

CUSHMAN, BISHOP RALPH S.

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Rev. Dr. Ralph Cushman Dead; Led Anti-Saloon League, 1938-48

Former Methodist Bishop of
Minneapolis and Denver
Areas Was a Writer



Associated Press
Bishop Ralph S. Cushman

The Rev. Dr. Ralph Spaulding Cushman, a retired Bishop of the Methodist Church and former head of the Anti-Saloon League, died yesterday in a hospital in Herkimer, N. Y., having suffered a heart attack Tuesday while riding through Richfield Springs, near Herkimer. His age was 80.

Dr. Cushman, who lived in Raleigh, N. C., had been on a vacation trip to Vermont with his wife and son, the Rev. Robert E. Cushman, Dean of the Duke University Divinity School.

He was Bishop of the St. Paul-Minneapolis area of the Methodist Church from 1939 to 1951, when he retired. Before that he had been Bishop of the Denver area.

Dr. Cushman was born in Poultney, Vt., the descendant of a long line of Congregational ministers. In his youth he was interested in politics, and had a flair for oratory.

"Two things, the Lord willing, that I will never be—a farmer or a minister," he used to say.

He was right about only one of them. While he was at the Troy Conference Academy (now Green Mountain Junior College), a spirit of revival swept the institute and he decided to enter the ministry.

Methodist by Environment

His choice of Methodism then, he said later, was a matter of environment:

"There was no Congregational church in Poultney, and people went to the Methodist church or didn't go at all."

Young Cushman entered Wesleyan University, and while he was there became president of his class and of the Young Men's Christian Association and captain of the football team. Later he studied at the University of Edinburgh and at the American Seminary in London.

From 1903 to 1920 he held pastorates in Bryantville and Fall River, Mass., Danielson,

Conn. and Geneva, N. Y. He was pastor of the Asbury Methodist Church in Rochester, N. Y., from 1920 to 1932, when he was elected Bishop of the Denver area. In 1940 he ordained his son at a service in the Asbury church.

Dr. Cushman developed an aversion to what he called "the octopus of the liquor evil" on noticing drunkenness in poorer areas while making his rounds as a young clergyman. He campaigned against drink, yet seemed the antithesis of a reformer: a big, jovial man with a lionine mane, given to frequent laughter.

In accepting the Anti-Saloon League post in 1938, he said:

"The liquor problem is supremely the problem of the church and the life of the churches in America is at stake in the solution of this liquor problem."

Yet he was not strongly in favor of the Volstead Act. He said the nation was not yet ready for a prohibition law, although it would be, in time.

He headed the league and its successor, the Temperance League of America, until 1948.

Also surviving Dr. Cushman is a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Stiles of Ithaca, N. Y.

Bre

AMBLER—Elizabeth, wife of the late Ar- mother of William abeth A. (Mrs. Rob- ment, Hillside Ct N. Y. Thursday, 6

ARCHIBOLD—Margar aged 92 years, at C of William Archibol Robina Dietrick of vate funeral services Home, Friday, Aug- ment Woodlands (N. Y.

ARONSON—Alexander Road, West Orange band of Leora, de- Hertz and Louis V. brother of Helen Pepper and Peggy J "Goldsticker s." 22 Newark, Thursday, :

BACHMAN—Franz, on band of Anna, brot Friday, 1:30 P. M. Av Funeral Chapel, 52x Ave.

BAEHR—Evelyn Felro 9, 1960, beloved wif Baehr, mother of K Robert Theodore, d Mr. and Mrs. Mills Del Rio, Texas. ai granddaughter of ti King Felice and C Antonio, Texas, and Services will be hel at St. John's of t Church, Locust Vall If you wish to expi send your contribu Felice Baehr Memo Country Community Glen Head, Long Is

BARATT—Ethel, devc line Schwartz, Davi Schacter and Henr loved grandmother, Chapel, Coney Isla Parkway, Brooklyn,

BASTINE—Marguerite 10, 1960, wife of mother of Gordon J R. Richard Spira, 1 and Daniel Rheingue Durand Funeral Hon White Plains, N. Y. lieu of flowers contit- lean Cancer Society

BAUER—Richard, o beloved husband of of Lucille E. Mann father of Richard Thursday, Aug. 11 Universal Funeral Lexington Ave

BAUER—Richard, It that we mourn the Friend and long tin Richard Bauer

HENRY S. MAND RUBERT C. SNYI ABRAHAM UDELL SEYMOUR UDELL

BAUER—Richard, Con Men's Club records w line of its member, extends sympathy to S. ARTHUR G. Dr. ARTHUR W. GI

BAUER—Richard, The J Bauer & Co., Inc. a regret the death o Founder and Presiden on Aug. 9, 1960.

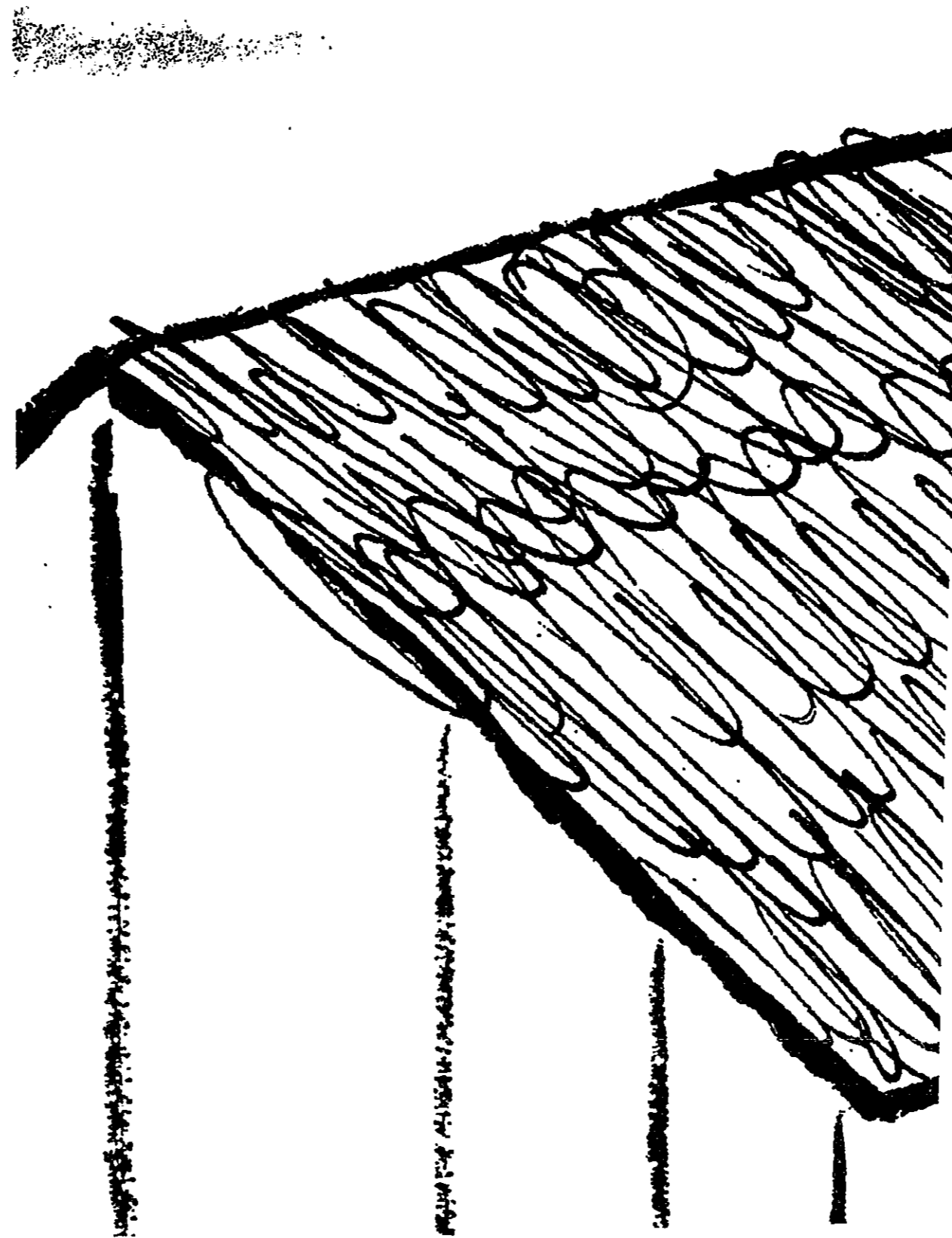
BERGER—Germaine Lo- detec, 498 Brentwood N. Y., Aug. 9, 1960, beloved mother of R Elizabeth Blackley, d Hopkins; also survived dren. Private services Inston Memorial Park, nation Memorial Park, nation followed.

BERGER—Irving, belc Esther, devoted father private.

BERMAN—Dora, below, Mieta Wolfe, Miriam J of Abraham and Loui Benson, Sadie Liptma Services Park West Columbus Ave. Fri

BRASCH—Herman, belc late Minnie, devoted dear brother of Max, and great-grandfath West, 879th St an Thursday, 3 P. M

CABRANO—Edna R., beloved wife of James of Ann and Regina, a grandchildren, Beth Funeral Saliu



From
ARTHUR WEST, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILL.
SUPERIOR 7-4929

10-6-48

BISHOP RALPH S. CUSHMAN
Resident Bishop of the St. Paul Area
of the Methodist Church

Born: Poultney, Vermont - Nov. 12, 1879.

Married: Maud E. Hammond, Aug. 20, 1902.

Children: M. Elizabeth Stiles; Robert Earl.

Education: Ph.B., Wesleyan University, 1902; D.D., 1918; LL.D., 1937;
Special study, Edinburg University, 1910.
LL.D., Cornell College, 1933; Litt. D., Hamline University, 1948.

Ordained: 1902.

Positions: Pastorates at Bryantville, Mass. (1902-04); Acushnet, Mass. (1904-06); Danielson, Conn. (1906-11); Fall River, Mass. (1911-15); Geneva, N. Y., (1915-17).
Executive Secretary, Stewardship Dept., N. E. Church, 1915-17.
Stewardship Secretary, Interchurch World Movement, 1917-20.
Asbury Church, Rochester, N. Y., 1920-32.
Elected a Bishop in May 1932.
Resident Bishop, Denver, Colo. Area, 1932-39.
Resident Bishop, St. Paul, Minn. Area, since 1939.

Delegate: General Conferences in 1928 and 1932.

Author: Studies in Stewardship, 1917; Stewardship Sermons, 1918; The New Christian, 1919; Message of Stewardship, 1922; 1927; Hill Top Verses, 1927; Spiritual Hilltops, 1931; The Sharing Life, 1933; Dear Bob---Letters of a Preacher To His Son, 1934; Practicing The Presence---A Quest For God, 1936; I Have a Stewardship, 1939; Pocket Prayer Book and Devotional Guide, 1941; Will A Man Rob God?, 1942; Hilltop Verses and Prayers, 1945; Pocket Book of Faith, 1945.

Member: Chairman, General Board of Evangelism of Methodist Church.
First President, United Stewardship Council of Churches of Christ in U. S. and Canada, 1917-1919.
President, Anti-Saloon League (now Temperance League of America), 1938-1948; Vice-President, 1948.
Mayflower Descendants, Minnesota Chapter.

Fraternity: Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Trustee: Iliff School of Theology; Denver University; Hamline University; Lawrence College; Wesley College, Grand Forks, N.D.

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Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org