

Our Green Lake Story: Pat & Ron Schlosser

It started at Green Lake. Pat and I (Ron) were brought together at Green Lake. The year was 1965 and we both were at Green Lake – known then as the American Baptist Assembly. Pat was secretary to Joe Hanson, program director for the Baptist summer season. I was attending a number of conferences as a youth staff member of the Board of Educational Ministries. During the weeks of the various conferences I attended – the Christian Education Conference, the National BYF Youth Gathering, the Christian Writers Conference, the Older Youth/Young Adult Conference -- I joined Pat and other conference staff after sessions for snacks and conversation, often in Green Lake village. Pat had a car, which made it nice to get off the grounds to visit fun places on days off, such as the Wisconsin Dells, shopping in Berlin, dining in Beaver Dam and Fourth of July fireworks in Ripon. She also provided transportation to and from the Oshkosh airport when I arrived and left, which was nice and personal.

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Pat’s job was to work with the fellows on the student staff who provided needed assistance for the conferences – room setup, delivery of chairs, tables, AV equipment and other supplies, put up and take down flags along the walkway next to Morehouse Hall. During free time between and after sessions, we’d sit on our favorite bench at the top of the steps across from Rauschenbusch Hall above the rose garden and talk about many things that interested us. Olive Hanson, Joe’s wife, was quite a matchmaker and encouraged both of us, on many separate occasions, to pursue our relationship on a deeper level. Olive managed the Assembly craft shop.

Following her summer stays at Green Lake, for the rest of the year Pat worked at the American Baptist Mission Center at Valley Forge where I, too, was employed – she in the Division of Christian Education (on the third floor) and I in the Division of Christian Publications (on the second floor). Prior

to 1965, we really didn’t know each other that well. After that summer conference season ended and Pat came home, we started dating regularly. By Christmas time we became engaged and married in July of 1966. In August we continued our honeymoon at Green Lake, with exclusive residence at the Christian Writing Center thanks to Frances Lamb,



Pat’s friend and Assembly registrar. Olive Hanson, the matchmaker, made and gave us a ceramic Christmas tree which to this day reminds us of the beginning of our Green Lake romance. There’s a plaque on Memory Lane at Green Lake which we placed there in honor of the Hansons.

