



Big Sandy, Texas 75755

Joseph W. Tkach
Chairman of the Board

November 17, 1995

Mr. Craig Martin White
GPO Box [REDACTED]
Sydney
Australia [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. White:

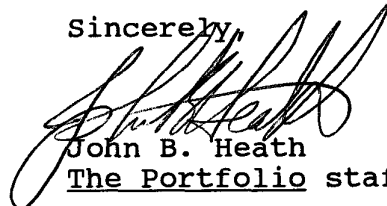
Thank you for your interest in our story "Looking Back on Early Feasts" which appeared in our pre-feast issue of The Portfolio. We are happy to send you a copy per your request. We have also enclosed a subscription form should you wish to receive The Portfolio on a regular basis. Please feel free to make copies of the form for others who may be interested as well.

Also, thank you for the copy of the article regarding the Church of God in Scotland. We shall forward it to the university library for deposit in Special Collections. Any other historical material you may be able to provide would be appreciated.

As far as we can determine, the "G. G." in Mr. G. G. Rupert's name stands for "Greenberry G."

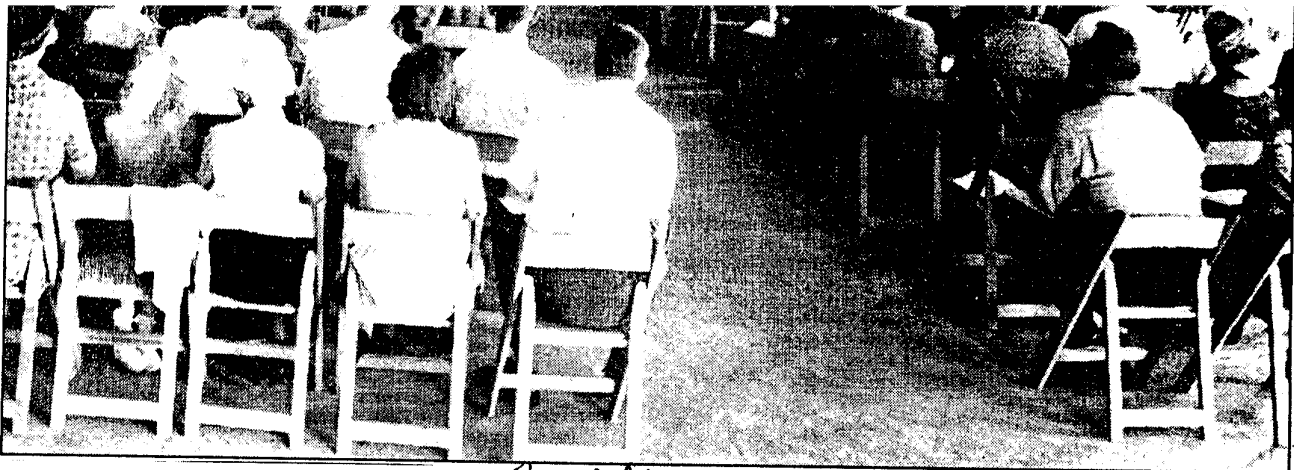
Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,



John B. Heath
The Portfolio staff

enclosures



The Portfolio 2.9.95

THE ENVOY

Field House, 1962

8000 Radio Church of God members assemble in the Field House for the 1962 Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy. At that time, the building had no interior dividing walls; it was one giant room, much like an airplane hangar. When the Feast was first held in Big Sandy, the attendees met in what is today the University library. The Church quickly outgrew that facility and constructed the Field House to take its place. The only housing option besides camping was Booth City, now used as a student residence.

Looking back on early Feasts

"The Spirit of God was there in real power ... working a spiritual revival in every heart, guiding the program by the power of God to the wonderful climax of the final afternoon on the Last Great Day of the Festival when seventeen, mostly newly converted and baptized, and added to the Church by the Spirit of God, were given the right hand of fellowship."

-Herbert W. Armstrong commenting on the 1948 Feast of Tabernacles, October 31, 1948 Co-Worker Letter

By John B. Heath
OF THE PORTFOLIO STAFF

By the early years of the 20th century, the festivals and Holy Days of the Bible began to take on renewed significance in several Christian circles.

It is possible that observance of the Holy Days was first taught as Christian observances in modern times by G.G. Rupert, a minister of the Church of God (Seventh Day), although many ministers in that church were not in favor of keeping them. As early as 1916, Mr. Rupert published material promoting the observance of the Feast, as well as the other Biblical festivals and Holy Days.

By 1927, Herbert and Loma Armstrong—perhaps through the writings of Mr. Rupert—came to feel the personal need to observe the Holy Days of the Bible—including the Feast of Tabernacles. From 1927 to 1933, the two kept the Feast privately in Eugene, Oregon. After the parent congregation of the Worldwide Church of God was formed in 1933, the members of the congregation joined the Armstrongs in observing the Feast beginning in 1934. That year, the nineteen members of the Eugene congregation met with the Armstrongs at the Jeans Schoolhouse on the outskirts of Eugene on the first Holy Day and the Last Great Day.

During the early 1940s, the Feast was held in the church-owned facility in Eugene. Feastgoers stayed in tourist cabins in the area, and came from as far away as California and Washington. While members from out of town attended all of the events, many of the Eugene members were only able to attend on the Holy Days and/or night services due to work conflicts.

During these early years, Mr. Armstrong often brought in guest ministers - from the Church of God (Seventh Day). John Kiesz, a Church of God (Seventh Day)

minister who now lives in Canon City, Colorado, assisted Mr. Armstrong with Feast responsibilities from 1939 to 1945. On days when Mr. Armstrong had to be away due to broadcast responsibilities Elder Kiesz took over services.

"Herbert could not always be there. He'd say 'John, you take over when I'm not here,'" said Elder Kiesz. "We had good meetings in those days."

In 1945, Mr. Armstrong began to see how the Feast could be used to celebrate the millennial reign of Jesus Christ described in the book of Revelation. That year, the Feast site was moved from Eugene to Belknap Springs, a hot mineral springs resort in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon (Eugene would once again serve as a feast site during the 1980s and early 1990s). It was Mr. Armstrong's desire to have the Church celebrate the Feast in a peaceful, natural setting, away from the distractions of everyday life.

The 1948 Feast was the first to be attended by Ambassador students (the 1947 Feast ended just two days prior to the opening of Ambassador). All seven students attended. Meals were served under the supervision of Ambassador's house mother, Sister Annie Mann. Educational films and home movies were shown during the evenings. It was at this feast that the hymns of Dwight L. Armstrong were first introduced to the Church as a whole. Mr. Armstrong described those first twenty or so hymns as "carrying a dignity and character of divine royalty—songs befitting the regal splendor of a King..." (HWA, Co-worker letter, p. 2, Oct. 31, 1948).

The Feast was held in Belknap Springs for the final time in 1951. A student's account published in the December 1951 Good News described the Feast as including sermons on

FEAST SITES: 1927-1956

Year	Location	Note
1927-33	Eugene, OR	Mr. & Mrs. Armstrong alone w/ Eugene congregation
1934-1944	Eugene, OR	
1945-1951	Belknap Springs, OR	longest running site
1952	Siegler Springs, CA	
1953-1956	Big Sandy, TX	

prophecy, the significance of the Holy Days, and explanations of law and grace. Ambassador students assisted with speaking, song leading, and special music responsibilities. A sermon by Herman L. Hoeh, then a recent Ambassador graduate, encouraged Feastgoers to be prepared to teach others the truths of the Bible.

In 1952, the Feast was held in Siegler Springs, California. This site was outgrown after only one year.

In 1953, the Feast was held in Big Sandy for the first time. Since then, it has continued to be held there every year except 1979 and 1994. For several years, all activities were held in what is now the library. Baptisms were conducted in the pond located between the library and the original men's dorms. Feastgoers camped on the sites of the Administrative Annex, the women's dorms, and the area north of Booth City. When the Redwood Building was outgrown, Mr. Armstrong considered building a bowl-shaped amphitheater in a natural depression where the golf course is now located. Those plans were abandoned, and the Field House was built.

Thirty years after Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong began observing the Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast was celebrated by the Worldwide Church of God at two sites simultaneously for the first time. In addition to Big Sandy, the Feast was kept at a site in England. Since then, the Feast has been celebrated in many locations - from cruise ships, to mountain resort towns, to white sandy beaches, to jungles deep in the heart of Africa. Although many aspects of the Feast have changed, the celebration continues to be an integral part of the religious life of most Ambassador Students.

From the desk of

Craig Martin White

Sydney
Australia

6 November 1995

The Editor
The Portfolio
Ambassador University
PO Box 111
Big Sandy
TX 75755
United States of America

Dear sir/madam,

Greetings from "down under". I thought that I would drop you a line after hearing about the article which appeared in the 21 September 1995 *Portfolio* concerning "Looking Back on Early Feasts".

I would appreciate if you were to forward to me a copy of the article. In anticipation of that, I enclose a copy of an article concerning the Scottish Sabbatarians. I'm sure that you will find it most fascinating.

I take it that you have read Richard Nickels' booklet on the subject. My own interest is bound in my calling in late 1972/73^{approx}. An uncle of mine mentioned about some of the basic WCG teachings when I was about 7 or 8 - he had listened to the *World Tomorrow* and had read the *Plain Truth*, but he never did join the WCG. In 1973, a few years later, upon hearing of my interest in the WCG, he told me about the book, *The Yellow Peril* by GG Rupert. He said that it was available from the library in my home town (Port Elizabeth, South Africa).

Unfortunately, I was told at the library that the book was withdrawn from the shelves. The only one they had was a novel with a similar title. We migrated to Australia and in 1983 I procured a copy of it from a man in the USA. In the meantime I had picked up quite a bit on information concerning Rupert from all over the place. I was especially delighted by Richard Nickel's article on the subject. I am still searching for links to Rupert and may have found one here in Australia where a small holy day observing group without any linkage to WCG has been around since the 1930s. They were established by a former SDA minister who may have either known Rupert or come into contact with his material. I am following this one up.

Anyway, if you are able to send me a copy of that article, I would be most appreciative.

Finally could you please advise what the initials "GG" stand for? I hear that it may stand for "Glen Gary" or "Glengary G".

Sincerely,



Craig White