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## **Front page: Feast trip to U.S.A. includes visits to Eugene and Pasadena**

### **U.S. Feast odyssey includes visit to Mr. Armstrong's grave**

*Following is the concluding report on the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. White, from Sydney, Australia, operates the Origin of Nations Web site ([originofnations.org](http://originofnations.org)), is a founding member of the United Church of God in Sydney and coordinator of the Origin of Nations seminar series. Write Mr. White at [surfer1@tpg.com.au](mailto:surfer1@tpg.com.au).*

**By Craig White**

SYDNEY, Australia--It was on-off, on-off on about five occasions, but I finally made it to America.

I missed going to two Feast sites many years ago due to my student years. I was due to visit Herman Hoeh in 2005, Richard Nickels in 2006 and Raymond McNair in 2008.

Alas, none of those visits eventuated because of these men's passing into sleep, as the Bible puts it.

In any event, after a one-and-one-half-hour delay at Sydney airport I arrived in Los Angeles after 13 hours--customs took an hour to get me through the queue--and finally found the terminal for Alaska Airlines and made it just in time with minutes to spare.

A couple of hours later I was picked up at Portland airport by Monte Howey and enjoyed dinner that night with him and Kellie French.

#### **Visit with CG7 elder**

Kellie also drove me the next morning to meet up with John and Lois Lemley for breakfast. He is an elder with the Church of God (Seventh Day). The Lemleys are wonderful folk I have been in touch with for many years.

I have, in fact, since my teenage years received the CG7 Denver conference's *Bible Advocate* magazine.

John is a specialist in the Wednesday-crucifixion-Saturday-resurrection doctrine. His papers have been uploaded to [friendsofsabbath.org/cog7.htm](http://friendsofsabbath.org/cog7.htm) for anyone to download.

#### **40th CG7 anniversary**

After the Feast, which was Oct. 12-20, 2011, John wrote to me:

"Lois and I thank the Lord for the pleasure of meeting you at long last. Thanks for coming to our home and sharing breakfast with us last Tuesday.

"We plan to drive to Walla Walla this afternoon to attend the 40th anniversary of COG7 there. We lived there from 1974-1983 and 1993-1995. I served as the pastor for much of that time. It will be good to spend Sabbath with them again.

"If the remainder of your time in the U.S. will allow us to see you again, please let us know when and where is good for you. May God bless you throughout your time here and grant you a safe return home."

### **Related to the Duggers**

On Oct. 27 John wrote again:

"Lois's grandparents were Andrew Nugent and Effie Carpenter Dugger. They had four children, Andrew, Orabelle, Naomi and Mary. You took a picture of [their picture]. The original was taken in 1947. There is also a picture of Effie playing the violin. And another picture of young Andrew with his brother Alex and a dog. You have a picture of Andrew and Effie in the history document you gave me.

"Andrew's parents were Andrew Ferguson and Virginia Belle Miller Dugger. There are separate pictures of them. Virginia's parents were Nathan and Sarah Miller.

"Andrew F. Dugger's parents were James and Mary Margaret Schaeffer Dugger ...

"If you took copies of Effie's side of the family, there is a picture of the Carpenter family. And of her mother's Grimm family ...

"The chair was made by Andrew N. Dugger's father, Andrew F. Dugger. He made it for his retarded daughter who died in her teens."

The pictures he refers to are at [friendsofsabbath.org/cog7.htm](http://friendsofsabbath.org/cog7.htm).

### **Radio Church of God and Herbert Armstrong historical sites**

I brought with me to America a list of sites associated with Herbert Armstrong and the old Radio Church of God. That afternoon Monte kindly drove me to try to find these sites such as where HWA was baptized and the Portland, Ore., library where HWA spent so much time. (These are at [friendsofsabbath.org/Trail/trail.htm](http://friendsofsabbath.org/Trail/trail.htm).)

Then I departed for Eugene, Ore., having decided to hire a car instead of borrowing one that was offered.

I slept overnight in Eugene and the next day tried to find these important historical sites. Some I found but others I couldn't.

I took photographs of those that I did find such as 4th Avenue (where the Armstrongs lived), 8th Avenue (where the first church building was located), what is now the Amtrak station (where many broadcasts were recorded), the Hult building (the site of the first home office), Royal Street (where Firbutte Hall is supposed to be located but I could not find it), the Odd Fellows building, which had a room HWA operated out of, and the KORE radio station that broadcast HWA's programs.

### **Exchanging gifts**

I then drove from Eugene to the United Church of God's Feast site in the Redmond-Bend, Ore., area. The countryside was magnificent and all that I imagined it to be.

At the Feast, Pastor Larry Walker, Feast coordinator, and I exchanged gifts. He gave me a picture frame he had made for me from rough-cut cedar that was part of the wall of the meeting room at Belknap Springs, Ore., when the Feast was kept there during the 1930s.

I shall find something appropriate for it to frame, perhaps a picture of the Jeans Schoolhouse building.

Mr. Walker and I have been in communication since 1995 and met in Sydney in 1996.

### **Giving and sharing**

While at the Feast I met Shirley Nickels, wife of the deceased Richard Nickels, for the second time ever. Richard and I had been in contact since 1976 or 1977. We met only once but spent a lot of time on the phone and exchanged hundreds of E-mails.

Richard's Web site is still online at [giveshare.org](http://giveshare.org), and a public presentation I made honoring him and his research may be downloaded from [friendsofsabbath.org](http://friendsofsabbath.org).

### **Will keep in touch**

At the Feast I stayed with Mike Lewis and Tim Jorgensen, who are mighty fine Christian men. We enjoyed some good biblical conversations.

For me a Feast of Tabernacles is spiritual, not a holiday, so I have said for so many years that we should have voluntary Bible studies on each of the days between holy days during the Feast. We did have one lecture, which I enjoyed.

I did visit the fascinating High Desert Museum ([highdesertmuseum.org](http://highdesertmuseum.org)), Mount Bachelor and surrounds ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Bachelor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Bachelor)) and Warm Springs Indian Museum ([museumatwarmsprings.org](http://museumatwarmsprings.org)).

### **Post-Feast E-mails**

After the Feast I received some lovely E-mails from attendees. From Mike:

"Glad it worked out and you got what sounds like a grand tour of the [Ambassador College] campus. Thank you so much for coming to the States. You added so much to many others here in Bend ... It added to Tim's and my Feast as well ... My mom saw your *Origins of Nations* in my home the other day and started to read it and really liked it."

### **The planet's other side**

From Jeanette:

"... Meeting you was one of the high points of the Feast. Just getting to know a personality with a name is nice. I had other high points, such as the talent show and fellowshipping with special friends ...

"I hadn't written you much in the past about Portland because I didn't think that you would be all that interested, being on the other side of the planet, and Portland is only one little spot in the world in the scheme of things.

"But it was one of the first three churches that HWA set up. I originally came from the Midwest of the U.S.A., but I consider Oregon my permanent home, so I am interested in the history of the church right here.

"Most of the 'living books' are now dead who started out in Eugene in the early '30's. Any who were alive then were children, and they don't remember a lot, but enough to get tidbits here and there.

"If you ever want to make up a sheet of questions for me to ask others, I can do that for you."

### **Spending time in L.A.**

I flew to L.A. via Alaska Airlines, which enables one to use the Internet on board the craft for a fee. I gratefully took up this opportunity.

We touched down in L.A. and drove a lovely Dodge to the house I was staying in. From the time of touchdown to entering the home took three and one-half hours (but actual driving probably took about 90 minutes; the peak-hour traffic in L.A. seems not to be as bad as Sydney's; the population of L.A. is at least three times Sydney's, but they have 10 times the freeways). The entire trip from Bend-Redmond to the house took 11 hours.

I am grateful to the UCG minister who arranged the accommodation and to the members who let me stay there.

The next day (the Sabbath) I attended with the UCG and had a great time meeting and chatting with many fine folk, some of whom had worked at the WCG's HQ for many years.

### **Lost-tribes inspiration**

I met Dr. David Lewis after so many years. He was in Australia for the 1998 lost-tribes seminar I organized, so it was a highlight meeting up and enjoying dinner together and sharing notes and other information.

I was honored by his statement that my work has inspired his new newsletter on the "lost" tribes of Israel.

The next day I visited Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Westfield Century City Mall and Santa Monica.

That night I dined with John Garms, who worked at Ambassador College for 33 years.

On Monday I visited the Barnes & Noble bookshop in Old Pasadena; Archive Bookstore in Pasadena (which Dr. Hoeh used to frequent; see photographs at [originofnations.org/HL\\_Hoeh/dr\\_herman\\_l\\_hoeh\\_collection.htm](http://originofnations.org/HL_Hoeh/dr_herman_l_hoeh_collection.htm)); Fuller Seminary bookstore and cafe in Pasadena; and finally the Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens in San Marino ([huntington.org](http://huntington.org)).

### **Prophecies of Daniel**

I was preparing to leave the Archive Bookstore and said a quick prayer and asked if there might be any book in it that might assist with my researches. Oddly enough, lo, I leaned over to pick a book out of a bookcase and it was *The Prophecies of Daniel* by Louis Talbot.

Mr. Talbot is the man Dr. Hoeh used to listen to in the 1940s on the radio (I assume that he also read the Talbot books). I refer to Mr. Talbot in my article on Dr. Hoeh. Coincidence or answered prayer?

The book cost only \$5. When I asked at the counter if there were any other books by Louis Talbot, they checked the database and informed me that I had the last one.

### **The Archive Bookshop**

That Monday night I enjoyed dinner with Harry Curley, who was recommended to me by Fred Coulter (Christian Biblical Church of God). Harry recalled only good things about Dr. Hoeh, Peter Nathan, etc. It was really a good chat.

### **Visit to Ambassador College site**

On Tuesday I met up with Duane Abler of the Church of God an International Community. Peter Nathan and Robert Boraker had arranged for Duane to show me the old Ambassador College campus.

I had never met him but remembered him from Feast films. He was also involved in the TV department, filming HWA's funeral, etc.

Duane showed me around the campus and commented on the various buildings and his

wonderful experiences at the college. I wish I could have recorded the entire proceedings.

I took extensive photos of the campus including, of course, the exterior of the famous Ambassador Auditorium, which was locked. (See [www.friendsofsabbath.org](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org).)

### **Friendly general manager**

We decided to take one last walk past the Auditorium before leaving and noticed a man entering a side door. We wondered if he would let us in to see it. He saw us but then went inside and closed the door.

I said a very quick prayer asking God to allow us in if it was His will. As Duane and I walked toward the door the man popped outside and waited for us and we walked toward him, introducing ourselves and asking if we could have a look around.

Duane explained his extensive time at AC and that I was a visitor from Australia and that we would love to have a look around inside.

The man, Doug Huse, introduced himself as the general manager for the site (he is mentioned at [theambassadorauditorium.org/protectambassador.html](http://theambassadorauditorium.org/protectambassador.html)) and said we could have a look around unsupervised.

Duane knows the building intimately and showed me all around and I took many photographs. I took photos of everything except the downstairs area (mothers' room, change rooms, etc.) because my battery ran out.

Some photos are of buildings to be torn down so it is important that we keep a historical record of these.

### **HWA's first building purchase**

I also photographed the first building in Pasadena that HWA purchased, which became the library. If anyone has a map or plan of the AC grounds, please send it to me.

On the way out we chatted with the general manager, who revealed that he has the file with the entire history of AC performances. He graciously--and unexpectedly--gave me an old AC brochure that I shall scan and post to [friendsofsabbath.org/ABC.htm](http://friendsofsabbath.org/ABC.htm).

He also revealed, before we left, that "something told me to let you into the building." We thanked him for his kindness.

### **Thought about attending AC**

I was urged to attend AC by several ministers including John White (South Africa, no relative), David House (England), Ken McLeod and Ken Lewis (Australia) and, I think, John Comino (Australia).

I did consider attending, but I did not consider myself a ministerial sort of person and that AC would not completely cater to my interests.

Duane also showed me where the old Imperial School, media office, etc., had been (now demolished and replaced with new structures).

### **Herbert Armstrong grave site**

Then we headed to the Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena to view HWA's grave, next to Loma (his wife), Dick (his son) and Eva Wright Armstrong (his mother).

Richard Sedliacik's grave (he was the managing editor of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course for many years and, I believe, a member of the Living Church of God more recently) is next to theirs, and I believe Robin Hulme's is nearby too.

You can see the photographs together with a map of how to find the grave site at [friendsofsabbath.org](http://friendsofsabbath.org).

### **At Dr. Hoeh's grave**

Next we tried to find Herman Hoeh's grave. We went to the cemetery office and were given directions by the lady in charge but could not find it. So we went back to the office and the lady rechecked and assured us that the grave was indeed in the sector she had previously advised.

Still, it was difficult to find and I almost gave up but said a little prayer and Duane found it a minute or so later.

By the way, Duane had very good reports about HWA and Herman Hoeh, unlike some who never knew them. What a wonderful day and what a great guy. Thank you very much, Duane.

The following day (Wednesday) I went to the Ronald Reagan Library and spent two hours there. It was one of the highlights of my life. I doubt we will ever see another president like him. See [reaganfoundation.org](http://reaganfoundation.org).

I drove back to the grave site and took several more photos of Dr. Hoeh's grave site and surrounding areas (which are close to the entrance) to make it easier to find for those who would like to visit the site out of respect. Photographs are at [originofnations.org/HL\\_Hoeh/dr\\_herman\\_l\\_hoeh\\_collection.htm](http://originofnations.org/HL_Hoeh/dr_herman_l_hoeh_collection.htm).

### **Kindred interests**

This reminds me that many years ago when I was living in Portsmouth, England, and attending the Southampton Worldwide Church of God, I got to know a member who attended AC and who knew Dr. Hoeh.

I recall him saying to me that "Dr. Hoeh would love to tutor someone like you" and was going to

recommend me.

Strangely, that was said by another person years later, but I just didn't think AC was for me. However, Herman Hoeh and I did communicate by letter and via telephone. Kindred interests, as they say.

Finding the HWA site was more difficult for me without Duane, so I went back to the office for directions.

### **Wrapping up**

As I was walking to the office, the same lady who helped us find the Hoeh site the previous day happened to be driving by and politely asked me if I was still trying to find the Hoeh site.

I explained that we had found it but I was now seeking the Herbert Armstrong site. She said to follow her because she knew just where to go.

I followed her in my car and took more photos of the graves and surroundings. It was a sunny day so the photos were excellent and it was easier to clean the grass off the gravestones.

I then started driving to find the exit and saw her outside of her vehicle, checking on graves. I waved to her to indicate my gratitude and she waved back.

So the entire trip was eventful and spiritual and little prayers were answered. I trust everyone had wonderful Feast experiences too. America, I am coming back!

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