

Twin Acres

*A Story Behind the Story
of Northwest College*



by
Dr. Amos D. Millard

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It was one of those balmy February days of 1984 which found Northwest College groundsman Dan Paulssen working in the woods above the College chapel. The clear sunshine gave to the woods a glory known only to those who have experienced it. From the street alongside of Dan's working position, where he was burning tree trimmings, there emerged the figure of a man. As he approached Dan, his eyes were knowingly searching the woods to the north of where Dan's fire smoldered.

The gentleman introduced himself as Mr. Robert Jackman, then began a conversation that was to be as enlightening as the sun which was sending shafts of light through the overspreading forest canopy. It took little time for Dan to learn that Mr. Jackman was retracing his childhood footsteps, for it was in this wooded area that Jackman had grown up in a log cabin accessed by a narrow road that had cut through woods near where the two men were standing. The log cabin stood at the end of the cul-de-sac which now services the Northwest College **F**irs apartments for married students. The foundation is still there. This cabin once had housed the Jackman family with its fourteen children. Dan and Mr. Jackman could trace the remnants of the old access road that had threaded its way through the dense woods and undergrowth. But more was to come in the conversation.

Mr. Jackman recalled another house in the neighborhood – the residence of two “spinster sisters.” School teachers they were. But they were more than that; they were Christian ladies concerned about reaching the unreached with the Word of God. As Dan and Mr. Jackman looked westward, Jackman pointed at C. E. Butterfield Chapel and commented,

“Their house was right where that building sits. Their place was known as ‘The Twin Acres.’ Every summer they would bring some Japanese young people out to their house for a couple of weeks and teach them the Bible.” The ladies were named Stewart, and the area was later called Stewart Heights.

It was the desire and prayer of the Stewart sisters that someday the government would put streets and sewers in that area and that many more young people would find their way to their house to learn about the Word of God. This was in 1934 – the same year that Northwest Bible Institute was founded in Seattle. Little could they visualize then the present streets through that solitary forest, which curtained and filtered some of the Northwest’s most beautiful scenery – Lake Washington gleaming like a mirror in the foreground and the majestic snow-mantled Olympics rising in the background. Just seven years later the U.S. Government purchased that land, including The Twin Acres, and turned it into the Stewart Heights Housing Project to house workers from nearby Houghton Shipyards on Lake Washington.

It seemed that the Stewart sisters had ambitions for their home which went beyond the ordinary. They had a yearning that someday it would have something to do with training young people in the Word of God. “Indoctrination,” Mr. Jackman called it.

When the U.S. Government purchased the land including The Twin Acres, they did indeed put in streets and utilities. Unknowingly, they were preparing it for the ultimate use for which the Stewart sisters had prayed – a place of training of young people in the Word of God.

The next link in the chain of events was a telephone call to C. E. Butterfield, who was then President of Northwest College. The call was from a Mr. Cox, a real estate man who lived on 108th Avenue in Houghton. He had heard that the College was looking

for property on which to relocate, since the freeway project was soon to take the building “out from under the college” in the late 1950’s.

Dr. Butterfield was a man of prayer and of faith. When he first viewed this property, it was clear to him that “this was God’s choice” – it was “the promised land” for Northwest College. Dr. Butterfield returned to the property one day and knelt on a concrete slab on which once had stood a housing unit of the old Stewart Heights Housing Project. There he “claimed this property for God.” The story from that point on is well known in Northwest College circles – a story of miracles in the face of impossible odds.

It seems more than a coincidence that the spot where Dr. Butterfield knelt was the spot where the Stewart sisters had had their home. It was a spot sanctified by their earlier prayers and dedication and service – a spot today sanctified by the “crown jewel” of all buildings on the Northwest College campus, C. E. Butterfield Chapel. The Chapel sits in the center of what was The Twin Acres. Today hundreds of young people still find their way to The Twin Acres in the middle of NC’s present fifty-five acre campus for “indoctrination” in the Word of God.

The story of The Twin Acres is ongoing. Of the ephemeral character of this world, the Apostle John declared, “The world passeth away and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” The stamp and character of the eternal attends that which is dedicated to fulfilling the will and word of God! May it ever be so in the parcel of ground once called “The Twin Acres” and known today as Northwest College of the Assemblies of God.

Amos D. Millard
February 9, 1984

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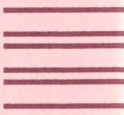
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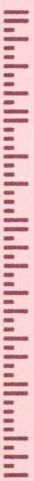
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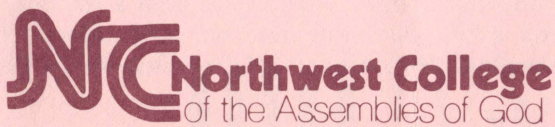
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