



"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

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RICHARD O'NEIL

It is with sorrow that we report the death of the Rev. Richard O'Neil. Dick died suddenly on September 15, 1996. Dick was a ministerial member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. He was admitted into Probational Membership and ordained deacon in 1961. Elder's orders and Full Connection came in 1964. At the time of his death, he was serving as the pastor of Shullsburg United Methodist Church.



A longtime friend to anyone on the national Methodist historical scene, his service included membership on the General Commission on Archives and History and commission representative to the executive committee of the historical society of the United Methodist Church. He had recently been re-elected to the General Commission for the new quadrennium. For the previous quadrennium he also served as chair of the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History.

Those of us in Wisconsin owe a special debt to Dick for all of his work for both the Commission as well as the historical society in the Wisconsin Conference. He held numerous positions in the society, most recently as president. At the recent jurisdictional meeting in Platteville, he presented an enlightening paper on Philo Bennett.

The members of the historical society extends condolences to the family. We will miss you, Dick.

FALL PILGRIMAGE

The annual pilgrimage of the historical society was yheld at Menomonee Falls onSaturday,, September 28, 1996. The history of the congregation was reviewed followed by a tour of the current building. (See *Flashbacks* July, 1996).A visit was made to the cemetery. located at the north end of the village. It had adjoined the land of the previous church building.

The annual meeting of the society was held prior tothe pilgrimage. New officers were elected: President, Robert Kuhn; Vice-president, Lois Olsen; Recording Secretary, Joanne Hornby; Membership Secretary, Harriet Alicia; Treasurer, Linn C. Emerick; Flashbacks editor, Lois Olsen; Member-as-large, Mary Schroeder; Ex-officio member, Ethan Larson.

The 1997 FallPilgrimage will be held in Evansville on Saturday, September 27.

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Robert Gruetzmacher is indeed a volunteer extraordinaire and we at the Commission on Archives and History are lucky to have him. He is invaluable to the ongoing operation of the Conference archives. Many days during the week you will find Bob on the third floor of the Conference Center where he willingly volunteers his time and shares his expertise with the Conference archives. Besides archives, Bob is also sought out and consulted with on various computer problems and procedures by the local church and by other offices within the Conference Center.

Bob is a valuable asset to our archives office. He has spent a great deal of time entering appointment data into the computer from the current Wisconsin United Methodist Yearbook and is working backward through West Wisconsin Methodist, East Wisconsin Methodist, and Wisconsin Evangelical United Brethren yearbooks. This is tedious work and there still is a ways to go before the work is completed. This work has proven a god-send in responding to the many requests received by archives asking for a listing of pastors who have served a particular church and the years of their service in that appointment. Bob has saved many person-hours of research in the retrieval of this type of information by the work that he has done. This appointment information is also available to the other offices in the Conference Center.

Besides his computer expertise, Bob's involvement in genealogy and his ability to suggest research avenues is often called upon in the archives. Bob is a good friend to the Commission of Archives and History and his cheerful nature is much appreciated, both by the staff and by those who come into the archives to do research.

Bob lives in Sun Prairie and is a member of the United Methodist Church there. He retired from the National Guard where he gained a working knowledge of office procedures and computer expertise.

Bob, we THANK YOU for all your hard work on behalf of Archives and History and we SALUTE you for sharing yourself with us in this way. You are indeed a VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE.

Mary Schroeder
Conference Archivist

RECENT MEETINGS

On a personal note, it was a "historical year" for the editor. I was grateful for the opportunity to attend four informational and inspiring meetings which highlighted the history of the Methodist connection. Brief summaries follow:

An account of the North Central Jurisdiction meeting of the Archives and History Commission was held in Platteville, Wisconsin was published in the July 1996 issue of *Flashbacks*.

The World Methodist Historical Society held its quinquennial meeting during the World Methodist Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on August 8 and 9, 1996. On the first day three papers were read that dealt with early responses of Wesleyan followers to hunger and poverty. On the second day the papers dealt with Methodist influence on the church in South America and the subsequent growth of pentecostalism. The presenters included Jose Miguez Bonino of Argentina and Manuel Ossa of Chile.

Membership in the World Society is five dollars a year, \$25.00 for five years. Membership includes a quarterly newsletter. Due should be sent to Dr. Robertn J. Williams, 327 Mariton Pike West, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

For me, personally, the third event of historical importance was participation in an Educational Opportunities tour of Wesleyan Britain in October. Three coaches (buses) carried about 150 tourists across the United Kingdom to visit sites associated with the Wesley brothers and early Methodism. Sites visited in London included Wesley's Chapel and St. Paul's Cathedral. Other places on the itinerary included Bristol with a long stop at the New Room, Oxford, and of course Epworth. It was a delightful trip. The weather was kind and we were able to enjoy views of the still green countryside from London to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The tour guide was knowledgeable about Methodist history as were many of the participants.

The United Methodist Historical Society held its annual meeting in Dayton, Ohio during the weekend of November 15-18. The meeting observed the 50th anniversary of the union of the Evangelical and United Brethren denominations.

During the opening service, Bishops Wayne Clymer and Paul Milhouse re-enacted the handclasp of the original service of union held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on November 16, 1946. Presentations during the convocation related the history of the two denominations as well as the events that led to the merger. Several people who had been present at the Johnstown meeting were also present in Dayton shared their memories of the original event. One of these was Bishop Paul Milhouse who recounted his recollections at a banquet on Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon, the group toured sites of historical significance in Dayton, including the homes of the Wright brothers, and a visit to the cemetery where the Wright brothers and their father, Bishop Wright, are buried, as well as many of the early leaders of the United Brethren in Christ Church. During the final session of the convocation, James Nelson gave an overview of music that was such an important part of the EUB connection, including some music published by the Lorenz family.

The annual meeting of the society in 1997 will be held in Boston, October 3-5. The emphasis will be on women in ministry with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anna Howard Shaw

Membership in the United Methodist Historical Society is \$22.00 a year which includes a subscription to the quarterly journal, Methodist History and the Historians Digest. Membership dues should be sent to Thelma V. Boeder, 122 W. Franklin, #400, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Papers presented in Platteville for the jurisdictional meeting have been published in the minutes of the meeting. The papers presented at the World Methodist Conference and the United Methodist Historical Society will be published by the respective societies.

GERMAN SETTLEMENT CHURCH

A service of celebration was held at the German Settlement Church in Honey Creek, Wisconsin on Saturday, September 7, 1996. Although there is no longer a congregation that meets in this building, the property is maintained by Trustees of the Cemetery Association.

The original congregation began with the early German settlers about 1837. The first building was a log structure erected in 1853. This was replaced by a wooden structure in 1880. The congregation became a part of the English Methodist Conference in 1904. The last week Sunday service was held in the church in 1960.

The congregation was one of the many German Methodist Episcopal churches in Wisconsin. The Chicago German Conference (M.E.) had two of its three districts in Wisconsin: Milwaukee and Fond du

Lac. In 1933 the German Methodist conference merged with the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

POYNETTE AND INCH

The circuit riders of early Methodist often were unusual, even eccentric , characters, but were also dedicated and energetic preachers and pastors. The history of the churches in Poynette and Inch feature some of these unusual men.

Originally, Poynette, in 1844, was a part of the Madison Circuit. The first person assigned to the circuit, the Rev.R.J.Harvey, never reached Poynette. In the next year, Lodi and Poynette were removed from the circuit and another pastor was assigned, but he never reached Poynette. In 1845, the Rev.Maynard was called to conduct a funeral service. He continued to hold worship services for a congregation that met in one of the homes.

There were a succession of pastors, many of whom were appointed for only one year. From the fall of 1862 until the summer of 1863, the Rev. John Springer was the pastor. According to the history of the church, he was an elegant, earnest, patriotic Christian man. He was drafted into the army and appointed Chaplain of his regiment, which position he filled until in the battle at Resaca, the captain, first and second Lieutenants soon his company fell. He seized a musket and led the charge, was struck in a mortal part and was carried from the field. In his last moments, he said to Charles Early, a comrade, "I have lived what I preached in our northern home and die in the favor of God."

The first building was constructed in 1880, after the congregation had been forbidden the use of the school house. The church building at Inch was constructed in 1877 and in 18978 became a part of the Methodist Church (See subsequent entry.) The Poynette building underwent extensive renovations in 1935 and again in 1954.

The origin of the name Inch is not certain. It seems that it may be named after the Inch Islands off the coast of Scotland, since many of the early settlers were of Scottish descent. The Inch congregation began as a Sunday School, organized by the Rev. Asel Fish. His efforts were augmented by the arrival of the Rev. Nobles. In 1875 the two men began to use the Inch schoolhouse for worship services. The Rev. Nobels, who had been a sailor and tavern keeper, had left his pastorate at the Portage Free Methodist Church. He did not feel at liberty to organize a new congregation.

The Rev. George Cast was sent from Portage to organize the church. he never preached without first having a prayer service. Baptisms were made at Rocky Run Creek, just north of the church

In 1877, the congregation decided to build a church building. The Rev. Frank Warren was also a carpenter by trade and donated much of the labor in the construction of the building. Cost of the building was \$1,600. The land for the church and the cemetery was donated by an early settler, William Waugh.

The Poynette and Inch churches are currently part of one circuit.

DURAND

The Durand congregation celebrated 130 years of ministry on August 25, 1996. This date commemorates the beginning of construction of the first sanctuary in 1866. Construction was completed during the pastorate of the Rev. A.J. Davis, 1867-1868.

Congregational activities began as early as 1855 when the first settlers arrived in Maxville. Circuit riders of the Methodist Episcopal church served not only this congregation but groups in Alma, Bear Creek, Tuttles, Tyrone, Durnad, and Lima. At this time, services were held in the school house.

The first quarterly conference in Maxville was held in 1858. The construction of the building was delayed because of the Civil War/ A parsonage was erected during 1885-86 and improvements were made on the church building. In 1897, the Spring Creek building was erected. Both this congregation and the one at North Brand were part of the charge until just before 1940.

In 1914, both the location of church and the parsonage were moved. A building campaign for a new building was begun in 1956. The building was completed in 1966.

The Rev. Richard Rushton of the congregation was ordained in the United Methodist Church on June 25, 1973.

The anniversary was celebrated on August 25, 1996. Bishop Rader preached the sermon of the day.

ALBRIGHT, MILWAUKEE

In 1996, Albright, Milwaukee joined Zion, Colgate and Emanuel, Menominee Falls in celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding.

The Albright congregation has had four locations during its existence. The congregation was formed by thirty-three members in 1846. The first building, which cost \$1400.00 stood at the corner of Fourth and Cedar Street (now Kilbourne street). The name of the church was Zion Church of the evangelical Association. In 1868, a new building was erected at the corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets. The next move was to Eleventh and Brown Streets in 1904. The General Conference of the denomination was held there in 1907 and 1930. In 1927, the name

of the church was changed to First Evangelical.

The fourth move was to the present location at 56th and Capitol Drive. In 1952, with the denominational merger, the name was changed to Albright UMC.

The current building serves as a venue for numerous groups including a day care program for developmentally disabled adults and the Milwaukee Public Schools Recreation Department Senior Citizens group.

The anniversary celebrations were held on December 15, 1996. Bishop Rader brought the sermon at the morning service. After a catered dinner, the afternoon service featured several musical numbers and recognition of those people who had been members for fifty or more years. Eight people had been members for at least seventy-five years. Several former pastors were recognized and brought greetings and reminiscences.

MEET THE MISSIONARY;Thekla Staub Kuglin.

Thekla Staub Kuglin was born on October 15, 1914. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Switzerland in 1908 and 1911. Her father owned a bakery on Water Street, as a site across from what is now the Performing Arts Center. The family attended Bethel Evangelical church in the early 20's where Thekla was confirmed. At age 13, she felt a call to the mission field.

In 1933 Thekla began attending North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. It was here she met Karl Kuglin, a farmer from Kansas who planned to enter the seminary when he finished college. He too, had felt a call to the mission field and was preparing to go to Africa. They received their commission to the mission field on March 3, 1938 and were married on May 25, 1938. On October 15, they sailed from New York for Lagos, Nigeria. They served in Nigeria from 1938 until 1960.

The Kuglins were first posted to Bambar which is in north eastern Nigeria, close to the border with the Camerouns. The trip from Lagos to Jos took two days by train. At Jos, they sent a telegram to Bambar stating that they had arrived. But the telegraph operator was drunk and didn't send the message. They stayed for two weeks, living at the Sudan United Mission guesthouse. Finally, Wilbur Harr traveled the 350 miles from Bambar to meet them. He rented a truck that took them part of the way. Then the three missionaries were given horses to ride to Bambar, while their loads were carried on the heads of porters.

At Bambar they studied the Kulung language for two years, while at the same time, carried on teaching duties at the local school. In 1940, their first daughter was born, delivered at Vom hospital near Jos. During their stay in Vom, Karl studied tropical medicine so that he could undertake basic medical treatment back

at Bambur. On their return, they were posted to a new station, Bambuke, where they began to learn a new language, Kyak. This language had never been written and none of the missionaries had studied the language. In the meantime, Karl did evangelistic and medical work, while Thekla taught school and set up sanitation and sewing classes for women. During this time, Thekla also studied Hausa, the trade language of northern Nigeria.

Their first furlough in the United States was in 1941. When they attempted to return to Nigeria the war delayed them until 1943, Even then, the trip from New York to Lisbon took seventeen days and they were delayed in Lisbon for a month. They eventually sailed to Portuguese Guinea, and then flew to Lagos.

The Kuglins worked in Bambuka until 1954 when political unrest forced them to move to Zinna where they worked until 1960.

The Kuglins had four daughters. On their return to the United States, they served churches in Kansas for eight and a half years. Karl died in 1969. In 1974, Thekla married the Rev. Otto J. Bernhardt. She is currently living in a Nursing Home in Holton Kansas.

From material supplied by Heidi Kuglin

Dates to remember

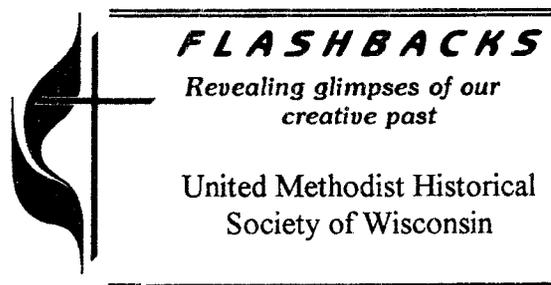
September 27, Fall pilgrimage at Evansville

October 3-5 United Methodist Historical Society, Boston, MA

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Lois C. Olsen, Editor
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Phone: 414/347-1745

Material of historical interest, church
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