



# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

Volume II  
Number 2

Official newsletter of the

UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN Fall, 1973

## CROSS AND FLAME READY IN OCTOBER

Cross and Flame in Wisconsin, "The story of United Methodism in the Badger state," is scheduled to be ready for distribution between October 15 and November 1.

The manuscript was delivered to Worzalla Publishing Co., Stevens Point, on July 25. Wayne Helmerick, Joseph Taugner, and the author, William Blake, all members of the Publishing Task Force, turned over the copy, and made final arrangements for its production.

An edition of 2,000 hard cover and 3,000 paperback copies has been contracted for by the Commission on Archives and History. Due to the size of the printing, and to subsidies provided by the conference and Ideas Unlimited, the books are on sale at an exceptionally low price: \$3.00 for the hard cover and \$2.00 for the paperback edition, plus 50% for handling charge. The latter includes packaging, postage, and sales tax.

Orders may be sent to the Service Department, 325 Emerald Terrace, Sun Prairie, Wis. 53590. Many are ordering to use as Christmas gifts to United Methodist relatives and friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

## HARSH SIGNALLY HONORED

The chairman of the Wisconsin Conference Commission on Archives and History, David V. Harsh, Sturgeon Bay, was signally honored by election to the general Commission on Archives and History at the annual meeting of the North Central

## WILLIAM JANNUSCH HEADS SOCIETY

Officers of the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin were elected at an annual meeting of its membership held at the seat of annual conference in June.

William Jannusch, North Prairie, is the new president. Serving with him are: Miss Joanne M. Hornby, Viroqua, vice president; Edward Johnson, Palmyra, secretary; and Mrs. Ethel Nulton, Waupaca, membership secretary. Under conference rules Edwin H. Schroeder, Sun Prairie, acts as the society's treasurer.

A change in the Discipline, adopted by the General Conference in 1972, made the election possible. Previously the Discipline made officers of the annual conference Commission on Archives and History automatically the officers of any historical society organized in a conference.

-----  
Jurisdictional Conference Commission on Archives and History held in Michigan in July. He was chosen to replace Robert L. Brandstatter, East Peoria, Illinois, who was killed in an automobile accident December 31, 1972.

The general Commission has its headquarters at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and is responsible for work in history throughout the United Methodist Church. Dr. John H. Ness, Jr., who conducted workshops for local church historians throughout the conference last spring, is the executive secretary. Mr. Harsh was chosen for his fine record as our conference chairperson.

## MRS. NULTON REPORTS MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Ethel Nulton, Waupaca, membership secretary of the society, reports that the following new members have been received since August 1, 1972, and are paid up for one year from the date of their payment:

Lois Olsen, Milwaukee  
 Rev. Elmer Harvey, Oshkosh  
 Mrs. Hazel Herrick, Montello  
 Mrs. Helen Hornby, Viroqua  
 Rev. John Wreford, Richland Center  
 Mrs. Irvin Matzke, Juda  
 Mrs. Eleanor Gile, Merrillan  
 Mrs. Jean Anderson, Merrillan  
 Mrs. Ralph Marquand, Amery  
 Delbert Winn, LaValle  
 Mrs. Ronald Daggett, Madison  
 Mrs. Helen Thayer, Madison  
 Mrs. Gertrude Voland, Mequon  
 Mrs. Spencer Turner (for United Methodist Women), Rice Lake  
 Mrs. Bessie Davis, Juda  
 Mrs. Eunice Beightol, Juda  
 Ruth Albee, Waterford  
 Mrs. A. H. Truitt, Fennimore  
 Mrs. Harold Brown, Neenah  
 Mrs. Earl Matthies, Port Washington  
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hickman, Milwaukee  
 Wm. N. and Martha Leyda, Delavan  
 Rev. and Mrs. Melvin Simonsen, Greenfield  
 Mrs. Melvin Ruth, Appleton  
 Miss Joanne Hornby, Viroqua  
 Rev. and Mrs. Archie Henry, Barronett  
 Rev. Wm. M. Jannusch, North Prairie  
 Walter Calvert, Benton  
 Clarence E. Ahrens, Prairie du Chien  
 Rev. Ray Gurney, Naperville, Ill.  
 Isla Broeker, New London  
 Edna M. Sutton, Richland Center  
 Mrs. F. B. Lucia, Eau Claire

In addition 20 members have paid dues each of the three years since the organization of the society. There are two life members. Eighty-three members are delinquent in dues

## OTHER CONFERENCE HISTORIES

Two neighboring states, Minnesota and Illinois, are publishing histories of United Methodism within their boundaries at the present time.

Forever Beginning, "A history of the United Methodist Church and her antecedents in Minnesota to 1969," by Bishop (retired) T. Otto Nall, was published in June this year. It consists of 195 pages, and is being sold for \$5.00 per copy. Reports indicate that the book is having a good sale.

Log Cabins to Steeples, "The United Methodist way in Illinois," by J. Gordon Melton, is being prepared at the present time, and publication is scheduled for 1974. Pre-publication price is \$5.95, with an advance to \$6.95 on orders received after April 1, 1974.

-----  
 for the year 1973, and 60 have not renewed their memberships by sending in their dues since 1971.

Memberships in the United Methodist Historical Society of Wisconsin are of four classes:

Single membership--annual dues \$2.00  
 Family membership--annual dues \$3.00  
 Patron membership--annual dues \$10.00  
 (patron members receive a subscription to the Quarterly Methodist History)  
 Life membership--\$50.00.

All members receive Flashbacks three times each year.

Applications for memberships and dues for renewals should be sent to Mrs. Ethel Nulton, membership secretary, 204½ Main Street, Waupaca, Wisconsin, 54981.

-----  
 We are what we have been.

## FOR LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIANS

Have you been elected (or appointed, or selected, or chosen) local church historian for your congregation?

Are you confused about it? Wonder what it involves? Want to do a good job, but are uncertain what to do, and where to begin?

Cheer up! There is help. The Local Church Historian's Manual, Published by the Wisconsin Conference Commission on Archives and History, will provide the very guidance you need. Definite and detailed suggestions for every phase of a local historian's role are provided, together with a directory of additional helps, a bibliography, and facts about our conference museum and archives.

Copies (\$1.00 each) are available from the chairperson of the conference commission, David V. Harsh, 518 Kentucky Street, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CALVERT NEW VICE CHAIRPERSON

Walter Calvert, Benton, is the vice chairperson of the Commission on Archives and History of the Wisconsin Conference. He will serve for the present quadrennium. His election was made official at the annual conference session in June.

Mr. Calvert has long been interested in church history, especially that related to the lead-mining region of Southwestern Wisconsin. He presented a paper to the meeting of the North Central Jurisdictional Conference Commission on Archives and History at Platteville in July, 1972.

## MISS MARGARET SCOTT NEW EDITOR

Miss Margaret H. Scott, the historian of Trinity United Methodist Church in Richland Center, will become editor of Flashbacks with the next (January, 1974) issue.

Miss Scott has just completed work on a history of her own congregation, presently being printed. She also authored a history of Richland Center, and a volume on the place names of Richland County. For 16 years she served as head librarian of Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, an institution sponsored by Congregationalists. Its main concern was a ministry to the black community of the area. For two editions her name was listed in Who's Who Among Women in the United States.

The present issue has been prepared by the Publication Committee: William Jannusch, Mrs. Ethel Nulton, and William Blake. Previously Lorne Outcalt, Turtle Lake, served as the Flashbacks editor. His request to be relieved of the responsibility was honored, and the new arrangements were made. The society owes him a real debt of gratitude for his pioneering work on the publication. He also served on the Editorial Committee of Cross and Flame in Wisconsin.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PIONEER

Among the exciting and significant aspects of United Methodist history in the Badger state, none is more interest-arousing than the work of the hardy pioneer circuit riders, "the Lord's cavaliers."

In the following excerpt from  
(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)  
the forthcoming book, Cross and Flame in Wisconsin, the author presents a true account of a typical visitation:

"As settlers moved in and established farmsteads and settlements, the circuit riders moved among them, helping them to maintain their Christian faith and life style in the new environment if they were already professing Christians, and if not, then striving with all the resources at their command to convert them. Isaac W. Glines has left a vivid description of the coming of one of these hardy gospel horsemen to his parents' home on the east fork of the Fever (now Galena) River in 1836. An appointment was made for 'preaching' at the Glines' cabin the following Sabbath at 10 o'clock. Here is the account in Isaac's own words:

"The news soon spread over the neighborhood that there was going to be "church" held at our house on the next Sunday, and it soon became the general topic throughout the neighborhood, and while some demurred against it as interfering with the usual sport (fishing) by drawing off some of the crowd, they finally compromised the matter by a majority consenting to attend "church." Finally, as the day of worship was nearing, both saint and sinner became more and more interested, the former looking upon it as the coming of a refreshing shower upon the dry and parched earth; while the latter viewed it simply as a departure from the usual customs and amusements on the Sabbath.

"Finally the Sabbath morning dawned bright and beautiful, and all nature seemed to rest in peaceful quietness on that glorious Sabbath morning. . . . Thus it was during the early morn while await-

ing the arrival of the man of God. Many were the conjectures as to his personal appearance. . . . Soon, however, we saw a horseman approaching from down the road, and as he rode up and hailed us we discovered a small, neatly dressed man of about 30 years of age, and a most gentlemanly, affable, and pleasing manner. His accent at once proclaimed him to be a German. After alighting he shook hands with everyone in the crowd who were seated around, and at once made himself known to us as Rev. Martin M. Shunk, soon after which he reported himself ready for duty.'

"As the day was warm, and as there were some of the neighbors who had seated themselves on logs in the shade of two oak trees, the whole service was moved outside. Glines' account continues:

"The minister then took his stand and gave out the opening hymn, when the "choir," which consisted of father, mother, and sister, sang. Never before had the silence of those hills and hollows been disturbed by the reverberating sounds of sacred worship. The minister then took his text and preached an excellent sermon upon the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, and the rewards of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked, all of which was listened to by an attentive audience. . . . This was the first pioneer sermon we had heard, and probably the only one which had been preached in that neighborhood.'

"This account is taken from a newspaper clipping with the date of 1886. The newspaper from which it was clipped is unknown to the author, but the narrative bears internal marks of authenticity, as of one recalling the events of a half century before." From Cross and Flame in Wisconsin, by William Blake.