

He became a Full Member in 1915. He served the following pastoral charges in the Southern Illinois Conference: Broughton, Bloomfield, Belknap, Sumner, Carbondale Grace, Elkhaville, Belleville Epworth, Norris City, West Frankfort Trinity, Enfield, Ina, Bible Grove, West Liberty, and New Burnside. He also served as Conference Evangelist. He served the following churches in Indiana: Indianapolis, New York

JOHN LOGAN RAGSDALE

John Logan Ragsdale, age 83, of Elliott, Illinois, died Tuesday, August 9, 1977 at Blessings Hospital, Quincy, Illinois.

Reverend John Ragsdale was born March 27, 1894 at Metropolis, Illinois to Archer C. and Sarah Denison Ragsdale. He was married to Pearl Peterson. Four sons and one daughter were born to this union: Pearl (Peterson) Ragsdale died March 1, 1950. He married Nina Taylor. Nina (Taylor) Ragsdale died in November, 1959. He then married Leona Newport on July 30, 1961. Mrs. Leona (Newport) Ragsdale survives the Reverend John Ragsdale. 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. Also surviving are two stepsons, Thomas and Philip Newport and one stepdaughter, Mrs. Shirley Herrin.

John Logan Ragsdale became a member of the Illinois Conference of The United Brethren Church in 1938 and an Elder in 1948. He served the following pastorates: Galatia, Vergennes, Monee, Shawneetown, Ullin, Granite City, Bluford, London Mills, Lexington, Alexas, Beecher City, Adair, Moweaqua, Sumner, and Elliott. After his retirement in 1962, he continued as a supply pastor, ministering to the congregation at Teheran. He was a resident of Sunset

Street, Union Charge, Chandler, Waverly, and Hymera. He retired in 1958.

A Memorial Service was conducted at The United Methodist Village on June 15, 1977 by Dr. Clyde Todd and The Reverend Gerald E. Gulley. A Memorial Service was conducted on June 16, 1977 at The Bee Ridge Christian Church in Brazil, Indiana by The Reverend Carl V. Williams. Burial was in the Bee Ridge Cemetery.



Homes, Quincy, Illinois, the last months of his life.

Funeral services were conducted August 11, 1977 at The United Methodist Church in Creal Springs, Illinois, by The Reverend Donald J. Jones, Gibson City. Burial followed in the Creal Springs Cemetery. The Reverend Donald J. Jones was also in charge of a Memorial Service held in The United Methodist Church of Elliott, Illinois, on Saturday, August 13, 1977.

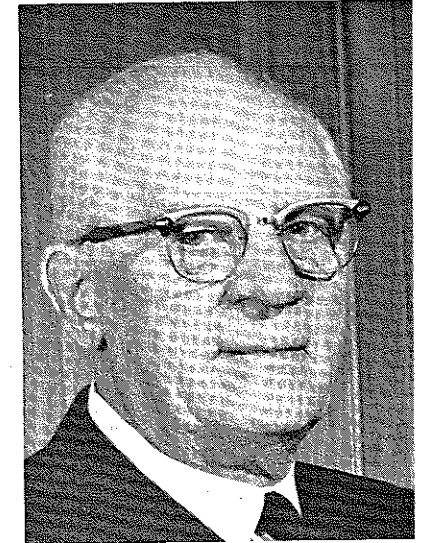
BISHOP EDWIN EDGAR VOIGT

Although not a member of Southern 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. His wife, Eleanor, died in 1955.

Edwin Voigt was elected a delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conferences of



1948 and 1952 and was also a delegate to General Conference in the latter year. In July, 1952, at the jurisdictional conference in Milwaukee, he was elected a bishop on the fourteenth ballot and assigned to the Dakota area. As a bishop Dr. Voigt served as Chairman of the inter-board Committee on Christian Vocations and Chairman of the Commission on Worship. In 1960, General Conference directed the Commission on Worship to revise *The Methodist Hymnal* and the *Book of Worship*. Bishop Voigt presided over the numerous sessions required to complete this task and presented the finished products to the General Conference of 1964, which accepted them with enthusiastic applause.

In 1960, Bishop Voigt returned to his native state as the administrative head of the newly created Illinois Area, consisting of Central Illinois and Southern Illinois conferences. He established his episcopal headquarters in Springfield and, for the next four years, traveled back and forth across our prairies, fulfilling a bishop's ceremonial duties of dedicating new churches, preaching centennial sermons and attending innumerable board meetings as

well as continuing his writing and study. Most of the members of our conference remember him well as an efficient presiding officer and a conscientious churchman.

Again, in 1964, Dr. Voigt changed from the preaching to the teaching ministry when he retired from the active episcopacy and assumed the presidency of McKendree College where he served for another four years before his final retirement. Bishop Voigt made a great 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.

EDNA WATSON

Edna Watson, age 75, of Irvington, Illinois died December 2, 1977 at St. Mary's Hospital, Centralia, Illinois.

She was born February 17, 1902 in Grand Prairie Township; Jefferson County, Illinois, the daughter of Charles and Ida Hinckley Raines.

On May 21, 1922 she married the Reverend Guy B. Watson at Vandalia, Illinois. Her husband preceded her in death.

Survivors include a son, Charles of Irvington; a daughter Josephine Lifritz of Irvington; three brothers, Clyde Raines of Kansas City, Missouri, Ernest Raines of Irvington, and George Raines of Centralia; two sisters, Reatha Prunty of Centralia and Eva Logan of Odin; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The Reverend Guy B. Watson served the following churches in the Southern Illinois Conference: Waltonville, Donnelson, Shattuc, Trenton, Odin, Hoyleton, North Prairie.

Mrs. Watson was a member of the Ir-



vington United Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held December 5 at the Irvington United Methodist Church with the Reverend John Annable officiating. Burial was in the Fouts Cemetery.

ESTHER MARIE YOUNG

Esther Marie Young, 80, of Moline, Illinois died August 13, 1977 while a patient of The Lutheran Hospital in Moline, Illinois.

She was born October 5, 1896 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the daughter of William A. and Sarah Hendricks Gott. She was

married in Bowling Green, Kentucky on October 10, 1917 to The Reverend Homer Young, who preceded her in death on July 3, 1966.

Mrs. Young is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Donald G. (Adina) Dingman, Moline, Illinois; a sister, Mrs. Bess M. McGinnis, Bowling Green, Kentucky, and a grandson, Dean Y. Dingman, of Moline, Illinois.

Mrs. Young served with her husband in the Methodist ministry in the following churches of the Southern Illinois Conference: Omaha Charge, Johnston City, Gillespie, Nashville, where a new church was built, and Karnak-Ohio Chapel-Olmsted.

She was educated in Warren County, Kentucky and had a music certificate from Western Kentucky State Teacher's College.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Young became a member of The First United Methodist Church of Rock Island, Illinois.

The funeral services for Mrs. Esther Marie Young were conducted at the First



United Methodist Church of Karnak, Illinois on August 15, 1977 by the pastor, The Reverend Forrest Slone. Interment was in the Palastine Cemetery, Omaha, Illinois.