

CAMP DON-LEE

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The annual reports (pages 20-26) and the Appendix (pages 39-48) are not included in this copy of the paper.

(The information can be found in the records of the Board of Education in the minutes of the Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated.)

"Camp Don-Lee began as a dream in the hearts and minds of the young people and their adult leaders of the North Carolina Conference, twelve or fifteen years ago." This statement began an article written by Dr. C. P. Morris, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Conference Board of Education, which was partially reproduced in the program of the day for the "Service of Dedication, Camp Don-Lee" on May 18, 1957. (see Appendix)

The need for a Conference Youth Center was felt in the early 1940's. At this time the director of the youth program of the conference as Executive Secretary of the Board of Education was Rev. R. W. Bradshaw. He was probably one of the first persons to recognize the need in its fullest conference extent. In 1944, Rev. J. G. Phillips succeeded Mr. Bradshaw as Executive Secretary and Rev. LaFon C. Vereen became director of youth with special responsibility for intermediate camping.

The Board of Education report to the 1945 annual conference held in Goldsboro contains the statement - "The youth of the Conference have become greatly interested in camping. They are bringing pressure upon the Board of Education for a Christian camping area in east Carolina to be operated by the Board." The conference appointed Rev. A. J. Hobbs as chairman of a Conference Committee on Camping. On November 17, 1945 a letter from Rev. Hobbs went out to four men of the conference appointing them to the newly formed committee. The four were: Rev. A. P. Brantley, Elizabeth City, N. C.; Rev. D. L. Fouts, Weldon, N. C.; Mr. L. R. Foreman, Elizabeth City, N. C.; and Rev. T. J. Whitehead, Fayetteville, N. C. Five additional men were appointed to serve as advisory members: Mr. C. A. Dillon,

Raleigh, N. C.; Mr. B. M. Potter, New Bern, N. C.; Rev. C. S. Hubbard, Hillsboro, N. C.; Rev. C. Freeman Heath, Washington, N. C.; and Mr. George Wallace, Morehead City, N. C. Within the letter was the statement: "I do hope that the time may soon come when we can offer our young people the opportunity of camp life regularly." Thus really begins the active progress toward a camp for the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church.

The Board of Education made a request at the annual conference that an appeal be made to the churches of the conference for a special Christmas offering to be used for securing and developing a conference campsite. This request was granted. Action at the annual conference also authorized the conference Board of Trustees to receive "at their discretion, any available, suitable campsite that may be offered, without encumbrances...." This authorization was effected within the next year.

On July 29, 1946 a report was made on the search for a campsite by the staff of the Conference Board of Education under the leadership of Mr. Phillips and Mr. Vereen. The report was made to the Camp Committee and to the Advisory members of that committee. The four camp sites were selected from each of the four regions that the camping conference at Goldsboro in the winter (1945-46) had agreed would be the most suitable neighborhoods in which a conference camp might be located. The four camp sites were: 1) On the North bank of the Neuse River in Pamlico County, 2) On the North bank of the Pamlico River, 3) On the Bogue Sound, below Morehead City, and 4) In the Seven Springs neighborhood.

On July 30, 1946 at a meeting of the Board of Education at the Edenton Street Methodist Church, Raleigh, N. C., a resolution offered by Mr. J. H. Rose passed by unanimous vote. The resolution was

to accept a fifty-acre tract of land in Pamlico County on the north shore of the Neuse River and lying between Gatling Creek and Little Creek which was offered without encumbrances to the North Carolina Conference for use as a youth camp and summer assembly ground. (see Appendix).

A deed dated August 10, 1946 was registered in the office of Register of Deeds in Pamlico County on August 15, 1946. The deed transferred the title of the land from Don Elbert Lee and his wife, Dewey Brinson Lee, of Pamlico County to the trustees of the North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church and their successors in the office for "five dollars and other goods and valuable considerations to them paid by the parties of the second part, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged."

The land is specifically described as follows:

"Lying and being about 5 miles from the village of Arapahoe, bounded on the South by the Neuse River, on the East by Gatling Creek, on the West by Little Creek, and on the North by the lands of Don Elbert Lee and more accurately described as follows: BEGINNING at the bridge on the farm road crossing Gatling Creek, and running thence westwardly with said farm road to where it bends, thence a direct line westwardly to Little Creek, thence southwardly with the course of Little Creek to its mouth where it empties into the Neuse River, thence northwardly along the run of Gatling Creek to the place of BEGINNING, containing fifty (50) acres, more or less."

The deed further states that the land is to be used by the Methodist Youth Fellowship of the conference for "religious services, camp activities and assembly purposes and any other proper use and purposes that may be approved by the Board of Education", although the grantors reserve no right or interest in the premises. The provision was made solely for the benefit of the grantees.

A "Supplemental Certificate of Title" dated August 15, 1946 is also filed in the office of the Register of Deeds in Pamlico County. The original certificate of title had contained an exception relating to the oil, gas, and mineral rights. The additional certificate transfers all of the interests and rights of Mr. and Mrs. Lee to the parties of the second part.

On August 5, 1946 the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina met in the Board of Trustees' room of Duke University. It was decided that the Trustees of the North Carolina Conference would accept the tract of land in Pamlico County, offered free of encumbrances by Don Elbert Lee, as recommended to the Trustees by the Board of Education in its meeting of July thirtieth.

The report of the Board of Education at the annual conference that fall contained the following statement, "The Board recommends that the Conference express its thanks to Mr. Don Elbert Lee for the donation of the camp site, and that this be made known to Mr. Lee through an official letter to be sent to him by the Conference secretary."

Immediately following this annual conference Rev. L. C. Vereen moved to Arapahoe, N. C. to direct the development of this camp site which very soon was named Camp Don-Lee in honor of the donor. Rev. Troy Barrett was appointed assistant to the Executive Secretary.

The responsibilities outlined for the Arapahoe Headquarters of Camping and Intermediate Work included: engagement of an architect to develop a master plan, supervise the building program, begin the camping program at the earliest possible date, add Mr. Don Lee to the Camp Committee as an advisory member, etc. (see Appendix) In addition to the many responsibilities of the new camp, the Arapahoe

also initiated a program of district intermediate camps. The Board of Education report to the 1946 Annual Conference stated that the "youth program included seven camps enrolling 625 intermediates, 105 of whom made a profession of faith; three senior assemblies reaching 720, with 98 volunteering for fulltime Christian service." The 1947 report stated that there had been five weeks of intermediate camping with 425 participating, 42 making a profession of faith, and 42 adult workers assisting in the camp programs. Also four sessions of senior youth assemblies reached 930. These camps and assemblies were held at state owned camps leased for certain periods of time. The need for a Methodist-owned camp became more apparent at the conference camping program grew.

On January 31, 1947 the members of the Conference Camp Committee received a memorandum on the employment of an architect for construction at Camp Don-Lee from J. G. Phillips (Executive Secretary of the Board of Education). The committee, only slightly changed from the initial one, now consisted of the following: Dr. A. J. Hobbs, Raleigh, N. C.; Rev. L. C. Vereen, Arapahoe, N. C.; Rev. A. P. Brantley, Elizabeth City, N. C.; Rev. D. L. Fouts, Weldon, N. C.; Mr. L. R. Foreman, Elizabeth City, N. C.; Rev. T. J. Whitehead, Fayetteville, N. C.; Mr. C. A. Dillon, Raleigh, N. C.; Rev. C. S. Hubbard, Hillsboro, N. C.; Rev. C. Freeman Heath, Washington, N. C.; Mr. George Wallace, Morehead City, N. C.; and Mr. Don Lee, Arapahoe, N. C.

The architect recommended in the memorandum was Mr. Louis A. Oliver, 1137 East Woodlawn Ave., Norfolk 2, Virginia. Mr. T<sup>gm</sup> Morse, Director of the State Parks for North Carolina recommended Mr. Oliver. Mr. Morse and Mr. Oliver<sup>had worked</sup> together for six or seven years in connection with camp building projects and Mr. Morse assured Rev.

Phillips of the architects reliability and excellent service. Mr. Oliver expected \$250.00 for the master plan which would apply to the total fee. Instead of the usual 6% of the total cost of the work as specified in the official documents of the American Institute of Architects and in the "Standards for Architectural Service" of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Oliver proposed the following: 3% of the estimated construction costs - where a structure is repeated, as in the case of most of the camp buildings (cabins) the fee would be 3% for the first unit and 1% for all additional units. Mr. Oliver would furnish ten sets of plans and specifications.

Mr. Oliver was hired and his master plan was completed that same year. On July 18, 1947 the Camp Committee of the Board of Education met at Centenary Methodist Church in New Bern, N. C., to consider the master plan prepared by the architect, to arrange the payment of the architect's fees which were due, and to plan for the raising of additional funds for the further development of Camp Don-Lee. A booklet, "Master Plan - Camp Don-Lee", prepared by the architect, Mr. Oliver, was distributed among the members of the committee. (This writer was unable to locate a copy of this booklet for further reference.)

Camp Don-Lee continued to be financed by the Christmas offering and special donations for several years. In 1945 each charge was given a quota. Later this policy was changed to an apportionment in 1952. The Board of Education report to the 1947 Annual Conference called attention to the fact that construction work had begun at Camp Don-Lee making the financial drive even more important. The goal set for the conference year was \$50,000.



The usual Christmas camp offering would have a goal of \$25,000.00 and solicitations from pastoral charges and Sub-Districts would have a goal of \$25,000.00. The Executive Committee of the Board of Education would be made responsible for the development and promotion of the plans described in the report.

The Annual Conference Session on November 3-7, 1948 proved to be a very significant one in the development of Camp Don-Lee. The following resolutions were made in the Board of Education report: (a) Christmas Camp offering - the Board should be authorized to raise funds.... The Executive committee of the Board of Education assume responsibility for developing and promoting the financial plans.

(b) Non-profit corporation of nine members to be called Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, to hold title to and manage the Camp Don-Lee property located in Pamlico County. Each member of this corporation would be named by the Board of Education of the North Carolina Conference on such terms that 1/3 of the members would be replaced each year, and any vacancies in the corporation would be filled by the Board of Education.

(c) It was also resolved that the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Conference transfer and convey the title to Camp Don-Lee to the new group - Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated.

(d) The newly formed corporation would be authorized to borrow money or issue bonds amounting to but not to exceed \$50,000.00 to complete the construction at Camp Don-Lee in order that camping could begin there in the 1949 season.

((Writers' comment: It must have been about this date or even somewhat sooner that a very comprehensive evaluation of Camp Don-Lee

and the possibilities of the camp was made. The evaluation was neither dated or signed but probably I am safe in assuming that it could have been written by Rev. Phillips in connection with a financial drive or perhaps the real validity of such a great expenditure of money by the conference was being questioned. Whatever the provocation and whoever the writer was - the evaluation appears to be a thoughtful comprehensive appraisal of Camp Don-Lee. A copy of the evaluation is found in the Appendix of this paper.))

The first meeting of the Camp Don-Lee Board of Trustees was convened in Rocky Mount, N. C., on November 23, 1948. All the members were present: Mr. L. R. Foreman, Mr. F. D. Hedden, Mr. F. L. Blount, Judge J. Paul Frizelle, Mr. T. J. Collier, Rev. J. G. Phillips, Rev. J. E. Garlington, Mr. J. H. Rose, and Rev. T. McM. Grant. The following officers were elected: Grant, president; Foreman, Vicepresident; Phillips, Secretary; and T. J. Collier, Treasurer. Garlington moved that the nine trustees be members of the Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, and that the corporation be developed according to the laws of North Carolina. He also moved that the officers of the corporation be the same as those elected for the trustees. Judge Frizelle, Mr. Foreman, and Rev. Phillips were appointed to draw up the certificate of corporation. The trustees also decided that the corporation be authorized to borrow \$15,000 to discharge present obligations of Camp Don-Lee construction.

The second meeting of the group was February 3, 1949 in Rocky Mount, N. C. The Certificate of Incorporation had been drawn up by Judge Frizelle and S. B. Underwood, Jr., Attorney at Law. A few minor changes were made in the certificate and in the

By-Laws before they were accepted by the group. A motion was made to insure the buildings at Camp Don-Lee against fire and wind for \$25,000.00. Mr. Collier was authorized to increase the insurance as the building program advanced.

The charter for Camp Don-Lee, Incorporation, was secured on March 22, 1949.

The group met again on May 2, 1949 in Greenville, N. C. A proposed quota for the churches of the conference was set up to amount to 1/2 the annual acceptance of World Service Offering. The corporation also decided to sell up to \$50,000.00 in 4% first mortgage bonds, none to be issued for longer than ten years. Mr. L. R. Foreman was to be chairman of the bond sales.

The resolution duly adopted at the annual conference in Greenville, N. C. in November, 1948, concerning the transfer of the property of Camp Don-Lee from the trustees of the North Carolina Conference to Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, was fulfilled in the deed which was made April 30, 1949. (A copy of this deed is found in the Appendix of this paper. For further reference, please see the Appendix.)

Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, met November 16, 1949 at Rocky Mount, N. C. It was decided to stimulate interest in the Christmas camp offering by having a dinner in Goldsboro on December 1, 1949. The bishop, the district superintendents, and five ministers and five laymen from each district would attend. The corporation also approved the proposal of an Aldridge Memorial Chapel at Camp Don-Lee. (Aldridge was a prominent layman from Pamlico County) It was decided that the Aldridge fund be separate from other projects.

The next meeting of the Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, was in Rocky Mount, N. C., on February 2, 1950. It was reported that the money raising campaign which was reaching specific groups within the church was doing better than had been expected, for example, the Greenville Methodist Youth Fellowship had raised \$650.00. A motion was made to allow any church contributing \$2500.00 to name a cottage. A committee composed of Garlington, Hedden, and Phillips was named to secure a camp director and to initiate the summer program.

The following suggestions were made to Dr. B. G. Childs, chairman of the Board of Lay Activities, for that groups further help and cooperation:

- "1. Urge all pastoral charges in the district to pay the annual goal for Camp Don-Lee as early in the Conference year as possible.
2. Help to find a number of laymen who would be interested in giving \$1,000 more or less as special gifts to the Camp Don-Lee building fund.
3. Take the initiative in promoting the F. S. Alderidge Memorial Chapel Building Fund.
4. Urge churches able to do so to adopt as a special the project of paying for a cabin at \$2500, naming a cabin as a memorial, or naming it as they wish.
5. Promote visits by laymen to the Camp Don-Lee property, see the road building activity, and the camp site and camp buildings."

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees (this title used interchangeably with Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated) in Goldsboro on February 21-22, 1950 the decision was made to have a twelve week camp session, from June 12 to September 2. The individual camp session will be a seven day camp and the cost would be \$14.00 perweek. The first meal would be supper Monday and the last meal will be an early lunch on the following Monday. Mr. Mac Hale was designated as the conference Camp Director and Business Manager.

responsible for all finances. Protective measures such as insurance, a consulting physician, and a camp nurse, were discussed.

At this meeting Mr. C. P. Morris, Director of Camping of the Fayetteville District, suggested that after several seasons of camping his staff was ready to follow the plan of unit camping. Some discussion as to the type of camping that should be recommended for those who attend Camp Don-Lee resulted with the decision that the ultimate choice of curriculum should rest with deans of the various camps, guided by the governing committee's decision on expenditures. A motion was passed that the general theme "Campers Around the World" be used. Each dean was asked to submit a skeleton program to the governing committee for their information.

A letter written on March 3, 1950 from Rev. J. G. Phillips concerning the payment of the \$5,000.00 which Mr. Foreman had loaned to Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, appears to be the last record concerning the camp before Rev. Phillip's death. There is a slight gap in the available records for the few months immediately following this tragedy.

At the annual conference in November, 1950, Mr. C. P. Morris was appointed the Executive Secretary of the Board of Education succeeding the late J. G. Phillips.

The Board of Trustees met at Greenville on January 16, 1951. Officers for the new year were selected. Rev. T. McM. Grant was again selected president. The only changes being that Rev. C. P. Morris was elected secretary and Rev. J. E. Carlington was made business manager with an honorarium of \$125 per month. Mr. Morris moved that all Camp Don-Lee material at the Board of Education offices be turned over to the business manager.

A floor plan for a dining lodge-kitchen building was presented By Mr. Garlington from a special committee that had visited several camps including the Florida MYF camp in Leasburg, Florida. The plan was to be taken to an architect for revision and estimate of cost. Garlington, Grant, and Foreman are to be a special committee for the construction of the new building. Mr. W. L. Claggett of Washington, D. C. was to be employed as architect. Mr. Vereen stated that Mr. Claggett was one of the original architects considered. He had offered his services free of charge but his selection had been set aside in favor of another architect (Mr. Oliver) who drew up the original plans and was discharged after being paid in full for his services.

A question was raised as to the application of the NPA Order (M-4) banning construction on recreational facilities. Mr. Morris stated that a communication from Miss Elizabeth Brown, Camp Consultant of the General Board of Education, Nashville, Tenn., had clarified the matter. According to a statement from Mr. J. W. Follin, Construction Control Division, National Production Authority, Washington, D. C. the ban did not apply to Camp Don-Lee because it was for educational purposes. Therefore building plans could proceed immediately.

On July 11, 1951, the Camp Don-Lee Board of Trustees met at Camp Don-Lee to inspect the new dining-assembly hall and to review financial status. Other business consisted of a decision to buy a tractor for camp maintenance and one of the cabins was designated as the J. R. Bennett, Sr. cabin.

On September 11, 1951 there was a meeting of the district directors of camps held at Camp Don-Lee at St. Pauls' Methodist

in Goldsboro. Those present at the meeting were C. W. Barbee, T. J. Barrett, J. K. Bostick, C. F. Heath, Carl Herschi, C. M. Mitchell, W. C. Walton, Jr., A. P. Brantley, Curt Gatlin, T. McM. Grant, F. S. Love, W. N. McDonald, C. P. Morris, B. F. Musser, W. A. Tew, and L. C. Vereen. Recommendations from various directors included: (T. J. Barrett, Fayetteville District)-more cabin time needed, food better than last year, keep enrollment down to 100, use unit type camping again, need more trained staff. (Carl Herschi-Elizabeth City District)-concern about ban on the dedication service and making camp Christ-centered, recommended a general policy on banquets, beauty contests, etc. (W. C. Walton, Jr., Raleigh District)-need a conference wide staff training. (J. K. Bostick, Rocky Mount District)-too large size, need of a dedication service, use dining room for assembly purposes, fifteen year olds are too old for camp. (C. M. Mitchell, New Bern District)-dual arrangement not satisfactory, camp was filthy and counselors had to clean it up on Sunday, visitors cause hardships. (C. F. Heath, Wilmington District)-need a staff for duration of the season, enrollment at 110, place camp on conference basis, need fresh water pool to avoid jelly fish. (C. W. Barbee, Durham District)-have conference cross-section registration, need standard and permanent infirmary equipment, fresh water pool.

Two questions were further discussed which had been brought up through the camp evaluation and recommendation session:

1. Should the camp continue the district pattern?
2. Should the dual management of the camp be continued?

Mr. Curt Gatlin suggested that the Board of Education employ two camp staffs, one for each half of the summer. This procedure

would eliminate several problems - such as the need for a better trained staff.

The discussion following the second question uncovered a very difficult situation. Rev. T. McM. Grant said that such discussions of the so-called 'dual arrangement' was not good for the camp, especially when the discussions were carried on 'outside'. He suggested that the matter be taken to those in authority. At the conclusion of the discussion a motion was made to petition the Board of Education to abolish the dual management of Camp Don-Lee.

The petition, authorized by the unanimous vote of the seven District directors, was made because the men had become convinced that the present 'dual arrangement' of camp maintenance and control on the one hand, and camp administration and program on the other, was detrimental to sound camping procedure. (see Appendix)

On September 27, 1951, the Board of Trustees met to consider the above petition. Grant called the petition "ill-advised action". Rev. Morris defended the petition but withdrew it as being too severe. He added that the District Camp Directors had no thought of causing conflict and that their sole purpose had been to get at a solution of the 'dual arrangement' they considered harmful to good camping. The meeting had a harmonious closing.

The Board of Trustees met again on January 28, 1952, at Rocky Mount. Rev. J. E. Garlington resigned as business manager and recommended that Rev. C. P. Morris take his place. The Board decided to ask the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance for \$2,000 for the maintenance for the next year.



On February 11, 1952, a planning session for the District Camp Directors was held in Goldsboro. Those present were: Rev. Carol Newton, Durham District; Rev. W. A. Tew, Fayetteville District; Rev. W. N. McDonald, New Bern District; Rev. W. C. Walton and Mrs. S. A. Maxwell, Raleigh District; Rev. C. F. Andrews and Rev. C. W. Barbee, Rocky Mount; Rev. C. F. Heath and Mrs. Herman Winberry, Wilmington District. Also present from the staff of the Board of Education was Rev. C. P. Morris and Rev. Curt Gatlin. The group discovered that \$2000 could not be obtained from the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance for the maintenance of the camp. It was decided that the conference apportionments for the camp would be spent on a caretaker's home and a fresh water pool for swimming.

Mr. Morris asked the group to consider the possibility that now might be the time to unify the camping program on the conference level by the following plan: 1) Campers could register for any week, a limit of 100 per week, and registration would be coordinated through the Board of Education office in Durham. 2) Key persons in the camping staff would stay throughout the summer while others would be on a two week basis. 3) The following positions would be filled by workers of at least two years college experience, 20 years old, and approved by the Board of Education: camp director, business manager and treasurer, dietitian, nurse, waterfront director, grounds foreman, head counselor for boys and for girls (all summer) and for two week sessions the cabin counselors. Job analyses for the full-time staff were drawn up. A film, "Don-Lee in 1951", was reviewed and two other copies were ordered so that it could be used for promotional purposes.

The directors decided that four delegates should attend the the regional training conference for the purpose of training camp staffs. The camper fee was raised to \$17 per week to meet the cost of the camp. Requirements for counselors were discussed and a questionnaire was drawn up for use in counselor application and selection.

On October 31, 1952, the Board of Trustees met at Rocky Mount. Various improvements at Camp Don-Lee were discussed. Water front lights times to go on at seven and off at 11:30 had been installed. A fence and a locked gate for the entrance side of the camp plus the fact the Don Lee, Jr. would check the camp regularly through the winter gave assurance that the buildings would be adequately protected. It was found that one of the cabins needed to be protected from erosion at the river bank. Col. R. C. Brown, District Army Engineer, and Mr. W. H. Riley, Hydrologic Engineer of the Department of Conservation and Development of North Carolina, had made recommendations. These recommendations were followed to the extent that the river bank would be "rip-rapped" to prevent further erosion.

The open field in the center of the camp was to be reforested with the aid of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Conservation and Development of North Carolina. A new master plan was to be drawn and it was hoped that the camp would be completed in the quadrennium of 1952-56.

The Conference Commission on World Service and Finance approved an assessment on the churches of \$24,000.00 per year for the next four years. It was estimated that \$96,000.00 would complete the present building program at Camp Don-Lee.

The Board of Trustees of Camp Don-Lee met on May 28, 1953. Rev. C. P. Morris gave a report on the improvements at the camp including: a fresh water swimming pool with a standard 'H' type swimming pier, parking areas back of the dining hall and opposite the swimming pool, a road into camp to the rear of the dining hall and to the water front, soil taken from pool excavation was used to prevent erosion on the river bank near the girls' cabins, a road and a boat landing on Gatling Creek, the River Pier was repaired and extended eight feet, shade trees were planted around the dining hall, the open field in the middle of the camp grounds was planted with pine, cedar, and Douglas fir, additional outside lights, gasoline storage tank, additional maintenance equipment, etc. The Board decided to make further improvements such as the construction of a caretaker's lodge and the insulation of the dining hall. Mr. Diehl of Rocky Mount had drawn up the plans for the caretaker's lodge and a Durham contractor had estimated the cost to be about \$9,000.

The Board had its annual re-election of officers: Foreman, chairman; Blount, Vice chairman, Morris, Secretary and Business Manager; and Collier, Treasurer. The treasurer donated his honorarium to the camp for a new canoe.

On August 11, 1953 a very important letter was sent to the members of the executive committee of Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, by Rev. C. P. Morris. The letter concerned the employment of Rev. Robert Regan (then the Associate pastor of Hay Street Church, Fayetteville, N. C.) as Camp Director with a salary of \$4,000.00. This plan was made necessary because of the leave of absence granted to Rev. Curt Gatlin for further study. Regan would take

Gatlin's place at Conference Director of Youth Work for one year and then remain for the position of Camp Director.

On October 2, 1953, the Board of Trustees met in Goldsboro. The employment of Robert Regan was the main item of business. The Board gave its approval and the Inter-Conference Commission had previously given its approval. Therefore Rev. Robert Regan was official employed to serve as Conference Camp Director in the Spring and Summer months and to serve as director of student work in the Fall and Winter months.

Rev. Morris reported at this meeting that the improvements at Don-Lee, especially the insulation of the dining hall, had been a great help in the summer's camping program.

The Board did not meet again until the following Spring, meeting at Camp Don-Lee on April 24, 1954. The newly appointed Camp Director, Rev. Robert Regan, was present. Rev. Morris listed the needed improvements: 1) build a new river pier to replace the one destroyed by the hurricane, 2) screen in the back porch of the dining hall, 3) gravel the road into camp, 4) build the retaining wall to protect the girl's cabin again threatened by erosion (estimated cost - \$2,500), 5) build a combination garage-workshop-storage building.

Memorial plaques were designed for the "Grant Building", a memorial for the Rev. Thomas McMillan Grant, D.D., and for the camp swimming pool to be named "The Phillips Pool" in memory of the Rev. James G. Phillips.

A discussion concerning the use of the camp grounds for church picnics during the camp periods was concluded by stating that this use must be cleared through the Camp Director.

In 1955 an annual report of Camp Don-Lee, Incorporated, was compiled. This policy was continued in the following years. The history of Camp Don-Lee can be adequately developed through the contents of these reports. (The reports are contained within the body of this paper, following this page.)

The camp was officially dedicated on Saturday, May 18, 1957, at 11:00 A.M. The presiding minister was the Rev. Vergil E. Queen, pastor of the Duke Memorial Methodist Church, Durham, N. C., and president of the Board of Education of the North Carolina Conference. The Greensboro College Choral Group provided the special music. The address was delivered by Bishop Paul N. Garber, Presiding Bishop of the Richmond Area of The Methodist Church. Others in the program were: Dr. A. J. Hobbs, District Superintendent of the New Bern District; Rev. Robert Regan, Conference Camp Director; Dr. C. P. Morris, Executive Secretary of the Board of Education; and Mr. Bill Price, Chairman of the Committee on Camps. (A copy of the program of the "Service of Dedication" is found in the Appendix of this paper.)

## II

The most significant development in Christian education in this generation is the rapid growth of church camping, as a part of the larger camping movement of America.

As a part of the larger program of Christian education, camping should contribute in a unique way to the realization of the following:

1. An increased awareness of God and in His creative process.
2. Growth in purpose and ability to live as a Christian.
3. Skill and enjoyment in living out-of-doors and in the Christian use of physical resources.
4. Progress in the development of a Christian sense of values through simple living and absence of superficial standards.
5. Growth in the meaning and experience of Friendship.
6. Increased self-reliance and dependability.
7. Discovery of new meaning and skill in worship.
8. New perspective through being temporarily away from home, church, and community.
9. Appreciation and respect for persons.
10. Development as a co-operative citizen of a Christian community.
11. A growing sense of Christian fellowship which is the foundation of the Church Universal and contributes to the growth of world community.

Those persons in the administrative capacity as members of the staff of the Conference Board of Education have sought to fulfill these objective of church camping in the development of Camp Don-Lee. Mr. Wes Brogan, Conference Director of Children's Work, stated that one of the prime concerns at the camp today is that the program not be one that is segmented, as in the 'assembly type' camping. The philosophy of camping at Don-Lee is the 'small group' or 'unit' type in which closeness within the small group is encouraged. A person learns more when he become involved. The camper can more easily participate with the whole self in the

small group. A particular emphasis must be placed on the selection and training of the counselors in the small group situation; Mr. Brogan stressed that "camp goes as the counselor goes". Several methods of counselor training are employed by the administrators of Don-Lee. The State Council of Churches provides a counselor training program. The Methodist church beyond the conference level also provides opportunity of counselor training. Special training is given at the National Conference on Camping. There is also a regional training conference for the purpose of training camp staffs. The historical record shows that four delegates were selected to attend the regional conference in 1952. (see page 16) The conference provides a week of counselor training for those who serve as counselors at Camp Don-Lee. The counselors live in the small units and try to live the same 'style' of camping that the campers will later follow. The counselors learn to develop the skills which will be necessary for the rustic style of camping. During the training session the counselors-in-training come together for group discussions of the philosophy of camping, the characteristics of the age groups, and other concepts which will enable them to adequately fill their role as camp counselor. A film, "The Noisy Nine", has been used in the past as a visual aid in the counselor training session at Camp Don-Lee.

### III

One of the major aspects of the camping program at Don-Lee is the "waterfront" program. The canoeing process takes place in the Gatling Creek area. Sailboating, both in individual prams and in larger group-sized sailing vessels, is conducted in the Neuse River. Swimming had been limited to the Phillips' Pool since its completion.

The director of the waterfront activities for the past several years, Gerald Shinn, is positive that the waterfront activity within the structure of the small group camping has and does fulfill a definite function of Christian education. He believes that Christian Education involves the young boy and girl in active living especially when he can "learn of" Christ rather than merely "learn about" Him.

In the waterfront activity and outpost camping the camper is often faced with actual personal living experiences from crises to real closeness and personal Christian experience in the small group situation. The camp equipment at Don-Lee includes enough prams and canoes so that with each of the unit groups there is one boat per person. The junior high camper is taught how to handle a pram and soon thereafter he gets the opportunity to sail his or her own.

Each pram is named for an Old Testament personality in the Hebrew name. Each canoe is named from the Hebrew alphabet. There is a set of "ten commandments" for the waterfront on the Neuse River, the Gatlin Creek and at the Phillips' Pool. Through these effective methods the Bible is actually taught on the waterfront.



Each camper is expected to know the name of his craft and in the case of the personalities the camper learns through Bible study the Biblical story in connection with his personality. In this same method the camper also learns to associate the "ten commandments" of water safety with the Old Testament law and Ten Commandments.

The disciplinary system on the waterfront areas is very strict. Safety's sake does not permit undisciplined activity or horseplay around water. This discipline carries over into other aspects of the camp program. Small unit counselors appreciate the discipline because their work is much easier when the campers are kept under normal control in all phases of the camp program. The counselors as well as the campers are under the same very strict discipline. In fact, the restrictions are much stiffer for the counselor who breaks a rule than on a camper. As long as Gerald has been associated with the waterfront program there have been no drownings, indicating the sensible safety aspect of a strict discipline on the waterfront.

Public relations between Pamlico County and Camp Don-Lee have been encouraged by a very positive waterfront program. The camp through its public ministry has given a real service. There is no other facility in the county for providing Lifesaving courses and swimming instruction. Approximately 275 boys and girls in Pamlico County participated in the waterfront program in 1961. The small fee charged for the course is used to buy equipment and teaching materials for the waterfront. A few films have been purchased as a visual aid in safe waterfront procedures. The out-of-camp waterfront interest is scheduled so as not to interfere with those who are already at the camp.

The present waterfront director has some very definite ideas concerning the philosophy of camping in special connection to the expanding waterfront program. Gerald had proposed a longer term of camping for each camper coming to Don-Lee in such a manner that the capacity of the camp could be doubled. The program would have to begin on an experimental basis with a proposal of two sessions of two-week camps for the 1962 summer season. The first week of camp would be spent in Camp Don-Lee in preparation for the second week which would be spent on a location on South River. The International Paper Company of New Bern has agreed to give the Board of Education permission to use twenty-two acres of its 6,000 acre tract on South River, referred to as the "Phillips" tract, for camping purposes on a ten year lease for one dollar. There are no roads and no means of communication with the outside world except by water and a two-way radio. The camping done on South River will be the most primitive kind. The campers will build their own shelters, dig their own latrines, lash their own tables - in short, what conveniences they have they will have to make themselves. In a condition such as the one described Christian Education will be facilitated by the very primitive, and of necessity, close personal relations with other Christian boys and girls and the adult counselors.

Mr. Gus Deal who was Sailing-master at camp during the 1961 summer agreed to make a statement concerning the philosophy of the sailing program at Don-Lee.

"Each new group of campers arrived after lunch on Sunday. The individual campers were assigned to cabins and after meeting their counselors they came, as cabin groups, to "Noah's Ark." "Noah's

"Ark" sits just back from the high bank looking out over the Neuse River. It is screened all the way around and has a pointed roof. The "Ark" faces out across the three miles wide river and looks down on the fleet of fourteen sailing prams; the twenty foot Harker's Island Sailing Skiff; Boaz (the eight foot sail boat built by the Don-Lee waterfront of two years back); and the two outboard "chase-boats": David and Jonathan. From the "Ark" it is possible to see the river in her every mood and direction. During times of bad weather the groups would meet there at the "Ark" and learn something of the weather out on the river at that moment. They would be instructed in what to do if ever caught out in such weather with a small sailboat. However, getting back to the "Ark" with the new groups on Sunday. As each new group came to the "Ark" the Sailing-master and the First-mate would be there to meet them. After going with the First-mate down on the pier to learn the "ten commandments of the river-front," the Sailing-master would take the group through the "Ark". Over the "Ark" door (in Hebrew) was a sign which said: ARK OF NOAH; translated it read "Noah's Ark"

Inside the Ark there was a sea poem, The Naval Hymn (Eternal Father, strong to save...) several sea pictures by Winslow Homer, and the picture of a young man at the wheel of his ship with Christ behind him pointing the way. The rigging (mast, boom, sprit, and sail) for the prams were stacked standing up in the center of the Ark. Usually the dagger boards and the rudders were laid over one of the overhead beams. Several pieces of equipment such as bilge pump or two and some coiled line were sitting along the bench which ran along the inside of the Ark. The group came in and went along the side and had the poem, hymn, and the pictures explained to them. The Naval Hymn was gone over carefully as it was sung quite often

after meals in the dining hall, or there in the Ark on days that we did not sail. This hymn was thought to be especially good because of its theology. The first verse deals with God, the Father. The second verse deals with Christ. The third verse deals with the Holy Spirit. The fourth verse is a concluding statement for the entire hymn. (This hymn can be found in The Methodist Hymnal. Look under the index of first lines for "Eternal Father, strong to save..."). Both the hymn and the poem were written out on varnished boards hung along the wall of the Ark. A camper could just about sit anywhere there in the Ark and read or sing all verses of the hymn with little effort and cranning of the neck. The last thing the group saw before leaving the Ark was the picture of the young man steering his ship through rough water with Christ standing behind him pointing the way. The group was told that it was our hope that they would grow in their Christian faith while at Don-Lee, and go back home with a deeper understanding of Christ as the Lord of life.

We believe that sailing can help a camper to grow in maturity and develop a better understanding of himself. A sailboat is something that cannot go in and of itself. Neither is it something that requires only someone to "steer" it. A sailboat is completely at the mercy of that person who has it under command. What that boat will or will not do depends upon the person controlling the rudder and the sheet. The current, the pitch of the waves, and the wind are mere potential. It is the person (in this case the camper) who coordinates and puts that potential to use for what can be a most soul-satisfying experience on the water.

The campers are told that sailing is a lot like life. The camper is given a boat, placed on the water, and is caught up in the wind. But that boat is entirely at his command. He is the one

who must direct its course and sail it in that course which has been set for the boat. We relate this to life. God has given us a body and a mind, and has placed us in the world. We must come to grips with ourselves and the world in order to set and steer a straight course which leads to that destination of maturity and fulfillment which God has set for us. Such an analogy might sound "corny" on paper, but it appears more realistic when you get out in an eight foot pram with a 12-15 mile an hour wind, and a current whipping up waves about two feet high. At such a time it is necessary to use your mind and your body to get on course with the other prams in your group, and then sail that course.

This type of experience put the campers in charge of their own boat and, therefore, in charge of their own immediate situation. It was up to them to "work out their own salvation", and make the pram respond to their command. They were learning how to meet a situation on their own, and how to deal with it in the most effective way they could, and with what knowledge and experience they possessed. (They had received theoretical instruction in sailing prior to actually going out in the prams. However, the only way to learn sailing is to get out in one of the boats and learn to put that theory to work.) Mother and dad were not there to lend their assistance. However, there was the Sailing-master and the First-mate with their "chase-boats." They went out with each group of campers, and it was out there on the river that the real sailing instruction was given. Whenever anything went wrong or the camper could not steer the course that had been set, either the Sailing-master or the First-mate would come by in the chase-boat and help him figure out what must be done. It was the camper, in his own pram, who did the actual sailing and the righting of the mistake. It was precisely

here in this moment that growth could take place. The camper was confronted by a problem--he faced it and someone helped him reach a possible solution, but it was he, the camper who put that solution into effect. The next time he was out sailing and ran into a similar difficulty he knew where to start in trying to solve that difficulty.

This is something of the philosophy and approach of that philosophy that the sailing staff used at Camp Don-Lee during the summer of 1961. We believe that such an approach works because it places a definite amount of faith in the individual camper. Some campers were hampered by their own lack of self-confidence, but such can be overcome with a little extra time and patience without "cuddling" that camper and, thus, making it harder for he or she to launch out on their own. Of course there were some drawbacks, and some moments when human nature prevailed out there in the hot sun with fourteen people for two persons to be responsible for. However, all things considered, there were moments when personal growth and triumphs were quite evident on the part of the campers themselves. There was, in fact, enough evidence to persuade the sailing staff to use the same approach this coming summer of 1962. Sailing with such a philosophy behind it can be an aspect of Christian education. Personal growth, discovery of new capacities, and a broadened understanding concerning other group members can contribute to the primarily religious instruction and services of a Christian camping program.

## IV

Perhaps the true evaluation of any type of program is the resulting influence on the lives of the persons participating. The great majority of boys and girls who attend Camp Don-Lee can easily remember their enjoyable time at camp. The hope of those who administrate the camp and those who are the counselors is that the camp will make more of an impression than just that of an enjoyable memory. The influence of a Christian camp should have a lasting effect on the campers and help to develop each in his personal Christian growth.

One counselor who served at Camp Don-Lee for a part of a summer on Duke Endowment program had this to say concerning the camp and its effects on some campers:

"I think the group philosophy as formulated at Don-Lee is very good as long as it is kept flexible. It needs to be flexible so that it can adapt to the various situations that arise during the camping experience. For example, it is very good for boys from the same town to be in the same group. A real closeness can develop which will carry over in their lives after camp is over. The average young boy needs to have the help and support of other Christian young boys to stand up to some of the pressures of society. Yet the policy of having campers from the same town together if, for example, all the boys but one were from the same town. This situation happened one week with me. The single boy from a different town was practically an outcast. When situations like this develop the program needs to be flexible enough that changes can be made to eliminate the rough spots.

The small group living presents a strong emphasis on learning to co-operate and minor emphasis on competition. The emphasis on co-operation is good, but boys and girls also need to learn to compete in the right spirit because they will have to do it in the world. I am not sure I agree with doing away with all competitive sports because healthy competition needs to be exercised within the group and between groups.

Don-Lee needs some new equipment and needs to expand the craft shop and to make sure that there are adequate materials there."

Miss Mary Brown of 603 E. Geer St., Durham, was interviewed concerning her experience last year at Camp Don-Lee. Mary said that the best thing about camp was all the activity. The swimming, boating, camping out, etc. were most enjoyable. Religion came into the camp life for Mary through the vesper services and the discussions that her group often had. Mary could not point out any weak points about the camp experience. She had enjoyed it all very much and wants to go back again.

Miss Welda Rudin of 1017 Rosehall Ave., Durham, described Camp Don-Lee with the word - "GREAT". Welda had attended the camp twice as a Junior High and once in the Senior High age group. By far the most outstanding experience had been at the Senior camp. Welda felt that although she got to know the seven fellows and six other girls in her group very well, she appreciated the opportunities when the groups could be together. The experience of meeting others young people from other parts of the state is more meaningful to the senior age group than to the junior high. Welda definitely felt that the counselors were just about the most important people in camp. She knew other campers who did not



have as good a time as she did and the difference seemed to be the counselors. The counselors were very definitely the major factor contributing to the 'great' camp.

Another camper interviewed was Miss Margo Powell, of 719 W. Cornwallis Road, Durham. Margo seems to have received from camp exactly what the counselors and administrators hope that every camper would receive.

"I appreciate camping at Don-Lee because everyone enters into the activities. I love the out-of-doors because it makes me feel close to God. Each camping season makes me feel that I have grown closer to God in understanding His world and His people."