

LET'S LOOK BACK

Much has been said about the development of Kentland that has taken place over the past year and those who participated so effectively in that development. At the same time it is important to be aware that a number of people contributed in many ways to the campsite from the time that it was given to the Church. Charlie Keilman has attempted to remember and to sketch that which took place previously and to review that portion of development for the benefit of the congregation. The church is appreciative to Charlie and as he indicated to Pastor Neal, if names have been omitted, we apologize and it has not been done purposely. If there are those of you who in the past have in some way contributed to the development of Kentland and it is not mentioned here, please bring this to the attention of the office because then we will do a subsequent article. It is necessary to know this as the church would construct a running account of the development of Kentland from its inception.

In 1961, about 18-20 acres of woodland were deeded to the Church by Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Kent, with the intention of developing a useful Church property. Through the next year, Reverend Neal persistently urged the Property Board to take action on this project. As a result, Joe Alsippi, Wes Baddorf and Charles Keilman, then members of the board, took it upon themselves to open the area.

Trees, underbrush and briars were cleared...the work being done with handsaws and axes. As the trees were felled - they were cut up for future use, and the brush was stacked for burning. As larger areas were cleared, Ray Hagenbuch provided a power lawnmower to keep the brush down.

The area selected for a latrine was on a limestone ledge. Although Charles Rupp offered a compressor, hammer and drills; Joe Alsippi could arrange for explosives and Wes

Baddorf would do the blasting - state laws prevented these efforts. As a result, the work to cut down the ledge for a suitable footing had to be done by hand.

After moving about 80 tons of rock - using digging bars, wedges and sledge hammers, the ledge was finally leveled. Joe Alsippi put up the walls for the flooring, Charles Keilman secured used lumber from the New Cumberland Army Depot, and Charles Rupp furnished the truck to transport the wood. After Wes Baddorf constructed the rafters, Joe and Charles Keilman finished the roof. Wes made the toilet bases, and Ray Albright donated the seats.

Although no monies were set aside for this project - it ultimately met the state specifications - through the cooperation of these people.

A statement must be made concerning the Boy Scouts of Troop 54 and their involvement in Kentland. They developed nature trails, a worship center. Brad Moore in a project for his Eagle Scout Award, developed the worship center that was used as part of the dedication services. On numerous occasions the Boy Scouts have used the facilities. As part of his Eagle Scout Award, Jeff Kramer, repaired and painted all the picnic tables at Kentland.

During 1962-1963, plans were made for the further development of Kentland, to construct a pavilion. Ray Albright and Don Rimmer participated in these discussions, with members of the Property Board. Joe Alsippi laid out the location for the pavilion, and got the ground ready for the pouring of the footers.

In 1964 it was determined by the church that there was the need for a well. Consequently the contract was given to Eichelberger Well Drilling Co. They drilled for a well and an outside handpump then provided water for Kentland. That handpump is still in place.

In 1965, Don Rimmer brought in his equipment, and opened a right of way to the grove. He then graded the grove, ball diamond and pavilion

area. Ray Albright in partnership with Tom Bendrick, representing Wynn and Co., provided the services of their employees to begin construction. They were aided by Warren Kail - a concrete finisher, and Truman Domanick - a carpenter. Ray Albright handled the block work, flooring, wall around the lodge - and after Don furnished the trusses for the roof - finished the project. In 1966, Charles Bollinger provided the sealer for the floor to the pavilion. A real asset to the lodge was the construction of a stone fireplace. It was Paul Whitcomb, who through many long hours made possible the fireplace which for a long period of time was the only means of heat that was available to the lodge. In addition to Paul, Bob Rhodes & Ray Hagenbuch gave substantial help to this project. It was Ray who took a great interest in Kentland and for a long period of time was a supervisor of the development of that site. It is to be remembered that from 1963 to 1967, Ray Hagenbuch served as administrative assistant at Grace Church.

A number of years later Charles Appleby gave to the church a bottled gas heater that provided added heat and enabled the church to broaden activities at the site. However, it is to be remembered that the lack of indoor plumbing and running water still continued to work a hardship in programming.

With the roadway graded, Max Hempt stoned it at a minimal cost. Shortly afterward, Don Rimmer furnished the equipment, tar and stone to give us a finished roadway.

For a number of years Roland Anstine in cooperation with Carl Fritz assumed the responsibility for Kentland. Many long hours of mowing and maintenance were done by these two and they also attempted to get others to help with the mowing. Don Raffensperger made numerous contributions to Kentland. Though we do not know the specific names of others, thanks of the Church is given again to all who shared in this work.