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A History of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God

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A HISTORY OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

by

Harry S. Garrett

A Thesis

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the Faculty of the
Western Evangelical Seminary

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of the requirements for the Degree
Bachelor of Divinity

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	2
A. Statement of Problem	2
B. Justification of Study	2
C. Limitations of the Study	3
D. Method of Procedure	4
E. Definition of Terms	4
F. Statement of Organization	6
II. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	8
A. Early Outpourings of the Holy Spirit	8
B. The Early Major General Councils	9
1. First General Council.	9
2. Second General Council	12
3. Fourth General Council	13
4. Important Early Leaders	15
5. The Expanding Years	16
III. CHURCHES AND MINISTERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT	18
MAP OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT	19
Introduction	20
Section One	22
A. Churches of Section One	22
B. Ministers of Section One	28

Section Two	35
A. Churches of Section Two	35
B. Ministers of Section Two	40
Section Three	44
A. Churches of Section Three	44
B. Ministers of Section Three	50
Section Four	55
A. Churches of Section Four	55
B. Ministers of Section Four	59
Section Five	63
A. Churches of Section Five	63
B. Ministers of Section Five	67
Section Six	69
A. Churches of Section Six	69
B. Ministers of Section Six	72
IV. HISTORY OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL	76
A. Before Organization	76
B. History of the District Council Sessions	78
1937 District Council Session	78
1938 District Council Session	79
1939 District Council Session	80
1940 District Council Session	81
1941 District Council Session	82

CHAPTER

PAGE

1942 District Council Session	83
1943 District Council Session	85
1944 District Council Session	86
1945 District Council Session	88
1946 District Council Session	89
1947 District Council Session	91
1948 District Council Session	91
1949 District Council Session	92
1950 District Council Session	94
1951 District Council Session	95
1952 District Council Session	96
1953 District Council Session	98
1954 District Council Session	99
1955 District Council Session	100
1956 District Council Session	102
1957 District Council Session	103
1958 District Council Session	104
1959 District Council Session	105
C. Early Leaders of the Montana District	107
D. District Superintendents of the Montana District	113
E. Present District Officials	116
V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	122

CHAPTER	PAGE
A. Organizational Development	122
B. Constructional Development	123
C. Membership and Sunday School Enrollment	123
D. Development of Local Congregations	124
E. The Ministerial Program	125
F. Conclusions	126
G. Suggestions for Further Study	126
BIBLIOGRAPHY	129
APPENDIX A	
NUMBER OF MINISTERS	138
APPENDIX B	
NUMBER OF CHURCHES	140
APPENDIX C	
MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT	142
APPENDIX D	
HOME MISSIONS DISBURSEMENTS AND FOREIGN	
MISSIONS GIVING	143
APPENDIX E	
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTERS	145
APPENDIX F	
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHURCH	146

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

One of the important and distinct expressions of protestant denominational life in the United States in the Twentieth century is the group called the Assemblies of God. The Assemblies of God have had a rapid growth in organization. In some instances the organizational life lagged behind its numerical growth. Such was the case in the state of Montana. Churches organized in this state were attached to two other Districts, the main portions of which were located in other states. It was finally deemed necessary and wise to organize a new district which would be called the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God. This was done.

A. Statement of Problem

It was the purpose of this study to trace the origin and to write a history of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God.

B. Justification of Study

No authorized history of the Montana District is in existence. Few adequate records have been kept of this District; hence it is important that historical information be gathered and recorded while some of the early leaders remain who can give an adequate account of the early organization of the Montana District. The Officials of the Montana Dis-

trict have encouraged such a writing to aid in the celebration of the 25th anniversary, to be held at the next Annual District Council in the Spring of 1960.

A history of the Montana District will aid the ministers of the District to become better acquainted with the District. A history will also aid in gaining perspective. Through historical study one can evaluate the work of the past and determine emphases and objectives for the future.

C. Limitations of the Study

The material for this thesis was gained, largely, by individual reports. Some of the reports were given partly from memory. Some of the reports were brief but contained vital information. Very few of the local churches have kept historical records and most of the historical information was gained from the minutes of business meetings. After three appeals from the writer some of the churches and ministers did not return the information. Information for these churches and ministers will be gained, if possible, from the Yearbooks of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God. The biographies of the ministers will be limited to the important early leaders, former District Superintendents, and those ministers who are actively engaged in the District at the present time. Approximately 388 Ordained and Licensed ministers have been listed in the Minister's Roster since the organization of the District. It would be impractical, because of the lack of time, space, and addresses, to try to include the biographies of every minister who

has ministered in this State.

D. Method of Procedure

Questionnaire. The questionnaire was used to a large extent in this thesis to gain information concerning the early organization, churches, and ministers of the Montana District. Questionnaires were sent out nine months before the actual writing was started. The writer felt that this would give ample time for answering and returning.

Letters. Letters were used to gain information from early leaders and the two Districts to which the Montana District at one time belonged.

Annual Minutes of the Montana District Councils. The Minutes were used largely to furnish information for Chapter Four. They were also used for Chapter Three where information could not be received from the local churches and ministers. The writer had access to all the minutes of the District Council with the exception of the 1947 Council. There was, however, sufficient evidence from the reports of the local churches and individuals to substantiate the 1947 Council.

E. Definition of Terms

General Council. The General Council is the largest administrative body of the Assemblies of God and acts on the national level. It has no authority over the Districts and can only suggest, recommend, and advise. The General Council meets every two years.

District Council. The District Councils are in cooperative fellow-

ship with the General Council and are usually composed of a State or an area. The District Councils meet annually to elect officers and carry on business. It has no authoritative power over the local churches.

Montana District Council. The Montana District Council includes the entire state of Montana.

Section. The Montana District Council is divided almost equally into six Sections. There are between eight and thirteen churches in each Section. Each Section is directed and supervised by a District Presbyter who must be pastoring a church in the Section he is directing.

Assembly. A term used to identify a local church or congregation of any size whether it is organized or unorganized.

General Council Affiliated Assemblies. Assemblies organized and holding membership with the General Council.

District Affiliated Assemblies. These churches are under the supervision of the District Presbytery. These Assemblies are not sovereign but may have a roster of members. These Assemblies do not show sufficient maturity to be affiliated with the General Council.

New Work. An immature or dependent Assembly of recent origin under the direct supervision of the Presbytery. It does not have a roster of members.

Outstation. A place where services are held but does not have a regular pastor. A preaching point.

District Presbytery. The District Presbytery consists of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and one Presbyter elected from each Section.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit. When the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is used in connection with this thesis it means the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues relative to the doctrine as held by the Assemblies of God.

Christ's Ambassadors. National youth group of the Assemblies of God.

F. Statement of Organization

Chapter One introduces the reader to the subject. Chapter Two gives a brief history of the Assemblies of God in order to give a better understanding of the beginnings of the Montana District.

Chapter Three gives a **chronological** history of each church as well as a biographical account of each minister.

Chapter Four deals with the history of the District Council. Accounts are given of the early organization of the District, each District Council Session from 1937 to 1959 with the exception of the 1947 Council Session, biographies of early leaders, biographies of former superintendents, and biographies of present District Officials. Chapter Five states a summary and some pertinent conclusions.

CHAPTER TWO

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

The General Council of the Assemblies of God was organized at the First General Council held at Hot Spring, Arkansas, April 2 to 12, 1914. The organization of this movement was the result of a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of that outpouring by enabling those who received Him, to speak in other tongues. This special outpouring was experienced by many groups throughout the world.

A. Early Outpourings of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is recorded to have visited in this manner in New England in 1854; in the Cumberland mountains in 1877; the Holy Spirit fell on Jethro Walthal, an Arkansas Holiness preacher also, in 1877; and on Daniel Awrey in Delaware, Ohio, in 1890.¹ In 1906 the Holy Spirit came upon the Azusa Street Mission, Los Angeles, California, through the efforts of Mrs. Rachel Sizelove who took the revival spirit to Springfield, Missouri.² Other persons who helped in the Azusa Street Mission were Elder C. H. Mason and pastor William Durham of the Old North Avenue Mission in Chicago, Illinois.³

¹Publications Department, Early History of the Assemblies of God, (Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1959), p. 5.

²Ibid, p. 5.

³Ibid, p. 5.

The Assemblies of God, as a denomination, owes its beginning to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a group of Christians in Topeka, Kansas in 1901. About forty people gathered to form a small Bible School in order that they might pray and search the Scriptures relative to speaking in other tongues.¹ Although speaking in other tongues had been recorded in the Bible and in history, they felt it should be the norm for Christianity today.² One of the rooms was used as a prayer room, called the prayer tower. The students prayed in this room in three-hour periods. Mrs. N. O. LaBerge, formerly Miss Agnes N. Ozman, was the first to receive, among others, the evidence of the Holy Spirit by speaking in other tongues. Students from this revival spread to all parts of the world.³

B. The Early Major General Councils

1. First General Council

Because of the rapid spread of the Pentecostal message many Pentecostal independent groups originated. These groups were known as the "Pentecostal Movement". There was, however, much difference of opinion and of doctrine within the Movement. There was, therefore, a great need for a set of standards and statement of faith.

¹Irwin, Winehouse, The Assemblies of God, (New York: Vantage Press, 1959), p. 22.

²Ibid, p. 22.

³Stanley H. Frodsham, With Signs Following, (Springfield: The Gospel Publishing House, 1946), p. 19.

In the Fall of 1913 G. N. Bell, editor of the Word and Witness, issued a call for a council to meet in Hot Springs, Arkansas, the 2nd of April, 1914. H. A. Goss, pastor of the Pentecostal Church in Hot Springs, secured a lease on the Grand Opera House in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This is where the First General Council of the Assemblies of God met.

There was much opposition to this organizational meeting because it was felt, by many, that by organization men would hinder the moving of the Spirit. They felt that the Holy Spirit should have complete control. In spite of the opposition there were three hundred persons, including one hundred and twenty pastors, present. Twenty states were represented, with the largest majority from the midwest. Several foreign lands were represented.¹ Some of the persons present, who later became important to the Assemblies of God, were: John G. Lake; E. N. Richey of Zion, Illinois; S. A. Jamieson of Portland, Oregon; F. F. Lawrence of Thayer, Missouri; E. N. Bell, the editor of Word and Witness; J. Roswell Flower, editor of the Christian Evangel; J. W. Welch from Baxter Springs, Kansas; H. A. Goss of Hot Springs, Arkansas; T. K. Leonard of Findlay, Ohio; W. T. Gaston from Tahlequah, Oklahoma; A. B. Cox of Shaft, Maryland; R. L. Erickson of Chicago; and J. Crouch of Egypt.²

The First General Council lasted for three days. There were many messages and manifestations of the Spirit in their meetings. There was also much joyful singing and praising God. During this First General

¹Op. cit., Early History of the Assemblies of God, p. 11.

²Ibid., p. 9;

Council an impromptu parade took place in which most of the three hundred of the delegates marched down Central Avenue.

The opening message was brought by M. M. Pinson, taking his text from Acts 15. He preached concerning the problems of Doctrine and gave justification for the General Council.¹ E. N. Bell was chosen as the temporary Chairman and J. Roswell Flower was chosen as temporary secretary.

A large committee was appointed, representing all sections of the work, for the purpose of defining the Council roll. A smaller committee was selected to work on a preamble and resolution for the constitution.

Because there was a need for a central governing body, the delegates elected an Executive Presbytery of twelve men. Its duty was: "To act in all necessary matters on behalf of the General Council as a Home and Foreign Missionary and Executive Presbytery during the ensuing year."² The twelve men elected were: T. K. Leonard, E. N. Bell, J. Flower, H. A. Goss, J. W. Welch, M. M. Pinson, C. B. Flocker, D. C. Opperman, A. P. Collins, R. L. Erickson, and D. W. Kerr.³

Many important resolutions were approved at the First General Council. It was agreed to incorporate as the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The matter of eating meat was an issue at this session. The Council took action against extreme positions. At the First

¹Ibid., p. 9.

³Ibid., p. 9.

²Ibid., p. 9.

General Council the term "District" was chosen to designate state Councils. Local areas and states were asked and encouraged to form State Councils which would be in co-operative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The Inter-state Camp Meeting at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, was annexed to the General Council. Ministers, Elders, and evangelists were given recognition within the Church. The Word and Witness became the official paper of the General Council with E. N. Bell as editor.¹

The First General Council of the Assemblies of God concluded its meetings without much thought of what it might involve for the future. However, most of the early resolutions that were made in the First General Council are still embodied in the official position of the Assemblies of God.

2. The Second General Council

Because of many administrative problems the Executive Presbytery issued a call for the Second General Council to convene in Chicago on November 15, 1914. This Council took place in the Old Stone Church where R. L. Erickson pastored.

For some reason E. N. Bell was not elected to the Chairmanship. A. P. Collins, a former Baptist from Fort Worth, Texas, was elected to that position. Reverend Flower was again elected as general secretary.

¹Ibid., p. 12.

The Second General Council increased the Executive Presbytery from twelve to sixteen. It was voted that women, who were mature, could be Ordained. The duties of the Executive Presbytery were stated. The sovereignty of the local churches was again recognized. The smaller churches were to seek the advise of the Executive Presbytery in case of internal trouble.¹ One of the important decisions made at the Second General Council was to authorize the Executive Presbytery to raise the sum of \$5,000 for publishing equipment for the publishing house which was to be moved from Findlay, Ohio, to St. Louis, Missouri. E. N. Bell was elected as the editor of the two denomination periodicals, The Word and Witness (monthly), and the Christian Evangel (weekly).

3. The Fourth General Council

The Fourth General Council was held in St. Louis, Missouri, in the Fall of 1916. One of the important events of this Council was the adoption of the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Because this Statement was adopted, many of the independent Pentecostal churches from all parts of the United States applied for admission to the General Council. There were 517 ministers listed at the Fourth General Council.²

In 1918 it was found that the headquarters of the General Council with the printing press would have to find larger quarters. The leaders looked for a suitable place in St. Louis, Missouri, but found it impossible to find a suitable location in keeping with their financial resources.

¹Ibid., p. 13.

²Ibid., p. 13.

Finally, E. N. Bell was sent to Springfield, Missouri to look for a likely place in which the headquarters and the printing press could be housed. There were two reasons why the Executive Presbytery chose Springfield. These were: the centrality of Springfield and the low price of real estate. While in Springfield, E. N. Bell found several suitable places from which to choose. The building that was finally chosen was a two story brick building on the corner of Lyon and Pacific Streets.

The move to Springfield was made in the Spring of 1918. This, apparently, was one of the most momentous moves of the denomination. Because the Headquarters were moved to Springfield the Main Assembly was established on East Central Street across from the Green County Court House. This is now one of the larger churches of the denomination. Central Bible Institute was also established in Springfield in 1922 with D. W. Kerr in charge of the new school.¹

Since moving to Springfield, the Gospel Publishing House has grown way beyond expectations. In 1919 Jesse Z. Kamerer was put in charge of the printing plant, and under his leadership the Publishing House grew. By 1946 there was such a demand for denominational printing material that a new location and building for the Publishing House had to be built. In 1948 construction was started on a 100,000 square feet space building at a cost of \$1,600,000. This new building was completed in 1949.² At the present time the Gospel Publishing House sends

¹Ibid., p. 16.

²Irwin, Winehouse, The Assemblies of God, (New York: Vantage Press, 1959), p. 197.

out more than five tons of literature a day.¹ When the Publishing House moved to its new quarters the Offices of the General Council took all of the space in the old building at Lyons and Pacific Streets.

4. Important Early Leaders

Endorus N. Bell is sometimes known as the early leader and organizer of the Assemblies of God. He was selected as the first General Chairman and for many years was the editor of the Word and Witness. Endorus N. Bell was left an orphan at the age of two. He overcame this obstacle and received his College education from the John B. Stetson College at Deland, Florida, and his Seminary training from the Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He also spent three years at the University of Chicago. Reverend Bell was an Ordained Baptist minister. He received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on July 18, 1908 at William Durham's Old North Avenue Mission in Chicago. He was pastor of the Baptist Church at Fort Worth, Texas and remained there for one year before taking the Pentecostal Church at Malvern, Arkansas. Reverend Bell was the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God at the time of his death in 1923.²

J. Roswell Flower is probably the best known leader of the denomination today. Reverend Flower was born in Canada on June 17, 1888. In 1902 his parents moved to Zion, Illinois. Reverend Flower was Ordained

¹Ibid., p. 197.

²Op. cit., Early History of the Assemblies of God, p. 11.

by D. Wesley Myland and Associates, and received his credentials from the World's Faith Missionary Association. J. Roswell Flower was the first General Secretary of the Assemblies of God. He left that position for a period of time but again held it from 1935 to 1959, at which time he retired. He was also the first editor of the Pentecostal Evangel and held that position until his retirement. He served the Assemblies of God in some Official capacity for forty-five years.¹

5. The Expanding Years

As the United States moved to prosperity in the 1920's the Assemblies of God grew. The young denomination, less than a decade old, already had one thousand ministers on its roll. Contributions for the Foreign Mission Program had reached one hundred thousand dollars. The Sunday School Literature had reached 26,000 copies. In the mid-twenties the Women's Missionary Council was organized at Houston, Texas.² At the 1928 General Council these statistics were reported:

"There were now 1,353 Assemblies with a combined membership of 72,143; ordained ministers numbered approximately 1,500; the weekly Evangel had leaped to a circulation of 40,000 copies per issue; and new churches were being established every few days either in the United States or on foreign mission fields."³

The 1930's found the world in an economic depression which resulted in hopelessness and gloom. In this type of atmosphere the Assemblies of God moved forward with their message of hope, proclaiming the gospel

¹Ibid., p. 11.

³Ibid., p. 51.

²Op. cit., Irwin Winehouse, p. 50.

of Salvation from sin and the power of the Holy Spirit to renew lives. Thousands of people, who did not find hope in the world, turned to this doctrine of heart-felt religion.¹ During this time the Assemblies of God membership grew to 120,000. Between the years of 1923 and 1933 six hundred new Sunday Schools were started. In 1936 the nationwide radio program, known as "Revival-time", was started.²

During World War II the Assemblies of God moved on. Reveille, a Gospel paper for service men, was issued in 1941. In the year of 1943 the circulation rose to 260,000 copies. The Evangel rose to a circulation of 100,000 during the years between 1941 and 1945. In 1945 the Assemblies of God had 538 foreign missionaries. Between the years of 1941 and 1951 the membership of the Assemblies of God grew to 318,478.³

The decade of the 1950's was another period of growth for the Assemblies of God. It was in this decade that the Men's Fellowship was organized and the Women's Missionary Council was recognized by the Assemblies of God as a national organization. At the Twenty-fifth General Council the fortieth anniversary was celebrated. It was found that the Assemblies of God had 6,400 churches and 7,641 Ordained ministers. The membership in 1954 was 370,118. The membership of the Assemblies of God rose to 505,552 in 1959 and the denomination listed 9,300 Ordained ministers. The Sunday School enrollment reached 922,663 in 1959.⁴ The average local church membership was 62.3 in 1959.

¹ Ibid., p. 51.

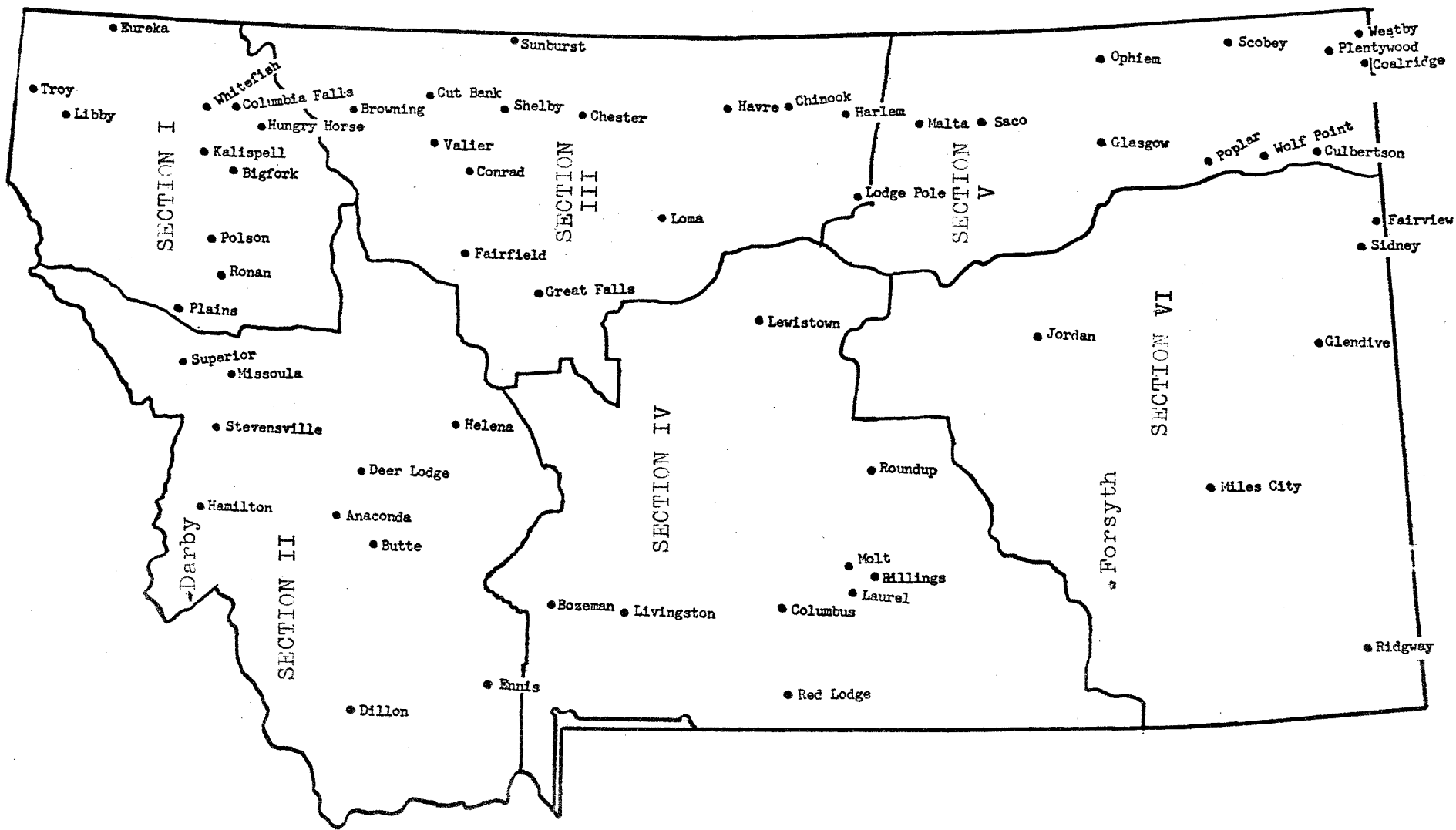
² Ibid., p. 52.

³ Ibid., p. 55.

⁴ Ibid., p. 197.

CHAPTER THREE

CHURCHES AND MINISTERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT



MONTANA DISTRICT

CHAPTER THREE

CHURCHES AND MINISTERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT

Introduction

The local churches in Montana, before the organization of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, were local independent Pentecostal churches. Some of them belonged to other Pentecostal movements. In 1919 the Northwest District Council of the Assemblies of God was organized and became a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The Western part of Montana was attached to the Northwest District Council. The North Central District was organized approximately at the same time and the churches in the Eastern part of Montana were attached to this District. Hence, a large number of the independent Pentecostal churches in the State of Montana affiliated themselves with these District Councils and the General Council. As the number of churches increased in the State of Montana it became necessary that a new District be formed for better supervision and administration. Therefore, the local churches in Montana were organized into a new district which included the whole State of Montana. This was done in 1936.

Many of the early ministers, in the State of Montana, also belonged to these former respective Districts. Before the organization of the General Council they were either independent Pentecostal preachers or members of other denominations. Hence, they transferred to the

Assemblies of God. The later ministers were largely products of the Church.

This chapter records a history of each local church. The churches have been listed alphabetically rather than chronologically because of insufficient records. This chapter also includes a biography of each active minister. They will be listed in alphabetical order with the exception of the Sectional Presbyter. His biography will be placed at the beginning.

SECTION ONE

A. Churches of Section One

Bigfork Assembly of God. The Assembly at Bigfork was started in November of 1953 in an old abandoned school house. Sister Evelyn Peterson with the help of the Kalispel church started the work. The work, however, was slow in getting started but in May of 1954 the church had its first convert. The Bigfork Assembly grew steadily but slowly and in October of 1959 the new Church building was dedicated by the District Superintendent, Brother Goodman. Sister Evelyn Peterson is presently the pastor at the Bigfork Assembly.¹

Columbia Falls Assembly of God. The Columbia Falls church was started in September of 1955 in a large house purchased by the District. The church was under the supervision of the Hungry Horse church with Rev. Hinton in charge. The church was organized in 1956; in 1957 services were held in the basement of the new parsonage. The main church building was started in 1958 and was dedicated January 1, 1960. Rev. Joe Newby pastored the church from November 1956 to June 1959; and Rev. Joseph Kisser is presently pastoring the church. The present membership is 24 and the Sunday School enrollment 73.²

Eureka Assembly of God Church. In the first church directory included in the Year book, Eureka was listed as an affiliated church with the

¹Personal Correspondence of Sister Evelyn Peterson, Kalispel, Montana, to the author January 12, 1960.

²Personal Correspondence of Rev. Joseph J. Kisser, Columbia Falls, Montana, to the author January 11, 1960.

General Council. In 1941 Miss Helen Munson was the pastor of the church and Rev. Robert S. Hutchinson is listed as the present pastor.¹

Hungry Horse Assembly of God Church. This church was started in 1946 by Rev. Evan H. Davis, a retired minister. The church building was started in 1948 and it was at this time that Rev. Clyde Walden was called to be their pastor. The church was organized in 1949 and the first church building was completed in 1950. The church was enlarged in 1956 and again in 1958. In 1956 the official board felt that they should spend half of their money on a church in Columbia Falls instead of putting all the money in the local church. The Lord blessed this move and the Hungry Horse church grew.

In 1950 Rev. Leo R. Hinton came to be the pastor of the Hungry Horse Church and the Lord has blessed his ministry. The present membership of the church is 15 and the average Sunday School attendance is 110.²

Kalispell Assembly of God. The Kalispell Assembly of God Church is located on the Corner of 4th Street and 2nd Avenue in Kalispell, Montana. The Kalispell Assembly is one of the older churches in Montana. It was started sometime in 1914 on the corner of 3rd and Main, which was occupied, recently, by the Hayden Grocery Store. It soon moved to a building on 2nd Street West, where a Texaco Station is now standing. In 1929 Rev. Scratch called a meeting to discuss the possibility of setting

¹Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1941 to 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Rev. Leo Hinton, Hungry Horse, Montana, to the author, October 12, 1959.

the church in order. On August 15, 1929 the Kalispell church received full recognition from the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The first church building was completed in 1929 and additions were added in 1947 and 1954.

The pastors who served the Kalispell church are as follows:

James Rasmussen from 1916 to 1919; Rev. Hoiland from 1919 to 1925; Rev. M. McGinnis from 1926 to 1929; Alfred Scratch from 1929 to 1929; J. J. Shackelford from December, 1929 to 1932; Carl Gustafson, 1932 to 1933; Homer Rugwell, 1933 to 1934; A. E. Roebeck from 1934 to 1936; E. L. Powlesland from 1936 to 1937; George S. Koontz from 1937 to 1939; George Baker from 1940 to ____; Harold Carlbloom from ____ to 1943; Paul Jones from 1943 to 1950; Wesley Hurst from 1950 to 1952; O. W. Klingsheim from 1953 to 1956; Walter Buck from 1956 to 1958. G. J. Mandigo is the present pastor.

The present membership is 83 and the Sunday School enrollment is 180.¹

Libby Assembly of God Church. The Assembly of God Church in Libby was started in the summer of 1936 by the work of Rev. Fred Dalton and Richard Philp. The first services were conducted in a tent and after these first meetings the group had their worship service in the American Legion Hall. The first service held in the new Log Church was on September 1, 1940. The Church was organized in 1942.

¹ Personal Correspondence of Guilford Mandigo, Kalispell, Montana, to the author, September, 1959.

A new parsonage was started in 1948 and was finished in 1952.

Pastors serving the Libby Assembly were as follows: Richard Philp to 1938; Rev. Fred Dalton from 1938 to 1946; Rev. Leon Ayers from 1946 to 1951; Rev. Willis Munson from 1952 to 1954; G. L. Riffe from 1954 to 1957; and A. H. Miller from September, 1957 to 1959.

The present membership is 22 and the Sunday School enrollment is 86.¹

Plains Assembly of God. This church was started in 1951 by a certain Rev. DeVon. The work, however, did not get a permanent start until 1952 at which time Rev. Stephenrud came to the Assembly. The first services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall until a portable tabernacle was moved in by the District in 1953. In 1955 an addition was built on the back for Sunday School rooms. In 1957 the work started on a permanent building and the first service was held on June 28, 1959.

Pastors that have served the Plains Church were: Rev. Stephensrud from 1952 to 1953; Rev. Ehlers from 1953 to 1959; and Rev. Donald Everson from June, 1959 to January, 1959.

The present membership is 8 and the Sunday School enrollment is about 19.²

Polson Assembly of God Church. The Polson Assembly of God Church is located at 5th Avenue and 1st Street E. It was started in the summer

¹Personal Correspondence of A. H. Miller, Libby, Montana, to the author, November 12, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Donald Everson, Plains, Montana, to the author, October 28, 1959.

of 1945 in the Elks Hall. Alfred Morrison started the work. The first church building was completed and the church was organized in 1947. The Polson church enjoyed a revival in 1951 under the ministry of Peggy Bolan. Many persons received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Pastors that have served the church were: Rev. Alfred Morrison from 1945 to 1948; Rev. Greet in 1948; Rev. E. Havamann from 1949 to 1950; Rev. Raymond Bache from 1950 to 1951; Rev. Fred Dalton from 1951 to 1953; Rev. Mel Veland from 1953 to 1956; Rev. Norman Van Patten in 1956; and Rev. John Weaver from 1956 to January, 1959.

The present membership is 22 and the Sunday School is 80.¹

Ronan Assembly of God Church. The first Pentecostal services held in Ronan were conducted in a tent in September of 1931. The Evangelists were Clarence Strom and Harold Robeson. The regular services were held in a store building until 1934 at which time a church building was purchased in Pablo, Montana, a small town five miles north of Ronan. The congregation held services in Pablo until 1941 when a church building was constructed. A small parsonage was built, and an addition was built on the church in 1950.

In 1935 a successful revival was held by Evangelist Maurice McGinnis which resulted in a number of conversions and many received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Many revivals have added to the growth of the church.

¹Personal Correspondence of John R. Weaver, Polson, Montana, to the author, December 30, 1959.

The pastors who served the Ronan Church are as follows: Clarence Strom from 1931 to 1932; Homer Rugwell in 1932; Dwight Ritchy in 1932; Rev. Nankervis in 1933; Sister Arendale and Sister Erby in 1934; Sister Cecile Nixon in 1935; Sister Vera Shirley from 1936 to 1937; Rev. Nelson Miller from 1938 to 1940; Rev. Ray Walden from 1940 to 1948; Rev. Westley Fine from 1948 to 1952. Rev. Leon Mitchell has been pastoring the church since 1952.

The present membership is 50 and the present Sunday School enrollment is 80.¹

Troy Assembly of God Church. The Troy church was started in 1948 with service being held in the Moose Hall. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Rayson started the work in Troy. A church building was constructed in 1950 and the main structure was erected in 1955. The church was organized in 1955.

Ministers who have served the Troy church are as follows: John Barger from 1949 to 1951; Claude Conklin from early 1951 to late 1951; Raymond Sampson from early 1951 to mid 1952; Leo Hamer for a short period of time in 1952; H. D. Herrick from 1952 to 1953; Raymond Sampson again from 1953 to 1955; and Rev. Gunnar Steffensrud from 1955 to January, 1959.

The present membership is 12 and the average Sunday School enrollment is 36.²

¹Personal Correspondence of Leon Mitchell, Ronan, Montana, to the author, September 17, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Gunnar Steffensrud, Troy, Montana, to the author, October 21, 1959.

Whitefish Assembly of God. This church was started in 1941 with the efforts of Rev. C. Crawford in a store building on 2nd Street. In 1946 a building was obtained and the church was organized. In 1951 a new building was started and the members moved into the new building in January of 1952. The parsonage was added to the church structure in 1955.

Pastors who have served the church were: Rev. Ora Devon; Rev. Westley Fine; Rev. Walter Strom; Rev. Roy K. Reed; and at present, Rev. Roy Munger.

The church membership at the present time is 30; the Sunday School enrollment is 74. Since 1950 65 persons who attended the church have moved away. However, the Sunday School average attendance has continued at the previous level.¹

B. Ministers of Section One

Mitchell, Leon P. He is presently the District Presbyter of Section One. Leon was born on June 4, 1916 at Iliff, Colorado. His parents were Mearle and Stella Mitchell who were ministers of the Gospel. The boyhood of Reverend Mitchell was spent in Sterling, Colorado. Leon married Charlotte Heiser in Edgemont, South Dakota.

Reverend Mitchell was licensed by the Montana District in 1944 and was Ordained by the same District in 1946. Rev. Mitchell states concerning his call:

¹Personal Correspondence of Roy Munger, Whitefish, Montana, to the author, November 5, 1959.

"My call to the ministry was a result of a compelling urge to preach the gospel in the highways and by-ways after the mentioned Scripture verse (Matthew 22:9) was forcibly impressed on my heart by the Holy Spirit."¹

Rev. Mitchell testifies that many souls have been saved and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in his ministry. A little girl with crossed eyes and totally blind in one eye was instantly healed under his ministry.

Reverend Mitchell has been very active in the Montana District. He has served a total of sixteen years in the Montana District with nine of these being on the Board of Presbyters. He helped with the beginning of the Glacier Bible Camp and had the privilege of hauling the first load of lumber into the Camp Grounds.

Reverend Mitchell has pastored the following churches in Montana: Sunburst from 1943 to 1946; Scobey from 1946 to 1952; and Ronan from 1952 to the present time.

Reverend and Mrs. Mitchell have four children: Merlin 19, Yvonne 17, Bonnie 6, and Jewell 4.

Everson, Donald E. He was born in Mount Vernon, Washington, on November 19, 1927. His parents are Alfred and Martha Everson. Donald spent most of his childhood days in the State of Washington.

The bride of Donald Everson was Lorraine Armstrong of Missoula, Montana.

He graduated from the Irene S. Reed High School, Shelton, Washington; from Northwest Bible College with an A B Degree in 1951; and

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Leon Mitchell, Ronan, Montana, to the author, September 17, 1959.

from Western Evangelical Seminary with a B D Degree in 1959. He was licensed to preach in Great Falls, Montana, in 1952 and was Ordained in Great Falls in 1957. He pastored the churches at Laurel from 1951 to 1953; Stevensville from 1953 to 1955; and Plains from 1959 to the present time.

Reverend and Mrs. Everson have two children: Diane, age 8 and Steven, age 6.¹

Hinton, Leo R. He was born on July 12, 1910 at Everson, Washington. His parents are Harry and Augusta Hinton who were farmers. He spent his childhood days on a farm in Everson, Washington. He married Martha Gebhart on the 10th of January, 1932.

Reverend Hinton received his license to preach in 1937 at Livingston, Montana. He was Ordained at Livingston, Montana in 1940. He relates his call to the ministry as follows:

"I was saved at 17 and called to the ministry at 18. God's call to the ministry came to me in a very definite way. He spoke to my heart one night while praying at the church altar in Lynden, Washington."²

Reverend Hinton has pastored the following churches in Montana: Butte, Montana from 1936 to 1948; from 1948 to 1950 caretaker of the Glacier Bible Camp; and from 1950 to the present time at Hungry Horse.

Reverend Hinton has four children; they are Leo, Harry, Fred, and Larry.

¹Personal Correspondence of Donald Everson, Plains, Montana, to the author, October 28, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Leo R. Hinton, Hungry Horse, Montana, to the author, October 12, 1959.

Kisser, Joseph J. He was born on May 11, 1909 in Vita, Manitoba, Canada. His parents were Julius and Nathalia Kisser, whose occupation was that of a miller. He attended the Bible School in Cleveland, Tennessee. He married Irene Kirschman of New Leipzig, North Dakota in 1935.

Joseph was licensed to preach in North Dakota in 1934 and was Ordained by the Church of God in 1937. Reverend Kisser pastored several churches in the Church of God denomination in the State of Montana and became the pastor of the Columbia Falls Assembly of God church in 1959. Reverend and Mrs. Kisser have six children.¹

Mandigo, Guilford J. He was born on September 1, 1924 at Bismarck, North Dakota. His parents are Guilford and Ennis Mandigo who are retired. He attended the Bismarck High School; the Central Bible Institute in 1942 and 1943; and the North Central Bible Institute in 1943 and 1944. He was graduated from Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri in 1945. He was married to Donna L. Dock of Aneta, North Dakota on August 30, 1946.

Guilford was licensed to preach on June 29, 1944 at the North Dakota Bible Camp, Devils Lake, North Dakota and was Ordained June 28, 1946 at the same camp.

He has pastored the church at Conrad, Montana from 1954 to 1959 and came to Kalispell, Montana in January of 1959.

¹ Personal Correspondence of J. J. Kisser, Columbia Falls, Montana, to the author, January 11, 1959.

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Reverend and Mrs. Mandigo have three children.

Miller, A. H. He was born August 8, 1924 at Dillon, Montana. Most of his childhood was spent in Southern Idaho. He was graduated from the Blackfoot High School and received a B A Degree from Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri in 1953. Reverend Miller was drafted into the Army Air Force in 1943 and was captured by the Germans near Kassel, Germany, after being shot down. He was a prisoner of war from October 1944 to May 1945. He was married to Pearl Gillette from Idaho.

Reverend Miller was Ordained in the Montana District on May 19, 1955. He pastored the churches at Scobey, Montana, from 1953 to 1955; Glasgow, Montana, from 1955 to 1957; and Libby, Montana, from 1957 to the present time.²

Munger, Roy R. He was born December 6, 1917 at Spring Valley, Washington. His parents were ministers. Roy spent his childhood in several states in the Northwest. He attended High Schools in Oregon and Washington and graduated from Central Bible Institute in 1939. He was married to Erma Stutzman on November 29, 1940 at New Sharon, Iowa.

Reverend Munger was Ordained at Des Moines, Iowa, with the West Central District in 1943. He has pastored the following churches in Montana: Chinook in 1940; Roundup from 1943 to 1947; Fairfield from

¹Personal Correspondence of Guilford Mandigo, Kalispell, Montana, to the author, September, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of A. H. Miller, Libby, Montana, to the author, November 13, 1959.

1947 to 1951; Saco from 1951 to 1954; Harlem from 1954 to 1957; and Whitefish from 1957 to the present time.

Reverend and Mrs. Munger have four children.¹

Peterson, Evelyn E. Evelyn was born in Kalispell, Montana, on February 6, 1912. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hoiland from Norway. Her father was a Methodist minister who came into the Pentecostal movement. She attended High School in Seattle and Aberdeen, Washington. She was married to Don R. Peterson from Seattle, Washington.

She was Ordained by the Montana District in 1958 and is presently the pastor at Big Fork, Montana. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have three children.²

Steffensrud, Gunnar. He was born on August 6, 1912 near Gage, Montana to Mr. and Mrs. Klaus Steffensrud, whose occupation was farming and coal mining. Gunnar attended the High School in Roundup, Montana, and Western Montana College of Education at Dillon, Montana. He was graduated from Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri. He spent three and a half years in the United States Army between 1942 and 1945. Twenty-five of these months were spent in the European Theater of Operations. He was married to Ruth Zerbe of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Reverend Steffensrud was Ordained in 1952 at the Glacier Bible Camp, Hungry Horse, Montana. He pastored the church at Plains from 1952 to 1953 and went to Troy, as pastor, in 1955. He is presently pastoring

¹Personal Correspondence of Roy R. Munger, Whitefish, Montana, to the author, November 5, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Evelyn Peterson, Kalispell, Montana, to the author, January 12, 1960.

in Troy.¹

Weaver, John R. He was born on May 6, 1932 at Glenrock, Wyoming. His parents were farmers. He attended the Edmonds High School near Seattle, Washington and attended Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington. He was married to Ernestine Ann Waterman.

He was called to the Assembly of God Church at Polson, Montana, in 1956 and has been pastoring there since. John was Ordained in the Montana District in 1958.

Reverend and Mrs. Weaver have two children, a girl, age 2 and a boy, age 1.

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Personal Correspondence of Rev. Steffensrud, Troy, Montana, to the author, October 21, 1959.

SECTION TWO

A. Churches of Section Two

Anaconda Assembly of God. The Assembly in Anaconda was started in a store building in August of 1932. The church was organized in 1936 and a church building was erected in 1937. The present sanctuary was started in 1947. A parsonage costing \$20,000 was built in 1959.

Pastors that have served the church are as follows: Rev. Morrison and Rev. Richie were the first pastors from 1932 to 1934; Rev. Rugswell in 1934; Rev. Muirhead from 1936 to 1940; Rev. Lane from 1940 to 1941; Rev. Close from 1942 to 1943; Rev. Jackson from 1943 to 1946; Rev. Burkey from 1946 to 1949; Rev. Nichols from 1949 to 1959. Rev. Joe Newby is the present pastor.

The total number of members is 36 and the Sunday School enrollment is 150.¹

Butte Assembly of God Church. The Butte Assembly of God Church is located at 2055 Florence Avenue. Pastors who have served the church are as follows: Rev. Leo Hinton from 1939 to 1947; Rev. Elmer Trygg from 1948 to 1954; Rev. Earl Goodman from 1955 to 1956; and Rev. James McGahey from 1957 to January, 1959.²

¹Personal Correspondence of William E. Staton, 615 W. Third Street, Anaconda, Montana, to the author, December 21, 1959.

²Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1939 to 1959.

Butte Finnish Chapel. The Finnish Chapel was started in 1939 by Miss Helen Tilus and Miss May Isaacson. The services were first held in the Main Assembly of God Church and then in the Apostolic Lutheran Church which was rented for several weeks. About forty older Finnish people were saved during the early part of this church. The pastors that have served this church were: Miss Helen Tilus, Miss May Isaacson, Miss Elsie Ovaska, Brother Veikko Lahde, Miss Lahja Rouhiainen, Rev. and Mrs. Wilho Till, and the present pastor, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Daggett. Mrs. Walter Daggett was the former Miss Isaacson.¹

Darby Assembly of God. The Darby Assembly of God is located on Main Street and Highway 93. Rev. Gordon Messner pastored the church in 1948. The church has no present pastor.²

Deer Lodge Assembly of God. This church is located at 607 Fifth Street. It was started in 1933 by Miss Edith Gaetz (Mrs. Henry Hall) and Miss Funk (Mrs. Walter Hall) in a store building. The present structure was started in 1935 and finished in 1936. The church was organized in 1936.

Pastors who have ministered the church are as follows: Rev. Homer Doyle from 1933 to 1934; Rev. Alfred Morrison from 1934 to 1935; Miss Edith Gaetz and Miss Nell Funk from 1935 to 1937; Rev. A. L. Chadwick from 1937 to 1939; Rev. Harold Arneson from 1942 to 1944; Rev. H. L.

¹Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Walter Daggett, 730 E. Park St., Butte, Montana, to the author, January 18, 1960.

²Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1948 to 1959.

Bivans from 1944 to 1946; Rev. O. S. Hodges from 1946 to 1950; Rev. Clyde Walden from 1950 to 1956; Rev. Norman Van Patten from 1956 to 1959. Rev. Ellwood Grissom is the present pastor.¹

Dillon Assembly of God. This Assembly is located at 104 South California Street, Dillon, Montana. This church was first started in 1928 by a Four Square Group in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Griffith. The work was carried on for several years by both Assembly of God and Four Square ministers. The Assemblies of God started officially in 1946 at the City Hall by Rev. Walter Daggett. In 1946 a school house was moved from the country to use for the sanctuary. In 1947 another addition was made on the church. The Dillon Assembly of God is affiliated with the District but not with the General Council.

Assemblies of God ministers who have pastored the church are as follows: Rev. Dwight Ritchie from 1935 to 1936; no minister to 1941; Rev. Louis Hermesmeyer in 1941; no minister until 1943; Rev. Carnes from 1943 to 1944; Rev. Hojem from 1944 to 1945; Rev. Walter Daggett from 1946 to 1950; Rev. Leo Hamer from 1951 to 1952; Rev. Clifford Gambill from 1952 to 1954; and Rev. Clayton Nelson from 1954 to 1956. Rev. Roger V. Dane has been pastoring the church since 1956.²

Ennis Assembly of God. Ernest C. Parker pastored this church from 1953 to 1957. The church has not had a pastor since 1957.³

¹Personal Correspondence of R. M. Bauman, Deer Lodge, Montana, to the author, January 20, 1960.

²Personal Correspondence of Rev. Roger V. Dane, Dillon, Montana, to the author, January 22, 1960.

³Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1953 to 1959.

Hamilton Assembly of God. This church is located at Sixth and Main, Hamilton, Montana. Evangelists Maurice McGinnis and Luther Powell started this church in the summer of 1929 in a tent. A few months later the congregation secured the basement in the Library building. A sanctuary was started a few months later and several additions were built. A parsonage was built recently.

Pastors who have served this church were as follows: Maurice McGinnis, A. B. Grabb, Derrick Hillary, Winston B. Nelson, Charles Jackson, Winston Miller, William Heickson, Vernon Griggs, and Harry Peterson. W. R. Leisy is the present pastor.¹

Helena Assembly of God. This church is located at 11th and Logan Streets in Helena, Montana. It was started in an old Methodist church on Haback Street in 1940. The congregation rented this church building until 1951 at which time a larger building was purchased.

Pastors who have served this church were: Eugene Born from 1940 to 1943; D. Ritchie from 1944 to 1946; Lewis LaMance from 1947 to 1949; E. Jorstad from 1949 to 1959. Rev. Melvin Veland is the present pastor.²

Missoula Pentecostal Assembly of God. The church is located at 337 Stephens Avenue, Missoula, Montana. Evangelists Luther Powell and M. McGinnis started this church in 1930 with the use of a tent as a meeting place. In 1931 an old tavern was torn down and rebuilt into a church.

¹Personal Correspondence of W. R. Leisy, Hamilton, Montana, to the author, January 20, 1960.

²Personal Correspondence of Melvin Veland, 108 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana, to the author, January 27, 1960.

In the early 1940's the church was enlarged by putting in a basement. A new building was erected in 1949. The church was organized in 1939.

Rev. Born states of the Missoula Assembly:

"The consistent steady growth of the church down thru the years has been a testimony of the grace of God. The church has been strong on evangelism, holding no less than three evangelistic meetings yearly."¹

Ministers who have served the Missoula church were: Luther Powell, M. McGinnis, Greipp, and C. Muirhead. Rev. Eugene Born is the present pastor.

The present membership of the church is 94 and the Sunday School enrollment is 354.

Stevensville Assembly of God. This church was started in the home of the pastor, Harry Ayres, in August, 1949. The church purchased an old church building in 1953 and remodeled it in 1957. A parsonage was finished in 1955.

Pastors who have served this church were: Harry Ayers from 1949 to 1951; Clayton Nelson from 1951 to 1952; Jack Albanese from June 1952 to August 1952; Donald Everson from 1953 to 1955; and Ernest Enget from 1955 to 1957. Carroll Peterson is the present pastor.²

Superior Assembly of God Church. This church is located at Second and Alder Streets, Superior, Montana. It was started in September 1953 by Bert Dick. The services were held in an old store building. A

¹Personal Correspondence of Eugene A. Born, 600 Stephens Avenue, Missoula, Montana, to the author, October 16, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Carroll Peterson, Stevensville, Montana, to the author, January 11, 1960.

church building was started in 1954 and was usable by 1955. The Sunday School enrollment is 50.

Bert Dick, who has been its pastor since its beginning, is presently serving the Church.¹

B. Ministers of Section Two

Born, Eugene A. He is presently (1960) the pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Missoula, Montana, Presbyter of Section Two, and Assistant District Superintendent. He was born June 16, 1916, at St. John, Washington. His parents, Mary and Reuben Born, are farmers.

Eugene was graduated from Latah, Washington High School and Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington. He also took some Correspondence Courses from Oxford University. He married Doris Maire Wilkinson of Great Falls, Montana.

He was Ordained at Walla Walla, Washington, at the 1940 Washington District Council. He states concerning his call:

"Felt the urge of the inner workings of God's Spirit and constant reminders of the needy field."²

Reverend Born was the first Christ's Ambassadors President in the state and is the Director of Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington. He has pastored the churches at Helena, Cut Bank, Havre, and Missoula.

¹Personal Correspondence of Bert Dick, Superior, Montana, to the author, October 5, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of E. A. Born, 600 Stephens Avenue, Missoula, Montana, to the author, October 16, 1959.

The marriage of Reverend and Mrs. Born has been blessed by three children, Ronald, Beverly, and Darlene.¹

Daggett, Walter. He is presently the pastor of the Butte Finnish Chapel in Butte, Montana. He came to the Butte Finnish Chapel in 1957. He is married to the former Miss May Isaacson who started the Butte Finnish Chapel.²

Dane, Roger V. He was born on November 5, 1921, at Miles City, Montana of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dane. He was graduated from the Custer County High School and spent two years at the Northwest Bible College in Seattle, Washington. He was in the United States Army for three years, two and a half of which were spent in Europe during World War II. Reverend and Mrs. Dane have five children.

He was Ordained at Great Falls, Montana, in April, 1957. He has pastored the churches at Ekalaka, Culbertson, and Dillon, where he is presently the pastor.³

Dick, Bert. He was born April 10, 1908, in Pennsylvania of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dick who were farmers. He was married to Marguerite Guy and of this union there was one child, Marilyn.

Reverend Dick attended Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri. He was Ordained by the Southern Idaho District in 1948. He has pastored churches in Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, and Tennessee. He

¹Ibid.

²Op. cit., Mrs. Walter Daggett.

³Op. cit., Roger V. Dane.

has pastored the church at Superior since its beginning in 1953.¹

Grissom, G. Ellwood. He was born May 24, 1928 to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Grissom in Montana. He was graduated from Corvallis High School, Corvallis, Montana, and attended both North Central Bible Institute and Central Bible Institute. He spent two years in the United States Army in 1946 to 1948. He married Lola Hudiburgh in Glendive, Montana. They have two children.

Reverend Grissom was Ordained by the Montana District Council in 1955 and was assistant pastor in Glendive for two years. He pastored the Plentywood Assembly for six years and is presently the pastor at Deer Lodge, Montana.²

Leisy, Willard R. He is presently the pastor of the Assembly of God church in Hamilton, Montana. He has been the pastor in this church since 1951.³

Newby, Joe. He was born on October 10, 1921 near Havre, Montana, of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Newby. He was graduated from the Mohawk High School, Marcola, Oregon, and attended the Open Bible School, at Eugene, Oregon. He was married to Eleanor Ryan of Harlem, Montana. They have three children.

He was licensed at Livingston, Montana in 1943, and Ordained in

¹Op. cit., Bert Dick.

²Op. cit., Ellwood Grissom.

³Op. cit., W. R. Leisy.

the same city in 1945. He was the first pastor at Columbia Falls, Montana and while he was there the parsonage was built and church construction started. He also built the church at Lodge Pole. Rev. Newby has pastored the following churches in Montana: Sonnette, Montana from May 1943 to September 1943; Plevna from September 1943 to May 1944; Scobey from May 1944 to 1946; Malta from 1956 to 1959; and Anaconda from July 1959 to the present.¹

Peterson, Carroll V. He was born on June 27, 1909 at Watertown, South Dakota, of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Peterson. He was married to Arline Gauger.

Reverend Peterson was licensed at Great Falls, Montana, in 1954 and was Ordained in 1957. He pastored the church at Ridgeway, Montana, from 1955 to 1957. He went to Stevensville in 1957 and is presently the pastor of the Stevensville Assembly of God.²

Veland, Melvin. He was born January 18, 1927 of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Veland at Everett, Washington. He was graduated from the Everett High School and Northwest Bible College at Seattle, Washington. He married Marjories Fay Cooper. They have one child.

Reverend Veland was licensed in 1952 and was Ordained by the Montana District in 1955. He pastored the Assembly at Polson from 1952 to 1956 and while he was there the church edifice was completed. He became the pastor in Helena in 1958 and is presently the pastor in that church.³

¹Personal Correspondence of Joe Newby, 4th and Cherry, Anaconda, Montana, to the author, November 6, 1959.

²Op. cit., Carroll Peterson.

³Op. cit., Melvin Veland.

SECTION THREE

A. Churches of Section Three

Assembly of God Blackfeet Indian Mission. This mission is located in Browning, Montana. It was started in 1941 by Rev. Edgar, the pastor at Cut Bank. While Rev. Born was pastoring at Cut Bank he came to Browning, continued the work and held cottage prayer meetings. In 1944 Rev. Bache came to be the first full time pastor of the mission. The mission rented an old Presbyterian church and services were held in this church until 1948. A log church was started in 1947. This church was built largely by the local congregation. The lumber for this building was hewn by the men of the church from the forest in the nearby mountains. The Sunday School enrollment is 50.

Pastors who have served the mission were: Rev. Raymond Bache from 1944 to 1945; Rev. Kindall in 1946; Mrs. Tessie Nelson from 1947 to 1948; Rev. Rolland Murphy from 1948 to 1952; and Rev. Bryant from 1953 to the present time.¹

Chester Assembly of God. This church was started in the summer of 1943 by Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Merry. The first services were held in the Rebekah Hall; later in the Methodist Church. The church was without a pastor from late 1943 to 1946. During this period the Shelby church conducted services in Chester. Rev. Merry started the work in

¹Personal Correspondence of Robert Bryant, Browning, Montana, to the author, January 13, 1960.

Chester and the present structure in 1947. In 1957 the main structure was partially finished and the first service was held on Thanksgiving Day. The construction of a new parsonage was started in 1959.

During the winter of 1958 the church conducted a revival campaign and four families were saved.

Pastors who have served this church were: Rev. Clarence Merry in 1943 and from 1946 to 1949; Rev. Burton Peterson from 1949 to 1950; Rev. Daggett and Rev. Kaiser for a few months in 1950; Rev. Rolland Dean from 1950 to 1952; and Rev. and Mrs. Israel from 1952 to the present time.¹

Chinook Assembly of God. This church was started in 1939 by Alice Edwards and Laurel Cloes. The first services were held in an old store building. A new church building has been constructed since. The Assembly was organized in May of 1947. The present membership is 12 and the present Sunday School enrollment is 49.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: J. R. Edgar in 1936 held prayer meetings; Alice Edwards and Laurel Cloes from 1939 to 1940; Rev. Roy Munger from 1940 to 1941; Rev. Vernon Griggs from 1941 to 1943; Rev. Charles Vinson from 1943 to 1944; Rev. Donald Foster from 1944 to 1945; Rev. Clayton Nash from 1945 to 1946; Rev. M. E. Dodds from 1946 to 1951; Rev. R. O. Shamp from 1951 to 1953; Rev. Leo Harmer from 1953 to 1954; Rev. Ernest Enloe from 1954 to 1956; Rev. James Oakland in

¹Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Byron Israel, Chester, Montana, to the author, November 5, 1959.

1956; and Rev. A. V. Gisselberg from 1957 to the present time.¹

Conrad Assembly of God. This church was started in 1934 by Rev. and Mrs. Peter Funk. The first services were held in an old store building near Main Street which was later remodeled into a church building. The church was organized in 1936. A new church sanctuary was dedicated in 1955. The present membership is 27 and the Sunday School enrollment is 93.

Ministers who have pastored this church are as follows: Fred Dalton from 1937 to ____; M. H. Heicksen from ____ to 1943; Paul Williscroft from 1944 to 1948; K. E. Olson from 1949 to 1951; John Johnston from 1952 to 1954; Guilford Mandigo from 1955 to 1959; and W. H. Gage from 1959 to the present.²

Cut Bank Assembly of God. This church was started in the Spring of 1935 by Sister Inga Johnson. Shortly after it was started Sister Johnson, with much personal sacrifice, built the first structure. In 1956 the congregation bought a Lutheran church; this is being used at the present time. The church was organized in 1936. The present membership is 35 and the Sunday School enrollment is 108.

Pastors who have served the church are as follows: Sister Inga Johnson from 1935 to 1936; Rev. Hedlund from 1936 to 1937; Rev. Edgar from 1937 to 1942; Rev. Eugene Born from 1942 to 1945; Rev. Fred Dalton

¹ Personal Correspondence of A. V. Gisselberg, Chinook, Montana, to the author, November 19, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of W. H. Gage, Conrad, Montana, to the author, September 29, 1959.

from 1945 to 1949; Rev. William McNutt from 1949 to 1953; Rev. Eugene Malvaney from 1953 to 1956; and Rev. Clyde Walden from 1956 to the present time.¹

Fairfield Assembly of God Church. This church was started in 1931 in the home of C. A. Beardsley. The first church building was completed in 1935. The present structure was started in 1941 and the superstructure was completed in 1958. Present membership is 17 and present Sunday School enrollment is 40.

The church at Fairfield has enjoyed several revivals in the past. Evangelist Peggy Bolam held special meetings three different times, in 1945, 1953, and 1957. These meetings have been the times of greatest response. This church also enjoyed a revival in 1959 when attendance of visitors quite frequently outnumbered local membership.

Ministers who have pastored this church are as follows: C. A. Beardsley from 1931 to 1935; Peter Funk in 1935; George Skaret from 1936 to 1937; R. A. Griep from 1938 to 1939; Mrs. Elvera Kvanne (lay minister) in 1940; Elder Ora Devon in 1940; William R. Munger from 1941 to 1943; Martin Heicksen in 1944; Martin Dormeier from 1944 to 1946; Roy Munger from 1947 to 1951; Kenneth Brown from 1951 to 1954; Don Ashmore from 1954 to 1956; and Dennis Finch from 1956 to the present time.²

Great Falls, Central Assembly of God. This church is located at 2001 Central Avenue E., Great Falls, Montana. This church was pioneered

¹ Personal Correspondence of Clyde Walden, Cut Bank, Montana, to the author, December 17, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of O. Dennis Finch, Fairfield, Montana, to the author, October 24, 1959.

in 1917 by Rev. Joseph Lantz. It was first started in the homes of Christians and then later transferred to a store building. The church was organized in 1928. In 1927 they bought an old Christian Church building and in 1953 a new church was constructed. The present church with the parsonage is valued at \$90,000 and is completely paid for. The church can be arranged to seat 550 persons. Sunday School enrollment is 150 and membership is 62.

9 Ministers who have pastored this church are: Rev. Joseph Lantz from 1917 to 1928; Rev. Paul Jones from 1928 to 1930; Rev. Pepper (date not known); Rev. Frank (date not known); Margaret Knutson and Margie Truline (dates not known); Homer Rugwell from 1938 to ____; E. Davis from 1942 to 1945; C. A. Brown from 1946 to 1950; and Paul Jones from 1951 to the present time.¹

Great Falls, Bethel Assembly of God. This church was started in January of 1958 by Rev. James A. Oakland. The services were held at the Longfellow School in Great Falls. At the present time the congregation is renting a building at 1101 2nd Avenue No., Great Falls, Montana. It has an average Sunday School attendance of 30. Rev. James Oakland is the present pastor of the church.²

Full Gospel Church of Loma. This church was started in 1943 by Jesse A. Wood in a store building. The first church building was con-

¹ Personal Correspondence of Paul Jones, 2001 Central Avenue E., Great Falls, Montana, to the author, October 29, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of James Oakland, 1101 2nd Avenue No., Great Falls, Montana, to the author, September 30, 1959.

structed in 1949 and the congregation was organized in 1951. The present membership is 9 and the Sunday School enrollment is 20.

Ministers who have pastored this church were: Jesse Wood from 1943 to ____; John Barger in 1949; Shelby Clark from 1950 to 1951; Maryann Sitton and Ivah Ball from 1951 to 1953; and Reuben L. Archer from 1953 to the present time.¹

Harlem Assembly of God. This church was started in 1950 by Burton Shirley. The first church building was started in 1955. The present membership is 12 and Sunday School enrollment is 23.

Pastors who have served this church are as follows: Rev. Burton Shirley from 1950 to 1954; Rev. Roy Munger from 1955 to 1957; and Rev. Alton Glaze from 1958 to 1959.²

Havre Assembly of God. This church is located at 513 Fourth Street, Havre, Montana.

Pastors who have served this church are as follows: Peter Funk (dates not known); Burdette Wiles from 1941 to 1943; W. R. Miller from 1944 to 1945; E. A. Brown in 1946; Walter Buck from 1948 to 1950; S. W. Clark in 1951; H. W. Fine from 1952 to 1954; and Donald Ashmore from 1956 and is listed as the pastor at the present time.³

¹ Personal Correspondence of Reuben Archer, Loma, Montana, to the author, October 21, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of Alton Glaze, Harlem, Montana, to the author, October 3, 1959.

³ Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1941 to 1959.

Lodge Pole Assembly of God. This church was started in 1955 by the work of Joe Newby, the pastor at Malta, Montana.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: Pearl Habig and Lorraine Hampton in 1956; Fred Steffensrud from 1957 to 1958; and Vernon Vance from 1959 and is listed as the present pastor.¹

Shelby Assembly of God. This church was started in 1941 by A. J. Morrison. The first church building was started in 1943 and Sunday School rooms were added in 1953. A parsonage was built in 1953. Membership is 15 and Sunday School enrollment is 75.

Pastors who have served this church are as follows: Alfred Morrison from 1941 to 1944; C. A. Rossignol from 1944 to 1946; Walter Buck from 1946 to 1948; Paul Fenton from 1948 to 1951; Dennis Finch from 1951 to 1955; and Elmer Trygg from 1955 to the present time.²

Sunburst Assembly of God Church. Pastors who have served this church are as follows: Leon Mitchell from 1944 to 1945; Esther Olson and Mary Poynter in 1946; G. W. Jernberg from 1948 to 1951; Herbert Rhymes in 1952; Ernest Enget from 1953 to 1955; and Milton Carpenter from 1956 to 1958. There is no pastor listed at the present time.³

B. Ministers of Section Three

Walden, Clyde A. He is presently the Presbyter of Section Three.

¹ Ibid., 1956 to 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of Elmer Trygg, Shelby, Montana, to the author, October 27, 1959.

³ Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1944 to 1959.

He was born on February 25, 1920 at Snyder, Colorado. His father was a minister. He graduated from Polson High School, Polson, Montana. He married Mary Jane McConnel in 1940. He attended Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington.

Reverend Walden was Ordained in 1949 at Hungry Horse, Montana. He started the church in Hungry Horse in June, 1948. He pastored the church at Deer Lodge from 1950 to 1956. He accepted the call at Cut Bank in 1956 and is presently pastoring this church. He built the church at Hungry Horse and while he was at Deer Lodge the parsonage was built. He was elected Presbyter in 1956.¹

Archer, Reuben L. He was born September 8, 1902 at Fort Benton of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Archer. He was graduated from Chouteau County High School and attended Spokane University, Spokane, Washington.

Reverend Archer was Ordained at Billings, Montana, on April 12, 1956. He is presently the pastor at Loma, Montana.²

Bryant, Robert M. He was born December 20, 1931 at Palestine, Illinois. He was Ordained at Great Falls in 1958. In 1953 he took the pastorate at Browning and is the present pastor.³

Gage, Wells H. He was born on October 11, 1921 at Page, North Dakota of Wells and Minnie Gage. Reverend Gage was Ordained at the

¹ Personal Correspondence of Clyde Walden, Box 1281, Cut Bank, Montana, to the author, December 17, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of R. L. Archer, Loma, Montana, to the author, October 20, 1959.

³ Personal Correspondence of Robert Bryant, Browning, Montana, to the author, January 13, 1960.

North Dakota Bible Camp in 1948. He took the pastorate at Conrad, Montana in 1959 and is presently the pastor of that church.¹

Gisselberg, A. V. He is presently the pastor at the Chinook Assembly of God Church. Reverend Gisselberg was Ordained at the Montana District Council in 1959.²

Finch, Dennis O. He was born on June 28, 1922 at Knowlton, Montana. He graduated from the Custer County High School at Miles City, Montana. He attended the University of Idaho and two years at Central Bible Institute. He married Mary Enos on May 8, 1947.

Reverend Dennis Finch was Ordained in 1951 at Hungry Horse, Montana. He pastored the church at Jordan from 1946 to 1948; Shelby from 1951 to 1955; and Fairfield from 1955 to the present time. He assisted in the development of the Glacier Bible Camp.³

Israel, Byron D. He was born on December 5, 1919 at Webster, Wisconsin of Bernard and Dora Israel. He graduated from Webster Free High School, Webster, Wisconsin and attended Superior State College, Superior, Wisconsin. He married Gertrude E. McKnight in 1947 at the Montana District Council. Mrs. Israel pastored the churches at Jordan and Belt before her marriage to Mr. Israel.

He was Ordained at Chester, Montana, in 1956. He pastored the

¹Personal Correspondence of W. H. Gage, Conrad, Montana, to the author, September 29, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of A. V. Gisselberg, Chinook, Montana, to the author, November 16, 1959.

³Personal Correspondence of Dennis Finch, Fairfield, Montana, to the author, October 24, 1959.

church at Dutton, Montana, from 1950 to 1951 and came to Chester in 1951. He is presently the pastor at Chester. Since he has been at Chester the church and parsonage have been built.¹

Oakland, James A. He was born May 4, 1935 at Miles City, Montana. He graduated from the Billings High School, Billings, Montana, and attended Central Bible Institute. His wife is the former Helen Ritchie of Dillon, Montana.

He was Ordained in Great Falls, Montana, in April of 1959. He pastored the church at Chinook from 1956 to 1957 and became the pastor of the new Assembly in Great Falls in June of 1958.²

Trygg, Elmer M. He was born on October 21, 1909 at Bismarck, North Dakota. His father was a farmer. He attended Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Missouri and the Canadian Bible College at Winnipeg, Canada. He married Claire Todd Rue on August 21, 1933. They have two children.

Reverend Trygg was Ordained at Devils Lake, North Dakota in 1940. He pastored the church at Saco from 1945 to 1948; Butte from 1948 to 1955; and is presently the pastor at Shelby. While he was pastoring at Butte the new church, seating about 400, was built. The Sunday School increased from 60 to 200 while he was pastoring this church.³

¹Personal Correspondence of Byron Israel, Chester, Montana, to the author, October 14, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of James Oakland, 1101 2nd Avenue, Great Falls, Montana, to the author, September 30, 1959.

³Personal Correspondence of Elmer Trygg, Shelby, Montana, to the author, October 19, 1959.

Ashmore, Donald S. He is presently the pastor at Havre, Montana. He has pastored the churches at Culbertson, Fairfield, and Havre.¹

¹ Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1950 to 1959.

SECTION FOUR

A. Churches of Section Four

Billings First Assembly of God. This church was started in 1940 by Reverend D. R. Miller. The church was organized in 1940 and the first church building was constructed in 1941. An addition to this building was made in 1950.

The pastors who have served this church were as follows: D. R. Miller in 1940; Sherman Williams from 1940 to 1944; Lyle B. Stradley from 1944 to 1947; Earl W. Goodman from 1947 to 1953; Raymond White from 1953 to 1956; Maynard Oss in 1956; T. Murphy from 1957 to 1958; and Walter Buck from 1959 to the present time.¹

Billings Second Assembly of God. This church was started in 1955. Erick Kaiser and William Sanders have pastored this church. William Sanders is the present pastor.²

Bozeman First Assembly of God. This church was started in 1943 by Earl Ayres with the assistance of D. R. Miller. The first services were held in a rented store building on East Main Street. An old church building was purchased in 1945 and this was used until 1957. A new parsonage was also built in 1957. The church was organized in 1956.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: Earl Ayres from 1943 to 1947; Reverend Brownback in summer of 1947; Reverend Houck

¹Personal Correspondence of Walter Buck, Fourth Street West and Custer Avenue, Billings, Montana, to the author, January 30, 1960.

²Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1955 to 1959.

from 1947 to 1948; Reverend G. Branch in 1948; Reverend B. Harrison from 1948 to 1950; Reverend Gunder Olson from 1950 to 1951; and Reverend W. A. Redmond from 1951 to the present time.¹

Columbus Gospel Tabernacle. This church is located at 128 North Pratten Street, Columbus, Montana. It was started in 1932 by Reverend Jeffers. The first services were held in an old laundry building. In 1936 a Post Office and store building was purchased and moved to the present location to serve as a church. A parsonage was built on the back of this in the same year. A new parsonage was constructed in 1952 and a new church building is nearly completed. This church was organized in 1936.

Ministers who have pastored this church were Reverend Jeffers, Wilcos, Strom, Hanson, Atkenson, Gottschalk, Berkley, Walden, Enloe, Roy Fisher, Woodrow Jensen, L. Morrison, and Lonnie Peterson who is the present pastor.²

Laurel Assembly of God. This church was started in 1943 by Lewis La Mance. The first services were held in a store building. A Baptist church was purchased in 1945 and many improvements were made on this building. The church was organized about 1951.

The following ministers have served this church: Lewis La Mance in 1943; Hojem; John Gottschalk; Frost from 1950 to 1951; Donald Everson

¹Personal Correspondence of W. J. Suttan, Bozeman, Montana, to the author, November 1, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Lonnie Peterson, Columbus, Montana, to the author, November 4, 1959.

from 1952 to 1953; Walter Daggett from 1953 to 1955; Reverend and Mrs. Clyde Gibbs from 1955 to July, 1959; Mrs. Clyde Gibbs is the present pastor. Reverend Clyde Gibbs was killed in an accident in 1959.¹

Lewistown Assembly of God. This church was started in 1950 by J. H. Arneson. The first services were held in a home. A church building was started in 1953 and was finished in 1957. It was organized in 1953.

It has enjoyed three revivals since its beginning. In fact, it was born as a result of a revival. In 1953 a revival was held by Peggy Bolam and many received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In 1958 another revival was held by Lela Haycook and 32 persons received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Reverend J. H. Arneson pastored this church from 1950 to 1953; Thomas Johnson accepted the church in 1953 and is the present pastor.²

Livingston Assembly of God Church. The Assembly in Livingston was started in 1930 by Rev. M. D. Jeffers. The first meeting place was in a store building on Main Street. This was used as a church until 1936 at which time they bought a two story building. This structure was used until 1954, when a new church structure was built on the corner of 8th and Geyser Streets.

Reverend Jeffers pastored this church from 1930 to 1933; Reverend D. R. Miller from 1933 to 1952; Reverend L. Enloe from 1952 to 1956; and

¹ Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Clyde Gibbs, Laurel, Montana, to the author, November 4, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of Thomas Johnson, Lewistown, Montana, to the author, November 7, 1959.

E. D. Nicholson from 1952 to the present time. Membership is 20 and Sunday School attendance is 68.¹

Red Lodge Assembly of God. Reverend Paul Fenton started this church in 1944. The Carnegie Library was used as the first meeting place. A few months later a store building was available on 106 South Broadway. In 1951, through the efforts of Walter Daggett, a new church building was started. Woodrow Jensen finished the church. This church is not organized.

Pastors who have served this church were: Paul Fenton in 1944; Raymond Morelock from 1945 to 1946; Lee Hunter from 1946 to 1950; Walter Daggett from 1951 to 1952; Woodrow Jensen from 1953 to 1954; Harold Craig from 1954 to 1955; Kenneth McDougall in 1955; and Rev. Henry Frost from 1958 to the present time.²

Roundup Assembly of God. Roundup Assembly of God is a historical mark of the Montana District Council. It was at Roundup on September 8, 1936 that the merger of Western and Eastern Montana was consummated. Pastors who have served this church were Winston Miller, Roy Munger, Gun-der Olsen, Thomas Johnston, Jack Albanese, Walter Strom, J. D. Winscott, and Charles Bauman, who is the present pastor.³

¹Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Nellie Reynolds, Livingston, Montana, to the author, November 30, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Miss Vienna Kortess, Red Lodge, Montana, to the author, January 18, 1960.

³Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1937 to 1959.

B. Ministers of Section Four

Redmond, Alfred W. He is presently a District Presbyter and has supervision of Section Four. He was born on April 15, 1913 at Greeley, Colorado. His father worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. He married Elsie Iris Luse from Iowa. They have two children.

Reverend Redmond was Ordained in 1948 by the Rocky Mountain District at Denver, Colorado. Before coming to Montana he pastored the churches at Worland and Sheridan, Wyoming. He came to Bozeman in 1951 and has pastored the church since then. Since he came to Bozeman a new parsonage and a new church building has been constructed. It is valued at \$99,500.00. The ministry of Reverend Redmond, while in Bozeman, has been rewarding. The Sunday School has increased from 57 to 111.¹

Buck, Walter A. He was born in 1922 at Hartford, Washington of Hoyt and Daisy Buck. His father was a lay preacher. He attended Everett High School, Everett, Washington and Northwest Bible College in Seattle, Washington. He married Phyllis Lehrman.

Reverend Buck was licensed in the Northwest District in 1944 and was Ordained by the Southern Idaho District in 1946. He pastored the churches at Shelby from 1946 to 1948; Havre from 1948 to 1950; Kalispell from 1956 to 1959; and is presently the pastor of the First Assembly of God Church, Billings, Montana.²

¹Personal Correspondence of A. W. Redmond, Bozeman, Montana, to the author, November 1, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of W. A. Buck, Fourth Street W. and Custer Avenue, to the author, January 30, 1960.

Frost, Henry E. He was born on March 26, 1899 at Barstow, Illinois.

Reverend Frost pastored the churches at Laurel from 1949 to 1951; Red Lodge from 1959 to 1960; and also West Yellowstone from 1958 to 1960. He was Ordained in 1950 by Montana District Council.¹

Gibbs, Edith B. She was born on January 26, 1915 at Lindsay, Montana. She was graduated from the Dawson County High School, Glendive, Montana and received a B A Degree from the Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana. In 1938 she was married to Clyde Gibbs. Reverend Clyde Gibbs passed away as a result of an accident in 1957.

She was Ordained, along with her husband, at Great Falls in 1954. They pastored the church at Fairview from 1950 to 1955 and Laurel from 1955 to 1957. Mrs. Gibbs has been pastoring the church at Laurel since 1957.²

Johnston, Thomas F. He was born on September 21, 1920 at Belle Fourche, South Dakota. His parents were ranchers in Eastern Montana. He attended the Billings High School, Billings, Montana, North Central Bible Institute in Minneapolis, Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington, and graduated from Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Missouri. He was married to Ione A. McKnight in 1942 at Albion, Montana; they have two children.

¹Personal Correspondence of Henry Frost, Red Lodge, Montana, to the author, January 28, 1960.

²Personal Correspondence of Edith Gibbs, Laurel, Montana, to the author, October 19, 1959.

Reverend Johnston was Ordained at the Glacier Bible Camp, Hungry Horse, Montana, on July 7, 1952. He pastored the church at Kinsey, Montana in 1942. In July of 1950 he went to Roundup, Montana, and pastored there until 1952. While he was at Roundup a building program was initiated. In 1953 he received a call to go to Lewistown and is presently the pastor of that church. Since he has been in Lewistown a church has been built.¹

Nicholson, Everette D. He was born at Hill City, Kansas on October 4, 1927. He graduated from the Fruita Union High School, Fruita, Colorado. He received a B A Degree from the Southwestern Bible Institute in 1949. He married Elinora A. Brooks. They have two children.

Reverend Nicholson was Ordained by the New Mexico District Council in 1951. He accepted the pastorate at Livingston in 1956 and is presently the pastor of that church.²

Peterson, Lonnie L. He was born at Watertown, South Dakota, on September 16, 1933. He attended High School in Billings, Montana, and graduated from the Bible School at Devils Lake, North Dakota. His wife was the former Helen Larson. They have two children.

He was Ordained by the North Dakota District Council in 1955. He accepted the church at Columbus in 1957 and is the present pastor. During his pastorate in Columbus a new church has been constructed.³

¹ Personal Correspondence of Thomas Johnston, Lewistown, Montana, to the author, November 7, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of Everette Nicholson, Livingston, Montana, to the author, November 30, 1959.

³ Personal Correspondence of Lonnie Peterson, Columbus, Montana, to the author, November 4, 1959.

Sanders, William J. He is presently the pastor at Second Assembly of God Church in Billings, Montana. He also pastored the church at Poplar, Montana.¹

¹Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1951 to 1959.

SECTION FIVE

A. Churches of Section Five

Coalridge Assembly of God. This church was started in 1943 by Mrs. Blanche Morkin. The first services were held in a school house. In 1947 a new church structure was first used. The church was finally finished in 1957. This church is not organized. Reverend H. LaBruyere pastored the church from 1953 to September, 1959.¹

Culbertson Gospel Tabernacle. This church is located at Culbertson, Montana. It was started in 1940 by the work of Reverend A. A. Howell. An old church building was purchased and moved into town from the country. A few years later it was moved on a lot nearer to the main part of town. This old church building was remodeled into a parsonage in 1945 and a new church sanctuary was started. The church was organized in 1945. The present membership is 15 and the Sunday School attendance is 27.

Willard Howell, Henry Dahlberg, Douglass Carroll, Martin Dormier, Donald Ashmore, Ralph Thomas, Roger Dane, and Rolland Murphey have pastored this church.²

Glasgow Assembly of God. This church is located at Bakkan and Taylor Streets, Glasgow, Montana. A. A. Kirkpatrick is the present pastor.³

¹Personal Correspondence of Beulah Wallen, Homestead, Montana, to the author, November 15, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Rolland A. Murphey, Culbertson, Montana, to the author, October 26, 1959.

³Yearbooks of the Montana District Council, 1959.

Pastors who have served this church are Paul Williscroft, J. H. Arneson, Owen S. Hodges, Lewis La Mance, and A. H. Miller.

Malta Assembly of God. This church was started in 1943 by A. A. Howell. Services were first held in a log building on Main Street. A new church structure was dedicated in 1945. This was enlarged and remodeled in 1955. The church was organized in 1950. In 1958 the church had one of its greatest revivals in which 42 received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The present membership is 28 with a Sunday School enrollment of 76.

Reverend Howell pastored this church from 1943 to 1947; J. Kindall for three years; Joe Newby for six years; and Rev. Strom from 1956 to the present time.¹

Opheim Assembly of God. Gilbert Meroney is pastoring this church. It is not organized.²

Plentywood Assembly of God. Pastors who have served this church were: O. K. Will, J. J. Wagner, Paul Fenton, and Ellwood Grissom. This church does not have a pastor at the present time. However, it is organized.³

Poplar Assembly of God. Reverend Francis Baldwin initially started this church in 1936. A few months later A. A. Howell came and

¹Personal Correspondence of A. A. Howell, Malata, Montana, to the author, November 7, 1959.

²Yearbook of the Montana District Council, 1959.

³Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1944 to 1955.

constructed a small building out of railroad ties. In 1937 Reverend Peter Funk held the first revival and 80 persons were crowded into the small building. In 1939 Reverend M. McGinnis held another revival and it became necessary to move to larger quarters. In 1955 the main building was constructed which would seat 200 people. The church was organized in 1956.

Reverend A. A. Howell pastored this church from 1936 to 1943; Rev. P. C. Peterson from 1943 to 1945; Reverend Brown from 1945 to 1952; Reverend Sanders from 1952 to 1958; Eugene Barger from 1958 to the present time.¹

Saco Assembly of God. This church was started approximately in 1944. This church is not organized. Elmer Trygg, W. C. Robinson, Morris L. Nylander, R. G. Thomas, and Keith Eldridge have pastored this church.²

Scobey Full Gospel Church. This church was started in 1922 by Reverend D. R. Miller. The first services were held in an old rented building near the County Court House. In 1923 a school house was remodeled and made into a church structure. Remodeling and front entrance has been accomplished since. This church was organized in 1936. It has 35 members and a Sunday School enrollment of 54.

Ministers who have pastored this church were: D. R. Miller, Ernest Kant, Alice Podruchny, Elizabeth Funk and Miss Fong, Moore, Clark

¹ Personal Correspondence of Vera Howell, Poplar, Montana, to the author, November 16, 1959.

² Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1944 to 1959.

Robinson, Joe Newby, Martin Dormier, Leon Mitchell, Shelby Clark, A. H. Miller, Martin McCallum, Lorne Morrison, and Ernest Enget who is presently the pastor.¹

Westby Mission Hall. This church started in 1922 as a result of a revival. Sister Brittin started the Assembly. The first church building was erected in 1923 and the church was organized in 1923. This church was dissolved in 1948 and was started again in 1953 by Harold LaBruyere. Reverend LaBruyere pastored the church until September of 1959. The church is presently without a pastor.²

Wolf Point Assembly of God. This church was started in 1926 by Adoniram Doty at the local auditorium. The first church building was started in 1928. It was organized in 1929. A new church building was started in 1947. The present membership is 50 with a Sunday School enrollment of 105. An outstanding achievement of this church is the fact that it has produced four missionaries and 15 ministers.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: Adoniram Doty from 1926 to 1932; F. Pepper from 1932 to 1935; H. Brown from 1935 to 1937; Cedric Wilcox in 1937; Alice Podruchny in 1937; P. M. Cantelon from 1937 to 1941; H. M. Barfoot from 1941 to 1945; Claud L. Myers from 1945 to 1951; Currell Muirhead from 1951 to 1954; P. M. Cantelon from 1955 to 1957; and H. D. Cantelon from 1957 to the present time.³

¹Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Ernest Enget, Scobey, Montana, to the author, January 4, 1960.

²Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Nordhagen, Westby, Montana, to the author, December 9, 1959.

³Personal Correspondence of Mrs. Edward Sassen, Wolf Point, Montana, to the author, October 28, 1959.

B. Ministers of Section Five

Strom, Walter G. He is presently a Presbyter and has supervision of Section Five. He was born at Kioga, North Dakota. He attended North Central Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Mildred Grace Sherlock of Wood, South Dakota. They have two children.

Reverend Strom was Ordained by the South Dakota District in 1941. He pastored the churches at Kinsey from 1942 to 1944; Whitefish from 1947 to 1953; Roundup from 1954 to 1956; and Malta from 1956 to the present time.¹

Barger, Eugene E. He was born April 13, 1932 at Sonnette, Montana of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Barger. His father worked on the railroad. He attended the Dawson County High School, Glendive, Montana and North Central Bible College, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Marilyn Bernice Meroney. They have two children.

Reverend Barger was Ordained at Great Falls, Montana in 1958. He has pastored the churches at Fairview from 1955 to 1956; Eureka from 1956 to 1958; and Poplar from 1958 to the present time.²

Cantelon, Hugh D. He is presently the pastor at Wolf Point.³

Enget, Ernest L. He was born September 6, 1927 at Powers Lake, North Dakota. He attended the Lakewood Park Bible School, Devils Lake,

¹Personal Correspondence of Walter Strom, Malta, Montana, to the author, November 3, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Eugene Barger, Poplar, Montana, to the author, November 16, 1959.

³Yearbook of the Montana District Council, 1959.

North Dakota for three years.

He was Ordained at Billings, Montana in 1955. He has pastored the church at Sunburst from 1953 to 1955; Stevensville from 1955 to 1957; and Scobey from 1959 to the present time.¹

Meroney, Gilbert. He is presently the pastor at Orpheim, Montana.²

Kirkpatrick, Andrew A. He was born on March 12, 1924 at Macklin, Saskatchewan. He graduated from the Church of God High School at Estavan, Saskatchewan, Canada and Bethel Bible Institute, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1943. He was married to Elsie Schindel in 1942. They have one child.

Reverend Kirkpatrick was Ordained in 1943. He is presently the pastor at Glasgow.³

Murphey, Rolland A. He was born on July 1, 1895 at Chicago Heights, Illinois. He was married to Miss Mary E. Young on June 28, 1922. They have two sons.

Reverend Murphey was Ordained in 1951 at Hungry Horse, Montana. He pastored the church at Browning from 1948 to 1952. The church at Browning was constructed while he was there. Much of the work was done by Reverend Murphey. He pastored the church at Ridgway from 1953 to 1954; Opheim from 1954 to 1956; and Culbertson from 1956 to the present time.⁴

¹ Personal Correspondence of Ernest Enget, Scobey, Montana, to the author, January 4, 1960.

² Yearbook of the Montana District Council, 1959.

³ Personal Correspondence of A. A. Kirkpatrick, Glasgow, Montana, to the author.

⁴ Personal Correspondence of M. A. Murphey, Culbertson, Montana, to the author, October 26, 1959.

SECTION SIX

A. Churches of Section Six

Baker Assembly of God. This church was started approximately in 1957. Roy Fischer is the present pastor. This church is unorganized.¹

Fairview Assembly of God. This church is presently without a pastor. This church was started in 1945 or 1946. Pastors who have served this church were J. C. Garrett, Clyde Gibbs, Charles Bauman, and Olive Dahlberg. This church is unorganized.²

Forsyth Assembly of God. This church was started in 1958 by the pastor of the Miles City Assembly, Rev. Robinson. Reverend A. E. Sutton became the pastor shortly after it was started. He is the present pastor. The services are being held in a remodeled store on Main Street. This church is unorganized.³

Glendive Assembly of God. This church was started in 1940 by C. B. Close. A house was used for church services and church structure was started in 1955. In 1952 a revival was conducted by Maurice McGinnis with good results. The church has been growing steadily since. The present Sunday School enrollment is 175 and membership is 30. This church is organized.

¹Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1957 to 1959.

²Yearbooks of the Montana District Councils, 1945 to 1959.

³Personal Correspondence of A. E. Sutton, Forsyth, Montana, to the author, December 17, 1959.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: A. B. Close, Laural Close, Viola Steiner, Ernest Havemann, Thomas White, James Mayfield, Bert Harrison, Eric Kaiser, and Dean Rohner who is the present pastor.¹

Jordan Assembly of God. This church was started in 1942 by Ruby Homstrom and the McKnight sisters. An old vacated store building was used for the church. In 1949 an old saloon was purchased and in 1954 the building was remodeled. Living quarters were added to the back of the building. This church is unorganized. The present Sunday School enrollment is 37. The McKnight sisters became the pastors in 1944; Carl Hines from 1945 to 1946; Dennis Finch from 1947 to 1948; Julis Braun from 1949 to 1950; William Sanders in 1951; A. E. Arney from 1952 to 1956; Marvin Seiler from 1957 to 1958; and M. J. Strandberg from 1958 to the present time.²

Miles City Assembly of God. This church had its beginning in 1923 by the efforts of Reverend Powell and Reverend Maurice McGinnis. The revival services were held in the Old Auditorium Building at 500 Pleasant Street. A church structure was started in 1927 and the basement was used until 1932. In 1932 the main building was finished. This church was organized in 1924. The present membership is 35 and the present Sunday School enrollment is 75.

¹ Personal Correspondence of J. E. Barger, Glendive, Montana, to the author, October 16, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of M. J. Strandberg, Jordan, Montana, to the author, October 22, 1959.

Ministers who have served this church are as follows: Reverend Powell from 1923 to 1924; Sister Etta Reckley from 1924 to 1929; John Buckley from 1929 to 1932; W. H. Boyles from 1932 to 1936; Paul Jones from 1936 to 1940; Leonard Palmer from 1940 to 1943; A. L. Browning from 1943 to 1945; H. N. Barfoot from 1945 to 1947; C. H. Jackson from 1947 to 1951; C. Conklin from 1951 to 1954; Eric Seaburg from 1954 to 1956; and H. C. Robinson from 1956 to the present time.¹

Ridgeway Assembly of God. Dwight L. Treeby held services at the Hawks residence in 1938. This was the beginning of the Ridgeway church. Rev. C. B. Close and Rev. Maurice McGinnis held revival services after the ministry of D. L. Treeby and several families were converted. The church was organized in 1940. During the pastorate of E. Havemann the church and parsonage were built. Pastors who have served this church were L. Treeby, Olaf Peterson, J. C. Garrett, A. L. Browning, Ernest Havemann, Murphey, Carroll Peterson, Mock, Hampton, and Reverend Boyles who is the pastor at the present time.²

Sidney Assembly of God. The pentecostal message first came to Sidney in 1927 by the efforts of L. M. Powell and Maurice McGinnis. Rev. Powell stayed with the church for a few months but after he left the church dissolved. In 1937 Oscar Hines made another effort to start the Assembly. With the help of Maurice McGinnis and Alfred Morrison a church

¹Personal Correspondence of O. G. Hayms, Miles City, Montana, to the author, September 16, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Thomas Johnston, Lewistown, Montana, to the author, November 7, 1959.

was finally established. The first church building was constructed in 1937 and a new addition was made in 1957 while Rev. La Mance was pastoring the church. It is not certain as to when the church was organized, however, it is organized. The present membership is 58 and the Sunday School enrollment is 140.

Pastors who have served this church are as follows: Alfred Morrison from 1937 to 1940; Harold Robeson from 1940 to 1945; J. C. Burkey from 1945 to 1947; M. P. Cantelon from 1947 to 1949; Eric Seaberg from 1949 to 1954; Lewis La Mance from 1954 to 1958; and William McNutt from November, 1959 to the present time.¹

B. Ministers of Section Six

Rohner, Dean A. He is presently a District Presbyter and has the supervision of Section Six. He was born on June 25, 1926 at Minnesota Lake, Minnesota. He was graduated from Minnesota Lake High School and North Central Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Lois Jeanette Fischer. They have three children.

Reverend Rohner was Ordained at the Minnesota Council in 1950. He took the pastorate at Glendive in 1954 and is presently the pastor there. Two parsonages and a church edifice have been constructed in Glendive during the ministry of Reverend Rohner.²

¹Personal Correspondence of W. R. McNutt, Sidney, Montana, to the author, September 5, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of D. A. Rohner, Glendive, Montana, to the author, October 16, 1959.

Boyles. He is presently the pastor at Ridgeway, Montana.¹

Fischer, Roy L. He is presently the pastor at Baker, Montana.²

McNutt, William R. He was born in 1913 at Fort Benton, Montana.

He attended high schools at Collville, Washington, and Paola, Kansas.

He also attended the Northwest Bible College in Seattle, Washington. He married C. Priscilla Marr from Seattle, Washington. They have two children.

Reverend McNutt was Ordained by the Northwest District Council in 1940. He has pastored churches in Washington and North Dakota. He took the pastorate at Sidney in 1958 and is the present pastor. Since he has been in Sidney over 40 persons have been converted to Christ by the Gospel.³

Robinson, H. C. He was born in London, England of Mr. and Mrs. David Robinson. His father was an Officer in the Imperial Guards (Great Britian). When he was five years old his parents moved to Victoria, British Columbia. He attended the Victoria High School and the Victoria Evangelistic Bible School. He married Alma Wilheimina Kaiser. They have three children.

Reverend Robinson was Ordained at Vancouver, British Columbia in 1929. Reverend Donald Gee of London, England took part in the ordination. He pastored several churches in British Columbia and Washington.

¹ Personal Correspondence of Thomas Johnston, Lewistown, Montana, to the author, November 7, 1959.

² Yearbook of the Montana District Council, 1959.

³ Personal Correspondence of W. R. McNutt, Sidney, Montana, to the author, September 5, 1959.

He took the pastorate of Miles City in 1956 and is its present pastor. Since he has been in Montana he was District Presbyter in 1958. He helped start the ~~New~~ Assembly at Forsyth.¹

Sutton, A. E. He was born on March 23, 1913 at Saskatchewan, Canada. He attended the high school in Vanguard, Saskatchewan and spent three years at Bible College in British Columbia. He married Madeline Young. They have one child.

Reverend Sutton was Ordained at Vernon, British Columbia in 1951. He started the new Assembly at Forsyth in March of 1958 and is presently the pastor of that church.²

SUMMARY

The local congregations grew from 18 organized and 28 unorganized to 40 organized and 26 unorganized churches from 1937 to 1959. This is an average of one organized per year.

The ministerial list grew from 27 Ordained, 17 licensed, and 15 exhorters to 87 Ordained, 23 licensed, and 6 exhorters from 1937 to 1959.

¹ Personal Correspondence of H. C. Robinson, 2118 North Center Avenue, Miles City, Montana, to the author, September 1, 1959.

² Personal Correspondence of A. E. Sutton, Forsyth, Montana, to the author, December 17, 1959.

CHAPTER FOUR

HISTORY OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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HISTORY OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL

A. Before Organization

The Constitution and By-laws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God made provisions for the localities and states to form District Councils which would be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council. Before its organization the State of Montana was included in two other Districts. These two Districts were the Northwest District Council and the North Central District Council. The Northwest District Council included Washington, Oregon, Northern Idaho, and Western Montana to the Continental Divide. The North Central District included Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, and Eastern Montana.

Some of the states in the two large Districts began to form other District Councils. North and South Dakota formed separate Districts. Oregon formed a District in 1937. It became evident to the Brethren in the two large Districts and also to the local Brethren in Montana that the local churches in Montana would be isolated from their headquarters. Hence, it seemed wise to form a new District Council which would include the entire state of Montana.¹

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Frank Gray, 4118 North 12th Street, Tacoma 6, Washington, to the author, September 18, 1959.

At the time of the organization of the Montana District Reverend Frank Gray was District Superintendent of the Northwest District and Reverend F. J. Lindquist was the District Superintendent of the North Central District.¹

The problem of uniting the Eastern part of Montana with the Western part was discussed at the Yellowstone Camp, which was held in the sales pavilion at the Fair Grounds in Livingston, Montana, on August 15, 1935. Reverend Frank Lindquist and Reverend Henry Ness from Minneapolis encouraged the organization.²

At Great Falls, Montana, on April 21, 1936, a resolution was passed to organize a new District which would be called the Montana District and would include the whole state of Montana. This action was ratified on June 24, 1936, by the North Central District Council. The Presbyters of the Northwest District Council gave permission to the Brethren of the Western part of Montana to withdraw from the Northwest District in order that they might form a new District with the churches of Eastern Montana.³ The Montana District was officially organized on September 8, 1936, at Roundup. The first District Council was supervised by J. Roswell Flower from the General Council Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Rev. Paul Jones was elected the first district Superintendent and Allen J. Brown was elected the

¹Personal Correspondence of Wilson A. Katter, 910 Elliot Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the author, October 28, 1959.

²Personal Correspondence of Rev. D. R. Miller, 1502 Powers Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho, to the author, October 26, 1959.

³Ibid.

first Secretary-Treasurer.¹

B. History of the District Council Sessions

1937 District Council Session

The 1937 District Council convened in Livingston, Montana, on August 5, 1937, with Superintendent Paul Jones calling the meeting to order.

The District Superintendent gave his report in which he mentioned that two Assemblies had been dedicated during the past year. These two churches were Anaconda and Livingston. Two ministers had transferred from the Montana District to the Northwest District. One minister had transferred into the Nebraska District. Two ministers came to the Montana District from the California-Nevada District and one from the Michigan District. It was recorded that there were 27 Ordained, 14 licensed, and 15 exhorter ministers in the District. There were 18 Affiliated Assemblies and 28 District Affiliated Assemblies.

The election of officers was as follows: Paul Jones as District Superintendent; L. M. Powell, D. R. Miller, and Cedric Wilcox as District Presbyters; Paul Jones, Allen Brown, and D. R. Miller as General Presbyters.

Three persons were Ordained at the last service. These persons were P. R. Vaughn, Monida Vaughn, and Alice Pidruchny.²

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Albert A. Howell, Malta, Montana, to the author, October 10, 1959.

²Minutes of the Second Annual District Council Session.

1938 District Council Session

The Third session of the Montana District Council was held at Livingston, Montana, on July 21 and 22 of 1938. The meeting was called to order by the District Superintendent, Reverend Paul Jones.

During the interim of the Second and Third Councils new missions were started in Sidney, Bozeman, Glasgow, Belt, Fort Benton, and Ekalaka, Montana. A new building was purchased for the church at Butte. A new church had been dedicated at Belt, Montana, and four Assemblies were organized with the District.

At the close of the District fiscal year, June 15, 1938, there were 36 Ordained ministers; 19 licensed ministers; and 20 exhorters. There were 20 affiliated churches with the General Council with 24 churches under the direct supervision of the District.

At the Third District Council the assistant District Superintendent was added.

The election of officers was as follows: Paul Jones as District Superintendent; A. L. Chadwick as Secretary-Treasurer; G. S. Koontz as Assistant Superintendent; George S. Koontz, Currell Muirhead, Homer Rugwell, and D. R. Miller as District Presbyters; and Paul Jones, G. S. Koontz, and A. L. Chadwick as General Presbyters.

The Ordination service was held at 2:30 p.m. on July 23, 1938. Dr. Charles S. Price brought the Ordination message and Reverend Paul Jones gave the charge. Mrs. Rena Cantelon, Vera Shieley, Nelson Miller, and Burdette Wiles were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

¹Minutes of the Third Annual District Council Session.

1939 District Council Session

The Fourth Annual Session of the Montana District Council began on Wednesday, July 12, 1939 in the Civic Building at Livingston, Montana. Reverend Jones opened the meeting.

In his report, the District Superintendent stated that a new Assembly had developed in Dillon. Butte became organized with the General Council. A building had been constructed at Glasgow. The Superintendent also stated that he had traveled 25,000 miles in the interest of the District during the year.

At the end of the fiscal year, June 15, 1939, there were 36 Ordained, 20 licensed, and 11 exhorter ministers. Two Ordained ministers had transferred into the District and two Ordained ministers had transferred out. There were 21 affiliated churches and 20 with affiliation with the District. During the year the District had spent \$971.00 in developing new missions.

The election of officers was as follows: Paul Jones as District Superintendent; G. S. Koontz as Assisstand District Superintendent; Homer Rugwell as Secretary-Treasurer; G. S. Koontz, Currell Muirhead, D. R. Miller, and P. M. Cantelon as District Presbyters.

The Ordination service was held in the Auditorium at Livingston, Montana, on July 18, 1939. Reverend David H. McDowell brought the Ordination message and Jack R. Edgar and Richard H. Philip were Ordained to the ministry.¹

¹Minutes of the Fourth Annual District Council Session.

1940 District Council Session

The Fifth Annual District Council convened at Miles Park, Livingston, Montana, July 31, 1940 with Reverend Paul Jones presiding.

In the Superintendent's report it was stated that new missions had been started in Glendive, Billings, and Whitefish. A new log church was being built at Libby, Montana. The work at New Deal, Montana, was being closed and the church building was to be moved to Culbertson, Montana.

At the end of the fiscal year there were 36 Ordained, 13 licensed, and 14 exhorters on the ministerial list. There was a total of eleven ministers that transferred into the District and a total of eight that transferred out. It was reported that \$1721.05 was spent on new works during the year.

On August 1, 1940 the election of officers took place. Reverend Jones was elected as Superintendent; W. R. Munger as Presbyter of the Northwest Section; Currell Muirhead of the Southwest Section; Homer F. Rugwell of the North Central Section; D. R. Miller of the South Central Section; P. M. Cantelon was voted in for the Northeast Section; and C. B. Close was voted to be the Presbyter of the Southeast Section. Brother Rugwell and Brother Munger were elected as General Presbyters. It was during this Council that the state was divided into Six Sections. There was no record of the voting on the Secretary-Treasurer and the Assistant Superintendent. One Presbyter was added during this Council.

The Ordination Service was held in the Auditorium of the Livingston Camp, August 3, 1940 at 2:30 p.m. with Reverend Ernest S. Williams, the General Superintendent, bringing the message. Thomas M. Moore, Leo B. Hinton, and M. H. Heicksen were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1941 District Council Session

Superintendent Paul Jones opened the Sixth Annual Montana District Council at 10:00 a.m., July 9, 1941, at the Civic Building in Livingston, Montana.

It was during the fiscal year ending July, 1941 that Superintendent Jones became a full time Superintendent. He moved to Great Falls from Miles City.

The churches at Ekalaka, Billings, Helena, Fairfield, and Glendive were organized. The churches at Glendive, Ronan and Poplar were dedicated. The Superintendent stated that the Libby and Culbertson churches would soon be dedicated. The Council felt that Assemblies should be started in Shelby, Baker, and Bozeman.

During the year of 1940 five Ordained ministers transferred into the District and a total of four ministers transferred out of the District. The roster of minsters showed 44 Ordained, 16 licensed, and 10 exhorters. There were 25 churches affiliated with the General Council. A total of \$1,734.58 was spent on Home Missions and \$165.00 on Foreign Missions.

At the business meeting which was held July 10, 1941 Reverend

¹Minutes of the Fifth Annual District Council Session.

Jones was elected as Superintendent; Rev. Munger as Secretary-Treasurer; Fred Dalton as Presbyter of Section One; Rev. Currell for the Southwest Section; Rev. W. R. Munger of the North Central Section; D. R. Miller of the South Central Section; P. M. Cantelon for the Northeast Section; and Rev. Leonard Palmer of the Southeast Section. Rev. Palmer and Rev. Munger were elected as General Presbyters.

It was during this District Council that two men who were to play an important part in the District came into the District. These two men were Leonard Palmer, who later became District Superintendent, and Eugene Born, who became the Assistant Superintendent and pastor at Missoula.

The Ordination Service was preached by Rev. Frank Boyd. Leonard J. Philip, Dwight L. Treeby, S. A. Williams, and Paul Williscroft were Ordained to the Ministry.¹

1942 District Council Session

The Seventh Annual Montana District Council was called to order by Rev. Jones on June 23, 1942 at the Central Christian Church in Great Falls, Montana.

Superintendent Jones gave his report and it was noticed that Jordan, Montana was the latest Home Missions work. Kenney, Montana was another new Assembly recently started by the Miles City church with Thomas Johnston the minister. Other new Home Missions works during the past year were Whitefish, Eureka, Chinook, and Valier.

¹Minutes of the Sixth Annual District Council Session.

Culbertson Assembly had just finished their new church. Billings had just finished a new basement church and the church at Libby was ready to organize.

During this Council much concern was manifested because many of the people were moving out to work in the defense projects in other states.

The total roll of ministers carried 46 Ordained, 20 licensed, and 14 exhorters. The church at Helena became affiliated with the General Council and this made a total of 25 affiliated churches with the General Council. The total disbursements for the Home Mission program was \$2,369.04. The Superintendents salary was raised from \$100.00 per month to \$125.00 per month.

Officers were elected at the meeting on June 24, 1942. It was also at this meeting that the Sections were given numbers. The Northwest Section was given the number of one; the Southwest Section, Two; the North Central Section, Three; the South Central Section, Four; the Northeast Section, Five; and the Southeast Section, Six. Paul Jones was elected Superintendent; W. R. Munger Secretary-Treasurer; Fred Dalton as Presbyter of Section One; C. Muirhead of Section Two; J. R. Edgar of Section Three; D. R. Miller of Section Four; H. D. Robeson of Section Five; and Leonard Palmer of Section Six. Rev. Palmer and Rev. Munger were elected as General Presbyters.

During this Council there was a deep concern manifested toward new missions in the District and the Brethren felt that the District Superintendent should use his influence in starting new missions. There was no record of an Ordination Service during this Council.¹

¹Minutes of the Seventh Annual District Council Session.

1943 District Council Session

The Eighth Annual District Council convened in the Civic Center, Livingston, Montana, on July 14, 1943 with Superintendent Leonard Palmer calling the meeting to order. During the interim between the Seventh and Eighth District Councils Rev. Jones resigned and the Presbytery appointed Rev. Leonard Palmer as Superintendent.

The Superintendent reported that the finances of the District had been better the last year with almost 100% of the ministers participating. He stated that he had made a trip to Chicago to attend the National Association of Evangelicals convention.

In the Secretary's report it was noticed that three Ordained ministers transferred into the District and five Ordained ministers had transferred out. This made a total of 48 Ordained ministers on the roll with 31 licensed and 19 exhorters.

During the year Libby became affiliated with the General Council and the Assemblies at Eureka and Valier were reclassified and were no longer with the General Council. This made a total of 24 Affiliated Assemblies in the Montana District. The District Secretary reported that there was a total of 65 preaching points in the Montana District. The total disbursements for the Home Mission's Fund was \$2,264.69.

On the afternoon of July 14, 1943 the election of officers took place. Leonard Palmer was elected as Superintendent; W. R. Munger as Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Jones as Presbyter of Section One; Currell of Section Two; M. H. Heicksen of Section Three; D. R. Miller of Section Four; H. D. Robeson of Section Five; and A. L. Browning of

Section Six. Rev. Paul Jones and W. R. Munger were voted to be the General Presbyters.

The salary of the Superintendent was raised from \$125 to \$150.

The Ordination Service was held in the Auditorium at Livingston Camp Meeting on July 16, 1943 with T. J. Jones bringing the Ordination sermon. J. Harold Arneson, Ernest D. Havemann, Eunice A. Munger, and Mrs. Paul Willisroft were Ordained to the Ministry.¹

1944 District Council Session

The Ninth Annual Session of the Montana District was called to order by Superintendent Leonard Palmer at the Civic Center, Livingston, Montana, on July 12, 1944, at 9 a.m.

During this Council it was observed how the World War II was having its effects upon the ministers and their problems of procuring gasoline and tires. Rev. Palmer stated that he had made many special requests for gas and tires for certain ministers. The new Assemblies during the years of 1943 and 1944 were Dillon, Bozeman, Browning, Plentywood, and Fort Benton. Rev. Palmer stated that he had attended the Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Columbus, Ohio.

During the interim between the 1943 and 1944 Councils four Ordained ministers and six licensed ministers transferred into the District and one licensed minister transferred out of the District. The present roster of ministers contains 47 Ordained, 31 licensed,

¹Minutes of the Eighth Annual District Council Session.

and 19 exhorters. During the year the Glasgow Assembly was affiliated with the General Council which made a total of 25 Affiliated Assemblies. There were 20 Assemblies affiliated with the District and 20 outstations. The churches at Chester, Hardin, Sonnette, and Whitefish, were discontinued.

The total disbursements for the Home Mission Projects was \$5,181.39. No missionary offering was reported this year.

At the Council the ministers discussed a group insurance plan for the ministers of the Montana District. It was voted to adopt an insurance plan.

During the 1944 Session the Montana District Christ's Ambassadors Department was organized and Rev. Eugene A. Born was elected C. A. President.

Rev. Leonard Palmer was elected as Superintendent; Paul Jones was elected as Presbyter of Section One; Currell Muirhead of Section Two; J. Burdette Wiles of Section Three; D. R. Miller of Section Four; H. D. Robeson of Section Five; and A. L. Brown of Section Six. Paul Jones and M. H. Heiksen were elected as General Presbyters.

The Ordination Service for the Ninth Session was held on July 14, 1944 at 2:30 p.m., with Rev. Ralf Riggs, from the General Council Headquarters, bringing the message. Henry Dahlbert, Carl Riley, Hines, Charlotte Mitchell, and Mrs. Burdette Wiles were Ordained to the Ministry.¹

¹Minutes of the Ninth Annual District Council Session.

1945 District Council Session

The 1945 Council convened at the Civic Center, Livingston, Montana, on July 16, 1945 with Superintendent Palmer presiding. The past year had been very successful. Several new Assemblies had been started since the last Council. They were Red Lodge, Laurel, Polson, Dutton, and White Sulphur Springs. The Assembly at Whitefish was re-affiliated. The following churches were dedicated: Saco, Sunburst, and Malta. The churches at Butte and Livingston had paid off the mortgages on their properties. The District bought a new parsonage for the Superintendent shortly before the 1945 Council. Rev. Ralf Riggs and C. A. Brown, General Council Sunday School representative, toured the District during 1945.

The Secretary-Treasurer gave his report and stated that the Office of the Defense Transportation had given permission to travel to the Council. The total ministers on the roll was 51 Ordained, 36 licensed, and 23 exhorters. There were 25 Assemblies affiliated with the General Council; 24 with the District, and 22 outstations. During the interim between 1944 and 1945 Councils the following preaching places were discontinued: Jordan, Dean, Dodson, Dinsey, Little Belt, and Sheridan. The total disbursements for Home Missions was \$7,985.74 and the total giving for world missions was \$16,316.85. (This was the first report of World Missions.)

The C. A. President gave his report and stated that the first C. A. Convention was held in Great Falls, Montana with Rev. Russell

Rexroat of Pratt, Kansas as the guest speaker. The C.A.'s of Montana gave a sum of \$1,821.75 for the "Speed the Light" fund.

Leonard Palmer was elected as Superintendent; Paul Jones as Presbyter of Section One; Currell Muirhead of Section Two; Evan H. Davis of Section Three; D. R. Miller of Section Four; A. A. Howell of Section Five; and Ernest D. Havemann of Section Six. Paul Jones and M. H. Heicksen were voted in as General Presbyters. The Secretary's position became a full time job at the 1945 Session.

An Ordination Service was held in the Auditorium at Livingston, Montana, with Rev. Dwight McLaughlin bringing the message. Leon Ayers, H. Bivans, Mrs. H. Bivans, Vernon Griggs, Lorraine Havemann, Anton J. Kubes, Joseph Z. Newby, Raymond E. Newby, and Peter C. Peterson were Ordained to the Ministry.¹

1946 District Council Session

The 1946 Council convened at Livingston, Montana on July 15, 1946 with Reverend Palmer calling the meeting to order. The Secretary, who was made a full time Secretary in 1945, was well supported. Whitehall and Choteau, two new Assemblies, were opened during the year. More assistance was given to the Home Missions projects already started. The churches at Bozeman, Laurel, and Fort Benton were dedicated during the year.

During the 1945 and 1946 Councils the District office was changed from Great Falls to Helena. A new book store was started.

¹Minutes of the Tenth Annual District Council Session.

A standard Conference Course for ministers seeking Ordination was inaugurated. The Montana District news, The District Official paper, was being well received. The total ministers on the roll was 63 Ordained, 40 licensed, and 31 exhorters. During the year three Ordained ministers transferred into the District and four transferred out. There were 27 affiliated Assemblies with the General Council; 23 Assemblies supervised by the District; and 17 outstations. The works were discontinued at Baker, Comertown, Plains, White Sulphur Springs. The total disbursements for the Home Missions Fund was \$14,253.33. There was no report for Foreign Missions.

Reverend Leonard Palmer was elected as District Superintendent; Rev. M. H. Heicksen was elected as Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Jones for Presbyter of Section One; Currell Muirhead of Section Two; Martin Dormier of Section Three; D. R. Miller of Section Four; A. A. Howell of Section Five; and H. M. Barfoot of Section Six. Paul Jones and M. H. Heicksen were elected for the General Presbyters.

At the 1946 District Council the Brethren felt the need for a permanent Camp ground. Up to this time the Park in Livingston, Montana had been used. A Committee was appointed to look into the problem of finding a suitable camp site.

A report was given concerning a Women's Missionary Council in the State of Montana.

Reverend Paul Williscroft was elected the first National Sunday School Representative.

Reverend Robert Commings brought the Ordination message and Mrs. Earl I. Ayres, Raymond A. Bache, Paul W. Fenton, Dewey C. Hale,

Leon P. Mitchell, and Thomas White were Ordained to the full Ministry.¹

1947 District Council Session

(no record)

1948 District Council Session

The Thirteenth Annual Council was held at the Glacier Bible Camp Grounds, Hungry Horse, Montana, on July 16, 1948. The Meeting was called to order by the Superintendent, Rev. Currell Muirhead.

Before the 1948 Council Leonard Palmer resigned as District Superintendent. Rev. Palmer's resignation was received with reluctance. Rev. Muirhead became the District Superintendent by the action of the District Presbytery.

The work at the Glacier Bible Camp began with Rev. A. A. Howell in charge. There were two churches dedicated during the last year, Fairview and Culbertson. New churches were constructed at Chinook and Dillon. Building programs were being started in Hamilton, Chester, Whitefish, Dutton, Browning, Anaconda, Libby, Shelby, and Missoula. The parsonage at Sidney was completed in 1947.

Between the two Councils of 1947 and 1948 Rev. Lyle B. Spradley became the Secretary-Treasurer. The Presbyters made the decision to move the headquarters from Helena to Great Falls. During the year three Ordained ministers transferred into the District and four

¹Minutes of the Eleventh Annual District Council Session.

Ordained ministers transferred out of the District. Rev. Earl W. Goodman, who was to become a Superintendent, transferred into the District in the 1948 Council. The District now had 70 Ordained ministers, 43 licensed, 37 exhorters. There were 30 Affiliated Assemblies; 30 Affiliated with the District and 21 unorganized Assemblies. There were 14 outstations. The work at Choteau was discontinued. The total disbursements for the Home Missions Department was \$10,773.85.

The election of officers was as follows: Rev. Muirhead, Superintendent; Paul Jones as Presbyter of Section One; J. C. Burkey of Section Two; Fred A. Dalton of Section Three; Earl W. Goodman of Section Four; Martin Dormier of Section Five; and Charles H. Jackson of Section Six. Charles Jackson was elected as General Presbyter. At the 1947 Council a new office was created; The Director of Christian Education. Claud L. Meyers was elected to this office.

The Ordination Service was held in the Tabernacle at the Glacier Camp Grounds with Rev. William Evans bringing the Ordination message. James E. Mayfield, Gunder Olsen, Clayton Nash, and Otto Olson were Ordained to the Ministry.¹

1949 District Council Session

Reverend Muirhead called the Fourteenth Annual District Council to order which was held at Billings, Montana, on April 5, 1949. It was noticed by members of the Presbytery that more attention would have to be paid to the facilities of the Christian Education programs.

¹Minutes of the Thirteenth Annual District Council Session.

Plans were being made to build a speaker's cabin, a modern rest room, and a book store on the Camp Grounds in the near future. It was also noted by the Superintendent that the large tabernacle was in danger during the winter because of the snow. The financial situation was improving according to both the Superintendent and the Secretary.

Between the 1948 and 1949 Councils 6 Ordained ministers transferred into the District and 8 transferred out. There were 71 Ordained, 42 licensed, and 21 exhorters on the Ministers Roster. There were 30 Affiliated Assemblies; 20 affiliated with the District, and 13 out-stations. The missions at Belt and Whitehall were discontinued. The District gave \$6,435.85 to Foreign Missions and the total disbursements for Home Missions was \$8,071.19.

The election of Officers was as follows: Lyle B. Spradley for Secretary-Treasurer; Paul Jones for Presbyter of Section One; J. C. Burkey of Section Two; C. A. Brown of Section Three; E. W. Goodman of Section Four; L. P. Mitchell of Section Five; and Charles H. Jackson of Section Six; Claud L. Myers was elected for the Director of Christian Education. It was taken into consideration to combine the Sunday School and C. A. Department and put one full time man in charge.

It was resolved that the Montana District Council would favor a Liberal Arts College sponsored by the General Council.

The Ordination Service was held in the First Evangelical-United Brethren Church in Billings, Montana, with Rev. Russell Olson preaching the Sermon. Tressa Dalton, Benjamin W. Gottschalk, Olaf E. Peter-

son and Alvina Peterson were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1950 District Council Session

The 1950 District Council was held at the Assembly of God Church in Missoula, Montana, with Reverend Muirhead presiding. Reverend Muirhead expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the District and specifically the Secretary-Treasurer.

The Secretary reported that a new Log Church had been built at Browning, Montana, and also a jeep was purchased for use of the Browning Indian Reservation Assembly. The Treasurer State Book Room made a profit of \$100 during the past year. The Camp Grounds presented the largest financial burden because of the lack of sufficient funds. During the year of 1950 five Ordained ministers transferred into the District and eight transferred out. The present roll of ministers contained 74 Ordained, 37 licensed, and 19 exhorters. There were 30 Affiliated Assemblies; 27 affiliated with the District, and 19 out-stations. The disbursements for the Home Missions fund was \$21,719.56. The total missionary giving was \$17,808.22. The Sunday School enrollment was 2,513 and the membership for the District was 687.

Currell Muirhead was elected to be the District Superintendent; Westly Fine as Presbyter of Section One; V. D. Griggs of Section Two; C. A. Brown of Section Three; Earl W. Goodman of Section Four; Leon P. Mitchell of Section Five; and Charles H. Jackson of Section Six. C. L. Meyers was selected as Director of Christian Education.

¹Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual District Council Session.

The "Revival Time Hour" was released for the first time in Montana on April 9, 1950 on KNON in Great Falls. It was resolved that all the Assemblies in Montana support "Revival Time."

On Wednesday evening of March 29, 1950, the new church at Missoula was dedicated.

An Ordination Service was held with Joseph E. Neeley bringing the Ordination sermon. John J. Barger, Jene Wagner, and Oscar K. Will were Ordained to the ministry of the Gospel.¹

1951 District Council Session

The Sixteenth District Council was held at the Glacier Bible Camp, Hungry Horse, Montana on June 28, 1951 with Superintendent Muirhead calling the meeting to order.

In the 1951 Council there was a note of victory both financially and Spiritually in the reports of the Superintendent and the Secretary. New churches were purchased or built in Billings, Helena, and Stevensville. Parsonages were being built in Billings, Columbus, Eureka, Hungry Horse, Libby, Miles City and Missoula. Plans were being made for the construction of new churches in Butte, Conrad, Great Falls, Lewistown, Red Lodge, Troy, and Whitefish. The Christ's Ambassadors took first place in the nation for the "Speed the Light" Fund. The Montana District gave a total of \$34,460.68 for missions in 1951. The Camp Grounds at Hungry Horse were being developed rapidly. The total disbursements for Home Mission Projects were \$35,341.05. The Sunday

¹Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual District Council Session.

School enrollment was 249 over the previous year. The membership was reported as 881.

It was reported that there were 74 Ordained, 37 licensed, and 19 exhorters on the ministerial list. In 1951 there were 32 Affiliated churches; 10 churches affiliated with the District; and 15 outstations.

Rev. Westly Fine was elected Presbyter of Section One; Eugene A. Born of Section Two; Paul Jones of Section Three; Earl W. Goodman of Section Four; Leon P. Mitchell of Section Five; and Eric H. Seaberg of Section Six. Maryiann Sitton was elected as Director of Christian Education and Owen S. Hodges as President of the Christ's Ambassadors.

Reverend A. N. Trotter brought the Ordination sermon and Donald S. Ashmore, Shelby W. Clark, Dennis Finch, Henry E. Frost, Erick Kaiser, Rolland A. Murphey, Morris Nylander, Joel P. Robertson, and Clyde Walden were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1952 District Council Session

The Seventeenth Annual District Council was called to order by Superintendent Charles H. Jackson at the Glacier Bible Camp on July 1, 1952.

Reverend Charles Jackson became Superintendent when Reverend Muirhead resigned on November 1, 1951. New parsonages were completed at Missoula, Libby, Chinook, and Colombus. Deer Lodge would soon be finishing their parsonage and new parsonages had been started in Hamilton, Bozeman, and Wolf Point. New churches were under construction

¹Minutes of the Sixteenth Annual District Council Session.

at Butte, Whitefish, Red Lodge, Roundup, and Great Falls. Improvements were being made at Wolf Point, Scobey, Sidney, Miles City, Fairview, Stevensville, Eureka, and Cut Bank. The Superintendent expressed much concern over the fact that so many churches changed pastors during the interim of 1951 and 1952. There was still a large debt on the Glacier Camp Grounds at Hungry Horse, Montana.

In the Secretary's report it was stated:

Our reports will present many facts representing progress made, however, written in the records of God alone are the true accounts of the sacrifices made, the hours of toil, souls saved and filled with the Spirit, and all other victories. It is evident, however, that from a humble beginning 17 years ago, constant progress has been made. God has blessed the labors of many, in the salvation of souls and the establishing of churches in all parts of the District. Let us therefore rejoice and be glad.¹

In 1952 there were 80 Ordained, 30 licensed, and 16 exhorters ministers on the roster. There were 25 Affiliated Assemblies, 21 affiliated with the District and 8 outstations reported. "Revival Time" was being released in Kalispell, Great Falls, and Miles City. Total disbursements for Home Missions was \$28,917.73. Total membership reported was 648. Many of the churches did not report their membership.

The election of officers was as follows: Charles Jackson as Superintendent; Walter G. Strom the Presbyter of Section One; Eugene A. Born of Section Two; Paul Jones of Section Three; Earl Goodman of Section Four; Owen S. Hodges of Section Five; and Eric H. Seaberg of Section Six. Earl Goodman was elected the General Presbyter and

¹Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual District Council Session,
p. 36.

Edwin Jorstad the Director of Christian Education.

The Ordination Service was held in the large tabernacle at the Glacier Bible Camp Grounds. John J. Johnston, Thomas F. Johnston, and Gunnar Steffensrud were Ordained to the ministry.¹

1953 District Council Session

At Great Falls, Montana, the Eighteenth Annual Council was called to order on April 15, 1953 by Reverend Jackson. The Superintendent expressed his appreciation to the District Presbyters for their help during the past year. The Superintendent traveled over 40,000 miles and made 106 church calls. The greatest burden for the District was the expense of the Camp Grounds. It was stated that very few of the churches were cooperating with the finances of the project.

Before the 1953 Council new assemblies had started in Ennis, Harlem, and Townsend. Gunder and Mrs. Olsen went to the Philippine Islands previous to the Council and Rev. and Mrs. Brown planned to sail soon. There were 35 Assemblies listed with the General Council; nine affiliated with the District; and 15 outstations. On the Minister's roster there were 80 Ordained, 30 licensed, and 16 exhorters. Total disbursements for the Home Missions Projects was \$19,640.53 and the missionary giving was \$19,168.68. No membership was reported for 1953.

Reverend Owen S. Hodges was elected as Secretary-Treasurer;

¹Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual District Council Session.

Earl Goodman as Assistant Superintendent; Leon Mitchell elected as Presbyter of Section One; Eugene A. Born of Section Two; Paul Jones of Section Three; Leonard A. Enloe of Section Four; Joe Newby of Section Five; and Eric Seaberg of Section Six. Paul W. Fenton was elected as the Christ's Ambassadors and Sunday School Director.

The Ordination Service was held in the Evangelical-United Brethren Church in Great Falls, Montana, on April 17, 1953. Reverend Bert Webb, from the General Council, brought the message and Walter Daggett, Willis E. Munson, William J. Sanders, and Ralph Thomas were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1954 District Council Session

The Nineteenth Annual Council convened at Great Falls, Montana, with Rev. Jackson presiding, on April 20, 1954. During the Interim between the 1953 and 1954 Councils the churches at Butte and the parsonage at Shelby were dedicated. Churches under construction in 1954 were Conard, Livingston, Red Lodge, Ekalaka, and Superior. The parsonage at Troy was partially finished and was occupied. Twenty-two churches changed pastors during the year. The year of 1954 was a good year financially. Four missionary tours were conducted in the State of Montana. The missionary giving exceeded the previous year by \$700.00. A new Home Missions work was started in Big Fork by Sister Evelyn Peterson. The Glacier Bible Camp was still in need of some improvements and especially extending and improving the kitchen.

¹Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual District Council Session.

Wesley Hurst Jr. and family went to Africa as missionaries during 1954.

The Secretary reported that there were 76 Ordained, 33 licensed, and 17 exhorters on the ministerial list. There were 36 churches affiliated with the General Council; 10 affiliated with the District; 12 unorganized but with the District; and 10 outstations. The works at Judith Gap and Townsend were closed. The total Home Mission Fund expense was \$23,056.55 and the world Mission giving for the year was \$25,934.84 for the year. The membership reported for the year was 717.

Charles Jackson was elected as District Superintendent; Leon P. Mitchell as Presbyter of Section One; Eugene A. Born of Section Two; Paul Jones of Section Three; Leonard Enloe of Section Four; Joe Newby of Section Five; and Eric Seaberg of Section Six. There was no election for Assistant Superintendent, General Presbyters, or Christ's Ambassadors and Sunday School Director.

The Ordination Service was held in the local Assembly of God Church in Great Falls, Montana, with Gayle F. Lewis, from the General Council, as guest speaker. A. E. Arney, Clyde Gibbs, Edith Gibbs, Leo W. Hamar, Raymond Hojem, and Clayton Nelson were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1955 District Council Session

The Twentieth Annual Council convened at Billings, Montana, on April 12, 1955 with Charles Jackson presiding. 19 pastors changed

¹Minutes of the Nineteenth Annual District Council Session.

churches since the 1954 Council. Two missionaries made itineraries through the state in 1954. Several Missionary Conferences were held. The increased missionary giving over the past year was \$4,107.05. The churches at Red Lodge, Livingston, Lodge Pole and Ekalaka were dedicated. It was expressed that the Glacier Bible Camp was still a financial burden and the members of the District were asked to cooperate in this matter.

The District Secretary-Treasurer gave an optimistic report and stated that the District was growing financially and numerically. Many churches had enjoyed revivals during the year between the 1954 and 1955 Councils. The Camp meeting attendance had reached an all-time high. A new addition was made on the dining hall with a double serving line. The 1955 ministerial roster carried 80 Ordained, 33 licensed, and 17 exhorters. 35 churches were affiliated with the General Council; 31 churches under supervision of the District; and there were 12 outstations reported. A membership of 1,410 was reported by the Superintendent. The total Home Missions disbursements were \$35,638.91 and the total World Missions giving was \$41,432.49. The Sunday School enrollment reported was 4,102. There were three youth camps held in 1954.

In the Home Missions report Montana was compared with North Dakota and Wyoming in relationship to per capita ratio of membership. Montana had less than 3 Assembly of God members for 1,000 population while Wyoming had 7 and North Dakota had 5. There was a challenge not to lessen the effort for Home Missions.

Earl Goodman was elected as Assistant Superintendent; Owen S.

Hodges as Secretary-Treasurer; Leon Mitchell as Presbyter of Section One; E. A. Born of Section Two; Paul Jones of Section Three; L. A. Enloe of Section Four; Joe Newby of Section Five; and Eric Seaberg of Section Six.

At the local church in Billings, Montana, the Ordination service was held with Reverend James O. Savell ministering. Ernest Enget, Ellwood Grissom, A. H. Miller, Wilho Till, Norman Van Patten, and David Green were Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1956 District Council Session

The business session was called to order by Rev. Charles Jackson on April 9, 1956 at Billings, Montana. The Superintendent noted that there had not been so many changes in the pastorates during 1955. The District had made good progress. Rev. Jackson dedicated the Second Assembly in Billings, Cut Bank, a new church in Conrad, and an addition at Sidney. New Assemblies were started in Columbia Falls, Medicine Lake, and Warland. There were two complete missionary itineraries in the State in 1955.

In the Secretary's report there were 83 Ordained, 26 licensed, and 11 exhorters listed. There were 36 affiliated churches; 10 affiliated with the District; and 20 under the supervision of the District. The total disbursement for the Home Missions project was \$38,061.56 and the total missionary giving for the year was \$48,337.97.

¹Minutes of the Twentieth Annual District Council Session.

The total Sunday School enrollment was 4,715 and the membership that was reported was 717.

The election of officers was as follows: Raymond White, Superintendent; (Raymond White resigned shortly after and Reverend Goodman became Superintendent) Earl Goodman, Assistant Superintendent; Leon P. Mitchell Presbyter of Section One; E. A. Born of Section Two; E. B. Malvaney of Section Three; L. A. Enloe of Section Four; Joe Newby of Section Five; and E. Seaberg of Section Six.

Reverend Oss brought the Ordination message and Reuben Archer, Henry Ehlers, Ernest Enloe, Byron D. Israel, James Messner, Lorne Morrison, and Melvin Veland were Ordained.¹

1957 District Council Session

The Twenty-Second Annual Council of the District was called to order on April 8, 1957, by Superintendent Goodman. Brother Goodman stated that there were many strong gains in the District in 1956. The parsonage at Plentywood was finished and a new church was dedicated at Poplar. The new churches at Baker and Columbia Falls were coming along fine. An addition was made on the Roman church by the leadership of Brother Mitchell. Bozeman was starting a new church and parsonage on choice lots in the city. A new parsonage was being built at Glendive. The Superintendent went on to say:

"The word has been 'advance' throughout the State. The Sacrifices of our pastors this past year have paid great dividends.

¹Minutes of the Twenty-First Annual District Council Session.

God has given a number of good revivals helping our churches with a number saved and Baptized with the Holy Spirit."¹

The total number of Ordained ministers on the roll were 83; the total number of licensed were 26; and the total number of exhorters were 6. There were 39 churches affiliated with the General Council; 10 affiliated with the District; and 7 under the supervision of the District. The total disbursements for the Home Mission Fund was \$34,963.18 and the total world Missions giving was \$50,344.62. The Sunday School enrollment was 4,696 which was a loss of 22 under the previous year. The membership reported was 1095.

Eugene A. Born was elected as the Assistant Superintendent; Leon Mitchell was elected as Presbyter of Section One; Eugene Born of Section Two; Clyde A. Walden of Section Three; W. A. Redmond of Section Four; William J. Sanders of Section Five; and Lewis LaMance of Section Six.

The Ordination Service was preached by D. H. McLaughlin and Roger Dane, Donald Everson, Ernest Parker, and Carroll Peterson were Ordained to the full ministry.²

1958 District Council Session

The 1958 District Council was held in Great Falls, Montana on April 14, 1958 with Superintendent Goodman presiding. Reverend Goodman stated that a longer term of pastoring would strengthen the church numer-

¹ Minutes of the Twenty-Second Annual District Council Session, p. 7.

² Minutes of the Twenty-Second Annual District Council Session.

ically and financially. He also mentioned the recession and its effects upon the churches and their giving.

The total missionary giving for the District in 1957 was \$69,732. 17. The Sunday School enrollment was 4,819 which was an increase of 123 over the previous year. The membership reported was 1095.

The election of officers was as follows: Earl Goodman, Superintendent; Eugene Born, Assistant Superintendent; Leon Mitchell as Presbyter of Section One; Eugene Born of Section Two; Clyde Walden of Section Three; W. A. Redmond of Section Four; William Sanders of Section Five; and H. C. Robinson of Section Six.

Eugene A. Born brought the Ordination message with Robert Bryant, Melvin Lager, Evelyn Peterson, and John R. Weaver being Ordained to the full ministry.¹

1959 District Council Session

The Twenty-Fourth Annual District Council convened at the First Assembly of God church at Great Falls, Montana, on April 13, 1959 with Superintendent Earl Goodman calling the meeting to order. A concern was manifested for World Missions giving. The Superintendent suggested that each church should take a Sunday of each year for a special offering. The Montana District ranked first among all the Districts in Revival Time giving last year. It was reported that 60 churches and parsonages were

¹ Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual District Council Session.

built in the Montana District between the years of 1949 and 1959. Superintendent Goodman went on to say:

"The morals of our District is high. Reports from the various departments and ministries of the general Council as well as our own local projects and programs indicate that no district excels us in cooperation and overall per capita support."¹

The Secretary reported that there were, as of April 1959, 87 Ordained, 23 licensed, and 6 exhorters on the ministerial list. This made a total of 116 ministers in the State of Montana. There were 40 churches affiliated with the General Council; 8 affiliated with the District; and 18 under the supervision of the District. Total Home Mission disbursements was \$45,206.86 and the total Missionary giving was \$60,136.33. The Sunday School enrollment was 4,060 which was a loss of 59 under the previous year. The total membership reported was 1183.

The election of officers was as follows: Leon Mitchell was elected as Presbyter of Section One; Eugene Born of Section Two; Clyde A. Walden of Section Three; W. A. Redmond of Section Four; Walter G. Strom of Section Five; and Dean A. Rohner of Section Six.

Reverend C. C. Burnett preached the Ordination Service using John 1:6, "There was a man sent from God", as his text. Eugene E. Barger, Harry S. Garrett, A. V. Gisselberg, and James A. Oakland were Ordained to the full ministry.²

¹ Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Annual District Council Session, p. 11.

² Ibid.

C. Early Leaders of the Montana District

The Montana District was not formed or organized by any one outstanding personality. It was the work of many. However, there were a few men that stood out as leaders in their own abilities and contributions. Reverend Howell was instrumental in organizing and directing new works, doing much of the labor himself. The contribution of Rev. McGinnis was that of evangelism. Many of the churches were started as a result of his labor. Reverend Jones and Reverend Miller made contributions in the field of executive ability and organization. Reverend Jones became the first District Superintendent. Reverend Miller was a former Presbyterian in the North Central District and remained a Presbyterian in the newly formed Montana District for twelve years.

Howell, Albert A., was born near Bradgate, Iowa, April 15, 1895. The parents of Albert were Harvey and Martha Howell. His father was a farmer. In 1906 his parents moved to a homestead near Powers Lake, North Dakota. In 1916 his father went into the automobile business and sold Model T Fords in Powers Lake, North Dakota.

Albert became a member of the Bethel Baptist Church of Powers Lake on September 1, 1907. He was licensed to preach by the Baptist Church and was later Ordained by the Assemblies of God at Lake Geneva Camp, Alexandria, Minnesota, on June 21, 1935. Rev. Howell states concerning his call:

"I was saved on the North Dakota prairie, alone, beside a huge rock on July 6, 1907 and felt God's call soon after."¹

¹ Personal Correspondence of Rev. Albert A. Howell to the author, Malta, Montana, October 10, 1959.

He gained some practical experience with an evangelist in North Dakota in 1910 and conducted his first funeral service in 1912. It was not until the year of 1915 that Albert completely yielded his life to the ministry.

The ministry of Reverend Howell in Montana was largely the arduous task of starting new missions. The Assembly of God church in Powers Lake, North Dakota, was due to his work. He came to Montana in 1934 and in 1936 started the work in Poplar, Montana. Rev. Howell labored in Poplar for seven and one half years. While in Poplar he started a work at Fire Escape, Montana. Although this work is extinct, from that work came a minister of the Gospel and a minister's wife. While there he was instrumental in starting the Assembly of God church in Culbertson, Montana. He also held cottage prayer meetings at Brocton, Montana and out of those efforts came two ministers who are in the active ministry today. He pioneered the work in Malta and Saco. In 1947 he was asked by the Montana District to direct the building of the Montana District Council Camp Grounds at Hungry Horse.

Rev. Howell attended the First District Council which was held at Roundup, Montana, in 1936. He was the Presbyter of Section Five in the years of 1945, 1946, and 1947. He helped to build the structures at Harlem, Chester, Lewistown, and Lodge Pole.

Rev. and Mrs. Howell have five children. The grand-daughter of Rev. Howell was voted Miss Christ's Ambassadors of the Montana District in 1958.

At the present time he is a retired minister and supplies pulpits

when the opportunity presents itself.¹

Jones, Paul W., was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 29, 1903. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. James B. Jones. James Jones was a carpenter.

Rev. Jones received his high school education in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Missouri, in 1928. He was licensed to preach in Great Falls, Montana, in 1928, and was Ordained in 1930.

He was saved in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1923 at which time he was a licensed embalmer. He states:

"I felt the call of God and resigned my work to attend Central Bible Institute in 1924."²

Rev. Jones was married to Roda Lantz in 1928. The wife of Rev. Jones was a graduate of Central Bible Institute in 1928.

He took the pastorate at Great Falls, Montana, when his father-in-law, Rev. Lantz, resigned in 1928. He pastored the church in Havre, Montana from 1930 to 1934; in Miles City from 1935 to 1940; served full time as District Superintendent from 1940 to 1943; pastored the church at Kalispell from 1943 to 1950; and took the pastorate at Great Falls in 1950 where he is presently pastoring.

Rev. Jones was the first District Superintendent of the Montana District. He was at the first District Council which was held at Roundup,

¹
Ibid., p. 9.

² Personal Correspondence of Rev. Paul Jones, 2001 Central Avenue E., Great Falls, Montana, to the author, October 29, 1959.

Montana, in 1936. He served as District Superintendent for seven and one half years and the Montana District for a total period of 31 years. Rev. Jones was instrumental in forming the Constitution and By-laws of the Montana District.

Rev. and Mrs. Jones have two sons: Paul E. Jones, an Officer in the Air Force; and David Jones, a student in Southern California College, Costa Mesa.¹

McGinnis, Maurice N., was born on a farm in Coles County, Illinois, on July 30, 1897. The parents of Maurice were John and Katherine. John was a farmer. Young Maurice walked three miles to grade school and eight miles to church. In April of 1914 the parents of Maurice moved to a homestead near Culbertson, Montana.

Reverend McGinnis was converted at the age of eleven in a Methodist revival meeting in Lerna, Illinois. There was no church near their homestead in Montana, so Maurice helped build a small church on Cherry Creek. Reverend McGinnis states:

"I felt the call to preach the Gospel and preached my first sermon in that little church when I was seventeen years of age."²

Two young men were saved as a result of his ministry in this school house and from then on he preached whenever the opportunity presented itself.

In 1917 he attended the Wesleyan College in Helena, Montana. It was here that he met his future wife, Martha Anderson. Two years later

¹ Personal Correspondence of Rev. Maurice McGinnis, Hamilton, Montana, October 19, 1959, to the author.

² Ibid.

on May 3, 1919 they were united in Christian marriage. He left the Methodist Church shortly after their marriage and joined the Salvation Army. After serving the Salvation Army he felt the call to go into the evangelistic work. Rev. McGinnis spent several years in the evangelistic work. While in this field he heard of the meetings of Amy McPherson. He went to the meetings in Los Angeles and it was there that he learned of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. He soon received that Baptism and soon after began to preach the Pentecostal message.

Reverend McGinnis was Ordained in the Assemblies of God at Lake Geneva, Minnesota, June 30, 1928. The chief contribution that Rev. McGinnis made to the early work in the Montana District was in the field of evangelism. He helped to establish the churches at Kalispell, Hamilton, Sidney, Shelby, Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Fairview, Miles City, and Missoula. Rev. McGinnis states:

"We are thankful for the many good churches in Montana, now,
Praise the Lord!"¹

The marriage of Reverend and Mrs. McGinnis was blessed with nine children, three of whom are deceased.

Miller, Roy D., was born May 13, 1880 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The parents of Roy were James and Jennie Miller. His mother died when he was just one year old and he was taken into the home of foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Weston near Grant, Iowa. He was raised on the farm of

¹Ibid.

his foster parents.

The bride of Roy Miller was Miss Bessie Nunn of Marne, Iowa. They were married at the home of Miss Nunn on February 10, 1904. Soon after their marriage they moved to North Dakota and homesteaded.

Both Rev. Miller and his wife were saved and received the Baptism of the Spirit at Noonan, North Dakota in 1918. He and Mrs. Miller were both Ordained by the Assemblies of God on January 25, 1923, at Minot, North Dakota. They started the work in Scobey, Montana, in April of 1923. This was the first organized church in Montana. They remained there for eight years. While pastoring the church at Scobey, Rev. Miller did much evangelistic work in eastern Montana. In 1931 they moved to Harlowton, Montana, and pastored the church there for two years. In September of 1933 they moved to Livingston, Montana, and remained there for 18 years. The church at Livingston was organized shortly after they took the pastorate. From Livingston Rev. and Mrs. Miller went to the church at Stevensville, Montana, for one year and then, upon retirement, moved to Lewiston, Idaho, where they now reside.

Rev. Miller was very active in the early part of the Montana District, being a Presbyterian from the North Central District before the organization of the Montana District. He was also a Presbyterian for 12 years after the Montana District was organized.

They have three children, Mrs. Hazel Elliott of Lewiston, Idaho; Delmar Miller of Cottage Grove, Oregon; and Mrs. Carrie Skaret of Lewiston, Idaho.¹

¹ Personal Correspondence of Rev. D. R. Miller, 1502 Powers Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho, to the author, October 26, 1959.

D. District Superintendents of the
Montana District

Jones, Paul W. was District Superintendent from 1936 to 1943.

Palmer, Leonard., was District Superintendent between March 1, 1943 and March 5, 1948. He was born in Franklin, Nebraska, March 26, 1908. His parents were Jesse and Hattie Palmer, who were originally farmers but later were both Ordained by the Assemblies of God. Leonard spent his childhood days in Franklin, Nebraska; at the age of 14 moved to Burlingame, Kansas. He graduated from the Burlingame High School in May of 1926.

He graduated from Central Bible Institute at Springfield, Missouri in May of 1929. He was licensed to preach at Central Bible Institute in May of 1929 by the Kansas District Officials, Rev. Fred Vogler and Rev. C. J. Uttley, two pioneer preachers of the Assemblies of God. He was Ordained to preach at the Kansas District Council at Wichita, Kansas in 1931.

Reverend Palmer pastored many churches in Kansas and one in Calgary, Canada. Since leaving the Montana District he has been Principle of the Commonwealth Bible College in Australia, Assistant District Superintendent, and the Superintendent of the Northern California, Nevada District Council. Presently he is the pastor at the Fairfield Assembly of God Church in Fairfield, California. He pastored at Miles City from October, 1940 to March, 1943. He also held revivals at Missoula, Miles City, and Wolf Point.

His greatest contribution to the Montana District was through the office of District Superintendent. During his term of office a

strong Home Missions policy was established. The property of the District office was purchased in Great Falls and the development of the Hungry Horse Camp Grounds was begun. The dining hall and the caretakers lodge were built just before Rev. Palmer left his office.

Reverend Palmer states:

"One hesitates to take the credit for things which have been accomplished under his administration because there are so many other brethren who have contributed much to any measure of success one has. Still I wonder if I am wrong in feeling that it pleased God to use me to lead the brethren in some of the most far reaching programs they have ever had in the District. Their two major property acquisitions were made during my administration and there was always a strong Home Missions and spiritual program going on."¹

In relating his call to the ministry Reverent Palmer states that it was, "nothing spectacular, just felt a growing conviction from the time I was 12 years old."²

Rev. Palmer married Esther Hymes December 5, 1929 at Ottawa, Kansas. There were two children to this union. Esther Palmer died in 1937. On April 7, 1938 Reverend Palmer and Frieda Steinle were united in marriage at the Nebraska District Council in Lincoln, Nebraska. There are three children from this marriage.

Muirhead, Currell, was District Superintendent from 1948 to November, 1951. Reverend Muirhead pastored the church at Anaconda; Missoula from 1940 to 1948; and Wolf Point from 1951 to 1955. Reverend Muirhead is presently pastoring in Wyoming.

Jackson, Charles, H., was District Superintendent from November

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Leonard Palmer, 1300 McKinley Street., Fairfield, California, to the author, December 10, 1959.

²Ibid.

of 1951 to April of 1956. He was born on April 18, 1906 at Westmeath, Ontario, Canada. His parents were Joseph and Minnie Jackson. Charles spent his childhood on a farm at Westmeath, Ontario.

He was married to Elizabeth Funk from Wolf Point, Montana. Rev. Jackson and his wife both attended the Canadian Pentecostal Bible College at Winnipeg, Canada.

Charles was licensed to preach at North Sequin, Ontario in 1928. He was Ordained at Toronto, Ontario in 1933. He relates concerning his call:

"I was given a special call while in public school after taking the promise from the promise box in my desk which was John 15:16, and reading it the Holy Spirit spoke words outloud in my heart and repeated them until I had no doubt what it was. I bowed my head and was blessed at my desk. At recess the teacher, who was a Christian and had a call as a missionary, but never obeyed, came to me and said, 'I Know what happened to you this morning, God called you to be a preacher.' This was so unexpected that I was made to marvel. I was 15 years of age then. I started to preach when I was 22 years old."¹

Reverend Jackson pastored several churches in Ontario before going to the Montana District. He pastored in Havre, Hamilton, Anaconda, Miles City, and became District Superintendent after the pastorate in Miles City.

Reverend Jackson had twenty years of ministry in the District of Montana, five of these being District Superintendent. He relates that they only missed one Camp Meeting during the time he was in Montana. He was connected with the Hungry Horse Camp Ground from the beginning.

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Charles Jackson, Williston, North Dakota, to the author, November 5, 1959.

During his pastorate at Miles City a new parsonage was built.

Reverend and Mrs. Jackson have four children, Joan Avis Jackson, a registered nurse and now attending Central Bible Institute; Charles, now attending Evangel College; Joseph, who is also attending Evangel College; and Philip, who is at home.

E. Present District Officials

Goodman, Earl W., has been the District Superintendent since June of 1956. He was born March 13, 1912 at Scandia, Kansas. His parents were John and Anna Goodman. His father was a farmer.

Earl attended L. I. F. E. Bible College, Los Angeles, California, and Northwestern Bible Institute and Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

He married Louise Ryan of Bozeman, Montana, who was reared in the United Brethren Church. Mrs. Goodman attended the Eastern Montana College of Education and taught public school in and around Big Timber, Montana. Reverend and Mrs. Goodman were married at Big Timber, Montana, on August 29th, 1937.

He related concerning his call: "Received a deep consciousness of my call to the Gospel ministry one year after my conversion in 1935."¹ He was licensed to preach at Los Angeles, California, January, 1940. He was Ordained by the Christian Church in July of 1942 and transferred to the Assemblies of God, Oklahoma District, on September, 1943. He pastored the Assembly of God Church in Billings for six years, then spent

¹Personal Correspondence of Rev. Earl Goodman, Box 1549, Great Falls, Montana, to the author, October 16, 1959.

two years of evangelistic work in Montana. He took the pastorate at Butte, in 1955, and became District Superintendent in June of 1956. He served as a Presbyter for eleven years and as a General Presbyter for the past six years. Reverend Goodman relates:

"We have witnessed more than fifty building programs in the Montana District since coming to Montana 12 years ago. Our chief joy has been to fellowship with the pioneered spirited men who serve the churches of Montana."¹

He goes on to relate, "My personal ambition is to serve honorably as a Gospel minister in one of the fields of ministry offered by the Montana District of the Assemblies of God."²

Reverend and Mrs. Goodman have three sons, Robert, who is now attending Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington; Paul, who is a Senior in the Great Falls High School; and Earl Jr., who is a freshman in the Great Falls High School. Reverend Goodman states concerning his sons, "My highest hope is that my sons shall bring honor and respect to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."³

Hodges, Owen S., is presently the Secretary-Treasurer of the Montana District. He was born October 10, 1919 at Bellingham, Washington. His parents were Charles and Emma Hodges. They were Methodist ministers for 17 years and Assembly of God ministers for 31 years. He spent most of his childhood in Colorado where his father pastored.

Reverend Hodges married Doris Ann Hickman of El Paso, Texas. He

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.,

³Ibid.

met his bride in El Paso, Texas, while conducting a revival there.

Owen relates concerning his call:

"Having been reared in the home of a minister and saved when 13, I was always conscious of the hand of the Lord on my life to minister."¹

He was licensed to preach in the Rocky Mountain District in 1938 and Ordained in Denver by the Rocky Mountain District in 1941. He pastored churches in Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho. In the Montana District he pastored the church in Deer Lodge, and Glasgow. He became the District Secretary-Treasurer in 1953 and has held the office since that time.

Reverend Hodges relates concerning his ministry in the Montana District:

"My ministry has not been high-lighted with outstanding events. It is quite gratifying to see those who were children and young people in your ~~pastorate~~ growing up and going on with God, some of them in the ministry."²

While Rev. Hodges was President of the Christ's Ambassadors during the year of 1951 they led the nation in per capita "Speed the Light" Giving. Rev. Hodges has served on the Board of Presbyters and has helped to make decisions and form policy which has directed the Montana District.

Rev. and Mrs. Hodges have one child, Don, age 15.

LaMance, Lewis I., is presently the Sunday School and Christ's Ambassadors Director. He was born May 11, 1922 at Clayton, Washington. His parents were Philip (step-father) and Goldie Martin, who were farmers at Clayton and Prosser, Washington. The childhood of Rev. LaMance

¹ Personal Correspondence of Rev. Owen Hodges, Box 1549 Great Falls, Montana, to the author, September 24, 1959.

² Ibid.

was at Prosser, Washington and Arlington, Oregon. His wife was formerly Miss Sadie Hutchcroft.

Lewis received his education at Northwest Bible College, Seattle, Washington. He was licensed to preach in the Montana District in 1945 and was Ordained by the Montana District in 1947. He has pastored the churches at Laurel, Helena, Glasgow, and Sidney, Montana. He became full time Christ's Ambassador and Sunday School Director in 1958.

Reverend and Mrs. LaMance have three children, Jeanelle, age 13, Dennis, age 10, and Joyce, age 3.

Fenton, Paul W., is presently serving in the General Council, National Sunday School Department, Springfield, Missouri. He was born on September 9, 1915 at Des Moines, Iowa. His parents were Thomas and Ruby and their occupation was that of farming. He lived on the farm until he was 18 years old, near Wolf Point, Montana.

He received his education at the Wolf Point High School and took four years at the Northwest Bible College in Seattle, Washington. He states that he was called to the ministry when he was about 14 years old. He was licensed in the Northwest District in 1942 and Ordained in the Montana District in 1946. He served the pastorates at Red Lodge between 1944 and 1945; Roundup between 1947 and 1948; Shelby between 1948 and 1951; and Plentywood between 1951 and 1953. He served as District Christ's Ambassadors and Sunday School Director between the years of 1953 and 1958. As the Director of the Christ's Ambassadors and Sunday School Director for five years, he contributed much toward the District. He was instrumental in establishing three youth camps during this capacity. He is presently

serving in the General Headquarters at Springfield, Missouri in the position of National Sunday School Representative.¹

SUMMARY

From 1937 to 1959 the District Officials increased from five part-time positions to three full time positions and seven part-time positions. During this period six geographical Sections were established for the purpose of better organization.

Approximately 80 major building projects were completed. The Hungry Horse Glacier Bible Camp was purchased and improved. The District Headquarters building was purchased during this period. It is located at 1214 First Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana.

¹ Personal Correspondence of Paul Fenton, Springfield, Missouri, to the author.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

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A. Organizational Development

The Montana District Council was handicaped at the beginning because of the lack of full time District Officers. All of the District Officers were pastoring churches as well as carrying the responsibilities of the District. Hence, this did not allow for proper supervision of the local churches in the state. The ministers of the District felt the need of full time Officers but it was financially impossible from the beginning.

In 1937 there were five part-time District Officials. These included the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and three District Presbyters. In 1938 the Assistant Superintendent and another District Presbyter were added. In 1940 the state was divided into six Sections for the purpose of better supervision. In 1941 the District Superintendent was put on a full time basis. The Christ's Ambassadors Department was organized in 1944. The Secretary-Treasurer became a full time position in 1945. In 1942 the number of Presbyters were increased to six so that each Section would be supervised by a Presbyter. The office of Sunday School representative was added in 1946. The Office of Department of Christian Education was established in 1947. In 1948 the Women's Missionary Council was organized. In 1950 The Revival Time Hour, a

national radio program sponsored by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, was released over KNON in Great Falls. In 1953 the office of Christ's Ambassadors and Sunday School Director became a full time position.

B. Constructional Development

It is impossible to state how many churches were constructed and paid for at the time of organization. It is estimated, however, according to available sources, that 80 major building programs have taken place since 1936. This does not include minor remodeling programs. Most of the churches have facilities for worship and parsonages. It has been observed as a result of this study that a large number of congregations were started in store buildings, auditoriums, and school houses. The District Headquarters has offices in Great Falls and owns the Glacier Bible Camp at Hungry Horse, Montana. The camp at Hungry Horse was started in 1947 and 1948. This was one of the largest financial undertakings of the District and it is evident that it was a major financial burden in the early 1950's.

C. Membership and Sunday School Enrollment

It is impossible to state accurately a summary relative to church membership. There were no available statistics on membership before 1945. The statistics that were available after 1945 were not complete. However, the statistics that were available show a steady increase. In 1959,

with five organized churches not reporting, the membership was 1183. Also there are very few statistics on Sunday School enrollment. Available statistics show a steady increase. The Sunday School enrollment for 1959 was 4,060. Taking these figures it is possible to arrive at an analytical summary. The average church membership for the local churches is 18.1. The average Sunday School enrollment is 61.5. The total membership of the Assemblies of God in Montana is .00185 per cent of the total population in Montana. The total Sunday School enrollment in Montana is .00509 per cent of the total population.¹ According to national figures of membership in all denominations this appears rather low. It is observed, however, that the Montana District Council has a high average of Sunday School attendance in relation to membership, which is in keeping with the Assemblies of God in the United States. In order to keep pace with the population increase in the next five years the Montana District will have to increase its membership by 82 and its Sunday School enrollment by 410.

D. Development of Local Congregations

This study has shown that the local congregations grew from 18 organized, and 28 unorganized churches to 40 organized and 26 unorganized churches from 1937 to 1959. This shows an increase of 22 organized and 2 unorganized churches. This is an average of one organized church

¹ Personal Correspondence of E. V. Darlington, Industrial Engineer, Montana State Planning Board, Sam W. Mitchell Building, Helena, Montana, to the author, November 18, 1959.

a year. From available statistics there were 27 new Assemblies started and established between the years of 1937 and 1959. The year 1938 saw a sharp increase in the number of new Assemblies. This seemed to be at least a partial result of organization. The years of 1944 and 1945 showed 5 new Assemblies each year. It is interesting to note that very few new Assemblies were started immediately after World War II. Attention, evidently, was centered toward buildings and construction. The years from 1953 to 1956 were profitable years relative to new Assemblies. New Assemblies, however, were not without fatalities. Between the years of 1937 and 1959 twenty new Assemblies were discontinued for various reasons. Some of these, however, were started again.

E. The Ministerial Program

In 1937 there were 27 Ordained, 17 licensed, and 15 exhorter ministers. In 1959 there were 87 Ordained, 23 licensed, and 6 exhorter ministers. The increase of ministers was steady through the years. It is evident that there was a high percentage of turnover of ministers. It is estimated from the Yearbooks that there were 388 different ministers in the District between 1937 and 1959. From this study it was observed that most of the later ministers were graduates of a three year course or four year course from a Bible College. Most of these Bible Colleges were Assemblies of God schools. These Bible Colleges are undergraduate schools. Only one minister was listed as having a Degree from a graduate school of theology. As the Assemblies of God does not require formal education for Ordination, a Standard Conference Course for

ministers was inaugurated in 1946.

F. Conclusions

1. The organizational pattern has been adequate to meet the needs of an enlarging constituency.
2. Geographically the local assemblies have been well placed throughout the state to allow for adequate growth and coverage.
3. Sixty-one of the sixty-four Assemblies have resident pastors. Although the present local pastors are to be commended for their dedication to the task, present educational attainments are not adequate for the future. From this study it is concluded that a Seminary trained ministry is needed.
4. It is observed that the average local church membership is 18.1, whereas the average local Sunday School enrollment is 61.5. On the basis of this observation it is concluded that their emphasis on Sunday School work has been commendable, but there has been a lack of emphasis on conserving the product of the Sunday School. From this study it is concluded that a more adequately trained ministry is needed to conserve the product of the Sunday School.

G. Suggestions for Further Study

More research should be made concerning the early ministers of Montana. There was not sufficient time in this study to gather addresses and correspond with all the early ministers. A study of this type should be done in the near future.

A study should be made of state population trends so as to determine in what places new Assemblies should be placed and to determine how much money should be spent in certain areas on church construction.

A study should be made concerning Evangelism and Public Relations in the Montana District so as to furnish to the local churches a basis on which to work and reach the local community.

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¹The above listed personal correspondences were filed in the archives of the Montana District Council Headquarters located at 1214 First Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana, in May of 1960. The writer reserves the right to request the use of these letters for further research.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

NUMBER OF MINISTERS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Exhorters</u>
1937	27	17	15
1938	36	19	20
1939	36	20	11
1940	36	13	14
1941	44	16	10
1942	46	20	14
1943	48	31	19
1944	47	31	19
1945	51	36	23
1946	63	40	31
1947	*	*	*
1948	70	43	37
1949	71	42	21
1950	74	37	19
1951	74	37	19
1952	80	30	16
1953	80	30	16
1954	76	33	17
1955	80	33	17

Appendix A continued

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Exhorters</u>
1956	83	26	11
1957	83	26	6
1958	*	*	*
1959	87	23	6

Legend: * no record

APPENDIX B

NUMBER OF CHURCHES

<u>Year</u>	<u>General Council Affiliated</u>	<u>District Affiliated</u>	<u>Outstations</u>
1937	18	28	
1938	20	18	6
1939	21	20	
1940	21	22	3
1941	25	18	
1942	25	18	6
1943	24	23	
1944	25	20	20
1945	25	24	22
1946	27	23	17
1947	*	*	*
1948	30	30	21
1949	30	20	13
1950	30	27	19
1951	32	10	15
1952	35	21	3
1953	35	24	
1954	36	22	10
1955	35	31	12

Appendix B continued

<u>Year</u>	<u>General Council</u> <u>Affiliated</u>	<u>District</u> <u>Affiliated</u>	<u>Outstations</u>
1956	36	30	3
1957	39	17	
1958	*	*	
1959	40	26	

Legend: * no record

APPENDIX C

MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT

<u>Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Number of Churches not reporting</u>
1945	569	12
1946	820	4
1947	803	6
1948	647	12
1949	676	11
1950	687	11
1951	888	9
1952	648	16
1953	*	*
1954	737	12
1955	717	14
1956	1129	6
1957	1095	3
1958	1012	5
1959	1183	5

Legend: * no record

APPENDIX D

HOME MISSIONS DISBURSEMENTS AND
FOREIGN MISSIONS GIVING

<u>Year</u>	<u>Home Missions Disbursements</u>	<u>Foreign Missions Giving</u>
1937	*	*
1938	*	*
1939	\$ 971.00	*
1940	1,721.05	*
1941	1,734.58	*
1942	2,369.04	*
1943	2,264.69	*
1944	5,181.39	*
1945	7,985.74	*
1946	14,253.33	*
1947	*	*
1948	10,773.85	*
1949	8,071.19	\$ 6,435.85
1950	21,719.56	17,808.00
1951	35,341.05	34,460.68
1952	28,917.56	*
1953	19,168.68	19,640.53
1954	23,056.55	25,934.84
1955	35,638.00	41,432.49

Appendix D continued

<u>Year</u>	<u>Home Missions Disbursements</u>	<u>Foreign Missions Giving</u>
1956	\$38,061.56	\$48,337.97
1957	34,963.18	50,344.63
1958	*	69,732.17
1959	45,206.86	60,136.33

Legend: * no record

APPENDIX E QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MINISTER

Dear Fellow Minister:

I am writing a research paper on the history of the Montana District for my B. D. degree at Western Evangelical Seminary, 4200 S. E. Jennings Avenue, Portland 22, Oregon; some information will be needed from you and your church.

The purpose of this paper is to record the progress and development of the Montana District. Two questionnaires have been submitted. One is for the pastor and the other is for the church. My only source of information is from you and your church. It is very important that it be as complete as possible. Names and dates are very important. It is hoped that this information can be returned in the next three or four weeks because it will take several months to put it into thesis form. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

1. Name
2. Date and place of birth
3. Names of parents
4. Occupation of parents
5. Place of residence as a child
6. High school attended
7. Bible school or any other school
8. Military service (give details)
9. Married (Give maiden name of wife. If she is from Montana it might be interesting and important to give information concerning her life. Give any details concerning your marriage you wish.)
10. Where and when licensed
11. Where and when Ordained
12. Relate, if possible, your call to the ministry
13. What pastorates have you had in Montana (give dates)
14. What pastorates have you had in other Districts
15. Give outstanding events which have taken place in your ministry
16. Give any events which you feel are important to the Montana District in which you took part.
17. Give names of children and any other information you would wish to give.

(The information may be supplied in composition form or listed in a series of points such as they have been asked.)

Thanking you very much
Your brother in Christ,

Harry S. Garrett
Box 73
Jennings Lodge, Oregon

APPENDIX F QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHURCH

(This could be filled out by the secretary, deacon, or any other person that would know the history of the church. This could also be a C. A. project in gathering facts concerning the church.)

1. Name and location of church
2. Year church was started (If exact date is not known give approximate date)
3. Where was church first started (store building, home, etc.)
4. Year church was organized
5. Date of first church building
6. Additions to this building or new church building
7. Name of minister or person that started the work
8. Names of pastors from the start to present time
9. Relate any interesting events in the history of the church such as outstanding revivals, healings, large number of Baptisms in the Holy Spirit, or any other event that is important to the church.
10. Give, if possible, in about two hundred words a survey of the history of the church including the above information.
11. Present membership
12. Present Sunday School enrollment

It may be that you cannot answer all of the questions but any amount will help. As the history of your church will be recorded along with other histories of the Montana District it will be important that it be as complete as possible. Your help will certainly be appreciated as you are the only ones that can furnish this much-needed information.

Name of person filling out questionnaire _____

Thanking you very much
Your brother in Christ,

Harry S. Garrett
Box 73
Jennings Lodge, Oregon