



Publisher: Sharmin Anderson (Witmer) from the Brown City Banner

Dec. 1, 1927 Brown City

Banner

M.B.C. Young folks have big meet here more than 250 young people came from all over MI Thanksgiving Day.

Rev. N.W. Rich Rev. W.O. Cline.

May 17, 1928

**TO START WORK AT MENNONITE CAMP SITE.**

Work plotting and beautifying the Mennonite Camp grounds, just South of B.C., chosen sometime ago by the denomination, as the permanent location for the annual camp meeting, will begin soon.

Carl Rasmussen of Marlette, who has had training in landscape gardening, will assist in laying out the grounds. Work this Summer will consist mainly of marking out and graveling roads and other general improving and beautifying. Plans now under way will be submitted to the State Conference in June for ratification.

Construction of cottages and main buildings is not expected to be started until next Spring, as the first camp meeting will be held on the permanent site in 1929.

The meeting this year will again be held in Yale and an agreement with that place to hold a certain number of meetings there,

will have been terminated.

June 28, 1928

**APPOINTMENTS MADE AT MENNONITE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NAMED TO GET CAMP GROUNDS READY.**

Among the important business that came before the conference was that regarding the permanent camp site, located south west of Brown City. The entire matter was left in the hands of a committee of 11 appointed for the purpose. It will be their business to see that the 1929 camp meeting, which will be the first one held at the new camp. Local members of the committee are: Rev. W. O. Cline, Amos Detweiler, and Joseph Witmer.

Aug. 23, 1928

The annual camp meeting of the MI Conference of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, opened at Yale, Fri. Aug. 17, and will continue through Monday, Aug. 27. The main speakers at the sessions, which annually attract thousands, are Rev. R. P. Ditmer, noted evangelist of Springfield, OH, and Rev. J. B. Sherk, missionary home from Africa on furlough. Rev. Ditmer is well known here, having conducted a revival at the local church last Spring. Rev. Sherk, who is also widely known, is a member of the Canadian Conference. Other speakers include ministers of the MI Conference.

The meetings are being well

attended, a record crowd gathering at the camp grounds Sunday.

This is the last year that the camp will be held at Yale. In 1929 the permanent camp site, located south of Brown City, will be in readiness and the annual gathering will be held there in the future.

Aug. 30, 1928

**MENNONITES TAKE FINAL ACTION ON CAMP SITE.**

Final action, taken at the Mennonite Camp meeting at Yale resulted in the definite fixing of the grove on Joseph Witmer farm just south of B.C., as the site for the permanent camp grounds of the denomination.

Work of preparing the camp for the 1929 meeting will be under way soon.

Arrangements for lighting and water will be made, the grounds plotted and other necessary improvements undertaken.

The 1928 camp meeting at Yale was a very successful one both in point of numbers in attendance and in the interest manifested. Larger crowds than ever before were said to have attended the sessions which were most inspiring.

Rev. Ditmer of Youngstown, OH was the main speaker.

Young people's and children's meetings which are a new feature of the camp program, aroused a great deal of interest.



Sept. 6, 1928

**COMMITTEE TO PLAN FOR MENNONITE CAMP.**

Next Monday Sept. 10, the first step will be taken in the development of the permanent camp site of the MI Conference of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, situated on Joseph Witmer farm southwest of B.C.

The 11 members of the camp development committee will hold an all-day session on the site that date and formulate a definite plan of action.

Plotting of the camp, marking out of streets, arrangements for lights and water, and other matters necessary to put the camp into condition for the 1929 meeting, will be discussed and decided upon. Some work is expected to be done this fall.

Local members of the committee are Rev. W.O. Cline, Amos Detweiler, M.W. Frey and Joseph Witmer, Rev. Eastman of Yale is Secretary-treasure of the organization.

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Sept. 13, 1928

**Mennonites Draw Up Plans For New Camp.**

COMMITTEE MEETS AT SITE MONDAY - PLOTS GROUNDS- TO START WORK SEPT. 24.

At an all-day meeting of the Mennonite Camp grounds on the Witmer farm, S of B.C., Monday, the 11 members of the camp development committee made definite plans for the improvement and preparation of

The site.

The location of the tabernacle, store house and well and the plotting of the ground were decided upon and the committee compose of Rev. O.P. Eastman of Yale and Rev. R.G. Morgan of Port Huron appointed to draw up blue prints.

A representative of the MI Power Company was present and plans were made to extend electric line to camp. An order has been given to have this done at least 40 days previous to May 1, 1929.

Frank McDonald has been awarded the contract for drilling the well.

The next meeting of the committee will be held Monday, Sept. 24, when the blue prints will be ready. Stakes will be driven, and the work of building roads, etc., will be started.

It is planned to have a circular road at least 200 ft. From the tabernacle so the noise of cars will not disturb services. Inside this will be a boulevard. Parking space has also been provided for.

The choosing of this community for permanent location of the Mennonite Camp means much to B.C., as an annual meetings attract hundreds of people. The project is worthy of the support of the entire community.

Members of the development committee are: Rev. W.O. Cline, chairman; Rev. O.P. Eastman, Secretary-treasure; Amos Detweiler; J.B. Witmer, M.W.

Frey, Rev. J.S. Wood, Rev. J.A. Avery, Rev. A.G. Herman, H. Gardner, Rev. R.G. Morgan, and Rev. B. Douglas.

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Sept. 27, 1928

**MENNONITE CAMP SITE IS BEING IMPROVED.**

The camp grounds committee of the Mennonite Church met Monday. And did considerable work on the new grounds on the Witmer farm.

Several trees standing where the tabernacle is to be built were cut down and the space cleared up.

A number of these trees could be worked into very good timbers for barn frame and are for sale. See Rev. Cline if interested. He can tell you all about it.

The work of staking out roads was nearly completed, and it is the intention to do considerable road building this fall and early winter.

The committee also decided to erect a 28 x 46 storage building this fall.

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Oct. 11, 1928

**WELL DRILLED AT MENNONITE CAMP.**

Drilling of the well at the Mennonite permanent Camp site south of B.C. Has been completed. A flow of good water was reached at a depth of 209 ft. The well was drilled by Frank McDonald.

Other work has been going on at the site. The roads have





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Been staked off and a spot cleared for the tabernacle. It is planned to accomplish as much as possible on the grounds before the cold weather sets in.

Dec. 13, 1928

### **WORK IS RESUMED AT MENNONITE CAMP SITE.**

The fine weather this week has made it possible for work to be resumed on the new storehouse, being constructed at the Mennonite Camp grounds S. Of B.C. A crew is busy, under the direction of Rev. Cline, but more help can be used on the building and on other work, and all who can find it possible to aid are urged to do so.

Apr. 11 1929

### **Activity Resumed at Mennonite Camp.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> BUILDING STARTED - COMMITTEES GETTING PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING WELL UNDER WAY**

Work at the Mennonite Camp site, halted by "Old Man Winter," has been resumed and is going on apace, according to Rev. W.O. Cline, in charge of activities

The storage house almost completed last fall is expected to be finished this week and the pump house has been started.

Arrangements have been made with the MI Power Co. For the extension of lines to the camp and electric lights are to be installed within 30 days.

Committees appointed for various special tasks such as plotting the grounds, deciding on the type of cottages to be built, selling of lots, etc., are at work and everything is getting into shape for the opening of the camp in July.

Buildings, it has been decided, will be painted battleship grey with white trimmings and the camp promises to present an attractive appearance in its woodland setting.

The dwelling house on the grounds has been turned over by the owner. Mr. Joseph Witmer, for a dining hall to accommodate those in attendance at the meetings. Anyone interested in taking charge of this activity, that is the serving of meals, during camp season, is asked to get in touch with Rev. W.O. Cline.

June 13, 1929

### **Work Advances At Mennonite Camp Site.**

**ROADS UNDER CONSTRUCTION - PUMP AND TANK TO BE INSTALLED NEXT WEEK - BUSINESS MEN CONTRIBUTE.**

Work is nearing completion at the Mennonite Camp grounds S.W. Of B.C. Crews of workers have been busy and the grove is beginning to take on the appearance of a real camp site.

The store house is finished, the well is down and a 1,000-gallon pressure tank and pump are expected to be installed the first

of next week.

The task of clearing out underbrush is about completed and road construction is well underway. D. Youngs was awarded the contract for the graveling of the roads, and the drive from the road to the store house is nearly finished. About 200 loads of dirt have been taken from the roadside and leveled off in front of the woods and the making of a circular drive is well underway.

Drainage has been taken care of, about 1,000 four - inch tile having been laid.

The completion of the above tasks the construction of two buildings and the leveling of the campus, must be finished before the camp meeting which is scheduled for Aug.

Brown City merchants have contributed liberally to the advancement of the work. A canvass of the town was made Wed. And the response was generous. The names of all those who contributed will be read at the camp meeting in Aug.

July 25, 1929

### **RUSHING WORK AT MENNONITE CAMP.**

Work at the Mennonite Camp site S. Of B.C. Is being rushed to completion is readiness for the annual state meetings which opens there Aug. 15 and continues through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The cement floor has been laid in the storeroom and finishing



touches are being put on that building. Electric wiring is being done, now, also roads are being completed, and the camp begins to present a very attractive appearance.

Situated in the beautiful grove on the Joseph Witmer farm, the camp is an ideal spot for gatherings of this kind.

A meeting of the general committee in charge of the camp activities, consisting of seven members, headed by Rev. W.O. Cline, was held at the grounds, Monday, to further the work. It was probably the last session of the committee before the sessions open.

Aug. 4, 1929

**PROGRAM ARRANGED FOR MENNONITE CAMP.**

Programs for the annual Mennonite Camp Meeting which opens in the grove on the Witmer farm, S.W. Of B.C., Aug. 15, and through the 25<sup>th</sup> have been arranged.

Special workers during the 10 day session will be Rev. Jacob Hygema, Bible teacher and evangelist of Ft. Wayne, IN, and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hallman, evangelistic singers of Chicago, IL.

The camp will be in charge of presiding Elder J.S. Wood of Pontiac.

The order of services is as follows: Prayer meeting 6:30 a.m.; Bible study, 9:30 a.m.; Children's meeting 2 p.m.;

young people's meeting 4:30 p.m.; Song and Praise service 7 p.m.; Evangelistic services, 8:00 p.m.

A section of the big store house recently completed on the site, is being fitted up as a cafeteria for the accommodation of those in attendance at the meetings.

Aug. 8, 1929

**CAMP MEETING TO OPEN HERE ON AUGUST 16.**

Mennonites To Hold Ten-day Service At New Grounds South Of Town---Large Crowds Expected.

Final preparations are being made for the annual Mennonite State Camp meeting, which opens at the new camp site, southwest of B.C., next Friday, Aug. 16, and continues through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Here in the beautiful and quiet grove of the Joseph Witmer farm, divine services will be held, undisturbed by the distractions of a more public spot.

Hundreds of visitors from all parts of the state are expected to attend and a splendid program has been outlined.

A prayer service at 6:30 a.m., opens the day. This is followed by Bible study at 9:30; Children's service and fellowship meeting at 2 p.m.; Young people's meeting at 4:00 p.m.; Preaching at 3 p.m.; Song and prayer service at 7:30 p.m.; Evangelical service at 8 p.m.

Rev. Jacob Hygema, Bible teacher and evangelist of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Mr. & Mrs. Willard Hallman, evangelist singers

Of Chicago, are the special workers. Rev. J.S. Wood of Pontiac will be in charge of the camp.

The camp is about in readiness to receive the visitors. Electric wiring has been completed and the lighting system will feature two flood lights which will shine out over the tabernacle.

The cafeteria, where meals will be served, is being fitted up in one section of the big store house. Mrs. Dell Shrier and Mrs. George Cunningham will be the cooks.

Tents and beds are furnished, campers, and the tenant house on the Witmer farm is also being made ready as a rooming house.

Wm. Martin is erecting a model cottage on the grounds which will be used by the evangelist during the meetings, and at the close will be sold.

Among a few other things that yet remain to be done before the opening of the services is the laying of water pipe lines to various parts of the grove, for the convenience of those who attend.

As the first convocation at the new site will be something in the nature of a dedication, a record crowd is expected.

Aug. 15, 1929

**MENNONITES GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEETING.**

Already many people are arriving from many parts of the state for the annual Mennonite





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Camp Meeting, which opens in the grove on the Witmer farm southwest of B.C. Tents are being erected and the quiet woods beginning to assume the aspect of a real camp. This will be the first gathering at the new permanent camp site recently acquired. Last minute preparations are being rushed to completion and everything will be in readiness for the visitors Friday. Fine all-day programs have been arranged for each day of the 10-day meet and large crowds are expected to be in attendance.

Aug. 22, 1929

## **MENNONITE CAMP MEETINGS ATTRACTING LARGE CROWDS.**

First Gathering At New Camp Big Success - Pastor Who Started Work In MI Speaks.

The first meeting ever held by the Mennonites at their new permanent camp site, the beautiful grove on the Joseph Witmer farm southwest of B.C., promises to go down in the history of the church as one of the most successful and inspiring ever held.

Big crowds from all parts of MI and points in IN, and Canada have been in attendance at the sessions since the opening, last Friday. Sunday was the big day and next Sunday, the closing day, is expected to see a record attendance.

There are 86 tents pitched on the grounds and many people have been staying in B.C.

Services began with prayer meeting at 6:30 and continues throughout the day and evening. Evangelist Jacob Hygema, in charge of the Bible study and usually of one of the preaching services each day has been bringing inspiring messages.

Other pastors who assist during the remainder of the camp are Rev. Jacob of Rosenberg; Rev. C.I. Huffman of IN, and Rev. Harvey Frey of Hesper, Ont.

The afternoon a very interesting service was held, inspired by the presence of Rev. Peter Cober, of Kitchener, Ont., aged pastor who sowed the seed that resulted in the establishment of the Mennonite denomination in MI. Mr. Cober recalled that the MI denomination had its birth in this community under his leadership, just 48 years ago. The first services were held in Deanville school, with 11 Charter members, all of who now are dead save Mrs. Geo. Burkholder. Mr. Cober marveled at the fact that from this small beginning the faith had spread throughout the state and that less than 50 years later, he should be addressing so large an assemblage.

His talk was inspiring and encouraging, showing the progress that has been made and pointing to a promising future.

It is a strange coincidence that the site of the permanent camp should be that on which the first camp meeting, ever to take place in MI, was held 40 years ago.

**3000 ATTEND MENNONITE CAMP ON CLOSING DAY.** Sunday Marks End Of One Of Most Successful Meetings Ever Held - Permanent Site Pleases.

Sunday marked the close of one of the best and most successful camp meetings ever held by MI Mennonites, both in point of numbers in attendance and in the fine spirit that pervaded the gathering.

Crowds attended all the meetings and Sunday afternoon a record gathering of more than 3,000 assembled. Over 90 tents were pitched on the grounds, the largest number in several years.

The success of this first meeting at the new permanent camp site, in the grove on the Joseph Witmer farm, southwest of B.C., is highly gratifying to the camp committee, of which Rev. W.O. Cline is a member.

Because of his nearness to the site, most of the responsibility for the preparation of the grounds rested on Rev. Cline and much credit is due him for his untiring efforts.

The ten-day meetings were featured by six inspirational services daily, at nearly every spirit one of which there were seekers at the altar. Evangelist Hygema, whose inspired messages and Bible study classes were high lights of the sessions, said that never before had he been present at a finer camp meeting, a meeting that seemed to be pervaded by a deep spirituality or where the



the people were more enthusiastic and receptive.

Contributions were generous. About \$2,400 was subscribed for the camp grounds and \$1,017 was raised for the general expenses. That people were pleased with the camp was evidence by the contribution of one man, who gave \$200 because of the excellence of the work already done. He remarked that if preparations had been made in a haphazard manner he would not have given a cent.

The material needs of those in attendance at the meetings were well cared for. Fine meals were served at the cafeteria by Mrs. Geo. Cunningham, Mrs. Dell Shrier, and Mrs. W.O. Cline.

It is the plan to build, as soon as possible, a tabernacle and other permanent structures and if things progress as they should all of the important meetings of the Conference, including not only the camp, but the annual conference and young people's and Sunday school conventions will be held there, making it an almost all-the-year-round proposition.

Attracting as it does, people from all over the state, the location of the camp here is a big thing for Brown City and the town is indeed fortunate.

Seventy-three lots have already been taken and others will be chosen as soon as the remainder of the grounds has

been plotted, it is reported. Lots are leased with the privilege of building on them. It is expected that at least a dozen cottages will be built before the next camp meeting.

The model cottage built by W.A. Martin, and which was used by Rev. Hygema, has been taken over by the conference and will be used permanently as a home for the evangelist at the meetings.

Some work is to be done on the grounds this fall. The grounds will be smoothed off and the tabernacle site covered with gravel.

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Aug. 29, 1929

**PIONEER MINISTER PLEASSED WITH CAMP.**

Mr. Mendel of Alora, Ont., who, with his wife and son, attended the Mennonite Camp Meetings Sat. & Sun., was a preacher in the MI Conference some years ago and did considerable pioneering in the state. The visit afforded him much pleasure as the big gathering was an evidence of the great growth of the work from a small beginning. Mr. Mendel was also pleased with the camp site and improvements. Mr. & Mrs. Mendel and son were entertained in the C.E. Schoenhals home during their stay here.

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Mar. 27, 1930

Every Fri. Mennonites will broadcast on W.M.P.C.

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Mar. 13, 1930

Nine weeks of Revival 176 saved. Forty-four new members.

June 5, 1930

**NEW BUILDING GOING UP AT MENNONITE CAMP.**

Further improvement of the Mennonite Camp ground, located southwest of B.C., has been resumed and work of getting the place ready for the annual meeting in Aug. is going on a pace. A new cafeteria building is being erected, streets are being graveled, low places are being filled in and the tabernacle site is being prepared. The latter will probably also be graveled. These improvements will mean added convenience and pleasure for those who attend the camp this Aug. The camp is the property of the MI Conference, and the work is being done this year by men hired for the purpose.

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Jun. 12, 1930

**WORK PROGRESSES AT MENNONITE CAMP SITE.**

Work at the Mennonite Camp meeting grounds, south of B.C., is progressing fine. The new building, in which will be located the cafeteria, is expected to be completed this week. It is a structure 24 x 46, with a seven foot porch running the full length, and will provide a pleasant and comfortable eating place for those in attendance at the camp meetings.

Much gravel for roads has been hauled and men are busy with scrapers and tractors, leveling the grounds, which will be seeded in a short time.





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Aug. 7, 1930

## **CAMP MEETING OPENS AUG. 15.**

Big Attendance Expected At  
Second Convocation Of  
Mennonites, At Permanent Site,  
Here.

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Everything is activity and  
bustle at the Mennonite State  
Camp site, southwest of Brown  
City, where final preparations are  
under way for the annual  
meetings which open there Aug.  
15, and continues through the  
24<sup>th</sup>.

This is only the second year  
that the big annual gathering,  
which attracts members of the  
denomination from all parts of MI  
and other states, will have been  
there. The beautiful woodland  
plot on the Joseph Witmer farm  
has been secured as a permanent  
campsite, and is being converted  
into an attractive retreat.

Improvements completed  
this year include the smoothing of  
the grounds, graveling of the  
tabernacle site, construction of a  
fine new cafeteria, work on which  
has just been ended, and the  
installation of an artistic drinking  
fountain and a stone flower box.  
The first cottage, which is being  
built by a Grand Rapids woman,  
is also under construction and will  
be finished before the opening of  
the camp.

An inspiring and excellent  
program has been arranged for the  
sessions this season.

Rev. J. Hygema, evangelist  
and Bible teacher of Ft. Wayne,

Indiana, who made a deep  
impression with his fine messages  
last year, will be the main speaker  
And H. Wisewell of Pontiac will  
have charge of the young people's  
work. Ministers and workers  
from all parts of the state will also  
assist in the meetings.

Mr. And Mrs. Hallman of  
Chicago, well known singer  
evangelists, will have charge of  
the music. Mr. & Mrs. Hallman  
who were also identified with last  
year's camp, are among the  
workers at the Romeo camp  
meeting this year.

Services each day will open  
with a prayer meeting at 6:30 a.m.  
at 9:30 a.m.; there will be Bible  
study; at 1:30 p.m.; a children's  
meeting; a Fellowship service at 2  
p.m.; and at 7 p.m.; Young  
peoples' meeting at 4 p.m.; and  
Preaching at 3 and 8 p.m.

Large crowds are expected  
to attend the camp.

Aug 21, 1930

## **BIG CROWD AT CAMP MEETING**

3,000 Attend Mennonite  
Services Sunday - 113 Tents  
Pitched On Grounds - Interest  
Keen And Results Good.

The annual state camp  
meeting of the Mennonite  
Brethren in Christ, which opened  
at the permanent camp site just  
southwest of the city, last Friday,  
bids fair to the biggest ever held  
by the denomination.

A hundred and thirteen tents  
are pitched under the trees on the  
beautiful grounds - the largest

number in the history of the  
Mennonite camp.

Sunday around 3,000  
people were present at the  
services, which was also a record  
for the first Sunday of the annual  
meetings.

The young people's  
sessions, under the direction of  
H. Wisewell and the children's  
gathering alone.  
Interest in all the activities is keen  
and good results are being  
accomplished.

The camp is an interesting  
spot and has taken on the aspect  
of a real institution.

The shady grove in which it  
is secluded, is an ideal spot and  
here a "city of tents," surrounding  
the big tabernacle, is set. The  
scene reminds one of the martial  
language of the O. T., "the army  
was encamped round about."

The grounds have been  
much improved and the new  
cafeteria and two cottages, one of  
which was completed this year,  
add greatly to the appearance and  
feeling of permanence.

A covered drinking  
fountain made of vari-colored  
stones and a large flower box  
constructed of the same  
material, and to the artistic effect.  
The fountain is lighted at night.

Meetings will continue  
through next Sunday.

Aug. 28, 1930

## **SUCCESS ATTENDS MENNONITE CAMP.**

Seekers At Altar Out Number  
Those Of Previous Years - Large



#### Crowds At Services.

The most successful camp meeting, in point of the number of seekers at the altar, ever held by the MI conference of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, closed at the permanent camp site, S. W. of Brown City, Sunday evening. Crowds estimated at around 3,000 attended the closing services, and attendance all during the sessions of the 10-day meeting was said to have been much larger than in previous years. The great interest aroused was apparent in the many (around 200) who went to the altar.

People from all parts of MI and many places in Ont., gathered for the meetings and the 113 tents pitched on the grounds around the big tabernacle, were said to have been the largest number of any year, except one, since the camp meetings were started, about 33 years ago. One season 115 tents were set up, it is said. This little city of Canvass, which Sunday, presented such an interesting and animated picture, had disappeared Monday, as if by magic, and the 1930 camp had become history, Aug. 28, 1930.

Two of the outstanding activities of the camp this year were the young people's and children's meetings in which unusual interest was evident. The former was in charge of H. Wisewell of Pontiac and the latter was conducted by Miss Susie Dean, of Detroit.

Another feature was the large attendance of visitors from the Ont. Conference. These people were the guests of the camp.

Rev. Hygema, of Ft. Wayne, the evangelist of the meetings, an inspiring speaker, brought many to the altar as a result of his messages. He was assisted in the work by the various preachers of the conference. Rev. J. S. Wood of Pontiac had general supervision over the camp and Rev. W. O. Cline, of Brown City, kept the "machinery" running smoothly.

Mr. & Mrs. Hallman, who were in charge of the music and whose singing added much to the impressiveness of the meetings, have already been engaged for next year's camp.

This year the young people's meetings were held in the old tabernacle tent, but a movement is now on foot, among the young folks, to build a permanent structure for their sessions. This will probably be completed before the next meeting.

Saturday evening a service which attracted a great crowd was held on Main street by the young people of the camp. Jun. 25, 1931

The Mennonite Annual State Camp Meeting is to be held here, beginning Aug. 14. A piano will be permitted on the camp ground this year, it was decided at the conference.

Aug. 6, 1931

**MENNONITE CAMP TO OPEN  
AUG. 14.**

The annual Mennonite Camp meeting is to open at the beautiful permanent camp site southwest of Brown City. Friday, Aug. 14, and will continue through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Workers this year include Dr. J. A. Hoffman, evangelist, dean of Marion College, Marion IN, Prof. & Mrs. W. R. Hallman of Chicago, IL, who will be in charge of music; Harold Wisewell and the Ft. Wayne male quartette, who will conduct the young people's services and Miss Susie Dean, of Pontiac, who will assist by mission workers, have charge of the children's meetings. Aug. 13, 1931

#### **MENNONITES TO OPEN CAMP FRIDAY.**

Ten-Day Services Expected To Attract Record Crowd--- Dr. Huffman Of IN, Will Be Speaker.

Everything is in readiness for the annual Mennonite Camp meeting, which opens at the state camp site, 1 1/2 miles southwest of Brown City tomorrow. Aug. 14, and which is expected to attract the biggest crowd that has ever assembled since this summer convention was instituted more than 30 years ago.

Already people have begun to arrive, to be in readiness for the open session. All parts of MI, other states, and Ont. will be represented among the throngs.

The depression, which has turned many to thoughts of spiritual





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Spiritual things, is expected to swell the attendance.

No new buildings have been put up at the camp this year, but a number of minor improvements have been made to add to the comfort and convenience of those in attendance. Among these is the construction of several tables.

The program for the 10 days of the camp represents a fine spiritual feast.

Dr. J. A. Huffman, dean of Marion College, Marion, IN, well known as an evangelist and an able preacher, will be the main speaker. Prof. & Mrs. W. R. Hallman of Chicago will be in charge of the music. Mr. & Mrs. Hallman, both accomplished musicians, are not strangers to camp attendants as they were here last year.

Harold Wisewell and the Ft. Wayne male quartette from the Bible Institute at Ft. Wayne, will have charge of the young people's work.

Miss Susie Dean, assisted by mission workers will conduct the children's services.

The Daily Schedule Is As Follows:

- Prayer Meeting - 6:30 a.m.
- Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
- Fellowship Meetings - 2 & 7 p.m.
- Preaching - 3 & 8 p.m.
- Children Meeting - 1:00 p.m.
- Young People's Meeting - 4 p.m.

Mrs. Westover of Marlette assisted by Mrs. Geo. Cunningham and Mrs. Dell Shrier will be the cooks at the cafeteria, which is under the management of Rev.

W. O. Cline,

Presiding Elder J. A. Avery is Camp Chairman.

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Ad For Camp  
**The Annual Camp Meeting**  
Of The  
**Mennonite Brethren in Christ**  
Will Be Held On Their  
**Beautiful Camp Ground**  
1 mile south and ½ mile west of  
**Brown City, MI**  
**August 14 to 23, 1931**  
J.A. Avery, Camp Chairman

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**Schedule of Services**

Prayer Meeting . . . . . 6:30 a.m.  
Bible Study . . . . . 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Meetings . . 2 & 7 p.m.  
Preaching . . . . . 3 & 8 p.m.  
Children's Meetings . . . 1:00 p.m.  
Young People's Meeting . 4:00 p.

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**Our Workers**  
**EVANGELIST:**  
Dr. J. A. Huffman, Dean of Marion College of Marion, IN.  
**SINGING:**  
Prof. & Mrs. W.R. Hallman, of Chicago, IL.  
**YOUNG PEOPLE:**  
Harold Wisewell & Ft. Wayne Quartet, Ft. Wayne, IN.  
**CHILDREN:**  
Susie Dean, of Pontiac, MI., Assisted by Mission Workers.

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Bed Frames, Straw For Ticks, And Fuel For Stoves, Furnished Free To Campers.

Meals Served at Cafeteria at Nominal Cost.

**PLAN! PRAY! COME!**

Aug. 20, 1931

## **CITY OF TENTS AT MENNONITE CAMP GROUNDS.**

Record Number Of Tent Dwellers Attending Meetings - Large Crowds At Services.

Interest in the Mennonite Camp meetings, which started Aug. 14, has kept up exceedingly well.

Week day services are well attended and large crowds have been turning out for the evening services.

Near-record crowds gathered for the Sunday afternoon and evening services.

The beautiful camp ground presents a very lively appearance these days. Several hundred have brought their tents and are camping in the grove during the meetings. There are 132 of these tents in the "residence section - a small - sized city."

This year holds the record of tent dwellers at Mennonite Camp Meetings. The largest number at any previous meeting was 117.

The meetings close Sunday evening.

Aug. 27, 1931

## **RECORD ATTENDANCE AT FINAL MEETINGS OF MENNONITE CAMP**

Annual Convocation One Of Most Successful In History Of Gatherings - Much Good Work Accomplished.

Sunday evening marked the close of one of the most successful camp meetings ever held by the



Mennonite Brethren in Christ.

It was the largest camp since the automobile became important as a means of transportation, and an average of 125 tents were pitched throughout the ten days of the meetings, among the trees in the beautiful grove a mile and a half southwest of Brown City, which is the permanent camp site of the denomination.

A fine spirit pervaded the gathering and there were more than 100 seekers at the altar.

Attendance at all meetings was the best in some years. And evening sessions, and the Bible study, in charge of Dr. J. A. Huffman, dean of Marion College, attracted large crowds. Services last Sunday afternoon and evening established a record.

The camp "went over the top," financially and in addition there was a substantial sum collected for the aid of Rev. Clink, who recently underwent a serious operation.

Dr. J. A. Huffman, evangelist, made a deep impression with his talks and much was accomplished by the special workers, Harold Wisewell and the Ft. Wayne quartette of Ft. Wayne, IN, who were in charge of the young people's work; Miss Susie Dean, of Pontiac, who, assisted by mission workers, conducted the children's services and Prof. & Mrs. W.R. Hallman, of Chicago, who were in charge of the music,

Jul. 28, 1932

#### **GETTING CAMP READY FOR MENNONITE MEETING**

Work of preparing the Mennonite Camp ground, southwest of Brown City, for the annual meeting which opens Aug. 19, is well under way.

Cleaning and improving is being done and the camp will be enhanced by the erection of several new cottages, which are now under construction.

The camp will continue through Aug. 28, and many from all parts of the state are expected to attend.

Aug. 4, 1932

#### **PLANS ALL MADE FOR MENNONITE CAMP MEETING**

Dean Of Marion College To Be Main Speaker - Pontiac Youth Is Song Leader.

Plans have been completed for the annual Mennonite State Camp meeting, which is to be held at the beautiful camp site, a mile and a half southwest of Brown City, from Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Workers this year will include Dr. J. A. Hoffman, dean of Marion College, Marion, IN, who will be the evangelist; Ira Wood of Pontiac, song leader, and Rev. E.N. Gibson of Elkton, young people's leader.

The schedule of services is as follows: 6:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting.

9:30 a.m. Song and Praise service.  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study. 1:00 p.m. Children's Meeting. 2:00 p.m. Preaching. 4:00 p.m. Young People's Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Song

and Praise service. 8:00 p.m. Preaching.

Aug. 11, 1932

#### **PUTTING MENNONITE CAMP IN SHAPE FOR ANNUAL MEET**

Final preparations are being made for the Mennonite State Camp meeting, which opens at the camp site just southwest of Brown City, Aug. 19. Considerable improvement is being made in the grounds and two new cottages have been erected.

All those who have the time, are urged to come out and help on the grounds. Dinner & supper will be furnished.

Aug. 25, 1932

#### **LARGE CROWDS ARE ATTENDING MENNONITE CAMP**

Around A Hundred Tents Pitched On Grounds - Inspiring Services Being Held Each Day.

The annual Mennonite State Camp meeting which opened at the beautiful camp grounds south of Brown City last Friday, is in full swing. A veritable "city of tents" in the neighborhood of 100 of them has sprung up and many "residents" from all parts of the state are enjoying the 10-day season of spiritual refreshing.

Last Sunday attendance at the afternoon rived that of the usual crowds at closing services of other years, and week-day meetings are attracting many people.

Dr. J. A. Hoffman, the evangelist,





Publisher: Sharmin Anderson (Witmer) from the Brown City Banner

Evangelist, is a powerful preacher of the Word and already there have been more than 40 seekers at the altar.

A fine spirit also pervades the young people's gathering, of which Rev. E.M. Gibson is in general charge. Preaching is being done by the young people themselves and Saturday Mark Burgess, local boy who is now pastor of a church at Manalona, will speak. The young people conducted an inspiring street meeting in B.C. Saturday and Wednesday evenings.

The song leader of the camp, this year, is Ira Wood, son of presiding Elder Wood. Mr. Wood is a very capable musician and adds much to the services with his talent.

Fine meals, at a nominal cost, are served at the camp cafeteria which is under general supervision of Rev. W. O. Cline. Mrs. Westover of Marlette and Mrs. George Cunningham are in charge of cooking.

Sept. 1, 1932

## **MENNONITE CAMP ENDS SUNDAY WITH RECORD CROWD**

More Than 3,500 At Closing Services - 10-Day Meeting Is Successful And Inspiring.

Ideal weather prevailed during the 10 days of the annual Mennonite State Camp meeting, which closed at the camp grounds south of Brown City Sunday evening.

Attendance at all of the

services was equal to that of other years and record crowds were present during the last day. It is estimated that 3,500 people gathered at the camp grounds Sunday.

The four cottages, which have been built on the grounds, were occupied and 120 tents were pitched, making a veritable little city, clustered around the tabernacle. OH, IN, Canada, and many parts of MI were represented among those present.

Services were all inspiring and a fine spirit pervaded the meetings.

There were over 100 seekers at the altar.

The workers, Rev. J. A. Hoffman, of Marion, IN, evangelist; Rev. E. M. Gibson of Elkton, in charge of the young people's division; Miss Loretta Shupe, in charge of the children's work and Ira Wood, song leader, were very successful in their efforts.

The young people conducted several very impressive street meetings in Brown City.

According to Rev. W.O. Cline, member of the camp board of directors, the finances were well met and everything is in fine condition. Over \$1,000 was subscribed for camp ground development.

The rain that fell in torrents Monday considerably inconvenienced the campers in their efforts to pack up and delayed work of closing the camp. The

last of the work was completed Wednesday.

Jul. 20, 1933

## **GETTING CAMP READY FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF STATE MENNONITES**

The Mennonite State Camp grounds, southwest of Brown City, are being put into shape for the annual camp meeting which is to open here Aug. 18.

No building is being done this year, but a gasoline tank and pump are being installed, for the convenience of those attending the service.

Rev. Paul S. Rees, of Pasadena, CA, formerly head of the Holiness tabernacle in Detroit, will be the evangelist this summer. Rev. O.P. Eastman will be in charge of the young people's work; the Shupe sisters will conduct the children's meetings and Mr. & Mrs. Ira Sherk will be in charge of the music.

A record attendance is expected at the camp.

Aug. 17, 1933

## **MENNONITE CAMP TO BE OPENED FOR 10 - DAY MEET, FRIDAY.**

People have already begun to gather for the annual State Mennonite Camp meeting which opens Fri. Aug. 18, at the camp grounds southwest of Brown City.

The grove has been mowed and raked and put into fine shape for the 10 - day convocation, which is expected to attract thousands of people from all parts of the state.



A number of tents and trailers are already in evidence. Several permanent cement bases have been put down for tents by campers.

Workers this year will be Rev. Paul Rees, evangelist; Rev. O.P. Eastman, young people's work; the Shupe sisters, children's meetings; Mr. & Mrs. Ira Sherk, song leaders.

Rev. R. D. Dean is the president of the camp committee and Mrs. Barber of Flint will be in charge of the Cafeteria.

Aug. 24, 1933

#### **ATTENDANCE AT Mennonite Camp Breaks Records**

190 Tents Pitched On The Grounds - More Than 3,000 Gather For Sunday Services.

All attendance records in the history of the Mennonite State Camp meeting have been shattered at this year's convocation, now gathered at the camp grounds just southwest of Brown City.

There are 190 tents pitched - a veritable little city of canvas - giving the quiet grove a martial air, but the "recruits" are in the service of Truth and the "Weapons" are the "sword, shield, and helmet" that Paul talks about.

It is estimated that there are 900 people staying on the grounds, people from Port Huron, Kalamazoo, Flint, Battle Creek, Pontiac, Detroit, the Northern part of the State and many other sections including Ont. The

Ont. The largest number of tents at any previous encampment was 137.

The services opened last Friday night. The opening meeting is usually a small one but this year a large crowd filled the tent, and another precedent was broken.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people attended the Sunday meetings, which were very inspiring. Special music was given by a male quartette from Dakota Ave. Church in Detroit.

Rev. Paul Rees of Pasadena, CA, former pastor of the Holiness Tabernacle in Detroit, is the evangelist and is holding his congregations spellbound with his eloquent and impressive sermons. Mr. Rees also conducts a very instructive and interesting Bible study each morning.

The young people's meetings under the direction of Rev. O.P. Eastman and the children's services in charge of the Shupe sisters are also very good.

Mr. & Mrs. Ira Sherk, in charge of music, add greatly to the interest of the services.

The first Mennonite State Camp meeting was held in the Brown City grove more than 40(?) years ago and has been an annual event ever since.

Aug. 31, 1933

#### **FIVE THOUSAND ATTEND CLOSING SERVICES OF Mennonite Meeting.**

Inspired Preaching of Rev. Paul Rees Brings Many Converts To The Altar.

The most successful convocation, both in numbers and results, ever held since the institution of the annual Mennonite State Camp Meeting, more than 40 years ago, camp to a close Sunday evening.

It is estimated that a crowd of 5,000 people attended the closing services. Attendance at all the meetings throughout the 10 days of the camp was record breaking too.

Many denominations were represented among the occupants of the 190 tents pitched on the grounds, and also among the crowds that gathered daily from near and far. From all parts of MI and from many parts of ONT. they came.

Under the inspired preaching of Rev. Paul Rees of Kansas City, MO, nationally known evangelist there were more than 300 seekers at the altar during the course of the meetings. Sixty-nine went forward at the closing service.

Splendid work was also done by Rev. O.P. Eastman, in charge of the young people's group and the Shupe sisters, who conducted the children's meetings.

The beautiful singing of Mr. & Mrs. Ira Wood of Detroit who were in charge of the music added much to the effectiveness of the services.

Breaking up and closing of the camp was also done in record time this year. Tue., all finished.





Thursday Aug. 2, 1934

## **Mennonite Camp Will Open Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Plans have been completed for the annual State Camp Meeting of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, which is to be held on the camp grounds S.W. Of the city, Aug. 17 and continues through Aug 26.

A fine program has been outlined. Services begin @ 6:30 each morning and continue through until the evangelistic meeting in the evening. Bible Study, prayer Meetings, children's & young people's meetings, and preaching services are included in each day's schedule.

Rev. J. A. Berry, member of the OH Conference will be the evangelist. He is also in charge of the Bible study. Rev. Berry, an excellent preacher is well known to local people as he served as evangelist during Mennonite Camp meetings a number of years ago.

The Shupe sisters will conduct the children's services and Rev. J. S. Wood, will be in charge of the young people's meetings.

Mr. & Mrs. Ira L. Wood are the song leaders. A large attendance is expected again this year, according to Rev. O.P. Eastman, who is overseeing the work of getting the grounds in readiness for the Camp. Aug. 16, 1934

## **Mennonite Camp Ready to Open.**

Everything is in readiness for the Annual Mennonite Camp Meeting which opens @ the

beautiful camp site, on the Joseph Witmer farm southwest of here, Friday, Aug. 17.

The camp has been made shipshape and the "City of tents," which annually springs up like magic in the cool shade of the grove, has already gotten a good growth. People began to arrive Tue. In time to get themselves comfortably settled before the opening of the meetings, and a record-breaking attendance is anticipated.

No new buildings have been put up on the grounds, but several people have built new cement floors for their tents.

Rev. J. A. Berry, member of the OH Conference will be the evangelist. Rev. Berry is known as a splendid preacher & teacher of the Truth. Other workers are the Shupe sisters, who will conduct the children's meetings; Rev. J. S. Wood who will be in charge of the young people's work and Mr. & Mrs. Ira L. Wood who will be the song leaders.

Services will begin each day @ 6:30 and continue through until the evangelistic meeting in the evening.

Aug. 23, 1934

## **Mennonite Hosts Are Here For Annual Camp Meeting**

**2,000 AT SUNDAY SERVICE - AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE MORE THAN 600.**

Thousands of members of the

Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church and other denominations, are attending the annual state camp meeting of the church being held here.

The meeting opened Fri. In the state camp ground 1 ½ miles S.W. Of Brown City. There has been an average daily attendance of from 600 to 800, with a crowd of 2,000 jamming the tabernacle in the Sunday session.

The number of tents in the grounds is 175. These figures are approximately the same as a year ago.

Speakers on the program include Rev. G. C. Guillat, Battle Creek; Rev. E. M. Gibson, presiding elder; Rev. J. A. Berry, Springfield, O.; Rev. J.N. Kitching, Elkton; Rev. O.P. Eastman, local pastor; Rev. J.S. Wood, Detroit; Rev. J. A. Avery, Flint; the Shupe sisters, Miss Margaret Finlay, Africa; and Mrs. E. H. Stohly, India. Miss Finlay and Miss Stohly will speak on the conditions of the foreign missions.

Aug. 30, 1934

## **State Mennonites Close Successful Ten-Day Meeting**

One of the largest and most successful Mennonite Camp Meetings ever held, closed @ the camp grounds, with a record crowd in attendance.

It is estimated that 2,000 attended Sunday services and on an average of 600 to 1,000 were on hand for the daily meetings throughout the 10 days of camp.

There were many seekers @ the altar.



Rev. Herman Berry, the evangelist conducted the evening and Sunday services. Various pastors of the denomination were in charge of afternoon meetings.

Other workers were the Shupe sisters, in charge of the children's meetings; Rev. J.S. Wood, in charge of young people's meetings, and Mr. & Mrs. Ira L. Wood music directors.

Special music was furnished by a male quartette from Marion College, a group of singers from Springfield, OH, male quartettes from Port Huron and Detroit a mixed chorus from Detroit and a male chorus made up of singers from various charges.

Missionary talks added to the interest of the meetings.

Sept. 6, 1934

### Will Open Home Church Closed For Many Years

Rev. W. O. Cline, who was recently transferred from the Brown City Mennonite church to the Kalamazoo charge, has had the great pleasure of reopening the church in his home community near Caledonia, in Kent County, southeast of Grand Rapids. The church has been closed for 15 years and Rev. Cline, assisted by Miss Ester Frey and Mrs. Ida Locklin, begin a services of special meetings there Wed. Sept. 5, to revive interest.

The Campaign will continue three weeks and if the effort meets with success, and the people desire it, Miss Frey and Mrs. Locklin will remain on the field.

Sept. 13, 1934

### Mennonite Camp Grows

Been busy in the grove this year at the Mennonite Camp, S.W. Of the city and as a result the grounds property have had to be enlarged.

A number of members of the church have been busy in the grove this week clearing and leveling more space. This indicates the constantly growing interest in the camp, which has been increasing each year.

Aug. 1, 1935

### Improvements At The Mennonite Camp Grounds

Those who travel south and west of town cannot but have noticed the air of bustle and preparation even now going on @ the Mennonite Camp Grounds. Many improvements have been made, chief among them being the erection of a stone cottage by Rev. O.P. Eastman. The Camp opens Aug. 16 and continues to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Andrew H. Johnson of Willmore, Kentucky, will be the principal evangelistic speaker. While the music will be in the charge of Mr. & Mrs. Parlee of Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Watch this paper for further announcements.

Aug. 15, 1935

### Mennonite Camp Opens Meetings

SEVENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT STARTS - DR. HENRY JOHNSON IS EVANGELIST - FIRST MEETING FRIDAY

\*To those gathered on the

Grounds, to the pastors and friends of the surrounding territory hearty greetings and welcome to the Mennonite meetings."

A delightful setting is this for the calm enjoyment of the fellowship in things of the Spirit. Twenty acres, mostly beautiful forest, but with every convenience are here.

The committee have spared no preparations to make all comfortable. Many improvements are apparent to those here last year. The workers cottage has been improved, altered and moved to a more convenient location. An addition to the cafeteria improves the facilities for handling ice cream and staples.

The Rev. J. A. Avery, the senior district elder, is chairman of the camp.

The first meeting is Friday @ 7 p.m. @ which time the Rev. Henry Johnson will speak. Mr. & Mrs. Parlee will lead the singing.

### SCHEDULE

Early Morning Prayers	6 a.m.
Breakfast	7 a.m.
Opening Service Y.P.	9 a.m.
Rev. J.S. Wood, Detroit, leader Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Dr. Henry Johnson	
Lunch	12
Preaching Service	1:30 p.m.
Supper	6 p.m.
Evening Service	7 p.m.
Sunday Morning Aug. 17	
Rev. E. M. Gibson	10:30 a.m.
Rev. Henry Johnson	1:30 p.m.
Rev. Henry Johnson	7:00 p.m.