

## **Ann and Robert MacPherson**

### **Side 1:**

[1/6] Bob was born in Summerville, a suburb of Boston with a population of 100,000 people with a heavy educational background. There were 200 members in his Universalist church. [Charles Tufts, Professor Ransom, John Holmes, John Ciardi]

[1/45] He became interested in music through the junior choir. [Beatrice Sweet]

[1/61] He decided to become a minister and was influenced by a radical dean in Tufts theological school. He was ordained by the State Universalist Convention. His first pulpit was in Cleveland in a merged Universalist and Unitarian merged. [Dean Clarence R. Skinner, Norman Thompson]

[1/106] He had previously participated in the Universalist youth group, serving as president, and helped bring about the merger with the American Unitarian youth group, which together became the Liberal Religious Youth (LRY).

[1/124] Ann, a day school teacher, was teaching in the church where he was assistant minister.

[1/132] The difference between Universalists (liberal) and Unitarians (conservative) is described. Universalist Banner or Female Repository, the first magazine of its kind to be published for women, came from Universalists who also ordained the first female minister. The churches merged in 1961. Tax revenue had been received from Mass. and Universalists did not want to give it up - now the separation (church and state) is embodied in law. [Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Ellery Channing, Hosaia Ballou, Jerry Falwell, Thomas Jefferson]

[1/246] Ann grew up in a merged church (because of Depression - they joined forces). She went away to school and returned to Cleveland to teach. Pullman was minister there before coming to Asheville. [Tracy Pullman, Delworth Lupton]

[1/288] Bob was a full-time assistant when they married and they spent 3 years in Cleveland, went to Boston and then 8 years in Maine.

[1/311] Bob took a small pulpit and became a full-time graduate student in Syracuse specializing in speech and hearing. Bob worked with the Veteran's Administration in St. Petersburg, Florida. They had two sons. [Robert Owen MacPherson, Ralph Lang MacPherson, Jack Fisher]

[1/417] The Veteran's Hospital in Oteen, with 500 beds, needed Bob's training and they moved here in 1971.

[1/441] They attended the church on Vermont Ave and described it. Though the group was small, they were optimistic and, when property for building was offered were ready to move. [Fred and Lucien Hosmer, Helen Reed]

[1/517] Roberson was the chief executive officer of Champion Paper in Canton. Reuben Jr., a doctor, built Doctor's Park on Biltmore Ave. [Reuben Robertson, Hope Robertson, Reuben Robertson, Jr.]

[1/581] The church was already in building stage when they were established in town. [Larry Holt]

**Side 2:**

[2/12] (Delay on tape.) Carl Sandburg's widow offered \$25,000 to get the building started. [Lillian Steichen (Paula) Sandburg]

[2/28] Ann wanted to have the dedication in the fall due to the failing health of Mrs. Sandburg and Reuben Robertson. It was held Labor Day 1972 (enclosure) with a party held at Battery Park Hotel. [Diana Bilbrey, Dave Williams, Jo Birdsall, Tracy Pullman, Dr. West]

[2/100] The carpet was donated (for a long time it was not known who gave it) and members of the congregation are discussed. [Una Schmidt, Gus Schmidt, Ned Longley, Eurdus Longley, Ann Echols, Lisa Andrews, Tate Andrews]

[2/182] Plans to have a spiral staircase from the Sunday school rooms to Sandberg hall were changed and a carpet was installed. [Bill Moore, Homer Schmidt]

[2/219] Potluck luncheons have grown in size and need to be limited. [Bruce Larson]

[2/278] They describe Asheville as they knew it when arrived - a provincial backwater where "they were not needed or wanted." Bob was asked to be chairman of the professional division for the United Way and said that this U.U. church has given more than in many other communities.

[2/399] Bob joined the Social Concerns Committee and was responsible for the high response for the Red Cross blood drive and the church was given a plaque (see photo taken with Larry Holt in the board room). [Hiram Cody, Clara Barton, Larry Holt, Maureen Killoran]

[2/575] Bob has been active in ACT and played the part of the Episcopal preacher in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof in 1988.

[1/590] Ann is working with the Art Museum in Pack Place and discusses the planning of the area for use for children.