



**Old photograph of Lake Dew, about 1920s. Unfortunately, Lake Dew, with its campfire pit and opportunities of lakeside worship experiences, has been bulldozed over, and a small auditorium erected in its place. Why? No other site has memorialized Rev. J.H. Dew.**



**Daytime Conference around Lake Dew.**





**Lake Dew service with campfire, following evening worship in Spilman Auditorium.**



### *Lake Dew*

In the summer of 1919 Rev. J. H. Dew contributed \$200 with which to construct a dam and build a small lake. He made further contributions for its upkeep, and his son, Joe Dew, continues to make donations from time to time. Surrounded by beautiful trees, under which there are chairs and benches to be used for brief periods of prayer and meditation, it is a beauty spot on the Assembly grounds. Ducks spend many peaceful hours on its placid waters. It is the central gathering place at the close of many of the evening services, when, with a beautiful bonfire in the background, Scriptures are read by a leader and songs are sung by the group. After a closing prayer, the thoughtful worshipers wend their way to hotel and cottages for a restful night of sleep. The "Lakeside Service" is beautifully described in this verse:

A blazing fire reflected in Lake Dew, faces blending  
in the mellow glow,  
The voice of a today's prophet ringing from the  
rough log tower,  
A vesper hymn resonant in the cool night stillness,  
And all time suspended—the mind caught up in a  
moment of eternity  
With the sudden, sure knowledge of the presence  
of God.

—Freida Culbertson Burts in *The Ridgecrest Story*

**You can hear one of these Lakeside Services, recorded live in the "Audio" section of this website: "Joe at RBA (Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly)"**