

Christian Church Observes 75th Anniversary

Woman, Children Among Initial Planning Group

By PEG HUTCHINSON
Church News Editor

In 1884 a woman and her five children moved to a small community in southern Oregon. Immediately the mother, Mrs. Edith Webb, inquired about a Christian church in the Medford area and found only a Sunday school, meeting in a little schoolhouse on South Central ave.

Mrs. Webb and her five children were later to be among the 14 persons who met to organize the First Christian church on Nov. 22, 1884.

Organizer of the Union Sunday school was William F. Williamson, first public school teacher in Medford. Second superintendent, and last for Sunday school, was George L. Webb. His sister, Hattie, later married Williamson.

Alternate Sundays
During this time church services were conducted on alternate Sundays in a public hall by the Rev. Moses Allen Williams, Presbyterian missionary, and the Rev. Martin Peterson, Christian minister.

In November, 1884, before Medford was incorporated as a town on Feb. 24, 1885, 13 persons and Mr. Peterson met to organize the First Christian church. They met in a hall over Charley Water's grocery store, owned by J. S. Howard, whose name appears on the church roster.

Seventy-five years later the First Christian church is one of the larger churches in Medford with a building at Ninth st. and Oakdale ave. and a membership of more than 700.

The church organization is the oldest church in Medford. First Presbyterian was organized on March 29, 1885, First Methodist Episcopal church, Nov. 15, 1885, and First Baptist church, Nov. 22, 1885.

Attend Meetings
Attending that meeting Nov. 22, 1884, in addition to Mr. Peterson, were Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Miller, a Mr. and Mrs. Higginbotham, a Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Webb and her five children, Benjamin S., Isaac A., George L., Hattie, and Laura.

By 1886 a total of 175 names appeared on the church register including 11 with the name of Webb. A son of George L. Webb is the Rev. Aldis Webb, minister of the First Christian church, Tillamook, and speaker at the 75th anniversary next Sunday.

In 1889, property was purchased at Sixth and Ivy sts., where a frame building was erected. It was used until 1912 when the present structure was built on Oakdale ave.

Minister Until Death
Mr. Peterson was minister of the church until his death in 1889. Although church records are incomplete during the early years of the church, it is believed that a circuit rider minister by the name of J. H. Deboy, who lived in Gold Hill, was supply pastor of the church after Mr. Peterson's death.

Mr. Deboy, established Sunday schools at Empire, Drain, Oakland, Union Town, Williams, Logtown, and the Community church of Jacksonville, as well as several in northern California. He is buried in the Gold Hill Rock Point cemetery.

Other ministers who served the church in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were the Rev. Peter Burnett, the Rev. S. White, the Rev. Eli Fisher, the Rev. O. N. Gist, the Rev. E. A. Childs, and the Rev. E. M. Patterson.

School in Church
The Rev. A. C. Corbin arrived in 1905 to serve the church for two years. It was during this period that the Medford public schools were so crowded that part of the fourth grade classes were held in the church.

The Rev. Marion T. Horn, Eugene, moved with his family to Medford in January, 1907. It was recorded shortly after his arrival that "the Rev. Mr. Horn has awakened interest in church work that is adding materially to the strength of the organization."

Mr. Horn commanded the congregation not to be affected by "Morbis Sabbaticus" (Sunday Sickness) which he described as very prevalent and contagious.

The minister advised that a person could avoid this sickness by "rising at seven on Sunday morning; use plenty of cold water on the face; eat a plain hearty breakfast. Then mix up and take internally a dose composed of equal parts of the following ingredients,



CHRISTIAN CHURCH—The first Christian church, oldest church in Medford by four months, meets in the building at the corner of South Oakdale ave. and Ninth st. The building was first built in 1912 and since that time has had additions and inside remodeling. Minister of the church today is the Rev. William C. Piper, who came to the valley in 1954. Membership has grown from the original 14 organizing members in 1884 to more than 700 in 1959.



CHURCH OFFICIALS—Mrs. Edith Webb, her three sons, and two daughters were among the 14 persons who met with the Rev. Martin Peterson Nov. 22, 1884, to organize the First Christian church in Medford. Mrs. Webb's name is first on the charter membership roll. At the time of organization Benjamin S. Webb, (left), was one of



the first trustees and served as a deacon; Isaac A. Webb, (center) was one of the first elders and served for a time as Sunday school superintendent; and George L. Webb, (right) was the superintendent of the Union Sunday school in Medford when it was decided to start the First Christian church.



THIRD—Laura Webb's name appears third on the charter membership roll of First Christian church. Of the 13 persons who met with the Rev. Martin Peterson to organize the church, six were members of the Webb family.

namely:

"Will, energy, push, determination, self respect, respect for God's book, a desire to be somebody."

"Stir well; add a little love to insure sweetness. Repeat the dose every three minutes until church time, if relief does not come sooner. If the day is stormy, an external application of umbrellas, coats and rubbers will be beneficial."

Succeeds Mr. Horn
The Rev. W. Theodore Matlock succeeded Mr. Horn in 1910 and remained at the church for two years. During this time the church had a Bible school with an average attendance of more than 100, a "good live" Christian Endeavor, a "splendid" Ladies Aid society and an auxiliary of the Christian Women's Board of Missions.

New Years day, 1913, found the congregation in their new building on Oakdale ave. Minister was the Rev. D. D. Boyle who remained at the church through that year.

From June 1914 through 1916 the Rev. Harry E. Tucker was minister of the church followed by the Rev. Mr. Hoffman, who served during 1917 and 1918. In 1919 the Rev. D. E. Millard arrived in Medford from the Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., where he had served as YMCA secretary and director of entertainment during World War I.

350 New Members
During his ministry the Medford church added some 350 new members and an old debt of \$6,000 was wiped out.

The Every Man's Bible class was started after the



DAUGHTER—Hattie Webb, whose name appears second on the charter membership roll of First Christian church, married William F. Williamson in 1890. Williamson organized the first Sunday school in Medford and was Medford's first public school teacher.

arrival of the Rev. D. J. Howe in 1922. The 40th anniversary of the church was observed in 1924.

In 1926 an annex, costing \$5,000, was added to the church. Some \$3,000 of the sum was borrowed from the Farmers and Fruit Growers bank at 8 per cent interest per annum. The annex included a dining room, kitchen, and place to be used for the social life of the young people.

After Arrival
Six weeks after the arrival of the Rev. Carman E. Mell as minister in 1927 the First Christian church was the largest in the city. With the Sunday school growing the church basement was made suitable for classes the following year. The congregation approved an annual budget of \$6,775.

The Rev. and Mrs. William R. Baird arrived in September, 1930, following the resignation of Mr. Mell.

"The highlight of our stay there," Mr. Baird said recently, "was the Easter service when we had an attendance of 1,016."

During the six years that the Bairds lived in Medford, the Men's class met regularly in the courthouse auditorium due to its average attendance of 75, with a high of 235. It was during this time that the church paid off its indebtedness.

Partition Removed
Prior to the Easter service in 1931 the partition between the annex and auditorium was removed, since membership rolls included 520 names. Minutes of a board meeting in 1936 noted for use of the church March 23, 24, and 25, for his lectures on communism, which was granted."

The Rev. James Meek Hamilton arrived from Cromwell, Conn., in 1936 to serve as minister. In 1939 the church



PRESENT PASTOR—The Rev. William C. Piper has served as minister of First Christian church since 1954.

had its first broadcast "by electrical transcription" over radio station KMD.

The Rev. Reuben W. Coleman was minister from 1940 until 1943. Shortly after his arrival the church sent a written protest to the local radio station against the removal of Harry Emerson Fosdick and his national vesper hour broadcast.

Entertain Servicemen
With the start of Camp White near Medford, the church members entertained servicemen in the fellowship hall on Saturday evenings.

Also serving the church during the years of World War II were the Rev. Ward A. Rice, 1943-44, and the Rev. Delbert Daniels, 1944-1948.

Prior to the arrival of the Rice family, the parsonage at 1102 West 10th st. was sold and property at 320 South Holly st. purchased.

It was during this period that pews were arranged for the choir during the worship services, and an anthem was sung by them at both morning and evening services. Robes were purchased for choir.

New Parsonage
First occupants of the new parsonage constructed on Oakdale dr. were the Rev. and Mrs. Holly Roy Jarvis, who served the church from 1948-1951.

On June 18, 1949, Delbert and Martha Troxell were ordained to the ministry at the Medford church. They served as missionaries to Japan from August 1953 until July 1957, when they returned to Medford. Last August they returned to Tokyo and are completing final plans for work with rural church groups.

Minister from November, 1951, until January, 1954, was the Rev. Shelly H. Angemyer. Several interim pastors served the church until the arrival of the present minister, the Rev. William C. Piper.



M. F. HORN—Rev. M. F. Horn served as minister of the First Christian church from 1907 to 1909. Immediately after his arrival it was reported in the minutes of a church board meeting that his arrival "has awakened interest in church work."



MINISTER, 1930-1936—The Rev. William R. Baird served the First Christian church here from 1930 through 1936. One of the speakers scheduled to speak during 75th anniversary event of the church Nov. 22, Mr. Baird recalls that the church paid off its indebtedness during that period.

Chauffeurs Licenses Due in Seven Weeks

Salem—Oregon chauffeurs have about seven weeks to renew their licenses for 1960, the department of motor vehicles said Saturday. Current licenses expire Dec. 31.

Applications for 1960 chauffeur licenses are available at all branch offices or from license examiners of the department.

The fee will be \$1 this year, due to the fact that chauffeurs no longer are contributing to the state's driver education fund.

There are approximately 42,000 chauffeurs licenses issued each year in Oregon. Since all such licenses expire on Dec. 31, applicants for renewals are urged to apply as early as possible. The department will start mailing 1960 chauffeur licenses on or about Dec. 1.

Ideal Cement Opens New Plant

Ada, Okla. — The Ideal Cement company, which has plants throughout the country, has opened a new plant here. The plant here cost more than \$2 million.

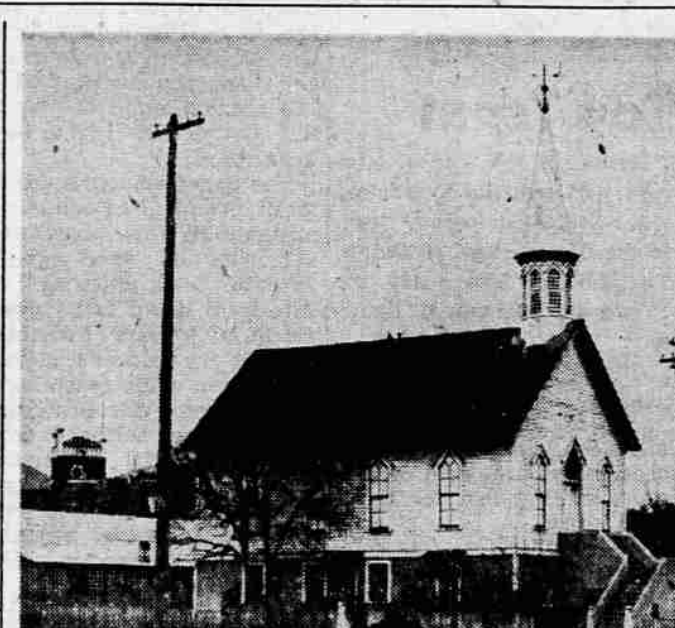
The company, one of the nation's largest manufacturers of portland cement, has 17 plants and five terminals, including a plant at Gold Hill, Ore.

The new plant at Ada is described as one of the most highly instrumented and mechanized cement plants in the world today, company officials said. The extensive use of concrete throughout the plant is one of the most impressive items in the new facility.

Port Orford Boy Flown to Portland

Darrell Humphrey, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen G. Humphrey, Port Orford, Ore., was flown to Portland Friday afternoon by Mercy Flights, Inc.

Local sources said young Humphrey got a small toy lodged in his throat, but the boy is expected to recover satisfactorily.



FIRST BUILDING—The first structure built by the First Christian church was at the corner of Sixth and North Ivy sts. and was completed in 1889. It served the congregation until 1912 when the first church building was completed on South Oakdale ave. In the left background is the top of the old school building that stood where the county courthouse now stands.

STAR GAZER			
By CLAY K. POLLAN			
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars			
To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.			
ARIES MAR. 22 - APR. 20	3-17-19	61 Story	SCORPIO OCT. 24 - NOV. 22
4-17-19	3-17-19	62 Annoyance	4-17-19
5-17-19	3-17-19	63 Cause	5-17-19
6-17-19	3-17-19	64 Themselves	6-17-19
7-17-19	3-17-19	65 Surprised	7-17-19
8-17-19	3-17-19	66 Upsets	8-17-19
9-17-19	3-17-19	67 Wise	9-17-19
10-17-19	3-17-19	68 Defective	10-17-19
11-17-19	3-17-19	69 Neighbors	11-17-19
12-17-19	3-17-19	70 Source	12-17-19
1-17-20	3-17-20	71 Articles	1-17-20
2-17-20	3-17-20	72 Appear	2-17-20
3-17-20	3-17-20	73 Told	3-17-20
4-17-20	3-17-20	74 Purchases	4-17-20
5-17-20	3-17-20	75 H	5-17-20
6-17-20	3-17-20	76 M	6-17-20
7-17-20	3-17-20	77 Or	7-17-20
8-17-20	3-17-20	78 You	8-17-20
9-17-20	3-17-20	79 Lucky	9-17-20
10-17-20	3-17-20	80 And	10-17-20
11-17-20	3-17-20	81 Little	11-17-20
12-17-20	3-17-20	82 The	12-17-20
1-17-21	3-17-21	83 Of	1-17-21
2-17-21	3-17-21	84 End	2-17-21
3-17-21	3-17-21	85 Don't	3-17-21
4-17-21	3-17-21	86 Full	4-17-21
5-17-21	3-17-21	87 And	5-17-21
6-17-21	3-17-21	88 Make	6-17-21
7-17-21	3-17-21	89 Well	7-17-21
8-17-21	3-17-21	90 Pleasure	8-17-21
9-17-21	3-17-21	91 People	9-17-21
10-17-21	3-17-21	92 Creative	10-17-21
11-17-21	3-17-21	93 Good	11-17-21
12-17-21	3-17-21	94 Adverse	12-17-21
1-17-22	3-17-22	95 Neutral	1-17-22

GOLD HILL Meetings Are Resumed

By MRS. CLYDE KELL
Gold Hill—The Senior Methodist Youth Fellowship group of Gold Hill Community church has resumed meetings under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Griggs. All high school students are invited to attend the meeting each Sunday evening at the church.

Those interested may contact Bill Stanton, president of the high school church class, or Miss Leslie Meister, secretary.

Among Halloween parties given in this area was a "spook party" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Norman Gail, and son, Donald Gail. Guests were some of Donald's seventh grade classmates.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson entertained several youngsters at their home on Sardine Creek rd. recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Hale Loof-borrow and sons, Charles and Wade, of Gold Beach, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Molloy and sons, Donald and Molloy.

Also visiting at the Molloy home were the Charles Bell family, who have returned to Medford after residing at Moses Lake, Wash., several months. They are former Gold Hill residents.

Mrs. George Hammersley, Yreka, Calif., was an over night guest recently at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Christensen returned from Dallas, where they had taken their daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Christensen, and daughter, Karen Jean, to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Trent.

The Christensens' son, Lt. George Christensen, left for Oakland, Calif., after visiting at their home. He planned to report for duty in Korea.

A family reunion was held honoring Lieutenant Christensen and his family at the S. M. Christensen home. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jones, Marie and Billy Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Washburn, Patty, Carol and Larry Washburn, Gold Hill; Mr. and Mrs. Lee Johnson, Curt and Mike Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Chapman, Linda and Dennis Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Curt Schumate, and Gwen, Medford.

Others visiting the Lieutenant while he was with his parents were former schoolmates, Dave Newland and son, "Bucky," Portland, and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Padgham, Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter King returned to Vista, Calif., after visiting at the home of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Chaffee, here. While here, the Kings were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jones, Marie and Billy Jones.

Mrs. C. R. Adamson, Medford, Oregon Wesleyan Service Guild secretary, spoke to a group of women here to inform them of the purpose of the Wesleyan Service Guild. All employed women, regardless of denomination, who reside in this area are invited to learn more about forming a local Wesleyan Service Guild by telephoning Mrs. Kermit Bickel.

Several local women made plans to attend a Wesleyan Guild meeting in Medford sometime during November.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Smith have moved to Rogue River after residing in Gold Hill several years.

Twenty-eight Rebekahs from the Grants Pass lodge recently surprised the Odd Fellows here when they came to visit, presenting "drills" and furnishing refreshments for the social hour.

Luncheon guests recently at the home of Mrs. George Smith were Mrs. Madeline Britton, Mrs. Chris Wells and Mrs. Lulu Gigon, Table Rock Estates.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martin and daughters have moved to Seattle, Wash., to live. Her mother, Mrs. George Smith, visited them recently.

Dinner guests at the George Smith home, recently were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Dusenberry of Sams Valley.

Among the elkless hunters

TABLE ROCK Directors Hold Meeting

By R. E. NEALON

Table Rock—The board of directors and secretary of the Antioch cemetery association met Friday at the R. E. Nealon home to make plans for improving the cemetery grounds.

The work, which will be mostly donated, will include the surveying and marking, with permanent markers, the many plots now in use, and those now vacant, the removal of several dead pine trees, repairing fences, and a general clean up.

This is an old burial ground, and is the last resting place of many valley pioneers, but owing to the crude way graves were placed, it is a difficult task to survey and get the lines some where near correct.

Ralph Ellis, a certified surveyor, is donating his time for this work, the material including galvanized pipe and caps, for markers, has been secured at wholesale, and less, prices through the generosity of valley businessmen.

Mrs. James Lewis and three small children, of Forest Grove, left Saturday for their home after a week's visit with Mrs. Lewis' folks at the Orville Hamilton home. During their visit here, Lewis was hunting elk in eastern Oregon, where he bagged a large one.

On Halloween night we were visited by many trick or treaters, representing as many different characters. Some terribly homely, and some very pretty, included in the latter was Judy Wheeler, wearing no mask. The one whose identity was the hardest to guess was Loretta Pierce dressed to represent the head of the house at the Bert Pierce home.

Some delay was encountered one day last week in the laying of tile in the highway near the Ed Taylor farm, caused by the ditch being filled with water during the night which washed out the bed where the tile was to be laid and made it necessary to install pumps to remove the water.

The corn on the Table Top Ranch was threshed last week by the Wes McDonough harvesting rig. The yield was fair.

A recent letter from Mrs. Arthur Doty of Carson City, Nev., tells that the Doty's daughter, Mrs. Delmer Dooly, and two children had left for Jordan after a month's visit with Mrs. Dooly's parents. In Jordan, the party will be joined by Dooly, who is area director for the Near East Foundation in Amman. In September, they completed their second two-year tour with the Foundation in Tehran, Iran. Their work in Jordan was requested by the Jordanian government, and is a program of education, agriculture, sanitation and community development.

The nursery stock on the Orville Hamilton farm which had grown to almost jungle proportion, is being taken out, and the land will be put into other crops.

The organizing of a 4-H club will get under way Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Frank Myers home, by Mrs. Myers, a club leader of many years, who was recently given a 24th year award at a banquet held at Eagle Point.

Wayne Wyatt of the U.S. Air Force, arrived here Friday, and was busy getting license and making arrangements for his wedding Thursday.

Among the elkless hunters

arriving home from the eastern Oregon hunting grounds were Ray Doran and John Morris, who report they didn't even see a track.

During the pheasant season here the usual violations have been noted, among them being trespassing and shooting after sun down. One farmer on the west side says he was ordered off his own farm, by a hunter who said: since he had paid for a license he was entitled to hunt there. So far, no hunter has rushed up to a farmer and told him the pheasants on his farm didn't belong to him, like one did in the Central Point area last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunn, and two children, were recent visitors with Mrs. Dunn's sister and family at the Dean Inglis home at Mountain View, Calif.

Ernest Leavitt, former superintendent of the Crater Lake National park, tells us that the Sand Dunes on the Oregon coast should be made a national park. Little of the land there, in his opinion, is suitable for growing crops. This would be a park radically different from any now in use, but highly interesting, with its sand dunes, ocean beach, and sea lions caves near by. Leavitt doubts that it will be made a park, owing to politics, and the way proponents went about getting it before the people, and those who pass on such things.

We wonder what an 18-year-old would think when he gets fined for smoking cigarettes, if he knows his teacher, who is hired to teach him the right way to live is a smoker too. After all, if cigarettes are bad for junior, how could they be any better for grown ups?

Salem—A new all-time high in traffic violation convictions reported to the department of motor vehicles was recorded in October when 16,967 convictions were tallied.

The previous all-time high was in March of this year when 16,530 convictions were reported.

The October figure this year was about 13 per cent above convictions reported in that month a year ago.

The monthly report also indicated that 217 drivers had licenses suspended after convictions of driving while intoxicated.

Another 209 drivers were suspended by the department after it received court recommendations and 270 drivers were suspended under discretionary authority given to the department by Oregon law.

Total license suspensions during the month, except for financial responsibility cases involving uninsured accidents, were 1,235, compared with 1,124 for the same month in 1958.



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