

Good-bye, Sunbury Camp!

Hello, Nancy Lee Hile! [Page 5]

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**Privately-owned cottages were placed on sale
September 8, 2001.**

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Here's what Sunbury Camp became. Just another shopping center.



The last Sunbury Camp service was held August 12, 2001, at 3:00 p.m. The tabernacle for the final service was well filled and featured projected pictures of bygone years and a powerful message by Evangelist Roger Parsons. The sermon was delivered in a cadence and style reminiscent of such men as the late Dr. R. G. Flexon, of Indianapolis, and Rev. P. O. Carpenter of Wilmore, KY. Both of these men stand out in my mind as the Billy Grahams of Sunbury Camp, back when I was a boy.



Dr. Richard Gant Flexon
Indianapolis, Indiana

Rev. P. O. Carpenter



P. O. Carpenter,



Here's a Webster-Chicago wire recorder, like the one I had back in the 50s.

My Dad, Rev. J. Franklin Lint, gave me a Webster-Chicago wire recorder in 1952. I loved to record the services and then listen to them during the winter.

I learned how to hook up a long microphone wire that reached from the "orchestra pit" where I played trumpet up to the pulpit. Those recordings reached near broadcast quality.

Unfortunately, I only had 3 hours of wire. Therefore, each year, the previous camp services were erased to make room for the new services.

Today, I have two auto reverse cassette recorders and a CD recorder. I'm sad to say, I have no wire recordings to transfer to cassette or CD.

However, I can say that those wire recordings made at Sunbury Camp grew into a radio ministry which lived from 1971 to 2009 as Gospel Caravan.

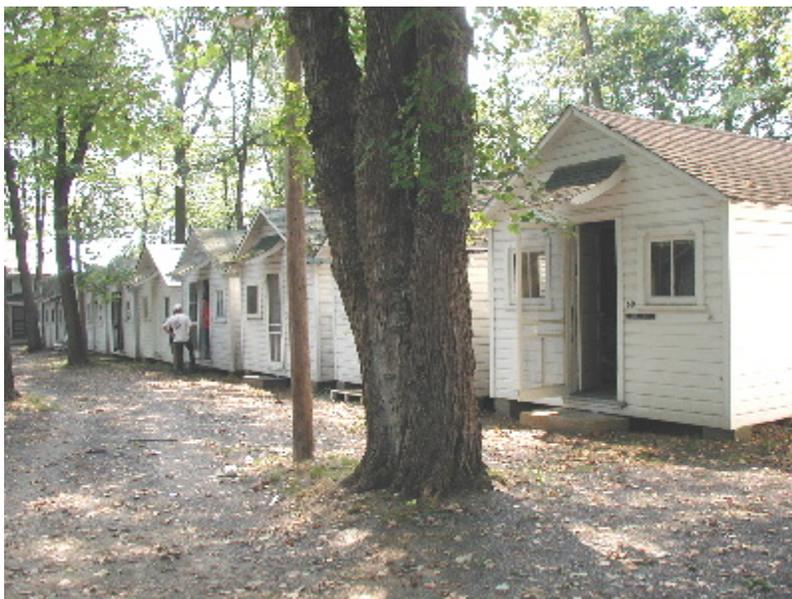
Looking back now, I would judge that the Sunbury Campus of God's Holiness Grove was at its zenith during August of 1952. It seemed to slowly diminish during the subsequent summers.

This level property in a grove of mature trees was sold as change and progress march on. The campus included a large wooden tabernacle, a dining hall with some rooms for campers upstairs, and two rest room buildings.

God's Holiness Grove was operated under the auspices of the Wesleyan Church. A merger in 1968 between the Wesleyan Methodist and the Pilgrim Holiness denominations created the Wesleyan Church. Prior to the merger, the camp was operated by the Pilgrim Holiness Church.



This was the Main Drive of the camp, when you entered from US Routes 11-15. Straight ahead is the old-fashioned camp meeting tabernacle. To the left is the dining hall; on both sides of the drive are white cottages, all built to Camp Meeting Board specifications. [As pictured below.]



Rev. Jordan "Jurd" Edwin Wolfe, 1872-1955, Camp

**Founder, Publisher of the *Holiness Missionary Colporteur*,
and Church Planter**

Rev. Jordan "Jurd" Edwin Wolfe, 1872-1955,

**Rev. Jordan "Jurd" Edwin Wolfe, 1872-1955, Camp Founder, Publisher of the
Holiness Missionary Colporteur,
and Church Planter**

Jurd Wolfe's old cottage/home [pictured below] was relocated in later years from the far side of US 11-15 to the main campus and utilized as a prayer chapel. He was on his way from the Saturday night service to this little home when he was killed.

Rev. Wolfe was killed during the 1955 camp while crossing from the camp ground to his cottage on the other side of U.S. 11-15. Jurd Wolfe always wore a black suit to service, so the elderly gentleman may have been hard for a motorist to see in the dark. His funeral was held in the tabernacle and attended by over 900 campers and fellow ministers.

In 1923, the purchase of the original property was arranged by Rev. Wolfe for \$6,000.





Mr. and Mrs. Max L. Hile

and their four daughters in front of the Hile cottage before the final service.

L-R, Jacki Herbst, Marilyn Wert, Marceille Harrison, Nancy Lint

Of course, I could say that Sunbury Camp has a special place in my heart because of the spiritual history of these shaded acres. However, that wouldn't be the whole story. The fact is, I met my future wife, Nancy Lee Hile, the Thursday of the August 1952 camp.

I was working as a ticket puncher at the dining hall, when this cute, fourteen-year old came through the line without a ticket. She said her dad, Max L. Hile, had her ticket and he was somewhere behind her in the line. By the authority vested in me as the official ticket puncher, I let her into the dining hall without a ticket, and I'm still paying for her dinners to this day! [And loving every minute of it!] Here are Nancy and I as we looked back in the 50s, and 30 years later, in the 80s.



We were married August 4, 1956 at the old Pilgrim Holiness Church in Milton, Pa.
Rev. J. Franklin Lint officiated.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary July 2, 2006.



Church summer camps of this era were not famous for a lot of organized activities for young people. There was no pool; promiscuous bathing was frowned on by the church leaders of this era. A teenager's day consisted of working in the dining hall for three meals, attending services in the tabernacle three times a day, and [for boys] playing root-the-peg with pocket knives in the mossy shade in front of the dining hall.

Of course, I look back on those days with fond memories and that is one of the reasons I created this unofficial memorial web site.

What made Sunbury Camp unique among Christian camps I have visited over the years were the 100 white cottages, all built to the same specifications.

Rev. Wolfe [right] with my Dad, Associate Editor Rev. J. Franklin Lint [1909-1993]. Picture taken c. 1946.

Dad was president of the God's Holiness Grove Camp Meeting Association while pastoring the church in Rebuck [1945-48], and went on to become District Superintendent of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey District of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, 1948-1953.

He moved to the West Virginia District where he pastored churches in Charleston and Barboursville and was District Treasurer. He built a retirement home on the district camp ground at Culloden, and died in 1993.

Rev. Wolfe made arrangements with Dad for "assisting him in editing the Colporteur and continuing its publication after his passing. The tragic 1955 accident caused this to happen sooner than anyone could have realized. In the mid 80s, it was my pleasure to maintain the database of subscribers on my computer and to print out the address labels when it was time to send out another edition of the Holiness Missionary Colporteur. Dad and Mother had been hand writing the addresses before I started to help.

When Dad died in 1993, I published and mailed a final memorial edition. If you would like a copy of that memorial edition, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope [SASE] to:



**DiskBooks Electronic Publishing
PO Box 473,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

The picture below shows the sad state of the old camp as seen from US 11-15 as Nancy and I drove by one rainy day in late May, 2003. The building closest to the road is what's left of the caretaker's house; it looks like a tree fell on it.

The other main building still standing is the combination dining hall and dormitory, seen to the left and behind the caretaker's house.

This is where I allowed Nancy to go into the dining hall without a ticket one August Thursday in 1952.

The other small building visible in the center of this picture appears to be a restroom building.

When we drove by September 13, 2003, all building had been completely leveled except the restroom buildings. The rumor is that this will be the site of a new WAL*MART complex. When we drove by in July, 2006 the heavy equipment had started transforming the Sunbury Camp campus to its eventual commercial destiny.

Good-bye, Sunbury Camp. Time and circumstances have left nothing but desolation, to make room for commercial expansion. Now Sunbury Camp exists in the minds and hearts of those of us who spent so many happy hours in your tabernacle, your dining hall, your cottages, and under your gorgeous trees. No one can demolish those fond memories!





Here's what Sunbury Camp became. Just another shopping center.