



# 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

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An Auxiliary  
of the North  
American Baptist  
Conference

## POINT OF VIEW

By Lenore Lang

It is time again for the Winter issue of this newsletter. Here in Sioux Falls, many of us have our eyes on the calendar, thinking of the upcoming Triennial which will be held here July.

We hope that many of you readers are not only thinking of the Triennial, but are making definite plans to attend. This event promises to be a rich time of blessing, with many noteworthy speakers on the agenda.

Archives' Director George Lang has some words about the Triennial, on this page.

On page 2 we have an important Tribute, and also you will find mention of a "new" Sunday to celebrate. There is also an important prayer request for all of us. Prayer should always be on our agendas and this one is no exception.

On pages 2 and 3 we have a "look what happened" item that came because of an article in the Fall issue of Heritage Horizons! Look and see.....

And finally, on pages 3 and 4, we have our Armchair Traveler's good insights, detailing some of the work done in your Heritage Commission Archives, plus a poem written by Elmer Westerman, the brother of Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman.



## THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

by George W. Lang

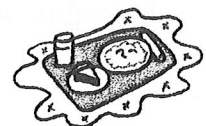
### LOOKING TOWARD THE TRIENNIAL!

The gathering of the 47<sup>th</sup> Triennial Sessions of the NAB Conference is only four months away. Hundreds of registrations have been received already here in Sioux Falls.

As indicated on the schedule printed on the last page of the green 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Triennial Conference Brochure, the Heritage Commission shall again sponsor a breakfast, this time in partnership with the Retired Pastors and Missionaries Pension Fund and also the Servant Link Ministry. This breakfast is scheduled to take place at 7 a.m. on Thursday morning of the conference week. As indicated on page 5 of the green brochure, the breakfast is FREE, compliments of R.W. Baird, NAB 403 (b) provider. If you have not yet received the brochure, please write to us; we shall be very happy to send you one.

All Friends of the History of North American Baptists are invited: You and your friends and relatives are warmly encouraged to attend the breakfast -- ANYONE seriously interested in the Heritage of North American Baptists. You will have an opportunity to meet the Heritage Commission Chair -- Dr. Ernie Zimbelman, as well as the Heritage Commission Staff, its Officers, and other Heritage Commission members.

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A separate room and exhibit booth are being reserved by the Heritage Commission to display significant NAB archival items to view, pictures to identify, and NAB authored books to buy, including some books dealing with NAB missions.

The room set aside will be large enough to provide space for you to visit with Heritage Commission staff and officers and other NAB'ers attending the Conference.

See you in Sioux Falls in July!!

### CELEBRATING HERITAGE SUNDAY

by Dr. Ernie Zimbelman

Together with members of our Heritage Commission Board of Governors, I want to encourage every NAB church to set aside a Sunday to celebrate its NAB Heritage.



The suggested time for such a celebration is **June 29<sup>th</sup>**, which is the Sunday before Canada Day – July 1<sup>st</sup> in Canada, and also before Independence Day – July 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States.

It is *very appropriate* that at the very time when attention is given to our national heritage, our NAB Christian heritage also be celebrated.

### ANTIQUÉ CARS ANYONE?

How would you like to have a ride in an antique car – one that really works? Ernie Zimbelman has thought that people might really enjoy that opportunity at the Triennial here, to remind us of earlier days.

The plan is to pick up one or two of the keynote speakers from the airport in such a vehicle also. A nice surprise for them!

### SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT

On January 31 a Capital Funds Drive planning meeting was held at NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls, to focus on an Archives Facility which we greatly need for work and for storage of important materials and documents of our NAB Heritage Commission. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ernie Zimbelman. **One Million Dollars Plus** is the goal of the Drive.

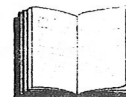
At present there are fifteen members on this Capital Funds Drive Team. Many wise insights were shared by those in attendance at the January meeting.

Someone has rightly said, "Outlook determines Outcome." Read Mark 9:23, where Jesus spoke to a father in need of a miracle for his son: "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Our *outlook* of faith can determine the *outcome* of this endeavor. Please pray for all fifteen board members in the days to come, for plans to go forward *as the Lord directs*. Yes, Outlook determines Outcome.

### "DAS PREDIGER BUCH"

Notes by the Editor:

You may recall that in the Fall 2002 issue of Heritage Horizons, we featured a fascinating story of Rev. Rubin Herrmann's "Prediger Buch".



Some months later, it was exciting for Archives' Director George Lang to receive a letter from someone who had such a book and who has donated it to our Archives! The book is a real treasure and so is that someone: Mrs. Irmgard Kern, widow of Rev. Rubin Kern. She sent the book which arrived safely (and is in the Archives now.) The date of its writing is July 1758. The book is in remarkably good condition, though of course the pages are now brownish in hue instead of white. The print

is very clear and readable (if you read German). On the flyleaf are a number of carefully written notations, together with the dates: 31 October 1793 and 24<sup>th</sup> May 1830. It is an awesome experience to handle this book and to think of those who through the years found its sermonettes and Scriptures a daily blessing in often difficult times.

Mrs. Kern has indicated that her husband received the book from a member of his congregation in the Ridgewood Church in New York, sometime between 1959 – 1963, though she does not clearly recall the one who was its previous owner.

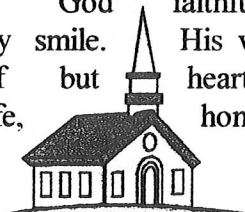
### TRIBUTE

by Professor Arnold Rapske

Edgar Klatt was born into a Baptist family, accepting Jesus Christ as a youth. He was called into the ministry and prepared at the seminary in Rochester, N.Y. He spent 50 years in the ministry. He and his wife had 63 years of married life. He died at 93, April 23, 2002, with his loving wife at his side.

After his training at seminary, he attended a general Conference in Alberta, Canada. He and his family were billeted in the Roth home where his eyes fixed on their daughter, Lillian. At that time she was sure that she would not marry a minister. Edgar was determined to win her – and he did! She fell in love with him, married him and was an indispensable team member in his ministry.

He served five churches, was director of the “God’s Volunteers” program, taught at CTI and after retiring served five churches as interim pastor. As visitation pastor at McKernan, spending two days a week, he made 2,980 calls to elderly members. He served God faithfully, always with a friendly smile. His wife has written a brief but heartfelt overview of his life, honoring him.



### THE ARM CHAIR TRAVELER

By Berneice Westerman

Associate Archivist



My arm chair really gets around these days. It takes no gasoline or tickets, but it does need a *finding* attitude in me, its driver: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How Long. Those are the questions. How do I find the travel agency to buy the ticket?

If it is a matter of visiting with someone who has gone to Glory, I will find that information in our Obituary holdings. For a while, doing such research was rather easy, since obituaries were printed in Der Sendboten or The Baptist Herald, but now it is a case of seeing in NAB Today a small notice which gives the date of birth -- the date of death. I am looking for the events that happened during the time of that *dash* which separates those two dates. You can help by sending in the obituaries from your church. Three or four people in our churches have been very good at doing this, and we are grateful.

I share with you the contents of one dash that shows something of what blessings are there for us. Bill had been battling throat cancer over the passage of many months. When he passed away, my brother, Elmer, wrote this meaningful eulogy about him. Bill and my brother had shared the watch-making hobby for a number of years.

### My Watchmaker Friend

His watchmaker's bench stands vacant now.  
I see Bill's empty chair.  
His loupe oft poised upon his brow  
Lies unattended there.

All hands have stopped and now stand still.  
The ticking sounds have ceased.  
'Cause Bill's not here, for God has willed  
No more suffering....only peace.  
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I mourn my loss. The void is real.  
Is my friend really gone?  
Then memories from the past reveal  
Bill's legacy lives on!

(by Elmer Westerman, used with permission)

(Loupe — a magnifying device that watchmakers use in repairing watches. It is held in place by a brow piece. Editor's note)

In my search for a "travel ticket", if it is a matter of learning to know your church better, I will go to the file to see if you have sent in the History of your church. Those anniversary books and programs as well as a time-line of events and dates of each pastor's service are of great help to us. Do we have your Church History?

If it is a matter of looking at pictures of your church activities and events, I find that such pictures are especially helpful if they are dated and the people identified. Those pictures help me visit in lands and places where I have never actually



I have been working with the pictures that the late Dr. Richard Schilke had in his many albums. They have gone through the fire which swept through his home. The albums were well-labeled and the pictures were protected by plastic which had melted and charred the edges of the pages. The smoke smell was very strong and did not yield to a number of recommended deodorizers. Then someone kindly loaned an air-cleaning machine which worked well and was easy to use. I was also able to download the story of Dr. Schilke's house fire from the local paper into our Archives' computer.

Perhaps you would be interested in knowing what some pictures go through, when we

receive tightly-rolled pictures and find they need the use of our "moisturizing machine". This is a set of two plastic buckets, one very large and the other the size of a gallon ice cream container.

Into the larger one we put an inch or two of water. Into the smaller one we place the tightly-rolled pictures and then set this smaller container into the larger bucket. Finally we cover the larger one with its precious cargo and let the moisture begin to relax the picture roll.

How long does it take? In about a week, we take the picture roll out and gently unroll it, placing it on a flat surface on acid-free paper and weight it down so it will not curl again. After the roll is dry, we identify the picture on an acid-free label with date, place, event, and names of people. We then secure this label on the back of each picture.

There are acid-free, full-sized label sheets available, giving the freedom to make labels as small or as large as needed.

We hope you will take the time to visit the Archives space during the Triennial in July. Some of us on staff will be available to show you around on the same day that the Barbeque Meal is served at the Seminary. Please do come down to the lower level of the Seminary Library to visit us.

While there you can see newspapers of the 1913 Triennial in Madison, SD as well as of the 1949 Triennial in Sioux Falls. And by the way, if you have items you wish to donate to our Archival Holdings, you can bring these with you then: things such as anniversary mugs, plates, pens, bookmarks. All will be gratefully accepted!

