

PIKE VIEW PEACE NEWS

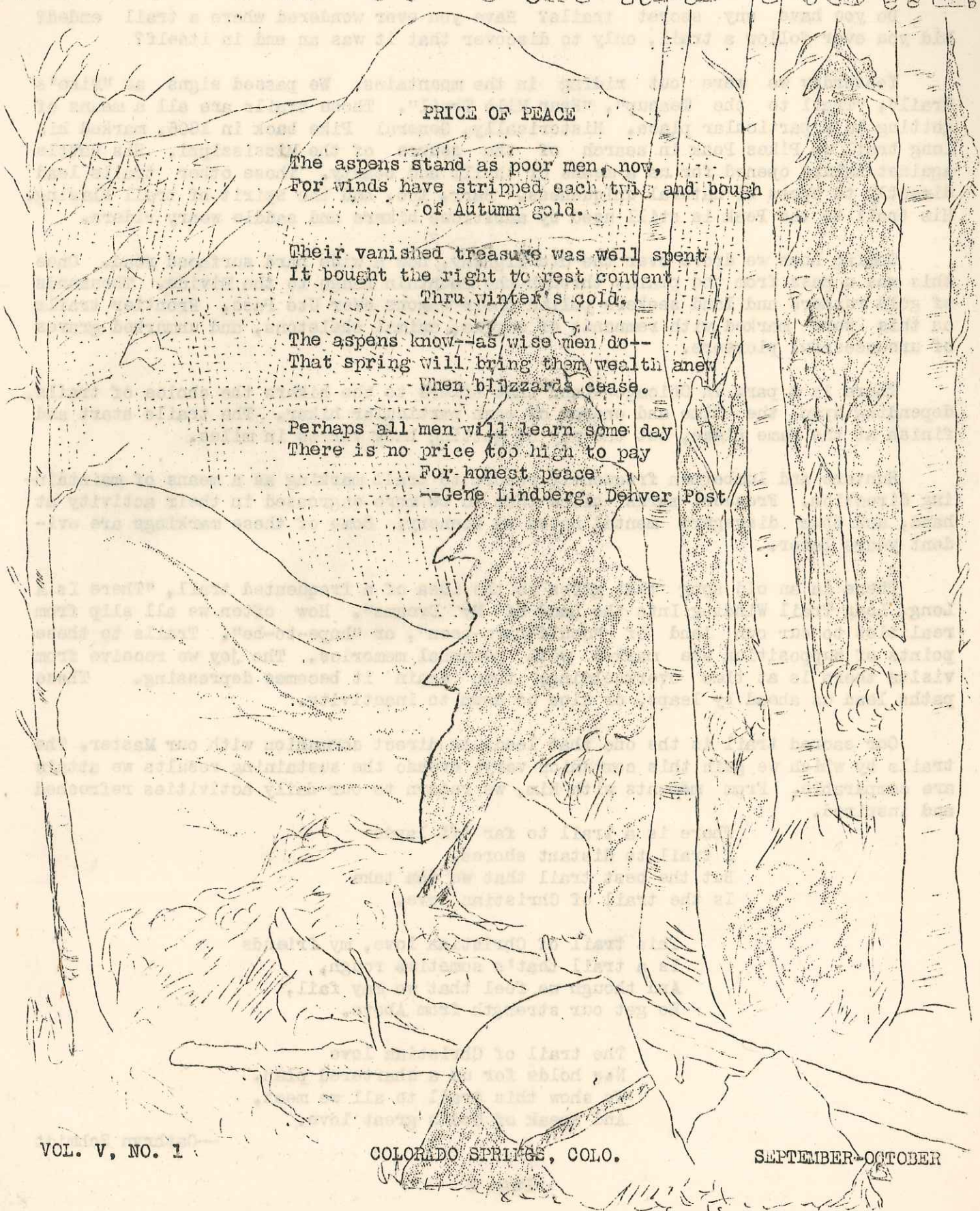
PRICE OF PEACE

The aspens stand as poor men, now,
For winds have stripped each twig and bough
of Autumn gold.

Their vanished treasure was well spent
It bought the right to rest content
Thru winter's cold.

The aspens know--as wise men do--
That spring will bring them wealth anew
When blizzards cease.

Perhaps all men will learn some day
There is no price too high to pay
For honest peace
--Gene Lindberg, Denver Post



TRAILS

Do you have any secret trails? Have you ever wondered where a trail ended? Did you ever follow a trail, only to discover that it was an end in itself?

Yesterday we were out riding in the mountains. We passed signs as "Pike's Trail", "Trail to the Teacup", "Four Mile Trail". Those trails are all a means of getting to a particular place. Historically, General Pike back in 1806, marked his long trail up Pikes Peak in search of the source of the Mississippi. His battle against nature opened for us a means of thrill and beauty. Those other trails lead directly to spots of natural uniqueness. Barr, too, had the spirit of trail blazing. His trail to the Peak is still used by ambitious hikers and saddle weary riders.

Coming home we drove over the Ute Highway, now a wide hard surfaced road. Once this was a pass from the plains through the mountain range to the Divide. Thousands of gold rushers and land seekers pulled their wagons over Ute Pass. Frontier trails as this were marked with remnants of wagons, animal skeletons, and unmarked graves of unsuccessful pioneers.

There is a park in Chicago--Land that offers to the hikers the choice of trails, depending upon the time and energy of each particular hiker. The trails start and finish at the same place, but the way of getting back varies in miles.

Hunters and lumbermen frequently resort to trail marking as a means of maintaining direction. Frequent marks allow them to be more engrossed in their activity at hand, and thus disregard mental notes on scenery. Some of these markings are evident years later.

There is an old song that gives us the idea of a frequented trail, "There Is A Long, Long Trail Winding Into the Land of My Dreams". How often we all slip from realities to our own land of "could-have-been", or "hope-to-be". Trails to these points of supposition are marked with personal memories. The joy we receive from visits there is at time overwhelming; then again it becomes depressing. These paths lead us ahead by leaps, or slow us down to inactivity.

Our sacred trail is the one that leads to direct communion with our Master. The trails by which we gain this communion vary; even so the sustaining results we attain are comparable. From moments with Him, we return to our daily activities refreshed and inspired.

There is a trail to far off lands
A trail to distant shores,
But the best trail that we can take
Is the trail of Christian love.

This trail of Christian love, my friends
Is a trail that's sometime rough,
And though we feel that we may fail,
We get our strength from Above.

The trail of Christian love
Now holds for us a chartered plan.
We show this trail to all we meet,
And speak of God's great love.

--Cathryn Schmidt

DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

On September 9 through 16 CPS Camp #5 was host to the annual conference of Camp Directors and Area Supervisors of MCC administered CPS units. Approximately 50 Camp Directors and Unit Leaders, coming from many points in the United States, attended. In attendance, also, were prominent Mennonite church leaders, whose contributions to the well-planned agenda made the conference both an inspirational and practical spiritual experience for all who attended.

Returning to the camp which he served as director when it was opened in 1941, Albert M. Gaeddert, general director of MCC-CPS, spoke in the Sunday morning worship service on September 9th. The conference was officially opened in the afternoon of the same day, when Dr. H. S. Bender, Dean of the Bible School at Goshen College and a member of the Mennonite Central Committee, spoke on the subject "Children of God". In the evening Dr. Bender spoke in significantly challenging terms when he chose "The Anabaptist Vision" as his theme. Setting forth the faith, practices, and sacrifices of the early Anabaptist, forerunners of the Mennonite faith, he emphasized the zeal with which these people stressed consistent Christian living as well as the true faith in God which they possessed. Later in the conference Dr. Bender discussed the relief program of the MCC and the Scriptural basis and historical background of the nonresistant faith. Early in the conference Rev. Gaeddert led the delegates in a profitable discussion of the "CPS Vision".

Most thought-provoking and challenging were the afternoon sessions, devoted to a study of personal counselling and guidance. This counselling seminar was led by Dr. D. D. Eitzen, Professor of Pastoral Psychology at the University of Southern California. This practical course was particularly timely, because with the approaching demobilization of CPS men, more attention will need to be given to the problems of adjustment that will face the discharged man as he enters the post-war world. The problems that unit leaders faced realistically and courageously in these afternoon sessions constitute a real challenge to the Mennonite people. Dr. Eitzen was able to draw upon a wealth of personal experiences and vivid illustrations, which were helpful in clarifying the thinking of the men relative problems that arise in relationships between human personalities. In line with these afternoon discussions was a series of two sessions, led by Regional Director David Suderman, devoted to the direct application of nonresistant principles to such important life situations as camp administration.

J. N. Weaver, Head of Camp Section of the NSBRO, came from Washington, D.C. with the latest information on the subjects that are of current interest in CPS, demobilization, special projects, fall transfers, etc.

One of the highlights of the conference was the challenging sermon of Dr. Ed. G. Kaufman, President of Bethel College, when he spoke to conference delegates and local campers on "The Unfinished Task of CPS--Now, and After We Return". He pointed out that "Civilian Public Service" ought to be continued as "Christian Public Service", challenging CPS men with the great opportunities for service that will exist in a post-war world.

One forenoon session of the conference was devoted to a frank discussion of the concerns for a vital religious life program in CPS. This discussion was made extremely practical by the contributions of a number of ministers from the various constituent groups of CPS who were present.

(Cont'd. on last page)

DEMOBILIZATION

Just as changeable as fall weather in Colorado is the CPS demobilization picture! Today may be fair; tomorrow may be equally cloudy and gloomy. And, the CPS "blood pressure" at No. 5 fluctuates with each passing rumor,-official or unofficial!

The brightest and darkest pictures were painted by J. N. Weaver, Head of Camp Section of the National Service Board, when he came from Washington to appear before the MCC--CPS camp directors' conference, which met at Colorado Springs Sept. 9-16. Joe Weaver explained that there are several possibilities in demobilization. First and this is the brightest picture, if the present Selective Training and Service Act (the draft) is not renewed by Congress by May 15, 1946, the Selective Service System will be automatically abolished by that date. Abolishing Selective Service by not renewing the Act, would automatically abolish CPS by May 15, 1946. However, it is quite likely that Congress will renew the Act at the request of President Truman, deferring action until after the first of the year. Second, and this is the darkest picture, if Congress should pass the Winstead Bill, it would likely mean that no conscientious objector would be released from camp for quite some time to come.

However, there is a third possibility, and recent news from the NSBRO and the MCC would indicate that this plan will very likely go into effect shortly after October 1. This plan calls for the orderly and systematic demobilization of CPS, quite likely based upon a revived "point system". Paul Comly French's General Letter of September 21 strengthened this assumption. French stated that in a conference on September 21, at which Col. Kosch of Selective Service, Congressman Winstead, Kilday, and Sparkman, and he were present, it was agreed that Selective Service could proceed with a "systematic release of conscientious objectors from CPS camps and units on a basis of age, length of service, dependency and hardship".

Col. Kosch had previously notified congressmen that Selective Service felt that they ought to begin a fair and equitable system of CPS demobilization as soon as possible, and if Congress had taken no action on the Winstead Bill by October 1, that Selective Service intended to begin such a system in October. SS favors a demobilization program, and only congressional opposition had held up the point system plan they had hoped to put into effect early in August.

A memorandum, dated September 28 from Albert Gaeddert, general director of MCC-CPS, warned that demobilization is still "very much in the changing stage". It had looked as if demobilization for men above 35 would come very shortly, but now it is clear that only men who have reached the age of 39 by September 2 will receive the forms upon which their discharges are to be processed. It is not clear when their discharge will be affected; neither is there anything sure as to when other campers will fall in line for discharge,---their eligibility based upon length of service, dependency and hardship. The MCC is standing by, prepared to supply Selective Service with information they will need to process discharges of those men.

To cloud the demobilization picture a little more is a letter from NSBRO dated September 29 which states that Paul French plans to go to Chicago to talk with General Hershey about "delays that seem to be developing" in the discharge of CPS men. General Hershey is in Chicago, attending a convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A summary of the total picture to date?--"Nobody is sure!" Meanwhile, there is still much to do in order to give CPS a "strong Finish"--a finish that is equally as strong as its beginning and its continuing witness during the war period!

Wilbur Nachtigall

⇒ EDUCATION FOR LIFE ⇐

Comments have often been made that CPS has been a good education. The validity of that statement depends on the definition of education. If education is thought of in terms of subjects mastered, term papers completed, and diplomas acquired then CPS has not been educationally successful. Education, however, is more inclusive than the impressions received in the artificial environment of a school room. The average school is quite remote from reality, distant from the common people, and easily gives the student a distorted picture of life. It is relatively easy to go through a school without brushing against the real problems of life, meeting crises that make or break, and experiencing conflicts that lead to marginal mental abnormalities. If education means to accumulate knowledge in the superficial structure of an ivy-covered red brick school then CPS is far from education.

Education, however, has broader implications. Accumulation of knowledge is only secondary to learning how to apply that knowledge in a complex world. Education is hardly complete unless it teaches one to deal with the brutalities of life, face the ugly ulcers in society, absorb the shock of gross injustice, and in spite of it all see beauty. Living victoriously under any circumstance is a mark of education. With this broad definition perhaps CPS men are actually receiving education for life.

The CPS man has learned the significance of being in an unpopular minority group. He has learned that justice does not always operate, that the world owes nothing to anyone, and that he owes as much to the world as he himself determines. He has learned that the law of sowing and reaping is a very slow process in an evil social fabric. Honesty, love, and humility are often penalized in the present tense while wickedness flourishes. Goodness is rewarded usually in the long run.

A very accurate test to determine the maturity of man is to see him bent under the weight of a crisis. His reaction is almost as concrete as a true and false test. Living in a structure which denies freedom, is conducive to frustrations, and fosters mental abnormalities and is indeed a crisis. To live and live victoriously in such an atmosphere is indicative of maturity in education for life.

Of significance is the training in evaluating a job on the basis of its intrinsic worth rather than any compensation attached to it. There is a definite correlation between the significance of a job and the labor output. This is probably the reason why some CPS men have committed themselves to a type of life service that is not high in personal compensation but rather significant in its contribution. A lesson learned is that a job is the best way to express Christianity in concrete form.

Living in CPS is like living in a transparent glass house. The individual is under observation. Every fault or virtue is quickly exposed. Any reputation may be blasted by a false move. He is evaluated at his actual worth, no more no less. The CPS man quickly discovers the hypocrisy of trying to be what he isn't.

Common things have an increasing value. CPS men have been forced into a structure which makes life very common. Common labor, soil, mental patients, bugs, trees, insects, cows, and tractors have assumed an important part in their thinking. The discovery that great things are rooted in the common things has been a vital realization. Equally as great is the realization that common things make for happiness.

These are a few of the phases of CPS education other than the academic type. These are the things which are teaching CPS to live a victorious life, now and after demobilization.

Wesley Frieb

no. 5 vs. no. 33



The Fort Collins CPS softball team won a 5-4 victory over the Colorado Springs CPS men in the 8th inning. It was a hard fought game as these "nonresisters" clashed on the City diamond in Colorado Springs on September 22. Colorado Springs tied the game in the last of the 7th inning with Menno Schmidt and Ed Schmidt scoring runs on Arnold Wedel's hit. Fort Collins returned in the 8th with Buhr scoring on a single by Harry Dick to win the game. Bud Stucky allowed Fort Collins only five hits but several walks put runners in scoring positions. Harry Dick, the Fort Collins pitcher, allowed nine scattered hits to the Colorado Springs team. The game was witnessed by a generously filled bleachers of CPS men and women who braved the dust and wind to lend moral support to their teams.

Paul Schmidt

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(Directors' Conference -- Cont'd. from page 3)

In the closing days of the conference Dr. Winfield Fretz, for over a year the director of the MCC Aid Section, presented the philosophy of Mennonite Mutual Aid, and assured the unit leaders that the churches, which are cooperating under the MCC are concerned and anxious to help CPS men in their rehabilitation problems.

The conference came to a close on Sunday morning, Sept. 16, when Dr. Eitzen preached the sermon "The Fellowship of Suffering". As the conference ended and delegates returned to their respective camps and units, there seemed to be a unanimous determination to make the next year, which may easily see the end of CPS, a "strong finish".

Wilbur Nachtigall

"PIKE VIEW PEACE NEWS"

Published monthly by the men in Civilian Public Service Camp No. 5, administered by the Mennonite Central Committee.

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PIKE VIEW PEACE NEWS
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