

OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPING TELLS OF PROGRESS OF METHODISM IN EDENTON

Of interest to Methodists in Edenton and other citizens is an old newspaper clipping sent to The Herald by Mrs. G. L. Davenport of Mackeys. Mrs. Davenport attended a Methodist Church on West Eden Street (referred to as an alley) before the brick church was built at the present site on Broad Street and was a Sunday School teacher when the Rev. N. M. Watson was pastor.

The clipping sent by Mrs. Davenport was written by Mr. Watson and has to do with a history of Methodism in Edenton. The article follows:

HISTORY OF METHODISM IN EDENTON

By Rev. N. M. Watson, Pastor

"It is doubted, if there is another place in America, where the growth of Methodism has been so slow, or where the visible returns have been so meager in proportion to effort expended. As far back as 1793, Edenton appears on the General Minutes with Archer Davis as preacher in charge. Whether he tried and failed, or what became of him or the appointment does not appear. Not until 1804 was a second attempt made; this time with Joseph Moore, preacher in charge. To the succeeding Conference he could report no progress. In 1807, a third effort was made, this time with John Lattimore in charge, but again the record is silent, and we conclude that like his predecessors he found Edenton a hard soil in which to plant Methodism. But the Methodist planters were not disheartened. Next came the Rev. Enoch Jones. At last the soil was broken and a Society of 18 members—9 white and 9 colored—was organized and reported to the annual Conference which met at Tarboro, February 2nd, 1809.

"It will be interesting to note that, the total Methodist membership in the United States, at that time, was 151,995, having grown from 65,980 to that

number since 1793, when Archer Davis was first appointed to Edenton. It is also interesting to note that, since 1808, when Edenton had 18 members, Methodism in the United States has grown from 151,995 to 5,397,702 members at the close of the statistical year 1894.

"If the increase at Edenton had been in proportion to the increase in American Methodism, there would now be about 900 members. The writer will not undertake to say how long it will probably be before that number is reached.

"For the year 1809, the Rev. Enoch Jones was returned to Edenton, and succeeded in building a Methodist Church, and to the succeeding Conference which met at Petersburg, Va., reported 75 members—15 white and 60 colored. In 1810 Robert Thompson was preacher in charge, and to the next Conference, which met at Raleigh, N. C., reported 39 white and 129 colored members. Next comes Rev. Pleasant Thurman, (the father of Hon. Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio) a young man and unmarried. On the 11th of May after his arrival in February he was 'happily married,' so the old record says, to Miss Mary G. Allen, daughter of Col. Nathaniel Allen of the town of Edenton.

"On the Minutes of a Church Conference held September 11th, 1811, may be seen the following entry: Pleasant Thurman made the following motion, viz: That the residue of the money after the payment of his own board and church expenses, should be applied to the board and salary of his wife. Motion was refused unanimously; because Pleasant Thurman was received by the society as a single preacher and are only bound to support him as such. An appeal to quarterly Conference was craved by P. Thurman, which was accordingly granted. When the appeal came up for trial we find the following decision recorded: 'That the Society is not bound to support P. Thurman's wife under the circumstances stated.' Doubtless they intended to teach their future pastors not to rush headlong to matrimonial bliss. How many will heed the warning, the muses have yet to tell.

"In 1812 Joel Arrington was preacher in charge; next came Henry Holmes, a pious, godly man, who was permitted to labor but a few short weeks, when the Master called him to his reward. In the old church yard his body awaits the dawn of the resurrection morn.

Through the next forty years we might trace the history of many a struggle, but we pass on to 1857 and find a white membership of sixty; moving into a more commodious church on Eden alley. But in 1865 when the din of war had subsided they could count but thirty members, three men and twenty-seven women. Certainly the outlook was dark enough, but collecting themselves together they began a determined struggle for existence, and a protracted struggle for many years it proved to be.

"It would take a wiser philosopher than this writer claims to be, to tell why the growth of Methodism has been so slow among the white popu-



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(No. 6 of a series)

DID YOU KNOW . . .

There's no wonder your highways are jam-packed. In 1947 it was predicted the USA would have 46 million vehicles in use by 1970. Today, there are 53 million vehicles—7 million more than we were expected to have 17 years from now.

Motorists are most bothered on country roads, says an Automobile Manufacturers Assn. survey, by narrow roads and curves.

In cities, motorists are most disturbed by pedestrians. A reasonable road expectancy is 20 years—and you can only expect that when you have good construction, plus efficient maintenance.

President Eisenhower said

"The obsolescence of the nation's highways presents an appalling problem of waste, death and danger. Next to the manufacture of the most modern implements of war as a



guarantee of peace through strength, a network of modern roads is as necessary to defense as it is to our national economy and personal safety."

A total of 727,000 students in 8,218 high schools across the nation are participating in safe-driver-education programs.

Some 25,000 trucks, trailers and buses are owned and operated by the nation's railway lines.

Motor transport moves everything grown on the farm.

Since 1949 rubber roads have been laid in 17 states, Massachusetts has 300 miles of all types.

United Nations traffic experts working to make symbols for sharp curve, winding road, slow school, same in Tibet, Transylvania, Georgia, Graustark and South Dakota. Fifty symbols are finished.

25 STATE legislatures may ask Congress to repeal Federal tax on motor fuel . . . "Crepper lanes" to accommodate slower vehicles on hills under test in Kansas . . . Safe driving rule No. 1 "keep windshield clean."

lation of Edenton. 'Tis true the atmosphere is very damp, but the colored Methodist Church has not failed to flourish, and now numbers about 600 members. They can claim the proud distinction of being the largest church organization in the county.

"To the hopeful man, a brighter day for the M. E. Church, South in Edenton, seems to be dawning; at least these years of struggle have evolved a band of heroic men and women, who undaunted by the fortunes of the past, have recently attested their faith in future Methodism, by contributing largely and freely of their means to the erection, on Broad Street, of one of the handsomest brick churches to be found in Eastern Carolina."

Bride-elect Honored At Number Of Parties

Miss Ruth Goodwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodwin, whose marriage to George Spencer Warren, Jr., will take place June 6 in the Edenton Baptist Church, has been honored by friends and relatives with several parties recently.

Entertaining for the bride-elect included: Mrs. H. A. Campen, Mrs. Albert Byrum and Mrs. William E. Bond, who gave a luncheon on May 12 at the home of Mrs. Byrum on North Broad

Legal Notices

North Carolina, Chowan County.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
The undersigned, having qualified as executor of the estate of James N. Boyce, deceased, late of Chowan County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of April, 1954, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This April 23, 1953.
J. CAMERON BOYCE,
HILDA BOYCE PARKER,
Executors of James N. Boyce, Deceased.

April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4

North Carolina, Chowan County.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
The undersigned, having qualified as executor of the estate of George W. Leary, deceased, late of Chowan County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of April, 1954, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 21st day of May, 1953.
LEON G. LEARY,
Executor of George W. Leary, Deceased.

May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25

Street. Mrs. George Spencer Warren, Sr., of Wilson, N. C., mother of the bridegroom, attended the luncheon.

Mrs. Boyd Harless and daughter, Miss Anne Harless, entertained at a bridge luncheon at their home on North Granville Street on May 14.

Mrs. Joe Thorud entertained at a dessert bridge at her home in Morris Circle on May 19.

On May 20th, the bride-elect was honored at a tea at the home of Mrs. J. H. Conger, Sr., with Mrs. Conger and Mrs. J. C. Leary, Jr., as hostesses.

Miss Charlotte Bunch and Miss Mary MacDonald Holmes entertained at a dessert bridge at the former's home on May 23.

Mrs. Wallace Goodwin gave a miscellaneous shower at her home near Edenton on May 25.

A dinner party was held for the honoree by Mr. and Mrs. John Raines on May 26, at their home on North Granville Street.

Other parties to be given for Miss Goodwin are as follows:

A dinner party by Mr. and Mrs. Scott Harrell on May 30. A tea with Mrs. Lloyd Griffin and Mrs. Clyde Douglas II, as hostesses on June 1.

Rehearsal party by Mrs. David Holton and Mrs. Jimmie Earnhardt on June 5, at the home of Mrs. Holton on North Granville Street. Mrs. Richard Elliott and Mrs. Dick Goodwin will be hostesses at a bridal breakfast at the home of Mrs. Elliott on West Eden Street on June 6.

Could Be True

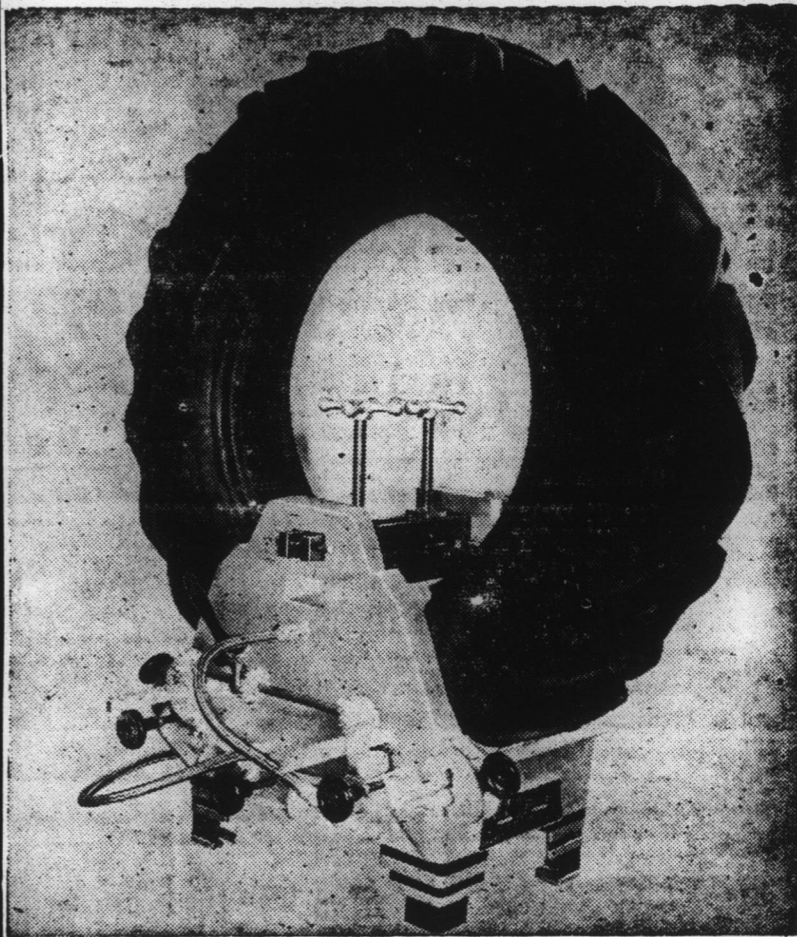
A man who was keen on his garden was justifiably proud of his lawn. But one year the lawn had a heavy crop of dandelions. He tried everything he had ever heard of to get rid of them, but without success.

At last he wrote to a school of agriculture. He gave a list of all the remedies he had tried, and ended his epistle with: "What shall I do now?" In due course came a reply: "We suggest you learn to love them."

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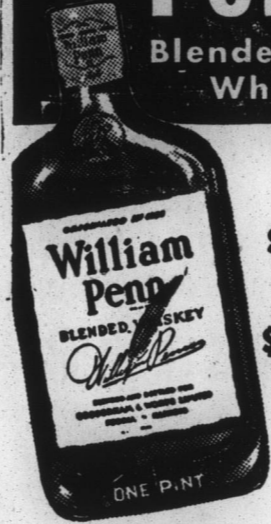
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