

My Green Lake Story: Don Ng

My main reason for coming to Green Lake is when I was in ABC Educational Ministries from 1978-1998 to direct and lead annual national conferences. For many years we had three Senior High Conferences at the Abbey during the summer. For a while, we sponsored Creation conferences in the Veranda in the winter when rates were lower for professional youth ministers. Then there were the annual Christian education conferences along with ABC board meetings.



The most memorable event is when the Youth Department sponsored Jubilee, the National Gathering of American Baptist Youth in 1980. We registered 2000 youth to the grounds of Green Lake with one-half housed at Ripon College. Director Bud Carroll organized the countless details along with putting together a bus transportation system! In that year, July 4th happened to land on Friday, the last night of the gathering. We wanted to do something spectacular to close out the gathering while we worshipped outside along the lake. Ed O'Rear from Kansas and I rowed out to the small island and set off an amazing show of fireworks! I heard this was the very first time this happened. I also remember that Paul LaDue had us take out a \$1 million dollar insurance policy in case we burned down the place!

I spent many days out in the Abbey usually for 10 days at a time preceding a weeklong conference with training and orienting staff. When I complained that the Abbey didn't have the flower gardens that conferees in the main area enjoyed, Herb Perez bought two potted

marigolds for the youth conference. When there wasn't the refrigeration to keep ice cream frozen, Mary Disterhaft made it happen. I also remembered sweaty floors because of linoleum tiles placed on top of cork floors where Mrs. Lawson's cows stood and there were always leaky sinks and broken air conditioners. If it weren't for these great stories, we wouldn't have memories to share! One year, I made seven trips to Green Lake because it was home!

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Our family of 12 (six adults and six grandkids) had a reunion in Robbins House June 29-July 6, 2019. It happened to be over the 4th of July again! Both our son and daughter have attended Senior High conferences and my wife has been there for many events including the music conference. I enjoyed showing them the Ng Room in the Carroll Youth Center, and sharing the beautiful and sacred places of Green Lake. There have been many “closer walk with God” moments but one that will always be with me is sitting quietly at the 9th hole behind William Carey Hall at night and seeing the stars twinkling like windows to heaven!

