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Journal of the Seventh Annual Session

(The 106th since original organization)

of the

Texas Annual Conference

of

The Methodist Church

Held in Houston, Texas

First Methodist Church

November 6-9, 1946

BISHOP A. FRANK SMITH, Houston, Texas, President

J. HARVEY CARLIN, New Boston, Texas, Secretary

KARL O. BAYER, Liberty, Texas, Statistician

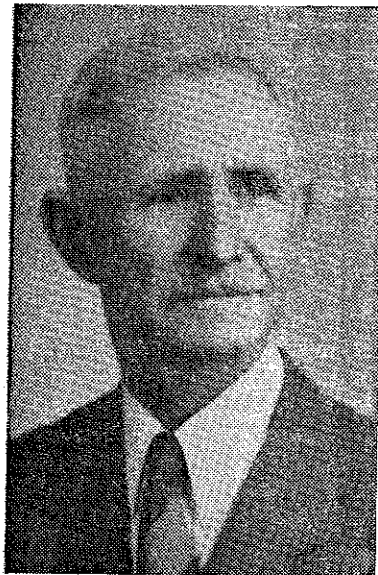
Gordon Alexander, Overton, Texas, Editor

G. R. Thomas Jr., Nolan R. Vance, C. A. West, Assistant Editors

Section VII — Memoirs



The Reverend and Mrs. Dempsey W. Gardner



The Reverend Charles
Martin Meyers

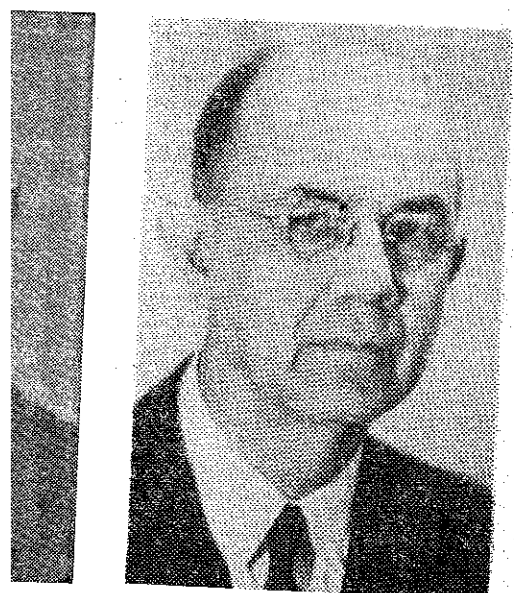


The Reverend Winston
H. Vance

ion VII — Memoirs



and Mrs. Dempsey W. Gardner



The Reverend Winston
H. Vance

The Reverend William
Murrey Bass

The Reverend John
Coy Huddleston

The Reverend Lemuel
H. Matthison

The Reverend Henry
Lee Munger

The Reverend William
Kemp Strother

Mrs. Samuel Ross
Hay

The Reverend W. H. Brooks
(Died May 12, 1945—Reported after Conference)

"This is not an hour of lamentation, but of rejoicing. The Lord never takes what He did not first of all give; and in this hour what he has given infinitely outweighs what He has taken away. Our Conference is definitely richer because these have passed this way. Ten persons, eight ministers and two queens of Methodist parsonage homes, have passed from us this year into that "life that shall endless be". The youngest of them was sixty-four and the oldest was eighty-one, the average being seventy-two: or, a total of seven hundred and twenty years. The shortest period of service for any of the group was seventeen years, the longest forty-six years; or an average of thirty-six years. Strangely enough, the total number of service years for these devoted servants of Christ and the Church are three hundred and sixty years; or exactly one half of their average years of life.

Who can estimate what a rich heritage is ours and what results have come to our Conference from the service rendered by them? Only eternity will reveal the answer. Here in this assembly today are men in the ministry and women engaged in Christian service, and many others have been won to lives of devotion to Christ because these have lived and labored for Him. Their lives have become immortal."

From the Memorial Address by

S. S. MCKENNEY.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Isa Dozier Myers of Fulshear; six daughters: Mrs. W. B. Fenner, Mrs. L. R. Smith, Mrs. Bennett Jenkins of Houston; Mrs. L. H. Nagel of Edna; Mrs. E. O. Manvel and Mrs. C. D. Myers, Jr., of Richmond; three sons, Houston Kyle Myers of Houston; Charles E. Myers of Caracas, Venezuela; and Henry T. Myers of the Navy, stationed at McAlester, Oklahoma; four sisters: Mrs. May Calloway of Houston; Mrs. B. A. Spencer of Uvalde; Mrs. Mattie Williams of Yoakum and Mrs. D. C. Carpenter of Houston; four brothers: S. A. Myers and Sterling Myers of Yoakum; Alex Myers of Cuero; and Henry M. Meyers of Houston.

MEMOIR OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM KEMP STROTHER

The Reverend William Kemp Strother of Jacksonville, Texas was born near Garland, Texas, April 20, 1869. He passed to his reward February 16, 1945. Holding the B. A. and M. A. degree from Southwestern University, he taught school for a few years, and was then admitted on trial into the North Texas Conference in 1892.

There he served as pastor of the following churches: Howe, Grand Prairie, Cedar Hill, First Church, Dallas, Aubrey, Wylie, Collinsville, Pottsboro, and Brookton. Transferring to the Texas Conference he served Winona, Mineola, and Cedar Street, Tyler. Returning to the North Texas Conference he was pastor at Garland, Wolfe City, and Kemp from where he was superannuated in 1931.

Dr. Strother was president of the following colleges: Chapel Hill Female College, Alexander College (now Lon Morris College), Western College at Artesia, New Mexico, Stamford College (now McMurray College), and again at Alexander College.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mattie Duke Strother, who was an invaluable helpmate to him throughout his ministry; and by four children: Dr. Coble Duke Strother, Sherman; Dr. W. K. Strother, Jr., Dallas; The Reverend Joe S. Strother, First Methodist Church, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and Miss Martha Strother of Jacksonville.

After his retirement Dr. Strother moved to Jacksonville and lived near Lon Morris College, the institution to which he had given outstanding leadership during two administrations. During his presidency the historic building of the Twin Towers was erected. The trustees of Lon Morris named a beautiful park on the college campus "Strother Park" in his honor several years ago. A man of strong convictions, he left the stamp of his personality upon the institution of the "Twin Towers".

In his declining years he enjoyed a successful nursery business. He appreciated the beauty of nature and called the shrubs and flowers by their correct name.

Dr. Strother's friends were legion and young preachers particularly sought his council and fellowship. His highest ambitions were to be a good husband, father, grandfather, and a servant of God. In all this he succeeded notably.

C. E. PEEPLES

President, Lon Morris College
Jacksonville, Texas

MEMOIR OF THE REVEREND WINSTON H. VANCE

Winston H. Vance was the son of L. S. and Fannie Bowden Vance. He was born in Hope, Arkansas, November 29, 1876, and moved to Texas with his parents while quite young. His boyhood days were spent in Plano, Texas. After finishing high school there he attended Polytechnic College in Fort Worth.

On June 4, 1898 he was married to Ada Edna Jordan. To this union five children were born, three daughters and two sons. The sons be-

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Isa Dozier Myers of Fulshear; six L. R. Smith, Mrs. Bennett Jenkins Edna; Mrs. E. O. Manvel and Mrs. three sons, Houston Kyle Myers of Texas, Venezuela; and Henry T. Myers Oklahoma; four sisters: Mrs. May Spencer of Uvalde; Mrs. Mattie Wilkerson of Houston; four brothers: Frank Oakum; Alex Myers of Cuero; and

WILLIAM KEMP STROTHER

Brother Strother of Jacksonville, Texas was born in 1869. He passed to his reward February 1, 1931, having received a M. A. degree from Southwestern University in 1892.

Brother Strother followed churches: Howe, Grand Prairie, Dallas, Aubrey, Wylie, Collinsville, and moved to the Texas Conference headquarters, 1215 North Street, Tyler. Returning to the Texas Conference, he was pastor at Garland, Wolfe City, and moved to Jacksonville in 1931.

Brother Strother followed colleges: Chapel Hill (now University of North Carolina), Western North Carolina College (now Western Carolina College), and Western North Carolina College (now Western Carolina College).

Brother Strother was married to Mattie Duke Strother, who was an active worker in his ministry; and by four children: Dr. W. K. Strother, Jr., Dallas First Methodist Church, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and three of Jacksonville.

Brother Strother moved to Jacksonville and lived in a home to which he had given out-look. During his presidency a new building was erected. The trustees of the college campus "Strother College" were named. A man of strong convictions, he was the institution of the "Twin Towns."

Brother Strother was a successful nursery business. He called the shrubs and flowers by

names and young preachers particularly. His highest ambitions were to be a faithful servant of God. In all this he

PEPLES

Brother Peples, Lon Morris College, Jacksonville, Texas

D WINSTON H. VANCE

Brother Vance, L. S. and Fannie Bowden Vance. Born November 29, 1876, and moved to Texas. His boyhood days were spent in Texas. At school there he attended Polytech-

Brother Vance, Ada Edna Jordan. To this union were born three sons and two daughters. The sons be-

came ministers and members of the Texas Conference.

Brother Vance joined the Texas Conference in 1903 and spent all of his ministry within its bounds. He served the Church well and wisely whether on a circuit, pastor of strong stations or presiding elder of a district. After thirty-six years in the active ministry he superannuated in 1938. However, soon after his retirement he was pressed into service and became pastor of the Alief Church and later the St. James Church in Houston. He was pastor of this church at the time of his death on March 1, 1945. The funeral service was conducted by Bishop A. Frank Smith. His body was laid to rest in the beautiful Forest Park Cemetery in Houston.

The writer knew Brother Vance intimately for many years and we were drawn peculiarly close to each other. I was his district superintendent on two districts and our association was most pleasant and brotherly. Many times have we discussed together the problems of the church, always looking forward to, and believing in, better ways for our beloved Methodism.

He put something into life, the equivalent of which found expression in his diligent devotion to duty, his great love for the church, and his high esteem for the obligations of the brotherhood of man. He had great faith in God. He was devoted to the church. He was not a barren, fruitless life. He so lived as to transform his life into a rich and abundant garden of fruits that shall abide.

Long ago he heard the Christ whom he served say: "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come again and receive you unto myself." For our brother that promise has been fulfilled.

"Love will dream and faith will trust
Since He knows our need is just
That somehow, somewhere meet we must.
The truth to flesh and sense unknown,
That Life is ever Lord of death,
And love can never lose its own."

W. F. BRYAN.

MEMOIR OF MRS. D. W. GARDNER

The passing of Mrs. D. W. Gardner on November 28, 1944, removed from us one of the characters of the Methodist Parsonage.

For many years she stood by the side of her devoted husband and worked consistently with his endeavors.

All who knew her had great admiration and deepest respect for her sincere life. Her children rise up "and call her blessed."

She was as tender as the soft breeze of springtime, gentle as the fragrance of the rose, spotless as the golden tinted sunset. Consideration was uppermost in her life, giving evidence of the same concern that Christ gave for a lost child. She sought to make her life harmonize with God, and was as obedient as the stars in their courses. Someone has said, "Her songs were in tune with the choirs of the Heavenly Hosts."

The last rites were conducted by Dr. W. F. Bryan, assisted by other sympathetic ministers.

Mrs. Gardner lived such a wholesome life that her purity was evidenced by every life she touched.

Her aged husband had this to say at her passing, "I am not a bit afraid to submit myself into the hands of the same God that has cared for her." God has received her into His fullness.

MARCUS M. CHUNN.