

# 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*

1525 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105-1526  
Telephone: (605) 335-9071

An Auxiliary  
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## POINT OF VIEW

By Lenore Lang

Since 1865 North American Baptists have been participating in Triennial Conferences. That is quite a heritage!

Have you ever wondered what took place at some of these conferences? On page 2 you can see some excerpts from 1928, when the conference took place in Chicago, Illinois.

And in 1975 there was a provocative article in The Baptist Herald—"Hitch your wagon to a Horse". The ideas are still timely and stimulating. See some excerpts on page 3.

We continue to enjoy the story of the Hofmeisters' Missionary experience in Cameroon, translated by William H. Rentz. See the latest installment on page 3.

Several more NAB people have been productively occupied in writing their memories of the work they have done: Dr. Gideon Zimmerman and Dr. Earl Ahrens. While at this time these documents are not available for general use, we intend to include excerpts from some of them in forthcoming issues of Heritage Horizons. We have obtained copies of short works by Rev. Herman Palfenier (who died in 1976) and by Rev. Rubin Kern, recently deceased.



## THE HERITAGE COMMISSION

at the Triennial in Sacramento

by George W. Lang, Archives Director

The NAB Heritage Commission will make itself visible at the Conference in a number of ways. The Heritage Commission Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday morning, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program will highlight the work of local church historians, especially those from the West coast, as well as those doing NAB research and the writing of memoirs.

We are preparing new NAB Heritage Commission brochures to be published in time for distribution at the Conference.

There will be an Exhibit Booth where you can see several exciting displays:

1. A TIME-LINE of NAB History, with emphasis on the West Coast. (After all, the Conference is THERE!)
2. A PICTURE ALBUM OVERVIEW of our archival work and workers.
3. A NAMING GAME: help us identify people, church buildings, and events.



There will be a four-minute power point presentation, prepared with the invaluable help of a very knowledgeable NAB church member. You won't want to miss ANY of these very visible opportunities.

## THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE --1928

(from The Baptist Herald, Sept. 15, 1928)

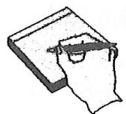
It is usual to hear people say at the close of a convention: "This was the best one ever held." This remark is often made under the exuberance and exaltation of powerful impressions received at the moment. But this opinion about the Twenty-Second General Conference at Chicago, Aug. 27-Sept. 2, expressed so freely and frequently at the close of the sessions, will stand and will be confirmed by subsequent calm review and discriminating judgment, now that it belongs to the past.

...the arrangements of the local committee were adequate, the provisions for our entertainment were complete. There was no creaking of the wheels, no stalling of the motor and every part was working and running smoothly.....

Moderator Prof. H. von Berge by his tactful manner and his fair ruling kept the ample program moving along on schedule time.

(There were) quiet half-hour periods at the close of the morning business sessions,....evening sessions. imposing and inspiring.....banquets,.....a closing communion service...an innovation at General Conference sessions. Some were dubious of its propriety when it was first proposed. But all who were present and took part...must have been deeply impressed by its solemn fitness and beauty, by the spirit of reverence, love and consecration that evidently pervaded every heart.

Our next General Conference will meet, the Lord willing, in Detroit in 1931.



(Editor's note: NOW it is 2000—  
and our next Conference will be in  
Sioux Falls, S.D. in 2003!)

## NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF -- 1928 (from The Baptist Herald, Sept. 15, 1928)

The registration of delegates and visitors numbered 662; 192 who had announced their coming either did not come or did not register.

The Budget for Missionary and Benevolent purposes adopted in Pittsburgh three years ago was set at \$875,000. ...The total of all gifts during the last three years amounted to \$682,000. The Missionary and Benevolent Budget for the next triennium 1928-1931 was fixed at \$650,000 -- the minimum goal.

The General Conference adopted the recommendation for an addition to be made to our Children's Home at St. Joseph at a cost of about \$10,000. This is to provide for two isolation wards as well as quarters for housing the hired help.

There are 30 children in the Children's Home in St. Joseph. The average number in the Home during the last three years was 35. The cost of support was \$242.42 per child



per year...Besides the children at St. Joseph our Orphan's Board supports 18 widows with 67 children of minor age.

Christianity has two slogans, 'Come' and 'Go.' First we must become disciples and then we must make disciples....


General Missionary Secretary Wm. Kuhn, D.D., said in his report, "In spite of the fact that we German Baptist churches think we are not doing so bad for missions and benevolences and are doing better than some other denominations, yet (we) are giving only two cents per day per member for missions...much room for improvement."  
(Editor's Note: For 1999 the figure was 23 cents per day per member.)

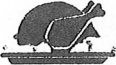
**THE HOFMEISTERS' MISSIONARY  
EXPERIENCE IN KAMERUN:  
1899-1900**

translated by Guest Writer William H. Rentz,  
(Used by permission of the translator.)  
(Continued from the March issue)

"Hunger was our constant companion. A certain situation sticks in my mind. In the vicinity of Masaka, the path followed the stream for about fifteen minutes. Two of the strongest men wanted to carry us on their shoulders. If we came to a tree trunk across the stream, we were put down to cross by ourselves and then they picked us up on the other side and carried us again.

"We then came to a tree trunk which a column of ants used for a bridge also; the log was just covered with them. There was no place for us to stand at the bank so we crossed over the water with the ants, while our carriers waded through.

"On the other side, the carriers had second thoughts about carrying us, and all the ants crawling over us, on their shoulders. Under these  conditions, we were looking for some other log or dry piece of ground where we could get rid of the ants.

Shortly before 4 PM, we arrived in Nyamtang and met Missionary Muller, who was not expecting us. Here we were able to satisfy our hunger with cocoyams and cooked chicken. In Nyamtang, that was the daily fare as there was not other  food. Consequently, one changed off cocoyams and chicken and chicken and cocoyams. Missionary Muller couldn't get any more advice as he was also new to the country."

(Next issue: Soppo, Mount Cameroon and trouble with getting carriers).

**HITCH YOUR WAGON TO A HORSE**

by Walter B. Shurden, writer, scholar, lay philosopher and teacher;  
from The Baptist Herald, February 1975.

"Dreams do not have to be fantasies. They can be made to work. Dreams help bring about change.



"Do you accept it or do you challenge it? That is the question a good dream asks of us....How does one develop a sense of equilibrium between stretching for the stars and keeping one's feet on the ground?

"Mull over the following suggestions:

*"Come to grips intellectually with the hard fact that you don't get what you want simply by wishing hard.*


*"Isolate your gifts and build on them....But maybe you are like the student who, when I was talking about this same idea in class one day, blurted out, 'Okay, Prof, I give up, what's my gift?'*

"My response was, 'Your gift is usually where your joy is.' What do you enjoy doing? Identify your joy and you may have isolated your gift. Build your future around your gifts, not around your dreads.

*"Identify the limits of your life. And finally, Quit waiting for the time of 'arrival' to come in your life.' ...Do the thing at hand, the common thing, the ordinary thing, the unspectacular but necessary things....Actually, it takes longer to get where you are going and to become who you want to be than once you thought. There are no shortcuts."*


**Our Associate Archivist/Assistant Editor  
has been busy.....**

Miss Berneice Westerman represented the Heritage Commission in early June at the meetings of the NAB General Council in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

She has responded to various requests to research church history projects, personal family matters and other important items. These requests have come from Edmonton, Canada, Linton, North Dakota,  Greenville, Texas and points between. This work is a *very* important part of The Heritage Commission's ministry.


**CHURCH HISTORIANS, take note!**  
Archives Director George W. Lang says:

"During these past months we are making a special effort to identify the historians of each one of our local NAB churches in the U.S. and Canada. We are encouraging these historians to collect and organize the historical documents and artifacts of their own churches. We are also requesting that they send to the NAB Heritage Commission in Sioux Falls anniversary booklets and other significant historical materials, including pictures and artifacts.

"Also please send to the editor of Heritage Horizons a story or two--showing attitudes and actions of faith, sacrifice, or courage, --stories  connected with your church's history.

"So far over 30 churches have sent us the names of their church historians. We encourage all the others of our NAB churches to do the same. To those who send in these names, we are sending an eight-page set of guidelines for the use of church historians. This paper is called, 'The Unique Story of Your Church'."

**Our sympathy.....**

is extended to the family of Rev.  Rubin Kern who died on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000. He wrote a letter to the Archives on April 8<sup>th</sup> and was summoned into the presence of the Lord ten days later. His autobiography is now in the Archives.

**DO YOU KNOW THAT...**(from The Baptist Herald, by the Rev. A.R. Bernadt, Burlington, Iowa.)

(January 1, 1949) "What this country needs is a new kind of money that would be easier to save than to spend."

(May 1, 1949) "A motorist is a person who after seeing a wreck drives carefully for several blocks afterwards."

(July 15, 1949) "There are two ways to be rich; one is to have a great deal and the other is to be content with a little."

"Hitting the ceiling is not the best way to get up in the world."

**Humor from long ago---**

(The Baptist Herald, Sept. 15, 1928)

"Jimmy," said a mother to her quick-tempered small boy, "you must not grow angry and say naughty things. You should always give a soft answer."

When his little brother provoked him an hour afterward, Jimmy clenched his little fist and said, "Mush."

