

list of student body presidents on page 205: the 1969-1970 president should read Jim *Holm* and the 1973-1974 president should read Chris *Somera*, while 1978-1979 president David Anderson was completely omitted from the list. The list of coaches on pages 218-219 omits any references to track & field, cross-country or tennis coaches.

The narrative's chronology occasionally is arranged in unusual ways, causing potential confusion regarding the order in which events took place. On pages 104-105, for example, we move from the establishment in 1970 of the In-Service program to the 1965 acquisition of Upland College's library in the space of two paragraphs. In the same way, the Committee of 100 meeting in 1984 is followed by the donation of Steinert Field in 1977 (page 140). More careful editorial work would have helped to eliminate such awkward transitions.

Spelling problems and other typographical errors mar the book and suggest again that a firmer editorial hand might have been in order. Among the more glaring examples are the misspelling of first president Sam Goossen's name throughout the book; the use of both "Forward" and "Foreward" instead of the correct "Foreword"; the misspelling of "Schulkomitee" on page 26; incorrect spellings of Pilgram Marpeck and Strasbourg Quad on page 112; a reference to the "Student" Events Center on page 145; and the misspelling of "amphitheater" on page 107.

Despite these criticisms, Wiebe's book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of Fresno Pacific College. He has pulled together for the first time many important documents and stories crucial for accurately interpreting that story. Those who follow in Wiebe's footsteps to write future historical narratives will find the path easier now that he has blazed a trail.

MCC 75th Anniversary Symposium to be held in Fresno

In honor of its 75th anniversary, the Mennonite Central Committee will convene a symposium entitled "Unit Amidst Diversity: Mennonite Central Committee and the Twentieth Century North American Experience," to be held March 9-12, 1995 on the campuses of Fresno Pacific College and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary. According to MCC, the symposium will be a time to "**Celebrate** the watchful care of God and the faithfulness and courage of those who have responded to human suffering since 1920"; to "**Reflect** on following Jesus in a time when self-centeredness and overflowing schedules as well as suffering and chaos challenge the worldwide church"; and to "**Recommit** to service 'In the name of Christ.'"

Themes to be addressed during the symposium include the history of MCC, the development of MCC's organizational structure, the theological ideas that have upheld its work, issues of globalization, an analysis of MCC's significance and meaning over the last seventy-five years, and a time of worship and celebration. West coast participants during these sessions include Paul Toews, Phil and Joy Hofer, Delbert Wiens, Paul Quiring and Stephen Penner.

Registration costs for the full conference are \$25.00; meals

during the event are available on the Fresno Pacific College campus. For further information or to register contact the West Coast MCC Office, 1010 G Street, Reedley, CA 93654, phone 209-638-6911 or fax 209-638-6914.

Genealogy Committee Report

Salt Lake City research trip a success

On October 20-22, 1994 the California Mennonite Historical Society Genealogy Committee sponsored a research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Thirteen researchers, mostly from various parts of California, travelled by plane or train to Salt Lake City, where they met on the morning of October 20. While in Salt Lake City, the entire group stayed at the Howard Johnson hotel. Located next door to the Family History Library, this hotel is well-equipped to assist genealogists while they are in town. In addition to meeting rooms for the use of researchers, it is probably one of the only hotels in the world with its own genealogy store.

The Family History Library itself is a massive building containing four floors—two above ground and two below. The ground floor contains records from the United States and Canada; the first basement holds European records; the second basement is devoted to records from the United Kingdom; the second floor contains records from all other parts of the world. Most of our research group spent its time in the first basement with European records. On that floor were over two hundred microfilm readers and a bank of computers for research use, and in excess of one million microfilm reels. In addition to the records in that building, researchers could also request additional microfilm reels from another building across the street.

Members of the group used a wide array of records during their three-day visit. Among the more significant resources utilized were Prussian Lutheran church records, many of which contain extensive Mennonite birth and marriage records. Looking for Mennonites in Lutheran records might seem strange until one realizes that the laws of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries required all citizens to register such vital statistics with the local state church, much as we record such information at the county hall of records. These Prussian Lutheran records contain a huge untapped resource of Mennonite family data. Other members of the group made extensive use of as-yet uncataloged microfilms recently brought back from eastern Europe and Russia and United Census records.

"Grandma" continues to grow

The "Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry" (GRANDMA), under the supervision and direction of the Society's Genealogy Committee, has now reached almost 55,000 names. Alan Peters, a member of the committee, is supervising the entry of names into the database and maintains the master copy of it. A current copy of the database is available in the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies and may be used by any researcher. Among the latest entries to the database are many names from the 1835 Möltschna census described elsewhere in

this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Society Executive approves computer purchase

At its last meeting the California Mennonite Historical Society Executive Committee approved funding for a computer system on which to store the "GRANDMA" database. Currently this database is housed on a computer owned by the Center for MB Studies and

used regularly by its staff. This has resulted in occasional conflict between genealogical researchers and Center staff both wanting to use the computer at the same time. By purchasing its own computer, the Society will guarantee that family history researchers will have easy access to the database and that there will be adequate disk storage space as the database continues to grow in the future.

The California Mennonite Historical Society

Executive Committee

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Alan Peters, Vice President
Rod Janzen, Secretary
Frances Ewy, member
Nona Johnson, member
Peter J. Klassen, member
Paul Toews, Center for MB Studies Director
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Contributing \$25

Current membership status may be determined by checking the mailing label on this issue of the *Bulletin*. A date in the upper right corner indicates the month in which your membership expires. A series of dashes indicates that you are not currently a member of the Society.

Membership dues are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Dues, change of address and other correspondence should be sent to the California Mennonite Historical Society at 4824 E. Butler, Fresno, CA 93727-5097.

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Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies hours

Monday-Friday

8:00-12:00, 1:00-5:00

Call (209)453-2225 for further information.

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