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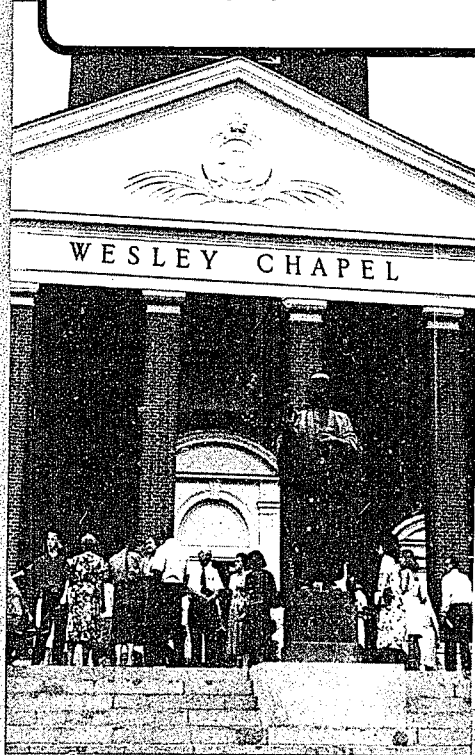
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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

October 1995

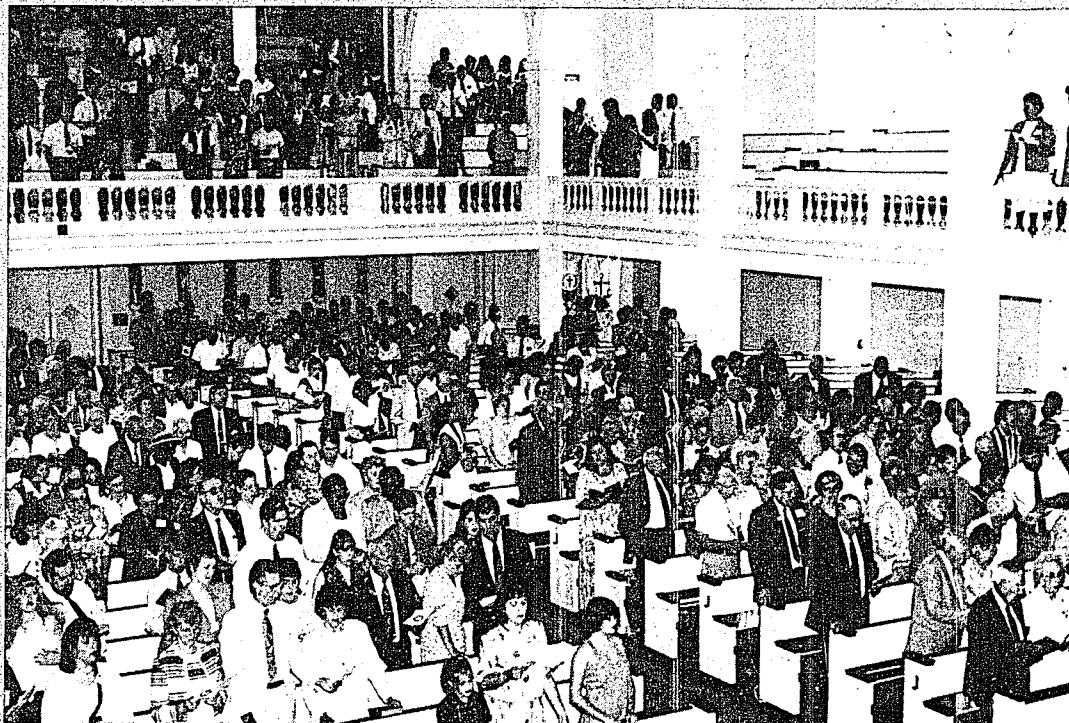
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Worship and work
in wild,
wonderful
West Virginia

1995 General Conference



Former editor and pastor to celebrate 90th birthday

Leon Maltby, former editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* and the oldest living Seventh Day Baptist minister, will be 90 years old on November 26, 1995.

His children and grandchildren are inviting all of his friends to join in honoring him. An informal reception will be held at 4:00 p.m. on November 25 at the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church.

It would be meaningful to Leon to receive your individual or group greetings in the form of cards or videotaped messages with your anecdotal memories and/or pictures. Please send your birthday greetings by October 20th to any one of the following addresses:

Ronald Maltby 263 N. Jackson N. Plainfield, NJ 07060 (908) 756-3068	Lucille Jennings 7305 Santa Barbara Carlsbad, CA 92009 (619) 431-6801	Allan Maltby 36 Stockton Dr. Marlboro, NJ 07746 (908) 972-8358
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Annual Meeting Notice Board of Christian Education

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Van Horn Building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, N.Y., on Sunday, October 22, 1995, at 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the 1994 Annual Report of the Board of Directors, to elect members of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of Seventh Day Baptist churches entitled to representation in the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference-USA & Canada are members of the Corporation. Accredited delegates attending the 1995 General Conference sessions in Buckhannon, W.Va., are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

The Sabbath Recorder



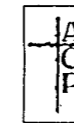
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Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

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Calvin P. Babcock, Ernest K. Bee Jr., Charlotte Chroniger, John M. Peil, Rodney L. Henry, G. Kirk Looper, RuthAnne Peil, Don A. Sanford.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- the saving love of Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711



Leading us prayerfully through the temple was Mayola Warner.



President-elect Owen Probasco (left) watches as Don Graffius joyfully serves coffee to Marjorie Jacob.



Gary Cox guided the Conference choir to amazing musical heights. The Appalachian Brass Quintet joined us on Sabbath.

"Ministry" happened in Buckhannon

by Pastor Jeanne Yurke

The 1995 Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in Buckhannon, W.Va., was a wonderful week in the Lord. In fact, it was the best General Conference I have ever attended!

I've been trying to figure out exactly what it was that made this one so spectacular. Could it have been the lack of Conference floor fights during business sessions? The sense of unity was truly remarkable, but we usually leave as friends even after disagreements.

Was it the outstanding lineup of worship leaders, preachers, seminar speakers, and Bible teachers? That certainly was a blessing, but we've had good people and good programs before.

Was it the hospitality of the hard-working Host Committee and this year's presidential family?

Again, their graciousness was delightful, but others have had good teamwork, too.

If I were to boil it down to one thing, I would have to call it "ministry."

At so many other General Conference sessions, I have agonized over the "walking wounded" among us and wished that somehow we could reach out to one another with Christ's restoring touch. *This* year that happened in tremendous ways!

More people seemed open to sharing their pain in order to get some relief. More people seemed willing to listen, to pray, and to seek divine intervention on behalf of their Christian brothers and sisters.

To me it was as if a huge logjam had finally been pushed out of the way so that God's mighty waters could flow freely. Instead of talking

about a theme—as wonderful a theme as it could have been at the time—we put the theme into practice. We *participated* in joyful service!

As we launch into yet another program year, I hope that our church can learn from this year's General Conference. Yes, we should conduct our business efficiently. Yes, we should do our best in our various duties. Yes, we should be gracious and hospitable.

Most of all, we should be sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit and make ourselves available in joyful service. We need to minister to one another, trusting the Lord to pour out His blessing, healing, and great love. *SR*

From "The Mustard Seed," newsletter of the Raritan Valley (N.J.) Seventh Day Baptist Church.



President Myrna Cox (center) asked her sons and their wives to help lead the opening worship service on Sunday night.



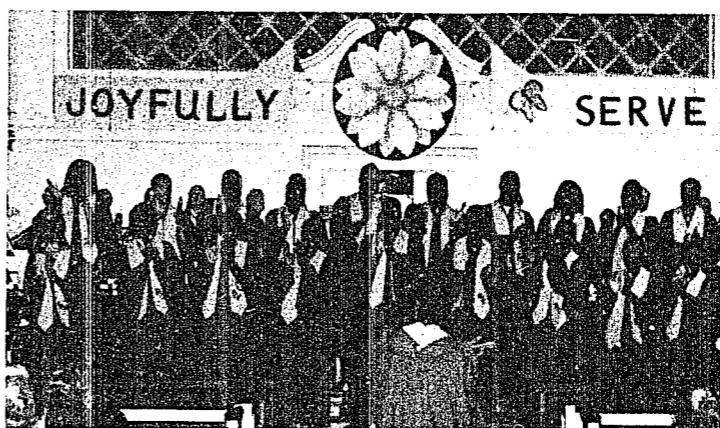
Presiding under the watchful eye of Jim Skaggs, parliamentarian.



Past Robe recipients: Madeline Filtz Randolph, Mabel Cruzan, Audrey Fuller, Yvonne Stephan (committee member), Doris Fetherston, Mae Bottoms, and Betty Pearson.



Vicki Burdick shared many resources during her Sabbath School seminar.



Our Toronto, Ontario, church was well represented by their Voices of Praise choir. The group livened up the chapel on Friday evening and Sabbath afternoon.



Blending harmoniously were Steve, Larry, and Scott Graffius.

Conference highlights...

Mrs. Myrna Cox presides over the 1995 Conference, with the theme, "Joyfully Serve..."

• Conference offering (including local churches reporting) exceeded \$18,800.

Statistics

- 772 registered guests
- 900+ at worship on Sabbath
- 339 delegates representing 59 churches
- 62 pastors and seminary students
- 1 fraternal delegate/12 official visitors
- 104 enrolled in Junior Conference
- 54 attended Youth Pre-Con, directed by Amanda and Nelson Snyder, with five staff
- 39 were at Young Adult Pre-Con, directed by Jim and Dee Galanaugh, with five staff
- Women's Love Gift was more than \$3,400.

Elections

- President 1995-96: Rev. John Peil
- President-elect: Owen Probasco
- General Council: Rev. Leon Lawton
- Council on Ministry: Rev. Edgar Wheeler, Norman Burdick
- Faith and Order: Phil Bond, Alan Crouch
- Committee on Support and Retirement: Eric Rudert, chair
- Tract and Communication Council: Rev. Andrew Samuels, James Skaggs
- Memorial Fund trustees: Donald Graffius,

cont. next page

Coffee house/talent show a joyful success!

by Arlene Bee

(Reprinted from the *Conference Crier*.)

They didn't take VISA or even the Macedonian Express Card at the "Cafe Y-A" on Tuesday night. Instead, the spirit-filled young adults "joyfully served" an enthusiastic, standing-room-only crowd in the upper rooms at Benedum Center.

The finger-snapping, hand-clapping audience was treated to gourmet coffees, cappuccino, and other delicious treats, as well as poetry recitations (if you can call "I love you, Rip, I love you, Pop; I love you more than pigs love slop," poetry!), songs of praise and songs of mirth, and even a conga-line or two.

The idea for the event originated with Suzannah Peil Taylor and Lara Bates, officers of the Young Adult Committee of the Board of Christian Education. But the credit for cooking up the final product re-



**The spirit-filled
young adults
"joyfully served"
an enthusiastic,
standing-room-only
crowd.**

ally belongs to Heather Mackintosh and Kory Geske, according to Bates.

With the help of gracious waitresses Erin Burdick, Tammy Miller, Tina Pierce, and Chrystal Weber, the group served 12 bags of coffee, seven gallons of milk, four large containers of chocolate syrup, and 14 cans of whipped cream. Even low-octane java was available for the late-night decaf set.

Special entertainment for the evening included poet laureate of barnyard lyrics, Brian Barber; impromptu *Stained Glass* performances by Erik Henry and Mandy Lamoreaux; a moving testimony poem, "Judgment," by Pastor Barry Baugh; and plenty of good foot-stomping rhythms by Tom Goodson, Pastors David Taylor and David Thorngate, and others.

With such success, Lara Bates predicts an encore in the wings for next year. *SR*

Faithful saints

by Pastor Gordon Lawton (from the *Conference Crier*)

I can't tell you when it began. It may have been when I became a pastor or when I turned 30. Maybe it was when my children began going to school.

I can tell you that in the last few years, the liturgy of our opening session of General Conference business has become more than procedural obligation.

Not only is the Obituary Coordinator's report of interest, it tells of friends in our SDB family. This year I felt as though I wanted to stand and say, "I knew that saint!" "We worked together." "He was a friend." "She was a joy as a deaconess." "I am better because of them."

As the short paragraphs were read, I filled in details of how these people had touched my life.

Thank you, Jean Jorgensen, for your ministry to us from western Kansas. Thank you, Leland Bond, for your dignified reading of these names and details.

Thank you, Dad (Leon Lawton), for leading us in prayer. Thank you, Lord, for all the faithful saints in your SDB vineyard.

Those whose names were read have graduated to the presence of the Lord. Their gain is our loss.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain.

*But we shall still be joined in heart
and hope to meet again.*

Obituaries for the following were read: Ferieda Burdick, Stephen Clapper, Burton Crandall, Eleanor Crandall, H. Earl DeLand, Ted Hibbard, Loren Osborn, Paul Osborn, Albourne Peat, Audrey Stephan, and Alton Wheeler. *SR*



The pastors met to discuss a new national prayer chain.



Everyone enjoyed another great children's presentation.

- Stanley Allen, Owen Probasco
- Christian Social Action Committee: Rev. Melvin Nida, Rev. Mynor Soper, Nellie Jo Brissey, Gretchen Zwiebel
- Coordinator of Obituaries: Jean Jorgensen
- Recording secretaries: Camille Henry (business), Janet Butler (program)
- Denominational treasurer: Calvin Babcock

Business action

- The approved 1996 budget of \$804,535 calls for \$352,192 to come from current giving, an increase of 1.6% over 1995.
- Bylaw change concerning the procedure for any amendment to the Statement of Belief, introduced last year, passed.
- The Foothill Community Church of Montrose,

Calif., is accepted as a candidate for SDB church membership.

- After serving as Acting Executive Secretary for four years, Calvin Babcock is named Executive Secretary.
- New guidelines approved for pastoral accreditation. Debate centered on wording of a candidate's view toward the SDB Statement of Belief. Delegates decided that the candidate's beliefs be found "...in accord with the beliefs expressed in the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief."

Program memories

- Moving testimony of God's healing touch by Jackie Fongh of Plainfield, N.J.
- 22 Summer Christian Service Corps volun-

teers shared testimonies from their physically and spiritually challenging projects

- Pastors vs. Youth basketball game another sweaty nail-biter: Pastors win 38-37.
- The MUSIC!! Thank you, Gary Cox and choir, and all the talented SDB musicians!

Awards and recognitions

- Accreditation of Matthew Olson, Berlin, N.Y.
- Women's Board Robe of Achievement: Ethel Wheeler, Riverside, Calif.
- Sabbath School Teacher of the Year: Madeline Fitz Randolph, Boulder, Colo.
- Excellent job of local public relations (papers, radio, television) brought many visitors. Thank you Host Committee—what a wild, wonderful Conference!!

NEXT YEAR:

St. Martin's College
Lacey, Washington
August 4-10, 1996
President: John Peil
Host Committee Chairs:
David and Doreen Davis

**Come to the great
Pacific Northwest!**

Revs revived by majestic music

by S. Kenneth Davis

by Trevah R. Sutton

As always, the greatest part of Conference was the inspirational worship punctuated by what I honestly believe to be the greatest non-professional, God-honoring music that was ever performed.

Various reasons have been propounded for the excellence in music our Conferences enjoy, such as so many of us descended from the Welch who are known for their music. But my own theory is that people who are truly free, as Christ intended them to be free, and truly committed to our Lord, as Christ intended for them to be, have a song in their hearts that transcends the boundaries of earth. *SR*

One evening at the close of the Conference day we were asked to remain seated as our organist, Barbara Saunders, played the postlude. She brought out the many qualities of the pipe organ, building up to a grand full organ of harmonious sound.

At the close, Conference burst out in applause. It was a great experience. The youth, bless them, went wild in cheers, as they would with a touchdown for their team. Many of them may never had heard such a pipe organ. Perhaps the Lord, through the organ with a skilled organist, made a "touch-down" in their lives. *SR*



New President John Peil presents his Conference theme, "At the Crossroads."



Rod Henry and Victor Burdick take on the roles of first century pilgrims.



Ben Calhoun, surrounded by big burly pastors, shoots for the hoop.



Pastor Chuck Graffius reviewed the Senior Saints' many accomplishments since last year's Conference.

Flowers, and more flowers!

Many Seventh Day Baptists who attended this year's General Conference took to heart and put into practice our Conference theme. You didn't have to look far to find examples of *Joyful Service*.

One example of this joyful service was evident to everyone who entered the chapel—a beautiful floral display of the Conference theme, "Joyfully Serve."

The words of the theme were fea-

tured on a bed of flowers on the back wall of the platform, one word on each side of the organ at the center of the stage. At the center was a large (four-foot tall) daisy created from 10,080 white and yellow chrysanthemums.

This floral work of art was dedicated as a service of love to all Conference attendees by Marietta Sutton of Blountville, Tenn.

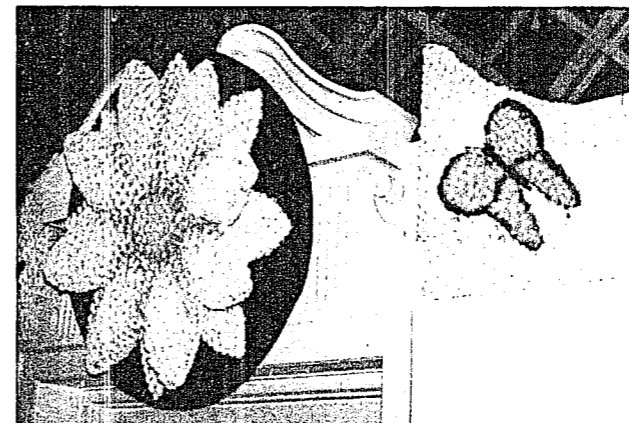
Marietta heard that daisies are a

favorite flower of President Myrna Cox.

Marietta purchased the flowers in Tennessee and brought them to Buckhannon. She and her assistant, Lela Blivens, camped out in a room in Kresge Hall behind the chapel, protecting the flowers and assembling the display. They worked on the project from 2 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Sunday.

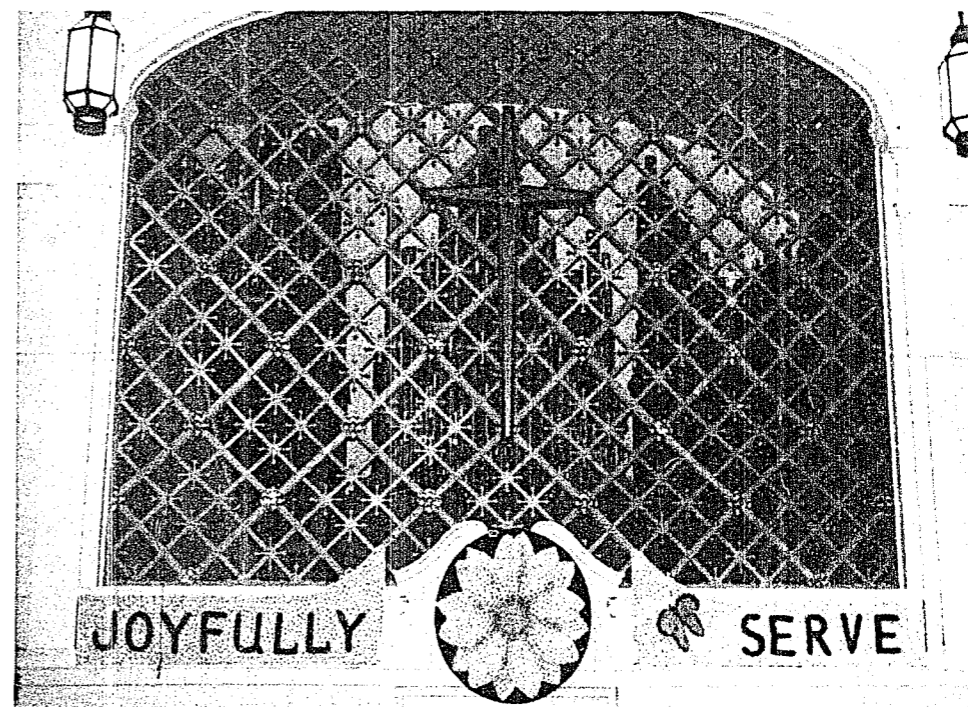
Thank you, Marietta, for sharing your talents with all of us.

Marietta had help in designing the framework for her floral display. "Thanks" to George Bottoms, who took time out after leaving for a Canadian fishing trip to work out a bill of materials and phoned Marietta and Ed to give them the list. And special thanks to Beth and Milburn Jones (Senior Saints), who made a trip to Blountville to build the frame. *SR*



A lovely 3-D daisy and butterfly graced the front of Wesley Chapel.

(Reprinted from the *Conference Crier*.)



More than 10,000 flowers stayed fresh and beautiful while lifting up our 1995 Conference theme. Thank you, Marietta Sutton!



Women serve joyfully at Conference

"And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8 NASB).

How exciting it was to travel to wild, wonderful West Virginia for General Conference meetings in Buckhannon. President Myrna Cox and her team had a tremendous week planned for us, and we were not disappointed.

Myrna was the sixth woman to serve as Conference president, following Doris Fetherston, Dorothy Parrott, Gerry Van Dyke, Luan Ellis, and Althea Rood. Her gentle, humble spirit displayed the influence of Christ in her life—thank you, Myrna, for serving the Lord so joyfully!

Our women had numerous opportunities to serve the Lord throughout the week. About 40

please mail them to her at 2991 Highway 126, Blountville, TN 37617.

Yvonne Stephan, representing the Robe of Achievement Committee, thanked the women for all their nominations and asked them to continue sending in names for next year. Ruth

then encouraged us to take a turn serving at the SCSC Craft Table which was located in the cafeteria. (Thanks to all of you who served—craft sales resulted in \$855 for the SCSC program!)

Women's Board officers were elected as follows:

*President—Donna Bond
Vice President—Ruth Probasco
Secretary—Tanya Miller*



SCSC worker Kristin Rood shared her testimony at the banquet while the ladies enjoyed dessert. In the foreground (l. to r.): Ruth Probasco, Lettie Bond, and Jan Graffius.

Robe of Achievement Committee—

*Elizabeth Bidwell, Elsa Scull,
Yvonne Stephan*

Tuition Fund Committee—Marie

Davis, Sharon Davis

SCSC Historian—Marietta Sutton.

The proposed 1996 budget was discussed. We noted our SCSC expenses for 1995:

Travel	\$13,166.50
Food	1,300.00
Phone, postage, etc.	211.96
Evaluation	776.40
Total	\$15,404.86

The following budget was approved:

SCSC	\$16,400
Tuition Fund	200
Conference Nursery	600
NABWU	500
Administration/Miscellaneous	200
Women's Banquet	150
President's Travel	100
Total	\$18,150

A highlight for almost 200 women was the Women's Banquet on Wednesday evening. As we gathered in the large hall, we discovered at each place setting a clothespin doll made by the Lost Creek, W.Va., women. Each doll had a tag

*Treasurer—Marie Davis
Sabbath Recorder Women's Page editor—Charlotte Chroniger
Newsletter editors—Mary Jane McPherson, Pat Cruzan
Pen 'n' Prayer Chairman—Yvonne Stephan
SCSC Committee—Jan Bond, Ruth Probasco, Charlotte Chroniger, Dodi Moncrief, Donna Bond
SCSC Fund Raising—Mary Jane McPherson, Charlotte Chroniger*

women attended the Women's Board business luncheon on Tuesday. Vice President Ruth Probasco led the meeting.

Marietta Sutton told us about her work on preparing Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) Historical Scrapbooks. She is collecting pictures and biographical information on the 400 former SCSC workers. If you have any pictures or news Marietta could use,

with her name, the country she represented, and pertinent facts about that economy—a great prayer reminder. Thank you, Lost Creek! Who will bless us with their table favors for next year's banquet?

Following the dinner, Kristen Rood, Tim Rood, and Jeff Hazen (SCSC Team New Song, Riverside,

Calif.), sang "Righteous One," and Kristen shared her testimony.

Our featured speaker—Barbara Barber of the Westerly, R.I., SDB Church—entitled her talk, "And on the Eighth Day God Created Quilts." She shared the techniques and story behind each of her projects, along with the Bible verse stitched on each quilt.

Barbara is truly a master quilter, and her lovely creations drew many "oohs and ahhs" from the women in attendance. Thank you, Barbara, for sharing your talents with us! What a blessing your program was!

Thirty-five women participated in the Women's Interest Committee with Lettie Bond as chairman and Margaret Taylor as secretary. The committee made several recommendations:

1) that SCSC, Robe of Achievement, Women's Page, craft sale at Conference, nursery care at Conference, and the tuition fund be continued.

2) that the Women's Board evaluate the Pen 'n' Prayer project to see if it should be continued.

3) that Mary Jane McPherson and Pat Cruzan be commended for their excellent work with the newsletter.

4) that the Women's Page and newsletter information be incorporated into the *Sabbath Recorder* page.

The committee also approved the distribution for the Love Gift, which totaled \$3,430.05. The money will be divided as follows: Bill and Shelley Shobe—25%; SCSC—15%; shipping of sewing supplies for Zambia and Jamaica—10% each; money for pastors' travel and communications for Indonesia, Philippines, and Jamaica—10%; women delegates travel for 1997 World Federation—20%; Stained Glass—2.5%; Voices of Praise—2.5%; reproduction of pictures for SCSC History Book—5%.

On Sabbath afternoon, we sat on the edge of our seats as Yvonne Stephan gave clues about the newest Robe of Achievement recipient. We were thrilled to hear that Ethel Wheeler of Riverside was selected as the 1995 recipient. Congratulations, Ethel, and thank you for the many ways you have joyfully served the Lord and His people throughout the years.

What a week it was! It was wonderful to see so many women involved in the many aspects of Conference—the music, the Children's Associated Conferences, the business sessions, the many programs and worship services.

May all of our efforts be pleasing to the Lord. And as we get involved in our fall ministries, may all of us joyfully serve the Lord in a deeper way. *SR*



Barbara Barber was the featured speaker...



...while her works of art (quilts) were unveiled to the delight of the banquetgoers.



Talk, turkey, and tenderness shared at the well-attended banquet on Wednesday night.

Women wowed by quilts

by Muriel Osborn and Marilyn Davis

Two hundred beautifully attired ladies greeting each other at the Conference Center Social Hall indicated that the Women's Banquet time had arrived.

We enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings while renewing friendships and getting acquainted with new friends.

"A stitch in time saves nine," but thousands of stitches and small pieces of cloth turn into a work of material art. Barbara Barber, a member of the Westerly, R.I., church presented a fascinating "show and tell" program with the theme, "And on the Eighth Day God Created Quilts."

With the aid of her able assistants, we viewed a panorama of gorgeous creative craftsmanship as Barbara related the techniques and story behind each masterpiece.

Barbara was taught to sew at an early age by her grandmother and mother. This avocation became her vocation the year the school bus picked up her youngest child for kindergarten.

Now a master teacher of quilting, she travels extensively in New

England teaching and putting on shows. As a "quilter" (as they say in New England), her works have

given to the Lord, who has given her the ability to sew, speak, and write.

We viewed a panorama of gorgeous creative craftsmanship as Barbara related the techniques and story behind each masterpiece.

earned national prizes. Barbara's quilts are on loan and are shown around the world.

On the back of each quilt is the legend telling the hours of labor, quilt's name, and other pertinent information. Every quilt has a scriptural background, and the Bible verse is listed. When Barbara speaks, the glory of her work is

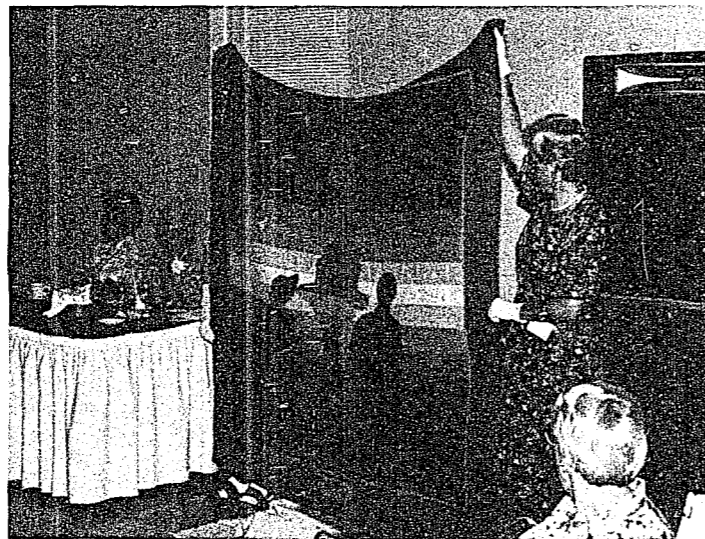
Our thanks to Barbara for sharing with us. We applaud the Women's Board committee who arranged for this lovely affair. *SR*
(Reprinted from the Crier)



Barbara Barber (right) listens to Mabel Cruzan and Myrna Cox at the head banquet table.



"Balie Anne" is a portrayal of Barbara's (then) six-month old granddaughter.



"Hope" represented Rhode Island in the Statue of Liberty centennial contest. The quilt was shown internationally.

Taking aim on your life

Two views of Young Adult Pre-Con

by Leeann Rogers

As if a summer full of fun, laughter, and friendship wasn't enough! Thirty-nine young adults converged on the campus of Salem-Teikyo University to attend Young Adult Pre-Con under the direction of Pastor Jim and Dee Galanaugh.

Our Pre-Con was made interesting not only by the Bible studies and going through the seven steps to spiritual freedom, but also by the fact that some of the Japanese students at the university became interested in what was going on. What a way to witness!

We'll be able to tell our grandchildren that "We walked five miles to get from the dormitory to the cafeteria when we were in Pre-Con!" Since most of us got our exercise walking up and down the hill, recreation was a breeze. Wallyball and basketball were the main attractions, and a little friendly com-

petition made it all the better.

One of the most memorable aspects of Young Adult Pre-Con this year was the time we spent for evening praise and worship. Friday evening's communion service was a special time for prayer. We lifted our hands, hearts, and souls to the Lord, and unbelievable things happened. The Holy Spirit was definitely in the Brewster All Faith's Chapel that evening.

We also put more credibility to the statement that Seventh Day Baptists can sing! Choruses such as "Mighty God," "Awesome God," "Mighty Warrior," and "Our God Reigns" reverberated off the walls and brought Japanese students in from outside. Some of us had a chance to speak with them and try to explain what it was that we were doing. It opened our eyes to a whole new aspect of witnessing.

Some of our members had never been to a Pre-Con before. They testified that they were having an awesome experience and that they would be back again.

We are now more conscious of our actions, and striving to make sure that the life of each person we contact is influenced in a positive way because of the encounter.

We want to continue the spiritual high that we experience at Conference throughout the year. We understand that we will have valleys amidst our mountain peaks, but we are encouraged because others are praying for us.

Following the seven steps to spiritual freedom has made us new and better people in Christ and has freed us from our demons. Taking Aim on Your Life is a serious thing, and we can all benefit from it. *SR*
(Reprinted from the Crier.)

by Andrew J. Camenga

A spirit of worship and praise prevailed at Young Adult Pre-Con '95 as 39 young adults were encouraged to "take aim on their lives." This became clearer each day as the worship and praise times allowed all of us to realize that God truly dwells with us.

Recreation, classes, meals, free time, and fellowship helped make this Pre-Con exciting and uplifting.

God used many things to bring the group together in its worship of Him. One of those was the Bible study of Habakkuk. As Pastors Harold King and Ken Chroniger brought us through the book, we saw firsthand the struggle the author faced.

Yet, even in the face of utter destruction, Habakkuk arrived at complete trust in God: "Though the fig trees do not blossom, nor fruit

be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17-18 RSV).

This picture of complete trust in God was left in our minds as the directors, Pastor Jim and Dee Galanaugh, introduced the major theme, "Taking Aim on Your Life." We explored this theme by examining motivating factors in our lives, then recognizing areas where we had allowed sin and Satan to influence us.

The high point of the lessons came as we worked through the booklet, *Steps to Freedom in Christ* by Dr. Neil T. Anderson. It outlines an approach to freedom in Christ that allows a systematic examina-

tion of one's life. It further provides the guidance and encouragement needed to break the strong influence of sin.

It was this outline that formed the basic idea for the Young Adult Pre-Con vespers service at Conference. The program was planned and organized at Pre-Con by several volunteers and demonstrated the steps to freedom.

Praise and class times gave way to basketball, swimming, wallyball, and the long hike to the dorm. These times of friendly competition added tremendously to the Pre-Con experience. The free times allowed for talk, rest, prayer, games, and catching up with friends.

Young Adult Pre-Con was a well-balanced time that allowed us all to grow closer to God and each other. *SR*



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship October 1995

SDBYF of USA and Canada officers for 1995-1996

President

Jeremiah Moore

Jeremiah, a member of the Denver, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church, moved to the Seattle, Wash., area during the past year. He is now active in the Seattle church's Youth Fellowship.

Jeremiah has attended Association camps and is a senior at Isaquah (Wash.) High School, where he is active in the Art Club. He designed the school logo for Lutheran High School in Denver. Jeremiah is a cartoonist, soccer player, and has a black belt in tae-kwon-do.

Vice-President

Sarah Fernyhough

Sarah is active in the Youth Fellowship of her home church, Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist. General Conference in 1996 will be her first, though she has attended Pacific Pines Association Camp.

Sarah is a ninth grader at Meridian Junior High School in Kent, Wash., where she participates in band (trumpet), juggling club, photography club, and volleyball.

Secretary

Heather Ecklund

Heather is a member of the Seattle Area SDB Youth Fellowship, where she has participated in Youth Sabbath. She attends Tacoma Junior High School, ac-

tive in the orchestra and steel-drum band.

Treasurer

Steven Pegg

Steven is a ninth grader at Kentview Christian School and a member of the Seattle Area SDB Church. He is active in his church's Youth Fellowship and

has participated in Youth Sabbath. His first General Conference will be next year in Olympia, Wash. In school, Steven is a member of the Clown Ministries.

Advisor

Philip L. Conrod

Youth Advisor, Seattle Area SDB Church.

Youth Pre-Con presents Monday evening vespers

"We love to see and hear our young people perform!"

President Myrna Cox made this statement following a blessing of special music presented on the Conference floor by Alice, Anna,

among our young people." It was especially heartening to see so many youth using their God-given talents to serve Him *Joyfully* and to bless all of us who were privileged to share in that praise.

"We love to see and hear our young people perform!"

—President Myrna Cox

and Rachel Parker of Denver, Colo. I'm sure Myrna spoke for all of us. And this was especially true as we were inspired and uplifted by Monday evening vespers presented by the Youth Pre-Con.

A comment heard following the vesper service was, "I didn't know we had so much musical talent

The Youth Pre-Con Choir was directed by Amanda Snyder, accompanied by Charlotte Chroniger on the piano and Steve Graffius, John Benjamin Peil, and Jeff Rood on guitars. Special selections were presented for praise by Anna Parker (solo); Amanda Heymach and Jeff Hazen (duet); Jennifer

Pre-Con vespers, cont.

Martin, Marcy Payne, Whitney Rogers, Marris Van Horn, and Jeff Hazen (ensemble); and Keith James (keyboard). Prayers and selections from God's Word were shared by Debbie Moncrief, Betsy Boyd, Lara Jo Packard, Abbie Vaught, Greg Winborne, and John Mark Camenga.

We praise God and thank our youth for sharing their time and talents in leading us in praise and worship. A special thanks goes to their director, Amanda Snyder.

(Reprinted from the Crier.)

Youth banquet

by John Mark Camenga and Jeff Hazen

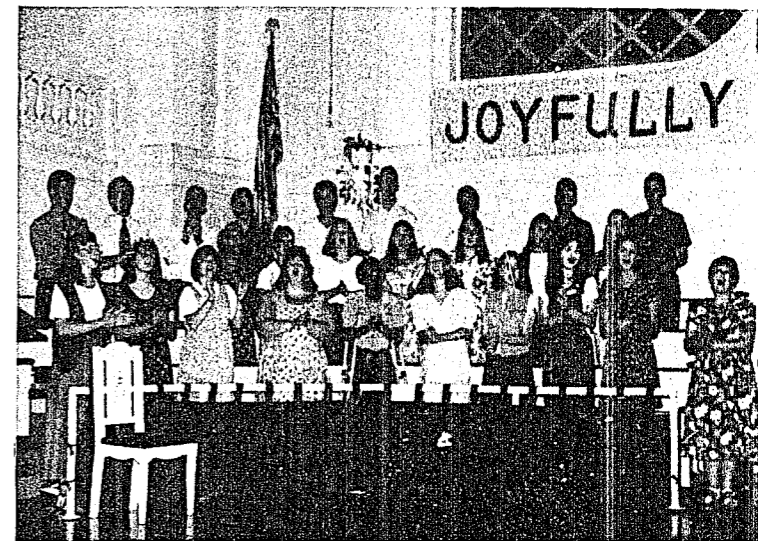
The most anticipated youth activity of Conference week occurred Thursday evening: the Youth Banquet. From the moment the youth stepped into the piano music-filled banquet hall, visions of cream puffs danced in their heads.

Needless to say, the hall was beautiful, and everyone was dressed in their finest. After John Mark's stunning invocation, the "banqueteers" indulged themselves in the sweetest strawberries, the most luscious lasagna, and the coldest coffee we've ever tasted.

Entertainment was provided first by Whitney Rogers, Jennifer Martin, and Brett Green, who performed *El Shaddai* with voice and piano. Later, the brother/sister duo of John Mark Camenga and Grace Crouch sang, "Is It I, Lord?" while accompanied by Linda Camenga.

Pastor Chuck Graffius intrigued us all with his speech on "Genetic Engineering" (ask one of the youth). The dinner was closed with prayer led by Steve Graffius. We all left the banquet satisfied from good food, good fellowship, and tons of pictures.

(Reprinted from the Crier.)



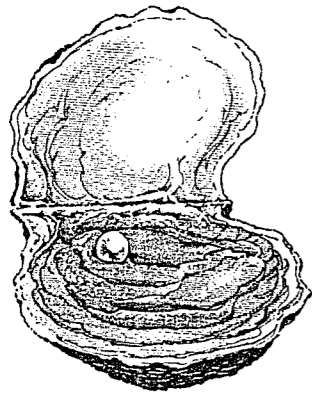
Part of the Youth Pre-Con leading out at vespers.



A youth choral ensemble (left to right): Marris Van Horn, Whitney Rogers, Jeff Hazen, Marcy Payne, and Jennifer Martin.



Over 125 youth (a new record?) enjoyed the banquet.



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

The kinship of history

Remembering the lessons of history is incumbent upon the people of God. Unfortunate, indeed, is that nation or people or person without the memories of the great blessings of Providence, never knowing the hand of God in history.

And blasphemous are those who would rewrite history to exclude God's guidance and watch care.

The faithful curator of our Historical Society for many years, Evalois St. John, convinced the historian of another denomination that he was wrong in taking Seventh Day Baptist heritage to apply to his Sabbathkeeping group. He replied, "Well, I still like the way I have written it, so I don't think I'll change it."

This is not an isolated case. We who, from the 17th century, have been God's witness to the validity of the fourth commandment, need to be informed enough to keep the truth alive and well and burning bright.

Perhaps it's because we have such an illustrious history that it is easier for us to seek to be completely honest. It is more than of passing interest that those of other denominations seeking historical accuracy use our Historical Society library as a resource. A recent doctoral thesis by an Adventist historian documents the influence of SDBs as the inspiration for Ellen G. White's "visions" concerning the Sabbath. If non-Seventh Day Baptists are that interested in SDB history and our passion for the truth, surely Seventh Day Baptists ought to be well informed.

We must never be too ready to quit the past. Foundations have been laid for us. Someone has observed, "The greatest molders of men, the greatest teachers of the world, are not any of them above ground." It's a sobering thought, whether literally true or not. It

takes the perspective of history to determine greatness. At least this is an acknowledgment of our debt to the past.

Beloved, our past—the history of Seventh Day Baptists since the 17th century—is a veritable gold mine. And I might add that our historian, Don Sanford, is a great miner—a "major miner."

Do you know what the definition of a historian is? "A prophet looking backwards." Now that's not an oxymoron! A prophet is not a fortune teller. He is "one who speaks for God." Anyone who does not see the hand of God in history is hardly worthy of such a title.

Another quote: "We could better afford to throw all our gold into the sea than to lose our past, and the past of the divinely led nations among whom God has been so vividly working." We had better remember all the way the Lord has led us—remember it because it has made us what we are; and remember it because God's footprints are visible upon it.

The great, gracious God who created us, has created life as a continuity. The past, the present, and the future flow into each other. One of the best ways to experience God today, one of the best ways to sense who you are and where you are going, is to be aware of how God has been present to you in your past.

Your Historical Society was created by an act of Conference primarily for the preservation of the documents, writings, records, etc. of our people, our churches, our boards and agencies. That sounds simple enough on the surface, but it involves a great deal.

In the first place, it does no good to have any amount of information if you can't retrieve it when you want it. So everything has to be filed and cross-referenced by

cont. on page 26

One of the major emphases in this new Conference year as announced by our president, John Peil, involves our kinship as a people. This kinship is not limited to genealogical relationship, but involves our heritage as a people and the sense of history which binds us together as a family of God.

Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, president of the Historical Society, shared some of this kinship in his Conference presentation. This is not just a "pearl from the past"; it is the whole "necklace" which adorns those who choose to wear it. A condensation of that talk follows.

In Joshua 4, Joshua ordered one man from each tribe to carry a large stone from the bed of the Jordan River to the shore, where he piled them up and instructed:

"When your children ask, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

That was to be passed on to the children, not history buffs. It wasn't "laying a trip" on them. It wasn't making them memorize dates. It was making them proud that God was their God and that they were His people. It gave them a sense of being part of God's plan for the ages.

SCSC teams "endure" through summer

by Erin Burdick

What do you get when you throw 22 young adults, four forever young ones, two of the best cooks north of Antarctica, and a load of puppets together in the wilds of New Jersey? A time of spiritual growth and healing, rocking praise, and a unified "Team Endurance."

Nine Summer Christian Service Corps teams served on projects in a variety of ways, covering the nation from "Cali to Rhodi." With hearts for the Lord, these fearless souls counseled at camps, did recreation at VBS, and painted lots of walls.

We learned puppet and balloon animal ministries at this year's training and used them successfully throughout the summer. Hundreds of shiny, multi-colored poodles were given to kids, young and old alike, while Simon the puppet talked about God's perfect love.

Most exciting is the spiritual growth achieved throughout an SCSC summer. Five weeks becomes a long time to depend on yourself, so a closer relationship with God quickly becomes both a necessity and a blessing.

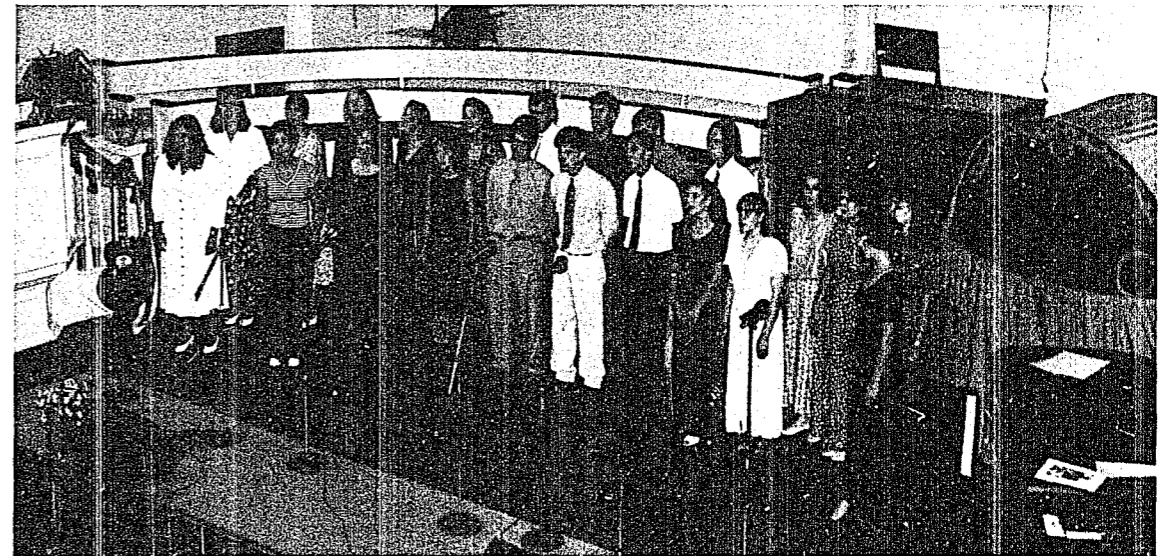
The Summer Christian Service

Corps itself is also growing in ways only God could have planned. Third-year veteran Lora Dickinson said, "It's exciting to see how SCSC has grown since my first summer. God has blessed us with many new directions, and I'm sure He has great plans in store for us."

Following Conference, Team Endurance will part for the school year. Some members may return in June, while others will be forced to join the real world. But the summer of 1995 will live on as one of growth and revival. *SR*
(Reprinted from the Crier.)



Left: Erin Burdick took on the dramatic—and comedic—role of Jonah (still inside the big fish). Below: Amanda Graffius, Chris Rood, and Kellie Mazza demonstrate their new puppet ministry skills.



This grand assembly of all the summer teams brought an appreciative response from the audience.

1995 Scripture Memorization Program

The Scripture Memory Program for the 1994-95 Conference year featured the theme, "Joyfully Serve." The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education selected the monthly Scripture verses. Those who completed the program were presented certificates at the General Conference sessions in Buckhannon, W.Va.

Adams Center, NY
Nellie Barbur
Colleen Hatch
John Hatch
Catherine Roberts
Amanda Sweet
Chad Sweet
Nicole Sweet

Madeline Fitz
Randolph
Doris Rood

Brandenton, FL
Pauline Pelletier

Central, MD
Kevin Chroniger
Jean Cook
Jeanne Halso
Shane Halso
Jeffrey Hazen
Ruth Hazen
Dianne Hibbard
Earl Hibbard
Justin Hibbard
Patrick Hibbard
Christina Watt
Christopher Watt
Dakota Watt
Donny Watt
Emily Watt

Alfred Station, NY
Jessie Kandel
Phyllis Mattison
Reid Mattison
Elise Noel
Melissa Noel
Matthew Palmiter
Amanda Snyder

All Nations, CA
John DeLeon
Sharon DeLeon
Kevin Garcia
Noreen Garcia
Theresa Miranda

Atlanta, Metro, GA
Nathan Lovelace
Gabriel Tate
Kimberlee Tate
Bethany
ThompsonGordon
Patrick
ThompsonGordon

Battle Creek, MI
Mary Brown
Dee Galanaugh
Kyle Galanaugh
Dr. Donna Powell
Jami Travers
Mike Travers

Berlin, NY
Bethany Goodermote
Jessica Goodermote
Felicia Maxon
Juliet Olson

Boulder, CO
Pastor Elmo Fitz
Randolph

Foothill, CA
Pastor Scott Hausrath
Dustin Mackintosh
Benny Panahon
Gerrard Panahon

Hebron, PA
Edna Gaines

Hopkinton, First, RI
Delilah Alen
Kathy King
Lois Park

Little Rock, AR
Kelly Booth
Jeanne Hendrickson
Alfred Lewis
Betty Lewis
Benjamin Monroe
Joshua Monroe
Rachel Monroe
Seth Monroe
Timothy Monroe
Winnie Monroe
Jennifer Newton
Oma Seager
Doris Van Horn
Pastor Kenneth Van
Horn

Lost Creek, WV
Margaret B. Allen
Adrienne Ash
Justin Ash
Robert Ash
Susan D. Bond
Steven Graffius
Leora Pinder
Phyllis Randolph
Rex Randolph

Marlboro, NJ
Sharon Davis

Milton, WI
Elizabeth Daland

Milwaukee, WI
Mabel E. Cruzan

New York City, NY
Hyacinth Caesar
Barrington Gordon
Katherine Gordon
Theona Gordon
Andrea McKenzie-
Crosse

North Loup, NE
Cecil Severance
Jerrolin Williams

Pawcatuck, RI
Helen Brayman
Barbara Nugent
Sherry Nugent

Plainfield, NJ
Chadwyck Campbell
Corey Campbell
Travis Fongh
Anthony Grant
Jodie Grant
Camisha Samuels
Colena Samuels
David Samuels

Raritan Valley, NJ
Pastor Jeanne Yurke

Remembrance, TX
Pastor Earle Holston
David Vass
Tony Vass
Janis Zeigler
Jason Zeigler
Jeniece Zeigler
Jennifer Zeigler
Jeremiah Zeigler
Jessisa Zeigler

Richburg, NY
Benjamin Harris
JoAnna Harris

Seattle, WA
Grace Ellen Dolly
Chris Hemminger
Heather Hemminger
Nate Hemminger
Trusandra Lyons
Reeca Nash
Amanda Noyes
Charles Noyes
Melodie Noyes
Kendall Owens
Maude Posey
Lena Sanford
Maurice Sanford
Jacob Williams

Shiloh, NJ
Jan Bond
Richard Bond
Brad Campbell
Tyler Chroniger
Oliver Dickinson

Texarkana, AR
Mary Mitchell
Jenna Richards
Lena Mae Slaton
Mynor George
Soper III
Jonathan Webb

Toronto, Canada
Merlin Condison
Shari Fyffe
Sonja Fyffe
Tiffani Fyffe
Winsome Gilmore
Shurline Henry-
Walters
Lenna Morris
Florence Reynolds
Natasha Reynolds
Paula Reynolds
Ruth Reynolds
Karlene Rhoden
Omare Rhoden
Oneika Rhoden
Isolyn Sinclair
Evelyn Taylor
Elton Williams
Temeka Williams

Verona, NY
Bev Crawford
Ben Fink
Dale Fink
Kelly Fink
Melanie Fink
T.J. Fink
Amanda Sue Happle
Kathy Happle
Kristy James
Pastor Steve James
Jenny Johnson
Penny Mann
Mallie Petrie
Charles Prest
Edel Prest
Michele Ross
Korina Stamp
Mabel Stamp
Nicole Stamp
Katie Warner
Mayola Warner
Ann Zell

Washington, D.C.
Barry Clapper
Brenda Harris
Nora Sparks
Leroy Tsutsumi



FOCUS
on Missions

Mkandawire visits Rwanda

by Kirk Looper

Note: The following is a report on R.J.B. Mkandawire's trip to Rwanda. It is a sequel to a report printed in Missions, inserted in the September Lead-Line. While that article had to do with the country as a whole, this report deals with the churches and leadership there. I appreciate the time and effort that Rev. Mkandawire put forth in visiting Rwanda and in gathering information for the Missionary Society.

Rwanda: The leader

Pastor Elie Nduwayesu is in charge of organizing and developing the SDB churches in Rwanda. He holds several B.A. degrees in psychology, theology, and the science of education. He speaks French, English, Kinyarwanda, and Swahili. His wife's name is Nyiraburabyo Bernadette.

Pastor Nduwayesu has taught psychology and has pastored churches for the past eight years. Presently, he works with the Canadian Centre for Studies and Cooperation, organizing the training and seminars dealing with "Trauma Situations After the War in Rwanda." He is also the SDB church representative in Rwanda. On July 24, 1994, he returned from Uganda to begin his work in Rwanda. That was about five days after the new government had assumed leadership.

Rwanda: The SDB work there

Upon arriving in Kilgali, Rev. Mkandawire searched for Pastor Nduwayesu. When they finally met, Pastor Nduwayesu told of the obstacles he had encountered while attempting to register the churches.

Rev. Mkandawire ended up staying at a hotel because Pastor Nduwayesu's home was crowded with orphans and relatives.

The statements below were taken from a FAX that Rev. Mkandawire sent to the Missionary Society office.

"After discussion with the Ministry officials, we decided to start the process of registration. We found one lawyer within the ministry who was willing to help us translate our constitution into French and Kinyarwanda at a reasonable fee of US\$ 500. We offered him the task of translation and adjustment to our present constitution. I hope by now he has finished the job, and is waiting for his pay. He said he would continue to work with Pastor Nduwayesu to get the church registered. As SDBs we have a great opportunity to get the church started in Rwanda.

"The only problem with the church is that they have nowhere to meet and worship. Meeting in big gatherings for worship services is forbidden because the security people suspect that such gatherings are geared toward starting a war again or plans to conduct massacres. After registration we may be able to meet officially as a church. So there is need to find a house or an office for our operations there.

"There is a house offered by the Minister of Lands and Housing which has a bigger space than our Namiwawa Missionary House. It is surrounded with a wall fence and well secured for accommodation and office use. We have vast areas outside the house and a large number of people can meet within the fence on special meetings. The house can be used to accommodate

a pastor/missionary and offices.

"The house could also be used as a church for 150 people. The rent per month is US\$ 1,000. The minister says if he is contacted by the Missionary Society, he could release the house for our use. He requires a six to twelve month lease agreement which we can pay 50% of the amount in advance. I pray to our living God to continue blessing this SDB church in the land of Rwanda so that we may have a place of our own to Glorify Him." (It was strongly recommended that we provide the \$12,000 for the living quarters and office space needed for Pastor Nduwayesu and his workers.)

"The other requirement for the church in Rwanda is to transport people in rural areas. Second-hand, good mini-busses are sold at US\$ 5,000 - 6,000. We found two at that time being sold."

Rwanda: The need

Transportation and office space are hurdles that Conferences and churches in Rwanda face as they organize, develop, and register. These are needed to show where they are located and to extend their outreach. The government appears to view the possession of property and transportation as an indication of permanency. Officials apparently don't realize that the real promoters of permanency are the dedicated men and women who work in our churches.

The work in Rwanda is only beginning, and dedicated personnel are present. However, we must not think that dedication is all that is needed. Prayer and financial help is strongly recommended for the work to continue in Rwanda. ✠

Kinship and family: absolute bedrock

(Part one of President John Peil's Conference message.)

A long time ago, I was at General Conference, walking along, talking adamantly to an elderly gentleman. Something on the Conference floor was very divisive, with a lot of discussion surrounding it. I was saying I didn't like this or that, and he kept trying to get my attention. He kept saying, "Well...." and I'd go right on talking. Finally he said, "John, if everyone is going to work at this as hard as I am, it doesn't matter what the vote is going to be."

And the years passed, and it didn't matter. What he was doing was explaining who we are as a people—that things get very intense at times, extremely intense, and nothing too radical happens. (Which isn't bad, by the way, in this time of all kinds of change.)

Nothing too radical happens, and the stability of the group comes back. You can trust the system that it's going to work out. So I didn't have to worry, and I don't think I've been adamant since. I simply watch, and I see what's happening.

Our church system has been given to us by our forefathers, and it's up to each new generation to decide how they will use that system to further the glory of God.

Our church system is what's called the kinship system. We have close emotional and genetic relationships with each other—even if you may not be related to someone in this denomination, like I'm not.

So I have to form very close emotional relationships, and that becomes my kinship system. Many of you have done that. It takes many years to form that.

We invite people into our church, and we make sure that they're safe.

That takes a few years. Then we join up with them, and that takes a few more years. And after seven to 10 years, they have their kinship system. They're part of the group—a very warm and loving group.

A kinship system enables us to stretch all across America and still stay connected. The Church Growth consultants never did understand this. From the time they came in until the time they left, they never understood. They said, "Well, people like you, few in number, usually are in one area, and they just stay there."

But we have a system that allows us to spread all across the United States. It allows us to spread anywhere. We keep our kinship system close.

We understand how things are functioning. We have a good old "grape vine." That's not all bad—it keeps the information flowing. It tells us how we're doing immediately, as fast as you can make a phone call.

It's an amazing and good system. It requires a great deal of compromise and togetherness. It absolutely must have those two things: togetherness and compromise.

When we've started churches as a kinship system, we've moved in mass. North Loup, Neb., was formed when a whole bunch of Seventh Day Baptists moved there, and they formed a town. That's the way we move. We have a vision, and then we take that vision to a new area—in mass.

That's how you keep your kinship system together. This method was even continued into the 1960s when Seattle was started. A group of people from Riverside, in mass, moved up to Seattle, forming the

Seattle Area SDB Church.

What's also required of a kinship system is our weekly Sabbath meetings, where we reaffirm with each other that it's not just *our* family that keeps the Sabbath, but *all* of our families keep it.

Then we also have to meet in Associations, because it's just not our local church, but it's many churches that are bound together. We have covenanted together as churches.

Some Associations are now sending delegates. This is going to be very interesting in the years ahead. Because what an Association needs and what a kinship needs is as many families as possible meeting together to stay healthy.

Then we have our General Conference, which we have to have, as we come here and we reaffirm that all of us keep the Sabbath, all of us believe in Jesus Christ—not just our churches, not just our Associations, but all of us across the United States. We believe in Jesus Christ, and we believe in the Sabbath, and we are meeting.

Without these meetings, we are severely crippled as a kinship system. We must meet, and we must meet a great deal, with as many families attending as possible. It isn't just an option; this must happen. The kinship system depends on a strong family system.

This is absolute bedrock—besides Jesus Christ, and the apostles, and the Bible. The absolute bedrock is you must have a strong family system.

As Seventh Day Baptists, we cannot exist without a strong family system. The family is where values are taught. The next generation is instructed in what is really important. *SR*

The autumn leaf dance

by Bob Spreadborough

The autumn forest stands, enticing. I listen to its music. It's the music of the wind as it ripples across the treetops. The treetops nod and twist as if to assure the wind that this is the moment to begin.

The dance commences as a swirl of leaves pirouette with giddy strides in their gold, brown, yellow, and crimson splendor.

They've picked up on the rhythm and the beat. Dancing now they go higher and higher with flying golden feet. For a moment I'm caught breathless with their beauty as they go dashing to my left, then flying to the right.

I softly whisper, "Are you dancing for me? You are all so lovely, and I thank you for letting me hear and see you. When your show has ended, I'll always remember your beautiful dance!"

Gently the wind softens, and the leaves settle for a moment with a whisper at my feet. If only they should speak: would they reminisce of when they were new buds swelling on the branches? Of when before the frosts had ended, swelling 'neath the bark... pushing toward the sunlight that had at first beckoned them to come?

They came forth in tender softness, each leaf so finely formed. Then faster, they grew in grouped mosaics... contrasting to the evergreens and hills and skies behind them. They quivered as winds blew cold, and winds blew hot. Then they darkened to blend in with the evergreens. They looked robust... mature, as if to stay forever on their barken hosts.

But days, and nights, and time passed on, and the daylight shortened. The dark grew longer still. The sun which had been their bea-



con now withdrew, each midday further behind the hill.

Not a time for sadness. For now they've put on new beauty, translucent in the sunrays. No artist's palette ever could conjure. The beauty from within them, from the process of the season. Now at last their gifts are given in this glorious autumn spectacle to thrill us as we behold, the red, the brown, the yellow, and the gold.

For a season we partake with them in their dance of wondrous colors on the autumn wind. Soon

the limbs that bore them will be standing stark and bare. Their twigs pointing skyward in crisp cold winter air.

At first the leaves fall crisply upon the frosty forest floor. Then they brown and blacken to melt softly with the rain and snow into the earth. Here at last they will give nourishment and succor to the root of hosts that once had given them birth. *SR*

Bob Spreadborough is a member of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church.

Shall we gather at the river?

A group of youth and adults from the North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church celebrated Sabbath Emphasis Day 1995 by taking a journey into the past.

Commemorating the Sabbath commitment of the pioneers who founded the church, they took a field trip to the spot on the North Loup River where the first Sabbath services were held on May 18, 1872. Now on private land, the spot is marked by a small stone slab which notes the event and date.

Writing in a family history, Hosea Rood says of the early settlers who had just arrived to select homesteads:

"Tho these people were tired after their long journey they did not neglect 'the assembling of themselves together.' On the first Sabbath after their arrival, they gathered at an appointed place on the bank of the North Loup River, about a mile and a half from where the village now stands, and held religious services. When the Sabbath was past, the people began to hunt about the country for such spots of God's green earth as best suited them for home making."¹

At that first service, Elder Oscar Babcock preached, and Charley Rood led the singing. One of Charley Rood's descendants, Merlyn Williams, was leader of the 1995 field trip.

In the tradition of that first SDB



A group of young "North Loupers" explore the famous marker near the river bank.

gathering, the group sang the old hymn that was also sung in 1872, "Shall We Gather at the River?" However, the 1995 group departed from tradition in one respect. Pastor Ken Burdick, having already had his opportunity to preach to the group earlier that morning, was not extended a second opportunity in the afternoon!

A good time was had by all, and the field trip ended with prayers made at the marker and ice cream consumed at the church. *SR*

¹ Hosea W. Rood, *A Historical Sketch of the Thorngate-Rood Family: Descen-*

dants of George Thorngate Sr. and Matilda Blanchard 1798-1906 (privately published: Ord, NE, 1906), p. 96.



Four constituent members return to the marker 40 years after settling the area (l. to r.): Charles Rood, Elder Oscar Babcock, Mansel and Mary Davis.



Merlyn Williams reads to the group from an early account of the settlement of North Loup.

Farewells given to Galanaughs

From "The Friendly Guest," newsletter of the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Our Battle Creek church family shared cake and punch after the worship service on July 1, 1995, to honor Pastor Jim and Dee Galanaugh on their last day with us. The huge cake was decorated as

**"I have learned
so much
in four years,
and the
greatest lesson
was how to love
close up."**

**—Pastor Jim
Galanaugh**

a golf "green," complete with holes, with many meaningful Scriptures written on it. Church members gave love gifts to help the Galanaughs in their move.

In his final sermon, "A Farewell," Pastor Jim urged the congregation to "aim for perfection" and to seek "spiritual maturity." Our next pastor, he felt, would raise us to the next level of maturity.

"Sin is serious," he said, and appropriate measures have to be taken. "I have learned so much in four years, and the greatest lesson was how to love close up."

A going-away dinner for the family was held on June 3 at Camp Holston. There was some "clowning around" at that get-together as the "Queen of Hearts" Clown was present.

Moving day for the family was July 3. Pastor Jim has now assumed his duties as pastor of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church. The

family is at home at 2301 Wadsworth Boulevard, Lakewood, CO 80215.

We received this thank you from the Galanaughs:

"Pastor Jim, Dee, Ryan, and Kyle would like to thank you for

four years of love and support. We will miss all of you and wish nothing but the best for you, our church family."

We send our love and best wishes to the Galanaughs as they begin their ministry in Denver. *SR*

Wheeler Lodge dedicated

On July 1, 1995, a group of over 100 people gathered on a warm Sabbath afternoon at Pacific Pines Camp in Crestline, Calif. A very special occasion brought these people here. The Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church had voted to dedicate the main lodge to the memory of Rev. Alton L. Wheeler.

The reasons were many, but probably best expressed by the dedication plaque mounted on the front of the building:

**Reverend Alton L. Wheeler
1917-1994**

Beloved Pastor, Friend, Counselor, Teacher
and Servant of Jesus Christ.

His Talent, Energy and Dedication to God
was One of the Driving Forces
in the Youth Ministry and Expansion
of Pacific Pines Camp

while Pastor of the Riverside
Seventh Day Baptist Church.
1953-1964, 1975-1984

The service opened with camp songs led by Pastor Eric Davis and Tony Maddox. It was followed by an invocation by Pastor Gabriel Bejjani, special music by a quartet from the Riverside church and a male trio of campers from YF Camp, and a poem recited by former campers.

The service was highlighted with an address by Rev. Glen Warner. Individuals were then invited to come forward and share their memories of Alton at Pacific Pines—a place where he had devoted over 20 years of service in four different decades.

Our nostalgic time ended with what is a tradition at Pacific Pines, a closing circle with hands linked. We sang the old spiritual, "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder," before Pastor Bejjani closed in prayer. Among the many attending were Alton's wife, Ethel, and son, Doug. *SR*

Richburg welcomes pastor, outreach

by Ruth Bottoms

The Richburg, N. Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church is happy to report that we now have a resident pastor. Rev. Robert Harris and family arrived on June 13 and are settling in.

A combined reception on September 9 formally welcomed the Harrises and gave appreciation to Rev. Gordon Lawton of Little Genesee, N.Y., for his services as interim pastor.

A packet containing a letter of introduction from the pastor, a brief history of the church, some Sabbath tracts (*Statement of Beliefs, SDBs and SDAs Compared*, etc.), and an invitation for children to attend a six-week Bible Club was sent to all of the community and nearby area. A follow-up letter and survey will follow later in the year.

Pray with us for the awakening of the non-churched. We pray that they understand their need for the

Savior and the Sabbath. Pray also for our ability to present the answers that will enable them to fulfill that need.

A recent article in a nearby paper referred to Sunday as the Sabbath. This prompted one of our members to reply to the religion editor. A Presbyterian minister

from Pennsylvania then submitted another article saying that the seventh day was and still is the Sabbath, but that Sunday is the Lord's Day in remembrance of the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This bit of free public controversy may well be to our advantage, with perhaps more to come. *SR*

Accessions

Portage, WI (Branch of Albion, WI)

Joined after testimony

Keith Julson
Darcy Julson
Harlan Smalley Jr.
Donna Smalley
Harlan Smalley Sr.
Juanita Smalley
Deb Hermanson

Joined by letter

Jeremiah Julson
Joshua Hermanson
Kayce Smalley
Sara Smalley
Mitch Smalley
Debbie Smalley
Daron Smalley
Paula Smalley
Jessica Julson
Linda Schulze

Columbus, OH

Robert Van Horn,
pastor

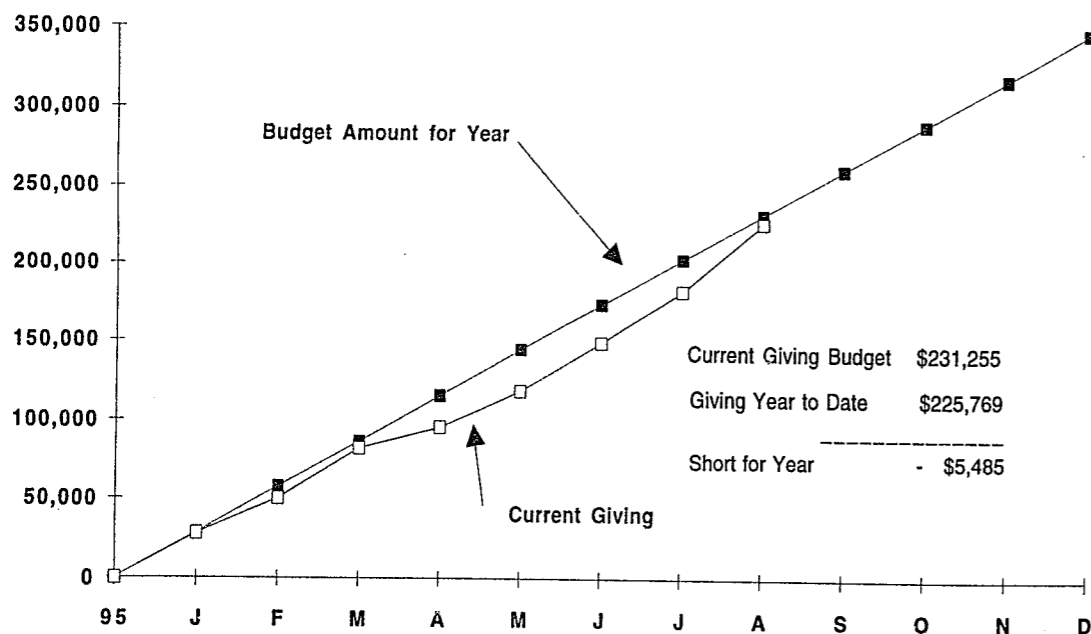
Joined after baptism

Marissa Van Horn
Christopher Van
Horn

Joined after testimony

Jamie Perez
Emeka Annonnyuo
cont. next page

Current Giving 1995



Obituaries

Burdick.—Margaret Davis Burdick, 89, of Little Genesee, N.Y., died on April 4, 1995, in Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y., after a lengthy illness.

She was born on June 29, 1905, in Leonardsville, N.Y., the daughter of Rev. Alva L. and Flora (Talbot) Davis. On December 23, 1929, she married Thomas L. Burdick in Little Genesee. He died in 1983.

Margaret was a graduate of Westerly (R.I.) High School. In 1926, she graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass., with a major in piano and voice. She quickly became a popular piano teacher, with 47 students a week her first year, and 55 her second. She taught piano for three years in Little Genesee, Bolivar, and Richburg, N.Y., and from 1929 to 1969 in East Aurora, N.Y. Returning to Little Genesee, she gave lessons from 1969 to 1992. She retired at the age of 87.

Margaret was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Genesee in Little Genesee, N.Y., the Little Genesee Sunshine Society, and the Roena Ames Music Club in Richburg. She was also a former choir director of the First Baptist Church in East Aurora, and past president and accompanist of the East Aurora Choral Club.

Margaret was described by many as a "very brave lady." After losing her husband of 53 years, she picked herself up and went on to build a new life. She successfully battled cancer twice, and also rehabilitated herself after suffering a major stroke. She traveled alone to Wisconsin for family visits, and went to Ireland to celebrate her 83rd birthday. Margaret lived alone in her little house until the last few weeks of her life, when she was lovingly cared for in the home of her good friend, Ruth Bottoms.

Survivors include one daughter, Virginia Mary Duncan of Wauke-

sha, Wis.; one brother, Alfred L. Davis of Rochester, N.Y.; one granddaughter, and two great-grandsons. She was predeceased by one daughter, Margaret Louise Burdick, who died in 1936; and by a brother, George T. Davis.

A memorial service was held on April 30, 1995, at the First SDB Church of Genesee. During the service, Rev. Gordon Lawton spoke of Margaret's 69-year legacy of music to the Little Genesee church. He also talked about one of her habits that people would do well to emulate: "On Sabbath morning, she went to church. Many times she was unable to attend worship and Sabbath School, yet she 'went to church' by studying her *Helping Hand* lesson on Sabbath morning. She 'went to church' by using tapes of previous services. For her, the Sabbath was a special day, even when it meant meeting only with God and meeting at home."

Rev. Lawton read eulogies from her former pastors—Herb Saunders, Steve Crouch, and Ed Sutton. Rev. Herlitz Condisson of the First SDB Church of Toronto (Canada) also spoke. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Wood.

—Agnes Fern (Arnold) Wood, 91, died on July 10, 1995, at Thornapple Manor, Hastings, Mich. She had lived there for the past 10 years.

She was born on May 20, 1904, in Dodge Center, Minn., the daughter of George and Flossie (Tappen) Arnold. She graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1922 and moved to Battle Creek, Mich.

Agnes married Thomas P. Wood Sr. on Dec. 23, 1925, in Battle Creek. He died on June 20, 1945. She was a homemaker who enjoyed crocheting and blueberry picking, and was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons, Thomas of Nashville, Mich., Robert of Charlotte, Mich., and Samuel of Marshall, Mich.; two daughters, Pauline Webster of Three Rivers, Mich., and Lorna Crawford of Sylvania, Ga.; one brother, Orville Arnold of Florida; 27 grandchildren, 69 great-grandchildren; and 31 great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Thomas, she was preceded in death by two sons, Larry and Dennis, and by one sister, Eloise Spells.

Funeral services were held on July 13, 1995, at Shaw Funeral Home-Lehman Chapel, Bellevue, Mich., with Rev. George Crawford officiating. Burial was in Austin Cemetery, Convis Township.

Accessions, cont. from page 24

Connie Annonnyuo
Emeka Annonnyuo Jr.
Kachi Annonnyuo
Chidi Annonnyuo
Ifetchi Annonnyuo
Georges Ayemou
Anna Marie Paige
Katherine James
Latifa Sauda

Leonardsville-Brookfield, NY

Ernest Clemens, pastor

Joined after baptism
Sharon Furgison
Stacey Furgison
Jeremy Furgison
Clifford Furgison
Scott Hungerford
Tabatha Hungerford
Robin Robinson
Daryl Hawes
Jodi Hawes
Patti Hawes
Daryl Hawes Jr.
John Hawes
Shontel Gaff
Jamie Lum

Old Stonefort, IL

Julius T. Lumpkin

churches, by individuals mentioned, by writers, by subject. You begin to get the picture?

Preservation also means copying old manuscripts so that researchers can find what they want rather than handling the original documents (causing them to wear out sooner.) It includes keeping the originals in a climate-controlled safe at ideal temperature and humidity to make those documents last as long as possible.

It includes keeping copies of especially rare and important papers in an off-site location so that if the city of Janesville were destroyed by some catastrophe, we would still have access to that information. Most of these things our forefathers who established the Historical Society never dreamed of. Neither did they dream of the expense involved.

Simply to have all that info somewhere in the attic may give one a good feeling, but it is for the most part useless. We need to make that material available to those who are, who might be, or who ought to be interested.

We have pursued several avenues to that end.

- Regular articles in *The Sabbath Recorder*. (Many people say that one of the first things they turn to is the "Pearls from the Past"—some interesting bit of history related to the *Recorder* theme for the month.)

- Books. Our historian has been a prolific writer, making available denominational history, updated and revised with new information (much of it uncovered by Oscar Burdick in his research in the British Isles), and correction of some earlier mistakes due to lack of original sources.

- Making the library "user friendly." With a simple introduction to the way things are cataloged, anyone with a particular interest or a family tree can learn to find the desired info.

- Assisting with education of new and prospective pastors and church leaders.

- Assisting churches celebrating anniversaries, etc.

Not so many years ago our major publications were undertaken by the American Sabbath Tract Society, but recently it is your Historical Society that has had the primary responsibility in most of these.

- And finally, visibility. More and more people are discovering Seventh Day Baptists as a result of our publications and reviews of those publications in respected magazines and books.

Former missionary, Tom McElwain, has observed, "SDBs are more nearly discovered than converted." Until someone is immersed in God's Word sufficiently to see the validity of God's Sabbath, he is not likely to jump at the opportunity to join those who are out-of-step with the world.

Alton Wheeler used to say that he didn't even try to discuss or defend the Sabbath until a person had already accepted Christ; it is an exercise in futility. But having accepted Christ, many want to go forward in their commitment to Him.

In studying the Bible, they discover for themselves the truth of the Sabbath. It is then that they are ripe for learning about Seventh Day Baptists. Up to that point, the typical response is, "Huh!"—which may be why there has not been more response to our TV program.

The average person randomly watching TV is not seeking spiritual maturity. However, those checking out our books or reading reviews of our books in religious periodicals are of a mind-set for spiritual growth, or they wouldn't be looking there. We are pleased to provide that opportunity.

So where do all of us fit into

this? First of all, make sure you have copies of our books in your home. Then become acquainted with the contents, so when the kids ask the equivalent of "What do these stones mean?" you have the resources to show them. When friends say, "Seventh Day Baptists? Never heard of them," you will have first-rate material to show we're not some "Johnny-come-lately," but grounded in the mainstream of Protestant Christianity.

Secondly, make sure your church library has at least one copy of each book, especially for newcomers, but also for those who have never learned what a heritage is theirs. Be sure your local library has these books if they are willing to accept them. Next to the phone book, more people use the library to learn about other denominations.

Third, we'd like to see your involvement. It is, in a very real sense, *your* Historical Society. You owe it to yourself to be a member if you are a Seventh Day Baptist.

Finally, because our mission has expanded since the days of our inception, and since prices never go down, you can envision how dependent we are on endowments given back when a dollar was a dollar. You've heard about the man who, after his physical, asked the doctor for an honest report. The doctor said, "You're as sound as a dollar." The man fainted.

(Parenthetically, in the last four years we have spent \$56,000 in printing costs.)

The Historical Society is funded completely outside the Denominational Budget, so one way you can have a partnership in this ministry of yours is by direct contribution and the purchase of the books into which your society has invested so much of its resources. We urge you to make this a matter of prayer. If we are to remember all the way God has led us, there may be no better investment. *SR*

KEVIN'S CORNER

Visiting West Virginia in late July and early August seemed just like old times. Dad would always take two weeks off, we'd load up the station wagon, and head for Mom's relatives in Parkersburg.

I have so many wonderful memories of good food and fun, tearful reunions and farewells—along with HOT weather and awesome thunderstorms!

So it came as no surprise that Salem was baking under an oppressive heat wave during our pre-Conference General Council meetings. Fortunately, we were able to sit (too much) in air-conditioned comfort. But I kept thinking, "Man, what's it going to be like next week during Conference, with all that walking

between buildings for committee work, photo shoots, worship, and meals?"

Council meetings and Sabbath gatherings zipped by so I would find out quickly.

Our room at the Wesleyan College campus overlooked "Camperville." I felt sad as I surveyed those poor campers in their RVs and pop-ups. How would they be able to face the scorching heat and dangerous storms of the coming week?

Well, the Lord graciously blessed us with a cool spell. He even threw in some gentle rain, yet not enough to drench those "poor" Camperville residents.

The cooling break in the weather began on the opening weekend. Then it started heating up again by the next. But that blessed in-between time; it was like the Lord wanted us to focus on *Him*, not the weather.

Could what happened in the weather be compared with what happened in many of our hearts?

I'm sure that some delegates and visitors came to the Wesleyan campus feeling pretty hot under the collar about certain issues, yet spiritually "cool." The prayer and healing service on Friday night proved that many hearts got warmed up in the right way.

God's precious Holy Spirit relieved our oppressed human spirits the same way He lifted the burdensome heat wave. He took us off the hot seat (spiritual oppression), cooled our jets (took our burdens), then warmed our hearts (got us "on fire" to do His will).

I thank Him for working through President Myrna Cox, the whole Host Committee, and everyone who took part in such a "cool" week which has burned its way into many a long-term memory bank.

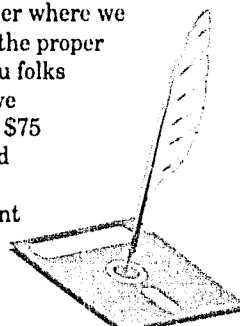
P.S. Some hearts were warm on the very first day. This note came from Conference guest Eugene Lincoln, president of the Bible Sabbath Association:

"My wife and I want to express a big Thank You to everyone who showed us an overflowing of hospitality. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and were inspired by the Christian spirit we observed among the attendees.

"Our first introduction to the enthusiasm of SDBs was just as we arrived. We saw a young lady, about 12 years old, and asked her where we should register. She pointed to the proper building, then inquired, 'Are you folks Seventh Day Baptists?' When we said we were not, she gave us a \$75 smile and said, 'Well, I am—and proud of it!'

"To us, that was the high point of the experience."

I hope there was a just-as-proud parent standing nearby.



Next February, we will ask our churches to celebrate

SR Appreciation Day

Plus, we'll give you the opportunity to honor someone you love on a special Valentine's Day page.

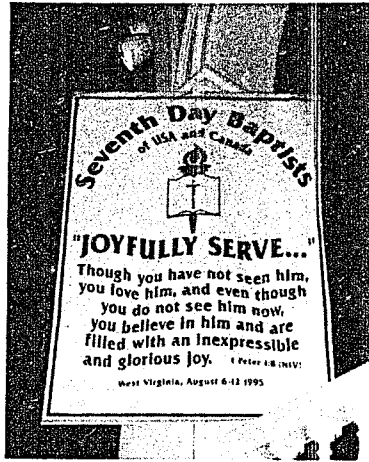
Details next month!

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We
 enjoyed
 ourselves

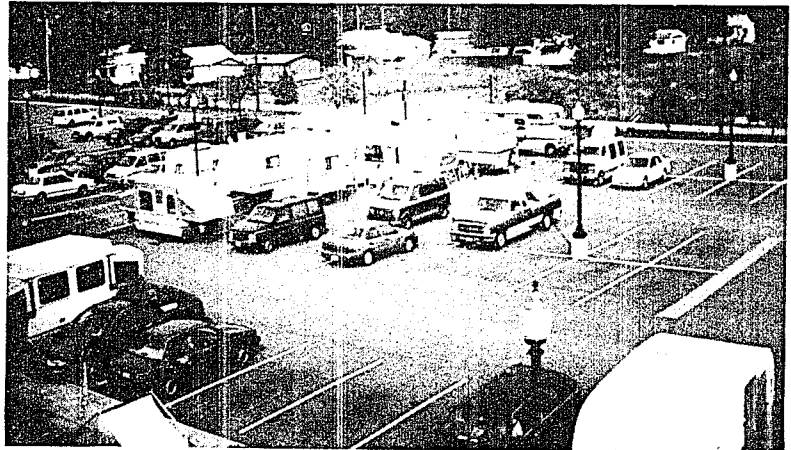
at
 West
 Virginia
 Wesleyan



The banner summed up our week.



Believe it or not, Moses appeared at the Council on Ministry program.



"Camperville," behind the Camden Avenue dorms, was a great place to stay, thanks to "Mayor" Robert Van Horn.



Hawking their wares to the very end: Philip Lawton, and Jackson and Matthew Butler.