

Evangelical

From 1885 to 1925 is "a long -long-trail," and in the development of a pioneer district like the Yakima valley it seems even longer but it will be spanned in the person of one man, Rev. H. Schuknecht of Portland, Ore. at the 40th anniversary and annual session of the Washington conference of the Evangelical church, to be held at the First Evangelical church of Yakima on May 6-10.

Rev. Mr. Schuknecht was the first Evangelical minister to serve in the Yakima valley and came to Yakima with the town for his reached North Yakima just as the "old town" was in the process of being moved to the present Yakima.....

Evangelical church work in Washington was actually begun in December, 1884 when Rev. J. Bowersox presiding elder of the Oregon conference made a tour of inspection. On April 4, 1885, Rev. Schuknecht then of Nashville, Mich., was appointed as first missionary and arrived with his family at Spokane on May 14, 1885.

During the year a number of preaching places were taken up in and near Spokane. The experiences of the missionaries were varied. They were in danger of hostile Indians. They slept out of doors in barns and on floors. Preaching services were conducted in houses, schools and sometimes in buildings without floors or windows.

For pulpits various articles were used such as a carpenter's bench, cook stove, sewing machines, bunches of shingles and an empty beer keg.

The first extensive tour by Rev. Schuknecht was made in company with Rev. A. Parker in May, 1886. They went from Spokane to The Dalles and then to Salem, Ore. They traveled most of the way on the White Bluffs road. At White Bluffs they found three Indians who rowed them across the Columbia river.

Coming to Yakima they found the city almost deserted the population having moved to North Yakima. At the one grocery store left they found only a few cookies from which they made a meal.

They spent the night sleeping on the ground near by. On this tour they traveled 700 miles by team and 300 miles by rail and boat covering a period of 33 days.

The first visit to North Yakima (now Yakima) was made in January 1887 and in company with Rev. J.T. Berg, both stopping at Snymside for a week, holding preaching services.

Preaching services were held in North Yakima in the home of Rev. Berg. On October 6, 1902, Rev. Schuknecht organized a congregation in North Yakima now known as the Nob Hill church. In November, 1904 he held services in a school house three miles south of Yakima.

In February, 1906 Rev. Schuknecht, acting for the church, purchased the property upon which the present First church is located.

Services Sunday will be in charge of visiting church leaders Bishop Breyfogel will preach at 10:30; Rev. Stauffacher will speak at 3 o'clock-- Yakima Daily Republic, May 3, 1925.

Landmarks

Pioneer church

Yakima's pioneer Congregational church in which a mere handful of worshipers gathered in the Old Town and which was moved four miles across the sagebrush to Yakima with the pioneers who followed the railroad is being razed today.

When the Congregationalists outgrew the church it was used for a time by the Presbyterians. They in turn put up a new church and sold the frame ~~scattered~~ structure to the Adventists. More than 20 years ago the weather-beaten church was sold to a candy company according to the recollection of Frank M. Sain and located on South First avenue. Six years ago it was sold to another candy concern.

Now the structure with all its storied past must give way to business progress with a store and warehouse, 50 x 95 feet replacing it. The Yakima Republic, June 19, 1925.

Churches--Historical

Do you know (About 1935) That Yakima's churches date from the missionary age of which "Father " James Wilbur of the Methodists and Father Caruana of the Catholic were the leaders. St Joseph's Catholic church grew out of the mission on the Ahtanum founded in 1871 on the site of the old chapel. Two years later an organization was started in Yakima City and in 1885 the church moved to Yakima. St Joseph's is the oldest church in Yakima but antedates only slightly the Congregational church on the Ahtanum which is the oldest of all Protestant churches in the district. It really dates from the organization of the Ahtanum Sunday school in the home of Elisha Tanner in June of 1872,. On April 19, 1873, the pioneers met to form a church with nine members. Tanner went to Olympia to ask the Congregational churches of the northwest to ~~organized~~ recognize the Ahtanum group and Dr. D.H. Atkinson , superintendent of mission churches in the northwest came to Ahtanum to deliver the charge to the deacons of the small congregation. This took place in the school which served as a church until a building was erected in 1884.

Rev.s Cushing Eels and Wilbur occasionally preached for the Ahtanum Congregationalists the fourth such church group in Washington territory. The pioneers set one highly commendable example. They dedicated one ~~and~~ their church, costing \$1,894, free of debt.

DEDICATION OF CHURCH IS SEEN BY LARGE CROWD

White Swan, Oct. 1937 (Special)--A crowd of over 300 persons attended the dedication services for the Wilbur Memorial Methodist church of White Swan Sunday afternoon, filling the building to capacity, with many standing during the ceremony.

Ministers and laymen for Yakima, Selah, Toppenish, Zillah and the McKinley district attended. All were surprised and impressed by the new building, which was completely finished on the day of dedication except for a little work on the basement.

The church is very impressive, with its large and well-appointed sanctuary, and the lovely colors in the windows. Members are especially proud of the pulpit table, which was hand made by the Indians for the first church in 1876, and was saved from the fire which destroyed the church last winter, and the three pulpit chairs, which were contributed by Grandma Perane, Mrs. Maria Hoffer and Mrs. Dunlap.

The large window, called the Father Wilbur Memorial window, was built by funds raised by popular subscription among the local residents who knew him personally, and those who realized the great work he accomplished here.

The three smaller windows are each dedicated to a former pastor of the church, the Reverend J. V. Helm, the Reverend George Waters and the Reverend Thomas Pearne. The fourth window has been dedicated to the Reverend and Mrs. R. V. B. Dunlap, the present pastor and his wife, by the pastors of the valley, in recognition of the splendid work and service they have given during their pastorate here. Local people also helped donate funds for the window.

Officials presiding at the ceremonies were Bishop Titus Lowe, DD, LLD, the Reverend Joseph Adams, district superintendent; Lester Pearne, chairman of the board of trustees, and the Reverend R. V. B. Dunlap.

Baptism of five children featured the morning session. Those baptized included two babies, Walter William Beopple and Nora Dolores Sharlow, and Misses Beverly and Evelyn Lee and Eva Marshall.

After the services photographs were taken by Dr. Adams of the congregation, and special groups of the relatives of former pastors. Twenty Pearne relatives were present.

At noon a banquet was given, the main course consisting of a huge barbequed beef, prepared on a spit in the rear of the church yard by members of the Indian tribe here. Tables were set in the basement of the church.

The impressive dedicatory service, presented by Bishop Lowe, followed the afternoon service, and the building was presented by Lester Pearne, chairman of the board of trustees. Bishop Lowe also pronounced benediction.

It was announced that, through contributions from persons attending the service, the sum of \$250, the amount needed to finish completely the church basement, had been raised. Among the organizations giving donations were the Sunday school of the First Methodist church, the Women's Home Missionary society of Yakima, and the McKinley Ladies' Aid.

Dr. Lowe paid the local pastor a well-deserved and remarkable compliment by stating from the pulpit that this was the first church which he had ever dedicated that was entirely paid for on the day of dedication. He gave just praise to the Reverend Dunlap, who has so unselfishly planned, directed and put such a great amount of labor into the new structure.

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CHURCH TO HONOR PIONEER

New Edifice at White Swan to Be Named for Father Wilbur

White Swan, Feb. 16--(Special to the Republic)--In recognition of the work done by "Father" J. H. Wilbur, early Methodist missionary and Indian agent, the members and trustees of the Methodist church here propose to name their new church edifice the Wilbur Memorial church.

At the meeting of the congregation with Joseph M. Adams of Walla Walla, district superintendent, Sunday afternoon it was decided to go ahead with construction of the new building as soon as specifications are ready and the weather is suitable. It will replace the church of pioneer days which was burned two weeks ago. The congregation will seek donations of \$1000 to add to the insurance money of \$2500. A committee to submit plans at a meeting February 24 includes Mrs. Lester Pearne, Clifton A. Crook, Miss Norma Moses and the Rev. R. V. B. Dunlap.

--unidentified newspaper clipping

WINDOW TO HONOR (Incomplete heading from clipped article)

LETTERS REVEAL WORK OF PASTOR

The Rev. George Stwire Waters Early Opponent of Rum

White Swan, Oct. 16--(Special)--Defending the rights of Indians, fighting the liquor and motion picture elements and preaching from the pulpit and on the street were among the activities of George Stwire Waters, one of the earliest Indian pastors on the Yakima reservation, a check of records and the tribesman's own story of his life showed.

The early tribal pastor was born near the mouth of the Willamette river May 7, 1842, and died May 13, 1924. He was one of the early preachers in the White Swan Methodist church, which burned January 31, 1937, and one of the stained glass windows in the new church which will be dedicated Sunday, was installed as a memorial to him. His friends paid for the window so it could be a memorial to him.

The Rev. Mr. Waters' letters to government officials on file in the Yakima Indian agency headquarters showed he was alarmed by the liquor traffic in the early days and he sought official action to curb it. The entrance of motion pictures on the reservation bothered the Indian pastor and other letters decried the fact that the theatres were taking the Indians away from the church.

He carried on a heavy correspondence with government officials, for the file devoted to him was filled with letters and notes. Letters were showed the Rev. Mr. Waters was one of the more urgent in a protest against whites taking over activities on the reservation and resented the fact that whites came here to hunt.

The early pastor was a brother of Chief White Swan, for whom the community of White Swan was named.

His life story, written shortly before his death and now the property of his daughter, Mrs. Nora Charley, 60, of Toppenish, told of the first council

White Swan News column

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Dedication services for the Wilbur Memorial Methodist church, held Sunday afternoon at the new edifice in White Swan, were attended by an estimated crowd of more than 300 persons.

Ministers and laymen from Yakima, Toppenish, Selah and McKinley helped to swell the congregation. Indians came from all parts of the reservation for the morning service and enjoyed a noon banquet which was featured by a huge barbequed beef prepared at the church park during the morning.

Bishop Titus Lowe of Portland presided at the dedicatory services which were simple but impressive. Lester Pearne, chairman of the board of trustees of the church, presented the building for dedication.

It was announced that through subscriptions of those in attendance the sum of \$250 was raised to finish the church basement.

Valley pastors announced they would like to help in the dedication of a memorial window for the Rev. and Mrs. R. V. B. Dunlap, who had done such splendid work for the church. A large part of the sum necessary for the window had been raised by local church members. Bishop Lowe paid the Rev. Mr. Dunlap a remarkable compliment in stating that this was the first church he had dedicated which was entirely paid for on the day of dedication. He praised the pastor, who directed and worked on the building so faithfully. The Rev. Mr. Dunlap in turn thanked members of the community for their help.

Baptized during the morning service were Walter William Boepple, Nora Dolores Sharlow, Beverly and Evelyn Lee and Eva Marshall.

The edifice made a wonderful impression with its large auditorium and the adjoining classroom built to open into the auditorium, the beautifully colored windows, the pulpit table which was saved from the fire and which was made by hand by the Indians for the first church in 1876, and the three lovely pulpit chairs, donations of "Grandma" Pearne, Mrs. Maria Hoffer and Mrs. Dunlap.

The large window dedicated to Father Wilbur was made possible by donations of the whites and Indians who knew him and realized the great work he accomplished here.

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Churches

Evangelical

A congregation that was established in 1902 by the German people of Nob Hill who have made a home for themselves there in a small chapel during the years will celebrate the dedication of a very attractive new edifice known as the Evangelical church on Nob Hill this week, Friday and Saturday evenings and at several church services on Sunday.

The church has a beautiful location surrounding orchards of promise and beauty. It is a modern structure on the west side of Nob Hill among throughout, with an audience room built on the half circle plan with a seating capacity of 300 including a gallery. A large class room and study open off the main room which may be thrown together by opening sliding doors.

The interior finish is of fir with a dark stain while the pews are of oak. The windows are of stained glass and are gifts of private families as memorials.

The commodious pulpit space and choir loft for 20 complete the main room.

Since last fall the church has been in the process of construction and no one worked harder or with more interest and zeal than Rev. G.E. Heineck a former pastor of the church. The total cost of the building will be about \$6,500. There are about 50 active members of the church,

The morning service is always held in German and the evening service in English. The present pastor is Rev. A.C. Schmidt.

Bishop William Horn, DD of Cleveland O will arrive in the city this afternoon to officiate at the dedication.