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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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The game of life
is the game of
boomerangs.

Our
thoughts,
deeds
and words
return to us
sooner or later,
with astounding
accuracy.



Florence Shinn,
(1871-1940), writer.

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Point of View *by Lenore Lang*

See the Director's Notes on page 1.

Remember the Trivia Contest? See the answers on page 2.

As promised in the Spring, more information about Parma Heights Church and its 50th anniversary. New book information also. See page 3.

Archivist Berneice Westerman shares her Triennial Thoughts and information about Books and Birthdays. All on page 4.

FROM "CONFERENCING" TO CHALLENGE by George W. Lang

The Triennial went well, with inspiring speakers: our Executive Director, Dr. Ron Berg; key-note speaker Priscilla Shirer, (daughter of Dr. Tony Evans) sharing a dynamic call to faith; Dr. Tim Kimmel giving grace-focused presentations; and Dr. George Barna giving us an analysis of today's Christianity. Attendees, delegates, children and youth were well-informed and well-fed.

Our gracious hosts from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska drove golf-carts and even used their own vans (in the rain) to help transport us from our lodging places to dining hall, auditoriums and exhibit booths.

The area around the Heritage Commission Exhibit Booth was active and exciting. Elmer Westerman's continuously playing power-point showed the work and personnel of our Heritage Commission in an informative and interesting way. Lois Glewwe, Editor of Schulte's Memories, was there to promote the book which sold well once she was given the opportunity to share with the general assembly what the book was about. Heroes of the Faith I and II also sold well with the editors, Clarence and Dorene Walth present at the booth; Rev. Bert and Evelyn Itterman were there, making available his recent book, Growing up with Grandpa. Bert even had made a miniature model of a farmyard and water-well that connected with one of his stories.

Returning to Sioux Falls from the mountain-top of the Triennial, we of the Heritage Commission have begun to prepare for the reality of the Heritage Commission's future location. As you may already have heard, the present campus of the Seminary has been sold; several blocks from the present location a new building is being planned for. (continued on page 2)

TRIVIA CONTEST RESULTS

In our Spring issue we ran a Trivia Contest, stating that a book prize would be awarded for the first three correct answers received. As Editor, I was excited to receive answers from a number of you readers, but I was disappointed when I discovered that although some had only one or two wrong, no one had 100%. Rev. Bert Itterman has given me the correct answers, which I will now supply for all of you to study.

1-C The North American Baptist Conference known for many years as the German Baptist Conference, made the name change in part due to events of WW II. (in 1945)

2-E For a number of years, NAB Churches in the US and Canada used hymn books in which the lyrics were printed in the German and English language and sung simultaneously.

3-A The First Baptist Church, George, IA on Nov. 3, 1915 decided to hold Revival Meetings in December starting with the First Full Moon. (This was the one question **everyone** missed, because today it seems illogical and bizarre. However, the answer is documented in church minutes, planned in this way so that those attending, coming with horse-and-buggy transportation, would have a better chance of getting home in the light of a full moon after the meetings!) (Ed.: Sorry: was this what you could call a “trick question?”)

4-G The Christian Training Institute (CTI) at Edmonton began the initial funding to build the school with insurance funds (\$1,000.00) due to the accidental death of the son of EP Wahl.

5-L The decision to move the Seminary from Rochester to Sioux Falls was made in Sioux Falls in 1948; General conference.

6-I The Seminary (NABS) for many years, used as a recruiting tool the ministry of Male Quartets that visited and sang concerts in NAB churches throughout Canada and the States.

7-K For many years, ladies felt compelled to wear hats in church, (some very large and ornate) motivated by the teaching and interpretation of 1 Cor. 11:1-16.

8-D There were many years when the NAB Conference (1940s—1950s) owned a large tent, that was shipped to churches in different areas of the country, to allow for Conference meetings and large gatherings.

9-H Records show, that more than 50 young people from the Springside Baptist Church (combined with West Ebenezer) since its origination (1934) entered “full-time Christian ministries” (Pastor, Missionary, Teacher, Minister’s wife, etc.)

10-B NAB Churches in Kansas and Alberta have enjoyed help from nature with the financial benefits of OIL WELLS.

(continued from page 1) The Heritage Commission is to move out of its present quarters in the Seminary by June 2008. Limited space for the archives’ operation is a strong possibility in the new plans, but additional needed space will require the renting of a temperature-controlled storage facility. Money will be needed to be raised by the Heritage Commission to fund the move, the new equipment required and rental for an adequate storage area.

A key dimension of our **heritage** as North American Baptists has been the ability to rise to meet the challenges that the Lord sees fit to send us. Soon you will be receiving a letter, giving more details about this move and the funds needed to enable the Heritage Commission to carry on its very important ministry. Your very generous, even sacrificial support in response to this appeal will be very important in determining the nature of the future operation of our ministry.



PARMA HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH notes: by LaVerna Mehlhaff

In the Spring issue of this publication, we promised more notes about this church, which was begun in 1955 and celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 1, 2005: (Ed. Note: The church's roots were in the Erin Ave. Baptist Church in Ohio.) "As the church continued to grow, the challenge of a church-plant in the Parma area moved into action.....At this time, a problem arose. There was restlessness among those who lived near the old Erin Ave. Baptist Church. Many had their homes nearby...They really preferred to worship in their area. The plan had been to sell the old property and all gather at the new Parma Heights Baptist Church. Indeed we had counted on the proceeds of the property sale to help pay for the construction. God's answer came after much prayer. The Erin Avenue property would not be sold: there would be a division in blessing: two churches in two areas, each with its own pastor and Christian education director. God gave abundant peace to all involved. Truly God's plans are higher than ours!

"During the period of transitions, we continued to worship together.... The moving of furniture back and forth for VBS days at both locations, besides his many regular duties, fell on the able shoulders of Art Brust, our summer student worker from the NAB Seminary in Sioux Falls. All went smoothly as the churches labored together. And so the dedication of the new church was a cause for much rejoicing. There were now two churches proclaiming the word of God in two different locations of the city. Each now had the great responsibility and privilege of spreading the good news of salvation.

"Often it was those who seemed least able who served the most. One year, we needed a craft director for the entire VBS. This was a very large assignment. A woman with four small children and a baby only a few months old calmly took over. And she joyfully served, thanking the Lord for such a privilege. Her witness for the Lord encouraged all of us. The stories could continue of how God continued to speak to His people and open doors for service in the work of the Kingdom."

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DON MILLER'S THIRD BOOK ON THE PEOPLE OF VOLHYNIA

In past issues we have told you about books by NAB authors. Rev. Donald Miller, one of these authors, has written several books about Volhynia, a part of the former Soviet Union, **where a number of NAB people have their roots.** His books include In the Midst of Wolves, and Under Arrest, with the most recent one (2006) being The Old Country. This book does not provide what one can call "light reading," since many of the stories are heart-wrenching tales of starvation and trouble, but if you want to gain a new appreciation of past real-life struggles, this is the book for you! Another astounding aspect of life in those chaotic years of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is the very large number of children born into families, and the heartbreaking number of those children who met very early deaths. As your Editor, I have found that mind-boggling. The cost of the book is \$30 plus \$5 for postage and handling. To obtain your own copy, please write to Donald N. Miller, 12814 NW Bishop Rd., Hillsboro, Oregon 97124 or telephone him at 503 647-5858. E-Mail: dnmiller@whiz.to.



THE ARMCHAIR TRAVELER

by Archivist Berneice Westerman



I traveled by bus to the Triennial Conference in Estes Park in July. While there I used golf carts as well as shoe leather. Colorado's high altitude caused me to breathe more deeply and drink more water. It was more difficult than climbing the hills in Cameroon. Age does make a difference.

Who did I see? Thirty-five or more missionaries in one spot, those both present and past. What a gratifying reunion. Many friends from many places, with good memories revived.

Missionary Kay Hunt can now see through a small slit in her eyes and was exceedingly happy about that small amount of vision. Willie Muller could not come because he was in a car accident, and his wife, Marie, had to stay in the hospital for a much longer time.

Our Books: The English translation of G. A. Schulte's book, Memories, is completed and the enhanced version is on sale. (Professor Donald Madvig, translator, and Lois Glewwe, capable Editor.) Comments of gratitude are coming in about the hard work of those early church planters and the steady growth of each surviving church. Many of those churches are still open and obeying God and His Word. Your church library should have a copy so you can learn about the history of your church and our conference. Rev. Schulte traveled from the east coast to the west coast in the USA and from mid-USA to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada: through dust, mud, and snow. The book is dated 1913, and the author died in 1916, leaving the story for his children to enjoy. (One of my dreams is being fulfilled: — "We need to get some of this German material into the English language," — thanks to our volunteer translators.)

Heroes of the Faith II edited by Clarence and Dorene Walth is ready for you to read. I do want you to meet some of the twenty-eight pioneers whose biographies are briefly portrayed there. I am most pleased to have had the opportunity to help provide pictures and some information in the preparation of this book, which I am sure you will enjoy.

Our national WMF is celebrating its 100th birthday. There is now a very good "Time Line" of the events in print. What we need is someone willing to continue the research and write The Rest of the Story. Two of our South Dakota WMF groups are celebrating birthdays also: Emery, its 100th and Chancellor: its 90th. I hope to go to these celebrations in October and September.

The beginnings of **CTI**, the precursor of **Taylor University College and Seminary**, was significantly assisted with the help of women. Beatrice Link Pankratz, one of **CTI's** first students, and a Wahl daughter, Inez, tell about the school's beginnings. Pauline Wahl (Mrs. E.P.) served as **CTI's** first Matron, Cook and Dean of Women. She received nothing in the form of wages the first five years. Later she went up to \$10 a month for three years and then to \$35 a month. The seed money of starting that school was a check for \$4,500 given to Rev. E.P. Wahl after their son, Ivan, was killed in a bus accident in Portland, OR. Two Link brothers were challenged and they helped solicit money from friends and neighbors, and encouraged volunteers to help in the building which was open for the first students in 1941, only three years after the first plans were made. I am sure there were women out there providing meals for those volunteers.