The Sabbath Recorder

**Births**

Henry. - A daughter, Dinah Natalie, to Mr. and Mrs. David Henry on Sept. 30, 1953, of 3620 Camella Dr., Del Rosa, San Bernardino, Calif., members of the Riverside Church.

**Obituaries**

Stephan. — Mary Jane Hatfield, daughter of Thomas A. and Nancy Ann Hatfield, was born in DeWitte, Iowa, on Sept. 26, 1861, and passed away in Whiting, Kan., Oct. 11, 1953.

She moved with her family to Kansas as a girl. On Dec. 31, 1878, she was married to Daniel F. Stephan, who passed away Aug. 15, 1939.

She became a follower of Christ at an early age, and with her husband, she accepted the challenge to follow wherever God's truth led. She was a faithful keeper of the seventh day Sabbath.

She is survived by five sons: Alfred D., Earl, Lee, Tom, and William, all of Nortonville, Kan.; two daughters, Florence DeLand of Turlock, and Mrs. Ruth Zeek of Farmington, Kan.; twenty-nine grandchildren, fifty-four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; four brothers and a sister. A son, Claude, passed away in 1952.

Farewell services were conducted at the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church by her pastor, Rev. Duane L. Davis, and a grandson-in-law, Rev. Francis D. Saunders, North Loup, Neb. Interment was in Valley Falls, Kan.

Palmer. — Milo L., farmer, citizen, and churchman of Alfred Station, N. Y., died June 11, 1953, at the age of 83.

Born in Jersey City, N. J., Oct. 17, 1869, Mr. Palmer spent his boyhood in Rome, Ga., and came to this state as a young man. On Jan. 19, 1891, he married Jane Burdick, and to them were born four daughters. She died in 1901. A year later he was married to Mary Moland who became mother of his two sons and who survives him.

For more than sixty-six years Mr. Palmer was actively interested in the work of his church and denomination. Early in his long term as trustee he supervised major repairs and improvements in the church basement. Besides singing in the church choir he was a member of a male quartet including his two sons which sang widely through a period of years. He was keenly interested in his last years in the building of Camp Harley, and friends contributed to the camp in his memory.

In addition to his widow, survivors include two nephews, Mrs. J. R. Berry of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Mrs. M. W. Moland of Akron, O.; his sons, Fred M. and Francis Palmer of Alfred Station; two sisters, Mrs. Susan Maples and Mrs. Mary Tillman of Cushing, Okla.; and a brother, Charles Palmer, all of Mineral Wells, Tex.; eleven grand-children, five great-grandchildren, a niece, and two nephews.

Services in his honor were held at his church and in the Alfred Rural Cemetery, Rev. Albert N. Rogers officiating.

President Eisenhower is seen here at his desk at the White House, as he issued a special message to open the fifth annual campaign of the Religion In American Life (RIAL) program. The President said:

"Each year the Committee on Religion In American Life reminds us of the importance of faithful church attendance. . . .

"By strengthening religious institutions, the Committee on Religion In American Life is helping to keep America good. Thus it helps each of us to keep America great. . . ."

"I earnestly hope that during November, and throughout this and every year, each American citizen will actively support the religious institution of his own choice."

The Ladies' Aid Society continued its regular meetings throughout the summer, with larger attendance. A Daily Vacation Bible School was held in August under the direction of Miss Ellen Swinney. She was assisted by Mrs. Leslie Avery and Mrs. Mildred Klug. - Morton R. Swinney, Correspondent.

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PANNING THE PASTOR

One of the services which the Sabbath Recorder renders is reporting deaths, births, marriages, and accessions to the church. Our high percentage of lone Sabbathkeepers and our tendency to migrate to churches other than the home town church make this service potentially more and more valuable.

We were quite amused the other day to read through the "50 Years Ago" column of the De Reuyter (N. Y.) Gleaner and find items of news like the following:

"Mrs. Sarah Maxson in Quaker Basin has been following the advice of Dr. Watson, using hot and cold water on her ankle that has been inflamed for a time, with very gratifying results.

"Elmer Cram of Cowles Settlement has a new horse.

"David Porter of Gooseville passed away quietly at his home."

Such notices would lose their interest without the heading, "50 Years Ago."

Vital statistics published in the Sabbath Recorder come in most cases from the pastors who marry and bury their parishioners. If the busy pastors fail in this vital record, let their records for the fails and is frustrated. News that is to nine months old is not very newsy; it belongs in some other column. Pastors, let's let the newspapers have a thrill to the distant relatives and friends as we are to the immediate families. Folk want to know what "David Porter of Gooseville" is doing in the city, not in the "50 Years Ago" column.

RELIGION IS NEWS

Newspaper men sometimes are spoken of as being hard-hearted and hard-boiled when it comes to church news. More and more they are lending a sympathetic ear to the calls for printing religious news. Whether or not America is becoming a Christian nation in fact as well as name must still be considered an open question.

It is undeniable true that church news makes the headlines much easier now than in the past. Popular secular magazines and newspapers are assigning reporters not only to the big ecumenical meetings but to the denominational conventions and local gatherings. They are meeting the popular demand that religion be given its rightful and proportionate share of space.

Religion is news. The unfortunate aspect is that it is all too frequently presented as nothing more than news, as if knowledge of God is absolutely essential for people but knowledge of Christ and doing His will can be dismissed with a shrug.

The Bolivar (N. Y.) Breeze recently published a front-page three-column article on the history and beliefs of Seventh Day Baptists prepared by Delmer Van Horn, pastor of the Little Geneese, N. Y., Church. The article closed with the full text of our Statement of Belief. Many readers are apparently glad to receive information when it is not accompanied with argument.

The Plainfield, N. J., daily paper not long ago devoted more than a full page to a picture story of a local minister and his church building. It was the forty-fifth year as pastor of the church.

Last month there was sent to the editor a Pasadena, Calif., paper which devoted the duty to the large page to the opening of Fuller Theological Seminary in its new $800,000 building. It is surprising that a secular paper would give such space to an event that only a few students and a group of teachers would attend. Still, the paper was right in giving such coverage for the city.

Illustrations such as these could be multiplied. The work of noted evangelists like Billy Graham is front-page news. Religion is now taken seriously in the commercial world — at least with the employers whose senses are keen enough to perceive those intangible qualities. We could wish that more folks could see the difference between technical skill and Christian personality.

A great mistake is made when we read in the papers about the necessity of the church member to read through the Christian and Methodist Press. They are meeting the demand that religion be given its rightful and proportionate share of space.

The Sunday schools have a most important decision in your life. Suppose you accept Him and are not rejected, you will be consigned to eternal punishment.

If you reject Him, and you will be consigned to eternal punishment. That is why it is so important to know about the religion of Christ and the church of God.

Memorize: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4: 16.

Godfrey that he fired the young man because he felt that he had lost the qualities for which he hired him — "which for want of a better word I call humility."

When little-known people are raised to stardom, it would be passing strange if they did not lose the quality of humility along with some other good qualities. Such losses are deplorable, but even more deplorable is the apparent fact that many people succeed very nicely without those charming qualities. It is an age-old lament of the righteous that "the wicked flourish like a green bay tree."

The suggestion of the Scripture is that when one goes into the sanctuary he can begin to understand that problem. Closeness to God makes one conscious, not of present, but of ultimate values. Our Lord tells us of a final separation between good and bad, wise and foolish, wheat and chaff, believers and unbelievers.

There is an intriguing side light to the firing of La Rosa for lack of "humility." Singers on the Arthur Godfrey show received fiery epistles that to them seemed most fabulous. Can we then reason that qualities like humility have great monetary value? Christian virtues are worth something in the commercial world — at least with the employers whose senses are keen enough to perceive those intangible qualities. We could wish that more folks could see the difference between technical skill and Christian personality.

Is there a further moral to this story? Are we sure that the spiritual qualities coming to us by contact with the redemptive love of God are at this moment as clear-shining as when we found Christ? Have we realized what our fellow believers are doing as we go about in the world, or the hard knocks of life dimmed the virtues which are approved of God and recognized by men? Let us take stock of ourselves.
large portions of their time, of necessity, must be consumed in other than pastoral work?

We are a small group and cannot pay more, you say? This may be true, but the obvious answer to that is to increase our numbers so that there will be more contributors so that our ministers can receive a living wage. At some point, the desire for denominational board secretaries a desirable goal of five per cent increase in membership per year was deemed to be worth an attempt. The greatest obstacle to attaining such a goal lies as much as with our membership as it does with our pastors. Especially is this true when we consider that our ministers cannot afford to devote their full time to the task.

Membership in the denomination, as reported at Conference in Battle Creek, was around 6,200. A five per cent increase this year would bring our next year's report up between 5,500 and 6,600. This does not seem like a difficult goal to achieve but if we are to meet it, each one of our churches must increase its membership by five percent, and each one of us as laymen must use his influence to that end.

A. Burdet Crofoot.

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**CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTION**

A Bible is an ideal Christmas gift, especially if with the gift you can somehow impart a strong desire to use the Book regularly through the year.

A subscription to a religious periodical may also bring year-long pleasure to a friend. Some people have felt that they could do nothing better for Seventh Day Baptist friends or relatives than to arrange for a gift subscription to the Sabbath Recorder. If you want to add to the Christian family solidarity of all the people of like precious faith, why not send out two or three subscriptions. It will add to your own feeling of well-being too.

We can work out a lay-away plan if you wish. We are not sure that the element of surprise is good thing. We suggest that you write to your friend and prepare him for the gift so he will not think it is a sample copy from the editor.

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**STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

Duane L. Davis

Note: A picture of the minister together with a portion of his Statement of Belief as given on Oct. 10 will appear in the next issue.

I was born on May 7, 1929, in a Christian home, at Verona, N. Y.

I can never measure or appreciate the values taught me by my parents, nor the ways in which the spirit of Christian love was an efficient element of my training. I was the second of a family of five boys, and we have always been aware of our parents' love for us and the high standard of Christian living that is expected of followers of Christ. The rich experiences of faith and Christian living that have been mine as a member of a family were strong influences in the shaping of my life.

Almost the first thing in my memory of childhood days is the memory of Sabbath day and church. There, in the long pew at the church, I learned to recognize this meant Jesus was my friend.

Attending Sabbath school, church, and Vacation Bible School brought me to a realization of the fact that God is Love, and that He wants us to be His children. During a membership training class, with Pastor A. L. Davis as our teacher, I came to the recognition that I needed to accept Jesus as my Saviour. I was baptized in a beautiful stream on July 20, 1940, while the members of the church stood on the banks singing, "Living for Jesus." I made the pledge of the chorus of that song my own promise to Jesus... While a feeble person, I often considered the possibility that God might be calling me to the ministry, and I often prayed that He would show me some way to know if He wanted me to prepare. Finally, following my graduation from Verona High School (1946), I came to feel that either the ministry or work in foreign missions was the vocation for which the Lord wanted me to prepare. Feeling this call, and with the help of others, I entered Salem College in the fall of '46 as a ministerial student.

During the three and a half years at Salem, there were many opportunities for Christian service, such as work with the college YMCA, singing in the church choir, and teaching a Sabbath school class of fifth age level boys and girls.

During my junior year a group of Seventh Day Baptist young people acting as a Gospel Team served as part-time supply for the Lost Creek Church. The following summer, I stayed in West Virginia to help Pastor Loyd Hurley with the summer work of the Salem Church. There were a great many Christian friends at Salem who encouraged and helped me in gaining an education.

During this time the Verona Church expressed their confidence in me by licensing me to preach (March 6, 1946).

In January, 1950, I completed my work for the A.B. degree in the School of Theology at Alfred University for the second semester. There, too, I met a host of friends and felt the influence of strong Christian teachers and leaders. The fellowship and companionship of fellow students living, studying, and praying together in The Gothic had a lasting effect on me.

During the summers of 1951 and 1952, I worked with Pastor Everett Harris as his assistant in the First alf Church, and found it a valuable help in preparation.

I can never measure the value of my education in the School of Theology. Receiving an education in Christian leadership was a rich experience for me. At this time I entered the ministry as a call, and with this purpose, I entered Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church. During the thirteen...
months I have been here, I have finished my classwork at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and completed the thesis requirement for seminary graduation. I received the bachelor of divinity degree from Alfred, on June 8, 1953.

The year at Nortonville has been a fruitful one in many ways. My church has been helpful in their love, and God has richly blessed us in His Kingdom's task.

There are a great many Christians who have influenced me in the paths of Kingdom work. Looking back, one can see many guides which have pointed the way. I would mention my parents and my brothers and the sacrifices they have made. Then there is the influence of Pastor and Mrs. Alva L. Davis, of Pastor Herbert Polan and the late Mrs. Polan, of Rev. James L. Skaggs, Rev. Loyd F. Hurley, and of college and seminary teachers and friends, especially Dean A. J. C. Bond and Dr. Wayne Rood. Victor Skaggs, Harley Sutton, and other ministers have pointed the way. Guiding “teachers” in practical, pastoral theology have been Everett T. Harris, Albert N. Polan and the late Mrs. Harley Skaggs, Dr. Robert N. Rogers, and Alton L. Wheeler. There are innumerable relatives, schoolmates, and friends, and my present church members who have done much to aid my Christian experience. These have been “so great a cloud of witnesses.” I thank God for them.

Looking backward upon one’s Christian experience, one realizes shortcomings and failures, but he can also see a growing knowledge of the grace — the unmerited favor — of God, and can recognize a guidance of the all-abiding love of the Holy Spirit. With this awareness of divine love toward our task, I stand, with Isaac, before God to humbly say, “Here am I, send me.”

When you dig another out of his troubles, you find a place to bury your own. — Selected.

SAFE ARRIVAL OF NYASALAND MISSIONARIES

First word after their month-long trip comes from Rev. Donald Barrar, of the Society, missionary to Malawi, and Joan Clement, a hasty note coming via Los Angeles and the missionary secretary reached the Recorder just before the publication deadline. They report: “A safe and pleasant journey with blessings of the Lord evident all the way.” A warm welcome awaited them at Sandama.

As to the work, they write that the dispensary work is heavy and that school began the eighteenth. It is evident that no time was wasted in getting into action in these two departments. It is not hard to imagine how busy Missionary Barrar is after his long absence from his station and his hospital nurse says they are: more and more aware that this is the work and place where the Lord wants them. They request the prayers of all who are interested in Missions.

Tracts have been answered and needs met wonderfully in the past.

PREACH THIS AT MY FUNERAL

An old man in Montone, (near Redlands) Calif., was converted in his old age because there was a new church in his community and an active pastor. He had something that he wanted preached at his funeral, as reported in the October issue of Missions. With labored breath he said to the congregation, “Tell them at my funeral that if it hadn’t been for Mr. Gregory and the new church in our community — I’d have died an awful sinner!” Tell ’em too, that I wish they would attend your church and find Christ and peace just like I did! Their lives will never be the same after Christ gets hold of them.”

The pastor quoted these words at the funeral. A few weeks later most of his relatives were faithful in attendance and a son-in-law joined the church. Who can measure the value of an available church with a faithful pastor who cares for the souls of the old as well as the young?

NOVEMBER 9, 1953

TRACT BOARD NOTES

The recent death of Paul A. Whitford, treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the American Bible Society and the Tract Society instigated a special meeting of the board to select a new treasurer. Such a meeting was held in Plainfield Sunday afternoon, Nov. 1, with about eighteen members and guests present, three of whom were from the South Jersey area. A resolution of respect for the faithful work of Mr. Whitford was authorized.

After due deliberation Charles North was elected acting treasurer with the understanding that the matter of a regular treasurer would be considered again after the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Fund secures a treasurer. Mr. Whitford filled both offices, his work for the Tract Society being without salary. Dr. Lavern C. Bassett was made chairman of the Investment Committee, and the president was given the right to fill vacancies on all standing committees. Miss Ruth Hunting, recently elected to the board, announced that she was unable to serve. Mr. North has been offered the position which he accepted, in his place, bringing the number of trustees up to 29, one short of authorized membership.

The corresponding secretary reported that tracts had been sent out in rather large numbers since Conference and that the supply of quite a few titles was exhausted. Three new tracts are in the process of publication. The committee recommended immediate reprint of three Sabbath tracts: “Has the Original Sabbath Day Been Lost?” “How Honest Are You?” and “Loved Thou Me?” The board adopted the recommendation.

Charles E. Hughes, former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court: “I smoked regularly till nine years ago when I cut it out completely. I have been a backslider. In fact it has changed my whole life. I am able to sleep better. I can safely say that giving up tobacco has increased my efficiency twenty-five per cent.” — Bible Advocate.
NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

VERONA, N. Y. — Worldwide Communion was observed at our church on October 3 at the Sabbath morning service. The Junior Choir conducted by Mrs. Orville Williams presented special music.

Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Davis motored to Nortonville, Kans., to attend the ordination to the Gospel ministry of their son, Duane, which occurred October 10. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. George Stone.

The Helpers Sabbath school class has been helping in publishing the quarterly newsheet, The Verona Messenger.

There was no service at our church October 10 as most of the congregation attended the Fall Association held in the Leonardsville Church. The Men’s Chorus from Verona gave several selections and conducted the closing devotional service.

The wall for the addition to the church is up and the men are working on the structure.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davis of Rochester were recent guests at the home of his brother George. Mr. Davis is connected with the public relations department of Rochester Institute of Technology and spoke at Rome Free Academy and other schools in this area on "Vocational Guidance" during his stay here. — Correspondent.

EDINBURG, TEX. — During the Sabbath morning worship service Sept. 26, the Edinburg Church had a dedication service for 19 hymnbooks (Tabernacle Hymns No.3) which are a gift to the church from the Edinburg W.C.T.U. in memory of Mrs. Genesee. A brothe, Virgil A. Clark, North Sacramento, Calif.; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Amy Crandall; and two stepsons: John A. and Mark R. Sanford, all of Little Genesee.

Funeral services were conducted Sept. 28, 1953, at the residence with Pastor Delmer Clark, horn officiating, and burial was in the Little Genesee Cemetery. — D. V. H.

ATTENTION — SABBATH OBSERVERS

SABBATH LITERATURE

Non-sectarian — Undenominational

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Quantity Discounts

"THE SABBATH SENTINEL"
A Quarterly $1.00 per annum
Localize 50-Year Sunset Tables, 151s x 11 $10.00 for two
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