



"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. 18 No. 2

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM  
MAY 30, 5 P.M.

May, 1991

FALL HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5  
AT MINERAL POINT U. M. CHURCH

The yearly meeting and program of the Wisconsin United Methodist Historical Society will be Thursday evening during the supper hour during Annual Conference on May 30 in a downstairs lounge of the dining hall of Wisconsin University—Stevens Point. All members of the Society are urged to attend and visitors are invited.

The Conference Archives and History Commission has been eager for some time to collect historical information about Wisconsin United Methodist ethnic churches, so we are fortunate this year to have as our featured speaker Dr. John Park, lay delegate from Green Bay: Korean American United Methodist Church. He will speak on "The Korean Methodist Church, from Korea to Green Bay."

The Methodist Church in Korea is a strong church with a long heritage of missionary work.

The program will be followed by a short business meeting.

**HELP WANTED**

The Historical Society is looking for an Editor for "Flashbacks". Ferne Hoeft has resigned after many years of much appreciated service. We are looking for someone who can collect and assemble our news and articles and send them in to Sun Prairie office to be printed and mailed three times a year. Please inform any of the officers if you can help.

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The Annual Fall Pilgrimage sponsored by the Wisconsin United Methodist Historical Society to historic churches of our Conference will be on the first Saturday in October, October 5 at the Mineral Point United Methodist Church, 400 Doty St., Mineral Point, Wi. 535965.

It will begin with a noon Cornish pasty dinner served at the church (please send reservations in advance to the church), followed by a short business meeting and election of officers of the Historical Society at 12:45.

The program will begin at 1:15 with devotions by the pastor and presentations by Rev. William Jannusch, "Rural Churches, Past and Present," and Rev. Richard O'Neil, "Primitive Methodist Churches and the Black Hawk War."

At 2:30 we will make the short 7 mile trip to the historic Linden United Methodist church for Closing Devotions.

Since the Pendarvis State Historical Site, which features early lead mining workings and miners houses, is only a mile from Mineral Point, visitors might like to make the 1½ hour tour of Pendarvis before or after the Fall Pilgrimage Meeting. Pendarvis brochures are available at the Mineral Point church office.

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\* FIRST CHRISTIAN SERVICES  
\* IN  
\* SAUK COUNTY  
\*

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\* By Dr. Robert Dewel  
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The first Christian services in Sauk County were in 1840. In 1990 we celebrated the 150th anniversary of that event.

It must be remembered that much of Wisconsin was unexplored frontier country, sparsely occupied by Native American Indians and a few isolated cabins of white settlers. There were no roads or trails, no ferries, no communication except by word of mouth. Circuit riders

(continued on p. 2)

HISTORY OF CLEAR LAKE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by  
Elsie M. Wood, North West District  
Historian

SAUK COUNTRY FIRST SERVICES

(Continued from p. 1)

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church, in its 115 years of existence, has experienced many changes. Faith in God and a strong, untiring desire to provide a place for worship in the community, enabled them to courageously overcome the challenges which arose - the perils and hardships of pioneer days, a devastating cyclone, controversies and other difficulties along the way. The Church remains a strong pillar in the community in 1991.

In 1876, Clear Lake was taken into the Clear Lake Circuit, Having formerly been a part of the Apple River Circuit. A small church was built immediately, with the first service given by Rev. W. Howe on July 28, 1876.

With considerable growth in membership, there was a need for a larger structure. The first building was sold to the school district, and in the spring of 1879, a church 28x45 feet, was erected. This church was destroyed by the September 9, 1884 cyclone.

Services were held in the school (town hall) until 1887, when in the fall of that year ground was broken for a church to be erected on the same site of the destroyed church. During the winter stone was hauled to the site, and during the summer and fall, the building was erected. The cost was \$1600. The church was dedicated July 7, 1889 with an unpaid balance of \$250.

The years following the turn of the century showed a constant growth. In the fall of 1915, a remodeling program was begun. The church was raised to provide basement space and two additions were made to form a new entrance and a new church chancel. Stained glass windows were installed throughout the church and dedicated on July 13, 1947. In August, 1989 a 21x40 foot church addition was completed to house Sunday School classrooms, an enlarged kitchen and dining room, and a new office for the pastor.

We of Clear Lake United Methodist Church salute those who have worked in the past, praise those who work in the present, and pray for the laborers who will be as diligent in their work in the future.

(pastors) traveled on horse or by foot.

Fortunately we have several excellent sources of information about these early days, including diaries, of early pastors such as Rev. Whitford, Rev. Crummer and Rev. Fullerton.

Rev. John Crummer was the first pastor of any denomination to preach in Sauk Co. 1836 found him at Mineral Point and responsible for all the settled country West and South of Madison, except Platteville. 1837 found Rev. Crummer traveling a circuit of Methodist groups in the area. One time "while preaching in a log schoolhouse, he noticed a little uneasiness, and presently a large blacksnake was drawn out from between the logs, and dispatched by one of his hearers."

In the diary of John A. Salzer, an early German Methodist circuit rider, which is in the files of the Baraboo pastor, is this account, "I am now going to Rockford to conference . . . my appointment was read, Baraboo, Sauk County, Wisconsin. Upon our arrival there, the brothers offered me a half-built log cabin for a parsonage. . . . The first and second month passed. The third month brought snow and cold and sickness. Several times I tried to get the brothers to finish the building but they paid no heed."

Rev. Crummer was joined by a very young man named Thomas Fullerton, later to become the first preacher in Baraboo valley and the founder of the Baraboo Methodist Church.

These accounts appear to verify the belief that the first Christian services in Sauk County were in 1840 by Methodist circuit riders.

We are fortunate, therefore, to be able to observe the 150th anniversary of that event, and to express our gratitude posthumously to that dedicated group of young men who had dedicated their lives to the work of Christ under the difficult circumstances of the frontier prairie.

Editor's note: we look forward to further accounts of the first Christian church service and founding the first church in the Baraboo Valley, the United Methodist, which are project by Dr. Dewel.

## LOIS OLSEN PRAISES GOD FOR PLENTIFUL BLESSINGS IN KENYA, AFRICA

A June letter from Lois Olsen, former membership secretary of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin who is now serving in a mission hospital in Kenya, Africa, concludes with the words, "God's blessings have been so plentiful. I praise and thank Him."

"It seems hard to believe that I have been here for six months," Lois began, "but they have been six very satisfying months."

"Both the hospital and school are fairly well staffed," she continued. "We currently have six tutors at the school. Ruby Hancox and I have shared the midwifery teaching responsibilities. Ruby is just about to go on leave to England, so I will have the full assignment. I have spent much of my time supervising students in the prenatal clinic. Although our deliveries have lessened a bit (Could that be as a result of our vigorous family planning program?), it seems as though the prenatal clinic is as busy as ever.

"The church as a community continues its vigorous progress," Lois said. "The new building for which we laid the cornerstone last June is progressing more slowly. The walls are up, but no work has been started on the roof.

"I am living in a two room duplex near the school of nursing. The other half of the duplex is occupied by Pippa Bailey, a young British nurse who is head nurse in the female ward. I have a tiny kitchen and a two-burner gas plate. We have a good water supply, but the electricity supply is back to five hours an evening."

Lois said she had recently returned from 3-week holiday in eastern Europe where she traveled with a study group organized by Karen and Charles Ward, both members of Milwaukee Kenwood UMC. Charles teaches Slavic studies at UW-Milwaukee. It was a great trip, she said and an exciting time to be in eastern Europe.



"In several countries, we were aware of impending elections and vigorous political campaigns," she wrote. "The scenery was beautiful and the food delicious. I heard two good concerts and was able to supplement my tape collection."

Lois said that 35 people were to arrive for work camps on June 14, and other groups were scheduled through August 18. Among them were six nursing students from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, led by Professor Ellen Murphy and her husband. They were to be in Kenya for six weeks and in Maua for four. Jean King, past president of United Methodist Women, has returned to Appleton after several weeks of working in Kenya with Lois.

Lois concluded her letter with the news, "I bought a car, a used Peugeot and am enjoying it thoroughly. Ibrahim is cooking for me and taking care of the house. I have been in Kenya for six months and have not yet been to a game park or seen any wild animals. However, I have some rather adventure-some cows and goats that seem to feel the shamba in my front yard was put there for them."



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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#### FLASHBACKS

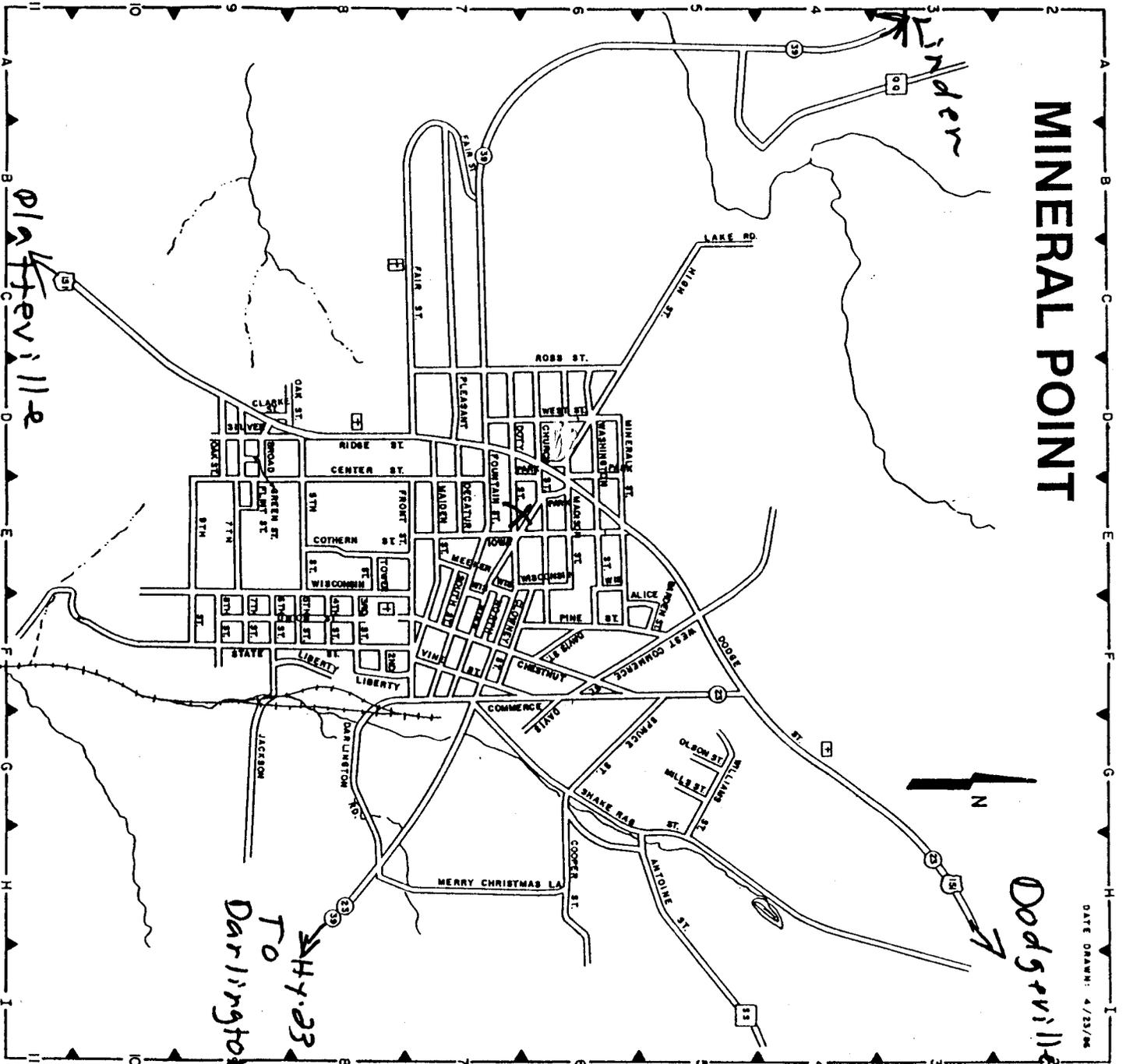
Official newsletter of the United Methodist  
Historical Society of Wisconsin

Please send historical information for  
"Flashbacks" to:

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# MINERAL POINT

DATE DRAWN: 4/23/96



## STREET INDEX

- A- ALICE ST. F-5
- ANTOINETTE ST. H-5
- B- BROAD ST. D-9
- C- CENTER ST. D-8
- CHESTNUT ST. F-6
- CHURCH ST. D-6
- CLARKE ST. D-9
- CLOWNEY ST. F-7
- COMMERCE ST. F-7
- COMMERCE ST. (WEST) F-5
- COOPER ST. H-6
- COTHERN ST. E-8
- COUNTY TRUNK SS. I-5
- D- DARLINGTON RD. G-8
- DAVIS ST. F-6, G-6
- DECATUR ST. E-7
- DODGE ST. F-5
- DOTY ST. D-7
- E- EIGHTH ST. F-9
- F- FAIR ST. B-7, C-7
- FIFTH ST. E-8, F-8
- FLINT E-9
- FOUNTAIN ST. D-7
- FOURTH ST. F-8
- FRONT ST. E-7
- G- GARDEN ST. F-5
- GREEN ST. D-9
- H- HIGH ST. F-7, C-5
- IOWA ST. E-7
- J- JACKSON ST. G-9
- L- LAKE RD. C-5
- LIBERTY ST. F-8
- M- MADISON ST. E-6
- MADEN ST. E-7
- MEEKER ST. E-7
- MERRY CHRISTMAS LA. H-7
- MILLS ST. G-5
- MINERAL ST. D-6
- N- NINTH ST. E-9
- NORTH ST. F-7
- O- OAK ST. D-8, D-9
- OLSON ST. G-5
- P- PARK ST. D-6, E-6
- PINE ST. F-6
- PLEASANT ST. D-7
- R- RIDGE ST. D-8
- ROSS ST. D-6
- S- SECOND ST. F-8
- SEVENTH ST. E-9, F-9
- SHAKE RAG ST. G-6
- SILVER ST. D-9
- SIXTH ST. F-9
- SOUTH ST. E-7
- SPRUCE ST. G-6
- STATE ST. F-9
- STATE HWY 23 & 39 H-8
- STATE HWY 39 A-4, B-7
- T- THIRD ST. F-8
- TOWER ST. E-8
- U- UNION F-8
- USH 151 C-10
- USH 151 & STATE HWY 23 H-3
- V- VINE ST. F-7
- W- WASHINGTON ST. D-6
- WEST ST. D-6
- WILLIAMS ST. G-5
- WISCONSIN ST. E-6, E-7, E-8