WATKINS, BISHOP WILLIAM T.
Watkins, Bishop William Turner

Died - February 6, 1961

W. T. Watkins, Methodist Bishop, Dies

Served in Kentucky
And Tennessee Areas

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 7 (AP)—Bishop William T. Watkins, sixty-five, former head of Kentucky and Western Tennessee Methodists, died at a hospital yesterday after a heart attack. He was stricken while driving his car.

A forceful figure until his retirement in 1959, Bishop Watkins headed the Louisville, the Kentucky and the Memphis Conferences, which together have more than 1,600 churches and 300,000 members. He came here in 1944 after serving in Missouri, Mississippi, and South Carolina. In 1950 he gained national attention by urging his 900 subordinate ministers to be "holy hypocrites."

"If a preacher has not grown in grace so that he prefers his brother to himself, then he should pretend he has. Let us be realistic, and as on being hypocritical, if there is no other way to do it," Bishop Watkins said.

He called this resolve into the appointments he made, reminding daily to be pressed, thus sending a minister where he thought it necessary.

Bishop Watkins was president of the College of Bishops of the Church's Southeastern Jurisdiction in 1953. Since 1946 he had been chairman of the Methodist Board of Home and Missions, which operates more than 190 church institutions.

Surviving are his wife, five sons, and a sister.

Fireman Held In Operation Of Illegal Cab

A city fireman was arrested yesterday on charges of operating an illegal cab.

The fireman, Matthew J. Kelly, thirty-two, was picked up as he was about to help a man leave his hotel and take him to the waterfront, Brooklyn. The fireman had been told that an illegal cab had been operating in the area.

According to the detectives, the first "L" on the front and rear plates of the vehicle had been doctored to look like an "O," which is what the fireman had searched for in the city. In addition, the detective said the fireman had been operating in the area.
It's Now 'Popular Drama'

her black coffee, and when they hear Iris' car they go, smiling, to the door to let her in..."

And here's another:

"Paul Linden (which is short for Lidenczak) is a shy, lonely boy, who spends two years in a reformatory for being an accomplice in stealing a car. When he returns home, he finds that his mother's remarried. His stepfather, Pete Brodecks, says his mother's got to choose between Paul and him. Not knowing what else to do, she chooses to go with her second husband. Paul gets a job as busboy in McKay's restaurant, owned by Herb Maranczak, who's a nice fellow. Mary Cartwright, is the cashier as McKay's, and Paul loves her from afar. She's engaged, but is jilted and tells Paul about it one night, and in his shy, fumbling way asks her to marry him. She does, but the next morning when he wakes up Mary's gone. He's desolate, never hears from her. Then, nine months later, he receives a message from Edna Scrivener, nurse at a home for unfortunate girls, who tells him that he's the father of a son. Mary died at the child's birth. He goes to Pittsburgh, brings his son home; the janitor's wife cares for the baby while he's at work. He's been promoted to waiter, and he knows that eventually he will find another gal he can love as much as he truly loved Mary."

Oh, come on fellas, let the corpse rest!

Rooney Joins Gleason

Mickey Rooney joins Jackie Gleason for a "live," unrehearsed chut on TV Friday night in the untitled series which replaced the midadventure of the TV year, "You're in the Picture." The Gleason series, incidentally, will expire in mid-March, when the comedian is committed to begin work on a movie called "Cigal." He originally planned to tape enough shows to round out the season's schedule, but the plan has been dropped. . . . ABC will present "Silent, Please," which truly is returning "by popular demand" on March 23. The program was a highlight of the summer season last year. Shure to appear as host of the series is Ernie Kovacs, who is terminating his current panel show, "Take a Good Look." . . . Sherman Billingsley, who never was formal attire at the Stork Club, appears in tails on the Junior League Mardi Gras Ball telecast on WCBS Fri-

TV Re

'Hal Hal Re

Jean Anouilh's "Remembered" is a less gently betw

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solid players summon fond
Bishop William Watkins Dies; Was Methodist Leader in South

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 7. (AP)—Bishop William T. Watkins, retired Methodist leader of more than 300,000 church members in Kentucky and western Tennessee, died in a hospital here last night. He had suffered a heart attack in his car Sunday. His age was 65.

Bishop Watkins served bishoprics in Missouri, Mississippi and South Carolina before coming to Louisville in 1944. He then became one of the few bishops ever to head three Methodist Conferences at once—the Kentucky, Louisville and Memphis conferences, embracing 1,600 churches. He retired in 1959.

He was born in Mayavilla, Ga., in 1895 and was graduated from Ewing University. He was ordained when he was 19. Twice and again he urged his church to deal with the problems of racial injustice.

Survivors include his widow, five sons and a sister.

Attacked Catholic Actions

In 1947 Bishop Watkins was one of four signers of a report by his church's Council of Bishops, which accused the Roman Catholic Church of political activity here and abroad that amounted to bigotry and denial of liberty. Ten years later he told an educational conference in Philadelphia that the Church "had not [yet] accomplished its mission"...
In the Vatican's Sala Rotonda, these heroic sculptured figures—Juno, Hercules, Ceres—stand in brooding silence.

Now look above the statues' heads. Notice each niche is crowned with the graceful curves of the scallop shell. For artist Simonetti knew the scallop to be the symbol of the voyage, the moon, and because myth and
BISHOP WILLIAM T. WATKINS
Will participate in meeting at
on

Born Mayville, Georgia, May 1895, Education: Berry University, Cambridge School of Theology, Yale Divinity School, Edinburgh University, United Free Church College, Glasgow. He holds D.D. and Ph.D. degrees — Married 1921. Wife: E. Hannah. — Children: five sons. — Ordained in Methodist
1939 Bishop Watkins was assigned to the Atlanta area, Ga. In 1940 the first southeastern jurisdictional conference assigned a Bishop to Columbia, S.C. A jurisdictional conference of 1954 assigned him to the Louisville area. He lives at 115 Fourth Avenue, Louisiville, Kentucky.
BISHOP WILLIAM TURNER WATKINS

Reared in a dedicated Christian home, coming into the membership of the country church of his parents in childhood, called to preach in his early youth, William Turner Watkins moved on to become a mighty man in The Methodist Church in his later years.

Bishop Watkins retired on October 15, 1959, because his health would not permit him to carry the responsibilities any longer. He enjoyed the days of his retirement. So greatly was he loved by the conferences in the Louisville Area, he and Mrs. Watkins were given the use of the Episcopal Residence so long as either lived. He spent his time in reading, writing, and in his workshop. With unexpected suddenness he reached the end of the way and was laid to rest in Louisville. A large congregation of ministers and laymen were present for his funeral at St. Paul’s Church. The pastor, Doctor Ted Hightower, and Bishops Walter C. Gun, Paul Neff Garber and Marvin A. Franklin participated in the service.

He served on various boards and commissions of the Church, being the President of the Board of Hospitals and Homes for several years. He was a trustee of Emory University and other institutions of the Church. He led in a large campaign for Lambuth College, resulting in more than one million dollar additional funds for the institution, and spearheaded other great movements during his long tenure as Bishop of the Louisville Area.

Bishop Watkins was married to Miss Edith Hancock of his home community and she was his loyal and devoted helper in all of his manifold ministries. To them were born three children: Howell Jackson, Loire Hancock, William Turner, Luther Tate, and John Scott. Lamson followed his father in the ministry and is a member of the North Georgia Conference.

His first assignment was the Memphis Circuit in Elbert County in Georgia. Bishop Watkins, then with little formal training, showed his native preaching ability for his reputation spread throughout the area and far beyond the bounds of his circuit churches. He was in demand as a preacher for school commencement sermons and other occasions.

Bishop Watkins attended Young Harris College, but not recognizing the necessity for further education, he took an appointment and went forth on his long itinerant trail.

Not many years later he was appointed to Tate in the North Georgia Conference. There he was the pastor of Sam Tate, a staunch Methodist layman who was well off financially. Mr. Tate, with keen discernment, saw the undeveloped potential of his young pastor, who, by that time had a considerable family. It is related that one day Mr. Tate said to his pastor, "Bill, if you will go on to Emory, and complete your training I will see you through. If you do not choose to go on, I am going to make that you be located at the next session of the Annual Conference."

Whether this is just how it happened, I do not know, but, in any case, William Turner Watkins did go to Emory University and completed his academic studies, took theology, went on to Edinburgh and finally to Yale. In the process he became a man of truly scholarly attainments which were in evidence the remainder of his career.

He possessed a remarkable mind. When he preached a sermon or wrote a paper, he covered all the essential points and came to irrefutable conclusions. The logic was overwhelming and the great truths he proclaimed struck home to his readers and hearers with convincing appeal. He never indulged in trivialities nor majored in mere slickness with sweeping intellectual shafts of thought, he soared to the heights and left his hearers with solid foundations upon which they could stand with confidence and assurance.

On the two hundredth anniversary of Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, Bishop Watkins wrote the Study Book, “Out of Aldersgate,” which was used throughout the Church for many years. His impact that contributed to his election as a Bishop of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at its final General Conference in 1938. All the men who served in cabinets with him were impressed by his understandings of preachers, his concern for every church, and his consuming devotion to Christ. There was a bond of brotherly love between him and all the preachers. The laymen trusted his judgment, praised by his wisdom, and followed his enlightened leadership.

It is not any wonder that the administration of Emory University laid hands upon him and called him to the Chair of Church History in the Candler School of Theology. There, for years, he was an inspiring influence upon hundreds of ministerial students and left an impact for good upon them which has blessed them and will bless them through the years.

Bishop Watkins, in addition to his other duties, ably edited the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, the official organ of Georgia Methodism. He was in constant demand as a convention speaker, the platform lecturer in Pastors’ Schools, and for preaching at Annual Conferences and other notable gatherings. He was supreme at home in the pulpit and his deliverances were so cogent, logical, and conclusive that the intent listener felt that the subject might be wrapped up because it had been dealt with exhaustively.

Bishop Watkins was liberal on the social aspects of the Gospel, personal in his appeal to the individual for a verdict for Christ and His way, and appealing in presenting the essential truths of the Word of God. His vision was far-reaching, his thinking aggressive, and his courage commanding. He never evaded any question because it was difficult, but rather presented it in such way that any reasonable person could see its conclusions to be inevitable.

He could blaze with the righteous indignation of a prophet, but could be so gentle and reassuring that people were made to think on their way and turn their feet toward the testimony of the Lord. One characteristic expression he used was, “We can’t come in out of this weather,” and so he sought to shore up the old Ship of Zion, strengthen her sails, and help her steer safely and unembarrassed through the storm. He was able to steady uneasy situations and move the Church forward to Christian solutions of controversial problems.

Not very long after his retirement, his body faltered after being assaulted by many ills, and he laid himself down with a will. He fought the faith, he finished his course and entered the society of the Father’s House. His beloved wife and splendid children rise up to call him blessed, and a multitude which no man can number have been made better because he passed their way.

—PRINCIPAL WAGGONS GIBBS HENRY

WAIGHTS GIBBS HENRY

Soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, in 1960, Methodist lost, through death, one of its most valuable and distinguished members. Waights Gibbs Henry was called to his heavenly home soon after his attendance at that Jurisdictional Conference, where he attended every business session.

He was the son of Robert Fulham and Kate Maria Henry, born on January 31, 1879, at Palm, Putnam County, Alabama. He received the following academic and honorary degrees: A.B., Southern University, A.M., University of Alabama, B.D., Vanderbilt University, D.D., Birmingham-Southern College, LL.D., University of Alabama. He also graduated in law from Millsaps College and studied graduate law at the University of Chicago and Harvard.

At his knowledge effectiveness in the Southeastern States many pastors, as a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and continued his effectiveness in the Methodist Church after Unification in 1939. As a young preacher his early ministry was spent in the smaller churches, but his devotion and ability were soon recognized.
Photographs from this file have not been included but are available upon request. For more information please contact research@gcah.org