

Chiloquin Methodists Celebrate Anniversary

By DARLENE WOLFF
To the thousands of people who have never attended worship services except in a regular church building, the early days of the Chiloquin Methodist Church will seem strange.

This first church in the community spent its organizational years meeting in a hotel lobby, people's homes, a parsonage, school, telephone office, empty business building, and an ex-rooming house before dedicating its present building in October of 1937. This week the church is celebrating its 25th anniversary as an organized church under the Oregon conference, but its actual beginning was 35 years ago this fall.

During the fall of 1918 ministers first came to town for evening preaching, usually held in the lobby of the long since razed Skeen hotel, which was located across from the depot. The district superintendent occasionally came for potluck meals at homes and services were held later in the day.

A Rev. Cookingham of the Mission board, who was stationed at Williamson River mission, held the first regular services and helped local people erect a church building. The place is now owned by Roy Glenger and occupied by the Sidney Burgdorfs, but it is better known to old timers as the George Horton residence. The present church is located at the other end of the same block. The land had been donated by Charles Stronbridge. The only active member then who is still in touch with the local church is Mrs. Ray McKeever of Cutler City, who has been visiting during this summer.

HILL PARSONAGE
By 1925 there was need for a parsonage and a larger church. The parsonage was built on the hill halfway between the school level and the Roy Glenger home and is now owned by Asa Miller. The Ladies Aid invested \$200 in excavating adjoining lots for a church and the first building was sold. Construction plans fell through, however, and due to the depression, and for the next thirteen years rented locations were used.

Services from 1926-1932 were held in the parsonage, the school, in the present location of the Youth Center, and in the former two story telephone building which faced Markward's garage and was on land now filled by Frosty's service station. Years of poor building arrangement, mixups on moving, neighbors who objected to the enthusiastic singing, the town jokes about the moving Methodists followed. The telephone building location was also the scene of a tragedy. A four year old boy, Jack Alamer Jr., darted between two parked cars on his way to Sunday school and was struck by another car driven by a youth also on his way to service.

During these interim years the Rev. Dean Poindexter, now of Bend, and the Rev. Cotton had lived at the Mission. The Rev. and Mrs. J. Ross Ferguson occupied the parsonage, were active in the church school and built up membership. It was during this period that the church went out from under the mission board and became a self-organized group.

MORE SPACE
It was necessary to have more space so again a move was made, this time to the Glenger building at the south end of Main Street, now used as a grain storage. The many small rooms were ideal for Sunday school rooms. The Rev. Harvey DeVries, now of Portland, was here at that time as a student minister. It was his first charge, and he had not yet completed his training for the ministry.

work. He arrived with his family in the middle of a snowstorm and after a few weeks moved to the parsonage at the mission. He also served the Fort Klamath Church. Neufeld and laymen realized the need for an adequate building. With the interest of District Superintendent Dr. Sydney Hall, a program was begun which resulted in raising funds to construct the church. Excavation began in June, 1937, and by October 24 the building was completed, a dedication program held with Bishop Titus Lowe presiding.

FEW UNPAID
Only one half of one percent of the pledges were unpaid at the close of the fund drive. The trustees at that time were Glenn Hale, Mrs. Charles D. Warren, Paul Saeber, J. B. Hamilton and Mrs. John Lott. Phillip McGovern, high school instructor, drew up the plans and his shop classes helped construct the pews.

The Rev. Lee Mooney replaced the Rev. Neufeld in 1939 and was here when the Pine Ridge fire destroyed the livelihood of many church members. With their moving, further building plans to a Sunday school room to the church had to be shelved. The Rev. Mooney left to enter the army as a chaplain, and has since been engaged in YMCA work in the Puget Sound area.

The Rev. Gilbert Brown, who came in 1942, was the first to occupy the present parsonage, purchased from the Frank Lambos Brown, also, was the first to serve just Chiloquin and Fort Klamath, the missionary work at Williamson River having been combined with the local church. By work, an arrangement that continues today.

VISITING MINISTERS
The Browns left after a year and for several months there were visiting ministers. In October 1943, the Rev. L. J. Buck and family came. The parsonage had been enlarged slightly the previous year, and was again increased. The Bucks left more than memories of excellent church work when they were transferred to Elton after nearly three years. Juanita, their oldest daughter, married a local man home from service, Forest Freid. Last January the Rev. Buck read the wedding service again for a member of his family: his second daughter married Leroy Glenger Jr. The Rev. Buck came from Tualatin for this event.

The Crusade for Christ campaign began in 1944-45, and was over subscribed by the end of the second year. At the conference it was reported that Chiloquin held the record for the highest donation per membership given in the United States. James Zeller, a student minister, replaced Buck and was resident pastor at the time of the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the church. This event drew 87 out-of-towners. The Rev. Neufeld, coming from Lakeview, officiated both in the pulpit and by baptizing the first child born to the first couple

married in the church building. (Dallas Vernon of Klamath Falls.) The Rev. Gene Elliott came in 1948 and began the release time classes, so that children can come to the church for one half hour each week to receive religious instruction. The Elliotts were anxious to do missionary work and in '48 were assigned to Alaska, but there was no one available to fill the local pastorate.

Ross Ferguson, by then retired in the Williamson River district, walked or found a ride to town each Sunday morning. He helped with the Sunday school and preached, then went to the mission for afternoon services. The old gentleman was growing increasingly deaf and frail. He died nearly two years ago, after a lifetime of service to others.

No Methodist minister was available until the following June, although a non-denominational man was here for a few months. In early July, 1950, the invitation of the church improved with the appointment of the Rev. C. Ellery Echlin. He, his wife and children had only been back in the states for a year, following a five year missionary service in Honduras. During the past three years, many new activities and policies of the church have been adopted.

Lay teachers were used for release time classes, a spring visitation program and laymen's Sunday were inaugurated, an intermediate Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized to augment the work done by the senior MYF. Folding partitions were installed in the basement, which was painted. A regular choir was organized in early '53, the first choir since the 12 years of choir direction by Mrs. Jean Blake, now Mrs. J. B. Hamilton, of Gilchrist. A junior choir of

boys was organized, and this year a primary choir for girls. All three groups now have robes. In January the church began payments on an electric organ.

STANTON TAKES OVER
Now, as the Rev. Edmund Stanton and his wife are taking over their first pastorage, following seven years of college and divinity school training, the church has 48 members, a Sunday school average of 45-50 in the summer, 65-70 in the winter, an active WSCS, and well chosen trustees and committees.

Back through the years there have been innumerable examples of church influence in lives of local residents, wonderful leadership by pastors, struggles to keep an active church, numerous hours of hard work to earn money to make all the payments, and memories of laughs which come when people worship and work together. There was the time, for example, when a group of women working at the parsonage moved a ladder and went home for lunch leaving one of the women stranded in the attic, where she was replacing the electric wiring. Another time a group was repapering a room and got as much paste on themselves as on the paper. Again, a boy choir member fell off a seat during a solemn moment in a service, and in June of this year a picnic bench upset just in time to change the emotion of farewells to the Echlins from tears to laughter.

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FREEDOM VILLAGE, Korea (A)
—A shy young Japanese-American who all alone held back attacking Reds while his men withdrew returned from a Communist prison Thursday to learn with astonishment that he had won the Medal of Honor.

Sgt. Hiroshi H. Miyamura of Gallup, N. M., looked bewildered when Brig. Gen. Ralph Osborne said news that Sgt. Hiroshi H. Miyamura, 27, of Gallup, N. M., had won America's highest award for heroism was kept secret because he was a prisoner and "the Communists might have made it rough for him" if they had known.

There were no official records here to show when Miyamura won the medal, but after much coaxing he shyly acknowledged that it probably was in the battle just before his capture April 25, 1951.

He commanded a machine gun squad of 15 men in the 3rd division when thousands of Chinese attacked along the Imjin River.

When the Reds overran part of his position, Miyamura said, "I told my men to pull back a little. I stayed and fired until they got there, then I went back too."

"There were just five of us left. In our new positions we fired the guns and threw grenades until we ran out of ammo and grenades. Then I told the men to withdraw. I let them go and I was covering them with an M1 rifle."

Of his award, Miyamura said: "It surprised me. One of the men must have got out to tell about it."

The Japanese-American said that as his Communist captors marched him to the rear he saw 40 to 50 Chinese bodies in front of the position his squad had defended.

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10	5 ft. 7 in. to 5 ft. 10 in.	99-120	Shapely Classic
10 1/2	5 ft. 10 in. to 6 ft. 1 in.	121-150	Classic
11	6 ft. 1 in. to 6 ft. 4 in.	95-115	Petite
11 1/2	6 ft. 4 in. to 6 ft. 7 in.	95-125	Shapely Classic
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13 1/2	7 ft. 4 in. to 7 ft. 7 in.	131-165	Classic
14	7 ft. 7 in. to 7 ft. 10 in.	144-190	Tall
14 1/2	7 ft. 10 in. to 8 ft. 1 in.	100-130	Shapely Classic
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15 1/2	8 ft. 4 in. to 8 ft. 7 in.	144-200	Tall
16	8 ft. 7 in. to 8 ft. 10 in.	135-160	Classic
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