

HERITAGE HORIZONS



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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*

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POINT OF VIEW

By Lenore Lang

Young or old, each NAB church in existence today had its beginnings – somewhere, at a specific time! And the people who were there at those “beginnings” had a lot of faith that what they were doing was worthwhile in their lives and to the glory of God.



Now the time has come for the Heritage Commission to show similar faith in venturing into a new phase of its growth and development. The “Launching Out!” article on page one of this issue describes what this is about for the future of our NAB archives ministry.

Page 2 gives us more of the continuing saga of what launching out meant for Missionary Hofmeister as he and his wife pioneered missionary work in the country of Cameroon in the late 1800’s.

The 125th year anniversary celebrations of churches described by Berneice Westerman on page 3 have provided recent opportunities for celebrating pioneer leaders in NAB’s own history on the prairies of the United States - pioneer people who were willing to venture forth in faith and even sacrifice.

The commemorative part of this issue on page 4 brings to our attention key NAB

leaders who were people of faith and dedication as they made their contribution to the work of the Kingdom. As the “Life Again” poem so powerfully describes, “Our family was blessed to have a leader like him – A man who could hold out through thick and thin.”

LAUNCHING OUT!

by George W. Lang, Archives Director



The NAB Heritage Commission has started to launch its Capital Fund Drive with permission having been granted by the NAB General Council.

Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, Chair of the Heritage Commission, is the co-Chair of the Capital Fund Drive, together with Dr. Gideon Zimmerman.

Special stationery has been developed for this Drive, using the new NAB logo. A twelve-page promotional brochure is almost completed. This brochure contains a brief overview of the history and vision of NAB and its Heritage Commission. It features endorsements by NAB leaders concerning the importance of celebrating our heritage. It describes the kind of help needed to advance the Capital Fund Drive.

Dr. Zimbelman has secured an RV to enable him to take this Drive to key NAB locations throughout the U.S. and Canada. He and
(Concluded on page 2, Column 1)

(Continued from page 1, Column 2):
Dorothy plan to begin this effort in October,
starting with California and going North
along the Pacific Coast.

We are thankful to the Lord that Ernie's
health has recovered. After five months of
chemo and immuno treatments, as of mid-
August the doctor told Ernie that his
lymphoma cancer is in resolution.

He does not need to visit his doctor again for
three months. Pray that this
Capital Fund Drive effort will
achieve its Goal of \$1
million dollars – to be used for a
museum/archive facility and endowment to
help defray operational costs.

Also pray for Ernie's health, that it will
continue to be positive, and pray for his and
Dorothy's safety as they shall be traveling
many miles over the next four months.



HOFMEISTERS' MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE IN KAMERUN; 1899-1900

translated by Guest Writer William H. Rentz,
Used by permission of the translator.
(Continued from the April 2001 issue)

(Editor's note: In the last excerpt of the
diary, the Missionaries had had to contend
with a tropical tornado which soaked them
through, but they finally were able to get
some rest.)

"Everything comes to an end and so did that
night. When daylight arrived, we had most
of the carriers remain there and prepare
lunch for us as we wanted to look around the
area and scout it out....We took several
carriers with us but soon we were left with
only one. He would also have gone, except
that we warned him that he might be
attacked by wild animals.

"When we got to the top of the hill after
much hardship, we found that our view of
the surrounding area was blocked by the
forest. In the meantime we also realized that
the seclusion, solitude and impassability of
the area made it an unlikely place to establish
a rest house.



"On our return to Nyamtang we were
fortunate not to lose our way in the dense
fog that settled on the area. Arriving back
there, Missionary Tromsdorf came down
with a fever.

"After several days I got ready to return to
Duala....I decided to row back during the
night with the canoe. With the current in our
favor, we reached Duala by nine a.m.
Sunday. That was my first trip in Africa.

"My wife met me at the top of the stairs to
our house. When I greeted her, I realized
that she was burning with a fever. She
indicated that this was the second day that
she had the fever and had been fighting it to
stay up, but now she was completely
exhausted and wanted to lie down and rest.
...I put my wife to bed and nursed her for
four days until the fever broke. She was
beginning to feel better and then I came
down with a fever that left me shaking.

"Now it was her turn to nurse me and my
fever for a further four or five days. That
was my first attack of malaria fever and I
must admit that I never really fully recovered
from it even when no fever was in evidence."
(Next issue: How to fight malaria fever.)



NAMES OF OLD TIME ILLNESSES

Ablepsy -- Blindness
Ague -- Malarial Fever
American plague -- Yellow fever
Apoplexy -- Paralysis due to stroke
(from "Pioneer Pathfinder", April 2001, Vol.
27, No. 2, page 44)




TRAVEL WITH THE ARM CHAIR TRAVELER

By Associate Archivist
Berneice Westerman

Since our last issue there have been some REAL miles,  (not just 'arm chair' ones), and some that are from your  (NAB) Heritage.

I was able to attend the first day of our Danzig Church's 125th anniversary celebration. This church is near Avon, South Dakota. (Editor's Note: Several years ago the members in faith put up a fine new building, burning the mortgage during the recent Sunday afternoon closing anniversary service.)

I considered it a privilege to view the cemetery of the Emmanuel Creek church, (the church from which the Danzig and Tyndall churches each trace their roots). There is a chain-link fence setting the cemetery off from a farmer's field, several miles from the  present Danzig church. There is a metal engraved marker in place to identify it. The cemetery is small, with only a dozen or more markers. Of these, at least six of them represented children less than five years of age. The family names were Reub and Sattler.

Another recent trip of REAL miles was to Randolph, Minnesota's 125th anniversary. People there told us a fascinating story of how the church building was moved to town from its original country setting. The mover wrote out a check for the church furniture for the time of the trip in order to be able to insure it. Then, at the end of the trip, the mover tore up the check and the church furniture was again the property of the congregation.

A researcher from Austin, Texas came to the Archives to find information about his relatives, the Schaibles and Sievers. This person told us about some information stored in the attic of a church he knows about. He feels that these papers, pictures and such could be sent to us for preservation.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Please do not throw old church minutes, pictures and historical items into the trash bin before contacting us. These items are valuable to us and should be preserved. We heard about a church that took its old documents to the garbage dump to get rid of them.

A man in Tennessee is working on an encyclopedia that will contain brief histories of people who were in Christian work, and I was able to send to him obituaries and pictures for nine of our Conference workers including Dr. Richard Schilke and Dr. Frank Veninga. (We really appreciate obtaining copies of obituaries of those who were members of your church.)

From time to time I obtain more information about early Seminary students. Otto E. Krueger went to Australia in the years 1901 – 1908. Herman Paul Kayser went to Cameroon as a Missionary before any roads were in place, in the years 1910 – 1915. Thus we see our Seminary has had a worldwide outreach. What a heritage we have!



GENEALOGICAL PONDERING

Genealogy: It's all relative in the end anyway.

Life takes its toll. Have exact change ready! That's strange: half my ancestors are WOMEN!

Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards. (from "Pioneer Pathfinder", April 2001, Vol. 27, No. 2, page 42)





OUR LOSS – HEAVEN'S GAIN

In this issue, we want to acknowledge the home-going of several devoted servants of the Lord.

Elmer C. Strauss was a man who had a heart for children and for seeing them learn God's Word, so he, together with a friend from Seminary, founded *The Challenger Club* to encourage Bible Memorization and daily Bible reading among children.

He served first as a pastor and then as a missionary in Cameroon. He and his wife, Ruth, have lived since retirement in Dallas, Texas, near Amy and Holly, their two daughters and their spouses. He was called Home on Mother's Day, May 13, 2001.

Dr. Richard Schilke of Oak Park, Illinois died on June 30, 2001, after suffering severe smoke inhalation from a fire in his home on Mother's Day.

Born to German parents in Poland on April 25, 1912, he was raised on a farm in Canada. He studied for the ministry in Rochester, New York, being ordained in 1939. He served as a pastor and as General Missionary Secretary for the NAB Conference for almost thirty years, a tireless and faithful worker.

And finally, Carl Weisser who was born on October 24, 1911 went to be with the Lord on July 16, 2001. For five weeks he was hospitalized in Arnprior, Ontario, Canada, with a rare disease that had destroyed some of his organs, a disease for which there is no cure at this time. Brother Weisser served for over forty years as pastor in many NAB churches in the United States and Canada. His keen sense of humor was well known.

Last year we noted the death of Rev. Rubin Kern on April 18, 2000 in Sarnia General Hospital, Ontario, Canada. At a Memorial service held in Grosse Pointe Baptist Church in Michigan on June 11, 2000, a granddaughter, Angela Colavecchi, read a poem she wrote. These thoughts are appropriate for each of these dear men of God, no longer with us here: Our Loss – Heaven's Gain.

LIFE AGAIN

Don't dwell on the loss but reap from the gain
And realize that a pure heart deals better with pain.
A life has come and passed us by
We should not suffer and let our dear souls cry.

We should celebrate his life and dry up our tears
Focus our attention on his wise, long-lived years.
With his heart turned to his Creator his soul was so brave
And now he is rewarded for the praise that he gave.

A provider so generous and a keen, creative mind
My grandfather was caring, diligent and kind.
A gentle man with an honest heart
Had a humbling spirit and was notably smart.

Our family was blessed to have a leader like him
A man who could hold out through thick and thin.
But a life here on Earth just wasn't quite right
So he centered his awareness on the heavenly light.

If we trust in the Lord and abide by His grace
We will allow the fragile soul to settle into place.
In the heaven above where the angels grant peace
Where crying has stopped and sorrow has ceased.

Let memories reign in your mind and seek joy
For heaven is holding our man, youth and boy.
Innocence is back and faith is now strong
Prevailing is LIFE AGAIN, though this time it's
ETERNALLY long!

