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Log of the S. S. Fellowship

May 15, 1976

The reunion at Philadelphia was a huge success and we owe a debt of thanks to Dan Michie for the superb job he did and to the committee that backed him up. It would take two pages just to tell all the joys - the fine reception at that historic Powel House - the morning sessions at Congress Hall wing of Independence Hall with its hallowed history, Dick Robinson telling of the strides the Jaycee movement has made in the USA and Ivan Bumstead, JCI Secy.-General telling of the strides world wide, Fred Heldring speaking of the "declaration of interdependence" and the discussion following.

Then going across the street to the Penn Mutual Tower and the beautiful auditorium on the 19th floor with its breathtaking views on all sides, and hearing Al Simensen, Exec. Vice-President US Jaycees telling of plans for the archives area at headquarters, Morgan Doughton's talk on the need for economic education, and Charlie Crumbley's reading of "The Price They Paid" (enclosed) ended a great morning.

Then the fine luncheon at "Bookbinder's" famous old restaurant, climaxed with the fine talk made by Rev. Leon Howard Sullivan, the USJC TOYM winner in 1955.

Then back to the Tower for a visit, first to the 20th floor with its entire floor devoted to historical memorabilia, then to the 19th floor for the afternoon session with 2 Philadelphia Jaycees on the issue, "advantages and disadvantages of women in Jaycee chapters", which brought out much discussion; Reed Larsen and Chuck Shearer on the "Right-to-Work" issue. Lack of time precluded more discussion, as the Virginia Crew had a 5 PM reception at the Hotel.

At 7 PM we all went to the Racquet Club for the evening. A pianist was in the "North Room" and for an hour before dinner he played old songs with dozens of the fellows and their wives around the piano singing to their heart's content. Then at 8:30 into the ballroom for the fine supper. The orchestra played through it all and the dance floor was filled before, during and after the dinner.

After the dinner was the presentation of the C. Wm. Brownfield Alumnus Award to Durward Howes and everyone rose to honor him and to hear him reminisce of his long Jaycee career. (I'm giving a brief recital of his career in a following paragraph of this Log). Then Phil Knox and Win Cook gave some reminiscences of their Jaycee careers and Wilbur Nolen thanked the Founders of our Nation for what they did to make our great nation and then thanked Dan Michie for making it possible for us to be in this bicentennial celebration.

Sunday morning was the devotional service. Dan set the stage for the reading from Psalms and a prayer by Bill Ramquist, Ken Shirk's memorial to the departed mates since last reunion, Phil Knox on "The Old Testament And The New World", Ed Birdsny on "The Significance Of The Spirit Of '76" and Lee Newton on "Personal and Corporate Ethics" and then the summation of a wonderful reunion.

It was good to see Imogene Jenkins, Art Klein and John Smither, as members of Dan's committee, doing much to keep the program running so smoothly; they have our thanks.



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Speaking of Durward Howes Jaycee career, he was President of the Los Angeles JC 1928; President of the U. S. JCC in 1930, received the DSA award 1931; President of International JCC (the fore runner of present JCI) 1932-33, was the originator of the TOYM annual awards, this was just his Jaycee career; he has a host of business and civic honors, all of which made him a great alumnus and joining the fine men who have been honored by the United States Jaycees in prior years.

Mentioning Congress Hall, Phil Knox sent me the front cover of the American Bar Association Journal, which shows their Board of Governors meeting there - and it so vividly reminded me of our meeting. If you can locate the April ABA Journal, the picture will tell better than a thousand words, of our privilege to be in that sacred hall. Thanks, Phil, for sending it; I will prize it.

Dan wrote that 107 people attended one or more functions, so we had a wonderful attendance; a number wrote in why they couldn't attend - Mel Mutuc, Dave Haxton, Al Boutwell, and a number of others, all wishing a most successful reunion, which it was.

Sumpter Priddy has agreed to chair the next reunion and it was decided to continue the bicentennial observance. It will be held at Williamsburg with it's abundance of historic past. The mates in that area all said they would help Sumpter prepare another wonderful reunion, so put it on your calendar for April, 1977.

Just prior to our Crew reunion, our counter part - the Crew of the S. S. Fellowship of Canada had their reunion and Roger Flumerfelt, who is "Keeper of the Log" of the S. S. Fellowship Canada, reports that they had a wonderful time, too. He is doing a fine job in keeping the Canadian alumni in the same kind of fellowship that we have enjoyed these past 47 years.

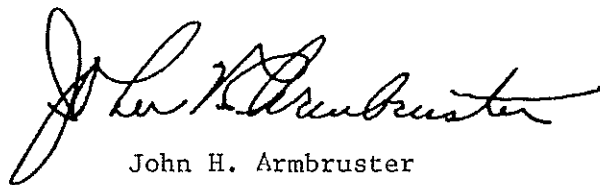
After I returned from historic Philadelphia and the bicentennial celebrations there, I read in "Daily Word" words that seemed to fit in so eloquently. It read,

"The desire for freedom is innate in man; it is a God-given desire. Through the ages man has fought and died to achieve freedom. Two great documents have been drawn up to assure man the right to life and liberty. England's Magna Carta in 1215 and the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Precious as these documents are, however, they cannot guarantee freedom of spirit. Freedom of spirit is realized as I know and accept my birthright as a child of God".

This is in consonance with the portion of our Creed that "Faith in God gives meaning and purpose to life".

Cordially,



John H. Armbruster
Keeper of the Log

PS - I'm using the letterheads this time of Wayne Field, who is head of Rembrandt Development Corporation. Thanks, Wayne, for sending them.

I have much more news - will hold until next "Log".