



# HERITAGE HORIZONS

a publication of  
NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST HERITAGE COMMISSION  
*...a memorial book was written in His presence, recording those who revered Him  
and those who had the highest respect for His Name...Malachi 3:16*

An Auxiliary  
of the North  
American Baptist  
Conference

1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1599

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## Viewing the Horizons:



The past Horizon of my life was in the Cameroon, West Africa, as a Missionary. When time for retirement came God said; "Go to view the Horizons of My NAB People and share their heritage and be Thankful." I am doing that and each day as more evidence of His Hand in our NAB Conference Member's lives is made known to me. For that I am very glad.

Looking to the Horizon of the NAB Heritage Commission's future is a real challenge!

There are days that I would like to be more than one person: researcher, secretary, editor, publisher, box lifter, computer whiz, translator, preserver, file clerk, author, and compiler all wrapped up in one body. Some of the extra work has been accomplished by Ann Johnson, Louise Westerman and Marj Buseman, who come in every Tuesday afternoon to sort, label pictures and prepare documents for preservation. Another person has accepted a challenge of translating some German documents into English.

The need of more SPACE is constantly with us. What would you do to gain more? Refuse all further materials? I think that is not feasible. Use the space we have to a better advantage? Installing shelves that move would help but a recent visit to the Conference office in Oakbrook Terrace caused us to realize that they have many documents and artifacts that should be in our holdings. We have no space. We wonder what you would do if

you knew that pictures, documents, files, artifacts, and oral history in the form of tapes are there for us but can not be transferred since we have no room. Move to a different building? Yes! But wait! That would mean renting or buying. That will also mean the additional heating, maintenance and utility bills. Our Seminary has been housing and providing those for us. We want you to know they have been most generous and we are very grateful!

Our future horizon of needs is not clear at this time. However, our Board of Governors agrees that the place should be on the Seminary Campus so students and staff can use the materials.

Our dream is to have a building that will provide us with room for museum areas, preserving documents and books, an adequate area to preserve and process material, a storage place for incoming and already processed materials as well as room for office work.

If we could look 25 years into the future I wonder how much of our dream will have come true? bvw



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NAB HERITAGE COMMISSION?

### Researchers Requests:

*"Can you send me copy of the article by Walter Rauschenbusch entitled "'Should I join an English Church?'" We found it and sent it on its way.*

*"Please send me material about the church that was in Buck Grove, IA." We found some and learned there were many more churches in Iowa in the early 1900's. The German booklet written by Pastor Dallman is now with Rev. Harold Gruber who is translating it for us. That will give us much more information.*

Our youngest member, Rob Cunningham has written a pamphlet about the Andrews Street Baptist Church in Rochester, NY. He learned that some of the windows given in memory of Walter Rauschenbusch have been stolen. He found historical artifacts and documents in closets and other hidden areas of that church as well as at the Latta Road Church. The Rochester's downtown Rundell Library also had some historical files and documents. Congratulations, Rob! - for beginning the preservation of your church's history.

*Have you looked into the corners of your church for similar treasures? Emery SD and Latta Road Baptist have museums now. Will you begin one for your church? Tell us if you have one.*

From Iowa we received a newspaper page about the 1913 Triennial Conference which was held at Madison, SD. (At that time it was called Der Bundes Konference.)

Thank you First Baptist Church Steamboat Rock, Iowa. That fragile page has been laminated and photocopied. The original paper cost 5 cents. The delegates from the East Coast came to the Conference by train and the train waited for them until the conference was over. About 100 automobiles brought the delegates from the train to Madison University and out to see the country and farm area later in the week. One farmer gave a bag of apples to each of the cars that visited his farm. The hospitality of the people of Madison area caused the Eastern delegates to give special thanks. One of the University buildings was used as a dorm and another was the meeting place.

### PROBLEMS WE NEED SOLVED

We will be glad to listen to any suggestions that you have. Here are some of the facts:

1. The place for the Heritage Commission should continue to be on the Seminary Campus so that the students can use it for research and study. If a house is provided on the Seminary Campus the additional money of rent, utilities and telephone would be needed. Right now our budget is not adequate for that.
2. There are two on our staff and we should have more help but hiring people is out of question due to inadequate funds. Without the volunteers even more work would be left undone.



## **START YOUR CHURCH'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM NOW!**

Be sure to keep at least one of each of your church's Anniversary Booklets and put them in a place so that your people can be informed about your past. Send us one copy of any extras you have.

Do your older people have cups, plates, bookmarks, pictures that tell your story? They can be on display too.

Perhaps someone has a cupboard with a glass door for displaying historical items: Old hymnals, communion sets, cups, plates, photos, and offering plates that they would be glad to donate to your museum.

Old documents can be laminated in order to protect them and then put them on display.

If the minutes of your church are handwritten in German now is the time to find someone who can still read the script of those early years. If you desire a copy of the German news item that tells of your church being accepted into our conference we will attempt to find and mail it to you. Then after you have had it translated we would desire a copy of the translation.

Have your young people visit and interview the older members of your church and then share the stories they have heard in your church's newsletter or orally with the church.

**DO IT NOW!**



## **WELCOME THREE NEW MEMBERS:**

Ruth Weiss, White Rock BC Canada  
Dr. Janell Christiansen, Lennox, SD  
Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND

## **OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS!**

When Konrad A. Fleischman came to the United States he used these two buildings as places of worship. Fleischman Memorial has survived 152 years.



Tunker Church, Blooming Grove, Pa.  
Built in 1828



The Church of the Lord that Meets on Poplar Street, the first meeting place of the present Fleischman Memorial Baptist Church.

## **CHURCHES WHICH ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 100 YEAR BIRTHDAYS 1995/1996**

Calvary Baptist, Parkersburg, IA 1895  
Bethel Baptist, Gettsville, NY 1895  
Oakbank Baptist, Oakbank, MB 1895  
First Baptist, Fessenden, ND 1896  
Calvary Baptist, Wetaskiwin, AB, 1896  
Ashley Baptist, Ashley, ND 1896  
First Baptist, Auburn, MI 1896  
Emmanuel Baptist, Morris, MB, 1896  
First Baptist, Durham, KS 1896

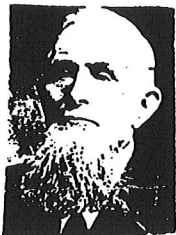
## **OFFICIAL CHANGES IN OUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS PERSONNEL:**

When Edith DeNeui resigned as a member of the Board of Governors the Director of the WMF appointed Louise Westerman in her place. She is also a member of the Membership, Publication and Promotion Committee.

Harry Haas was appointed and confirmed as the Vice Chair of our Board.

### PROFILE:

Rev. Ottje Olthoff the "Circuit Riding Preacher" who traveled through sun, rain and snow.



O. Olthoff



Rev. Ottje Olthoff and house he built in Emery

The house he built is still in use today.

The Editor had heard of pastor O. Olthoff, but did not know him. He was the father of my mother's good friend, Mrs. John Plucker (Hannah). The reports revealed these facts.

He lived in Emery, SD but his mission field extended many miles around. At times he would be away from home for weeks at a time. His children missed him even though they received more discipline when he came home.

"Rev. Ottje Olthoff was ordained as the first pastor of the First Baptist Church, Emery, SD on Feb. 24, 1886, at the same time the church was established and recognized by delegates from 5 other churches. Brother Engleman from the mother church in Aplington, IA was present to extend the hand of fellowship and recognition to the new church of 16 members. Rev. Olthoff ministered to people in surrounding areas, and stations were established in Monroe, Avon, Unityville, and Chancellor. He was known as the "Circuit Riding Preacher" because he traveled many miles by pony and buggy to bring the Gospel to those under his care. He served Emery during two pastorates and was faithful as long as his health permitted him to serve. He built a home in Emery for his family. When he became ill, his daughters cared for him until his death." (First Baptist Church of Emery's 100th anniversary booklet.)



"THE CIRCUIT RIDER OF YESTERYEAR"



Celebration  
of  
Gratitude

### THANKSGIVING:

-For all of you have renewed your membership. Our percentage is much higher than we were told to expect. The average is loss is .30% and ours is about .06%

-For our three very faithful volunteers who do not come just to help but tell us they really enjoy it.

-For the many things the Seminary provides for us: a place to stay, electricity, warmth, space and a very friendly atmosphere.



As you read this one we are already working on the next one.

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Your comments, corrections, or suggestions are appreciated. Also send us news items to include in subsequent issues. Send them to:

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