a half-way house program in Des Moines for released prisoners. It was named RUFUS JONES HOUSE, Roy and Carolyn Maurer were appointed co-directors. The Maytag Family Foundation in Newton was particularly interested in such a venture and provided the money. Family camps were still thriving in both Minnesota and Colorado. The Boone Youth Conferences on World Affairs were still going forward.

Marion Rains of New Providence became the next regional chairman in 1965, succeeding William Connor. Arthur Evans continued as area committee chairman for the Colorado area and Warren Witte succeeded Mary Russell as area program coordinator. Dayton Olson became regional college secretary. John Martinson was the first person employed by the growing Minnesota area committee. A regional directory published for the year 1966-67 was 24 pages long and lists 364 people throughout the eight-state region as either full-time staff, part-time staff, or active members of program and administrative committees. The founders of the regional office in 1948 could little have dreamed that their small efforts then could have led to such a substantial movement nearly two decades later!

The fiftieth anniversary of the AFSC was 1967. The annual report showed officially that Cecil Hinshaw was executive secretary of the region and that I (Wilmer Tjossem) had been appointed a national finance secretary even though located in Denver. This was an unprecedented development, i.e., to have a "national" (and regional) finance secretary located in a region. To this time it was firmly believed that a regional finance secretary could raise more money for a region by being stationed within it and being answerable only to the regional administration. For two decades this was considered an absolute. The regional administration (and the national office) found itself confronted with a new phenomenon and in uncharted waters financially. To put it another way, the region retained full control of program development and management, but was required to share financial management and resources with the national office. As can be expected to happen whenever significant institutional change takes place, there developed stresses in the region as the administration (and committees) began to feel they had lost some control over its budget and its fund-raising priorities. So far as the record shows,

there was no loss of income to the region. On the contrary, total resources from the region for the work of the AFSC as a whole continued to rise at a good rate. A tender point was the allocation of so-called "earmarked" or "designated" contributions. While these finance-related transitions were not easy, they were nevertheless harbingers of important regional changes to come throughout the AFSC. As people in the North Central Region now know, fund-raisers are steadily being more centralized and only a few major regions continue to have their own finance secretaries. The experimentation continues. There also began at this time centralization of the publication of the AFSC BULLETIN and preparation and mailing of all finance appeals. The latter came as a result of a several-year survey of AFSC mail-appeal results by a Quaker direct mail specialist in New York, Richard Krone and Associates. The survey revealed, much to the astonishment of regional administrators, that national appeals drew better than regionally-based appeals and that nationally-based fund raisers were generally more productive than regionally-based people. These discoveries have continued to have influence on the national management of the AFSC, though regionalism continues to be strong in some areas. Perhaps the enthusiasm of the 40's for the benefits of AFSC decentralization was a bit too optimistic. The diminishing numbers of strong Quaker leaders in some areas also has been a factor.

The Wichita Conferences on International Relations were now in their 32nd year. Gilbert White, now of Boulder, Colorado, was national chairperson of AFSC. David and Mary Stickney of Chicago volunteered to go to Vietnam to open an AFSC relief project in Quang Ngai. David, a hospital administrator, set up medical projects and day-care centers for malnourished and injured children.

Stewart Meacham became the vigorous peace education secretary and had much influence on peace work in the NCRO. The year 1968 saw familiar names and some new ones in the NCRO. Among the familiar ones were Cecil Hinshaw, Vivian Cole, Jane Blount, Leonard Tinker, Dayton Olson, Iris Deskin, Roy and Pauline Clampitt, Mary Cadwallader, and John Martinson. New Names were Elizabeth Lamb, Norman Tjossem, Margaret Ogren, Nellie Atherton, Edna Smith, Pauline Hinshaw, Jean McCorry, Holmes Brown, and Chester McQueary -- among many others who were volunteers. Janet Squires of Ames became the new regional chairperson (the first woman to hold this position) and Jay Newlin and Elizabeth Jensen continued as honorary members of the regional board. Robert Mannheimer was vice chairperson. Lyle Smith headed the budget committee, William Brown continued his long service as chairperson of the personnel committee. Horace Autenrieth headed the fund-raising committee. William Connor headed the Penal Affairs Committee that had charge of the still operating Rufus Jones House. Larry Hutchison, Elizabeth Lamb, Doris Jean Newlin, the Treadways, and James Harris (who from 1973-75 was the president of the National Education Association) were Des Moines area members of that committee during that year. Lyle Smith was clerk of Friends House Board. Arthur Warner was clerk of the Colorado Area Committee, Don Irish was clerk of the Minnesota Area group. Leonard Tinker moved to St. Louis to staff the local peace education program while still continuing general responsibility for the region as a whole. Wayne Howdeshell was chairman of the Southern Kansas Area Executive Committee. Richard Newby was clerk of the Kansas Institute Committee. And this was the year that the Tjossems moved from Colorado the Philadelphia office. I (Wilmer) continued to have responsibility for regional budgets in NCRO, but had also accepted finance responsibility for programs in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Bronson Clark was appointed executive secretary of national AFSC.

The historic Boone Youth Camp was discontinued. Issues of the Vietnam War and the military draft were high on the agendas of the region and the AFSC as a whole. All AFSC staff and committee people were vigorously encouraged to take part in the Anti-Vietnam-War vigil in Washington on May 5, 1969. This was a sequel to the huge rally of November 15 in which the AFSC played a major role. The last regional family camp was held near Telluride, Colorado. Henry Beerits succeeded Gilbert White as national chairman of AFSC. Warren and Pat Witte left the region to accept a special assignment with AFSC in Hong Kong. Vivian Cole retired from many years of effective service to the regional office. The State Bureau of Corrections took over control and management of Rufus Jones House. The region became actively involved with the Mesquakie Indians in Iowa, particularly with respect to local educational needs of children on the Tama reservation. The Ogres accepted responsibility for a Des Moines portion of a US-USSR teacher exchange. Dan Aten headed a regional Mexico-Guatemala study tour.

The year 1971 brought Gary Haworth of Cedar Rapids to the regional chairpersonship. Owen Newlin was named chair of the budget committee. Elizabeth Lamb became chair of the personnel committee. Doris Jean Newlin became chair of the Friends House Board, Minnesota burst forth with area committees in Bemidji, Brainerd,

Duluth, Fairmont, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, St. Cloud, St. Peter, Winona, and the Iron Range. A peace center was established in Lawrence, Kansas, (Anne Moore), A Wichita area office was established under volunteer Alvin Allen. The Kansas Institute of International Relations was still hanging on under clerkship of Caral Tait -- in its 36th year! Warren Witte was named executive secretary of the region, succeeding Cecil Hinshaw who retired for health reasons. However, Cecil stayed on in a staff position for a few months as a finance consultant. Finally Cecil Hinshaw retired completely to his home near Allenspark, Colorado, and William Lambert (a former "foundation representative and manager of public relations for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Foundation) was named resident finance secretary for the region. The administration and committees of the region believed that a regionally-based finance secretary was still essential to the health of the region. My role in the finances of the region were accordingly adjusted, but I still retained direct contact with a few long-term and substantial AFSC contributors in the eight-state area. In certain instances it was felt that continuity of relationships with some major donors was important. This allowed me (Wilmer Tjossem) to keep a welcome relationship to the North Central Region. Alice Brown became the regional chairperson. The regional AFSC joined with the Minnesota areas, mentioned earlier, to hold what were called "People Camp." Wallace Collett was appointed to the clerkship of the national AFSC. The thirty-seventh Kansas Institute was held in Wichita in April, 1972. Russell Johnson and Kenneth Boulding were the resource people.

In June 1973 a "Gathering of AFSC Women" was held at ROCKCLEF near Colorado Springs -- a harbinger of things to come. Nick Meinhardt, Marita Heller, and Connie Sabie became new staff people in the Minnesota area office at 1925 Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis. Midge Slater became a new peace secretary in Des Moines and Walter Chichester became director of the Iowa Justice Program. Arthur and Natalie Warner, AFSC leaders in Denver, were sent to Santiago, Chile, as AFSC representatives where they survived the famous coup and remained to assist the evacuation of medical students and rural victims of the new regime, especially the Mapuchi Indians. The Rocky Flats arsenal near Denver became a concern of both the AFSC and many local citizens. Nerve gas storage was a growing danger.

During 1974 the region saw itself divided into areas: Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa, and Missouri. In Minnesota there was the Native American Energy Program (to protect mineral rights on reservations); in Colorado there was substantial draft counseling; in Iowa was legal aid for some 206,000 rural people; in St. Louis was a staffed project for correction of dangers to workers' health in industry (lead poisoning for one thing), and draft counseling in Kansas City. National Board members from the region were Alice Brown, Marjorie Perisho, and Mary Autenrieth. The new Friends Center in Philadelphia was completed and occupied in 1975. Henry Cadbury, a founder of AFSC and honorary chairman, passed away in October at age 90. Louis Schneider succeeded Bronson Clark as national executive secretary. All these developments were to have an influence on the future course of regional programs.

Then Monday night, December 15th, 1975, at 8:55, Friends House was blasted with an alleged bomb that all but destroyed the south end of the building. The building was soon restored with the help of special contributions -- one of the largest of which came from Pioneer International (\$10,000). No one was injured. The Tuesday morning REGISTER carried a banner headline: FRIENDS SOCIETY BUILDING HERE ROCKED BY BLAST; HINT BOMB. No person or persons or group has yet been charged with responsibility for the crime. By this time my immediate familiarity with the people and programs of the region was somewhat reduced because of my limited involvement in regional financial work. Also my area of responsibility had been extended to parts of Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana -- in addition to Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas as stated above.

In June 1976 the national board adopted an historic minute supporting the human and civil rights of homosexual and bisexual persons. This minute, plus previous commitments to women and minority people (Third World Coalition), put the AFSC squarely into what has become AFFIRMATIVE ACTION. Warren Witte, regional executive secretary, was a leader in getting appointed a full-time affirmative action secretary at the national level. While the AFSC continued to be dedicated to the cause for international peace and nonviolence, a new dimension in AFSC outlook and policy began to emerge. That was "peace with justice." The new generation now emerging into the AFSC staff and committee structure -- and control -- was forcing the organization to look as much within itself as it had to the outside world it theretofore had been primarily pledged to serve.

In 1977 Warren Witte was given a three-month sabbatical leave and Lee Thornton (later to become executive secretary in Pasadena) was appointed the acting regional secretary. Leonard Tinker, who by now had been

appointed executive secretary of the Dayton, Ohio, regional office, was diagnosed as having cancer, and he passed away a few months later in St. Louis. The Dayton office was then merged with the Chicago office and the number of regional offices of AFSC became reduced from thirteen to eight.

Asia Bennett was appointed national executive secretary in April 1980. She became the first woman to hold this position on a full-time and extended basis. Stephen Cary became chairperson of the national AFSC board, succeeding Wallace Collett. About this time, both Warren Witte and Bill Lambert left Des Moines to take up new duties in Seattle. Mel Zuck, a national fund-raiser stationed in Chicago, assumed finance-development responsibility for the North Central Region.

A "Fall 1983" community relations bulletin shows that NCRO is still involved in assistance to various Native American groups. Thus, thirty years later, the AFSC focus continues to be with the Lakota people around Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and with the Sioux in the Black Hills. The issues now being to restore lost sovereignty to those and other tribes in Washington, Oregon, California, and Maine.

Area offices listed in NCRO in 1984 were: Colorado/Rocky Flats, Kansas City, St Louis (Bill Ramsey, coordinator), and the Oyate Resource Center, Porcupine, South Dakota. The winter regional bulletin from Des Moines placed emphasis on the issues of Central America and its refugees. Bernadine Pieper became the regional executive secretary -- the first woman to hold the position full-time. The idea of what is now called a NORTHERN FIELD SECRETARY was instituted in Des Moines to provide resources and support to regional volunteers and groups working for peace and social justice.

As time moves along, new names inevitably appear in the minutes of the region. In December of 1984 I could recognize only eight names out of the twenty-six listed in the regional executive committee roster. One by one, over these past 36 years, the names of many founders and faithful have now disappeared from the time-honored lists of committees, volunteers, and staff people. It is fitting that we pause to remember these loyal and courageous people and to recognize that we today only build on what they did so well.

With the retirements of Mel Zuck and me some of the influence of the era of Civilian Public Service people in AFSC came to an end. In the late 40's a substantial element in the AFSC staff (as well as committee) was made up of men and women who, in one way or another, were products of alternative service for conscientious objectors during the World War II era. Likewise, it was the men and women of the great drama of World War I who gave the AFSC much of its energy after 1918. It is not easy for me now to assess where the energy and commitment is coming from that will carry the important work of the AFSC into the 21st century. A peace and justice movement that can survive and grow for 70 years is probably only yet to realize its destiny.