

Mr. Nichols

I am now sure that my first was
held in '42. It was almost the second
year that I had some of the people stay
at my house that I had met the previous
year. I remember that when they were
there I had just found I was pregnant
for the 3rd time. That child was born
in the spring of 44.

Later -

I found the confirmation of the 1942 date.
It is the enclosed letter and postcard. (Faylin
was almost 2. Merlin was the baby.)

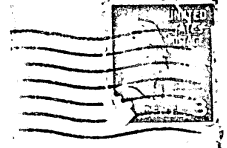
Mr. Cole might be interested in the 2 papers
(Lesson + letter) showing Mr. Armstrong's concern
for the young people. This was before we had
understanding of Church government, acting, etc.
His girls dated outside the Church, as we all
did.

If the Ellises prove to be friendly, Mr. E.
Could certainly help you more than I, by a
long way. He was in the Church before we
were, and was very close to Mr. Armstrong.
Also, he was adult and surely knew a lot more

of what was going on. I am sure he
was a confidant of Mr. Armstrong.

I probably can get ~~the~~ a fairly
complete list of those first members here
(Fair Butte School) from Mrs. Happer (Smith).
But I haven't had a chance yet to talk to
her. Any information I feel worth
bothering you with, I'll forward through
Shirley, ok?

Box 111, Eugene, Ore.



Mr. Marvin Fisher,
R. 1,
Junction City,
Ore.

Eugene, Ore., Monday evening,
November 28, 1938.

Dear Marvin:

Some of the girls in the Church, as you probably know,---including Bobby, Lorinda, and my own daughters,---face a serious problem. Their boy friends are not of their belief, and do not really understand just what they do believe, and why.

They are finding that this is a real serious barrier between them and their boy friends---one that is bound to become more and more serious. Some of you may not fully realize this now---partly because you do not realize fully just what the girls do believe, but, whether they have made it fully clear or not, the girls do realize it. It is easy enough to just say this makes no difference---they can go on keeping the Sabbath and believing as they do, and you can believe and live your way, and think that you can ignore these religious differences. And you might get along nicely a while, but sooner or later it would inevitably prove a positive BARRIER, which must be removed, or it will separate you.

I know this, because God Himself has so ordained it, and says so in the Bible, and also from personal experience. You see, Mrs. Armstrong came to see the Sabbath truth before I did. I just believed in God, and in the Bible, but didn't consider myself really religious, or have any real definite concrete belief---except I was sure she was wrong about the Sabbath and some other things. We tried to get along with her keeping the Sabbath and me having my ideas---and I almost ignored religion. But it didn't work out. And for the one and only time in our lives, we talked seriously of divorce. Before taking so serious a step, I decided it was only FAIR to her to look seriously into just what she did believe, and if she was wrong to try to show her where she was wrong. I did, and to my surprise, I found she was right. In my case, I accepted it, too---and the barrier was removed, and later it brought me into the ministry.

Now Marvin, you may think you already know just what Bobby believes, but you know only in a vague and most general way. Actually, you know and understand very little of what she believes. We never went into these things much at the Young People's meetings you attended---that is, the real central major belief. This not only is part of her life,---it IS her life, and that's why it is so important.

Beverly started the plan we have in mind, took it up with Harold, ---and while at first he thought he'd just try to study into it alone by himself, he realized he could not do this, for he doesn't know just what Beverly DOES believe, and decided it was only fair to her to at least LISTEN, and consider it. Lorinda talked to Claire about it, and he's coming too. And so, starting tomorrow---Tuesday night---they are both coming, and possibly Lloyd Goldson, too, tho I'm not sure,---for a series of Bible studies at our house, possibly two or three nights a week, whatever they decide tomorrow night. We will need possibly about 12 nights thru the winter to fully explain it. Now this is not to be an ARGUMENT. Neither am I going to make any effort whatever to urge or persuade any of you to accept what we believe---morely to EXPLAIN, as clearly and simply and briefly as I can, just what we believe, why we keep the Sabbath, etc. You see the idea is not to force you fellows to accept it. What you be-

2.

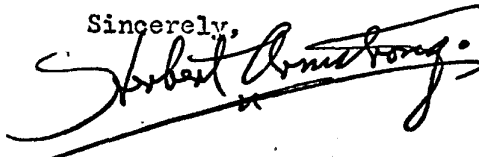
lieve and do is your own personal right and privilege---between you and your God, and I have no right to interfere, and you have as much right to your beliefs, no matter what it is, as I have to mine, even tho one is right and the other wrong. God's way is not to force what we believe onto others, but God has called me as His minister to explain, and to tell others His truth, leaving it entirely to them as to whether they see it or accept it or act upon it. Just wanted you to know that no effort will be made to persuade or urge in any way, and no pressure brought at all.

The idea is merely that it is ONLY FAIR to Bobby, in your case, to Beverly in Harold's, and to Lindy in Claire's, to at least come and hear and consider, and understand WHAT they believe, and WHY, so you will not misunderstand---so you can look into it FOR YOURSELVES, to see whether you agree. If Bobby is wrong, you surely ought to want to know it, and to find out where and why she is wrong, and if possible explain it to her and save her from it---because it IS her life, and it would be terrible if she were wrong in it.

You see, the girls have heard this, and accepted it, and they believe it with all their hearts and souls. That's why it's bound to prove a positive barrier. There's no getting around that fact, and we can't lick problems of this kind, Marvin, by ignoring them, or trying to dodge them---only by facing them and meeting them. And surely it's only fair to her to look into it enough to hear what she believes.

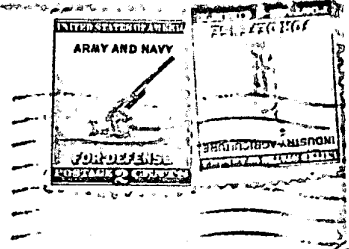
Bobby mentioned that she has seen or written you about this or something, only at that time she did not understand that Harold and Claire and possibly Lloyd were also coming, which, of course, is an altogether different thing and I think much more satisfactory to all. And so I told her I'd explain to you about their coming, and invite you to come too. Just you fellows, and the girls, and that's all. Otherwise I think we'll call it a "closed house." The girls thought it would be better that way. If you can, come a little early---by 7:30, and I'll stop, wherever we are each time, at 9, leaving the rest for next time. Now I hope I've explained everything clearly. Hope you understand the idea is not for me to try to talk you into anything---just that the girls feel they cannot explain it as I would---they understand and know what they believe, but cannot explain it fully and clearly to others as I could, and so they've planned it this way so it can be explained to you fellows just what they believe. I know how very badly Beverly wanted Harold to come and hear this, and I'm sure Bobby feels the same way, and it probably means more to her, as to the other girls, than you may realize---so I hope you won't disappoint her, Marvin, ~~and~~ and will be looking for you tomorrow night. The others have definitely promised to come.

Sincerely,



7422 W. 2nd
Eugene, Ore.

EUGENE
SEP 27
4 PM
1942
OREG.



Morris Lakes
Rt. 1. Junction City, Ore.

Sun. 9/11.

Dearest Mervin,

Well, it is nearly time to go to the afternoon meeting. I hope I mail this in time to get it picked up today. Cause I want you to get it Monday. They pick up mail once Sunday, y'know.

I nearly barked out and came home yesterday. I got to feeling so homesick at the thought of being away from you & Phyllis all week. I got over it, tho. Of course I'll miss you all week, but the meetings are so interesting that I'll not be homesick. Mornings is a prayer meeting, afternoon a bible study and evening preaching and evangelistic service.

There is the nicest minister here. He is middle aged and has the kindest most peaceful face. His talks are so good, too. More a talk than a sermon.

Honey, if you could be here and enjoy these meetings and get as much out of them as I, we would have something deep between us that we would never forget, all our lives. But why am I talking this way to you?

I pressed a dollar on Wilma. I'll try

and buy something to help out too she
didn't want to take any money.

Merlin is so sweet. Mrs Owens and
Hanna just claim and tell everybody.
He hasn't cried since we've been here. yet!
I'm proud, are you?

If you get this Monday, write a card
Luis & Chur both. I can't go all week without
hearing from you.

I'll have to stop as not get this mailed
in time.

Remember the extra bucket, bed & stuff
I want you to do to help your mom.

Be sure to tell me how she is when
you write and who took Phyllis.

Lots of love, (and I do mean you)
Bobby & Merlin



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Arthur Anderson
1422 7/2 and St.
C Eugene, Ore
Hilma Christenson



ARVIN H. STITH

MERIDIAN--Services for Brother Arvin H. Stith, 87, of 337 Meridian Street, Meridian, who died Friday night at a Boise Hospital, were conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Robison Chapel of the Chimes by Elder Claude Ellis and Elder Ray Benight. Interment was at the Meridian cemetery.

Born April 9, 1880, in Stithton, Ky., now part of Fort Knox, he moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, with his parents at the age of seven. He married Delue Smith on January 30, 1901, at Joplin, Missouri. They moved to Sweet, Idaho, in 1902 and returned to Missouri in 1907. In 1917, they moved to the Spokane area. In 1918, they came to the Meridian area. Brother Stith entered

the ministry in 1908 and was an elder in the Church of God, Seventh-day. Among the churches established by him was the Meridian Church of God, Seventh-day.

Surviving are his wife, of Meridian; five daughters, Mrs. Edna McCorkle of College Place, Wash., Miss Ruby Stith of Meridian, Mrs. Viola Ahlborn of Caldwell, Mrs. Nettie Burnham of Meridian and Mrs. Lula Estep of Port Orchard, Wash. a brother, Joe Stith of Meridian; eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Those who wish may contribute to the Memorial fund of the Meridian Church of God, Seventh-day.

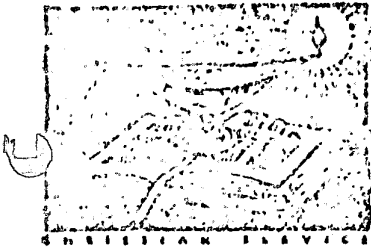
Pallbearers were Fred Sheffield, Tom Meikle, Herman Everett, Frank Williamson, Oliver Kennedy and Luvelt Palmer.

ODE TO MY FATHER

by Lula (Stith) Estep

Book in hand,
look of Grace
Words of wisdom!
fearless face--
How can I but love Thee..
(Man of God);
day and night proclaiming....
trails You've trod!
Words do but fail me,
When I seek to praise..
Rememb'ring thy bowed Head,
....through all My days..

"And He shewed Me a pure river of water of Life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the lamb.... and His servants shall serve Him: and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads." Revelation 22: 1-4



The Church of God, Building here

P. O. Box 328
Salem, West Virginia

January 16, 1972

Mrs. David Lee Hostetter
678 Latham Ct.
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Dear Friend,

Greetings to you in Jesus name.

It has been some time since we received your letter of inquiry as to the fact that Herbert W. Armstrong ever belonged to the Church of God, 7th day at Salem, W. Va. I could have readily said yes to your letter but that would not have been proof to you. Therefore it took time to go through our records to give you the dates and what transpired on these dates.

First it is mentioned in, "The History of the True Church" that he was chosen one of the seventy. This book was copyrighted in 1936 by the authors C.O. Dodd and A. N. Dugger. I have heard it said he was chosen but never accepted and for this reason, we felt it good to go back into records and see just what did transpire. They are as follows:

Meeting of the Twelve and the Seven and Seventy at St. Joseph, Mo., September 26 to 28, 1934.

"September 27th, After prayer the following business was conducted."
"Moved and carried that we grant credentials to H. W. Armstrong."

Now our constitution states, "He must have had at least six month's expericnce before license can be issued by the Twelve." So Armstrong must have had license prior to this time because one must have been licensed before credentials can be granted to a minister.

Minutes of the Business meeting held at Detroit, Michigan May 5-10 1937

May 7, at 1:00 p.m. "Reading of Elder Armstrong's letter to the Twelve Reading in periods of 20 minutes each of Elder Armstrong's article on Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacl etc., followed each time by discussion pro and con by the Elders.

May 10, 1937 at 10:00 a.m.

Proceeding with the investigation of Brother Armstrong's article of previous sessions which was left unfinished. Reading of the article was completed followed by discussion.

A decision was made as given in the following resolution:

"Inasmuch as some have troubled the Churches, teaching them they should observe the feast of unleavened bread and yearly sabbaths connected with the atonement of the Law of Moses, Be it moved, that we reaffirm the teachings of the Church of God on this point, and also the decision of the Apostles and leaders on this question as recorded in Acts 15th chapter, that we observe no such custom. By Elders W. W. McMicken and William Alexander. Passed"

At the time of the above mentioned meeting his address was listed as 1608 W. 6th Ave., Eugene, Oregon

It was in 1938 that he was asked to turn in his credentials for continuing to preach contrary to church doctrine.

We trust we have been of some help to you and may the Lord bless you in your search to know the truth.

Sincerely in His service,

Virginia Royer

Church of God Pub'g House
Virginia Royer, Bookkeeper