

Rev. Ragsdale was preceded in death by his first wife and three sons; and also by his second wife. He is survived by his present wife, Leona, whom he married July 30, 1961. Also surviving are a son, Fred, of Carlock, Illinois; a daughter, Mrs. Aldene Sullivan, of Macomb, Illinois; three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

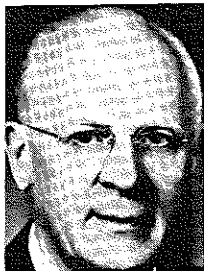
VERLA CONLEE TAGG

Verla C., wife of the Reverend Lawrence R. Tagg, retired, expired in St. John's hospital, Springfield, on August 21, 1976, from injuries sustained in a fall down the basement steps in her home in Pana. She was married to Lawrence Tagg in Chicago on November 26, 1953 and served with him at Pana and Tuscola before their retirement from the active ministry in 1965. Mrs. Tagg was a member of First United Methodist Church in Pana where she played for and sang with the choir. She was also a member of the Conference Executive Committee of the United Methodist Women.

Verla was born in Nilwood, Illinois, a daughter of the Reverend Charles F. and Alma Tieman Conlee. She graduated from the University of Illinois and became a well-known music teacher in the Rosamond and Pana Schools. She became a member of the Arcana Chapter of Eastern Star, the Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, the National and Illinois Retired Teachers Associations, the Pana Home and Garden Club and President of Chapter HD of PEO.

Surviving are her husband; four sons: Lawrence E. of Dayton, Ohio; William H. of Atlanta, GA; Stanley E. of Pittsburgh, PA; and Charles E. of Fullerton, CA; a daughter, Mrs. Lee (Helen) Cummings of Englewood, CO; a brother, three sisters, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on August 24, 1976, in the First United Methodist Church, Pana, with the Reverend M. Thomas Swantner and Reverend Chester Sheldon officiating. Burial was in the Linwood Cemetery, Pana.



BISHOP EDWIN EDGAR VOIGT

Although not a member of Central Illinois Conference, Bishop Voigt was its president for four years and presided over the Annual Sessions from 1961 through 1964. He definitely left his imprint upon the Methodist Church in Illinois, although much of his ecclesiastical career was spent in Iowa and the Dakotas.

EDWIN EDGAR VOIGT was born near Kankakee, Illinois, on February 13, 1892, the son of Theodore G. and Dorothea Kueuck Voigt. He died in Seattle, Washington, on September 1, 1977. During this life span of more than eighty-five years, he served as a YMCA Secretary, a pilot and a second lieutenant in the Army Air Service during World War I; a professor of Biblical Literature and Hebrew at Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute; an associate pastor of Evanston First M. E. Church; pastor of the First Methodist Church, Iowa City, and Director of the Wesley Foundation of the University of Iowa; President of Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa; Bishop of the Dakota Area; Bishop of the Illinois Area; and President of McKendree College. He also spent one year in Jerusalem as Thayer Fellow at the American School of Oriental Research. He was a Fellow of the National Council of Religion in Higher Education and a member of the Society of Biblical Literature. He contributed frequently to religious journals and was the author of two books, Latin Verses of Judith (1925), and Hebrew for Beginners (1939). He was educated at Northwestern and Yale Universities and Garrett, and received honorary degrees from Simpson, Dakota Wesleyan, Illinois Wesleyan and McKendree.

Edwin Voigt was married to Eleanor Hemsted Dodge on August 27, 1929, and the couple had two children: Paul Stewart of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Nancy (Mrs. John R. Mahoney) of Seattle, with whom the Bishop made his home for the last nine years of his life. The death of his wife in 1955 was a severe blow and ill health burdened his years of service in Illinois. Nevertheless, he was a tireless worker and performed his duties conscientiously. Bishop Voigt actually made his greatest contribution as an educational administrator, particularly during his four years at McKendree College. The annual Voigt Lectures on Preaching, inaugurated at McKendree in 1967, continue as a living memorial to his interest and influence.

Memorial services were held for Bishop Voigt at Asbury United Methodist Church in Kankakee, on September 19, 1977, with Bishop Leroy Hodapp and the Reverend Harold J. Guenther, Pastor, in charge. Bishop Voigt is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Bonfield, Illinois.

MRS. A. F. WATERS

Mrs. Grace M. Bowling was united in marriage to Rev. Arthur F. Waters in October, 1938, when he was pastor of Edgar Circuit. She shared with him in service there and on Toledo Circuit and, later, Paloma Circuit until 1946 when he retired.

Retirement years until 1965 were spent at R. R. 1, Clinton, IN. In April, 1958, Rev. Waters passed away and was buried at Tower Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Waters' last years were spent at the home of her son in Charleston, IL where she passed away on June 21, 1977.

Memorial services were held at Dana, IN; interment was made at Bono Cemetery.

Mrs. Waters was deeply interested in the missionary program of the Church and was affiliated since girlhood with some phase or other of it.