

NOTES

JOURNAL AND YEAR BOOK

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The Official Proceedings  
of the  
One Hundred and Tenth Annual Session  
of  
Rock River Annual Conference  
of  
The Methodist Church

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Held at  
THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

June 22-26, 1949

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BISHOP J. RALPH MAGEE, *Presiding*  
R. MERRILL POWERS, *Secretary*  
740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Illinois

While serving the Bethel Church in Aurora he lost his wife who had been his strength and support during the years of his ministry both in the church and parsonage.

His last comment before his death were words of thanks that his Lord and Savior had permitted him to preach almost up to the time of his passing. He had often said through the years that the finest epitaph a man could have was that he had loved his Lord and made the world a little better for having known Him. This was singularly true in his lifetime of service.

Dr. Griffith is survived by his two sons, George and Harold; one brother, Wilbur W. Griffith of Morris, Illinois; four sisters, Mrs. Mabel Halbert of Jerome, Idaho; Mrs. Anna Edmunds, Mrs. Pearl Sweet and Mrs. Dorothy Flower, all of Chicago. There are also numerous nephews, nieces and friends to mourn his loss.

F. L. BLEWFIELD

#### LEWIS B. LOTT

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

Lewis Lott devoted more than forty years to the calling of the Christian Ministry as a living proof of these challenging words of Scripture.

On Christmas Day, 1874, a new cry was heard in the home of the circuit-rider Peter Lott, and they called him Lewis. From his earliest memory he felt the call to follow in the steps of his consecrated father.

He attended Northwestern University and was graduated with the class of 1906. Entering Garrett Biblical Institute, he finished his studies in 1907. While a student minister serving Cass Methodist Church, he met his life partner in the person of Cora Heartt, a leader among the youth of the church. Brother Lott served the following churches: Warren, Evergreen Park, Wilton Center, Geneva, Douglas Park, Hinckley, Earlville, St. Stephens, Manhattan, Rock Falls, Lombard, Genoa, Hermosa, Roselle, Sheridan Road, Fernwood, and Clearing.

The Lotts served faithfully and well until the Easter Season of 1944 when without much warning he was forced to retire. His health continued to fail until his death on Jan. 4, 1949. The services of memory were conducted in the First Methodist Church of Downers Grove by the writer, assisted by six of the neighboring ministers who were also his bearers. Surviving are Mrs. Cora Lott, their two sons, Merrill and Spencer, and three grandchildren.

Faithful in his pastoral duties, he was beloved by laymen and ministers alike. Among the many difficult tasks that came his way, at least two churches owe their very existence to the untiring efforts of his leadership in lifting indebtedness and bringing a new day of freedom from financial stress. Many laymen are faithful in the church today because he led them into the joy of Christian service. It is impossible to embody in this brief statement the high estimate of his Christian character which will continue to live in the lives of those who knew him as one called to more than forty years of usefulness to the Kingdom of God.

HAROLD K. TAYLOR

#### LOYAL VAN SITLER

Loyal Van Sitler was born March 26, 1894 at Oregon, Illinois, and passed on as the result of an automobile accident June 14, 1949, at the age of 55. He was the son of Methodist parents, Adelbert and Laura Belle Sitler. His father was a carpenter. He graduated from Oregon High School in 1911; afterward entered the Northern Illinois State Teacher's College at DeKalb. He was married to Bernice Canode of Oregon in 1915. Having felt the call to the Methodist ministry, he entered Garrett Biblical Institute where he graduated in 1924 and was ordained in the fall of the same year when Conference was held at Sterling.

The first appointment of the young couple was Chadwick, Illinois, where Gwendolyn (Mrs. Wm. P. Hansen now of Antioch) was born. Succeeding charges included Malden, Sugar Grove, Sheridan, Franklin Grove, Ashton, Prophetstown, Plainfield, Antioch-Rosecrans, and Yorkhouse. Dolores, younger daughter (Mrs. Robert Irish, of Gurnee, Ill.), was born at Ashton.

#### Memoirs

During the Waukegan, and Besides his beloved Laura Belle Sitler; Harry Sitler of DeKalb; Carol and Ronald

Loyal was into of his community camps. He sang in of the Waukegan and civic activities by his wife and a life-time in north

Death came a mobile from Sycamore 8:00 p. m. Mrs. Sitler for treatment.

Funeral service p. m. with Dr. The Reverend Albion Reverend Richard place in the Hills

Willis Ray Wilcox 22, 1948, at the age of 22 at Warren Academy from Union Theological Seminary and D.D. from Johns

He was associated as a member of the Board at the time in The Methodist Church. He was his party's nominee and passed away just a few days before he found him still alive.

He served the churches in N. Dak., Elwood, La. Princeton, Morris

Mrs. John Norriester, N. H. Hervey Gage, promptly made but under the strict supervision of her being a member of President Washington's 160 years

Joined to this spirit of experiences through loyalty to this bustling city passed through the hands of indescribable horrors which were halted

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During the last eight years he had been a teller in the First National Bank of Waukegan, and successfully carried the responsibility of the Yorkhouse charge. Besides his beloved wife and daughters, he is also survived by his aged mother, Mrs. Laura Belle Sitler of Oregon; a sister, Mrs. Frank Himes of Oregon; and two brothers, Harry Sitler of DeKalb, and Oliver Sitler of Rochelle. He also has two grandchildren: Carol and Ronald Hansen of Antioch.

Loyal was interested in young people and children, especially the Boy Scout work of his community. He was a good singer and did much leading of music in summer camps. He sang in the Elks Glee Club of Waukegan, and was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Waukegan Exchange Club. He was always interested in community welfare and civic activities as well as the people of his Church. He will be greatly missed by his wife and family as well as many scores of friends he had served during his life-time in northern Illinois.

Death came almost instantly when he and Mrs. Sitler were returning by automobile from Sycamore on Route 120, north-east of Woodstock on June 14, 1949, at about 8:00 p. m. Mrs. Sitler suffered serious injuries and was taken to Woodstock Hospital for treatment.

Funeral services were held at the Yorkhouse Methodist Church June 17 at 2:00 p. m. with Dr. Thomas M. Pender, Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Waukegan; Reverend Albion J. Tavenner, Pastor of the Methodist Church of Woodstock; and Reverend Richard Tuttle, Pastor of Antioch Methodist Church, officiating. Burial took place in the Hillside Cemetery of Antioch, Illinois.

ALBION J. TAVENNER

#### WILLIS RAY WILSON

Willis Ray Wilson was born at Nora, Illinois, August 27, 1880, and died on October 22, 1948, at the age of 68 years, 1 month, and 25 days. He received his early education at Warren Academy, and Garrett Biblical Institute. He received the degrees of Th.B. from Union Theological College in 1923; B.D. from Bethany Bible Seminary in 1929; and D.D. from John Fletcher College in 1936.

He was associated for more than 25 years with the Chicago Evangelistic Institute as a member of the Faculty and Board of Trustees, and was serving as Chairman of the Board at the time of his death. For more than 45 years he had served as a pastor in The Methodist Church; and was an ardent temperance worker. He was the candidate of the Prohibition Party for Congressman-at-large from Illinois in 1940; and was his party's nominee for Governor of the State of Illinois in 1944 and 1948, but passed away just a few days before the last election. It had become evident to those who knew him that his strength was rapidly failing during the fall, and his passing found him still diligent at the work of the ministry.

He served the following parish churches: Forreston, Aneta, N. Dak., Milton, N. Dak., Elwood, Leland, Prophetstown, Park Center and Park Manor, North Austin, Princeton, Morrison, and Lincoln Street Institutional.

CONTRIBUTED

#### MRS. JOHN NORRIS HALL

Mrs. John Norris Hall, nee Mary L. Gage, was born September 22, 1857, in Manchester, N. H. Her mother died when Mary was at a tender age; but an uncle, H. H. Gage, promptly made a home for the motherless little girl. She grew up in Chicago, but under the strict discipline of New England, becoming an American in every fiber of her being and patriotic to the very core. Born 68 years after the inauguration of President Washington in 1789, she had lived through more than half of this nation's 160 years of history. Americanism was the very breath of her nostrils! Joined to this spirit was a genuine Chicago enthusiasm.

Experiences through which she passed, and scenes she witnessed intensified her loyalty to this bustling city of the "unsalted seas." In 1871, when 14 years of age, she passed through the harrowing days of the great Chicago Fire, which left her a memory of indescribable horror. Living on the north side, the Gage family escaped the flames which were halted by the river; but their house and barn were filled with frightened