

Ambassador College enters its 27th year

By Larry Gott

PASADENA — Ambassador College opened its doors for over 450 new students last week and launched into its 27th consecutive year of operation as the 1973-74 school term began on the three campuses in Pasadena, Bricket Wood and Big Sandy.

The incoming freshmen and transfer students were immediately swept into an active week of orientation assemblies, entrance exams, freshman picnics, registration, receptions and a general period of getting settled into their new homes.

The growth over the 27 years from an original student body of four to the present incoming class of over 400 has been phenomenal in light of the fact that Ambassador College was not expected by many to complete its first full year of operation back in 1947.

The idea of starting a new kind of college, geared to building character rather than merely turning out financial successes, was conceived by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in 1946. Even then it was clear to him that there was something more important in education than just learning how to earn a living.

What was needed, he saw, was a college where one could learn how to live. A coeducational institution providing a sound religious background coordinated with a well-rounded liberal-arts curriculum offered the best alternative to either

Eastern Ontario, Quebec regions hold conference

By Larry Greider

TORONTO, Ontario — The Eastern Ontario Region of Canada combined with Quebec to hold its annual regional conference in Toronto Aug. 7, 8 and 9.

The conference was conducted by Mr. Gary Antion, district superintendent of eastern Ontario, and Mr. Carn Catherwood, district superintendent of Quebec, and was held at a newly completed Howard Johnson's restaurant in Toronto.

In attendance were 58 ministers, assistants and their wives, representing 14 churches with over 2,500 people of the Worldwide Church of God from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Windsor, Hamilton, Kitchener, Sudbury, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal.

Most of the new assistants were able to attend, although several have still not received their official immigration papers.

Subjects covered included the organization of the Canadian Work, future growth, responsibilities and example of the ministry, and how to prepare and organize sermons and legal matters of interest to church brethren.

The future growth looks good for eastern Canada, with the possibility of adding several new churches yet this year.

According to Mr. Antion, the conference was a great success and helpful in keeping the ministry more unified and behind headquarters. Lots of pointers were given to help the ministry work together in service to God's people.

an ordinary Bible school or a liberal-arts college.

Once the idea took root in Mr. Armstrong's mind, there was never a thought given to the possibility that it might not succeed. Even though funds were scant, future income uncertain and suitable locations apparently nonexistent, the search for a home for the college began immediately.

Several properties were investigated before an old mansion called the McCormick Estate (now the library and lower gardens) on Pasadena's "Millionaires' Row" was made available. Its appearance was already more institutional than homey, although considerable alterations would be necessary before it could be used for classrooms.

But it seemed ideal for the nucleus of a college which could later grow, so it was purchased.

Opening the Doors

Ambassador College opened its doors in the fall of 1947 with a faculty of eight and a student body of four.

Of the original eight faculty members, only Chancellor Armstrong and Mrs. Lucy Martin (originally the librarian, now working as head of the Music Department) are still with the college today.

The four pioneer students were Richard D. Armstrong (Mr. Armstrong's oldest son), Raymond C. Cole, Herman L. Hoeh and Betty Bates (now Mrs. Gene Michel).

They all entered as freshmen and were the first of 1,953 (as of last June) graduates from Ambassador College.

The 1948-49 school year began with a small staff and three additional students.

It became necessary in the college's second year to reduce the already small curriculum and offer classes only three days per week.

Among the other hardships the new school had to bear was lack of on-campus living and eating facilities.

By May of 1949, however, Mayfair, a three-story Tudor-style mansion adjoining the college, was purchased.

Living on Campus

When the student body first moved into Mayfair, the students found



WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR — Bricket Wood senior Kerry Gubb, right, welcomes incoming freshmen Richard Watts, left, from England and John McCarthy, from South Africa, to Lakeside, the men's dormitory. [Photo by Brian Duffield]

themselves sharing the building with several tenants who held leases pre-dating the college's acquisition of the property.

The single coed shared an apartment with Mrs. Annie M. Mann, who came from Eugene, Ore., to become housemother of Mayfair.

The fall of 1949 saw the student body increase to 12.

The college now had its first full-fledged student council, headed by Richard D. Armstrong, first Student Council president.

The 1950-51 school year began Ambassador's history as a full four year institution. The coed population suddenly jumped from one to six in that year, and Mayfair became a coed dorm (though not with today's connotations).

The third floor was reserved for the men, accessible by a stairway which was closed off to the second floor — the women's floor.

The ground floor was used for lounging and dining.

The Campus Grows

Prior to 1951 Ambassador College was operated as an activity of the

then Radio Church of God.

But before it could confer degrees, it had to become incorporated separately, show a minimum of \$50,000 in facilities, library and equipment and be officially licensed by the state.

And this was accomplished before the first graduation exercises in May of 1951.

Beginning with the 1951-52

academic year the college really began to grow in activities. The first language clubs — French, Spanish and German — were organized in '51, and the first *Portfolio*, the student newspaper, appeared in November of that year. (*The Portfolio* was mimeographed at first and later printed.)

In the spring of 1952 Mr. Leon (See 27TH YEAR, page 9)

A Personal Letter

from

Samuel Lee Armstrong

Greetings from Big Sandy!

I arrived here day before yesterday (Friday, the 31st of August) for events in connection with the opening of the new college year in Big Sandy, and to welcome 226 new freshmen into our enlarged class — the biggest in the history of Ambassador College.

It was a very busy week in Pasadena, with the new class arriving there and students returning from last year, some of them returning to campus from their studies abroad in Germany; Bogotá, Colombia; or Japan.

The college received a very fine article together with a picture of Ambassador College students at the "Big Dig" at the south wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in a recent issue of *Time* magazine.

The diggers have all returned to their respective campuses and are already attending classes and hard at work again as you read this.

Orientation came on a Thursday, and I was able to take only about 15 minutes for a brief introductory talk with the entering freshman class at Pasadena. Then I had to dash back over to the television studio to do our third television program for the day.

In recent programs we have been going very thoroughly into the sub-

ject of heaven, hell and the immortality of the soul — in connection with a series of programs to be aired later on in the winter concerning Biblical misconceptions.

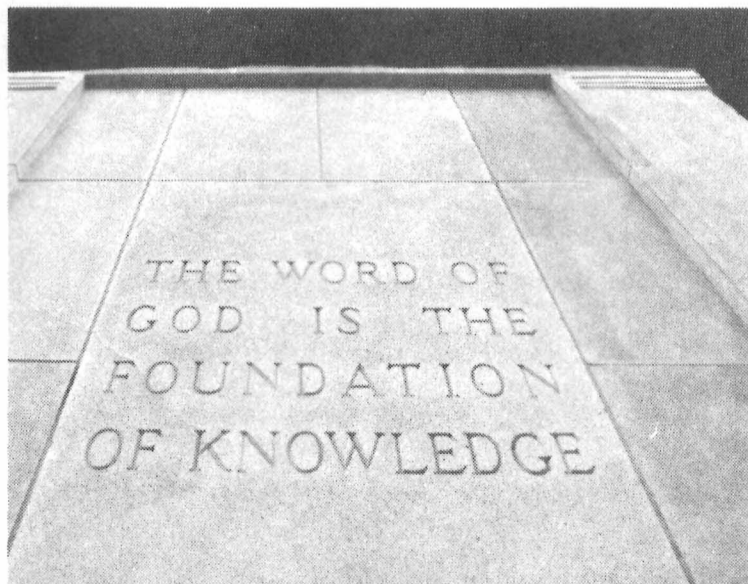
The crush of executive duties and many serious problems having to be continually brought to my attention has prevented me from doing anywhere near as much television as I would have liked for the past several weeks — but I believe I can now see my way clear once again to attempt to catch up.

It seems now it will be impossible for me to avoid having to use some repeats from the preceding year to fill up the gaps left by an impossible schedule which looms before me.

I have had to bring the scripts of the five-minute Australian capsule radio programs with me to Big Sandy and will be doing some of those later today.

Mr. Denny Luker, director of the Work in Australia, reports that we are receiving an overwhelming response from these brief five-minute capsule programs, which are, in effect, like five-minute commercials for some of our main booklets or *The Plain Truth* magazine and its current articles.

Whereas in the past we have often- (See PERSONAL, page 11)



RECAPTURING TRUE VALUES — Freshmen entering Pasadena are reminded by this inscription of the basis of their education at Ambassador College. [Photo by Bruce Voyce]



HERE IS YOUR NEW HOME — Pasadena senior Chuck Boehme points out details of the headquarters campus to newly arrived freshmen before taking them on an extensive tour of their new home. [Photo by Rick Dykes]

New instructors, new requirements effect changes in Bible courses

PASADENA — "A slight revision in the structure of the theology courses at Ambassador College" was announced by Vice Chancellor Garner Ted Armstrong in the July 31, 1973, *Ministerial Bulletin*, a biweekly publication by the Church Administration Division sent to ministers in the Church.

Going on to elaborate, Mr. Armstrong said:

"All of the key theology courses we have previously taught have, of course, been retained — with the following undergraduate requirements: freshmen: Church History; sophomores: Old Testament Survey; juniors and seniors: choosing at least two of the following: Systematic Theology (formerly Second Year Bible), Theological Research (formerly Third Year Bible) Comparative Theology (formerly Fourth Year Bible) and Epistles of Paul."

For the freshmen the first semester of Church History will be a survey of the four Gospels with emphasis on the virgin birth, the life and ministry of Christ, the purpose of His presence, message, calling and training of the disciples, His preparation for the founding and development of the Church and His death and resurrection.

The second semester will cover the book of Acts, the period from 69 A.D. to Constantine, the period from the fourth century to the Protestant movement and the period from Luther to the present, with a comparison of modern organized Christianity with the apostolic church.

Mr. Armstrong also commented in the *Bulletin* about instructor changes for some courses.

"I have felt for some time that as some of our very finest teachers have been occupied by more and

more executive duties, we have had to forego their talents and abilities in the classroom," he announced. "We are reversing this trend!"

"I am very elated to report that Mr. Al Portune (Sr.) is going to be teaching the freshman Bible class at Pasadena this coming year, and, if and when his duties tend to interfere with the class schedule, his son, Al Portune Jr., can pinch-hit for him. I believe this is an ideal team for that class, especially since Al Portune Jr. has been working as national coordinator for our church youth programs and now can be working with these young people in the classrooms as well."

Dr. Roderick Meredith will have the course in Bricket Wood and Mr. Ronald Kelly will continue to teach it in Big Sandy.

Sophomores will now be taking Old Testament Survey, which takes a look at the continuity, content, structure, main events, characters, teachings, geography and basic meaning of each book in the Old Testament.

Mr. Armstrong also announced that Mr. David Jon Hill is going to teach Old Testament Survey in Pasadena once again:

"Jon has a knack of teaching in such a vivid and graphic way that students have always commented his Old Testament Survey class was one of their very most interesting courses."

It will be taught by Mr. Ronald Dart and Mr. Richard Ames in Big Sandy, and by Mr. Leon Walker and Mr. Richard Plache in Bricket Wood.

Juniors and seniors have their choice of the following classes:

Biblical Prophecy (the new name for Systemic Theology) will entail a summary study of the major prophets of the Bible. The material formerly covered on evolution and geology will now be handled by the Science Department.

Biblical Prophecy will be taught by Mr. John Portune in Pasadena and Mr. Bill McDowell in Big Sandy.

(Biblical Prophecy and Theological Research are not being offered this year in Bricket Wood. They will be resumed next year on a new basis.)

Theological Research is a comprehensive study of the inspiration and preservation of the Bible, its languages, its manuscript copies and translations, its history and alleged contradictions.

It also entails a brief study of the impact of archaeology on Biblical studies and a study of modern trends in textual and higher criticism.

Mr. Gunar Freibergs will handle the class in Pasadena, and Mr. Richard Ames will take it in Big Sandy.

Comparative Theology is just what the name implies: a comparative study of the doctrines of the soul, the Holy Spirit, sin, death and hell, judgment and the resurrections, eschatology, and law and grace with a discussion of distinct denominations and religious beliefs.

Dr. Ernest Martin in Pasadena, Mr. Robin Jones in Bricket Wood and Mr. Dean Blackwell in Big Sandy will teach the course.

Epistles of Paul, taught in Pasadena by Mr. Dave Albert, in Bricket Wood by Dr. Roderick Meredith and in Big Sandy by Mr. Bill McDowell, is a special course for those wishing a deeper, broader background in New Testament theology.

The epistles of Paul are completely read during the year with study and discussion on the background, purpose and principal message of each epistle.

Big Sandy

(Continued from page 8)

enables the college to seek accreditation.

A separate college catalog needs to be drawn up; a faculty manual that specifies guidelines for faculty members is being worked on; and an alumni program needs to be established.

Programs which already exist, such as counseling, student government and vocational placement, will be expanded and more defined.

The library needs to be expanded greatly. While it presently has about 20,000 volumes, that number will need to be increased to between 40,000 and 50,000.

Once these various programs have been initiated and the college is oriented as far as its board of trustees is concerned, it will be ready to enter into the first official phase of accreditation.

Correspondent Stage

To enter into the correspondent stage it will be necessary for Mr. Dart to write a formal letter to the Southern Association stating that the college is actively seeking accreditation.

The executive secretary of the Association will then visit Ambassador College and review the programs that have been started and make recommendations.

Every six months or every year, depending on what the Association requests, the college will provide the Association with a status report as to the progress being made.

Accreditation

Once Ambassador has fulfilled its obligations and meets the standards of the Southern Association, it will enter the third stage: accreditation.

This process will be lengthy. Dr. Deakins estimated that it will take about five years at our present budget level.

After accreditation the college will begin a detailed study of what weaknesses still remain and will establish a 10-year master plan to correct them.

Four years after accreditation the Association will examine the college again and reaffirm the accreditation.

Ten years after that the Southern Association will once again examine Ambassador to determine whether the college's objectives, goals and purposes are being fulfilled. If so, the Association will reaffirm the accreditation.

In summary, Mr. Dart pointed out that "accreditation is something we can have, is desirable, and there is no reason why we should not go ahead and pursue it."



A TEXAS WELCOME — Incoming students to the Big Sandy campus were welcomed by this Texas-size greeting hung over the entrance to the Field House. Two hundred twenty-six new students, the largest incoming class in Ambassador College history, settled on campus for the coming school year. [Photo by Wayne Janes]

27th year

(Continued from page 1)

Ettinger, director of the Voice Department in the School of Music, organized the first Ambassador Chorale as a surprise for Mr. Herbert Armstrong to top off a Music Department spring recital. He remained its director until his retirement in 1964.

February of 1953 witnessed the beginnings of the Ambassador Clubs, speech clubs modeled after Toastmasters' Clubs, with a few adaptations to the needs of Ambassador College students.

In 1956 the college was still painfully small. When steel magnate Hulett C. Merritt died that year the college acquired his huge estate, along with a relatively smaller house. They became Ambassador Hall, now part of the Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center, and Manor Del Mar, a men's dormitory.

The acquisition of Terrace Villa (once called the Manson Estate) completed the sweep of college property from Grove Street to Olcott Place in 1958 and became a women's dormitory.

Two More Campuses

Even before the first Ambassador College had opened to students, Chancellor Armstrong had dreamed of starting a second college in Europe. He had even examined property in Switzerland for that purpose in 1946.

But at that time a second campus was not forthcoming.

Thirteen years later, in 1959, an English manor called Hanstead House was bought, and work began on Ambassador College, United Kingdom, near London.

The 30-acre property required much renovation, but the new college campus opened its doors in October of 1960.

Now the opportunity for this unique kind of college education was available to European and English as well as American students.

The third Ambassador College campus opened near Big Sandy, Tex., in the fall of 1964 when Chancellor Armstrong decided to offer the Ambassador education to a larger number of students.

Unlike the other two campuses, which started out with several existing buildings each, the Texas campus was built mostly from scratch.

Entering her 10th year as a campus, Big Sandy has now begun to accept more students, offering the Ambassador education to many more people within a millennial setting.

Into Full Swing

In 1964 the master plan for Ambassador College, Pasadena, got into full swing with the completion in November of the gymnasium and natatorium.

The year 1966 saw the completion of the Student Center.

The main classroom complex, the Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center, was begun in April of 1967 and was completed in March of 1968.

This structure, like many others on the Pasadena campus, has been hailed as a masterpiece of architecture.

Growth in 1968 and 1969 was explosive; the Academic Center, the new Transportation Department, Grove Terrace men's dormitory and the Hall of Administration were opened in rapid succession.

The building of the beautiful new Auditorium on the Pasadena campus will be completed early in 1974. It will signal not the end but just the beginning of development of the most remarkable institution of higher learning on earth.

Even clay birds face extinction

ROCKLIN, Calif. (UPI) — Not only is the peregrine falcon on California's endangered list, but clay replicas of the hawk-like bird are disappearing too.

Jim Adamson, an art instructor at Sierra College and a falcon lover, made 10 clay peregrines last September and wired them to the tops of utility poles in the Rocklin, Vallejo and Sacramento areas.

He put them on display, he said, to give passersby the thrill of seeing one of the near-extinct birds and to show that "hunters don't care as long as they get something."

He now reports that two of the clay birds were blown to bits by gun blasts and four others were stolen from their high perches.