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(see inside backcover)

1996  
YEAR BOOK AND  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
of the  
Rocky Mountain Conference  
of  
The United Methodist Church

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Successor of  
Rocky Mountain Conference  
Evangelical United Brethren  
and  
Rocky Mountain Methodist  
Annual Conference

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Twenty-eighth Session  
One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Session of  
Oldest Antecedent

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held at  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado  
June 6-9, 1996

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1996 Journal Production Team: Darlene Allen, Pamela Anderson, Sachi Boyer, Nancy deSimone, Dave Dolsen, Janet Forbes, Donna Hite, Jamie Noble, Patricia Vestal, Richard Vickery, Linda Boesch Downey, Secretary, Lowell Uda, Secretary-Elect (1996), Lorrie Wright, Journal Production Manager

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ration/Ordination Service.



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# MEMOIRS

In loving memory of all clergy and their spouses of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church who have died during this conference year, the following memoirs are submitted. Sincere thanks goes to family members and others who submitted information on which this report is based and to the office of David Dolsen, Director of Administrative Services and Conference Treasurer for providing essential linkages and basic material.

Richard A. Vickery, Jr., section editor

**The Historic Roll for the Conference Year 1995-1996 reads:**

NAME	BIRTH DATE & PLACE	DEATH DATE & PLACE
David Franklin Woodyard	April 8, 1949 California	September 27, 1995 Denver, Colorado
George L. Edie	August 2, 1904 Findlay, Ohio	October 28, 1995 Colorado Springs, CO
Edwin Arnold Briggs	June 17, 1903 Corry, Pennsylvania	October 30, 1995 Fairfield, Arkansas
Clarence VanDyke Hunter	November 12, 1920 Berwindsdale, Pennsylvania	December 1, 1995 Jacksboro, Arkansas
Gerald Franklin Makepeace	March 30, 1908 Austin, Minnesota	January 19, 1996 Sarasota, Florida
Howard Hanke	December 13, 1911 Thurber, Texas	March 14, 1996 Wilmore, Kentucky
Velna Bomar Hurley	March 20, 1914 Atoka, Tennessee	March 25, 1996 Memphis, Tennessee
Mark L. Fiester	June 12, 1907 South Williamsport, Pennsylvania	March 24, 1996 Frisco, Colorado
Wilber M. Benham	January 6, 1912 Vivian, Texas	April 13, 1996 Eckert, Colorado
Twilidi Aman	April 14, 1908 Stoddard, Nebraska	May 10, 1996 Portland, Oregon
Frances Mary Pedotto	December 17, 1936 Denver, Colorado	May 16, 1996 Denver, Colorado

g the depression years. Achieving  
er graduation he remained for two  
ng contribution to student spiritual  
wife David Marie Lindsey.

"C.V." came to Denver to live with  
doctoral degree. During these years  
Colorado Conference, and, in 1951,

a Mater, Asbury College, Wilmore,  
ment in 1986. During these years he  
l sponsor of the student Ministerial  
appointments throughout Kentucky.

Wesleyan Theological Society, the  
ation, and the International Who's  
ember of the Kentucky Education  
els and the Kentucky Philosophical

By his life lived on by his former  
Hebrews 11:4: "He being dead yet

nesota to a railroad engineer father,  
d Katherine Lavinia and they were  
Christopher Allen, six grandchildren  
n October 2, 1981.

ual Conference and came into full  
nesota he served local pastorates at  
remonton/Brigham City, Utah. He  
erans Hospital, Prescott, Arizona.

worker, rightly explaining the word



### Velna Bomar Hurley

Velna Bomar Hurley was born in Atoka, Tennessee on March 20, 1914, the second youngest of six children to Ernest and Donie Bomar. She graduated from Humes High School in Memphis, Tennessee in 1932. Velna married Audrey Thomas Hurley on March 24, 1935 and together shared forty-nine years of marital life until his death in 1984. Upon Rev. Hurley's ordination into the Methodist Ministry in 1936, Velna embarked upon her call as "a minister's wife," serving alongside her husband in the Tennessee pastorates of Longview Heights, Raleigh and Germantown. While Rev. Hurley was an Army Chaplain in the South Pacific during the Second World War, Velna was active in war-time support activities on the homefront. The Hurleys were blessed with two children: a daughter, Jan, and a son, Raoul, three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

In 1949, Velna and Tom transferred to the Rocky Mountain Conference to take advantage of the drier climate for their asthmatic son, moving to Douglas, Wyoming to build a church facility. They also positioned the financial base of the Lakewood Church, Lakewood, Colorado for a similar building endeavor.

In 1952 Tom was struck with "Menieres Syndrome" which eventually forced his premature retirement and return to Memphis where Velna entered a career in Real Estate. She continued active in the local church, singing in the choir at the Highland Heights Church in Memphis until suffering a stroke in 1995. She died at her home on March 26, 1996 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Known as "the ideal minister's wife", Velna was supportive without being controlling, always there when needed, poised and pleasant with her beautiful smile, which speaks of the words: "Arise, shine for your light has come". (Isaiah 60:1)



### Mark Lafayette Fiester

Mark Lafayette Fiester was born on June 12, 1907 at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania to Williamsport merchant father Daniel A. and homemaker mother Maud Olmstead Fiester. He was the third of six children.

Mark graduated from Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania in 1934 and Evangelical Theological Seminary, Naperville, Illinois in 1937. It was while at Naperville that he met fellow-student Roberta Dexheimer of Denver. They were married in Denver, following Mark's graduation in 1937. Mark and Roberta were blessed with two children: Susan Pamille Fiester LaMarche and Kenneth Mark Fiester. Across the years nine grand-children and five great-grandchildren have added pleasure to their lives.

Mark was admitted on trial to the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The Evangelical Church in 1930 and into full membership in the Atlantic Conference in 1940. He served the Salem Evangelical Church of Jersey City, New Jersey from 1937 - 48; and transferred to the Colorado Conference of The Evangelical Church in 1948 to serve the Ordway Church from 1948 - 53. He was then appointed to the Grace Evangelical United Brethren Church in Denver from 1953 - 65.

Having read of the indomitable John Lewis Dyer, Mark desired to forestall the closing of the Breckenridge Church until the anticipated boom of Summit County could take place. He offered himself at full career status for the student pastorate. He literally restored the Church during his pastorate from 1965 - 72. After retiring in 1972, Mark first published the Breckenridge story in Blasted Beloved Breckenridge in 1973 and republished it by popular demand in 1993. He also completed his opus on John Lewis Dyer entitled Look For Me In Heaven in 1980. He was working on a biography of Helen Rich, a Breckenridge author, when in suffered a stroke in 1993.

With Roberta, Mark received the Outstanding Citizens of Summit County Award for 1994 by the Summit Foundation. He wrote Christmas and Easter Pageants and produced them for overflow crowds at the Denver City Auditorium. It was this kind of special service that combined beauty and artistry for which Mark was known in the local churches which he served. He had a passion for historical research and writing, his yard and gardening, his friends.

Mark died at his home in Frisco, Colorado on March 24, 1996. His body was interred at the Castle Rock Cemetery. The gravesite is in a direct line with and a few steps away from the grave of John Lewis Dyer. In selecting this sight, Mark reflected: "On that glorious morning I want to be close enough to catch his coat tails - I have so many questions to ask him." It can be said of Mark "Shepherd thy people with thy staff, the flock of thy heritage, who dwell alone in the forest, in the midst of the garden land." (Micah 7: 14)

### Wilber M. Benham



Wilber M. Benham was born on January 16, 1912 at Vivian, Texas to a farmer-father, George J. and homemaker-mother, Minnie Belle Harkins Benham. Wilber completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at East Central State College in Ada, Oklahoma in 1933 and his Masters of Theology degree from The Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colorado in 1948.

Upon undergraduate graduation Wilber married Ellene M. Chesnut on December 22, 1933. They were blessed with four sons: Wilber Wayne, Charles Bryan, Freemont Drexel, and Melvin Dexter. Also a blessing were eleven grandchildren and fourteen great-grand children.

Admitted on trial to the Oklahoma Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1935, Wilber was granted full membership in 1938. In Oklahoma, Wilber served Greenville from 1935 - 36; Berwyn from 1936 - 37; Ashner from 1937 - 38; Courtney from 1938 - 40; Terral from 1940 - 41; Alex from 1941 - 42; Alex - Bradley from 1942 - 43; Wayne - Criner from 1943 - 44; and Sulphur - St. Paul's from 1944 - 45.