

perspective

Newsletter of the Association for the Advancement of Christian Scholarship
Vol. 6, No. 5, September, 1972

Dear Members and Friends of the AACS/ICS:



With deep gratitude to our faithful God the Boards of Trustees and Curators of the ICS invite all members and friends of AACS-ICS to share the joy of

THE PUBLIC INAUGURAL

of

DR. CALVIN G. SEERVELD

to the

faculty of the

INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

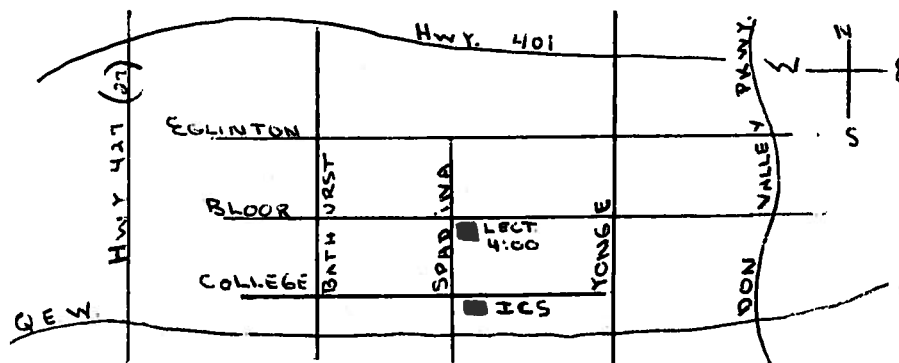
DATE: Saturday, October 14, 1972, 4 p.m.

PLACE: University of Toronto, Faculty of Education Auditorium, 371 Bloor Street W. (at Spadina)

In addition to the Inaugural, the day of celebration includes these events:

1:00 p.m. AACS Membership Meeting, ICS building, 229 College Street.

6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Reception, ICS building, 229 College Street.



Map of Directions

AACS Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Opening: Marinus Koole, chairman, Board of Trustees.

Brief Meditational Address: Louis Tamminga, chairman, Board of Directors.

Executive Director's Address: John A. Olthuis

"Five Years - Of God Picking Up the Pieces"

The executive director will comment on the five years (since the ICS opening) of AACS-ICS activity with particular attention to the events of the past year and the international context of our work. (In addition to students coming to the ICS from Japan and Lebanon, AACS's are being organized in other countries.) This address will also report in detail the AACS-ICS plans and program for the coming year.

Development Director's Report: Harry Houtman

Harry will report on:

- * Promotional plans and particulars on expansion in the U.S.
- * Plans to involve AACS Chapters in a more meaningful manner in AACS activity.
- * "Faith-Economics Campaign."

Discussion:

A time for members to respond, suggest, and criticize. Coffee will follow the meeting, and there will be an opportunity to tour the building before the inaugural.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF DR. SEERVELD AND LITURGY 4:00 p.m.

" A Turnabout in Aesthetics to Understanding" Dr. Calvin G. Seerveld

Dr. Seerveld will discuss:

- * The necessity of an aesthetic dimension to our life.
- * The relevance of theoretical work in the arts.
- * The necessity of forming Christian cultural contributions in society.

A Liturgy of Dedication will thank God for:

- * Dr. Seerveld's inauguration.
- * The new building.
- * Five years of Institute growth.

RECEPTION 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Following the Inaugural there will be a time of celebration and thanksgiving at the ICS building. Light refreshments will be served.

Greetings and a Notice from the Women's Action

On the behalf of every lady involved in our action, I wish to express our deep joy to the Institute for Christian Studies on their Annual Meeting which will be held D.V. October 14th. We rejoice that the Lord has granted us another celebration like this and that He has caused the staff to increase with the coming of Dr. Seerveld. A hearty welcome to him and his family and we pray that their service in His Kingdom will be a blessing to many.

Notice: During the morning business session on October 14th there will be an opportunity for all interested ladies to commune with the district representatives and other ladies of our action. In this way we can meet each other, talk and discuss our work. We hope you'll plan to be there and share the informative fellowship that we hope to have.

For the Board,
Mrs. Anne Vandezande, Secretary.

Registration Day at an Expanding Institute

Harry Westerhof helps to ready the building

The new building on College Street was found just in time to accommodate the growing number of ICS students who registered Monday, September 11th. During the previous month, renovations were being completed, including such tasks as lowering the 13-foot ceiling in one of the large classrooms, putting in dividers to form classrooms, and soundproofing doors. So amidst the last minute frantic carpentry work, and occasionally sneezing from the sawdust, old and new students and professors joyfully greeted each other and exchanged the summer's news. Schedules were arranged, students consulted professors concerning their courses, admission fees were paid, and a number of students good-naturedly helped to dust the chairs and mop the floors for Tuesday's classes. The afternoon expanded into a coffee hour, while among all the happy noise the secretaries competently arranged the new records.

The total number of those who registered for the 1972-73 academic year were forty-eight full-time, twenty-four part-time students and fifteen auditors. Seventeen students are returning from last year. They are almost equally divided in coming from Canada and the U.S., with a growing number of international students including one Japanese, two Lebanese, and one Australian. Up to twenty more, both full and part-time, are expected to register next week.

Of the many students at registration, all whom I talked with had similar reasons for enrolling at the Institute. "To get a Christian perspective of my previous (or future) studies," some replied when asked. "To find out what Christian academics involves. To serve God academically and further His Kingdom in this way." Everyone seemed enthusiastic



Barb Crawford Registers Jackie Van Veen



An expectant group gather for the opening service

about beginning their courses and it was great to see that all were there with such a purpose in mind.

The spirit of enthusiasm continued into the evening. At 6:30 close to one hundred cheerful ICSers met at the Lutheran Centre for an opening worship service and dinner. Dr. Hart led us in prayer and a time of singing, and Dr. James Olthuis, as retiring head of the Institute, spoke on the past and present of the ICS. He told how God had blessed the ICS and had so graciously

provided for it every time something was needed, (such as a new building). "The present task of the ICS," he continued, "is to be open in giving loving direction to each member of its community, to discuss all problems in love, and to guard against self-indulgence. "We must truly begin to live as the Body of Christ," he concluded. Earnest prayer culminated the service, and a delicious dinner was then served. More time of fellowship followed and new friendships were started, old ones renewed. When it broke up hours later, it left everyone in a spirit of Christian closeness and encouragement to begin the new school year.



ICSers enjoy the fellowship dinner

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Alberta Conference - A Joyful Experience!
by Andy A. den Otter



To the great joy of the conferees at the annual AACCS study conference, God's happy sunshine basked the Alberta Evangelical Campgrounds in its warm glow for three days. The crude cabins and rugged halls provided a perfect conference setting.

The lectures, held in a wooden hall furnished with hard wooden benches, proved rewarding. Dr. James Olthuis presented the lectures previously given in Ontario entitled, "Marriage, Family and Friendship", (See Perspective, August 20, 1971). In his three lectures Olthuis urged a uniquely Christian approach to these three areas of human relationships, suggesting they all depend upon troth or trust.

J. H. Olthuis

In outlining his presuppositions, Dr. Sidney Greidanus, in his lectures on "Understanding the Scriptures", confessed that God is sovereign and is free to act in history. The Bible was born in and shaped by history and therefore reveals the main lines of historical development. The Bible is also literature written over a span of more than a thousand years. The Scriptures as literature do not provide an

objective or complete history but a specific story for a special purpose-- the training of God's people in righteousness. The Bible preaches a "biased" message to its readers; it is kerygma or proclamation: the authority of the Scriptures, therefore, is not historical but redemptive. Dr. Greidanus disclosed four basic steps of scriptural interpretation. First, the general purpose of the biblical authors must be determined; secondly the specific purpose of a particular book must be established; then the literary context must be examined; and finally the cultural-historical setting must be understood. Although historical development has broken the relationship between then and now, Dr. Greidanus stressed that the Bible can speak today because its message is addressed to the Church of today as well as yesterday. The timeless relevancy of the love commandment further enhances the Gospel's continuity and, most importantly, the Triune God works now as well as then to bring His Kingdom, to establish His covenant, to promise salvation, and to demand obedience.



Dr. Sydney Greidanus

The worship service was thrilling. Rev. J. W. Postman opened the Word of God and provoked much discussion throughout the day and a spirited response in the evening. Then the service was a spontaneous reaction of praise as the worshippers sang, spoke, clapped and danced in exhilaration of God's glory. Everyone participated; the little ones in charades, the cooks in a thrilling rendition of hymns. The service ended with spirited singing accompanied by seven guitars and then the passing of the peace.

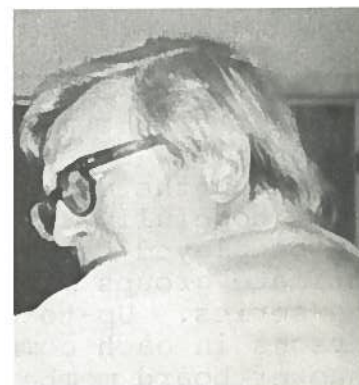


The conferees celebrate in song

The conference was not all work; campfires and games heightened the fellowship and sense of unity. The spirit of exuberant joy carried on into exciting childlike games played by young and old, impromptu demonstrations, and happy singing around the fire. This spirit of Christian joy and fellowship saturated all the activities and made this conference a highlight of the year.

First Lakehead Conference Held--A Blessing to All, by John K. Jansen

The Lakehead, Ontario chapter of the AACS sponsored its first family conference this year in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The exciting event took place over Labour Day weekend and was attended by about fifty adults and their children. The results of the conference were so exciting that the chapter plans to make it a yearly event and expand it to include people from Winnipeg and Emo.



Peter Steen absorbed in explaining the Word

Participants were brought to a fuller understanding of Scripture by Dr. Peter Steen from Grove City, Pa., who lectured on the Word. Dr. Steen explained Christ's task, the healing and renewal of God's creation which He has begun and will complete. He spoke enthusi-

astically concerning the purpose of the Gospel, and he considered the false notions people have of heaven (harps and wings) and encouraged us to examine the biblical concept of the new earth.

The conferees were truly stimulated to delve further into Scripture as a result of this conference. I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless us, and we depend on Him and shall faithfully continue our work.

* * * * *

Discovery IV - The Word of God Stands Forever

Phillip heard the treasurer of Ethiopia reading from Isaiah and asked "Do you understand it?". "Of course not", the man replied, "how can I when there is no one to instruct me?" (Acts 8:30, 31; The Living Word).

Today most Christians read the Bible every day and most admit they need help in understanding what God is saying to gas jockeys, school teachers, mothers, and peanut butter salesmen. And it is difficult with so many false gods (the gods of "get-rich-quick", "teach children to serve themselves", and "have all the fun you can") tempting us to listen to them.

In our tormented society it is neglectful for Christians to say the "institutional church must instruct us". Of course that church has its important task, but gas jockeys, school teachers, and mothers should also join hands in instructing one another.

Discovery offers that possibility; a setting where Christians can hold hearts and in child-like obedience listen and respond to the Word of God for life, the Word that stands forever, while everything around it, including fragile man, withers away.

We offer the five ICS faculty members as leaders for these discussions. Each will give an illustrative presentation, concentrating on reading, listening, and together responding to the Word of God. We invite you to join us in mutual instruction and growth in understanding the Word of God for our time.

In past years Discovery has visited about twenty communities. This year we are trying something new. The speakers will personally visit five communities (see the schedule on the following page and watch for announcements and the distribution of a brochure in your community). The series will (hopefully) reach dozens of other communities via video-tape that can be played back over television sets. This opens the possibility of intimate groups meeting in homes and public places to see and discuss the series. Up-to-date plans have been presented to chapter and contact persons in each community where there are AACS members. So contact your chapter board members or watch for further information. This action was designed to provide the opportunity for more people to share at more reasonable costs.

James H. Olthuis

Friday, October 20, Vancouver
 Saturday, October 21, Edmonton
 Monday, October 23, Grand Rapids
 Thursday, October 26, Toronto
 Friday, October 27, St. Catharines

A. H. DeGraaff

Friday, November 17, Edmonton
 Saturday, November 18, Vancouver
 Monday, November 20, Grand Rapids
 Thursday, November 23, Toronto
 Friday, November 24, St. Catharines

Calvin G. Seerveld

Friday, January 12, Edmonton
 Saturday, January 13, Vancouver
 Monday, January 15, Grand Rapids
 Thursday, January 18, Toronto
 Friday, January 19, St. Catharines

Bernard Zylstra

Wednesday, February 21, Edmonton
 Thursday, February 22, Vancouver
 Monday, February 26, Grand Rapids
 Thursday, February 15, Toronto
 Friday, February 16, St. Catharines

Hendrik Hart

Friday, March 23, Vancouver
 Saturday, March 24, Edmonton
 Monday, March 26, Grand Rapids
 Thursday, March 15, Toronto
 Friday, March 16, St. Catharines

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ICS: Training Ground for the Future

by Robert J. Eells

This is a time in history when many young people are uncertain about what they should be doing to "prove" themselves in society. College and graduate school seem to be on the decline as viable alternatives for an increasing number of able minds. This "uneasiness" has also struck the Christian community as many are now beginning to question the meaning of higher education. Christians should have been in the Vanguard of the questioners from the first, but at last the time has finally arrived when Christian students are seeking answers which are an embarrassment to the "System".



Bob Eells

I'm one of those graduate students who was caught and didn't know where to go. I attended a Christian college--Geneva in Beaver Falls, Pa.-- and profited from this, but it was a frustrating experience as I came to realize how much vision and integration was necessary for Christian education even at the undergraduate level. Advanced training was also important to me because of my interest in teaching and other work of a more specialized nature. However, I had come to a deeper appreciation of my Christian commitment during my last two years in college, and I was looking for "education" that would equip me adequately to serve my fellow believers as well as other communities.

I sought relief from what I knew to be the "rat race" of most graduate education by enrolling in a new interdisciplinary program called "American Studies". This is a somewhat more flexible approach to graduate training and proved in comparison to be more alive than many other programs, but I

remained basically unsatisfied. I came to realize--over a process of three years--that certain elements were lacking from this "new" approach to advanced degrees. Two such elements stand out in my mind. The first is community. I could not feel at ease with my professors or fellow students. I did not share their basic attitudes and beliefs, and this made them uneasy too. I can remember one professor who looked at me with astonishment when informed that I wanted to develop a Christian approach toward my chosen fields--American history and political theory. He advised against it, counselling to "play the game by the rules". He also warned me that if I tried to do so I would be alone.

The other element is that of integration. I found little help anywhere in my efforts to relate the various disciplines that I studied. Some didn't seem to be worried about this lack of integration, others spent their time trying to justify the existence of the American studies approach to graduate level training, but without any real basis to bring the problem into sharp focus. No one seemed to know how this new approach should work.

After three years of this I was beginning to question whether the effort was worth it, even if I received the Doctorate. Why should anyone be impressed with a Ph.D. who has a grasp of many facts but who is not able to bring his material into a meaningful whole? I wasn't impressed.

About two years ago, while I was an instructor of history at Geneva College, I came into contact with the AACSB and the ICS. I had heard about the Institute before this but it wasn't until this time that I had the opportunity to reflect upon what was happening in Toronto. I read a considerable amount of the literature and talked about the Institute with several students and with Dr. Peter Steen, who was teaching philosophy at the college. I was impressed with what I saw and heard, especially in light of my own weaknesses as a teacher. I quickly came to realize how important vision was to the teaching profession. I also sensed how important theoretical insight and integration were to the development of a meaningful classroom atmosphere.

I was impressed with the Institute because it struggled with many of the same problems that I faced--especially community and theoretical integration. This was being done within the context of a Christian approach to graduate education, something that I have always felt was urgently needed in North America. So, after some reflection, I decided to study at the Institute for at least one year, perhaps more, if the situation remained open.

Well, the year is over and it has been extremely helpful. I discovered that the community element is present in many ways and that serious research and scholarship is being done. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to study political theory under Dr. Bernard Zylstra. This is one of the areas that I stressed in graduate school and it was my weakest. Dr. Zylstra is able to instill into his students a sense of urgency about the lack of any substantial political vision within Christianity and is able to begin to articulate a Christian response to the confusion that characterizes our public arenas of life.

Last year two courses were given by Dr. Zylstra--an introduction to Christian political theory and the history of political thought. In the former he pulled together his various insights into an analysis of the empirical structure of the state as an aspect of creation and attempted at the same

time, in parallel fashion, to develop the biblical basis for much of his approach by means of a study of the biblical notion or concept of justice. In the latter he directed our attention to John Locke and Karl Marx as the two men that we as Christians must understand in light of the awesome success of the two (partly political) systems that they helped spawn-- Capitalism and Communism. Both of these courses enabled me and others to grow in our understanding of the biblical attitude toward the state and political life, and in conjunction with other Institute courses, brought into graduate level training a degree of integration that I had never experienced.

Because of the small classes, Dr. Zylstra was able to relate to all the students and this proved to be one of the most enjoyable aspects of the entire year. The staff in general was open and friendly and sought to be of service as much as possible. This facilitated an even more communal approach to theoretical problems and was therefore productive even in the short run. Dr. Zylstra and others were able to devote some of their time to individual academic counselling. Many found this to be an added bonus.

I had planned to return this year if nothing interesting turned up, but it did. I discovered an organization called the Christian Government Movement (CGM) was in need of a full time representative. I had previous knowledge of this organization, knew of its background and history, and decided to apply for this position. I am now the executive secretary of CGM and look back over the past year at the Institute as invaluable in terms of my understanding of God's Kingdom and possible Christian political witness.

This past year's work in political theory will be of immediate use to me in this organization. The Christian Government Movement is a group of Christians with a Reformed heritage who are seeking to honour Christ in a political way. For some time we stressed the adoption of a Christian Amendment to the American Federal Constitution that would give "confessional" recognition to the sovereign rights of Christ over this, and by implication, all nations. This method is no longer being stressed because it was felt to be somewhat narrow in its approach to the problem. In the U.S. we are, like the National Association for Christian Political Action (NACPA), seeking to understand just what the Lord requires of us if we are also to be obedient political servants.

It is in my capacity as executive secretary that I hope to be able to give some positive direction to this movement based, at least in part, upon the work of this past year at the Institute. The Institute has also proved helpful even during the summer. One of my assistants with the CGM, Phil Beard, was able to attend the summer seminar in politics and economics and was quite impressed with the work being done in this community. We hope to be able to maintain friendly relations with the Institute as we both seek to develop a better understanding of God's world and our place in it as His agents of reconciliation. We need to work together if we are to be faithful to our calling!

The address of the Christian Government Movement is:
804 Penn Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Penna. 15221,
U. S. A.

Dr. Zylstra at A.S.A. Conference

On Tuesday, August 22nd, Dr. Bernard Zylstra spoke before the annual convention of the American Scientific Affiliation at York University. The A.S.A. is an association whose members confess a personal commitment to Christ and to "a scientific understanding of the world". Dr. Zylstra's topic was "Christian Presuppositions of the Political System". He suggested five presuppositions. The first concerned the nature of the Kingdom of God; the second dealt with how love is the service of mankind in obedience to God. Thirdly, he considered the biblical norm of justice and how justice is the juridical expression of love. Fourthly, he discussed how the state is the servant of God, and fifthly he considered qualitative structural pluralism and the question of sphere sovereignty. Dr. Zylstra defined the state as a juridically qualified structure responsible for the administration of justice. He concluded by emphasizing the need for an open society in which no single institution (church, state, school) overshadows any other, but where all can exist and develop simultaneously. Dr. Zylstra also commented on a speech by Richard Bube, a professor of Physics at Stanford University, entitled "Optimism or Pessimism: A Christian View of the Future". Eight other lecturers spoke at the convention, including Robert Knudsen of Westminster Theological Seminary. Copies of Dr. Zylstra's speech are available in the 1972 International Reformed Bulletin.



Dr. Zylstra enjoys a discussion at the conference

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New Perspective Co-Editors

Robert Carvill--enjoying his new free time

With this issue, Marcia Hollingsworth and Carol Ricker Wilson became co-editors of your Perspective Newsletter, replacing Robert Lee Carvill. Robert's request to be relieved of his editorial responsibility was granted so that he might devote full time to his position as co-editor of VANGUARD Magazine and editor of other Wedge Publishing Foundation materials.

In the November, 1971 issue (Volume 5, No. 5) I reported that Robert reluctantly agreed to remain editor of Perspective even though he had a more than full time Wedge appointment. We are very grateful for his effort over the past nine months. His warmly personal style, imaginative in-depth reporting have made Perspective a living link between the Toronto base and members around the world and also between members. Thank you, Robert! May God bless your Wedge-VANGUARD work. Members and friends anxious to follow Robert's writing should subscribe to VANGUARD Magazine, 229 College Street, Toronto 2b, Ontario, Canada.

Your new editors are Marcia and Carol (Does it take two women to replace one Robert?!) Marcia, my assistant, was introduced in the last issue of Perspective. Carol, a native of suburban Philadelphia, is an honours graduate of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa. with a B.A. in English. While attending Geneva, she was an assistant teacher of a Humanities course and contributed occasional articles for the college paper. Both she and her husband will be students at the ICS this year. Carol will take an aesthetics course from Dr. Seerveld.



Carol Wilson--happy with her new job

We welcome our new editors and hope you will come to know and appreciate their work in keeping you informed about AACCS-ICS activities. It is their hope that you will inform them of events of interest, community responses, and individual reactions so that this newsletter may truly be an effective means of communication.

John A. Olthuis,
Executive Director.

P.S. This newsletter contains fewer pages than most issues since it had to go to press soon after Volume 6, No. 4 to arrive at members' and friends' homes prior to the celebration planned for October 14th.

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Miniscripts

* C. T. McIntire to Remain in England for Several Months

C. T. McIntire, ICS assistant professor elect in History, was scheduled to assume his position commencing with the 1972/73 academic year. In finishing his dissertation, Mr. McIntire found new research sources requiring his extensive attention and the Board of Curators has agreed that he remain in England until his dissertation is complete. It is hoped that the McIntires will move to Toronto during the spring of 1973. Perspective will keep you informed of developments.

* In an extensive article in the Saturday, September 9th issue of the "Toronto Star", an interview with Dr. James Olthuis was reported in which he contrasted the traditional subservient role of women in marriage and the family with the biblical role. Christians, he said, too often use marriage and the family to enslave women. "In the Bible, woman is always much more than wife or mother--though both roles are important--she is the equal of man as a servant of the Lord. Man is created a bi-unity - male and female; in the richness of this bi-unity they are partners and have the task everywhere to be helpmates to each other". A further development of the lecture reported in the Star article will be discussed in Dr. Olthuis' soon-to-be-published book, Towards a Christian Lifestyle. Reprints of the article are available from AACCS.

* Dutch Old Age Pensions

It has recently come to our attention that Dutch-born persons who still

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have their Dutch citizenship are eligible for complete Dutch Old Age Pen-
sions even if they do not live in the Netherlands. For more information
they should write to:

Sociale Verzekeringsbank,
Bureau Beperkte Registratie,
Apollolaan 15, Amsterdam-Zuid,
The Netherlands.

We are informing you with the basic intent that persons could benefit person-
ally but also Kingdom work could be supported more liberally with this extra
income if the person should be so inclined.

* Dr. Peter Steen has available an English translation of the article on
linguistics by Dr. Pieter Verburg entitled, "Vicissitudes of Paradigms".
He also has a bibliography of Dr. Verburg's works. If you are interested,
write to him at 1007 W. Main Street, Grove City, Pennsylvania 16127, U.S.A.
Please write to Perspective if you have any hard-to-get articles of trans-
lations and we will let our readers know.

* Kerry Hollingsworth and Harry Houtman spent 1½ days at the 26th annual
meeting of the American Theological Librarians Association which was
held this year in Waterloo, Ontario. They met people from throughout
North America and introduced many of them to the work of the AACS-ICS as
well as the publications of Wedge and Tomorrow's Book Club.

* Dave Selvig, an ICS student, and Harry Houtman spent several days
with a literature and book display at the Young Calvinist Convention
in Hamilton, Ontario. They talked with young people and leaders from
throughout North America.

Sincerely yours,

Marcia Hollingsworth
Marcia Hollingsworth,

Carol Wilson
Carol Wilson,
Co-Editors.

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