



Norman's Whereabouts

by Norman Searah

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I went to Panora, Iowa, to attend the National Catholic Worker gathering. It's been a long time since we had one. Panora is a nice, somewhat quiet, town with a nice lake. We spent time at the Catholic Youth Camp which is on a high hill overlooking the lake. We slept in tents, on floors, bunk beds and anywhere else we could find. Catholic Workers came from all over, some couldn't come, one of the reasons is that they haven't enough staff so they stayed. I found myself thinking of them and others who did not come.

I was glad to see the Bishop come and offer his blessings. We had prayer time, Mass and a Quaker service which was good. There were many workshops and almost the same number of entertainers that entertained us with their talents, even the children got to show their talents.

Carla and Jackie did a good job with cooking along with the others. Bill and others did a good job getting people back and forth from the airport and bus depot to the gathering. Frank did well, too, and all the others.

For me, I slept in a cabin called St. Paul. I have to learn more about St. Paul. I met a lot of people from all over. I spent more time with Michael Boover from the first Catholic Worker that I worked at in Worcester, Massachusetts. I saw some of the people who came with Michael Boover. He took me back and to the present time, but I didn't see anyone from Portland, Oregon. I took many walks. I saw the same number of movies about the Catholic Worker movement and Dorothy Day and the movies were as good as the walks were and the food was good, too.

It was good to see Peter DeMott. I met his family at the New York Catholic Worker last year before I had my stroke. Frank asked me to do this article and I'm doing it the same time as I'm carving a plaque

with Christine's name. She is from Worcester also.

I learned a lot. I learned not to grow up, not to be like a businessman or like a person who works for the government. I know what Brother Blue was getting at....we must break our own chains if we are going to live to gather one link at a time. We have to listen to old as well as the young. We have to listen to the sick as well. We have to listen as well as talk no matter if you have learned a language. That is what I learned from this gathering

As for me, I plan to go to New York Catholic Worker. I plan to keep my promises. I plan on going to the School of the Americas. I tell others about diabetes and strokes. I take walks and do things. I thank you for reading this.

