



**The Annuity Trail
of
The Endowment Board**

**California Nevada Conference
United Methodist Church**



THE Conference Claimants' ENDOWMENT BOARD

THE PROLOGUE

THE CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD

First a Need, then the Vision, then Realization
A bulwark to undergird Pensions

A thrilling story of Western Methodism

A seedling that grew into a strong tree

A trail that became a highway

A "Shelter in the Time of Storm"

Providentially guided

Pragmatic Methodism

Caring Hearts

Perennial

1847-1984



DEDICATION

To the valiant pioneer Methodist Preachers who became the first Claimants.

To all successive generations of Pastors, their brave spouses and lively 'PKs who have been and are now beneficiaries of the support work of the CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD.

The sturdy Methodist Laymen who one hundred years ago demonstrated their concern for the ministry by laying a foundation for Endowments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Dr. Anthony's *Fifty Years*, to Dr. Loofbourow's *Cross in the Sunset* and *Steeple in the Sage*. To Dr. Roy Wilson for eighty-five annual journals and archive records by W. P. Ralph.

To John and Nancy Espie, to Audrey Burtner for manuscript reading, and all purveyors of pictures. To artist Laura Edenborough for her illustration. For help by Al Thomas and his secretary, Jean Trujillo.

WILLY G. P. (Bill) BLUMERT

INTRODUCTION

The last words which Dr. Leon L. Loofbourow wrote were "I wish to introduce you to a friend of mine." These can well be adopted words with which I introduce you to WILLY G. P. BLUMERT.

HEAD: Without formal education, he held no degrees. But he read wisely and well and became one of the best educated men I know. He taught a class in San Quentin for many years as well as the Bible Class at Montclair Church. He was a founding member of the Redwood Christian Park and still serves as director.

HEART: With his great heart he has gone out to people through the Peniel Mission and the Volunteers of America. He is active in the work of the Gideons.

HAND: With his hands he has been an artist carrying on the craftsmanship and skills brought with him from the old country. Many of our churches and community buildings bear testimony to the fact that he is a man worthy and well qualified, a credit to his profession.

SPIRIT: He appreciated the past and caught the upward thrust and eager expectancy of founding fathers and pioneer mothers.

He was aware of the passing scene, not as a spectator, but as an involved worker.

He had hope for the future. He knew the difficulties, but he never struck the negative note. This Monograph on the work of The Endowment Board reflects well on his spirit and manner in which he served for thirty years.

Roy E. Wilson

FORWARD

*We see what was, and is and will abide
The ancient stream moves on and will forever glide;
Enough, if something from our hand have power
To live, and act and serve the future hour,
Through Love, through Hope and faith's transcendant Dower;
We feel we are greater than we know.*

Thus Woodworth points to the amazing effect of human thought and of the pursuit of an idea that stems from a vision of a worthy cause to be met and fulfilled. Early in California Methodism the need to provide for the retired supernumeraries, the worn-out preachers, arose. What annuity, what support had been planned? What was raised in funds was insufficient for decades until laymen rallied to help relieve the pressing and ever growing need. To support the Conference program, they formed the Laymen's Relief Society which in due time became THE CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD. The story of its origin, its growth, and accomplishment is told in this little volume.

June 1, 1984

GENESIS

“I have ten dollars in my pocket (in gold),” said the warm-hearted presiding Elder, “and I want it to go toward helping Brother Gaffney to the means of living next year.” How the shining gold and silver covered the secretary’s table! Often from thin purses, but from willing hearts, in order to show a worthy minister of Jesus Christ how deeply he was loved and how tender their sympathies for him.

This episode took place at the Third Annual Conference of the pioneer California Methodism in the city of Stockton in the year 1855. The Rev. W. Gaffney had labored during the rigorous gold rush year and had begun to fail physically. We quote the journal: “Upon being informed that his effectiveness was at an end, he sat down and wept as a child. Those present will never forget the feeling manifested when the report of the above was given to the Conference by Rev. B. Clifford.” It was then that Dr. Briggs (realizing the need of the first retired preacher) said, “I have ten dollars.” Thus we meet the first Annuitant, the first CLAIMANT! when yet no plan nor program existed to continue support for preachers and their families after retirement.

ANNUITY TRAIL

Not the Oregon trail nor the Santa Fe Trail but the story of the CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS’ ENDOWMENT BOARD. Webster defines ‘Annuity’ as the obligation to provide certain payments at the ‘annual rate.’ Endowment is a ‘dower’ derived from an investment fund. How up-to-date this sounds at the end of a 130-year trail of compassion to those who gave their years of service to the Church and to society. Today we call it ‘Pension,’ a word unknown in early years, but now the order of our days. The cause of the “Claimant” soon challenged the pioneer Conferences. Let’s see how it was met.

METHODIST ROOTS

Sir Francis Drake, wintering at Point Reyes in the year 1579, can be credited in observing the first protestant worship service according to the rites of the Church of England, on the West Coast of America. The Franciscan Monks planted Missions at San Diego in 1769, and under the leadership of Father Junipero Serra, came to Monterey planting San Carlos Mission and shortly after, San Jose, San Francisco, San Rafael and Sonoma.

Protestant preaching or any activity was not evident until about 1846 when immigration of Americans into California took on considerable proportion. Eastern pioneer trains, such as the ill-fated Donner party, followed by other parties, made their way to the open Territory landing at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento as intruders into a Spanish Catholic country. They were not welcome. A party that successfully crossed the Sierras finally arrived at Santa Clara. Among this party were Mr. and Mrs. Adna Herox and family. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and he had an Exhorter's license which he used to good stead by preaching the first Methodist sermon in California. Unfortunately, it was a funeral sermon for a young woman that had, with others, been stricken with typhoid fever. "Remember how short my time is" was his text (Psalm 89:47). Herox organized the first Temperance Society at the blustering logging town of Soquel near Santa Cruz. Eleven charter members signed the pledge.

To William Robert must be given credit for making the first effort to legally organize Methodism in California.

The Robert and Wilbur families arrived at Yerba Buena (San Francisco) on the barge "WHITTON," commanded by Captain Horn, who was also a Methodist. Rev. Robert held the first Methodist Worship service in a hotel, with few people, including sailors, being present. All drinking and gambling activities were stopped during the service. At the close, a sailor put a five dollar goldpiece in a hat, which started the first collection. Handing over the offering to the preacher, the sailor said "it was a . . . good sermon," inserting a profane emphatic expletive!

SAILS AND WAGONS

Harbor-town Yerba Buena had, according to Rev. Wilbur, about sixty houses; but according to Dr. Robert, it was more like one hundred, since he and Mrs. Robert visited from house to house. The Roberts organized the first CLASS MEETING and the Wilburs the first SUNDAY SCHOOL in San Francisco. A new party from the East brought the Anthonys and the Case family to the Bay Area locating in or about San Jose. An ardent Methodist, Mrs. Case tried to promote a church service for Rev. Anthony, calling upon a passing teamster

that there would be worship on Sunday at eleven a.m. The teamster halted, and leaning on his ox goard asked, "And who is going to preach?" "Mr. Anthony." "And who is he?" "A man just come from the States." "Did he cross the plains?" "Yes." The man laughed and said, "O, this is too early, he ought to wait awhile in order to repent over swearing at his ox team." She assured him that this man did not swear but sang hymns while driving his ox team across the country. The man promised to hear such a preacher and the worship resulted in a class being formed of about a dozen members.

INTREPID MEN

These pioneers, Herox the Exhorter, Robert, Wilbur, and Anthony, as official Methodist pastors, found themselves amidst a swirling maelstrom of humanity: a polyglot mixture of native Indians, a Spanish society, and a mixture of Europeans and Asians clashing cultures. How can you bring the Gospel of the Wesleyan "warm heart" into a mixed people in a State that had not found its identity? Bear Republic flags flying amidst the Spanish town, and Americans (from the States) claiming and establishing citizenship among hostile owners of the land. Well, our salute to these and others who accomplished just that. Men like Isaac Owen and William Taylor followed, bringing a robust gospel into a robust world.

The result was that in January, 1853, the first session of the first Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assembled with Bishop S. D. Simonds receiving reports from thirty-one duly organized charges.

MINERS, NUGGETS AND SALOONS . . .

Miners, nuggets and saloons greeted the hearty Easterner in the Sierras. What a world to face coming from the staid Christian modes in "the States." But the hardy Methodist preacher came and planted well for others who followed, to lay the foundation for the formation of the First Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This Conference sent word for more workers, especially among ethnic people. Here we quote from an early diarist, the story of such an adventurous Methodist.

Early in the year 1855, at high water due to the severe winter, a riverboat from San Francisco chucked and clanged its way into the center of the busy town of Stockton. It brought a motley crowd of passengers of different nationalities, goldseekers all, perhaps, except for a strongly built man who upon leaving the boat, went to the Stockton Hotel and, addressing the clerk, asked: "Where can I find some German people in this town?" The clerk smiled: "Down the main street are two German Beer Saloons," and sizing up the newcomer he

said: "Say, what's your business?" "I'm a Methodist preacher. I want to hold services here and in the gold towns." The clerk, still smiling: "I reckon you'll have a hard time, Parson, but I wish you luck!" With a sonorous German voice, August Keller said, "I'm on an important errand for the Lord to bring His Grace to people everywhere." With this Keller picked up his bag and started calling on saloons, stores, shops and houses, announcing his mission for a preaching service that very evening! A fellow preacher, Karl Dirking, came to join him and by the following year, the First German Methodist Church was organized in the city of Stockton. Seventy-five years later, the writer could attend its Diamond Jubilee in 1931! All through the 1850s and '60s, the Conference financially supported language work as an important Mission.

To relate the above story to our Claimants' history, we can point to the early death of August Keller due to the rigorous life he had lived for the church. There was little support available for the disabled minister.

THE LAY PEOPLE . . .

The lay people who made up the early congregation were as hardy as the preachers, and to add, the preachers' wives who had dared to come with their minister husbands. Laymen helped with building churches and parsonages in the mining towns as well as in the valley and Bay Area (see Irvin Engle's Historic Sites), held Sunday Schools, and "Class meetings." The women organized into LADIES AID chapters for missions, education and social concern.

The very first Conference reported more than a score of Lay Preachers, many of whom became local preachers and pastors.

The Methodists responded in a healthy way to the seeming lawless and immoral style of life. They promoted temperance in the midst of drunkenness, order in the midst of lawlessness, and education from the little grade schools to colleges, such as Marysville, Napa and San Jose, the latter becoming the COLLEGE of the PACIFIC, being then our Methodist Seminary for training ministers, now the University of the Pacific.

A generation ago, its campus that rose on farmland north of Stockton, was during the '20s the gathering point of the Annual Conferences. President Tully Knowles, who started as a Methodist pastor in San Pedro, had become Vice President of Southern California University, and had assumed the leadership of the College of the Pacific — a great educator, and a most generous host to the many Conferences. Many will recall the lush lawns and shady trees and beautiful buildings, one of which is the CHAPEL. Here is where some great laymen must be mentioned, who were active in the Claimants' cause and also helped in the completion of the College.

Percy Morris, who started the fund for its chapel, Rolla Watt who gave the beautiful pipe organ, and O. D. Jacoby, who headed the trustee board of College of the Pacific. Bishop Baker dedicated the Chapel during the Second World War years, seeing part of the audience clad in khaki uniforms.

Here we can draw a parallel: a struggling school that “arrived” and CCEB’s struggling cause achieving success.

FOURTH CONFERENCE . . .

Fourth Conference held in the Court House in the City of San Jose with Bishop A. B. Scott presiding, received the following report:

Members of Conference	39
Propitioners	18
Church membership	2,112
Churches	53
Parsonages	25

We quote further:

For the first time, we had names on the Super-Annuitant List. They were William Wilmot and A. B. Rooney. The first report of money raised for Conference Claimants was made at this time. It was only \$80, and was given to the half-orphaned child of one of the Preachers.

Out of this Conference came a formal program of assessment for Claimants’ needs.

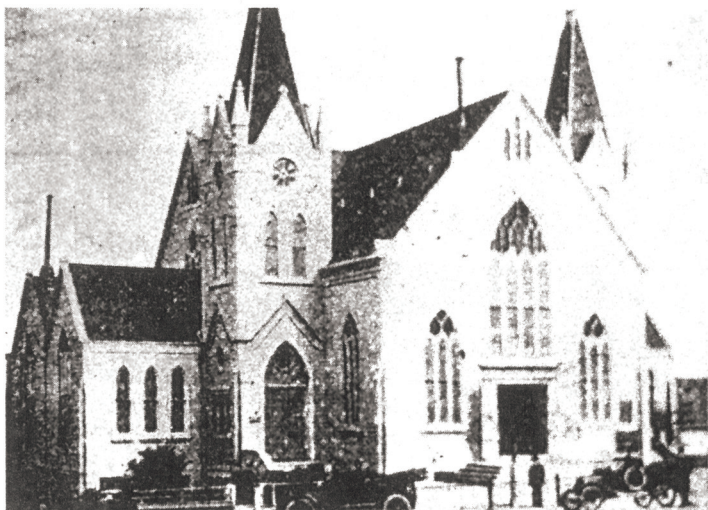
WAGONWHEELS

Such was the slow but steady pace. Here and there, sporadic offerings were taken. At the Sixth Conference, the amount of \$750 was reported brought in by forty churches. Alongside the mission work, the Claimants fared quite poorly. Mission work among the incoming hordes of people was the priority. Ethnic missions sprang up among the polyglot population needing the Evangel of Jesus Christ. Generous and almost sacrificial amounts were given to the English work, the German work, and later to the Chinese work.

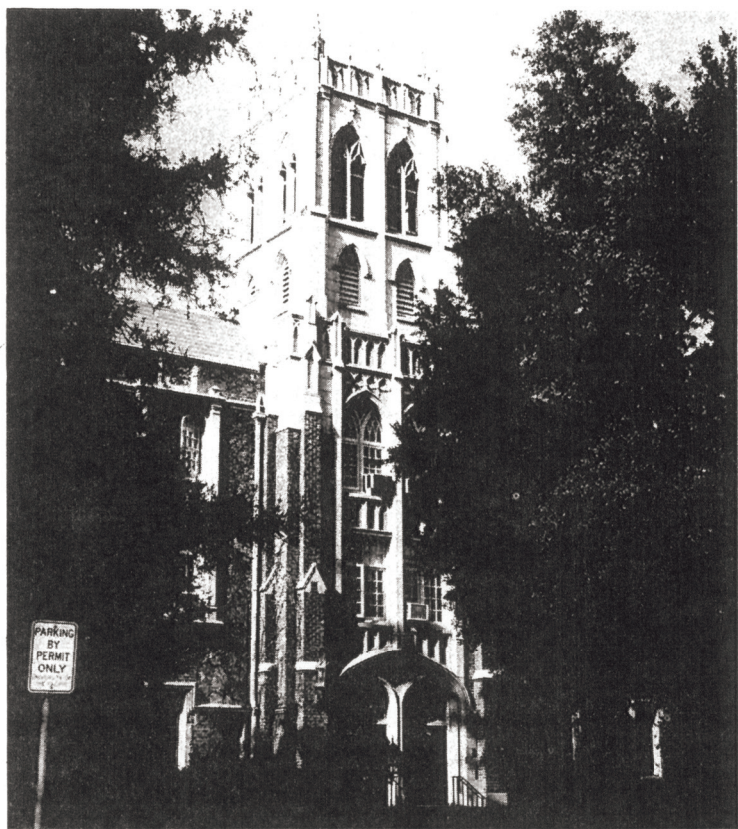
Less than \$400 had come in that year, which was divided between two preachers and the widow of a retired preacher.

WAR YEARS

The Annual Conferences from 1861 to 1865 struggled through the stormy Civil War and, being on the Union side, gave financial support to a company drafted to defend the Union. The support to



PACIFIC GROVE CHURCH — Place of Early Conferences



COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC — Place of Annual Conferences

the English and German work amounted some years to \$2,500 and \$3,000 respectively, and only one year did the Claimants' fund receive as much as \$750. This caused a resolution in 1866. The Conference voted to assess the entire church 75 cents per capita and require each conference member to report the amount collected.

Quoting the 1871 Conference: "The most important event in this session was the meeting of the first Lay Electoral ever held in California." They organized, elected officers, and then read prepared addresses to the annual Conference which indicated the conservative mood of these laymen. They were opposed to any change in the episcopacy or the itinerancy.

This stream of lay delegates apparently infused more interest in the Claimants' fund. For the entire decade into the eighties, annual collections rose over \$1,000, as the statistics show.

A typical report on statistics (as of 1877) shows there were 124 names on the roll of the conference at the close of session. The church at large reported 8,088 members, 1,700 probationers, 110 local preachers, 107 Sunday Schools, and 340 conversions in the schools, 1,736 officers and teachers, 12,965 scholars. 133 churches value \$734,000, 82 parsonages value \$84,000, Claimants' collection \$903. For missions from churches \$1544, from Sunday Schools \$540, from Women's Missionary Society \$318, for Bible Society \$507, for church extension \$700, for Tract society \$202, Sunday School Union \$196, Freedmen's Aid Society \$241, for education \$208. The amount for English work \$8,500, for Chinese \$1,000, for Scandinavian \$1,500, German work \$1,500.

A FRESH TURN

The Laymens Association became clearly aware of their part in the response to the needs of the Claimants. They began to plan a subsidiary, auxiliary fund that could undergird the Conference program. We were in the mid-eighties when a layman, J. M. Buffington, "took it upon himself" to expose the cause of the Claimants. We quote this short pertinent sketch of this man from the Journal.

J. M. Buffington (a Stockton business man) was teaching a Bible class and served as Mayor of Stockton while the Conference was in session. He placed a box filled with 'Coughey's Miscellaneous' of which each preacher and probationer was requested to take a copy with the compliments of the mayor. He later became a prominent member of Howard Street Church and Central Church in San Francisco. His later years were in Oakland, where he gave much time to church work and took a lively interest in the welfare of the worn-out preachers, going from church to church urging these claims and taking up collections and subscriptions therefor.

So successful was he in that work that one year ('84), the Conference had more than it needed to cover claims.

This outgoing, compassionate man died shortly after this peak of support was reached. The regular annual gift from the Book Concern and from the churches averaged less than \$2000, while the Buffington year brought in fourfold amount.

Closing the annual report, the statistician concludes as follows:

This was the only year in all our history that we had more money than absolutely needed for the Conference Claimants. \$1,108 was placed with the conference trustees for use of the next year. The credit for this must be given to J. M. Buffington. No friend of worn-out preachers took his place.

Let us look for a moment how it fared with these needy ones when they got all the Stewards thought was necessary: two families received each \$400; three received \$300; one received \$250; five received \$200; one received \$150; and three received \$100. The next year used up all the surplus without any excess of gifts, and the old hand-to-mouth system prevailed and still prevails!

A LANDMARK

Place: Santa Cruz. Date of the Annual Conference: September 11th to 16th, 1890. On the 12th, the Lay Association, being in session, received a report from J. M. Buffington which was read by Rolla Watt. The plan proposed may be seen in one sentence of the reports: "WHAT WE WANT IS A FUND CREATED BY LAYMEN AND MANAGED BY THE LAYMEN THE INCOME FROM WHICH MUST BE PAID TO THE CLAIMANTS ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS." A committee was appointed to perfect such a plan. They also endorsed the Anti Saloon League, offered help in finding an episcopal residence, and voted that women should be permitted as delegates.

At the 1891 Conference, they effected the organization of the fund and elected a Board of Trustees of which Rolla Watt was a member. They named it: "The Laymen's Relief Association."

"CLAPPING TREES"

The very first gift (Endowment) to this fund was a Quarter Section of land in Mendocino County. When this was announced to the Conference, it was greeted with cheers and, could we say that 160 acres of Methodist trees clapped their hands? (*Isaiah 55:12*) Mr. Joseph Shepherd and wife have the honor of being the first donors to what was to become the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board.

To the end of the '90s, giving became stronger as the Conference grew, and as the dividends of the Book Concern were added. Here is

DISBURSEMENTS TO CLAIMANTS' 1891 STEWARDS' REPORT

RECEIPTS.

Collections from Napa District.....	\$519	Increase over last year	\$35
Collections from Sacramento Dist.	\$544	Decrease from	\$24
Collections from Oakland Dist.	\$1,271	Increase over last year	\$159
Collections from San Francisco Dist. ..	\$2,324	Increase over last year	\$340
Collections from Honolulu Dist.	\$7	Increase over last year	\$7
Total Collections.....	\$4,605	Increase over last year	\$517
Dividend from the Book Concern	\$1,560	Increase over last year	\$363
Interest from Chartered Fund	\$30
Interest from Belief Association.....	\$100
Total Receipts.....	\$6,355	Increase over last year	\$1,000

DISBURSEMENTS

<i>Claimant.....</i>	<i>Amount.....</i>	<i>Paid to.....</i>
Alfred Higbie	\$225	T.C. George
J.M. Hinman.....	\$200	T. H. Woodward
G. D. Pinneo.....	\$150	Self
S.D. Simonds	\$200	Self
Wesley Peck	\$175	Self
E. A. Hazen.....	\$250	E. E. Dodge
C. P. Jones.....	\$175	W. S. Urmy
B. W. Rusk.....	\$185	F. D. Bovard
T. R. Bartley	\$125	Self
E. H. King.....	\$125	Self
J. J. Cleveland	\$250	J. D. Hammond
S. T. Sterrett	\$275	Self
W. S. Corwin	\$300	C. H. Beechgood
Alexander Barris	\$75	Self
B. W. Williamson	\$315	W. A. Johns
W. C. Curry	\$300	Self
H. J. Bland.....	\$175	Self
N. R. Peck	\$275	Self
T. B. Palmer	\$159	J. D. Hammond
George Larkin	\$100	Self
Mrs. William Cafney	\$250	C. V. Anthony
Mrs. Isaac Owen	\$200	Self
Mrs. Warren Nims.....	\$225	Self
Mrs. L. M. Carver	\$185	Self
Mrs. B. C. Harford	\$350	M. C. Briggs
Mrs. I. B. Fish	\$150	Self
Mrs. IJ. M. Hancock.....	\$100	H. B. Heacock
Mrs. Philetus Drove	\$175	Aquila Holbrook
Mrs. J. H. Bacon.....	\$100	C. V. Anthony
Mrs. J. B. Hill	\$160	Self
Mrs. E. M. Stuart.....	\$350	Wesley Dnnet

Total Disbursements..... \$6355

a page of the Annual Report of division of Claimant' fund. A few years earlier, the Conference had instituted the ANNUITY system which, as you see, while meager, yet recognized years of service as a primary base of remuneration.

The early years of the Lay Association at the turn of the century displayed a tremendous interest in the life of the Conference. Able, scholarly laymen read papers on all aspects of the church: on Education, on Finance (usually a banker who was a church treasurer), and on the laws of the church by a judge. Papers were read on social questions and politics, on women's role in the church, and on administration of a church. Rolla Watts read a paper on the state and need program for Super Annuityants: Charles Truman on the Sunday School; John Crummey on Youth (Epworth League) programs; Mr. Whiting on "Church Debts and how to Avoid Them;" Mrs. Garrison Turner on "Church Socials as Means of Grace." The judge above referred to was Judge A. Whyte of San Francisco. These names are for the older readers that may have known them.

Friday was established as the LAYMEN'S DAY at Conference. As the General Conferences approached, there were lively election of Delegates to represent this growing Western Methodism.

We have given good space to the "Beginnings." Here we quote Dr. Anthony in 1899:

We have now reached the end of our Fifty Year history. It has been a long journey, and much of the way was desert, but going a long distance we cannot always choose our points of observation. We can see how the church has grown from the little class meeting put together by William Robert in 1847 to the army of members and ministers at the end of this century. What shall we expect in the next half-century with the blessing of God?

L'ENVOY

Here we conclude the perusal of 453 pages of "Fifty Years of Methodism" in California to continue to the "Annuity Trail," a road of compassion lined with milestones of progress destined to become a mighty bulwark, a "shelter in the time of storm," a strong arm to strengthen deserved pensions for those who have labored in the ministry of our churches.

"IN HOPE THAT SENDS A SHINING RAY FAR DOWN THE FUTURE'S BROADENING WAY"

WHEREAS WE LEARN WITH SINCERE REGRET that the collection for Super-Annuityants shows a deficit on last year's returns and,

WHEREAS, to moderately care for our worn-out preachers and

their families we need \$15,000 and only \$7,000 is received,

THEREFORE, be it Resolved that we pledge to use our best endeavors to increase this very important collection during the ensuing conference year.”

So began the 20th century in California (Nevada) Methodism in project “Claimants.” The following paragraph reads as follows:

A good sister, Mrs. Avy Austin, presented to this Association (Relief) the sum of \$2,000 for the relief for the aged preachers, their widows and orphans. This was an incentive to organize the Association in which all honor is due to Brother Rolla Watt. The original bequest of \$2000 has grown year by year, so that now the total Endowments of \$3,767.50 and the gross earnings were paid to the Trustees \$1,490.45. In addition to cash, we have a tract of timber land which was donated and which we hope to sell and realize something out of by and by.”

The same year we find the Preachers Mutual Aid Society reported an income of \$190 from invested funds paid over the Conference Stewards. At another point, the Conference suggested to the EPWORTH LEAGUE (in which Adults were active then) to assume a lively interest in the Claimants’ cause.

“RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD”

At the 1901 Annual Laymen’s Day, the President I. J. Truman addressed the Association in key note or platform speech. I quote:

We have assumed an obligation for the support of the Superannuates of the Conference. Some ministers are sent to poor charges. Perhaps they do more for the Master’s cause than those highly salaried. Let’s encourage them in their work. Above all, our duty should be the care of our Superannuates and any source of revenue for their benefit should be sacredly guarded and increased by us so that as the old saints travel down the valley, they may have less anxieties for the necessities of life. May God grant that the laymen may be equal to their great responsibility and opportunity.”

Noble words that resounded for some decades before financial solidity was established.

The eloquent Dr. Kellog then followed with a clarion call to his fellow laymen by declaring:

Our Superannuates are no myth, enigma, or burden. They are by all legitimate ties of ecclesiastical law, moral and civil rights, a part of our Christian brotherhood. They are our spiritual grandfathers who guarded us in our youth and perhaps trained our parents before us. They dwell among us and are ours to provide for.



DR. TULLY KNOLES
President, College of the Pacific



JOHN ESPIE
Officer of Development



ROLLA V. WATT
A Pioneer Layman

These were most noble words sounded four score years ago, generating continued interest for well deserved pensions.

To George D. Kellog must be given the credit as a pragmatist for listing the Claimants' cause as a number one priority. In his speech lauding the "Veterans" and "Pioneers" that had struggled through trying years, he stated "I am, persuaded there's a better method." He mentioned that now the annual rate is \$5.00 for the preacher and \$2.50 for the widow. The suggestion was made that the Conference support the erection of houses for Superannuates. The "RELIEF FUND" followed.

AGENT NO. 1

At the request of the 1901 Conference, Bishop Cranston appointed J. H. Wythe as the first field agent. The Conference resolution reads:

RESOLVED: That we have heard with peculiar pleasure of the growth and the increased productiveness of the RELIEF FUND inaugurated by The Laymen's Association of the California Annual Conference, now amounting to \$5,100 invested capital, and we most heartily commend the fund to our friends and members of our church. And we personally pledge ourselves as Pastors to cooperate with the Laymen in their plans to increase the fund.

The following year, a similar motion passed and a request to Bishop Luther Wilson to appoint J. H. Wythe as field representative and agent at a salary of \$1,200 per year and \$300 for necessary expenses.

Further resolved that all monies by the agent shall be placed in the hands of the Laymen's Relief Association to be loaned by them, but all interest accruing from said fund shall be placed in the hands of the Conference Stewards for distribution under the direction of the Annual Conference.

And that there be a commission to audit the accounts of the agent and have charge of all matters pertaining to the ENDOWMENT Fund.

SHADE TREES ON THE ROAD

To the above resolution was added a kudo to the presiding Bishop Hamilton: "RESOLVED: That we are highly appreciative of the efforts of our Bishop which resulted in adding about \$1200 to our ENDOWMENT FUND."

The word ENDOWMENT had now taken root in the Conference vocabulary. The total collections that year for forty-two preachers received a total of \$4,844, ranging from less than \$50 to \$280; the widows, numbering forty-five, received a total of \$3,242, ranging from

a low of less than \$75 to a high of \$200. This makes a total of \$8,086.

We'll now take a leap of years to 1910 when the Stewards reported \$8,605 for pastors, and \$4,640 for widows, a total of \$13,245. The highest claims paid to preachers reached \$300, from as low as \$75 for widows, and some claims reached \$200.

AGENT ON THE ROAD

A lively man, this Brother Wythe. In his first year report, he states: "Every Sabbath day of the year, except at Christmas, I have presented the cause of Conference Claimants in one of our churches." He then mentions gifts of a valuable lot by Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Kelley of First Church, Oakland, and other lots in Eureka, gifts of stocks and bonds, and forty-two fully-paid stock shares in La Zacualpo Rubber Plantation, which the Conference Committee valued at \$250 per share, of which the Endowment Fund will receive a fourth share, with the Orphanage, Deaconesses and Missions. First Church, San Jose, gave and placed in escrow sixteen lots, of which the Claimants will receive one-fifth, on which, as often as we have cash on hand, we will erect a house to cost not less than \$1,200, these cottages to be offered rent-free as a life residence for Conference Claimants. If not claimed, it is distinctly understood that they may be either rented or sold and the proceeds to be turned over to the Relief Endowment Fund. As a total for the year, Wythe reported \$16,816, of which \$4,000 was in cash gifts.

Wythe further reports (1907) that a lot on 63rd Street in Oakland was given and a house erected which served as the Parsonage for Shattuck Avenue Methodist Church, where years later the writer enjoyed the hospitality of the Rev. Herbert Brooke family, who later served on the Oakland District as Superintendent.

Agent Wythe also reports of houses being planned on the fourteen lots donated near the "WILLOWS" M. E. Chapel in San Jose. Churches in San Jose and San Francisco subscribed funds for "MEMORIAL COTTAGE" naming them after their esteemed pastors. He further reports the "GEORGE CLIFFORD Cottage" in Santa Rosa and the "C. V. ANTHONY Cottage" in Oakland, for the well-known church historian and his wife. In the following years, Wythe reports receiving lots in Antioch and Campbell, on which parsonages were erected. After financing the various cottages during the difficult years following the Quake and Fire, he states, "Looking into 1909, I am happy to say we have no debts!"

STEWARDS ALERT!

That very year, the Board of Stewards for the support of Claimants passed the following resolution:

Resolved that overtures be made to the Laymen's Relief Association

looking for a unification of the management of the Endowment funds,
And further, that a committee be appointed from this Board to
meet with a like committee of said Association to arrange to plan
and perfect details of such a unification according to the rules of the
Section 3, Paragraph 3-11. (It was "perfected" in 1910).

The Board renamed Dr. Wythe as Agent for the ensuing year at the
salary of \$1,200 and \$300 for expenses. In concluding his annual
report, the good fund raiser announced the sum of \$4,302 as the total
of his collection and added with a shout, "We're mounting upward! My
largest 'net return' ever!"

The Laymen's Relief Association reported as follows:

Funds loaned on real estate and securities	\$13,100
Cash on hand	\$2,200
Amount allotted to Stewards for Claimants	\$779

EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

The rebuilding of San Francisco brought an influx of newcomers
to our churches. A dynamic Bishop in the person of Evans H. Hughes
was the chosen leader for that new era in the Conference. The reports
showed total pension disbursements had now grown to \$13,245. Gifts
and collections made the RELIEF FUND an important matter as to its
proper management. The 1910 Annual Conference report commends
Dr. Wythe for his vigor and success, having announced in his report
the erection of two new cottages, one in Berkeley and one in Palo
Alto, to be occupied by Superannuates.

UNIFICATION

The Board, following the instruction of the previous Annual
Conference, now makes the following report:

The unification of the several bodies in the management of funds has
been carefully considered and a plan has been agreed upon by the
Conference Trustees, the Lay Relief Association and the Board of
Stewards, and is herewith submitted:

At a meeting on August 19, 1910, the plan provided that
it shall be endorsed by the Laymen's Relief Association,
the Conference Trustees and the Board for support of
Superannuates, recommending to the Annual Conference
a new Board composed of six ministers and six laymen to
be INCORPORATED and be called the CONFERENCE
CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD of the California Annual
Conference of the Methodist Church.

The report continues with the process of nomination and election of
the members of this new corporation, as well as division of classes

and years of service. All of the funds and properties were now to be turned into the new unified fund by the Laymen's Relief Association, as well as the Board's assets. The year's report cites many deeds of properties and wills. Agent Wythe ends his report as follows:

Owing to our unique history, our large list of Conference Claimants was unavoidable. With the great influx when the population of the world poured into the State — with them came our founders of our Conference. Many of them soon became Superannuates. The result is we have very much the proportion of Claimants to our membership of any Conference in Methodism.

PASSING OF THE GUARDS

"Alas," the good Dr. continues, "that all of our former brethren and now Claimants will soon be gone as is evident by the death of seventeen last year, and twelve this year. There are also many more calls of emergency aid this year, and almost all of these cases are due to old age. Much has been accomplished, but we must not delude ourselves that there be a let-down of future effort to finish what remains to be done." He concludes:

If the Conference unitedly and wholeheartedly stands by this work, it will be only a few years until we will have not only as many Superannuates' parsonages as we need, we will also need a much more adequate provision for our conference Claimants. Hard is the task, but it can and must be done if we are true to our veterans and to our Lord."

What a spirit, this Mr. Wythe. No doubt he inspired all subsequent "agents" (secretaries) that followed in his train.

The Conference, he quotes, gave him a "right of way" to the churches. We quote:

The agent of the CCE Board, upon due notice to the pastors, shall have the absolute right of way to our pulpits and charges and have the co-operation of the ministry and laity in this enterprise.

THE PREACHER CLUB

For some years, a PREACHERS' MEETING was held on Mondays in San Francisco — a very popular and helpful time of fellowship. On one of these Monday meetings, they endorsed and sent to the board of stewards a "Memorial" on meeting emergencies during mid-year. Quoting:

Resolved that this Association (of preachers) ask for the creation of an emergency fund to meet frequent appeals which are not readily met, causing embarrassment to the very limited number reached

thereby, while the aid rendered is, in most cases distressingly small. Therefore, resolved that an emergency fund be established providing the sum of \$500.

All this before the days of Social Welfare caused personal concern to be met head on.

PERSISTING CALL

The 1912 Annual Conference asked the question, "What ought we to do for our heroic veterans and our widows? ... We ought not to be satisfied until an income of at least \$500 per annum is assured to every California Conference Claimant!" Agent Wythe again reports lots of gifts of \$8,600 for the year. A good year's work at a salary of \$100 per month! Keep going Dr. Wythe; we're with you! He reports a whopping \$13,000 for the year 1914, and a total assets in cash properties and annuity gifts of \$47,550. We're on the way! So that in invested funds, \$1000 in dividends were earned.

The Board (Endowment Board in its report) asks for the reappointment of Dr. Wythe as its agent (doesn't say about raising his salary). By this time, the Conference owned eighteen homes, fourteen of which were occupied by retired preachers. Looking into 1916, the good agent turns into a prophet. He says in his report: "It will not be necessary in perpetuity by special efforts to raise this fund which is the fulcrum on which our success turns. In the course of nature, the interest from which would pay all expenses."

In 1916, the CCE Board reports that Dr. Wythe had garnered assets in the amount of over \$21,000, and again asked for his reappointment. Total assets of the Board had now risen to \$96,000. The report concludes, "We are fortunate to have men on our Board such as Dr. A. J. Hansen, C. W. Warner, G. A. Dille; J. Stephen (President), W. Rankin, M. Huston (Property agent), and I. B. Bristol; G. Kellog, R. Watt, Channing Richardson, G. H. Dunn, and others on that year's Board." These names may evoke some memories.

The year is 1917, and the doughty Dr. Wythe, having attained stature in sixteen years of service, tells the Pastors how to help in the growth of the Endowment Fund. "Do not expect your agent to run after nickels and dimes! He will follow up any proposal of ten dollars of more, and again, we would not despise the days of small things nor the donor of the dollar. Christ does not. Strangely, the pivot on which our success turns is in the receiving of small donations and properties which aggregate over \$3,000 annually, paying salaries and expenses." Good words by agent Wythe. Thereupon they finally raised his salary to \$1,500 and \$300 expenses. Alas, it was to be his last year!

CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

History of Growth

1891	\$13,000.00	In 1890 the Laymen's Relief Association was organized.
1920	\$121,400.00	In 1901 it contributed \$100.00 to the support of
1930	\$ 179,000.00	our Conference Claimants'.
1940	\$281,000.00	In 1910 the Endowment Board was incorporated.
1970	\$709,102.00	In 1939 the Board of Pensions of the Pacific
1960	\$1,012,602.00	Conference added \$36,000.00 to these funds.
1965	\$1,370,455.00	This year has seen a \$128,600.00 increase
1966	\$1,499,086.00	in the Board's net worth.

Contributions to the Conference

1940	\$3,000.00
1945	\$8,000.00
1950	\$28,000.00
1955	\$34,000.00
1960	\$55,000.00
1965	\$63,000.00
1966	\$75,000.00

WAR CLOUDS

A new Bishop, Adna M. Leonard, had succeeded the versatile and affable Evans Hughes. Bishop Hughes had used his influence in bringing about the formation and incorporation of the Endowment Board. He moved much among the people of the Conference, especially the ethnic groups. Year after year he brought his family to our German Weihnachts Fest, saying, "I want my family to experience the value of a real German Christmas."

Bishop Leonard, like his predecessor, strongly supported the Claimants' Board and formation of a strong pension program, as we will see was done by other Bishops that we will meet in years ahead. Authoritative and a strict Disciplinaryian, Bishop Leonard held the war fever in check with a firm hand. The amiable Dr. Charles Wesley Burns, with a Scotch smile and brogue, led the Conference as its Bishop through the exciting and prosperous '20s. The Conference Claimants' Endowment Board likewise prospered, as we see, by the increase of its assets and contribution to the Claimants' pensions. These three earlier Bishops and, as we shall see, their successors, have lifted up the claimants' cause and at each Conference received the annual report and personally introduced the officers and members of the CCE Board.

We digress here to reflect on our Bishops. The astute, collegiate and warm-hearted Bishop James Chamberlain Baker reigned for 16 fruitful years that covered the great depression and second world war. Deeper and stronger foundations were laid for pensions. The

Endowment Board had its growing years. The College of the Pacific Annual Conferences had their Bishops such as Bishop Corson, Bishop Copeland and a former Pastor of First Church Sacramento, Bishop Raymond Grant. To the writer, the most unique and interesting personality was George A. Miller. In 1916 a strong Epworth League expressed their missionary fervor by raising funds to send a young San Jose Pastor who had the call (yet no Board) to go to Panama where we had finished a great canal. His labors were blessed. At intervals he would visit his former Conference, as Bishop of Central and South America. Upon his retirement as Bishop, he asked to again become a pastor of a struggling charge. By labor of hand and heartfelt episcopal preaching he gave rebirth to the Lafayette Methodist Church.

The ebullient and eloquent Dr. Donald Harvey Tippettt gave episcopal leadership during the post war fifties and sixties. A very able and earnest church statesman in the person of Bishop Charles F. Golden was sent to us to test our quality of ecumenism. In the coming of Bishop Marvin Stuart we could greet a former Conference Pastor and former Trustee of the Endowment Board. He brought a joyful and energetic spirit of work goals to be reached coupled with relaxation. His retirement brought us another former pastor in the happy personality of Wilbur Choy. Like Bishop Golden he infused a radiant and healthful ethnic spirit into our fellowship. A word for Bishops' wives: They were (are) delightful radiant women bearing their honors well. A salute to the living and those of memory. P.S. All were and are recipients of the added bounty of the Endowment Board which they most heartily endorsed.

FAREWELL GOOD PILOT

Welcome Dr. Irving B. Bristol, who "took it upon himself" to follow in Dr. Wythe's train. Wythe had started with the RELIEF ASSOCIATION FUND and had labored through the meager forming years that preceded the now growing Endowment Board. The Board, composed of six Laymen and six active Pastors, represented all Districts of the Conference and had given Wythe much support. By now the CCE Board's assets in cash and property were recognized in financial circles with respect which, as we shall see, spurred on a remarkable growth.

Agent Bristol had now about thirty cottages spaced around the Bay Area, in San Jose, Oakland, Santa Rosa and Sacramento. Over half of them were occupied by deserving Claimants. The question arose, when husband preacher died, shall we allow the widow to claim it as a home? Be it said that in needy cases where the preacher widow had no family to go to, the Conference Board would give peace and security to the wife of a veteran. In the seventeen years of the Wythe's labors, they had become rich in properties. Scores of lots

were donated that became valuable by having a house built on it, making it a rental income property.

THE FIRST LANDMARK

We now had reached total assets of \$100,000! Would we ever reach a million? The CCEB gave the Conference \$2,500 of its earnings, being tenfold of what it had to give at the formation of the Board.

By 1924	\$2,900
1925	\$3,000
1927	\$3,500
1928	\$3,900
1929	\$4,080

The CCEB Fund enjoyed the decade of the '20s, shooting for the \$5,000 mark and beyond to gain a 10% annual increase.

TESTING YEARS

The '20s ended the Coolidge prosperity cycle. The next ten years were depression years. Rental income on the many houses decreased and giving shrunk likewise. J. P. Huston, in charge of the Real Estate operation which had reached a value above \$100,000, began to sell non-productive houses, bringing the receipts into the Board to “put the funds out in loans — a far safer policy.” This program continued throughout the '30s and '40s, swelling the cash funds and building the Board into a formidable lending institution. Many of the houses were sold at a low price in order to realize as much value as seemed possible. Loans proved safer than ownership of residential property. The good ship CCEB was on a new course!

SHIP AHOY!

The ten lean depression years, like Pharaoh’s lean cows, had been weathered during the '30s. A new Bishop, James Chamberlain Baker, had come to continue at the helm of the Conference for sixteen years, which included the great merger of South M. E. and North M. E. Methodist bodies, and covered all of the World War II years. The Board experienced a change in leadership. The industrious secretary, Irving B. Bristol, retired, and Harry G. Milnes became executive secretary. After Bristol’s report, Dr. Flegal led the Conference in a tribute to Irving Bristol for his tireless efforts in behalf of the Claimants’ fund. Dr. Frank Flegal, who was known as “GOOD WILL Frank,” gave valuable leadership as President of the Endowment Board. He was founder and builder of the Oakland Goodwill Industries.

The composition of the Board in the early '40s lights up some familiar names. President Frank Flegal, Harry Milnes, Earl Menker, Warren Bonner, John Tunncliffe, Joyce Farr (later President), Marvin Stuart (later Bishop), W. G. P. Blumert (Vice President and later President), L. L. Loofbourow, Dillon Throckmorton, and Judge Stanley Wood. As the decades pass, we will find more names of men who gave time and knowledge to the Board's growth.

We were on the way. The firm and efficient Harry Milnes circulated around the Conference, receiving gifts of all kinds, such as Colombarium Niches, as well as grave lots, all of which enlarged our assets. Investment agent Huston completed the sales of houses and lots, and CCEB became a loan agency. The Board was anxious to help increase the annual pension rate, which rose from \$16 to \$25 by the end of the '40s.

NEW PILOTS

The good Reverend I. B. Bristol turned the helm over to Reverend Harry Milnes as Secretary of the Board. At the end of World War II, Dr. Leon Loofbourow assumed the post as executive secretary. Harry Milnes reserves a special word for his very excellent record in bringing the total fund to near a half million dollars, and passing the \$10,000 mark in contribution to the Claimants' Pension fund. At this juncture, Joyce Farr became President of the Board, replacing Dr. Frank Flegal.

This episode of Harry Milnes' career shows his ability to capture hearts and minds, and bankbooks, as a salesman for a good cause. Milnes was an impressive man in stature and manners. In the Conference, he was known as "the Methodist Parliamentarian." He combined both firmness and gentleness. He called on a lady living at our Beulah Rest Home. Lora Kelsey was a descendant of the Kelseys who founded Kelseyville as a pioneer family. Harry made a good impression as he recalled the Pastors and Pastors' wives that Ms. Kelsey had known in her younger days. It was said later that after Milnes' visit, she changed her will and after her passing, it revealed two houses as a gift to Beulah, \$500 to Laurel ME Church (where Joyce Farr was pastor), and then willed over \$90,000 in cash, plus land at Raisin City, to the CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' ENDOWMENT BOARD!

The secret of her hoard was a brother, who as a "Sour Dough," upon his return from Alaska had given her (before he passed away) some bank deposit books whose contents had grown to nearly the \$100,000 mark! That gift put our board over the hill to the nearly half million mark. A glorious exit of Harry Milnes.

The strength that half million assets brought led to a faster growth.

THE FOURTH PILOT COMES

In the person of the scholarly Dr. Leon Loofbourow, who in a most able way charmed individuals and congregations throughout the Conference with his historical tales of early California Methodism. He wrote two volumes of *Cross in the Sunset* and *Church Steeples in the Sage*. His home became the CCEB office with a part-time secretary, the very efficient Mrs. Lillian Janett. With Dr. Frank Flegal's guidance, who proved to be a strong leader of the Board, Leon Loofbourow learned of the inside world of Real Estate and Finance. Preacher and Poet Leon Loofbourow was an apt pupil and began to enjoy his roles as a financier and a realtor, as well as loan executive, with nearly two hundred home loans on our books. The reader will allow a personal word on the personalities of some of our executives. Leon Loofbourow retained the pastor's heart as he tried to deal with the facts of the marketplace. The writer would go with him to appraise property values to sustain the loans. Often, when the loan applicants were ethnic or poor, he would let his heart overrule the mind. However, be it said in this book that the Board sustained no failures in the many loans!

By 1945, the Board proudly made a \$12,000 contribution to the claimants. We had passed the half million mark, were circling around the three-quarter million, and set our goal for the first million. By 1949, the new President of the Board, Joyce Farr, presented a check of \$28,000 for the Pension Fund.

PILOT 5

Searching for a new secretary, the Board found a promising candidate in Reverend Roy Wilson, having just ended his term as District Superintendent. The Board had retained Frank Flegal as counselor, who would assist the new executive. At the Goodwill Office, the candidate Wilson was questioned. He said later that the interviewers Flegal, Blumert, Menker and Judge Wood grilled him to a point where he was ready to say, "Enough, enough gentlemen. I may not want your job!" His endurance was in his and our favor in accepting the call.

He was the right man. He had been prepared "for a time like this." The parsonage of the former Swedish Methodist Church in Berkeley became the headquarters of the Board, as well as the residence of Roy and Noni Wilson. There, in the basement room, skills and plans were forged that opened a remarkable decade of growth. In Flegal and Blumert as tutors, he quickly grasped the art of appraising property values: the age, present condition, market value (in case of default) and future worth according to surrounding changing neighborhoods. To him, this outdoor activity was challenging. The preacher, to learn a new profession, took courses in finances and banking. With the

assets nearing a million, we were becoming a kind of “loan bank,” using what dollar strength we had as a leverage to acquire income property that not only would bring income, but would accrue in value.

CHANGE OF POLICY

Committed, as we were, to base and confine our operations to residential homeowners' loans, it required persuasion by the writer to support Wilson in the acquisition of an apartment building which could be the Board Office and also realize rental income. After much persuasion of reluctant directors such as Stanley Wood, Earl Menker, Dillion Throckmorton (the most hesitant) and Leon Loofborough (now emeritus), we crossed the Rubicon and bought, THE CHATEAU OF THE SHINGLES, a truly rustic building of post-earthquake vintage, to match the prevailing architectural style of early Berkeley, where for a generation the finest residences and buildings were clad in either cedar or redwood shakes. For the next three decades, 3120 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley was the center of our greatest expansion. It also housed the Methodist Credit Union, which likewise expanded in growth and membership. Spacious conference rooms serving several Boards made the “Chateau” a place of activities. All this, as the “reluctant”



Directors later admitted, made for growth and an ever larger annual contribution to the Claimants' pensions. By 1959, the allocation reached \$30,000, and our total assets reached the first million mark — "not quite," said Wilson to Loofbourow, "we lack \$69.60 to make it." "This is my chance to complete the million," said Loofbourow, and forthwith wrote a check in that amount for the pride that was his. He had lived to see a million dollars on our long struggling trail.

Secretary Wilson, now an adroit financier, having been trained as a preacher, often tells of the start with the Board when Flegal and Blumert were the property appraisal committee. Flegal would say: "What's the place worth, how old is it, what future has the surrounding and how much can we loan on it?" The next day he would go with Blumert to see the same property. Blumert would quote the age, the value, the state of the neighborhood, and give almost identical answers, causing suspicion of collusion by his friends, which he found out was not the case.

A LIFTS LAP

What's a "Liftslap?" A building where you build the roof first and the basement last! One day Wilson and Blumert passed a construction project and saw a man sitting at what looked like an organ, pulling stops and pressing buttons, and saw the roof of a new building slowly rise into the air. Then later the third floor, then the second floor being raised to proper elevation, then at last the base floor. "We can put such a building on the lot next to the Chateau," said Wilson, and both agreeing, got approval from the Board and in a short time we owned a beautiful apartment building worth \$175,000 (more today), a good income property all paid for.

"LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP AND LET THE SHORELINES GO"

We heaved the old rusty anchor that had moored us to the quiet dormancy of daily checking on small loan payments, knowing full well that there were more profitable opportunities in property investments.

Today we see the wisdom in investing in California real estate. Our quarterly reports show listed properties in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Union City, San Francisco, Redding, Sacramento, Fresno and Tahoe.

The Board, under Al Thomas' leadership, has ventured into the stock market to enhance our growth and financial opportunities that lie ahead. The ongoing campaign of the PENSION FUNDING program led by Donna LaPoint and actively managed by John Espie is gaining in momentum. This Pension Partnership has received good acceptance. It signifies Care.

DARING STEPS

The innovative Dr. Elmer Schmitt put a large sign on his new and first church in California with the legend: "THE CHURCH THAT DARES." It had dared to come into an unwelcome area and also dared financially. Soon Elmer Schmitt thought of a change of one word. It was now "THE CHURCH THAT CARES." Our Board dared again and again and hopefully still does DARE because of CARE.

The Board was on the move, as a good ship by sea in turbulent waves as well as a land cruiser on desert trails and steep roads looking "to the HILLS from whence cometh help." Help came by gifted and able men guiding CCEB to higher levels of financial strength. The following lines are quotations from former and present leaders of the Board.

PRESIDENT'S ECHOES

1945

Addressing the Annual Conference and paying a glowing tribute to the retiring Harry Milnes, Dr. Frank Flegel, President of the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board, continued, saying,

Brethren and members of the Conference: This Board has only one purpose and functions for only one reason which is to raise funds to contribute to pensions for retired preachers and their families. What worthier goal can you find to give support in time and substance to make it effective. You, fellow Pastors, will someday be a beneficiary of the Board's success.

1965

"Bishop Tippet and members of the Conference: In many ways the annual report of the Endowment Board is beginning to look like an endless song each the same song with a new verse. We are now past the 75th and going stronger. A study of the annual report reveals the wisdom and soundness of our investment policies. It shows a dramatic growth from a small beginning — shows 30 years of labor to bring the fund to its present strength. Thus we were able to commemorate the diamond jubilee with the contribution of that large check of \$75,000 to assist in the funding of pensions for our retired brothers, their widows and orphans. We now look forward to another milestone which will bring us to the second million of invested capital that will increase our annual contribution to the pension fund. The key to all of this is the work of able men on the board led by our innovative Executive secretary Roy Wilson. As President of this Board I have been privileged to have had the wise counsel and support of W. G. P. (Bill) Blumert serving as Vice President who has worked closely with

PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARD



FRANK P. FLEGAL



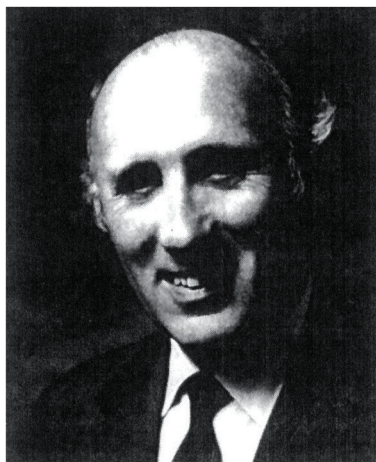
JOYCE W. FARR



BILL BLUMERT



KERN HAMILTON



ROBERT N. BOSWELL



DONNA LaPOINT

our secretary in the acquisition of our present valuable properties. We look forward to greater growth and solicit your support and prayers.”

— *Joyce Wesley Farr, President*

1975

“The seed of the Past becomes the harvest of the future.” So says the inscription on the National Archives. There was planting, nurturing and watering that has born much fruit. We have passed the \$100,000 mark in allocation. As an officer of the Board, I have served with Loofbourow, Roy Wilson, Harry Shaner, and now with Al Thomas as our secretaries. To Marion Smith and Dorothy Smith and Paul Sheldon, the office staff, for personal help to me. Thirty-three years with the Endowment Board is my prized heritage. With Moses I pray, “Let the beauty of the Lord be upon us, and establish THOU the work of our hands, Yea, the work of our hands, establish THOU it.”

— *W. G. P. (Bill) Blumert*

1978

The Endowment Board has good news for you. Having passed the quarter million mark, we are reaching for \$300,000 and beyond, according to the report of Al Thomas, the Board’s executive secretary. His forecast for the coming years is most encouraging for continued larger contributions to the Pension fund. I wish to thank those who have welcomed John Espie, our pension funding officer, and supported him in his work. Thanks to all churches, pastors and donors that are giving talents and time to this worthy cause.

— *Kern Hamilton*

1981

The Endowment Board has enjoyed another excellent year. During the last year our assets have increased over one million dollars and on February 28, 1982 were \$12,051,122. Our net worth now exceeds four million dollars.

The Executive Secretary, Al Thomas, reports the good news that with our earnings for the 1981/82 fiscal year we will be able to increase our annual gift to the Conference Board of Pensions from the \$400,000 given at the last Annual Conference.

The Endowment Board’s gift is an important source of funds for the Board of Pensions. In fact, the Endowment Board’s gift this year represents 46% of the funding for past service pensions.

John Espie, the Board Development Officer, has devoted ninety-

five percent of his time this past year to the Pension Funding Campaign. To date over \$350,000 has been raised for the Endowment Board's permanent endowment fund. The funds raised in this campaign will enable us to increase funding for the Conference Pension Program over the years to come. For this we are indeed grateful.

The Corporate Note program represents another source of support for the Board. On our current short term notes we are paying 6.5% per annum with funds available on demand. On the three year term notes in amounts of \$10,000 or more we are paying 9% per annum. Your participation in this program is encouraged.

As outgoing President of the Endowment Board, I wish to thank all of you who have invested in and supported the Board. It is through your help and interest, the Board is able to provide pension funds for retired ministers.

Robert N. Boswell, President

1984

The Conference Claimants' Endowment Board continues to fulfill its sole purpose of providing funds for the Retired Ministers' pension program. At Annual Conference in June of 1983 The Endowment Board presented \$550,000 to the Conference Board of Pensions. This gift of \$550,000 is a new all-time high.

During 1983 The Endowment Board Trustees started a long-term goal setting process which they expect to complete in 1984. The Board's Trustees are developing long-term objectives and plans to carry out the objectives over the next ten years.

In January 1983 The Endowment Board's Development Office was assigned the task of carrying out Phase II of The Ten Year Pension Funding Emphasis as approved by the Annual Conference. This is a low-key campaign based on individual contacts. The goal for Phase II is to raise \$400,000 by the end of 1985 with the funds raised being added to The Endowment Board's permanent investment fund.

The support of the Board's Corporate Note Program has reached a new high. Many churches and their members are using this program which pays 6.5% per annum on short-term notes with the funds being available on demand and 10% per annum on Three-Year Term Notes. Your participation is and will continue to be appreciated.

As President of The Endowment Board, I bring words of thanks from The Endowment Board Trustees for your continuing support of the Board as it carries out its sole purpose of providing pension funds for Retired Ministers.

Donna R. La Point, President

OUR SECRETARIES

Dr. Leon Loofbourow symbolized the Endowment Board with the phrase: "ENDURING-PROTECTION." I found this partnership of Preachers and Laymen to be able and concerned, pooling their partial and individual knowledge and skills into a mix that enabled us to move forward into an investment program strong enough to both serve with safety and with a built-in factor enabling us to steadily increase our giving to the retired preachers of this Conference. I count the years with the Board as the most rewarding and fulfilling in holy daring, caring and sharing together.

— *Dr. Roy E. Wilson*

I had a great learning experience in the five years that I worked as Executive Secretary of the Conference Claimants' Endowment Board. It was a time of paying off debts on property that had been purchased and raising money in notes payable. I was pleased to have the opportunity to consolidate some very excellent purchases made by my predecessor, Roy Wilson. I was grateful to hand over a good cash position to Albert Thomas. I am grateful to all of the members of the Board for a very fine experience. May God's richest blessings be upon the Board as they seek to continue to do His work.

— *Dr. Harry E. Shaner*

My two predecessors, the Reverend Roy Wilson and the Reverend Harry Shaner, laid an excellent foundation from which to work and I thank them.

The time I have spent with the Board has been most gratifying as the gift to the Board of Pensions has reached a new high in each of the last nine years.

I also wish to thank the present Board of Trustees and former Trustees for their support

— *Al Thomas*

THE SECRETARIES



IRVING B. BRISTOL



HARRY MILNES



LEON L. LOOFBOUROW



ROY E. WILSON



DR. HARRY SHANER



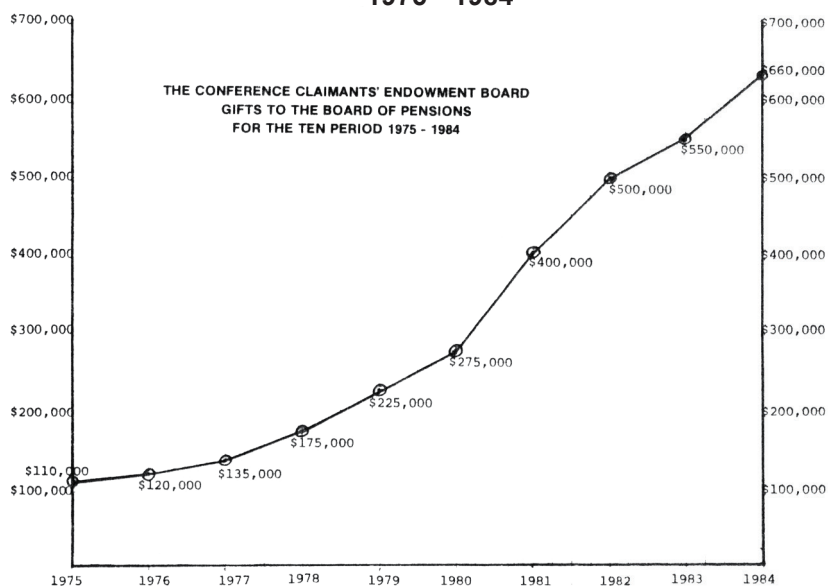
ALBERT THOMAS

A LOOK BACK 1891 - 1961

"Many a mickle make a muckle" says an old Scotch reminder of small beginnings. Seventy years had passed since the LAYMEN'S RELIEF SOCIETY brought in its first allotment to the pension fund. A solid \$100! The annual rate had now risen to \$70 and the annual contributions continued to rise, so that by mid-sixties, the CCEB check of \$75,000 was presented by President Farr to the Conference, written on a 3' x 6' board.

Here we pause to present a graph of the growth from 1974, when President Blumert proudly reported a \$100,000 contribution.

1975 - 1984



WE CELEBRATE!

The gathering of funds for Pensions was serious business from the start. However, it had its happy moments when annually the rewards came in. It became (and still is) a moment of celebration: when the 3' x 6' door was carried in with \$75,000 inscribed on it; or when 9 young ladies appeared, each wearing a \$10,000 dress to signify the gain to \$90,000; or when the motorcycle officers roared in, guarding gold bullions that were carefully placed on the stage — the people were awed by the sight of real gold, guarded by police, only to soon learn they saw gilded bricks! At another Conference, a genuine Chinese dragon wormed its way into the hall, bringing a gift of \$125,000; and again a parachute would drop the hoard; and again "SNOOPY" came as a happy messenger for the claimants' cause.

A SALUTE

Year after year, as the presentation of the gift to the support of Pensions is made by the Endowment Board, there is an expectant, happy mood that cheers the entire assembly. This celebration is justified when we realize the great enterprise and success of this Board. Over the years, literally hundreds of men and women who have served as Directors can justly be proud of having shared time and talents and sustenance in the Pension funding work.

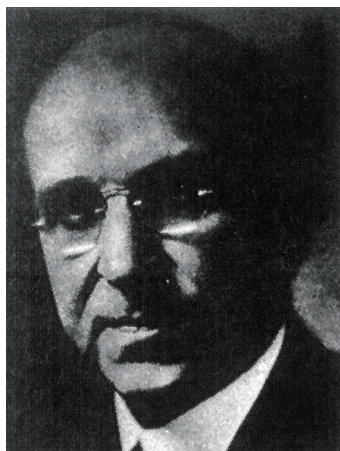
Our second Agent for the Claimants' cause, brother I. B. Bristol, upon retiring wrote into the Journal as follows:

Father, I know that all my life Is portioned out to me;
The changes that are sure to come I do not fear to see;
I ask Thee for a present mind Intent on pleasing Thee.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Yes, changes are sure to come as they will, and we welcome them. Changes are opportunities for growth. What change of lifestyle for our pioneer preachers, coming by covered wagon on prairie schooners or around the Horn on windjammers, leaving behind the comforts of home to trudge from camp to camp to bring the Kingdom to "Rough and Ready" miners! Amid saloons and gambling halls, they preached the Good News and planted churches. They followed the settlers to the valley and coast congregations. Physical strain shortened their life span. Soon there would occur a "falling out" of the ranks. Our opening story tells us it came with Brother Gaffney when the kind Presiding Elder gave his \$10 gold piece and the brethren their hard silver dollars to "supply to him the means of livin'." Our answer to the Question is, "We go on. The providential Love and Mercy of God and of man knows no boundaries!"

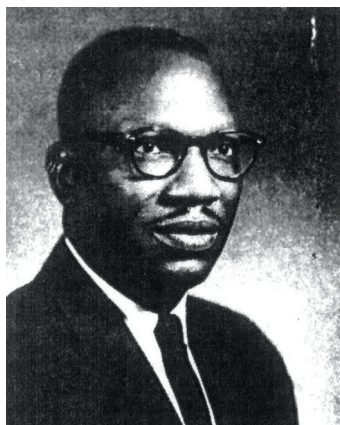
OUR BISHOPS



JAMES C. BAKER



DONALD H. TIPPETT



CHARLES F. GOLDEN



R. MARVIN STUART



WILBUR W. Y. CHOY



GEORGE A. MILLER

SALUTE TO THE PAST SALUTE TO THE FUTURE

We end with a Song. A song that pervades our brief history from its meager beginning to its present bountiful returns. Even on the present high plateau that our CCE Board has reached, the song of the “caring heart” will go on. What more can we say?

“A song like the wings of the morning with
healing in their wings.”

“Whosoever giveth . . . lendeth the Lord.”

“Of woman’s grief, men’s burdened toil Thy heart
has never known recoil!”

“Waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

“The mountains and the little hills
shall break forth into singing —
And all the trees shall clap their hands.”

A Paean of praise: On loud cymbals Yea, upon
the high sounding cymbals.

GOOD NEWS

Be it duly recorded that in the year of our Lord 1984, at the 136th session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Conference Claimants’ Endowment Board, led by Donna LaPoint, President, and Albert Thomas, Executive Secretary, presented to the Claimants’ Pension Fund the amount of \$660,000.

TE DEUM

EPILOGUE

Dear fellow wayfarer, at this milestone we pause in our journey that started as a foot trail, became a wagon road, to widen into a veritable highway of success. Our common heritage of a thrilling story of human expression of Christ's compassion with the "HOPE THAT SENDS A SHINING RAY FAR DOWN THE FUTURE'S BROADENING WAY!"

SOU DEO GLORIA

