

Early Members of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God

(based on information provided by George Dellinger, 2009)

Gene C Carter from southern Illinois was converted through the broadcast. In 1944 he went to Eugene and was baptized. He did several jobs and functions there and Mr. Armstrong felt he was the young man he'd been looking for to become his right hand man.

Gene (whom I knew personally) was at the first church service in Pasadena. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Eckert, and Gene. For whatever reason (I never heard him say) he left the area and went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he conducted a radio broadcast and sent out literature. He was active in the St. Louis—Illinois area for years, although he was never ordained [*as an elder*]. He died, probably in the late 1980's totally faithful to the end. His memoirs would have been of great value, but, as with David Jon Hill, death intervened. He was a great guy and, despite some things that happened, Was loyal to the Church and the truth right till the end.

Myrtle Horn was born in 1917. Challenged by her sister who had been listening to Mr. Armstrong on the radio, Mrs. Horn tried to prove them both wrong. Of course she couldn't, so she was baptized in 1953. She served at both the Pasadena and Bricket Wood campuses in a variety of capacities and became a deaconess in 1960. She died in 2008 after some twenty years of faithful service, having retired in 1974.

Annie Mann who preferred to be called that rather than Mrs. Mann, was born in Canada in 1887. She met Mr. Armstrong in 1941 and was baptized in 1942. She accompanied the Armstrong's to Pasadena in 1947 and was ordained the first deaconess in the Philadelphia era in 1955. She filled a number of jobs at the Pasadena campus and died in 1979.

Bill Homberger was a peanut and watermelon farmer in Texas who sold his property and gave the money to Mr. Armstrong for the college. Like Mrs. Mann, he occupied an apartment on the campus and served in a wide variety of ways. At one time his pickup truck was the only vehicle the college had. I do not know the year of his death.

Eddie and Irene Eckert, baptized in 1947. He later became a deacon.

Dr. and Mrs (Mabel) Lisman, baptized in 1948. He was an optometrist (first name was Hal). They paid the down payment for the Armstrong's house in Pasadena. The Lisman home was used as a girl's dormitory until 1961.

Dr. Ralph E. Merrill was a medical doctor (Dr. Meredith was a veterinarian) who served as the college doctor for years.

Others were:

- Mr & Mrs Gil Goethells
- Arch & Chloe Schippert
- Coles

- Conn
- Fisher
- Helms
- Henion
- McGill
- Smith

In Mr. Herrmann's memoirs you'll find many of the early names listed as attending on the campus early 1950s.