

# Heritage Horizons

...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*

In this issue we celebrate the home-going of a dear saint, Violet Walth, whose grandson has some good words to share. See page 3.

At the Heritage Commission here in Sioux Falls we are the recipients of “pulpit and chairs” that once graced the first NAB church in the US — the Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Read Ernie Zimbelman’s words about this gift and its important history. Pgs 1 & 2.

Don’t miss “The Armchair Traveler”: interesting and inspiring information by Berneice Westerman, Associate Archivist. Page 4.

Note the “sidebar” on this page with its message, and consider in this issue all those who have listened to God’s voice, and obeyed.

### Inside this issue:

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## HISTORIC FURNITURE NOW IN SIOUX FALLS

By Dr. Ernie Zimbelman

During the month of June my wife, Dorothy, and I together with our grandson, Oliver, made a trip to Philadelphia to collect furniture that is about 120 years old: the pulpit and four stately chairs from the Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church there. The church, founded April 10, 1843, probably put up a building in the late 1840’s, with the current structure built in 1913. The church at this time is no longer being used for a meeting place, having continued ministry until July of 2002.



The pulpit and chairs are now on temporary display at the NABS library here in Sioux Falls and we are consulting with Curators from the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls regarding a more permanent exhibit setting. (continued on page 2)

“When God shall come and say to you, ‘Here is the thing that you must do,’

Be listening.”

Baptist Herald.

April 22, 1954.

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In April of this year the Heritage Commission's Board of Governors discussed the feasibility of exploring places in the seminary for exhibits to focus on various facets of NAB ministries through the years. This action received President Hagan's approval. We continue to work on that project.

In fact it is totally appropriate that the Heritage Commission should make **the pulpit and stately chairs** the focal point of our display related to the history of our churches. **The stained glass windows** which were removed from the Cathay Baptist Church of Cathay, ND when the building was taken down in 1995, may also be included in a display.

While we cannot develop a display for *every church's* story, we want and need you readers to send in your written stories about the lives of individuals or families. Please help us!

As to the beginnings of the Fleischmann Church from which the pulpit and chairs have come, nineteen year old Konrad Fleischmann found himself searching for spiritual direction and fulfillment. On vacation one day while crossing Lake Geneva on a boat, another young man handed him a Christian tract stressing reconciliation with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. He read this tract and became a believer! He then became a pastor, first in Switzerland where he ministered very effectively as a pastor and evangelist, later emigrating to the United States, in large part due to the encouragement of George Mueller of England.



After a time Fleischmann moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he baptized five German-speaking candidates in March of 1843 and several weeks later he met with a group of nineteen to observe the Lord's Supper. Thus the oldest church of the NAB Conference has come to regard this as the date of its beginning, (April 10, 1843). In 1851 the first session of the German Baptist Conference was held at this same church in Philadelphia.

From such a small beginning, today the NAB Conference works in 28 states in the US, and five Canadian provinces. There are approximately 400 churches with almost 65,000 members. Sixty-four NAB missionaries serve in seven countries "to make disciples of Jesus Christ at home and internationally". In addition the NAB Conference recognizes eight missionary partners serving in other places.



**Look: a new book!** Clarence Walth has been editing and collecting entries for his book, "Heroes of the Faith", to be available near the end of July 2004. The book contains biographical tributes to twenty-four NAB leaders, — pastors, missionaries and lay people, who have gone to be with the Lord, leaving wonderful legacies of faithful Christian living.

The book will sell for \$5.95. To procure your own copy, you may e-mail or telephone Clarence Walth. E-mail: [clarenceanddorene@hotmail.com](mailto:clarenceanddorene@hotmail.com). Telephone: 916-965-6900.

One of the twenty-four chapters included in the book honors Violet (Mrs. Reuben) Walth. This issue of Heritage Horizons contains a tribute spoken at her funeral by her grandson, Shayne. (See page 3). Clarence Walth welcomes others to submit articles for a second volume which will be called "More Heroes of the Faith". Know of someone whose life could inspire people? Feel a nudge to write? Pick up a pen and paper, or turn on your computer and DO it — today!



“We will miss so many things..The smile...the wisdom...the strength...the warmth...the love...that unconditional love for God, Grandpa, and all of us.

I will miss the lucky feeling of having not only a Grandma...but the **best** Grandma, the kind that you just wished others could experience. I will miss the visits...the meals... the turkey and dressing, the German dishes....I will miss the HUGS. I remember prepping friends...’She’s gonna hug ya...and you’re gonna like it’. Friends still mention those hugs.



Last Sunday afternoon she cooked for a large family gathering...a birthday dinner for Grandpa and me. She was in her glory; the food was awesome. Then the call on Monday morning: Denial. No more time. No last hug. I could not remember a farewell hug the day before, but I realized that I did not need any last words, advice, or final goodbye. She had taken every opportunity to let us know how she felt, to express her love...Preparing us for this: No regrets. What a life to celebrate.

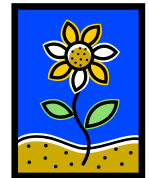
Her faith comforts me. There is no doubt: We know where she is...She always knew where she was going...she spent a lifetime with that in mind. Death does not have to be sad...It is the start of her new life. She is where she should be...and we can be with her again someday.

I could not help but think of her Judgment Day with a smile. Pardon the Monopoly Game expression, but ‘Do not pass Go...Do not collect \$200...Go straight to HEAVEN!’ OK, I take that back. Knowing Grandma, I think she would ask for extra time with God to request some extra special treatment for all of us. Then she would request to take the long way around, taking the time to pass GO, collect the \$200 and use it to buy coffee and donuts for the souls standing in line for their Judgment Day.

We are never prepared for this. I am sorry, Grandpa, that she will never find another of those ‘I love you’ stickers you placed for her to find. Your marriage was an institution of love. An epitome of how beautiful marriage can be. When you married, one plus one became two. She is gone, but don’t subtract. You are whole, and you are two times the person you were before Grandma. NOTHING can change that. You must think of it that way—her memory lives on in you, with you, ...We will never fill the void, but we can close the gap. My Grandma’s life was a life of love.



Reuben Walth, an older brother of Clarence Walth, has given to the Heritage Commission a gift in memory of his wife of almost 63 years. She was called Home suddenly with a massive heart attack. When they lived in Hebron, ND, for 37 years she volunteered playing the piano and organ in the church services, and in Bismarck, ND she did the same for 26 years at our Baptist Home there. She and Reuben lived in a condo right across the street from that Baptist Home. She was called to her heavenly Home March 3, 2003, and her funeral service was held on March 7th.



# THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Associate Archivist Berneice Westerman



This armchair is not creaking as much as it was for a while. With 160 guests, three parties, two cakes, and over 165 birthday cards, my personal joints have been lubricated with the oil of friendship and love. I have a document which says that at this time I have an excuse to forget or misplace something. These words are the key: “After all, I am 80 now.”

Your encouragement has been invigorating. A number of you have commented about my arm chair reminiscing and I am glad I can share with you. Not long ago I found a German book about the history of our Iowa churches. When Mrs. Pat Thimme was here from Germany with her researcher-husband, the Rev. Hans-Martin Thimme, she was willing to do some translating work and I gave her that small but vital book, written by Rev. Henry Dallman. What interesting History is revealed!

I do desire to have your help, if you possibly can: In the 1900's, our NAB women printed a newsletter called “Der Perelen” — (“The Pearl”) — and we still need some missing copies for our files. (This newsletter was printed in the years 1900 to 1944 or perhaps even longer than that.) Let us know what copies you have. Our list of missing copies is too long to be printed here in its entirety.

Mrs. Ruth Fuchs traveled to Shattuck, Oklahoma to attend the Ebenezer Baptist Church's 100th Anniversary and brought us the Anniversary program as well as the History of that church. If *your* church has an anniversary, please share that document with us unless you know for sure that we have it already on file. We have received from the Shattuck church a copy of the original minutes which someone has translated into English, rewriting the German in English script. **Exciting.**

I learned that a German group of women is having someone share a condensed version of Laura Reddig's book, and that fact put this chair into rocking motion again: We need to share the blessings of our Women's Work with our Conference. Somewhere there must be a woman who would like to take the materials we have and put them into a Blessing Book to be shared with all our Women's Fellowship groups. We have the basis of our Canadian work already in an edited report from each society up to 1971.

I am most grateful to Dr. Jackie Howell, a new volunteer who comes several times a week to help put biographical information into our computer and to help with the filing. (You may have met her during the Triennial in Sioux Falls last summer: she was in charge of Registration.) Also a big *Thank You* to Elsie DeBoer who has contributed historical information about our Corona, SD church, and to Ruth Correnti (Ed. Note: and Gertrude Kusmaul) for helping us obtain the documents and pulpit furniture from our first NAB Conference church in Philadelphia. Also to Dr. Ernie Zimelman and his wife Dorothy for bringing to the Archives here that furniture which dates back to the 1890s. Come have a look.

Warren and Dar Weeldreyer of Emery, SD were killed in a tragic car accident on the night of June 28, on their way home after a 45th wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii. Many, many friends mourn their passing, together with their two sons and families.

“Our loss is heaven's gain.”

