Plan Now to Attend
Cedar Lake Christian Reformed Conference

Nine Days — July 1 to 9, 1944

DR. MARTIN VAN DYKE, Chairman
MR. NICHOLAS HENDRIKSE, Treasurer

Dr. Leonard Greenway
Teacher of Bible at Grand Rapids Christian High School

Dr. Peter Y. De Jong
Pastor, Alpine Ave., Grand Rapids

Main Speakers
July 3 to July 9 Dr. Leonard Greenway

MINISTERS’ QUARTET
Rev. Donald Droost — Rev. Ralph Heynen
Rev. D. H. Walten, Director of
De Jong

Topics of Dr. P. Y. De Jong

“AMOS FOR TODAY”

Monday, July 3
“The Voice of the Lord”

Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day)
H. A. M.

“A Warning to Israel’s Women”

Wednesday, July 5
11 A. M.

“The Requirements of True Religion”

Thursday, July 6 — 7 P. M. (Ladies’ Day)
“False Security”

Friday, July 7—7:30 P.M., “Fanatic of the Word!”

Saturday, July 8 — 7:30 P.M.
“Judgment upon the Church”

Sunday, July 9 — 3 P. M. (Closing Service)
“Remembering Mercy”

For Lodging, Rooms, Reservations, and Information Write or Call
HENRY VREE, 10201 Wentworth Ave.,
Chicago, Ill. Phone Pullman 2377

We regret that there are no more housekeeping cottages or hotel rooms available.

Recollections of Riels Bouws

WHEN in the year 1847 the emigration to New York increased, there were also in Graafschap, Benheim, many who pulled up stakes to move to the New World. Some of our relatives and good friends made the journey in that year. Among them was an unmarried brother of my father by the name of Gerrit Bouw. My father was a widower and had two children, my brother Jan, who has since died, and myself. He, too, longed to leave this earthly life and settle in the New World. In the spring of 1848, the 12th of April, we left home, departing from Bremerhaven at the 16th. We arrived the 6th of June at Quebec, from there we went by steamboat to Buffalo. We travelled from there by way of Detroit to Chicago; at this time there was no mail on the road. We made the journey by sailboat over Lake Michigan to the mouth of Black Lake. The lake was so shallow that we could not sail in. At some distance from the shore our baggage was transferred to a flat-bottomed rowboat. The mouth of Black Lake was so shallow that the river was partly unloaded and dragged over the sand bar. After we got over it the baggage was loaded in again and then we headed for Holland. Sometimes the boat was rowed, sometimes towed by people or horses until we came to the place where the boat was unloaded and we boys hurried to go into the city to look up friends and acquaintances we knew.

It was the first of July, 1848, about fourteen months after they had begun to cut down the first trees in the virgin forest for the streets of the city of Holland. Here and there we saw a small house standing between the trees, among them also a store where something was for sale, near which, nailed fast to a tree, there was a coffee mill where coffee beans could be ground. We saw here and there a plank shanty or a little log cabin hidden between the trees. At last we asked, “Father, where is the city?” “I don’t know, boys,” said father. When we finally happened to meet some acquaintances we asked them, “Where is the city of Holland?” “Well!” said they, “you are in the middle of it; here, here is Holland!” That was a bitter disappointment. We had expected to come into a beautiful city and now we stood in the center of it, in a forest where we could not believe a city could ever rise. There were but few trees cut and the logs were still lying crossed in all directions. We did not like Holland at all; we wanted to go to Graafschap where our relatives and old friends lived. We had to go to Zeeland and after we had taken leave of them, as they had to go into the forest, we made efforts to go into a somewhat different direction. Without a guide we could not possibly have found them, but a friendly native took it upon himself to direct us. We went into the woods but without track or trail. Men might have gone that way before but without waggon tracks there was not a trace. Our guide along the beaten course by keeping his eye on marked trees at set distances. These had been blazed with an ax and served as guide posts. What a journey that was! We walked over sandy, wooded hills; then we came to mucky bottom lands, now high, then low. More than once our way led over swamp and when wind-fallen trees lay across our path, we dragged over and then we crept under, or, when they had fallen crosswise over each other, we died under them. Once we came to Graafschap. Yes, that is what it was called but it was more insignificant than Holland. Here we met with old Graafschappers (from Grashoek) who had come here before; namely, our uncle, Gerrit, who was unmarried, and Johannes Rutgers, Stephen Lucas, Lambert Tintelt, Louis Tintelt, Hendrik and Geert Zalmink, Berendjen Brinkman, Geert and Albert Klopman, Arendjen Neerken, Geert Hennewald and the brothers Hermanus and Hendrikus Straubing from Drenthe and few more.

It was a joyful meeting but also without a feeling of disappointment for us because we saw our friends living in such humble wooden houses with little log cabins they were, between and under the trees, small and cramped, and poorly roofed. The roof was of split slabs of oak or pine or perhaps of hemlock and balsam bark that had shrunk when dried and did not give sufficient protection when it rained, so that it often happened that clothing and bedding got wet. Here we had to lodge with them and although our first impressions were disappointing, we soon tried to make the best of it. When we saw that our relatives and friends were in their lowly circumstances we began to hope with them for better times.

But something had to be done, and earned; and how to begin, here in the forest! The people were too poor for us to earn anything. They themselves had to go away to look for work and besides, we had little or nothing to live on. At first the trail we went in was too little known and only a few people or horses passed through it. It was a journey from Detroit to the mouth of Black Lake and after the boat was rowed to the place where the boat was unloaded and we boys hurried to go into the city to look up friends and acquaintances we knew.

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One had made efforts to get land for him, and parents together began to hope that some day they would get it. We soon learned a few common English words and the names of the things we used every day and we got along pretty well at work. But still we were sentenced to constant silence because we knew people could not understand us and, O, that was a punishment. What joy and delight it was to meet a Dutch boy by chance, as sometimes happened when they came by that way, or when they came to gather together on a Sunday. We all felt ourselves to be brothers and sisters.

After we had struggled through six or eight weeks of that hard life, we began to get used to the people and their way of living. After four, five or six months we went home to visit our parents. Then we would be happy when we went together with great joy. We saw that such living among their own people and among their own business. Very few of our present-generation service, mostly among Americans, four or five years.

In the colony, in the meantime, much had improved and many parents could not spare us any longer. Each one had made efforts to get land for himself and had chosen and cleared as much of it as he could. There were some rice clearings now. They had begun to buy oxen for plowing and to work in the woods. But since these oxen had had an American training, they could not do anything with them because the animals, though they were able and willing, could not understand them. Therefore it was necessary for us to be beginning to work with them.

Later the oxen were graduated and were able to work in the woods. But when the older brothers came home the younger brothers went out to work, as the oxen and drivers had done.

We saw that such living among strangers was profitable, yes, even necessary, not only to learn to drive oxen but especially to learn how to be a citizen of this country. Many young people went to school in the places where they worked and educated themselves in the English language. As well they should be able to transact all their own business. Very few of our present-day young people can measure up to many of those of old times.

Many parents who came into the possession of oxen and cows could thank the industry and thrift of their children for it. The children considered that they owed this to their parents and so they worked together for the common good.

In this manner, with much privation, much effort and hard work, and with the Lord's blessing, the settlers had made progress. Things had a start and this in itself was enough. Houses had been built, prosperity spread and increased steadily. In the winter, when there was nothing to do on the farm, old and young went to the woods to earn a little, one with hemlock bark, another making tub and barrel staves, a third with cord wood for stoves, and fourth with something else. One who had oxen could sometimes earn quite a little by sledding timbers to the water. It was necessary too, for, although we lived on what we raised, there were so many other things we had to have. Now that there were oxen and able drivers, there had to be also home-made sleds, wagons, plows, drags and other tools. How could they have obtained all this if the children had not helped by earning some money? From what we have seen in these days is that the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom, seemed to inspire old and young more than is the case now. Our parents were truly pious. They acknowledged God in all their work and were conscientious in family and public worship.

This filled the young people with love and reverence and made us respectful and loyal for the Lord's sake to those who were over us. I still recall those days with pleasure and thankfulness when I see how this community has advanced and how we enjoy a material prosperity we did not then expect but also, alas, how we have lost much of our spiritual earnestness and have become lax, then I am ashamed. Then I feel as though God, our benefactor, was asking us, Is this your kindness to your Friend and Redeemer, our Emanuel? Are you living all His faithful purposes? And then I earnestly wish the spiritual life of those days back again. May the Lord grant it, and, now as then, influence old and young by his Holy Spirit.

March 14, 1881.

**Eastern Academy Campaign**

In keeping with the mandate presented to it by members of the Eastern Academy Association, the board of directors of this institution will conduct a "Twenty-fifth Anniversary $25,000 Campaign" during the week of June 5 to 10. This intensive drive has the two-fold objective of obtaining funds to build a needed addition and to wipe out the debt on the present buildings. Samuel L. Steen has been named as general campaign director. Assisting him are Jacob Stum in the Paterson district, and John Last in the Passaic area. Committees, team captains, and workers in various churches in the East are now busyly engaged making plans for the coming campaign.

On the Sunday preceding the drive, June 4, special sermons on Christian education will be preached to stress the spiritual nature of the work carried on at the academy. Conditions at "E. A." make it absolutely imperative to build in order to solve present overcrowded facilities and also to provide adequate room for September registrants. Building operations are expected to begin immediately upon conclusion of the present term in order to have the new facilities ready for the September opening.

The enthusiastic reception accorded the proposal at the membership meeting of the association augurs well for the successful completion of the drive, the thought having been expressed that the coming campaign should serve as a milestone in a continued expansion program for "E. A."

Plans for the campaign are being developed by the following committee from the board of directors: Lambert Peetz, chairman, John Drukker, and Richard Egedy.

**Eastern Academy Campaign Committee**

**PROGRAMS IN THE EAST**

May 31—Pageant of the American Flag, by N. 4th St. Christian School at Public School No. 12.

June 4 to 10—Eastern Academy 25th Anniversary $25,000 Drive.

Any organizations wishing to have the activities mentioned in this Calendar should call the office of the principal of the Eastern Academy. Phone Sh. 2-9017.

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**WANTED**

**BOARDING PLACES AND ROOMS FOR CALVIN STUDENTS**

Those willing to take men students for board and room,

- a. During summer school, June 19 to Aug. 11, and (or),
- b. During the regular school term beginning September,

kindly inform the committee regarding the accommodations you have and when these will be available.

**COMMITTEE ON BOARDING PLACES AND DORMITORIES**

*Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

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