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JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK

The Official Proceedings
of the
One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth Annual Session

June 1-5, 1975

Northern Illinois University
De Kalb, Illinois

Northern Illinois Conference

Successor to the Rock River Conference and
Northern Illinois Portion of the Illinois Conference

of

The United Methodist Church

Bishop Paul A. Washburn, *Presiding*

Charles C. Klosterman, *Secretary*

BERNICE M. SITLER

Mrs. Bernice M. Sitler, 81, died April 19, 1975 at Antioch, Illinois. She was born August 29, 1893, in Oregon, Illinois, where she married Loyal V. Sitler on June 1, 1915. They had lived in many Illinois villages during his ministerial appointments, including Antioch, where he served from 1933 until moving to Waukegan in 1937. Mr. Sitler passed away June 14, 1949, and in that year, Mrs. Sitler moved back to Antioch. She was a member of the Antioch United Methodist Church and of United Methodist Women of that church. Mrs. Sitler was also a Lay Leader and past member of the Administrative Board of the church.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Gwendolyn (William) Hansen, of Antioch, and Mrs. Dolores (Robert) Irish, of Wadsworth, Illinois; seven grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 22, 1975, at Antioch. Stephen Williams of the Antioch United Methodist Church officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery in Antioch.

EMMA CECILIA STRANDELL

Emma Strandell, widow of the late A. J. Strandell, passed away at the Bethany Methodist Hospital in Chicago on December 5, 1974. She was born on April 18, 1885 on a farm near St. Charles, Illinois, the daughter of Carl and Carlotta Hultine. It was here that she met the young divinity student who was to become her husband. The St. Charles Swedish Methodist congregation was organized and a church built at this time. The student pastor was a frequent visitor in the Hultine home. They were married in February, 1905.

After ordination the Strandells were sent to New Windsor, Illinois for a brief assignment and then on to Bishop Hill, where they remained for four years. Two sons, Melvin and Edward, were born in Bishop Hill. Then they moved to McKeesport, Pennsylvania where the family remained only one year. The village of Victoria, Illinois was the next home for the Strandells and just a few miles from Bishop Hill. There a daughter, Evelyn, was born. The Strandells stayed in Victoria for six years.

The year 1917 marked the nation's entry into World War I and also a move to Hyde Park, Chicago for another one-year appointment. After the confining accommodations in Chicago, it was a pleasant change of living style to go to a parsonage on a farm at Donovan, Illinois. The pastor of this church was expected to be part farmer in order to feed his family. The Strandell family adapted to it readily and were reluctant to leave it when after six years the Bishop pointed to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Now there were five children, as Robert and Dorothy were born in Donovan.

Again after only two years the family was sent back west, this time to Salem Church, Chicago. It was here that the second son, Edward, was taken by leukemia at the age of almost 19, while a sophomore at Northwestern University. The move from the Salem Church to the Roseland Church in Chicago coincided with the start of the Depression. These were difficult years for all. With most of the congregation out of work it was necessary for the pastor to take salary cuts and to adapt to a meager standard of living. The conditions changed for the better before the Strandell appointment ended after six years with an assignment to Racine, Wisconsin.

A. J. Strandell passed away on September 2, 1938, while serving the Bethel Methodist Church in Racine, Wisconsin. His widow and the two youngest children moved to an apartment in Chicago where Mrs. Strandell was to remain for 26 years. When age began to take its toll it was advisable for her to give up the apartment