



## PILGRIMAGE TOURS LEAD-MINING REGION

The historical pilgrimage October 3, 1981 attracted more than the usual number of participants. After a delicious meal of pasties, the native dish of the Cornish, Pastor Richard O'Neil led in a presentation of the history of the Mineral Point congregation and a brief sketch of the Parish of the Hills charge.

At the Fayette church Mrs. Annice McGranahan and Mrs. Eona Ruppert teamed up to give the pilgrims a sketch of Bishop James W. Bashford and his leadership in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

At Benton the group viewed the site of the Ahab Bean cabin on the Coon branch of the Fever River. Here, August 21 and 22, 1829 the Rev. John Dew held a series of evangelistic services, the first within the boundaries of the Badger state. Walter Calvert and the ladies of the Benton Church entertained the group with refreshments, and pointed out the historical significance of the neighborhood.

## O'NEIL NEW ARCHIVES CHAIRPERSON

The Rev. Richard A. O'Neil was elected chairperson of the conference Commission on Archives and History at its meeting in Mineral Point October 3, 1981. He succeeds Mrs. Dorothy Brice, who resigned due to pressure of other responsibilities. O'Neil was serving as vice chairman.

The Commission voted to approve the application of the Linden Church of the Parish of the Hills for recognition as a historic site in the General Conference list.

A committee consisting of Rev. Wayne D. Helmerich, Rev. William Blake, and Rev. Richard O'Neil was elected to promote the observance of the sesquicentennial of United Methodism in Wisconsin throughout 1982.

## THE CHURCH AT MAUSTON

When Joahanna M. Roth contacted the editor of Flashbacks, she said that the church records had been unwittingly destroyed in 1963. Nevertheless, she has written a delightful account of the first one hundred and twenty-five years, with even many names of pioneer Methodists, the homes where they met, and the people who attended.

Reverend William C. Armstrong, the first minister of the mission, traveled over a thousand miles on foot the whole conference year, 1854-1855. He did ride twice, once on horseback from Stewart's Settlement and once from the home of Ross Philip to Mauston. He made a point to preach one sermon on temperance and one on abolition each place.

In 1855 a quarterly conference was held in Mauston. All the ministers were listed. In 1857 a church which is believed to be the first Protestant church in Juneau County was built on what is now East and Oak Streets.

The story of the new church written by Margaret E. Horn with historic notes by Johanna Roth gives much detail from the initial plan in 1953 to the burning of the mortgage in 1972. The Year of Celebration, 1978-1979, was written by Reverend Richard L. Benny and Miss Roth. A full page sketch of the old church was made for the history by Martha White.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the summer or fall of 1982 the holdings of the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History will be moved from the overcrowded facilities at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, to the new 275 million building, on the campus of Drew University, New Jersey. The cornerstone was laid on November 21, 1981, and the center now already half finished. There will be facilities for 50,000 cubic feet of records. The walls and ceiling of the two underground floors are built in vault design.

\*\*\*\*\*

The story of Jennie Harness said to be the first woman preacher in the United Brethren Church and of her circuit rider husband had to be deleted from this issue. If finances permit, it may be put in time in permanent form for the United Methodist archives.

In brief it contains: the ancestors of Jennie Harness going back to when her great, great, great Quaker grandfather accompanied William Penn on an exposition to Pennsylvania; her coming to Wisconsin and her participation in the beginning of the Pleasant Ridge Church in Richland County; the story of the great hail storm during a funeral being conducted by the preacher team; the events leading to the organizing of the church at Buzzard, the relation of Reverend James C. Hatch and Reverend Mrs. Hatch to the Wisconsin conference; and the story of the "Grand Old Man" who spent his summers for nearly thirty years at the "Bee House" in Rockbridge. On November 15 and 16, 1981, an exhibit of pastels by Halsey Rinehart at the Art Fair at the University of Wisconsin-Richland included one of this historic cottage.

---

## FLASHBACKS

*Official newsletter of the United Methodist  
Historical Society of Wisconsin*

**Miss Margaret H. Scott, editor**

1400 W. Seminary St., Richland Center, Wis. 53581

Material of historical interest, such as church anniversaries, recollections, activities of local church historical committees, and historians should be sent to her at the above address.

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

**Rev. Robert W. Kuhn, president**

**Mrs. Josephine Rowlands, vice president**

**Rev. Theodore Jordan, secretary**

**David W. Chevalier, treasurer (ex officio)**

**Miss Margaret H. Scott, editor of Flashbacks**

**Rev. Richard A. O'Neil, membership secretary, 415 Doty St., Mineral Point, Wis. 53565**

Membership applications and dues should be sent to the membership secretary at the above address.