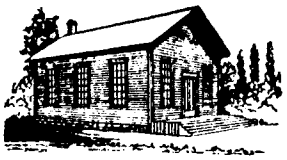
"WE are the end-product of our history."

FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Official newsletter of the
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Vol.21 No.1 January 1995

ALGOMA BOULEVARD UMC SITE OF FALL PILGRIMAGE

The 1994 Fall Pilgrimage of the Wisconsin United Methodist Historical Society was held at the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh. A slate of officers was elected as follows: President, Merlin Hoeft; Recording Secretary, Joanne Hornby;; Membership Secretary, HarrietAlicia; Conferencehistorian, Ethan Larson; Editor of FLASHBACKS, Lois Olsen; Members at Large: Mary Schroder and Robert Kuhn.

Mrs. Gyneth Rinehart submitted her resignation as editor of FLASHBACKS. Her resignation was accepted.

An invitation from the Wautoma church for the 1995 Fall Pilgrimage has been offered and was accepted. The pilgrimage will be on Saturday, September 30.

TheNorth Central Jurisdictional Historical Society will meet in Wisconsin in 1996.

THANK YOU

Much gratitude is extended to Gyneth Rinehart, who has been serving as the editor of FLASHBACKS.. Another vote of thanks is due to Fern I.Miller who has been serving as membership secretary.

NEW EDITOR

My expectations as the new editor of FLASHBACKS is that I am going to learn a lot! My education has started already.

It would be helpful if readers and members of the historical society would send me items of church history and newspaper accounts. If your church has prepared a printed history, particularly at the time of an anniversary, please send it on, either to me or to the conference archivist.

Since I have a deep and abiding interest in missions, I would like to develop a series on mission projects in Wisconsin as well as persons from Wisconsin who have served in both national and overseas missions.

Contributions can be sent to me at my home address: St.John's Tower, 1840 N.Prospect Ave.,Milwaukee, WI 53202 or call me at 414-347-1745

PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Peace United Methodist Church of Richland Center has celebrated one hundred years of service. In February of 1893, the first pastor, the Rev. John Richards, called together twelve members who became the charter members of the church. The United Brethren Annual Conference voted to send two hundred dollars to assist this mission church. The first sermon was preached in the Christian Church building. services continued to be held in this building until May of 1894. Later, the congregation met in the G.A.R.Hall until May of 1894. Construction of the new building began on September 17,1894 and was completed on May 1. 1895.The cost of construction was $1621. The building was dedicated on June 2, 1895, with $1150 subscribed towards the cost of the building.

The church was of frame construction painted gray. In 1908, a basement was dug out and additional rooms added.

This original frame building was destroyed by fire on January 15, 1911. Nearby buildings, including the parsonage, were saved. One of the church members went into the burning building and rescued the church records. One year later, the new building was dedicated. The new building was constructed of poured concrete and has a seating capacity of 600 persons. A series of stained glass windows enhanced the beauty of the sanctuary. Each picture shows a Christian symbol or depicts a Biblical event.

In 1930, an educational unit waa added to the building. The mortgage of the church was cleared in September, 1938.

The present congregation is the result of a merger of two other United Brethren churches. The Buck Creek church was organized in 1888. The group disbanded in 1966 and a number of the members joined the church in Richland Center.

The Pleasant Ridge United BBrethren Church began as a class meeting in 1883. The original building was of log construction. The congregation disbanded in 1966.

A year long series of events marked the centennial. Starting in October of 1993, the third Sunday in every month was designated as the Sunday of celebration. On the first Sunday, former pastors were invited to come back and visit the congregation. The service was followed by a pot-luck dinner.

In January, there was a sale of Centennial ookbooks. Long time church members were recognized and presented with a pin in February. A log cabin quilt was designed and hung in the foyer. The quilt included the name of members and families

Bishop Sharon Rader preached at the service inMarch. In April and May, cnetennial skits were presented,, depicting events

in the history of the church.

The june celebration included a service o hymns and other musical presentation. In July there was a picnic at the Eden Camp meeting site. In August there was a recognition of new members and of those who had joined when other churches merged. United Methodist Women's Sunday was observed in September. in October, a catered dinner was served for the home coming day.

(Material taken from SPRINGS IN THE VALLEY by Dorothy Brice.)

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE OSHKOSH ALGOMA BOULEVARD CHURCH

A large addition to the church building marked the centennial celebration of the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh. The new structure provides space for administrative offices, a nursery, eight Sunday School classrooms and a rehearsal room for the hand bell choirs. The cost of the addition was $1.1 million. The C.R.Meyer and Co. of Oshkosh was in charge of the construction,. this firm had also built the original church in 1892.

One unique feature of the construction was the addition of simple wooden crosses to the support beams of the entry way. Antique light fixtures were also incorporated into the entryway.

Bishop Sharon Rader preached at the dedication services for the new addition. The REv. Gordon Lind is the current pastor of the church.

NESHKORO ZION CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Zion United MEthodist Church of Neshkoro celebrated the 100th anniversary on Sunday, September 25, 1994. Those attending the celebration included the District Superintendent, Getty Harrison and four former pastors.

The present congregation is the result of sombination of three church combining their efforts. Crystal Lake Emmanuel Evangelical was founded in 1902. Existing records of the church are written in German. That congregation united with Zion Evangelical in 1944. The Germania Evangelical Church was built in 1875 and united with Zion in 1960.

The first building ofZion Evangelical Church was built in 1894. In 1924, the building was struck by lightning and then was destroyed by the ensuing fire. A red brick building was constructed and dedicated in 1925. The new building was designed by Edwin who also supervised the construction. The total coast , including pews, bells and furnace was $5800. The entire cost had been met by the day of dedication.

The original congregation was a part of a circuit which included Germania, Crystal Lake, North Dakota, South Dakota and Deerfield.

An addition to the church building was constructed in May of 1988 which included a new entryway, provisions for making the building handicapped accessible, a reception area and a coat room. New hymnals were purchased and the sanctuary was painted. The restoration work was done at the cost of $65,700.

The Rev.Jodi Arpke-Lone is the current pastor of the church.

The Neshkoro Camp Meeting Association is an integral and important part of the history of theNeshkoro Church. Rev. G. Kunz initiated the idea and the first camp meeting was held on the land of FredDoege ofBudsin. Sometimes the group is referred to as the Budsin Camp meeting. THe first camp meeting was held in 1934. For nine years the meeting was held in a large tent. The first evangelist was Rev. J.F.Nienstadt. In 1943, a wooden tabernacle was erected.

Week-long evangelistic services are held in June. In 1995. there will also be a series of summer musical concerts. The Neshkoro Camp Meeting Association includes six congregations:Neshkoro, Wautoma, Coloma, Westfield, Princeton, and Montello.

MISSIONARIES FROM WISCONSIN

SUSAN BAURENFEIND

Susan M.Baurenfeind, the second of nine children was born in Minnesota in 1870. her early education was in Minnesota. Starting in 1891, she attended what is now North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

In September, 1900, Miss Baurenfei nd and Anna Kammerer were the first missionaries sent out by the newly formed Women's Missionary Society which was a division of the Board of Missions of the Evangelical Church,

Miss Baurenfeind settled in Tokyo where she taught English Bible classes, a German Bible class and worked in local churches. Within a year, she was invited to speak to girls employed in a cotton spinning mill. About 3000 girls were employed in the mill. This opening led to other opportunities for her to meet with groups of women and later to develop worship services and a Sunday School.

In 1903 , Miss Baurenfeind was named principal of the Bible women's Training School. A building for the school was erected as well as a dormitory. In April 1904, the first five students were admitted. The course of study was for three years.

In 1913, Miss Baurenfeind waas insturmental in having a church constructed which also included facilities for a kindergarten. in addition to her responsibilities as principal and her teaching assignments, Miss Baurenfeind also taught music. She became proficient in the Japanese language in in September of 1904 was able to teach in Japanese without an interpreter.

In 1915, Miss Baurenfeind accepted the care of three young children whose mother had died. This was the start of an orphanage. Property for the orphanage was acquired and a Japanese woman became the matron.

The severe earthquake of 1923 created a crisis. Many building were destroyed by the earthquake of the ensuing fire. Miss Baurenfeind and her co-worker,Laura Mauk, were able to rescue 52 orphans. The orphanage building was replaced in 1924.

In that same year, Susan Baurenfeind was honored by the Emperor of Japan for her work with children andorphans. She was later honored by the Royal Rpincess. In January of 1929, she was awarded another special medal for her humanitarian work.

Susan Baurenfeind was involved in numerous other activities. She was instrumental in encouraging the organization of women's societies within the church. She was a director of the American Mission for Lepers. She worked with the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

In February of 1941, the United States Embassy advised Miss Baurenfeind to leave Tokyo. She agreed to come back to the United States. She made her retirement home in Madison,Wisconsin but spent much of her time in speaking in churches across the United States. She died onOctober 27, 1945.

(Indformation taken from BAUREN -SENSEI, written by her nephew, Lowell M,esserschmidt.)

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

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Lois C.Olsen, Flashbacks editor
Mary Schroeder,and Robert Kuhn, members-at-large
Ethan Larson, ex-officio member.

Please send membership applications and due to the membership secretary as the address listed above.

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