

OUR WORLD MISSION
Budget Receipts For July, 1963

	Treasurer's		Board's			Treasurer's		Board's	
	July	10 months	10 months	10 months		July	10 months	10 months	10 months
Adams Center	\$ 735.50		\$ 4.70		Lost Creek	191.27	1,433.71		
Albion		521.15			Marlboro	258.03	2,865.90		
Alfred, 1st	\$1,200.15	4,677.27	48.00		Memorial Fund		354.72		
Alfred, 2nd	241.00	2,005.29			Metairie		18.00		
Algiers		13.00			Middle Island	25.00	270.00		
Associations and					Milton	488.80	8,039.73	120.00	
Groups	43.93	556.36	583.98		Milton Junction ..	75.75	1,600.75		
Battle Creek	1,200.02	5,618.07	130.00		New Auburn	61.59	278.16	30.00	
Bay Area	100.00	349.20			North Loup	219.99	765.59	18.00	
Berlin	177.16	1,206.66	186.62		Nortonville	40.00	1,136.15	75.00	
Boulder	30.70	433.95	85.00		Old Stone Fort	15.00	195.00		
Brookfield, 1st	30.00	239.00			Paint Rock		180.15	13.75	
Brookfield, 2nd	88.15	220.65			Pawcatuck	455.00	4,689.17	156.52	
Buffalo		324.50	45.00		Plainfield	221.17	2,874.35	265.00	
Chicago	82.50	753.00	400.00		Richburg	69.00	919.50		
Daytona Beach	100.00	1,026.98	25.00		Ritchie	37.00	178.00	11.00	
Denver	130.30	1,027.45	50.50		Riverside	393.10	2,215.15		
DeRuyter		542.00			Roanoke		98.60		
Dodge Center	48.71	827.61	60.00		Rockville	19.40	387.24		
Farina	24.50	144.75			Salem		1,500.00	62.00	
Fouke		50.00			Salemville	13.00	80.00	62.00	
Hamburg,					Schenectady		82.58	15.00	
Germany			99.00		Shiloh	981.73	5,113.34	115.00	
Hammond		55.00			Texarkana		60.00		
Hebron, 1st	54.00	525.51			Trustees of				
Hopkinton, 1st	128.25	2,104.50			Gen. Conf.		126.60		
Hopkinton, 2nd	9.00	106.00	500.00		Verona	127.61	1,269.57		
Houston Fellow... ..	168.14	204.99			Walworth	100.00	727.83	50.00	
Independence	70.00	915.01	55.00		Washington		317.12		
Individuals		602.00	2,304.52		Washington				
Irvington		1,800.00	500.00		People's	10.00	100.00		
Kansas City	140.00	360.00			Waterford	141.36	1,254.35		
Little Genesee	223.35	1,094.44	66.83		White Cloud	47.62	744.83		
Little Rock	31.50	260.06	34.37		Women's Society ..		300.00		
Los Angeles	260.00	2,580.00	99.71		Yonah Mt.	5.00	22.00		
Los Angeles									
Christ's	15.00	145.00			Totals	\$8,592.78	\$72,222.99	\$6,271.50	

The Sabbath Recorder



Missionary Board Conference Speakers

The world work of Seventh Day Baptists, as distinguished from the self-sustaining local church work, was featured on the climactic last day (Sabbath) of General Conference at Fort Collins, Colo. Members of the Missionary Board from Ashaway and Westerly, R. I., presented an informational and inspiring program. The Rev. Edgar Wheeler (left) presided. Missionary Secretary Everett T. Harris (right) just returned from a six weeks' tour of Nyasaland, told of progress on that expanding field with its political and economic problems. The Rev. Earl Cruzan (2nd from right) discussed the new emphasis on support of the home field work. Loren G. Osborn, newly appointed chairman of the First World Consultation of Delegates of Seventh Day Baptist Conferences, outlined plans for that meeting at Salem, W. Va., next August. Look for summaries of these messages in forthcoming issues.

JULY DISBURSEMENTS

General Conference	\$1,163.33
Historical Society	1.00
Board of Christian Education	605.37
Ministerial Retirement	547.46
Ministerial Training (1)	977.56
Ministerial Training (2)	362.39
Missionary Society	3,664.32
Tract Society	999.76
Trustees of General Conference	55.79
Women's Society	143.80
World Fellowship & Service	72.00

\$8,592.78

SUMMARY

1962 - 63 OWM budget	\$116,768.00
Receipts for 10 months:	
OWM treasurer	\$ 72,222.99
Boards	6,271.50
	78,494.49
Remainder due in 2 months	\$ 38,273.51
Needed per month	\$ 19,136.75
Percentage of year elapsed	83.30%
Percentage of budget raised	67.21%

Doris H. Fetherston,
OWM Treasurer.

August 2, 1963

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration
Member of the Associated Church Press

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Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day is not a religious holiday but it involves both the religious and the nonreligious people of our nation. There are issues concerning labor that are the concern of every thoughtful Christian or Jew. Each year statements are issued by the Synagogue Council of America, by the National Catholic Welfare Conference, by the National Council of Churches, and by other organizations representing large segments of Protestantism — statements designed to be read in churches on Labor Sunday or Labor Sabbath.

When one examines the 1963 statements by the three organizations mentioned above he notes that the emphasis of all three is not so much on the dignity of labor from the biblical point of view as upon the present inequality of opportunity. The writers devote an unusual amount of space to race discrimination in unions and the similar practice of employers of unequal hiring practices and wage discrimination. They lament the slow progress in righting these wrongs.

This is not a new issue but it has been pushed to the forefront in 1963 by various circumstances. If there is known unfairness in labor practices by either labor unions or management this should be the concern of the Christian and he should exercise to the full his civic responsibility. His actions in these matters should flow from the convictions he has derived from the Word of God. They should also be tempered by the restraint that the same authority in faith and practice puts upon the Christian as a citizen. He will not demonstrate in an unchristian way to obtain the economic and social advantages that may be rightfully his. Neither will he make a mockery of religion by a public showing of an attitude of prayer when the spirit of prayer is lacking. Neither will he desecrate the true meaning of Christian hymns and choruses by applying such spiritual words as "I shall not be moved" to physical barriers of bodies and chains. On the other hand the Christian on this Labor Day will not harshly or hypocritically judge those who do not use the greatest wisdom or most dignified methods to right the social injustices which he has done little or nothing to alleviate.

After devoting several pages to the race question the Catholic statement concludes with this sentence and the following prayer. "And since the grace of God is given unflinchingly to those who humbly ask for it, it will be fitting to conclude this Statement with a prayer for justice and charity in the field of race relations:

"Heavenly Father, Who has created all men according to Your image and redeemed us all by the Blood of Your Divine Son, teach us how to live together as brothers, in dignity, justice, charity and peace. May we afford to each other now the total measure of human rights guaranteed us by the law of our beloved land. But beyond that, graciously give us the vision to see clearly the full meaning of Your Command to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, and grant us the grace to observe this precept in our daily lives. Amen."

The Division of Christian Life and Work, NCC quotes as part of its statement from a pronouncement of last year's National Study Conference on the Church and Economic Life:

"The deepest concern of the Christian Church is with the relation of human beings to God, their Creator, and to one another as His children. The second great Commandment of our Lord is that we love our neighbors as ourselves. He did not limit that commandment to any particular kind or race of people, or to any particular time, or age. The basic social imperative for Christians today is to apply that commandment to the facts and problems of a world of potential abundance, of rapidly increasing interdependence and of massive organization."

A portion of one of the suggested prayers follows:

"O Christ, enable us to follow Thee and seek for every person the right to work at the job to which Thou hast called him. Grant, O God, to every worker a realization of the high dignity that Thou hast given to every work. Help us share all the opportunities of life with all men as our brothers and equals, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

SEPTEMBER 2, 1963

Blessings Along the Way

It is sometimes said that attending Conference is not a vacation and should not be considered so by those who send their pastor to this annual gathering of Seventh Day Baptists. To the minister or the full-time denominational worker who attends in his professional capacity this reasoning is valid, but for many others going to Conference it is not only a vacation but probably the most satisfying sort of vacation that could be arranged. Even those who go with heavy and restrictive responsibilities would not miss it, for it affords rare opportunities of Christian fellowship and high moments of inspiration. Furthermore, most of those who gathered at Fort Collins this year would testify that they received blessings along the way greater than come to people who embark upon a vacation without an edifying purpose.

What were some of the blessings along the way? Naturally they were not the same for all; they were personally tailored to fit by the Lord who makes all things work together for good to those who love Him. Many had happy Sabbath experiences in a church other than their own because relatively few were close enough to the place of meeting to drive there after the Sabbath. Travel plans could be adjusted so that the Sabbath before Conference could be spent at nearby Denver or Boulder or such churches as Nortonville, and Kansas City or North Loup, Neb. A number who had special reason to be in one of the Southern Wisconsin churches enjoyed that experience even though it meant hard driving to get to Colorado the first day.

At Boulder the church was filled with visitors, among whom were at least nine ministers. The Sabbath eve service also brought blessing to many who were far from their home church prayer meeting. The sweet fellowship afforded by a generous lunch brought in by the local congregation helped make this first Sabbath a time of rich blessing. Commission members and many others found joy in meeting with the Denver church in their new building. Other delegates expressed appreciation for the special arrangements made for noon and afternoon Sabbath fellow-

ship at North Loup. Besides this there was for 100 young people and their leaders a rich experience of worship deep in the mountains at Glen Haven where the Pre-Con Retreat was drawing to a close.

These were blessings available to groups, experiences that brought joy to those who planned them as well as to those for whom they were planned. The personal joys along the way were a combination of individual planning and the experiences that came in the providence of God. Travel by whatever means brings us into unforeseen situations even though we are now able to predict rather closely where we will be every night or at a given hour of the day. In one case a father and mother met their daughter and her husband at the registration desk. They had traveled by car from the east and west coasts arriving within half an hour of each other.

Some testified of opportunities for witnessing along the way both by the spoken word and by literature. Others could tell of the elevating thoughts that came to them as unusual views of the handiwork of God and His provident manipulation of the forces of nature came from time to time. Those traveling from the East saw the rich blessings of rain upon fertile soil most of the way and occasionally sweeping panoramas of growing crops of tasseled corn as far as the eye could reach in a three-quarter segment of land dotted with homesteads. Coming from the West and over the mountain ranges the breathtaking views came with impressing frequency and reminded receptive hearts of the beautifully descriptive Psalms that speak of the glory of God revealed in His creative acts.

Some of those at Conference arrived with the memory of recent trying experiences. This is to be expected when so many people come from so far. There were a few minor accidents and some sicknesses. Thankfulness for the presence and overruling providence of God in these situations was expressed. A few very recent widows and bereaved parents came to the gathering in spite of their personal problems and perhaps to derive strength for the future.

Travel may not in itself be a profitable vacation but if the time involved is of sufficient duration to provide relief from the daily routine and if the Lord provides interesting contacts the alert and sensitive soul gets blessings along the way. Is it not a common experience that people are more interesting than inanimate nature? Stops, even those that are unscheduled, bring us into contact with people, sometimes people of like faith, sometimes of no faith, but always people for whom Christ died and for whom God has a message, perhaps through us.

Theology Is Basic

A much abused and long disused word is making a strong recovery even in liberal circles which a generation ago discounted it. People are now beginning again to realize how inclusive is the word "theology."

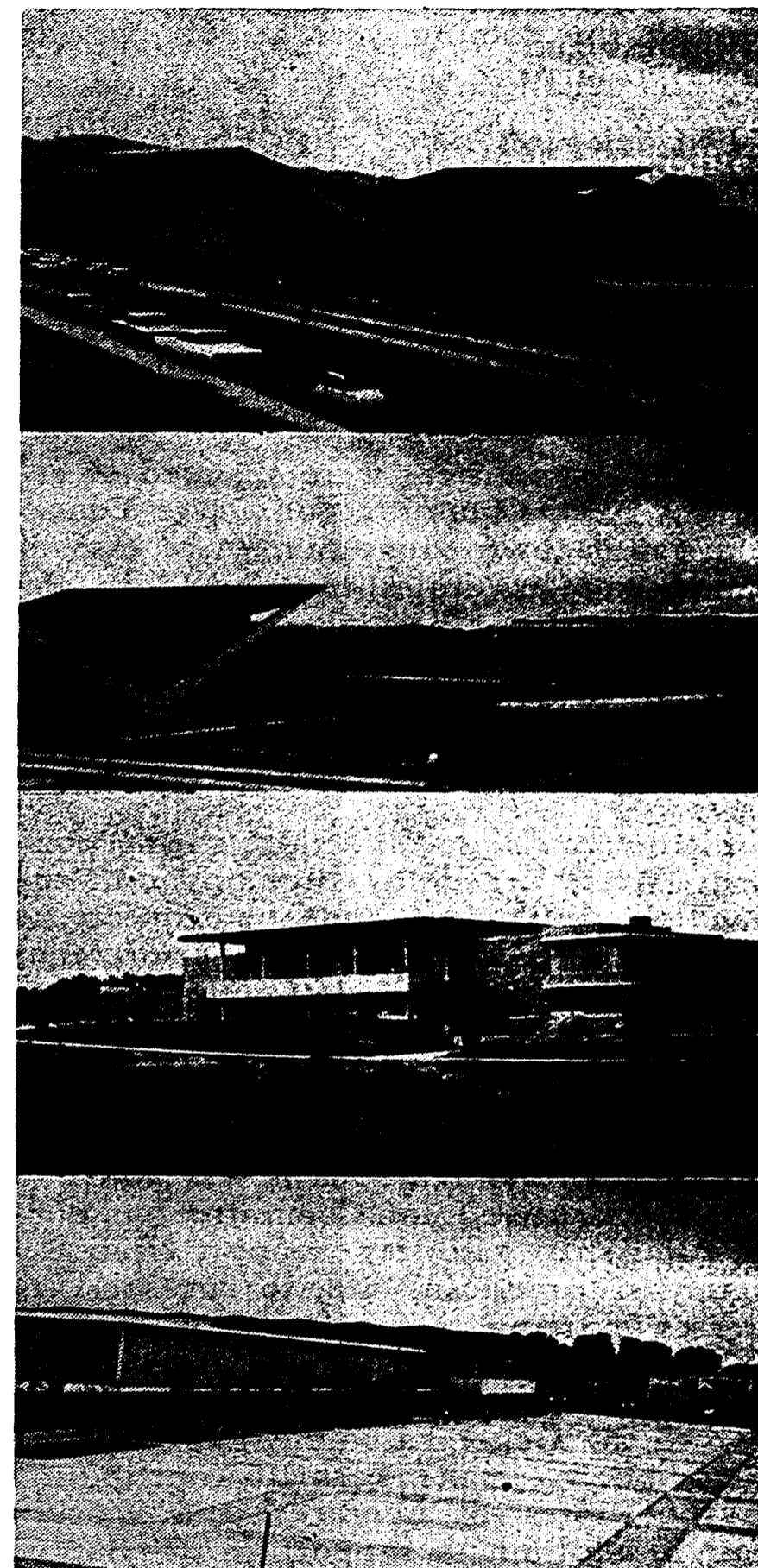
When the National Council of Churches wants to explain in news releases why it desired to be in the forefront of the estimated 100,000 marching in Washington for civil rights on August 28, it was on the basis of the General Board's recent statement that "civil rights is the number one moral issue." Dr. Robert W. Spike, executive director of the National Council's Commission on Religion and Race, stated on August 21 that the council's participation in the march "does not mean that it endorses all of the program which other sponsoring groups bring to the march, as they do not necessarily share our theological reasons for participating in the march."

"It is for basic theological reasons that the Commission joins in the march," Dr. Spike reiterated. "Our faith is that God came into the midst of human life in the person of Christ to seek and to save all men."

"Christ shared our common lot, preaching justice and showing compassion for all men. As His followers, Christians cannot remain apart from the great human struggles that confront the nation," the church leader said.

Theology is indeed basic to almost every activity for right. This being true, it behooves all of us to see that our theology is true — derived directly from our source of knowledge about God, the Bible.

Conference Buildings



1. Modern theatre where all Conference sessions were held; Rocky Mountains in background.

2. Theatre and Student Center Building. Green Hall in the distance between the two buildings housed most of the delegates.

3. West side of Student Center; dining area entrance; banquet rooms on second floor.

4. East side (front) of Student Center. Committee meeting rooms and Conference president's office were in this area.

Conference Meets In Colorful Colorado

Delegates to the 151st annual session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference converged in the usual numbers on the expansive level campus of the Colorado State University at Fort Collins on Sunday afternoon, August 11, in preparation for the inspirational and business sessions scheduled to begin the next morning. The largest group to go through the registration line was the group of nearly 100 young people who were transported largely by bus from their campsite within the mountains to the green acres of the plain city east of Long's Peak and the foothills of the rugged range. The registration in the multi-winged dormitory which was to house nearly all the visitors continued late into the night. Other delegates came in lesser numbers through the first few days to bring the registration on Tuesday to 362, on Friday 427. Some from Boulder and other nearby areas attended evening meetings only, driving some fifty miles north.

Never has Conference been held in so modern and well-appointed buildings. The Student Center, less than a year old, had ample space for offices, committee rooms, lounges, dining rooms and meeting places for children and young folks. The cafeteria not only served our people but also several small conventions and many students and others. We were told by the manager of the local Chamber of Commerce that the university has 2,000 employees. Joined to the Student Center is the comfortable, air-conditioned new theatre which is reputed to be one of the most perfect buildings in the United States acoustically. Well equipped with microphones, it left few technical problems to be solved by those who tape-recorded the proceedings of Conference from the projection rooms above the balcony. The wide halls at the entrance provided ideal and ample space for displays by boards and agencies. The committee on local arrangements had made all the necessary contacts with university officials to have nearly every need for equipment quickly supplied.

In this theatre Conference began its

1963 session on Monday morning — a session that would quickly come to grips with an unusual number of proposals for change. But the morning meeting was not the time to introduce business; it was the time for worship and for setting the tone of the meetings to come. The president had chosen to open the program with a sermon on "The Gospel" and to bring in the welcome by the Chamber of Commerce after the delegates had heard a message from the Word of God. The speaker of the morning was the Rev. Paul B. Osborn, missionary pastor of the new church at Little Rock, Ark. — a man who had led his church this year in a strong program of visitation evangelism and tract distribution. An abbreviated advance release of this message was printed last week.

Conference Business Highlights

What did the delegates to the 1963 General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists do in the five-day session at Fort Collins? Without having the full minutes at hand, and reporting from personal notes and reports the editor attempts to gather together some of the major and minor actions for the benefit of those who were not present and would like a quick look before reading the separate stories that appear in this and subsequent issues.

Conference received and referred to proper committees the report of Commission, the annual reports of officers, boards, agencies, and committees and adopted such reports as did not need to be referred.

It noted that when statistics are all in, the churches will probably show a net increase in membership. It was concerned that receipts for denominational work at the end of 10 months were \$38,000 short of the goal for the year. It voted a new budget \$16,000 lower than the current budget and confidently hoped that it would be raised in full. It was noted with satisfaction that the Conference offering was higher than usual (\$1,270 in the plates and \$5,546 from the churches). The lower budget, it was pointed out, may mean that we cannot replace our missionary in Jamaica when his term ends.

Conference voted in favor of continuing the Sabbath Recorder as a weekly through the coming year at the present subscription price.

The delegates noted with approval the accomplishments of the youth field worker who has agreed to serve another year and adopted the report of the Committee on Young People's Work which contained a proposal to study the idea of engaging a full-time youth leader on a permanent basis.

Several committees were changed or relocated. The Committee on Peace Education (at its own suggestion) was discontinued and its duties transferred to the Committee on Christian Social Action. Ministerial Support was moved from southern Wisconsin to southern California. Stewardship Promotion was changed from southern Michigan to central New York.

In the area of social action, strong positions were urged by Commission, the standing committee, and the Conference Committee on Social Interests. Conference voted almost unanimously for the churches to lead the way in desegregation and passed a resolution favoring the proper dissemination of birth control information.

In ecumenical relations it was voted to join the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, to withdraw support from Religion in American Life, to cut back increases in requests for funds of agencies of the National and World Councils of Churches and to drop the \$100 contribution to the General Commission on Chaplains, but to make a small contribution to the Protestant Center at the World's Fair in addition to supporting the Baptist booth.

Following an invitation by the American Baptist Convention to enter into conversations about merging several denominations it was voted to set up a continuing committee.

The Conference reaffirmed by vote and by a well-worked-out program of Scripture and affirmation the present statement of belief and appointed a committee to

make further study of our statement and our manual of procedure.

Adopting the report of the Committee on Ministerial Interests included setting a dateline beyond which a minister ordained during the year could not be accredited. It also involved a statement as to the difference between ordination and accreditation and delaying action on a proposed policy for removal of accreditation.

Looking to the future, the delegates approved tentative plans for bringing representatives of all foreign Seventh Day Baptist conferences to a world consultation at Salem, W. Va., next August; endorsed an expanded home mission program with a field director, and encouraged higher salaries for home mission pastors. Three new churches were welcomed and one minister accredited.

Theological Issues at Conference

Anticipating that there would be theological issues involved in the discussion of the denominational statement of belief and in a possible addition to the Conference requirements for ministerial accreditation (matters growing out of last year's Conference) it was decided to set up a special committee on theological issues made up of delegates in attendance. The Commission made several recommendations in these two areas and suggested that they be referred to this special committee. K. Duane Hurley, president of Salem College, was named chairman and the Rev. Alton L. Wheeler was chosen secretary of the seventeen-member representative committee. Early in its deliberations a general invitation was given for any interested in the subjects under consideration to attend an open meeting. Quite a number responded and were allowed to express their views and suggestions in an orderly way.

In the report on the floor of Conference later in the week the committee announced that it was recommending that one of Commission's recommendations: that there be added to the present list of Conference requirements for accreditation the phrase that the candidate 'be in

general harmony with the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief' be referred to the Council on Ministerial Education. For those unfamiliar with the changing denominational structure in this area a word of explanation may be in order. The council mentioned is the permanent agency that lays plans for ministerial education. Referring this added theological requirement for Conference accreditation to that group had the effect of delaying action on it for at least one year since it does not normally meet during the Conference session. The matter of accreditation was also the concern of another Conference committee whose report has a bearing on the above action. It will be reported later.

The remainder of the special committee's report is readily understood and appears here as adopted by Conference.

We recognize the historic function of our Statement of Belief as a testimony rather than a test, with a guarantee of freedom of conscience which does not restrict inquiry and growth in our understanding of religious truth. At the same time, there is growing concern that Seventh Day Baptists be able to speak with a strength of positive conviction such as is expressed by our Statement of Belief. We therefore Recommend that this Conference reaffirm by action and worship our Statement of Belief as an expression of basic convictions generally held by Seventh Day Baptists in matters of both polity and faith.

We rejoice in finding what appears to be a unanimous appreciation for all that our Statement of Belief means to Seventh Day Baptists and recognize the need for the continuing search for an understanding and clarification of the ever-enlarging purposes into which God may desire to lead His people.

Therefore we Recommend that:

(1) A Committee on Faith and Order be established.

(2) The committee shall consist of five members, (laymen and ministers) serving five-year terms, except that for the first year one member shall be elected for one year, one for two years, one for three years, another for four years, and another for

five years. The names of such members shall be submitted by Commission to the Nominating Committee and may be re-elected to succeed themselves.

(3) The committee shall report regularly to the Commission and to Conference and shall be responsible to General Conference for its actions.

(4) The purposes of such a committee shall be:

(a) To stimulate the development of an atmosphere for the creative discussion of convictions and provide for general theological dialogue.

(b) To promote the continuous effort to clarify and communicate our faith in a changing world.

(c) To consider any proposed change in our Statement of Belief, and to make recommendations regarding any revisions, alterations or additions according to established procedures.

(d) To give continuous study to the procedures and practices in church organization and polity, and recommend such revisions in the Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedure as may be needed and helpful.

West Virginia Rural Minister

The Rev. Duane L. Davis is shown here following presentation of the Rural Minister of the Year Award for West



Virginia, at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., on June 27, 1963. The annual award for ministers of thirteen southern states was given jointly by Emory University and the *Progressive Farmer* magazine. The presentation was made by Dr. Ross Freeman of Candler School of Theology, Emory (left), and Mr. P. T. Head (right), editor, the *Progressive Farmer*. Accompanying the award was a scholarship to Emory's summer Town and Country Ministers' School.

The certificate reads, "Duane L. Davis is hereby designated as Rural Minister of the Year for the state of West Virginia in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the rural church movement, the development of rural community life, and co-operative work with agencies and organizations which have for their goal the creation of better rural living for all people." This award made while Pastor Davis was serving at Lost Creek and Roanoke, W. Va., was also accompanied by a cash gift from the West Virginia Soil Conservation Supervisors Association. This was the first time this southern award has been made to a Seventh Day Baptist minister.

Pastor Davis became pastor of the North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church on September 1.

Unrelated to the noteworthy award mentioned above is the outstanding honor given to Mr. Davis at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference recently held at Fort Collins, Colorado. He was elected to a three-year term on Commission, the six-member body which acts as somewhat of a steering committee and acts in behalf of General Conference between annual sessions. This young pastor was also one of those selected by the president to give a challenging evening message to the four hundred delegates assembled at Fort Collins.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON for September 14, 1963 The Love that Forgives

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 45: 4-15

THE SABBATH RECORDER

MISSIONS — Sec. Everett T. Harris

Thoughts to Ponder

(Conclusion from the Annual Report of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, 1963)

Here we give our account of activities in the areas in which we are engaged. With the balance afforded by faith in our heavenly Father in these trying times, there are encouraging aspects, even in the midst of difficulties. To use a common expression, hopefully we may say this is a "report of progress." Like the Book of Acts of the Apostles, our annual reports really have no end.

So, recalling the words of our Lord, "Lo, I am with you always," let us seek to know His will and carry on for Him, in our own land, and spread knowledge of Him and the way of salvation to all the world.

Let us realize confidence through a common, yet stupendous benediction. What tremendous words these are! "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." The personal coming of our Lord upon us to make us entirely different from what we were before. It means that Jesus Christ our Lord is very near to us, even as He was near to those who saw Him in Galilee, or by the lake, or on the streets of the city. He can have that overwhelming effect upon us that He had upon them. You may recall the child's definition: "Grace is the power Christ gives to us to make me like Himself."

And we have the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ through "the love of God." He gave Christ, His Son, the greatest gift possible, because of His infinite love. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . ." God's love falls upon every man, every woman, every child in the world, all those whom He has made in His own image.

How naturally "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" follows the grace of our Lord and the love of God. He so loves us that He wants to give to each one of us the greatest possible gift. That is nothing less than Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is not an "it," for it is He. This gift is God Him-

self in you. The Holy Spirit given at Pentecost, in a special way, has been given all down through the centuries. Those who have that gift are in a unique fellowship, a wonderful fellowship that unites them to one another and to God.

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

— H. R. C.

The Shepherding Pastor

The Rev. Marion C. Van Horn attended the quarterly meeting of Southern Wisconsin and Chicago churches and gave three sermons on the theme, "Home Missions," with particular emphasis on the Southwest, the area with which he is most familiar. Pastor Van Horn preached the Baccalaureate Sermon for the graduation service for the Fouke School.

He reported good attendance at the Southwestern Association. Camp Miles, at Chemin-A-Haut State Park, had the largest attendance in its history.

Pastor Van Horn visited churches in Louisiana: Hammond, Metairie, Algiers. He attended the Louisiana Seventh Day Baptist Association "held at Brother Showers' church on the west side," Hammond.

— H. R. C.

CHINA

In the Annual Report of the Board of Managers to the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, Secretary Harris wrote: "Surely it is right and more needful than ever that we should continue to pray for our brethren and for ourselves that we may be led by the Holy Spirit to think straight and consider carefully our relationship in Christ toward our brethren in China. Some day, God willing, the opportunity will come to make an effort to restore the bonds of fellowship in Christ. What shall we do in that day? Are we discouraged? Perhaps God should speak to us as He did to Elijah: 'Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed to Baal . . .' Some day we may learn that this is also true of our Chinese brethren."

— H. R. C.

Conference Decision on Recorder Subscription Issue

For the past several months one man has been circularizing the churches to gain support for his contention that it would be better for the cause of Seventh Day Baptists if the **Sabbath Recorder**, which has to be heavily subsidized by Tract Board funds, was sent to all Seventh Day Baptist homes free of charge. His proposal argued in the August 12 issue, suggests that present funds available would be sufficient to double the subscription list if the journal dropped from a weekly to a biweekly with the same number of pages.

How did this and other proposals fare at Conference?

The Commission took up the Recorder question from a somewhat different angle at its pre-Conference meeting and made a four-part proposal which was submitted to the Conference Committee on Publishing Interests. The committee, after considerable deliberation and an open hearing, recommended rejection of both the free subscription proposal of Winfield Randolph and the Commission suggestion (which was considered unworkable). It proposed continuing as a weekly at \$4 with a professional study during the year. Four members of the twelve-member committee, however, presented a minority report favoring a modified form of Mr. Randolph's proposition. When this came to the floor of Conference on Thursday morning quite a number of people spoke in favor of the majority or the minority reports of the committee. After the discussion (which was thoughtful and without emotion) a motion was passed sending the matter back to committee for further study. The committee reported again in the afternoon, bringing a compromise solution agreed to by the majority and minority of the committee.

Following is the report which was adopted by Conference practically without comment:

1. We recommend that the American Sabbath Tract Society reduce the 1964-1965 **Sabbath Recorder** budget (not special issues) by not less than \$5,000 from the 1963-1964 budget of \$20,700.

2. We recommend the retention of a subscription list and the continuance of the present \$4 subscription rate to the **Sabbath Recorder**.
3. We recommend that the American Sabbath Tract Society develop a group rate plan whereby the local churches may at their discretion supply **Sabbath Recorders** to those who do not feel that they can afford it and to others whom they wish to reach.
4. We recommend that the American Sabbath Tract Society seek professional advice on appraising the content, effectiveness, and purpose of the **Sabbath Recorder** and report their findings by General Conference, 1964.

Tracts in Spanish

Samples of two Sabbath tracts in the Spanish language were flown from the publishing house to General Conference for display on the Tract Society tables. Orders can now be filled. It is hoped all people who have contacts with Spanish-speaking people will request what they can profitably use in keeping with the current emphasis on extending our church ministry to people "on the social frontiers." The English titles of the tracts are "Pro and Con" and "What Do You Find?" (the bookmark).

ANNUAL MEETING

The 121st Annual Meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Rhode Island, will be held on the third Sunday of September (September 15, 1963) at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R. I., at 2 p. m., to act upon any report that may be presented; to elect officers and members of the Board of Managers and to transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Harold R. Crandall,
President.
Elston H. Van Horn,
Recording Secretary.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Corporation of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education will be held in the First Alfred Parish House on Sunday afternoon, September 15, at 2:00 o'clock.

All Seventh Day Baptists who were in attendance at General Conference at Fort Collins are eligible to attend and vote in this meeting. Members of the Board will be elected.

A call meeting of the Board will follow the annual meeting.

A Pre-Con Testimony

By Althea Greene*

Youth Pre-Con is a wonderful experience! I was fortunate in that I was able to attend Youth Pre-Con for my second time. It was much more meaningful to me this year than before. It wasn't that the program was so much better but it was the attitude with which I approached Pre-Con. This year I approached it with an attitude of expectancy; of drawing closer to God, of finding new truths, of discovering new interpretations, and in general, just becoming a better Christian. I found all these at Pre-Con. At our Sabbath eve fagot service I could really see and feel the greatness of God. I was so impressed that I found new meaning in the words "My God How Great Thou Art." Our staff was excellent! Helen Green's worship services and "alone hours" were especially helpful to me.

But this wasn't all. I had a special experience at Pre-Con, since it was there I felt God call me to full-time Christian service. I know this is only the beginning but I pray that I may do all things to God's glory.

*Miss Greene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arlie L. Greene of Berlin, N. Y., gave this testimony at a youth vesper service at General Conference. Her willingness to serve the Lord was demonstrated during the week by the hours of time she devoted to helping in the teaching of children at Junior Conference.

Junior High Conference

Mrs. Theona Rasmussen planned and directed the program for Junior High age children at General Conference. Those who helped with the program include LeRoy Bass, Mary Burdick, Doris Rood, and Connie Coon. Guest speakers who spoke on the topic "Careers for Christ" were Linda Bingham, Alton Wheeler, Doris Fetherston, K. Duane Hurley, Everett Harris, Sr., Herbert Saunders, and Iris Maltby.

Twenty youth participated in music, worship, and recreation. They led General Conference during the vesper period on Sabbath eve.

Swimming in the University pool each afternoon was the favorite recreational activity, but the highlight of the week was the Jaycee Rodeo which all attended on the night after the Sabbath.

Our gratitude goes to Mrs. Rasmussen and all who helped her for the sacrifice made in time spent in preparation and the conducting of the program.

The Sabbath Link

In Auckland, New Zealand, a new Sabbath publication has made its appearance. It is **The Sabbath Link**, which was previously published, but now comes out in its July, August, and September edition in a completely new format that closely resembles printing and carries a full-page picture on the cover. It is identified on the masthead as "A Quarterly Journal for the Defense of the Faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and for the propagation of the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus (Rev. 14: 12)."

A journal of the Seventh Day Baptist churches of New Zealand and distributed free, it is published by what is known as the New Zealand Branch of the American Sabbath Tract Society, P. O. Box 5905, Wellesley St., Auckland. It contains very little news in its eight pages and uses Sabbath propagation material from several sources. The current issue has an article, "The Sabbath: God's and Man's" by the late A. J. C. Bond. The next issue will feature an article, "Am I Deceived?" by F. S. Johnson, pastor of the Auckland Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Thinking of Commission

The forty-fifth annual report of the Commission of General Conference was the result of three meetings during the year, the last of which was held the week prior to Conference. The body was, however, in more or less continuous session during Conference and had not fully decided on the size of the OWM budget when the report was read to the delegates in a dramatic and forceful way on the first day by the members of Commission.

The actions taken at the midyear meeting and reported in the *Sabbath Recorder* of January 14 were incorporated in the full report, which will appear later in the 1963 Yearbook. This fourteen-page document is highly interesting to Seventh Day Baptists, but it would be confusing to try to present it here in its original form since Conference action was in some cases considerably different from that suggested by Commission. This was to be expected because of some issues (like the accrediting of ministers) Commission presented opposing alternatives which forced committees to think things through to what might be an acceptable conclusion. There was difference of opinion as to whether this was a good procedure, but it was democratic. In some cases where Commission had recommended a single course of action the committee considering it could not agree entirely with the wisdom of it. This, too, was democratic procedure for the good of the cause.

As compared with other years the Commission's report, it will be generally agreed, is outstanding for some of its introductory policy statements on several subjects. Perhaps more than usual it attempted to cover every area of denominational activity and made pronouncements on general social problems common to other denominations, the nation, and the world. Some of these statements are printed below, omitting the details that were worked out by Conference with very little debate on the floor.

Social Action

The Commission recommends the following statement of policy be adopted:

Seventh Day Baptists grew out of that segment of the Reformation which held freedom of conscience to be one of the primary responsibilities of Christian people everywhere. From this historic tradition they draw both their reluctance to issue authoritative statements of position on specific public issues which might be considered by some to be binding upon individual members, and their refusal to recognize the authority of the state over the individual in matters of religious principle.

Seventh Day Baptists have always made an unequivocal distinction between the administrative organization of the church and the institutions and agencies of government, declaring their absolute separation on theological principle rather than for practical advantage.

However, though principles do not change, it is recognized that forms of government and the claims of civil authority both change and differ, necessitating constant vigilance and study by Christian people so that essential principles may be universally maintained, and though the separation of church and state is reaffirmed, it is recognized that Christian people organized into churches bear spiritual responsibility for the political conscience and spiritual loyalties of individuals everywhere, including those in positions of civil authority.

In their specific, contemporary problems, such as tax exemption for religious institutions, and legal enforcement of religious observances, Seventh Day Baptists both in the United States and abroad are urged to participate in a creative rediscovery and application of the principles underlying the Baptist heritage of freedom and responsibility.

The Context of Commission Thought

In a time when the way in which man has occupied the world of God's creation has sent vast and baffling changes sweeping through political, economic and social life and structures, Christians are called upon to search humbly for the will of God, think creatively with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and act bravely for the Lordship of Jesus Christ. An organized body of Christian people must not only seek to make its internal administration an effective channel of redemptive love among its members, it must wrestle in faith with political rebellion in the rapidly developing countries abroad, economic realignment in the United States, and social revolution in the local community. It must seek to accept with hope the challenges and opportunities the shaking of human foundations presents for the breaking forth of divine grace. To assist the 1963 General Conference to deal with issues arising out of the effort of Seventh Day Baptists to find the will of God for them in this world, the Commission submits the following suggestions and recommendations for consideration and action.

Mission Work

The attention of Commission members has been caught by the frequent reference of recognized authorities to the uncertainties surrounding foreign mission programs as we now know them. The Commission wishes to alert Seventh Day Baptists to the probable closure of many nations to American missionaries within a few years. This is precisely the event for which indigenous leadership has been prepared for years, and should not be discouraging.

It is now incumbent upon Seventh Day Baptists, however, to develop a strategy for the effective transferral of American effort and resources to other fields and programs. It has been suggested that the inner city may well be today's social and religious frontier in America, the point of America's most critical spiritual need, and the point toward which missionary efforts may

most effectively be directed. The Commission urges the Missionary Board to share its most radical thinking and planning in these matters with the people of the churches.

Ecumenical Conversations

There appears to be among Seventh Day Baptists simultaneous concern for the ultimate implications of the continued downward trend of Seventh Day Baptist membership, and for enlarging and strengthening the Seventh Day Baptist witness to the world and contribution to Christendom. A single, though daring, strategy for attacking both concerns is to unite forces with Christians of similar principles and practices. Other churches have been engaging in conversations exploring the possibilities of interdenominational co-operation and merger. The American Baptist Convention has created a committee of six "to enter into any kind of negotiations that might seem appropriate at this time with Seventh Day Baptists if they are at all interested." Of this invitation the General Secretary of the Convention writes, "It would be presumptuous on our part to assume that you would have any interest in these talks, but on the other hand you would never know that we are interested unless some communication passed between us." There are few precedents to guide Christians in such dialogues, the opportunities may be great, the challenges large and the risks many, but the Commission feels that the time has come to venture boldly into ecumenical conversations with faith in the truth of our own principles and trust in the integrity of our Christian brothers.

Racial Segregation

The Commission recommends that the following Statement of Policy be adopted:

The General Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in the years 1956, 1957, and 1958 has affirmed the conviction that Christian love transcends differences of race, color, or position in life; has expressed itself as in harmony with the Supreme Court decision con-

cerning race; has urged conduct in the spirit of Christ in the period of adjustment and planning; and has stated its belief that equality should extend to schools, housing, the ballot, and business and employment opportunities, and that this equality should be promoted by peaceful means.

Therefore, Seventh Day Baptists commit themselves to practice racial equality within their congregations as the only basis on which the church may offer moral advice to the state.

Statement of Belief

Commission recommended that we reaffirm our Statement of Belief together with the preamble, and went on to state:

However, since twenty-five years have elapsed following the adoption of the statement, without major alterations, and since there must be a continuous effort to clarify and communicate our faith in a changing world, we recommend that a permanent committee be established for the purpose of giving continuous study to our Statement of Belief, to consider proposed changes, and to make recommendations regarding changes according to established procedure. It also seems reasonable, especially considering the classic quality of these statements and the protection offered to individual conscience in the introductory paragraphs to the Articles of Belief, to expect candidates for the Seventh Day Baptist ministry to be prepared to acknowledge their validity. Therefore, we recommend that there be added to the present list of Conference requirements for accreditation the phrase that the candidate . . . "be in general harmony with the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief."

Conclusion

After making fifteen recommendations Commission wrote the following conclusion:

We are keenly aware of the personal inadequacies and limitations we have brought to our work as a Commission. We know that this report is imperfect, we suspect that the work of the boards

and agencies is imperfect, and we have been alerted to expect an imperfect Conference. However, we have also known the creative joy of committing ourselves freely to the responsibilities laid upon us and we covet for the Conference the discovery in its work of the very real and mysterious presence of our Heavenly Father that we have found in ours. In this mood, we urge the Conference to plunge into its discussions with the freedom of love, to keep Baptist principles and Christian convictions constantly in mind, and to avoid creating unnecessary committees.

In submitting this report to the General Conference, it is to be understood that the Commission is not prepared to go to the stake for every proposal and concept in these pages, but we are convinced that all these matters are of importance, some of them crucial, to Seventh Day Baptists in a time of great significance to the denomination and the world. This is no time to be timid or self-conscious. The Commission hopes that members of the General Conference will find it in their hearts to seize upon these issues with courage, eagerness and trust, joyously taking the risk of turning the days of the 1963 General Conference into days of decision and the materials of this report into an opportunity for discovering the will of God.

As President Parrish said in his report to the Commission, "If we intend to survive and continue as a denomination we must face the fact, and admit that at the present we are going backward in the United States. Too many do not want to acknowledge this!" He continued, however, "The future holds much promise for us, if we are willing to work . . . Let us all ask, 'Lord, what wilt Thou have ME to do?' and leave an open mind to receive the answer." The executive secretary put it pointedly in his report to the Commission: "The Conference of 1963 will be a memorable one as it stands — or fails to stand — firmly on the issues confronting it. If we conclude (this) Conference without taking significant action with regard to pressing . . . issues," wrote Harley Bond,

"we will have missed a golden opportunity, to stand up and be counted."

Commission members are: Melvin G. Nida, Chairman, Salem, W. Va.; Alberta D. Batson, Parkersburg, W. Va.; George E. Parrish, Battle Creek, Mich.; Wayne R. Rood, Berkeley, Calif.; C. Rex Burdick, Verona, N. Y.; Herbert L. Crouch, Milton, Wisconsin.

Deacon Harvey O. Van Horn

Harvey O. Van Horn, Sr., a deacon in the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, was born and died at Lost Creek. He was the son of Newton J. and Zeruah Randolph Van Horn. In 1894, he accepted Christ as his Savior and became a member of the church, which he loved and served through the remainder of his life.

He was united in marriage to Kathryn B. Stout, who survives. Also surviving are six of their seven children, Mrs. Milton (Mary) Van Horn, of Milton, Wis., having preceded him in death. There are three sons and three daughters: Edward of Clarksburg, Harvey O. Jr., of Morgantown, Lewis, of Charleston, W. Va.; Mrs. Robert (Leola) Bond, Middlebury Center, Pa., Mrs. Joseph (Lela) Gerstner, Weston, W. Va., and Miss Betty Van Horn, Lost Creek. There are 17 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A brother, W. Burl Van Horn, and a sister Mrs. Orpha Davis, both of Hamlin, W. Va., also survive.

His cheerful, optimistic faith, his love of the beauty of nature in his native hills, his loyalty to his Lord and the church were always an inspiration to those who knew him, especially in the last years of suffering and pain.

Funeral services were conducted in his home church by the Rev. Duane L. Davis, and burial was in the church cemetery.

— D. L. D.

Tract Society Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the American Sabbath Tract Society will be held at the Seventh Day Baptist Building in Plainfield, N. J., following the Board of Trustees meeting at 2 p.m., Sept. 15, 1963.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DODGE CENTER, MINN. — Each week the rostrum of the church is adorned with bouquets of flowers, donated by members of the Ladies Aid.

The Junior C. E. had a hay ride on the evening of August 4 starting at the home of Deacon and Mrs. Donald Payne. The young people held a business meeting and lunch in the church basement afterwards.

Mrs. Donald Payne, a delegate from the Ladies Aid, took a group of young people to Pre-Con, and Conference. The young people who attended were Phyllis and Miriam Payne, Lois Langworthy, Barth Crane, Steve Greene, and Sharon Austin. In addition, our church was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Payne, Walter Churchward, and Pastor Donald Richards.

Guests at the parsonage the week of Conference were Mrs. Edgar Wheeler and family of Ashaway, R. I. Mrs. Wheeler is the sister of Mrs. Richards. The Rev. Edgar Wheeler went to Fort Collins to attend Conference while the family remained here. The Ladies Aid met at the parsonage on the evening of August 14 when Mrs. Wheeler spoke of the work of the women's organization in her church and the program for the coming year was outlined.

Mary Thorngate led the Bible study Friday, August 16, in the absence of the pastor. The Youth Fellowship was in charge of the morning service at church August 17. Bill Bond was worship leader; Lorna Greene gave the announcements and called for the tithes and offerings; Barbara Greene sang a solo for the anthem; Bill Bonser gave the Scripture lesson; Barbara Greene, the prayer; and Barbara Bonser, the children's message. Talks on their experiences at Pre-Con were given by Phyllis and Miriam Payne, Lois Langworthy, and Barth Crane.

Christian Fellowship met Sunday evening, August 18, with Mr. and Mrs. Claston Bond.

A Meal of Sharing was served on the Sabbath of August 3 and another was planned for August 31. In the afternoon there were reports from those who attended Conference.

Rev. Earl Cruzan and a group of young

The Sabbath Recorder

people stopped in Dodge Center Monday evening, August 19, en route to their homes in Westerly and Plainfield. Mr. Cruzan is a former pastor of the Dodge Center church.

Promotion in the graded department of the Sabbath School has been set for the first Sabbath in October.

— Correspondent.

"The people of this pious community," says Samuel Butler in *The Way of All Flesh*, "would have been equally shocked to hear the Christian religion doubted or to see it practiced."

Accessions

Kansas City, Mo.

By Testimony:
Mrs. John A. Conrod
By Letter:
John A. Conrod

Marriages

Gilbert-Kenyon.—At the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Alfred, N. Y., Aug. 10, 1963, Charles Roger Gilbert, Hudson Falls, N. Y., son of Charles H. and Vida Woodford Gilbert, and Mary Louise Kenyon, Alfred, N. Y., daughter of Kenneth and Margaret Livermore Kenyon, were united in marriage. The Rev. Hurley S. Warren, pastor of the bride, and the Rev. James P. Kenyon, brother of the bride, officiated.

Pearson - Kenyon.—Thomas Karl Pearson, Janesville, Wis., and Barbara Jean Kenyon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kenyon, Milton, Wis., were married June 9, 1963, in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph, pastor of the church, officiated.

Obituaries

Coon.—Fayette Burdick, son of Edward and Annis Burdick Coon, was born Jan. 3, 1876, at Albion, Wis., and died in Janesville, Wis., June 12, 1963.

He attended Albion Academy, Milton Junction High School, and Milton College. On October 14, 1901 he was married to Berta Hull.

High school teaching and administration was Fay Coon's profession for forty years in Wisconsin. During his career he served as a leader of youth in 4H, Boy Scouting, and church. At one time he was chairman of the Milwaukee City Beautification Commission and was also

vice-president of the Milwaukee Horticultural Society.

As a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, Fay Coon was faithful and devoted to its program and activities.

Surviving are his wife, Berta; a son, Garrelt Coon, Burbank, Calif.; two daughters, Margaret Coon of Milton and Genevieve Jensen, West Allis, Wis.; five granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church June 14, 1963, the Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph officiating. Interment was in the Milton Cemetery. — E.F.R.

Crandall.—Corabell, daughter of W. H. and Rhoda Crandall, was born at Dodge Center, Minn., and died in Milton, Wis., June 13, 1963.

On May 14, 1907, she was married to Fred Crandall at Dodge Center. They lived most of their married lives in Milton, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Crandall was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Surviving her are her husband, Fred; three daughters: Cleone Van Horn, Milton; Gwendolyn Loofboro, Milwaukee; and Wanda Hansen, Milton Junction. There are nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church by the Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph. Interment was in the Milton Cemetery. — E.F.R.

Nelson.—Hannah, daughter of N. P. and Caroline Olson Nelson, was born October 17, 1876, at Dell Rapids, South Dakota, and died July 4, 1963, in the Edgerton, Wis., community hospital.

Baptised in the Sioux River by the Rev. John Hoffman, Hannah affiliated with the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church in the year 1908 and was a faithful and beloved member of the church until her passing.

Surviving her are two sisters, Mrs. R. V. Hurley, Madison, Wis.; and Mrs. L. C. Frederick, Milton; three brothers, Charles and Julius of Milton, and Martin of Lima Center, Wis.

Funeral services were conducted in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, June 6, 1963, the Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph officiating. Interment was in the Milton Cemetery. — E.F.R.

Van Horn.—Harvey O. Sr., was born at Lost Creek, W. Va., Jan. 29, 1880, and died at Lost Creek, W. Va., July 22, 1963. See extended obituary elsewhere.

Wanted—Caretaker, to care for and rent apartments in Daytona Beach, Florida. Applicant must be willing to spend twelve months a year in Florida. Must be strong enough to do housecleaning. Prefer Seventh Day Baptist. Give age, family statistics, and financial reference in first letter. Write to Winfield W. F. Randolph, Adams Center, N. Y.



MOUNTAIN MEDITATION

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. Psalm 90: 1, 2.