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JOURNAL OF
1964 SESSION

of the

WESTERN NORTH
CAROLINA CONFERENCE

of

The Methodist Church



George R. Stuart Auditorium
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N. C.

6. Memorial Service

ORDER OF SERVICE

BISHOP NOLAN B. HARMON, *Presiding*

ORGAN PRELUDE

HYMN NO. 329—"I KNOW That My Redeemer Lives"

THE PRAYER Rev. Herman F. Dima

SOLO: "The Lord Is My Light"
Edwin Easter, *Tenor*

THE RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE Charles D. White

THE MEMORIAL ADDRESS—"To Be Continued" Dr. Walter J. Miller

HYMN NO. 527—"For All the Saints, Who From
Their Labors Rest" (Second Tune)

THE BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

7. Memoirs

EDWIN OSWALD COLE

September 21, 1877 - July 25, 1963

On September 21, 1877, a new-born cry was heard at Carabonton, North Carolina. The name of Edwin Oswald Cole was given to this voice that was destined to be heard across the state and the nation for almost 86 years as a spokesman for God and his people.

At the time of his death, July 25, 1963, the Reverend Mr. Cole was a resident of the Methodist Home for the Aging in Charlotte, an institution that will ever be a tribute to his vision and persistent leadership.

Edwin O. Cole joined his brothers in establishing the Cole Manufacturing Company, makers of cotton and corn planters, and located in Charlotte. After accumulating a small equity in the business, he left his small assets with his brothers and went to school to prepare for the Christian ministry. He attended Reinhart College in Canton, Georgia, and received the A.B. degree from Trinity College in Durham in 1907.

He was admitted on trial to the Western North Carolina Conference in 1907, and shortly afterward transferred to the Montana Conference, where he served churches at Butte and Stevensville. He was ordained deacon in 1905 and elder in 1909. On April 5, 1911, he married the former Sue Carlington of Montana, who preceded him in death April 17, 1952. He returned to the Western North Carolina Conference in 1914 where he continued until

his death. His pastorates were: Kings Mountain, 1915; Mocksville, 1916-19; Canton, 1919; Kernersville-Oak Ridge, 1920; Kernersville, 1921-24; Leaksville, 1924; presiding elder, Marion District, 1925-29; Conference Treasurer, 1929-42, during which time he held three pastorates: Pineville, 1931-37; Oakhurst, 1937; Derita-Oakhurst, 1938; Derita, 1939-41. The remaining portion of his effective ministry, before being superannuated in 1950, was given to getting the work of building the Methodist Home under way, and as treasurer of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation.

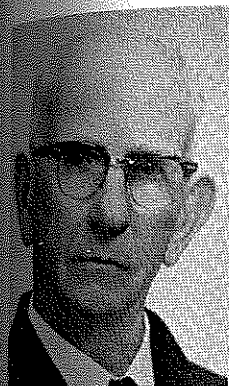
The ministry of Edwin O. Cole falls naturally into three areas. First and foremost, he was a pastor, and faithfully led his people forward. A tribute to his work is illustrated in the action of the last church of which he was pastor to change the name from Derita to Cole Memorial. He came to the church at a time when some questioned its survival. Through his persistent and faithful work, coupled with an optimistic spirit, a church was built that was beyond the natural strength of a struggling congregation. In 1948 the name was changed to Cole Memorial as a tribute to his dedicated leadership.

The second area of his was in the annual conference. He served as presiding elder of the Marion District, 1925-28, and as Conference Treasurer for 16 years. Perhaps Mr. Cole will be remembered more significantly for his vision and leadership in providing care for retired ministers and widows of ministers, and the creation of the Methodist Home for the Aging.

From the small assets left in the Cole Manufacturing Company, Mr. Cole realized considerable funds which were used in a benevolent fashion in the interests of others. He was able to encourage other members of his family to share in the use of funds for worthy causes. His brother, Eugene M. Cole, donated the land upon which the Methodist Home stands. Through guidance of the Reverend Mr. Cole, the Eugene M. Cole Foundation was established with current assets of over \$600,000, income from which is used to aid the needs of retired ministers and currently is providing hospitalization coverage for ministers and widows of ministers.

Through his vision and enthusiasm the Methodist Home and the Wesley Nursing Center, among the finest institutions known for the care for aged and infirm, will live to minister to mankind as a continuing voice of human kindness.

In recognition of his outstanding work in giving and directing funds for these worthy causes, Brother Cole was awarded membership in the Methodist Hall of Philanthropy at a meeting of the Annual Convention of the National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes, at Kansas City, Missouri, February 2, 1961. Our own Western North Carolina Conference honored Brother Cole with a citation of special tribute for his benevolent ministry on June 10, 1962.



He died with a dream in his heart of the establishment of a colony where Methodist preachers and their wives might retire in peace and dignity.

Funeral services were held at Cole Memorial Methodist Church, Charlotte, July 2, 1963, where he had been a faithful attendant since retirement. Assisting the writer was Charles P. Bowles, Superintendent of the Charlotte District, and Ted S. Hoffmann, chairman of the Methodist Home.

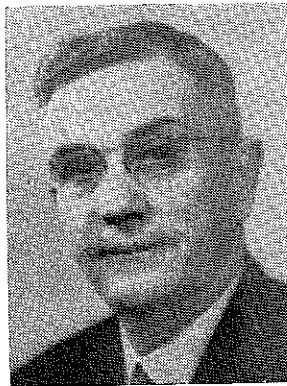
A suitable tribute: "He lived always in the present and future, never in the past."

—EVERETT H. LOWMAN

JAMES CLARKE CORNETTE

January 2, 1891 - August 7, 1963

On August 7, 1963, one of the choice members of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference passed on to his reward. Since 1959 the Reverend James C. Cornette had been a resident of the Methodist Home, much of the time confined to his room because of health. Although he had been in retirement since 1954, he was still remembered affectionately by all of those who had the privilege of serving with him and being served by him during his active ministry.



James Clarke Cornette was born January 2, 1891, in Comer's Rock, Virginia. He was the son of Robert T. and Virginia Younts Comer. On July 2, 1913, he was married to Frances Delp of Elk Creek, Virginia. To this union three children were born: Mildred, who is now the wife of Rev. W. Harold Groce, pastor of Central Methodist Church in Albemarle; James C., Jr., who is now a college professor in Texas; and David, who died in 1947. Mrs. Cornette is still living and is a resident of the Methodist Home.

In 1913 Brother Cornette joined the Holston Conference. He later went to Emory and Henry College and then transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference in 1918. In this Conference he served many prominent churches, including Centenary in Greensboro, Morganton, First; Hickory, First; Lincolnton, First; and

thorne Lane in Charlotte. He also served the Conference as district superintendent of the Marion District and was reappointed to the Cabinet in 1950 as superintendent of the Salisbury District. He was serving in this capacity in 1954 when ill health made his retirement necessary.

As a district superintendent, Reverend Jim Cornette won the respect and love of pastors and laymen alike who served under his leadership. Those who worked with him respected him for his judgment and integrity.

As a pastor, Brother Cornette left a profound impression upon every community in which he served. His influence was felt not only in and through his church, but also and through the civic organizations in the community in which he was usually active. He was a popular after-dinner speaker as well as an able preacher. His congenial good humor and penetrating wit enabled him to reach the minds of men and enlist their talents in the service of Christ and the church where many of the rest of us failed.

Upon retirement Brother Cornette moved back to Morganton where he had served as pastor and where he was held in high esteem by the entire town. In his retirement he rendered a significant ministry as church visitor for Morganton First Church. His pastor during a part of these years of his retirement I came to know and love. I had never known him before, and to feel that the presence of Brother Cornette and his Cornette in the congregation was a real benediction to the entire church.

Those of us who have known and worked with Brother James Cornette realize that ours is a finer Conference and a richer fellowship because of the outstanding service which he rendered.

—J. CLAY MADISON

JOSEPH WASHINGTON FITZGERALD

December 11, 1893 - June 1, 1963

When the spirit of Joseph Washington Fitzgerald departed from this earth to make its way to that known and yet unknown region that men call eternity there was keen sadness not only in his family circle, but in the ranks of his close friends and his colleagues in the ministry.

For forty-six years this man, as an itinerant Methodist preacher, had moved across this Conference, preaching the gospel and building church buildings in a manner that few men in his generation have equaled and possibly none has surpassed.

Joseph Washington Fitzgerald was born in Davidson County, December 11, 1893. From the beginning of his time he loved the countryside and the soil was for him a pasture land in which to grow. His maternal grandfather was a minister, and in the circle of kinship there were others who were ministers of the gospel. This dedication on the part of some greatly influenced the whole family. Joe Fitzgerald was converted in early childhood at about the age of nine. He was reared under the influence and the training of a godly mother and in a good home. These, along with the influence of his church, made this young man's growth strong in the faith. It also gave him a devotion to the church that knew no compromise.



When he was in high school, he felt the "stirring" of the Holy Spirit in his heart and he answered the call to preach the gospel. His first intent was to serve as a medical missionary, but in the passing months he decided definitely to give his life to the service of his church as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

On April 7, 1917, he married Miss Ruth Elizabeth Klutz of Durham. For more than twenty years she moved across this Conference with him as the wife of an itinerant preacher and doing that service which God knows that only a preacher's wife can do. They have been blessed by two daughters, Mrs. C. B. Atkins of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Mrs. A. S. Bassette of Knoxville, Tennessee. They have three sons, Charles K. of Oklaheba, Okla.; Clarence H. of Charlotte, North Carolina; and the Reverend James B. Fitzgerald who follows in his father's footsteps as a preacher in the Western North Carolina Conference. There are five sisters and two brothers who survive him, one being the late James B. Fitzgerald who, like his brother, has lived a long and useful life as an itinerant preacher in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Brother Fitzgerald began his ministry in the New Hope Academy and from there moved to serve in almost a half century the churches at Hanes-Clemmons, mission work in Cuba, Welcome Circuit, the Belwood Circuit, Coburn Memorial, the Mooresville Circuit, Brown Memorial, Belmont Park, Trinity in West Asheville, Calvary in Charlotte, and the Asheville District from which he retired.

Upon retirement, he moved to the city of Charlotte and lived in a home that he had owned by retirement. Upon reaching Charlotte, he was employed by the district as the district chaplain, and until his health no longer allowed it, he went every day to the city of Charlotte hospitals to visit in the name of his church.

Brother Fitzgerald will be remembered in many ways. He will be long remembered by his family as a good and faithful father and devoted husband who counted sacrifice a privilege to his family's good. He will be remembered by his intimate friends for his loyalty and his devotion, unquestioned and unwavering by his colleagues in the Conference. He will be remembered by his complete devotion to the sometimes heartbreaking, but always rewarding, experiences of the Methodist ministry. He must be remembered by all as a builder of many buildings. In his twelve pastoral appointments, he was involved in eight building or debt-paying campaigns. On the district, he led in a building program for new churches and parsonages. Few men have equaled this record.

I do not know what the temples in the New Jerusalem shall look like, but I do know that in the kingdom of heaven is a man wise in the ways of building, whose great satisfaction came from seeing the house of God rise up from the ground. His counsel will be heard in heaven and on earth his spirit will long linger in the hearts of his friends.

His funeral was conducted on Tuesday afternoon, June 3, in one of the churches that