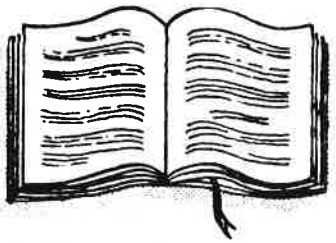
The Christian Courier



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February 1985

(Continued from January Issue)

My covenant was with him of life and peace; And I gave them unto him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was sore afraid before my name. The Law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: He walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the Law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts. But ye are departed out of the way; Ye have caused many to stumble at the Law; Ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi saith the Lord of Hosts. Therefore I have also made you contemptable and base before all the people. According as ye have not kept my ways. But have been partial in Law." So a priest is a messenger of the Lord. Through fear of the Lord as God, he not only should keep the Law himself, but teach others also in the acceptable way of the Lord, using no partiality. One Law is as important as another. And one person is as important as another in teaching and serving. God is no respector of persons as we read in Acts 10:34: Notice also he made them contemptable before the people, according as they had not kept his ways. We all know it is true also today. When a Christian priest begins to compromise with the world for popularity with men, people lose respect for his teaching. He may gain popularity in the eyes of the world, but nobody can really trust him to teach them the truth. That is exactly why christianity is held in such contempt today. The Christian priests have not kept and taught His ways with out partiality.

Romans 12:1-2; "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect Will of God." Notice that to present our bodies a living sacrifice, is only

reasonable service. And it is only by feeding on the Word of God t we can renew our minds day by day. We feed our bodies three times ay. How often do you renew your minds? This is our protection whereby avoid being conformed to the world. Let us not ever be guilty of ting our spirits, our minds on a diet thereby reducing our acceptility to God.

We are taught in the Bible that the saints, the christian king and priests, will take part in the judgement. 1 Cor 6:1-8: "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, to go to law before the unjust, nd not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge he world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy o judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? nd how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have dgements of thisgs pertaining to this life, set them to judge who re least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. It is so, that there is not a wise man among you? No not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now there is utterly a fault among you, because you go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take he wrong? Nay you do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren." When we judge things of this life of course, we do not use our own judgement. We read the Bible on the subject, and that should settle he matter for a christian. But if it doesn't, and the brethren can't nterceed, we are forbidden to go to law with a brother. This would be wronging and defrauding him. But this scripture also tells us that we shall judge the world, and angels. 2 Cor. 10: 6, bears out this statment: "And having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

Speaking of judgements of this life: 1 Cor 14;29 & 37: "Let the rophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.*****If any man hink himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that I write unto you are the commandments of God." Anytime we have a preacher, we are to judge what he has taught, in the light of the Word of God. Acts 17:11; "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, n that they recieved the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched he scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

The cry goes out today; "You must not judge your brother." True, you must not judge your brothr with your own judgement, but we must judge with rightous judgement. (THE WORD OF GOD). Can any brother place himself above the apostle Paul? Acts 17:11

1 Cor. 4:3-5; "But with me it is a very small thing that I should e judged of you, or of man's judgement: Yea, I judge not mine own lf. For I know nothing of myself; Yet I am not hereby justified; he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before e time, until the Lord is come, who both will bring to light the

hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God." So Paul didn't use his human judgement in even judging himself. We can never know what is in another person's heart unless he tells us. We cannot judge his motives. But we can see and rebuke when he disobeys the Will of God; but with the Word of God only. We are not to pass judgement on a fellow christian until hidden counsels of the hearts are made manifest. Also 1 Cor. 11:31 tells us: "For if we judge ourselves, we should not be judged." So if we judge ourselves closely enough, and ask God's forgiveness for each sin as we go along, there will be no sins to meet in the judgement. But let us remember that everywhere we judge others in this life, the same judgement will be meeted to us. Matt 7:1-5. Also James 2:13 tells us: "For he shall have judgement without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy: and mercy rejoiceth against judgement." And who wants to face judgement without mercy? The apostle Paul says in 1 John 3;2; "Beloved, not are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

In Christian Love
Ken Harper

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Selah, Washington

Dear Brethren:

Over the last twenty years, I have enjoyed recieving the Courier. I have looked forward to reading uplifting articles and hearing news from the Brethren. For the last two or three months I have been a part of several discussions concerning the pros and cons of having articles in the Courier.

I want to go on record as saying that I want articles in the Courier. We all need to recieve as much instruction from God's Word as possible, and the Courier is one tool that can be used to receive this instruction.

A written article is basically the same type of instruction as an oral sermon. So these articles should follow the same guidelines as a sermon. Lets look at some of the guidelines set down in the Scriptures.

First of all Paul told Timothy, (2 Tim 4:2-5) "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflections, do the work of an evangelist make full proof of thy ministry." These verses are just as true today as they were in Paul's time.

As ministers for Christ we need to take every opportunity to teach others God's will. (11 Tim 2:2) "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (11 Tim 4:16) "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

The reason we teach others God's Will is that we wish them to be saved. We realize that some teaching must be negative; (ie. reprove, rebuke, etc..) But all teaching is to be done for the purpose of edifying the hearers, or in this case the readers. The word edify means to build up. (1 Cor 14:26) "...Let all things be done unto edifying." Our articles must build up our readers or we won't be able to acheive our goals. If we are going to have uplifting aricles in the Courier, there are three areas of responsibility. The author, publisher (editor) and reader each have responsibility.

As I stated earlier; we as ministers must teach the Word so that souls can be saved. Whenever we write an article there are questions we must ask ourselves. What is our motive for writing our article? Is our article uplifting? Are our points backed up by Scripture or our own ideas? Are we trying to make someone else look bad? Are we trying to make ourselves look good? Whenever we write any article we must be sure that we are furthering the cause of Christ. Paul realized that his only reason for living was to spread God's Word and save souls. We must also be this way. (Phil 3:8) "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the execellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Chirst." (1 Cor 2:1-2) "And I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determine not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Brethren if we have Christ's best interests at heart then our articles will always be worthwhile.

The second area of responsibility concerning articles in the Courier lies with the publishers. Having been part of a group that published the Courier for a while; I realize that it is not a simple task. Each article must be proof-read. All Scriptures must be checked to make sure they were used correctly. But most importantly someone must make a decision as to whether or not the article will be uplifting and promote the cause of Chirst.

The Courier cannot be used as a forum for debate. If the publishers feel an article might cause conflict or uneasiness among the brethern; then they must not print the article.

As Christians we cannot allow error to creep into the Church. We must preach Christ and him only. But I do not see the Courier as being a tool or correction. Most of the examples we see of correction in the New Testament are between two individuals or a congregation taking care of its own problems; (Example Corinth-1 Cor 5) The Courier is not the proper tool to chastise individuals. It is not proper for us to put the burden of judging who is good or bad on the publishers and the readers.

The final area of responsibility lies with the readers. When listening to God's Word, whether written or oral, we must be as the Bereans were. (Acts 17;11) "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they recieved the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." We should be concerned with only one thing when we read an article; is it the truth? (1 Thes. 5:21) "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Once we have studied the article in the light of God's Word, and found it to be true; then we can apply the article to our lives and be edified by it. We must not judge the motives of the author. Paul realized that some were teaching for the wrong reason, but he didn't let that bother him. (Phil 1: 15-18) "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: the one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the Gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." It doesn't matter who wrote the article. The only thing that matters is whether or not it is God's Word."

If we, as a reader, disagree with an article; then we have the responsibility of going to the one that wrote it.

My reason for writing this artricle is to convey my desire to continue to have articles in the Courier. If each of us will carry out our responsibilities in this endeavor it will work. We need the paper, it can be a great edifying tool for the Christians throughout the land. If we follow Paul's advice given to the Romans we will be successful. (Rom 14:9) "Let us therefore follow after the things that make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another."

I write this completly out of love. Let us do all we can for the cause of Christ.

Yours in Christ
Richard Johnston
606 W. Orchard Ave.
Selah, Wash. 98942
1-509-697-4961

COMPROMISE, COMPROMISE, COMPROMISE!

In Ex. 10:21, the Lord God told Moses to stretch out his hand to heaven to cause a plague of total darkness to fall upon the nation of Egypt and it came to pass. This was one of many plagues the Lord used to cause the Pharoah to release Israel from slavery.

Many things recorded in Ex. Chapter 7 through Chapter 11, were types fo things to come. The bondage in Egypt can be compared to the bondage of sin today: King Pharoah with satan...etc....

As these plagues fell upon Pharoah, he would compromise in his efforts to ease the trouble that befell him and the Egyptians from time to time as each succeding one was delivered by the Lord through Moses. These "compromises" had the appearence of good but were basically bad. Satan or his followers today, are great to compromise with the truth if Satan can win a Christian over to his camp or if some of Satan's followers are about to be freed from sin.

One of Pharoah's compromises in Ex. 8;25, was to allow Israel to worship thier god, there in the land of Egypt. This would not have beem possible but would have led to the Israelites being stoned by the Egyptians because the animals used in sacrifice were held to be sacred by the Egyptians. The Egyptians saw the cow as a representative of Appolo; the goat as Bacchus; the heifer as Juno; and the ram as Jupiter. Thus it could be done when the Pharoah said, "Serve your God but do it in the land of Egypt."

The devil uses the same reasoning today and has no objection to us worshipping God, if we don't worship him in the true church with advice such as, "One is as good as another".

But as we are warned in John 4: 24, "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship must worship Him in Spirit and in truth." And taught in John 17; 17, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth." We must ashere only to His great plan to be acceptable to the Lord with no provisions for compromise.

Compromise by Pharoah; Ex 8: 28, "Only ye shall not go far away". He may have figured they may have kept going once started.

Today, people are taught in various ways that its all right to go to church, but you don't have to do it wholeheartealy. You probably have heard a person dedicated to sports, referred to as a "fan", but a person dedicated to religion as a "fanatic"; and a "church-goer" who does worldly things as a "friend of the world". Yet we are warned in James 4:4, "You adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the freindship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God". Also in Matt. 6: 24, "No man can serve two masters," and be faithful to the Lord.

On other occassions, the Pharoah said, "Go, but leave your women

and your children behind," and "Go, but leave your flocks and herds." He knew if they had "family ties" or their "livelyhood" (the animals) to pull them bgck into Egypt (bondage) he would retain control over his source of slave labor. And so it goes today with society and things tugging on us to be a "little" worldly.

Again we turn to the "Sword of the Spirit", in 1 John 2: 15 - 17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh (desire to dance with someone else's spouce) the lust of the eyes (seeking entertainment that dwells on immorality) and the pride of life (earning the admiration of worldly people by doing things they do), is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abideth (lives) forever." Teaching some truth (Satan's way) is not enough as we need the whole truth. In the plan of salvation, faith alone (believe, but don't obey), is not enough. In baptism the right method is not enough but has to be for the right purpose (as the final act of faith in the plan of salvation in which past sins are forgiven and the soul is born into the family of God.)

Moses made a landmark stand against the proferred compromise of Pharoah when he stated in Ex. 10; 26, "Our cattle shall go with us; (on our journey to worship God) there shall not a hoof be left behind."

Let us also make a continual landmark stand by obediently embracing as our own dedication to our efforts to gain eternal life, the way of life prescribed in Rom. 12: 1-2, "For this reason I make request to you, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you will give your bodies as a living offering, holy, pleasing to God, which is the worship it is right for you to give him. And let not your behavior be like that of this world, but be changed and made new in mind, so that by experience you may have knowledge of the good and pleasing and complete purpose of God." (L.B.)

Another parallel thought would be, "Let each of us go all out for the Lord." and be on guard against subtleties of the Devil that would try to pull us back into the bondage of sin under the appealing guise of compromise.

Let all endeavers to make our own "faith with works" James 4: 17, a compliment to the Church of Christ. James 5:8, "Be ye also patient stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Brethren, have a good year in the Lord!

In Christian love;
Tom Broadway

"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

Note: This letter came to Bellflower congregation, and was forwarded to the Christian Courier.

Church of Christ, Lorenzo, Texas

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We here at Lorenzo, send our Love and Prayers to all. We have been doing pretty well, a few colds and flu going around, but nothing serious.

We want to thank Bro. Dan Ross, from Selah, Washington, for holding our meeting this year. His lessons were very good, and his family was a delight to entertain. We would reccomend him to anyone looking for a preacher at meetings. We had many visitors. We thank them for coming. In all, it was a very enjoyable meeting.

We've had an addition to our group, of late. On Oct. 2nd, Steve and Oletta Spurlin had a baby girl. Carita Lynn Spurlin, is the new baby everyone is fighting to hold. And she is cute.

We would also like to announce the marriage of Cliff Bowen and Lessa Howe. The newlyweds are now living in New Mexico near Las Crusas. The tied the know on Sept. 29, 1984.

In Christian Love:
Lorenzo Church of Christ
Larry Wood
Box 308 Rolls, Texas 79107

Selah, Washington

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our congregation has had much going on with our members since last we wrote.

As some of you may already know, we lost our beloved Brother in Christ, Kelsey Theodore Markham on 10-19-84. He was a good man and one without a waste of words. Many people who had been close to him, had never known him to have a harsh word for anyone. We know those who loved will miss him very much, however it is comforting to know he was a faithful member in the body of Christ.

Last month sister Diane Fowlera was in the hospital with a very serious operation. She was sort of slow in recouperating, but now she is back with us all, every time we meet. Also recovering from a major surgery, sister Nell McCay is once again back with those who love her, and is doing quite well.

We of Selah have gained promising new members with the recent addition of the Hellums family. Brother Paul, his wife, Linda, and their children Glenda and Junior, have come to us here with much love in hearing the Word of the Lord. Our bleoved Brother Clarence Sage isn;t feeling very well at all, after what has become a long battle with enphysema. I'm sure all the heart felt prayers from concerned Christians would be appreciated.

Last Lord's Day the 9th of December, four new souls were added unto the Lord's Church. Brother John McKinney's daughter, Shawna was baptized, along with Rick Perry, his wife, Barbara and their daughter Kelly. All our hearts rejoice in seeing people turn unto the Lord.

Please pray for us all as we here pray for you.

In Christian love
Brother Don Hamett
for the congregation at Selah.

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Waterford, California

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Church of Christ here at Waterford is getting along very well. Some were missed at the services today because of the usual winter colds and flu. Sister Way is out of the hospital, and is presently living in Los Angeles. We missed seeing Bro. Ira Brown at church today because of illness. Hope he is feeling better and will be back soon.

Sister Lawrence Arnett was at church today, recovering from a broken rib due to a fall she had. Donnie Weakley has enlisted in the Air Force and is now stationed at Lockland, Texas. Bro. and Sister Dennis Bentz and family were visiting with us Dec. 23rd and Dennis brought us a very good lesson.

The church here at Waterford is so pleased with the participation of the brothers in carring on the work of the church. Especially we are proud of those who have just begun to work in the vineyard of the Lord. Bro. and Sister Guyer and Bro. and Sister Burtis were blessed with the priviledge of attending the Thanksgiving Meeting at the Yuma church of Christ. We enjoyed good lessons from the Word of God, good singing, lots of food and great hospitality and good fellowship with brothers and sisters from other congregations.

The Waterford church of Chirst is pleased to announce a meeting to be held June 16 to 23rd of 1985. Brother J.W. Bedingfield, a very capable teacher of the Gospel, will be the speaker throughout the week. We invite all to be with us during this meeting. We sill do our best to make it a wonderful, spirituaal, enjoyable week for all.

In Christian love
Waterford church of Christ

Elk City, Oklahoma

Good morning and best wishes to all our Christian bretheren, where ever you are.

We pray God's richest blessing be yours in this holiday season. May you have many more as the years come and go.

We know that we are living in a world of sin and trouble which makes it hard to live a Christian life, but we are incouraged by listening to what the Apostle Paul told the brethren at Corianth. This is what he said: 1 Cor. 10: 12-13; "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, wh o will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Thinking of this Scripture, makes me think, and yes REALLY THINK AND LISTEN: Its not who we are, what we have done, or where we have been that counts its where we are GOING that counts.

Who's side are you on?

It has been a long time since anyone has written to update our activities here at Elk City. We are still few in number but hopefully our services will be accepted when our Saviour comes to pass judgement on each of us. All are well at present, I might mention, in the church in the Coulter community. They too are small in number. My wife and I go out there every fourth Sunday and I speak for them. May the Lord keep and bless each of us in our effort to serve the Lord!

We would be happy to have any of you that are in this part of the country, to stop by and visit with us in our home and have fellow ship with us at church.

Come and see us!
With love and best wishes to all.
Elk City and Colter Church of Christ
L.E. (Earl) Atchley

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Stillwell, Oklahoma

Dearest Brethren:

This small donation is to let you know we are behind you and pray that more usful lessons will go out to all that are eager to hear God's bidding.

All at Pleasant View congregation at this time are as well as our portion of healt holds. We welcome all to visit with us if they are in our area. Our PHONE is 696-5335. We offer our home & table to all. We pray all is well there and we ask for your prayers, as we need each other for our spirit to be strengthened.

Love always, in the Lord.

George, Retha Morris. Rt 3 Box 464; Stillwell, Ok. 74960 (816) 696/5335

Austin, Texas

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

A few lines to let you know that we are doing quite well here in Austin, Texas. We have a fine congregation and a growing one that we are pleased with. We have a building now, to meet in, also we are calling the church, Anderson Mill church of Chirst, because we all live in this neighborhood. We meet each Sunday at 10:30 A.M. The location is* The Bank of the Hills Community House, located behind the main building at 13805 Research Blvd., Austin, Texas. For more information call Bro. Ron Herbert at (512) 250-8833; Or Bro. Steve & Jill Martin (512) 258-2130 in the evening.

Come worship with us any time.

All our love and prayers;

Anderson Mill Church of Christ

* On U.S. Highway 183.

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Cedaredge, Colorado

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We here at Cedaredge, Colorado are doing fine. We here are such a few, but thanks to Bro. Rex and Dallas Mickey from the Flora Vista, New Mexico congregation, Bro. Frank Ridlon, Bro. J.D Johnson from the Aztec, New Mexico congregation, also Bro. Ray Berry from Craig, County, to come and hold Sunday morning services for us.

We are pleased to report a new Brother in Christ. Eddie Wilkerson was baptized the 26th of December, 1984.

We are so happy to have a Brother that can carry on the work of the Lord for us here in Cedaredge.

Keep us in your prayers.

In Christian love
From the sisters at Happy Hollow
Church of Christ, Cedaredge, Co.

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Yakima, Washington

Brethren:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the brethren of Yuma for the wonderful camp meeting that they held this past November. It was truely an inspiration to partake of the love and fellowship that was manifested there. We were very happy to meet with old friends and become aquainted with new friends and to listen to the many good sermons from God's Holy Word.

It was really great to sit down and visit with so many individuals from so many different sections of the country. We were saddened that some, such as Bro. Zeak and his wife Alice, Brown, who had planned to attend, could not because of unforseen problems but perhaps we can all be together again at another time. If not in this life, then in the life to come.

Once again, thanks to the Yuma congregation and all who attended for your expression of love and unity. I am sure that this is what the apolstle Peter had in mind when he wrote 1 Peter 1:22, of the unfeigned love of the brethren.

Bro. J.W. Bedingfield has consented to hold us a meeting starting Aug. 4th 1985. We are happy for this blessing. Bro. John is truly one of the old time Gospel preachers and it is a joy to sit and listen to him and to discuss the scriptures with him.

Also Bro. Roger Walkingstick of the Oklahoma City congregation, has consented to hold an abrieveated meeting for us starting May 12, 1985. We are looking forward to meeting this young preacher and would urge all who can to come and be with us for one or both of these meetings, or for that matter, any time.

We realize tht we are a great distance from most congregations but are happy when any one of the brethren come our way. We had a happy holiday season, with lots of fellowhsip among the brethren here. Now we look forward to the new year and the opportunity to be of service to the Lord.

In Christian Love
Bill McCay - Yakima, WA.

Gospel Meetings

Roll, Arizona	April 7 - 14	J.W. Bedingfield
Yakima, Wa.	May 12 - 19	R. Walkingstick
Baron, Oklahoma	June 2 - 9	J.W. Bedingfield
Bellflower, Ca.	June 30 - July 7	Cliff Brockman
Delta, Colorado	July 7 - 15	Camp
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 28 - Aug 4	Sammy Boen
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 4 - 11	J.W. Bedingfield
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 31 - Sept 2	Camp

BAPTISMS

Jill Chadwick. Austin, Texas * Eddie Wilkerson. Delta, Co. 12/26/84

BIRTHS

Carita Lynn Spurlin. Parents, Steve & Oletta Spurlin.

MARRIAGES

Cliff Boen & Leesa Howe (9-29-84) Eddie Wilkerson & Diane Baxter (1983)
Jim Chadwick & Jill Perry. Aug. 1984

Waterford Ca. meeting too. June 16 - 23. J.W. Bedingfield.