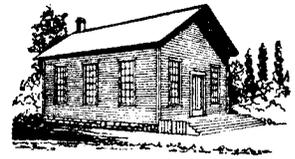




"WE are the end-product of our history."

# FLASHBACKS



Revealing glimpses of our creative past

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Official newsletter of the  
UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

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Vol. 10 No. 3

September, 1983

History! Her ample page  
Rich with the spoils of time.  
Thomas Gray

## PILGRIMAGE TO KENOSHA

The Fall Pilgrimage this year will be to Kenosha at First United Methodist Church. This was where the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Southport (Kenosha) on July 12, 1848.

The Commission on Archives and History will meet during the morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. at First Church in Kenosha. At Noon a meal will be served by the ladies at First Church for a cost of \$3.50. Please send your meal reservation to:

Rev. Earl Lindsay  
919 - 60th Street  
Kenosha, WI 53140

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the church at 919 - 60th Street in Kenosha. We will hear the story of First United Methodist Church and the Organization of the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1848. We will then go to see the site of the first Episcopal Church in Kenosha and then to the site of the second Methodist Episcopal Church in Kenosha where the Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. We hope to finish by 3:30 p.m..

Wisconsin United Methodists are urged to take part in the 1983 Pilgrimage. During the time of the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America we need to know about our heritage, as we prepare for the future.

## THE JURISDICTIONAL MEETING

Reverend Richard O'Neil attended the meeting of the North Central Jurisdiction for personnel in Archives and History which met on July 12-14 at the Priory in Bismark, North Dakota. The attendance was good, the spirits were high, and the lectures were very interesting. We visited Fort Lincoln, near Bismark, where General Custer began his famous march to Little Big Horn; and we also visited the State Historical Museum and the Conference Historical Museum of North Dakota both housed in the same building. The next jurisdictional meeting will be at Delaware, Ohio and in 1985 it will be held in Wisconsin.

I have loved to hear my Lord spoken  
of, and, wherever I have seen the  
print of His shoe in the earth, therein  
I have delighted to place my foot  
also.

JOHN BUNYAN

## A BIT OF ALGOMA HISTORY

The weather outside was frightful, but the thirty women met to honor five of their numbers. By 1979 Mrs. Edie Nelson has been with a Circle for 60 years, Mrs. Marion Lohrey 54 years, Mrs. Pearl Foshion 54 years, Mrs. Nora Frokash 53 years and Mrs. Myrtle Runke 50 years.

In 1957 their smorgasbord was featured in Together magazine. It is still their annual event. Other means of raising funds are their beehive bank brought to them from Norway by the late Mrs. C. J. Graan and the sponsorship of the Doll Show, one of Algoma's highlights.

Thanks, Mrs. Foshion

### WISCONSIN CONFERENCE INITIAL SESSION IN 1848

The year 1848 (135 years ago) was one of change and excitement in Wisconsin. On May 29 it was admitted to the United States of America as the 30th state. A constitution had been adopted by popular vote the year before. In the fall another significant development took place. At a meeting on Lake Poygan (near Poy Sippi) on October 18 the Menominee Indians ceded title to all of their remaining land in the state, except for their reservation. It was the last of the Indian land cessions, and concluded the process by which title to all land in Wisconsin passed from the Native American tribes to the federal government.

On July 12, 1848, at 9 a.m. in the city of Southport (Kenosha) Bishop Thomas A. Morris of the Methodist Episcopal Church called to order the constituting session of the Wisconsin Conference. It had been authorized by action of the General Conference meeting in Pittsburgh earlier that year. That was a stormy session, following the withdrawal of the southern conferences to form the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Methodist work in the Badger state was administered by the Rock River (now Northern Illinois) beginning in 1840, and before that by the Illinois Conference.

Earlier that year gold had been discovered in California, and the gold hunting fever extended even to the ranks of the ministers. Warner (or Warren) Oliver, pastor of Walker's Point charge in Milwaukee, gave up the pulpit for the pick and shovel and departed for the gold fields of the West.

Since it was before the admission of lay delegates to conferences, all the members were clergymen. Twenty-three elders were listed in the Minutes, three of them "super-annuated"--retired. Fourteen were deacons.

One of the important items of business was the approval of the charter of Lawrence University to be situated in Appleton--at that time a primitive frontier village. Another concern was securing parsonages to house the preachers and their families. The conference resolved: "That as a conference we will use our best endeavours individually to see erected a good parsonage on our respective charges, where there is none at present." It also provided, "That the parsonage be therewith provided all the heavy articles of household furniture, that are necessary to comfortable housekeeping."

At the concluding session 64 ministers were assigned to 64 charges, although some had more than one minister appointed, and five were left "to be supplied." They were divided into the following districts: Platteville, Fond du Lac, Racine, and Milwaukee. One of the appointments was William H. Sampson, Principal of the Preparatory Department of Lawrence Institute--the beginning of Lawrence University.

Under the Discipline in force in 1848 bishops and preachers were paid the same stipend. It amounted to an annual figure of \$200 for married clergy, \$100 for those who were single. It was not called a salary, but a claim--and it constituted a ceiling, not a floor.

## NEW AUBURN

One hundred years of faithful fellowship and service was celebrated by the New Auburn United Methodist Church June 19. Although informal work in the United Brethren tradition was begun in Cartwright (now New Auburn) in 1862, a permanent organization was not formed until February 15, 1883. On that date a class of 16 members was organized by Rev. William M. Smith. A livery stable was the scene of the earliest services, but soon the Methodist building was used--until 1886 when the first frame church was erected. Later (in 1918) the Methodist congregation disbanded, with some of the members joining the United Brethren Church. The present building was erected in 1927.

Since 1958 the congregation has been part of the Bloomer-New Auburn charge, with the parsonage in Bloomer. The present pastor is Rev. Michael A. Ida, who is serving his seventh year.

This small church (111 members) has contributed four men to the gospel ministry: John Larsen, Burley McDonald, Charles Brekken, and Randy Trowbridge. It is noteworthy that in its past New Auburn has been served by several women pastors. They were: Ida Richards (1901-1902) and again (1907-1908), Rev. M. Lulu Hindes (1920-1921), Rev. Mrs. L. E. Warren (1932-1935). The congregation also pioneered in being served by a husband and wife team. In 1945-1946 Rev. William Young and Rev. Marguerite Young led the congregation.

As part of its celebration the church published an attractive centennial booklet containing its history, a list of its pastors, and many illustrations illuminating its significant leaders and events.

### CONFERENCE ARCHIVES TO BE MOVED

When the Annual Conference voted this year to purchase Birkinbine Center for the Conference Center, it included within it space for the Archives. So beginning January, 1984 the Archives will be at the Conference Center (750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie). The procedure for this will have to be made soon.

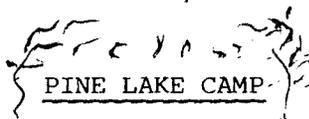
Because of this move we will be looking for a new Conference Archivist. Kitty Hobsen has done an excellent job since she took the job in 1973, and we hate to see her leave. However, this move means more than doubling our space, better conditions for the Archives, and closer contact with the Conference Office. Kitty has said she will not move from Oshkosh to Sun Prairie, but she definitely approves of the move. Stop by the Conference Archives once it has been move.



**Birkinbine Building**

Having concluded the historic session the ministers left for their charges for another year of devoted labor in "bringing souls to Christ." At the conclusion of that year's work they reported 5,710 full members plus 1174 who were on trial in the charges they served.

35 YEARS SERVING  
(First section)



Compiled and updated by:  
T. Gordon Amphlett, 1978  
Louise March 1983

The Annual Conference session of June, 1946, established an official Campsite Committee made up of Bishop Schuyler E. Garth, H. V. Tennant, Paul White, Fred Smith, Fred Jordan, Daniel Gearhart, Henry Halverson, Rufus Dimmick, and Mrs. Deane Irish. After a thorough search of more than forty properties in western Wisconsin, the Campsite Committee, seated on the bottom of an upturned boat on the south shore of Pine Lake, voted on May 20, 1947 to recommend to the Annual Conference the following June, the purchase of "as much as possible" of the property on Pine Lake in Marquette County. The Annual Conference accepted the recommendation and a campaign for \$50,000 for the purchase of land and for development was authorized. By the following summer, land purchases had been completed and temporary facilities provided so that during the first season, 1948, there were six weeks of camping with approximately 500 campers.

The first building was a government surplus barracks, 20' by 100', purchased from Truax Field at a cost of \$800. It became dining room, kitchen and recreation area. The campers were housed in tents. Water and sanitary facilities had to be provided and all of this was accomplished between April 17 and the beginning of the first camp in June, an evidence of the bigorous and enthusiastic work of a great many persons. Two such persons were H. V. Tennant, an engineer from Portage, and Franz Aust, a landscape designer from Madison. They quickly saw possibilities in the new site and helped committees for years to come to realize that potential. By June of the next year a camp architect, Glenn Wallace of Minneapolis, was secured to help plan the general buildings. The Conference Young Adult Fellowship erected the first permanent building, a cabin now known as Dogwood 3. Arthur Lindow was the first caretaker, and Mrs. Esther Lindow was an excellent cook. William Marsh was the first manager, and Mrs. Louise Marsh was the first waterfront director and later the bookkeeper. Plans were developed for a permanent dining hall, and on May 15, 1949, Bishop H. Clifford Northcott dedicated Pine Lake Camp and turned the first shovel of earth for the new dining hall, which was dedicated May 18, 1952. That year the camp was used by 1,037, a number which increased to 1,502 campers in 1957.

The decade of the 1950's was one of almost continuous construction at Pine Lake. The cabins of the Birch and Dogwood units were completed during that time. Most of them were built by local churches or individuals. These included the churches at Platteville, Darlington, Mr. Horeb, Portage, Baraboo, Onalaska, Black River Falls, Lancaster, Reedsburg, and LaCrosse Asbury. Conference WSCS (now United Methodist Women) and Mr. Tucker, of Lodi, provided two double cabins in the Birch unit. Mrs. Tommy Gould, of Sparta, contributed the Health Center. The Committee constructed one cabin in memory of Ross Conner, who died in 1956 while serving as Committee Chairman. A utility house, containing showers and toilets, was designed, built and paid for by Methodist Men of First Church, Madison. The Staff Cabin was constructed from Advance monies during the same period.

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## 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*

Miss Joanne Hornby, *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.

# HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE

1832



1983

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1

First United Methodist Church  
Kenosha, WI.

The Pilgrimage will be held at First United Methodist Church  
in Kenosha, site of the First Annual Conference of a  
Methodist Conference only within the bounds of Wisconsin  
The church is located at 919 - 60th. Street.

The schedule of the Pilgrimage is as follows:

12:00 n.	Dinner at First Church
1:00 pm.	Questions and Discussion
2:00 pm.	Tour of Kenosha (site of the first church in Kenosha and site of where the first Annual Conference was held)
3:30 pm.	Homeward Bound

The noon meal is \$3.50 per person. Please send reservations to:  
Rev. Earl Lindsay, 919 - 60th. St., Kenosha, WI. 53140

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