

YEARBOOK AND MINUTES
of the
Southwest Texas Annual
Conference
The Methodist Church



THE EIGHTY-THIRD
ANNUAL SESSION

(Third Since Unification)

HELD IN TRAVIS PARK METHODIST CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

October 22-26, 1941

BISHOP A. FRANK SMITH, *President*
OLIN W. NAIL, *Secretary*

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MEMOIRS

CHARLES L. MEAD

As one thinks of this man of God, now that he has passed to his eternal abode, certain characteristics stand out very clearly.

Of Bishop Mead it can rightly be said that he had a cheerful disposition. That was not something with him which was put on from the outside, but it was a very part of him. It was in him and it made his physical appearance radiant and charming.

Bishop Mead had a profound regard for human beings, as such. Their hopes and aspirations found in him a sympathetic response. It was for that reason that he exercised almost endless patience with his preachers as he considered their appointments. On one occasion the hour for the reading of the appointments had arrived. The church was filled with people. The congregation had waited for thirty minutes, while the Bishop listened to a preacher who thought he was not getting a fair deal. Then he came to where all of us were waiting to go on the rostrum, and at that very moment another preacher came who wanted to be appointed to a certain time that the appointments were made, fifteen minutes to let this brother tell him why he allowed this brother to do him minutes, and his reply was, "that ambitions and I did not want to thwart could help it."

He possessed a warmness of heart that attracted the people loved to hear him. He preached and never lacked the evangelist. The Texas Conference remember how he ministered at the close of our Conference in Sunday night.

He asked no one to work harder than he did of him; "He permitted no one to work on an equality no matter what their condition, and undertook trips and engagements which would have been forbidden. However, he would have worked for his Master. This he accomplished. He retired he accepted engagements in the worst condition forbade such strenuous work on several occasions that nothing would hinder his call to depart from this world. He answered his call to depart from this world in preaching. So it was, even as he had conducted a revival meeting in the state capital at heart attack, the following day, from a doctor's call on to meet his Master, whom he loved.

He was a banker and then received a call to

enter the ministry. In 1895 he was ordained and became a member of the Newark Conference. He served churches in Rutherford, Hoboken, and Newark in New Jersey and later in Baltimore, New York City and Denver, Colorado. He was elected to the episcopacy at the General Conference at Des Moines, Iowa, in 1920, and in that capacity he served the church for a period of twenty years. He was retired at the General Conference in Atlantic City in 1940. As a Bishop he served two areas, namely the Denver and the Kansas City areas.

As a husband he was very considerate. Those of us who were associated with him in the work of the church know how often he paid loving tribute to his wife as his untiring helper through the years of his ministry. Those of us who were present at the Jurisdictional Conference, in Oklahoma City, well remember how deeply Bishop Mead moved that assembly with his tribute to his wife as he asked her to stand in the balcony, where she was seated, at the time said conference paid a tribute to him as a retiring bishop of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Mead and five children survive him. Bishop Mead was a son of a minister and before he retired he had the privilege of ordaining his son as a minister in the Methodist Church.

JOHN DESCHNER.

THE REVEREND JOHN THOMPSON HARRISON MILLER



John Thompson Harrison Miller was born January 6, 1858 in Carroll county, Georgia. His parents were John and Nancy Jane Miller. He was one of ten children. He was married to Miss Vina Dodge at Brady, Texas in 1892. To them were born three sons and one daughter, of whom the daughter, Mrs. Llanona Francis Ellis, Coulee Dam, Washington, and one son, Harry, of Brady, Texas survive. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. T. N. Barton with burial at San Saba.

Converted in 1877 at Wesley Chapel, Carroll county, Georgia and joined the church the same day. He was educated at Emory College, Oxford, Georgia, from which he received the Bachelor of Arts degree. He felt the call to preach in his twenty-second year.

Brother Miller began his ministry with license to preach in 1880 by the Villa Rica charge in the Rome district of the North Georgia Conference, with the famous Simon Peter Richardson, Presiding Elder.

He was received on Trial into the West Texas Conference at Cuero in 1886 with Bishop Key presiding. He was admitted into Full Connection and ordained an Elder by Bishop Duncan at Victoria, Texas in 1888. Bishop Granbery ordained him a Deacon at the North Georgia Conference at Atlanta, Georgia in 1884.

Brother Miller gave 31 years to the active ministry, serving the following charges: Del Rio-Brackettville, 1887; Deming-Silver City, New Mexico, 1888; San Antonio City Mission, 1889; Llano, 1890-91; Brady, 1892; Llano, 1893-95; Kerrville, 1896; Center Point, 1897-1900; Laredo, 1901-02; Beeville, 1903-05; Luling, 1906-07; Hallettsville, 1908; Palacios Circuit, 1909-10; Burnet Circuit, 1911; Richland Springs Circuit, 1912; Lometa, 1913; Brady, Junior Preacher, 1914-16; Supernumerary, 1917-20; Superannuate, 1921-1940.

He passed to the church on high, December 11, 1940 at San Saba, Texas, and lies buried there. His funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. T. N. Barton.

In a letter to the writer of this memoir, his son, Harry Miller of Brady, Texas, wrote: "He pioneered, he battled, and his sincere work and efforts were effective."

Brother Miller gave to the West Texas Conference much constructive work and he will be remembered with love and appreciation.

STERLING FISHER.