

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

JUNE 1974



Welcome to the

By the Rev. Harvey A. Tafel

For twenty-five years the Wayfarers' Chapel has been a spiritual Mecca for millions of "wayfarers." They come from the four corners of the world to the "Glass Church"—a bit of heaven captured on earth!

On July 17, 1949 a vision became a reality. On that day members and friends of the Swedenborgian Church gathered on a dusty hillside on the picturesque Palos Verdes Peninsula to lay the cornerstone of a most unique and soul-inspiring chapel.

For twenty-five years the Wayfarers' Chapel has become a spiritual Mecca for millions of "wayfarers." They come from the four corners of the world to the "Glass Church" as some call it. What draws them? By walking about the grounds, meditating in the Chapel and strolling through the Visitors Center, the answer becomes apparent. Here is a bit of heaven captured on earth!

Seated in the sanctuary the beauty of God's handiwork greets the eye at every turn, lifting the mind toward heaven and instilling a sense of peace and tranquility in the heart. Spiritual rest and renewal are here for all people. The opened Word on the altar invites wayfarers to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." The great symbols of religion focus the mind on God: the triangle, the circle, the cross. Sitting in the midst of trees and foliage the worshipper can look up through the glass into infinite space above and become aware of his closeness with God. There is time here to reflect on the meaning of life and of man who is created in "his image and likeness."

Here in the Chapel the realization breaks through that there are no bars separating man from his fellow man or from his Creator, for the Chapel and

its services encompass all people regardless of race, nationality and religious background. It is a reaffirmation that in the eyes of God all mankind is one, and precious in his sight. It is a time for worship, prayer and meditation, to revitalize the inner springs that feed the soul.

It is my hope that through the articles and pictures in this *Messenger* that our Church at large and the wayfaring public will become better acquainted with the Chapel, its ideals and the services it offers. Some of these articles are written by members of our Church while others are from wayfarers who have found a "spiritual home" at the Chapel.

First, and foremost, is providing worship services. There is no more inspirational setting for a worship experience than the Chapel. Through worship God and man meet in encounter, and the deep wells of life are refreshed with "living water." As the Chapel itself is open toward heaven so does man need to open himself to God, to seek a sense of his forgiveness, to feel the strength of his love within and to

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COVER PHOTO: The Wayfarers' Chapel

This special issue of *The Messenger*, celebrating the silver anniversary of the Wayfarers' Chapel, was prepared under the guest-editorship of the Rev. Harvey A. Tafel, Chapel Minister. RHK

Wayfarers' Chapel

perceive his power for use in daily living. Every Sunday morning wayfarers from a variety of backgrounds come to worship the Lord together. To "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" in the Chapel is truly an uplifting experience.

Second, is providing a place for the "wayfarer" to come for meditation and reflection throughout the week. It is important in the busyness of day-to-day living to every so often take time out and simply "be." The Chapel provides a setting in which the wayfarer can take time out for prayer, meditation and reflection. It is a time to become more aware of the deeper depths of life. The Chapel, the surrounding beauty of gardens, trees and lawns, and the meditation walk are conducive to this time of spiritual renewal and refreshment.

Third, the Visitors Center where the wayfarer can become more familiar with the background of the Chapel, its services, the Swedenborgian Church and most important concerning the theological teachings that are the inspiration of the Chapel. Books

by Swedenborg as well as collateral books and pamphlets are available for all. The Chapel is one of the greatest missionary adventures of our Church.

And fourth, are the various services we offer to the wayfaring public. Baptisms, weddings, memorial services, public meetings, plays, graduations, concerts for high school singing groups, small musical groups and soloists, counseling, and our Sunday worship services along with our special worship services.

Finally, I would like to extend to you an invitation to join us on Sunday, July 14, for a special Worship Service celebrating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cornerstone. The week following will see special concerts and presentations marking this milestone in the life of a most unique and soul-inspiring chapel.

Enjoy your visit to the Wayfarers' Chapel.

A Dream Come True

By Mary Schellenberg Poole

Today it is hard to even imagine those sparkling blue days of the late 1920's, when the Palos Verdes Peninsula was largely open farm land. A two lane dirt road was finally opened skirting the shoreline to San Pedro, and Palos Verdes Estates with its pretty California style homes of white stucco and red tile roofs brought visitors to the area in substantial numbers. Toyon Berries, Mariposa Lilies, Wild Lilac, California Poppies, Lupine and Mustard—nature spread over the hills in lavish style. The blue sea, and Catalina Island some twenty-five miles off shore, joined to create a truly lovely California landscape.

In the midst of such beauty, it is not strange that

one should feel especially close to one's Maker. Such was the response of Elizabeth (Mrs. F. F.) Schellenberg who had the dream. In keeping with the Spanish tradition of the early California Missions, the Chapel, she believed, would provide a place for the wayfarer to rest, and in the quiet surroundings return thanks to his Maker for a truly beautiful world. Coupled with the dream was the willingness to work to see that this vision might be fulfilled.

Well do I remember one special afternoon in 1928 returning from school, eager to hear how the luncheon had gone. Lucy Mercer Billingslea and

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STORY OF WAYFARERS' CHAPEL, cont'd. from p. 99

my mother and father had been guests of Narcissa Cox Vanderlip and her husband (Frank A. Vanderlip) at which time Mother had planned to share her dream—yes, and even ask whether the Vanderlips would be interested in making some property available for such a purpose. The Vanderlips owned nine-tenths of the Peninsula at that time.

Mrs. Vanderlip, in an effort to further the project, invited a young architect, Ralph Jester, working for their corporation, to draw some sketches so that members of the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches would have a better idea of what was anticipated. The depression of 1929 and the years following were not auspicious times for building mission churches and the idea became dormant.

However it never died with Elizabeth Schellenberg. Guests from far and near at the Schellenberg home in Palos Verdes were always treated to a drive along the coast and the Chapel story. "Mother Sou's Chapel," as it was affectionately called by members of the California Association, figured frequently in Association meetings. When held in the Los Angeles area, it became traditional to hold the closing service Sunday afternoon and a light supper at the Schellenberg home—following a drive for many to the Chapel site. The Peninsula drive became ever more popular, and more and more people were attracted to the area. Skeptical Easterners found it difficult to accept that Westerners would drive twenty-five miles just to visit a beautiful church. On more than one occasion we counted the cars that passed the Chapel site in our effort to substantiate the premise, that Southern Californians did indeed drive this far on a Sunday afternoon.

The undaunted Mrs. Schellenberg revived the idea at Convention, and in 1945 she was authorized to form a committee to explore the interest of church members leading to the raising of a goal of \$25,000. This was a gigantic sum in those days. Even small contributions were hard to come by. When word came that the General Council in 1946 agreed to proceed, subject to the transfer of the land to Convention, and go ahead with the building of the Chapel, Mother practically panicked. Only then did she ask herself, "What have I done?

What if no one comes?"

Since Ralph Jester was no longer a practicing architect, it was his suggestion that we secure the services of Lloyd Wright, his former associate. The design of glass and stone was a startling innovation for the time architecturally speaking and many were attracted because of it. Tremendous interest was shown by the press,—Time, Life, etc. which gained acclaim for the Chapel throughout the world. The laying of the cornerstone took place during the first California Convention in 1949 on a blue day with white sails showing on a very blue and sparkling ocean. Following this event, supper was served on the Vanderlip terrace, a strolling Mariachi band entertained and the project seemed well launched.

The Dedication Service was held on Sunday, May 13, 1951 with the Rev. Leonard I. Tafel officiating. On May 19, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelvin Vanderlip and granddaughter of Mrs. Frank Vanderlip, donor of the site, was baptized at a private service. The Chapel opened for public worship on June 3 and at this service Sewall Foster Young, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. Young, and grandson of Mrs. F. F. Schellenberg, was baptized. The first Board of Managers was appointed in 1951.

Growing pains were many through the early years. Money was scarce. Building costs exceeded early estimates. Too many people came creating house-keeping problems if nothing else. No resident minister, no regular staff, no gardener, no janitorial service, no music save the manually operated phonograph. The desire for quality music was met, but limited by what the private collections of a few members provided.

In these early days the Chapel was open every afternoon from one until five. Volunteers from the neighborhood served as hostesses. Local interest was high, but some ideas were difficult to assimilate. One was a controversy over whether the Chapel should be an exclusive parish church or for the Wayfarer from all walks of life. We are indebted to the wise leadership of the Rev. Andre Diaconoff, the Rev. Othmar Tobisch, and Mr. George Lee who helped weather these stormy times for the church.

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THE CONCEPT OF THE WAYFARERS' CHAPEL

by Mr. Lloyd Wright

Excerpts from an interview with Rev. Tafel February 20, 1974

AT THE CORNERSTONE -

That was really a moving occasion when the members of the congregation and the ministers of the Church were gathered on this hilltop twenty-five years ago to carry out the design. Who was the speaker of the occasion, Charles Laughton? He did a wonderful job. He held his audience and his audience was pleased with what he had to say. He was a crusty old boy and a great actor and he did a beautiful job that day, out there on the hilltop. It was a great beginning.

IN FRONT OF THE CHAPEL -

The Chapel is modeled on the teachings of Swedenborg and his ideal chapel that was woven out of trees and roots and so forth. We were moved to use the redwood. The great cathedrals of redwood up north inspired me to use it here. In earlier days, mankind, all over the face of the earth, had chapels in glades and the woods, like the English woods. These were turned into meeting places for the priests and the people. So this Chapel was to be a place for people to meet, and think, and contemplate the forces of nature, God Almighty. The setting of this Chapel is to receive people, the wayfarers.

In the Chapel I used the triad, the trinity. It is a natural one to all religious concepts. The triad concept was used in the designing of the Chapel. And all the framework is done in 30-60, we call it in architecture, the 30-60 degree angles, triangular, and as you will note, the forms of the framework that enclosed the Chapel area are, more or less on the 30-60 degree angle. It was done to make the glass enclosure as inconspicuous as possible. When the trees that surround it grow up they will become the framework, become a part of the tree forms and branches that inevitably arise from the growing trees adjacent to it. And then, I wanted particularly to allow those trees and those trunks to be seen, and the space beyond, and into infinity



Lloyd Wright, architect of the Chapel, stands by the cornerstone.

to be observed, so those who sat in the sanctuary would perceive the grandeur of space out beyond, and around us. For that purpose, I used the glass walls so that it became transparent. The trees, the natural growth, the sky, and the sea beyond became the definition of their environment, but they get the protection of the glass enclosure. This is done to give the congregation protection in services, but at the same time get this sense of outer as well as inner space. And to get away from the concept of the sepulchre. The churches that were made in Europe are based mainly on the concept of the sepulchre, that is the grave. I wanted the living thing. The concept was for life, infinite life, infinite space, not the burial crypt. I think we achieved that.

DIORAMA -

The diorama was conceived as a, not pilgrim's progress, but a kind of review of man's life on earth particularly that involved with Christ and the Holy Land. It is a development of the process of mankind on earth of man from that day to this.

A WAYFARER'S POINT OF VIEW

By Mary Blair

I came to Wayfarers' Chapel a year ago, looking for spiritual guidance. I awoke one morning with the song, "*Come to the Church in the Wildwood*," running through my head. Wayfarers' Chapel came to mind.

After attending the Sunday morning Worship Service, I knew I'd be back again and again. There is something quaint and distinctive about this Church. Rev. Tafel has a warm and compassionate way of delivering his service. I always have the feeling that part of his message is meant especially for me, as though God were talking to me through him.

I look forward to coming to the Chapel on Sunday. Usually I come a few minutes early and sit and meditate in the beautiful surroundings. Somehow I have a very close feeling with God here. The indoor-outdoor atmosphere, the inspirational music, all of it gives one a feeling of fulfillment, like having a spiritual meal.

Last December I was confirmed in the Swedenborgian Faith and it was the most rewarding experience of my life. The teachings are so very close to what I've always felt in my heart.

I'm sure it was Divine Providence that brought me to the Wayfarers' Chapel, Rev. Tafel and all the good people associated with the Swedenborgian religion.

I am truly blessed to be a small part of it all.

CHAPEL REMEMBRANCES

By the Rev. Andre Diaconoff

Mr. Wright designed the Chapel of glass that the walls might be transparent, and so keep it in unity with creation. The growing trees live to upraise the structure. The bents flaring over the columns inside are like arching branches overhead. The lines are flowing lines of growth. The rock is native rock, quarried from the hills around the Chapel. It is diatomaceous rock, which breaks in large slabs.

We wanted a rock, for the cornerstone, of triangular shape to fit into the design, but where could we

find one? We sought for an impossible thing, so it seemed, a rock not cut by human hands, yet that would correspond to the whole intent and image. We were about to decide after all to employ a mason to do the job for us, when the manager of the Vanderlip estate spoke up. "Some two or three years ago," he said, "I found a rock lying on the hillside. It was so symmetrical, I did not want to break it up. Instead I hauled it away and stored it in a shed." We went to look at it. It was exactly the rock we were looking for.

The 1949 Church Convention was held in Los Angeles. The Rev. Doctor Leonard Tafel was the President. The laying of the cornerstone of the Chapel was the high point of that Convention: the whole Church had part in the act of it. It was a beautiful day. It was as though the Lord had provided the blessing of the sun, the fragrant incense of the chaparral and the vastness of the Pacific Ocean. We were in the Divine presence. An altar of stone had been raised where the altar and chancel are now. The Word of the Lord was placed on it. The people, a large assembly, came up the slope of the hill. An aisle was provided for the procession of the clergy. The ministers entered, and the Word was opened by the President of Convention. One who had part in the liturgy was the renowned artist, Mr. Charles Laughton. He read from Psalm 107. The Rev. Othmar Tobisch, Rev. Robert L. Young and I had part in the service of praise. There was a great feeling of joy and thankfulness.

The cornerstone was made ready. It had been engraved with the Alpha and Omega. Documents commemorating the day were placed in the cement vault which was set in the side of the berm wall. Mr. George E. Lee of Los Angeles, Chairman of the Building Committee, officiated at the raising of the stone. He gave the word. From its position on the ground the stone was raised to seal the vault and its memorable contents. As the cornerstone was sealed all the endeavor of love and faith, which we are remembering here, was fulfilled. A new day of worship and of service had opened on the highroad of life.

The Chapel proclaims the Lord Jesus Christ the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last for all wayfarers on that road.

A WAYFARING ENCOUNTER

By Joe and Loie Brooks

Our first encounter with the Wayfarers' Chapel was on Mother's Day 1964. A misscheduling of Girl Scout troop field trips had my 11 year-old daughter on a bivouac. I would have been alone on a day that had special importance for a divorced mother trying to raise an only daughter alone. Joe and I had dated for about a year and, although we cared deeply for one another, our previous marriage experiences had left us skittish and reluctant to sign once again



Joe and Loie Brooks

on the dotted line. Moreover, our previous attempts to become involved in one church or another had left a rather bad taste in our mouths.

It was in this frame of mind that we decided to go out for a pleasant Sunday brunch and drive down the coast to attend Mother's Day services at the famous glass church.

The sermon was delivered by a roundish minister who bore a remarkable resemblance to Friar Tuck, including the delightful twinkle that occasionally came into his eyes. He based his sermon on what has always been my favorite passage in the Bible, Corinthians I, 13, a fitting subject for a lovely church, open to the sky and nestled among the trees.

Bob Young's welcome after the service was warm and genuine, too. "Glad you could join us today. Hope you can come again." This fellow, we thought, is really sharp. He notices new faces.

After that first day, we returned to the church whenever we could. Each time, we were greeted warmly and knew that we were recognized. It was with some hesitation that Joe asked one Sunday morning in a low secretive voice, "Do you by any chance marry divorced people?" and received the unhesitating, "Of course. Check with Mrs. Smith so that she can arrange an appointment for an interview." Another surprise for us was Annella

Smith's willingness to take a few minutes on her Sunday morning and day off to make us feel comfortable and welcome and set a date for us to come in for our chat with Reverend Young.

Several years have passed since those first shy days when we were getting to know the chapel family and the spirit of acceptance and welcome which we found so unique and unusual. We were accepted as we were. Bob, in particular, possessed a marvelous *lack* of judgmental disapproval in all his relations with us.

Friends of ours, also divorced, had severed their connections with a church where they had attended since childhood because a self-righteous minister refused to marry them solely because they were divorced. After much inquiring, they were finally married by an impersonal official who provided them with the legal requirements of a wedding, but

We who began as Wayfarers. . . try to remember that feeling of being welcomed and accepted, so that we, in turn, can welcome and accept others who may come to our Chapel just for a "Wayfaring Encounter."

none of the spiritual benefits. They were amazed, as have been many other acquaintances since, to hear of a church that takes you as you are, demands no prerequisites and loves you in the way the Bible says you're supposed to be loved—unconditionally.

This, in part, is why we who began as Wayfarers, stayed on to become part of the little nucleus of "regulars." We try to remember that feeling of being welcomed and accepted, so that we, in turn, can welcome and accept others who may come to our Chapel just for a "Wayfaring Encounter." We hope that more people will come to realize just how very precious a friendly smile, the warm squeeze of a hand, or a gentle welcome can be. Perhaps this expression of quiet faith and reverence toward other human beings is what God meant when he asked us to love one another as we would love him.

The Wayfarers' Chapel Needs Your Help

By Stewart Poole,

member, Board of Managers of the Wayfarers' Chapel

In reading this issue on the Chapel we wonder how many have thought of its organization and administration, what makes it run and what makes it a viable activity for the Church and the wayfarer? How does it operate and what kind of an organization is needed? A great many people in Convention think of the Chapel as a beautiful building, lovely grounds and gardens with thousands of visitors each year. Did you ever think that a very loyal staff of eleven people plus a small group of volunteers make it possible?

The Chapel is not a money making activity, nor should it be. We have in the past been able to make our income cover our expenses, but with fewer wayfarers, smaller contributions and the increase in salaries and other expenses, we found ourselves with a deficit in 1973. If the purpose of the Chapel is to produce a profit or surplus each year it can be done. It would mean the elimination of all missionary activity, reduction of the staff to just the minister, an attendant and gardener. No one wants this type of operation. The purpose of the Chapel is much greater—it is a very viable part of the Church and Convention.

The Chapel is our one activity which brings the public in great numbers in contact with our Church and the writings of Swedenborg. Because of this fact, our responsibility and costs are great. Having the public in such large numbers demands that the buildings and grounds be kept attractive and in first-class condition. This requires gardeners to do the job. In addition we need attendants to greet and talk with the visitors as well as handle and distribute the literature. We also have to have an office staff to handle the correspondence, book-keeping and scheduling. We need wedding attendants and persons to handle traffic. We do all this with eight full-time people, including the minister, plus three part-time people. In 1973 salaries, pensions, payroll taxes, travelling and medical insurance amounted to \$68,500.00.

We must pay for utilities, office supplies, tele-

phone, advertising, insurance, taxes and general supplies. For these items in 1973 we paid \$13,500.

The buildings in all their beauty require very expensive repairs and maintenance. Almost every year we have to replace a window and in some years more at a cost of over \$1,400.00 each. Maintenance and repairs cost us \$7,000.00 in 1973.

As part of the missionary effort of the Chapel we purchase and distribute a tremendous number of books, pamphlets and other literature. Last year we spent over \$8,000.00 on literature. This amount does not include the cost of handling and distribution. We believe that our total cost of handling literature was between \$15,000.00 and \$16,000.00

We hold regular Worship and many special services. While we have a volunteer choir there are costs for music, tapes and supplies. We spent \$4,500.00 on this activity in 1973.

Last year our expenditures amounted to \$101,500 which was \$4,000 more than our income. This figure does not include any expenditures for capital items such as the Bible Diorama.

The Bible Diorama is a visual story of the Bible from the Garden of Eden to Moses, and from the birth of the Lord to the Resurrection. We have these two units installed and the third unit which tells of man's spiritual growth is to be completed by July 14th. This will give us an additional attraction for drawing more visitors, especially church groups.

The Chapel has a great future before it, but we must have assistance from outside sources. This is especially true of our missionary efforts and the cost of the diorama. We hope that there are friends in Convention who will see the need we are facing AND HELP us by contributing toward the diorama. You may use the attached envelope for sending in your contribution.

NEW EXHIBITS IN THE VISITORS CENTER

THE BIBLE DIORAMA

By Irving McCallum

The Wayfarers' Chapel is unique and beautiful in both its purpose and structure. Literally millions of people have visited the Chapel and enjoyed the beauty of the buildings and grounds. However, only a small percentage of these millions have any awareness of the Swedenborgian Church or its teachings.

To better inform the public of our Church's teachings, the Board of Managers, after much soul searching, five years ago decided to renovate the Visitors Center and install new exhibits.

The Board felt that these new exhibits should complement the Chapel and at the same time be simple and direct in their presentation, taking into account the wide range of people who will be viewing them. A biblical theme was selected in which the message of the Bible could be brought to the wayfarer in a new way and with a present-day feeling of practicality and usefulness. It centers around the idea of the potential steps of spiritual growth in the Bible stories and how they relate to the individual viewing the exhibit. The Garden of Eden, the Holy Land, the Nativity and Resurrection were given to several designers as some background for their presentations.

The design submitted by Lloyd Wright was finally chosen. His concept was that of a three-dimensional diorama consisting of three units. The first shows a miniature Garden of Eden which leads into an over-all view of the Holy Land, from the most northern limits following the flow of the Jordan River to the Sea of Galilee and then to the Gulf of Aquaba and the Sinai Peninsula.

The second unit focuses on the New Testament, from the Nativity Scene through the Sermon on the Mount to the Resurrection. The third unit then portrays the Chapel as it was described in one of Swedenborg's passages. Its originality of concept, the idea of the three dimensional approach,

the color, and the potential impact of the message it could convey seemed best suited to the needs of the Visitors Center.

Let's take a short tour of the diorama. The first two units are installed, and the third unit is scheduled to be ready in time for our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration this July.

Our first stop is the Garden of Eden which is represented by two large trees, the Tree of Life with light bark and light green leaves, and the Tree of Knowledge with darker bark and leaves. Underneath their intertwining branches is a sylvan pool of water from which four streams of live water cascade down the four sides of the Garden. One of the rivers symbolically flows into the Jordan River and through the Holy Land.

Cindy Gutfeldt of Urbana has created a number of beautiful figurines for the exhibit. The first two are Adam and Eve placed in the Garden. Other biblical figures such as Noah, Abraham, Joseph and his brothers, and Moses are placed at intervals along the unit. At each figure is a card explaining that particular event and how it relates to the spiritual growth of the individual today. For instance, the explanation of the Garden of Eden reads:

The Garden of Eden represents that period of spiritual infancy where each of us starts our spiritual journey, being innocent, open, trusting, accepting, until we become aware of our own individuality.

The next story on our tour is Unit II, the New Testament, which begins with the Nativity, followed by the calling of the Disciples by the Sea of Galilee, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Resurrection scene. The figurines for the Nativity and Resurrection are in place with the other figures expected in the near future. We want to convey the thought that this new birth signals a new dimension and perspective which, when added to the Old Testament, can bring about a positive, loving and accepting outlook on life.

Throughout the exhibit the idea we want to convey is the thought that we need to be useful to grow spiritually, and the Bible can be the useful

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NEW EXHIBITS, cont'd. from p. 105
guide and friend in this growth.

Continuing our tour, we come to Unit III which will portray the spiritual aspect of marriage as it is related to our spiritual growth. The display will start with several couples being married, then follow them along as they raise their children, culminating in their standing in the Chapel of Trees. Hopefully we will be conveying the message to the wayfarer that marriage is no more dead than religion, it just needs the new awareness that it can be a growing, fulfilling, maturing relationship when it is joined with the recognition that we are no longer "bodies with spirits" but are "spirits with bodies."



Irving McCallum, chairman of the Chapel Board of Managers, points out the Garden of Eden in the Bible Diorama.

In addition to the written explanation at each set of figurines on the diorama, a booklet has been compiled that can be read as the wayfarer walks around the display, or it can be picked up and read later at home as he refreshes his memory, relating it to what he has seen.

Our tour ends at the new literature and welcoming desk which has been installed as part of the exhibit. Special movable and adjustable shelves and bays have been designed as an integral part of the desk to effectively display books, pamphlets, and post cards and slides.

When we are finished, the over-all effect should be

one of uniqueness, color and beauty that will imply that here is a new dimension and perspective for enjoying and fulfilling life.

We anticipate that this unique diorama will eventually become an integral part of the Chapel tour, conveying the "why" of the Chapel to the thousands of wayfarers who might have wondered in the past.

WHAT THE CHAPEL MEANS TO ME

By Ann Williams

The fluttering and cooing of birds, the splashing waves, the grinding of sand against the rocks, the roar and smell of fire coming too close, the gentle whispering of wind in the surrounding trees, the water tumbling down, all this is part of my consciousness entwined with memories of the Chapel.

The joy of a wedding, the sorrow of a last sermon of a dear pastor, the christening of a third generation of a family long known, or one newly met, friendships and acquaintances: all shared experiences in our journey of life. The acceptance of a retarded child and her happiness in going to the Chapel. Her delight in the music of the service and greeting of old friends, which are so few in her life experience.

The comfort of knowing your child, now a teenager rejecting many of your teachings, wanting to be part once again of the Las Posadas on Christmas Eve, or the Meal in the Upper Room on Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunrise, thus revealing there is a need and a place in his life for spiritual refreshment and meaning.

To have such a place of beauty to commune with the Lord, to leave the world and all its jarring demands outside, while inside there is peace and joy, beauty and the Everlasting, in an almost tangible form, provides the inner person with renewed energy for life's many demands. Finally, but not the least, the guidance and enlarged understanding of life's experiences and things Eternal which are an integral part of the Service, is the meat and bread of spiritual life and a necessity to one's fullness of life here and now. To find all this in one place, freely given, is indeed a rich and precious find for any wayfarer.

STORY OF WAYFARERS' CHAPEL, cont'd. from p. 100

For three months the Rev. Andre Diaconoff, serving the Los Angeles Church, and the Rev. Robert L. Young, serving the San Diego Church, alternated Sundays leading a sunset worship service in the Chapel at 5:00 P. M. This was a real labor of love since both men, following their own services, had to drive many miles through the busy Sunday traffic just to get there. Appropriate hymns, musical responses, and so forth, were exceedingly scarce on commercial records, and the need to create a minimum library at little or no cost was difficult to say the least. The tolling bell, and an opening Introit occasionally come over the tapes today, reminding us that many of those early efforts still have their use.

In July, 1951, the Rev. Clyde Broomell came out of retirement to serve the Chapel for nine months as a full-time minister. Little did he realize the hidden agenda for that job: ministerial services, plus janitor, grounds maintenance, and police. Almost immediately the Sunday Morning worship services were inaugurated in addition to the Vesper services. Then the Rev. Andre Diaconoff, on loan from Los Angeles, served in the interim until the Rev. Kenneth Knox took over in July, 1953, serving for eleven years. This was a period of tremendous growth for the Chapel. The architecture was still new. Marineland and other attractions were springing up on the Peninsula, and a peak year for wayfarer attendance exceeded 950,000 visitors. Ken Knox made a tremendous contribution through his knowledge of electronics, and though the sound system is constantly undergoing improvements, it is Ken who moved it in this direction. The Rev. Franklin Blackmer joined the staff in July, 1956 and it was under his direction that the Visitors Center was constructed.

The Rev. Robert L. Young took over from Ken in July, 1963. Growth was no longer the problem. Stabilization was. More attention was given to the enrichment of the program through Special Services, and how the Teachings of the Church could better be spread. As a distribution center for our Church literature, I am confident the Chapel is the envy of the Southland. In the past year alone more than 124,000 pieces of literature have been distributed including 6,000 copies of "Our Daily Bread," bringing to the attention of the public not

only the name of Swedenborg, but something of what the Church teaches. The weddings, baptisms, memorial services touch thousands, and since it is at these times that people are in a most receptive mood to receive the teachings, they gain respect for them.

Many high occasions have been shared with the community through the years. The beautiful monodrama, "Mary, the Mother of Jesus," given at the chapel at Christmas time was repeated annually until the artist was no longer available. "Family Portrait," a truly moving portrayal of Jesus' life as his family and friends knew him, was given for several years in the amphitheater. Easter at the Chapel is an experience most Swedenborgians would enjoy. When have you stood in line in order to worship, though you arrived half an hour in advance and had five or six services to choose from, starting at sunrise? The "Meal in the Upper Room" is a current offering on Palm Sunday, as is the midnight Christmas Carol Service when the Mexican Luminarias mark the way into the church. The giant Advent Wreath suspended above the chancel steps is another favorite of the Christmas season, as is the Communion Rededication and Renewal Service to mark the beginning of each new year.

The Rev. Harvey Tafel has been officiating at the Chapel since January 1972, but his association goes far back to the laying of the cornerstone in 1949, when at the age of eight the late actor Charles Laughton patted him on the head with his Bible. With each new leader, the focus quietly changes. Each contributes his genius to meet the needs as they develop. Though Harvey has been at the Chapel only a short time, he has added his special talents enriching Services and general outreach of the Church. The latest addition to the Visitors Center is the still developing Bible Diorama which offers a visual opportunity to relate the Swedenborgian Teachings to the familiar story of the Bible.

Years of loving devotion of church members far and wide, contributing their enthusiasm, knowledge, substance, serving on Boards and Committees and in lesser glorious capacities have brought the Wayfarers' Chapel to its present use. Numbers can never reflect the true spirit of the Chapel, but it is

Cont'd. on p. 108

STORY OF WAYFARERS' CHAPEL., cont'd. from p. 107

safe to say that millions have been introduced to the Swedenborgian philosophy who could have known of it in no other way. The depth of their understanding and interest can only be evaluated in the years ahead.

THE VISITORS CENTER "THE WELL"

By Gene Denning

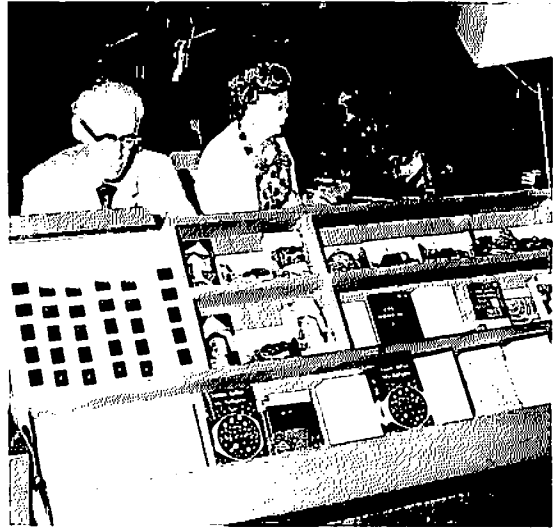
From the Chapel the wayfarer's stroll takes him past the triangular pool and flourishing orchid garden to the covered colonnade where one can look seaward into the vastness of the blue Pacific, and open on the other to the luxuriant splashes of yellow, reds, whites and blues of spring flowers in blooming splendor.

Then into the Visitors Center that hugs the ground at the top of a high bank on an east-west line with huge picture windows looking out toward Abalone Cove and Portuguese Point. The curving shore and the rocky outcropping just below the point make it a spot of such appeal that the local paper declares it to be "the most photographed beach area in the world."

And so the wayfarer is led into the "answer house," the Visitors Center, where we speak more to his understanding. Here he may test his understanding from the very literal to the uttermost limits of the internal, "the deep stuff of Swedenborg" as one woman said as she fondly held a copy of *Heavenly Secrets*.

Here, by means of words, pictures, and figures of the Diorama we continually present the message of Christianity through the Swedenborgian perspective to the many different facets of the minds of those who come, regardless of age or interest.

Is this a denomination? Who was Swedenborg? are the most frequently asked questions. And we answer by word of mouth or by referring to a piece of literature or a book. And because of the breadth of Swedenborg's interests and accomplishments we can often relate the person to one of the facets of this many-sided man. In pursuit of this common interest we in turn ask "Where are you



Behind the literature desk in the Visitors Center, the center's two attendants, Gene Denning and Lucille catch up on records between visitors.

from?" and "What do you do?" And in the exchanges there often flowers a rapport that may sometime become a fruitful bough.

From the daily stream of visitors every once in a while there comes the studied and thoughtful comment like that of the women who said of the diorama explanations, "This is a very well thought out series of comments."

And from the happy man who learned of the revelation of Swedenborg through a copy of *Heaven and Hell* in a bookstore in a nearby town, "I bought the complete trade set two months ago. I really enjoyed it. I'm learning many things that I've felt but never had put into words until I read Swedenborg."

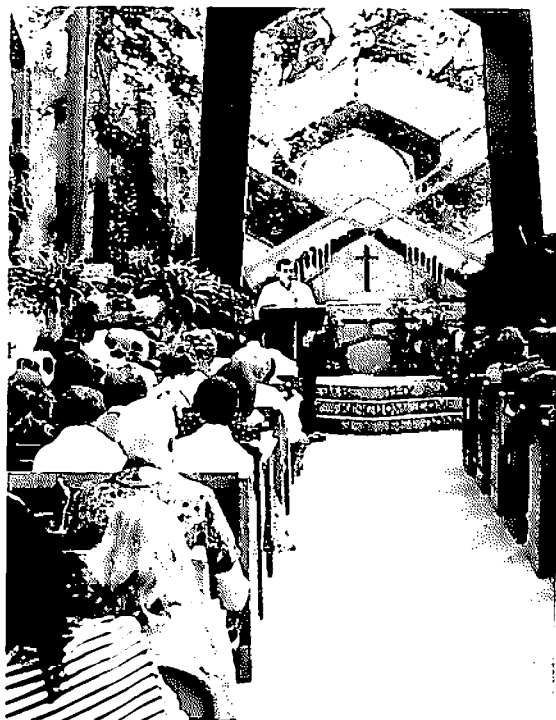
Just recently, a couple picked out several books and about a dozen pamphlets to give to friends. Just before leaving the wife commented, "I like this religion. I teach mathematics to the gifted. I enjoy this because it makes so much sense and is so logical."

The opportunity is present for all wayfarers to become more acquainted with Swedenborg, our Church and the Chapel through display boards, pictures and literature. The Visitors Center is like a well of Divine Truth. All who come may sip or drink deeply.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT THE CHAPEL

By the Rev. Harvey A. Tafel

Worship Services are an integral part of the Chapel's life. Since we do not have a regular membership, people of all faiths and religious backgrounds are invited to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" at the Chapel.



The Rev. Harvey A. Tafel conducts an Easter service at the Chapel.

Regular Worship Services are at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. Through music, choir anthems, prayers, Bible readings, and sermon, worshippers can renew their lives for everyday living.

The Chapel also offers many special Worship Services. On the first Sunday in October, a special World Wide Communion Service is celebrated focusing on the oneness of all mankind. The Sacrament of Communion culminates this experience. The Lord's Table at the Chapel is open to all with our Lord's reminder, "This do in remembrance of me."

The Advent Season is a special time at the Chapel. On the first Sunday evening in December, there is a special Advent Vesper Service, celebrating our Lord's birth as "the light of the world." The choir

sings special Christmas anthems, and the congregation joins in carols accompanied by the autoharp. At the end of the service, wayfarers, singing *Silent Night*, light candles to take with them for Christmas, symbolizing taking the Lord as "light of the world" into their homes to shine on Christmas eve. A pinata party for the children follows in the Visitors Center where refreshments are served for all.

On Christmas Eve wayfarers gather for a special Midnight Carol Service. The Chapel grounds and gardens are lined with hundreds of gay luminaires. Beginning at the bottom of the hill, worshippers march up to the Chapel, singing carols, following Mary and Joseph, symbolic of that journey on the first Christmas Eve. Through prayers, Bible readings (from the Geneva Bible, 1599), choir anthems, and carols sung to the autoharp, we celebrate the Lord's birth as the Savior of the World.

The Service of Rededication and Renewal on New Year's Sunday is preparation for the coming year. Rededication to the Lord is symbolized through the Sacrament of Communion, and Renewal of heart and mind through the burning of resolutions in a charcoal brazier on the altar steps. Wayfarers then leave the Chapel in peace, as we are to enter the new year with tranquility of spirit.

Holy Week is a unique experience at the Chapel. From Palm Sunday morning through Good Friday, the Chapel is decorated with palm branches arching overhead. In front of the chancel is a long table. Around this table on Palm Sunday is a special service called "The Meal in the Upper Room," where the minister and choir reenact the last few days of our Lord's life on earth, from the Triumphant Entry to the Last Supper. The service culminates in Communion shared by all worshippers.

As the sun dawns on Easter morning, our Easter Sunrise Service, proclaiming the Lord's Resurrection, is celebrated in the outdoor amphitheater. After the service, wayfarers are invited to a continental breakfast in the Visitors Center. Then regular Easter Services in the Chapel are held at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 that morning, centering on Easter's glad tidings: "He's not here! He is Risen!"

Worshipping in the Chapel is, indeed, an uplifting experience.

**THE MEMORIAL STREAM
IN MEMORY OF THE
REV. ROBERT LORING YOUNG
Resident Minister 1963-71**

By Betsy Schellenberg Young

It was hot and arid, in desert country, as Bob and I searched for a place to enjoy a picnic lunch. We had set out that morning for a day together in the "back country" to find renewal in God's wonderful world of nature. The following Sunday evening Bob would report in to the hospital where open-heart surgery was to take place. He wanted to fill his eyes, ears and lungs with the special kind of air, and scenery, that are far afield from the hustle and bustle of everyday life in a large metropolitan area.

Our original intent had been to spend our day in the "high country" of the southern California mountains. But Bob had awakened short of breath and energy, after two busily tiring days of ministering at the Wayfarers' Chapel, and so we elected for lower ground.

"I'd like to find a little stream for lunch," he said, a most unlikely possibility in these parched but starkly beautiful low, rolling California desert foothills. "Let's try," I responded. Then ensued more than an hour of dirt roads, criss-crossing the area, all with its own special charm, but absolutely no water! "I think we'll have to settle for sagebrush, or head for higher land," I said, finally. Bob responded, "Let's try just this one more road, and then decide."

All of a sudden, among the browns and greys, a small patch of green appeared. We stopped the car, and got out to explore. Down a gentle slope, behind some head-high bushes, we found a delightfully clear pool of water. A small stream was flowing from it. We got our lunch and settled down, our shoes off, perched on rocks, as the clear water ran between our toes. Later on, we stretched beside the stream, "drinking in" its delightful gurgling sound, as small tufty clouds drifted across the incredibly blue sky. Not only our bodies, but our spirits drank in the refreshment as the moments passed.

"Just such a stream as this, small and unpretentious, flowing over clear rocks, though probably more of a hillside setting, this is what we must have at the Chapel," he said. "It must be a priority project after I return next fall!" Bob had dreamed often of a stream for the Chapel garden. Only the lack of available funds had kept it from becoming a reality. Not only did he feel that the stream would add beauty to the grounds, but he was intrigued with the inherent teaching possibilities as well (water flowing—truth in use, over rocks—knowledges, pausing in small pools—stored truth for future use and so forth). "Next year I must find a way to have it built," he concluded as we gathered together the remnants of our picnic and prepared to reload the car.

Picnics with Bob were delightful, but not simple occasions. It required several trips for the field glasses, the cameras, a variety of nature and other reading books, the ever-present jug of iced tea, and the remaining fruit and "goodies" which were an essential part of every picnic. As we returned from the car for our final load, we could not believe our eyes! The pool and the stream had completely disappeared! Only the damp ground remained! It was a rather special moment for us both as we realized that we had been part of some sort of "Old Testament type" experience. The omen to us seemed clear. God always provides for us according to our needs! We continued on our day's journey not only refreshed, but full of a comforting reassurance as well.

It was a natural choice, therefore, some weeks later after Bob had been called to the fuller life of the spiritual world, to determine that a stream should be built, not so much as a memorial to Bob, but more as a fulfillment of his beautiful dream for the Chapel he loved so much, and had served so well. Money, in bits and pieces, large and small, had been flowing in for some sort of use, sent by many people whose lives had been touched by Bob during the years of his ministry. With the approval of the Chapel Board, and a sketch for a basic plan drawn by architect Lloyd Wright, the work began. Much of it was done in loving dedication, by Chapel staff members and other friends. One year after the last service at which Bob officiated, the morning before he entered the hospital for surgery,

the dedication service was held, and water flowed for the first time.

The stream is not yet complete, but it is very beautiful, even in its present form. Some day, somehow, a way will be found to extend the work on it. Until then, it is already a delightful addition to the Chapel hillside garden. And, it offers an oral, as well as visual reminder of the refreshment which can come to the wayfarer who is able to open himself to the constant flow of renewing love which pours into us from the Lord our God!

CHAPEL MINISTERS

Andre Diaconoff – St. Paul Church
 Clyde Broomell – deceased
 Thomas Reed – in secular work
 Franklin Blackmer – Bath Maine Church
 Kenneth Knox – S.S. Princess Louise Chaplain
 Robert L. Young – deceased
 Calvin Turley – Professor, SSR
 Harvey A. Tafel – present

MUSIC IN THE CHAPEL

By Annella Smith

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."

Music is part of the every-day life at the Chapel. Live music includes vocal, harps, guitars and many other small instruments. The splendid acoustics make it possible for the great organs and orchestras of all time to be reproduced very realistically. The natural music sounds—birds singing (sometimes accompanying the minister's sermon at Sunday Worship Services), frogs croaking, running water in the memorial stream and the baptismal font, rustling leaves and pine needles, waves pounding on the beach below and rain on the glass—are the favorite of many. What could be more impressive in God's house than the sounds of nature!

The tape-deck plays continually to provide music every day as wayfarers visit the Chapel to meditate in their own way. The tapes are made up from records and offer selections including the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Virgil Fox and E. Power Biggs on their organs, and the Philadelphia Philharmonic

Orchestra. Seasonal music is played for Advent and Lent. Although all types of music are played, wayfarers usually seem to prefer the familiar hymns and will often "sing along" as they spend time in the Chapel.

Choral groups from the area have presented concerts in the Chapel through the years and always comment on the pleasure it is to sing because of the outstanding acoustics. Touring choral groups like to sing a selection or two because they enjoy the setting, and it makes their visit more complete. One day a wayfarer requested permission to play his flute quietly in the Chapel as he felt the playing would make him feel closer to God, and help him solve some problems.



The Chapel Choir, consisting of (l.to r.) Joe Brooks, Gene Denning, Harvey Tafel, Annella Smith, Loie Brooks, Eldon Smith, Marian Denning, Debra Smith, Ann Williams, Carol Smith, and Betsy Young, sings at a morning service.

For years the Chapel has had an a capella choir which adds to the beauty of Sunday worship services. A Boys' Choir served for several seasons, then it was decided to have a family type choir including members of all ages, parents and children, and for the past ten years this group has been participating on a regular basis in the Sunday morning worship services, as well as any special services. They have also given special concerts at the Swedenborgian Churches in both Los Angeles and San Diego, and the Christian Church in Hollywood.

THE CHAPEL STAFF

The Wayfarers' Chapel has ten staff members working to keep the grounds, Chapel and Visitors Center well-groomed and functioning smoothly. Outside, in the gardens and "fix-it shop," we have Jess Fernandez, Ray Fullerton, and Joe Murphy. Indoors, managing Chapel business, house-keeping, doing maintenance work, and receiving visitors are Annella and Eldon Smith, Lou Fullerton, Bill Bentz, Gene Denning, Stella Hollingsworth, and Ric Thomas.



Joe Murphy, Gene Denning, Bill Bentz, Annella Smith, the Rev. Harvey Tafel, Lucille Fullerton, Stella Hollingsworth, Ric Thomas, Eldon Smith, Jess Fernandez, Ray Fullerton.

Many of these industrious people serve dual functions, making themselves doubly valuable to the Chapel. Eldon and Gene, for instance, help with the lay preaching occasionally, and Ray, Bill, Joe Eldon, and Ric help with weddings and rehearsals. All of them give generously of their time and energy, making the Chapel the delightful wayfarers' haven it is.

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 1974

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