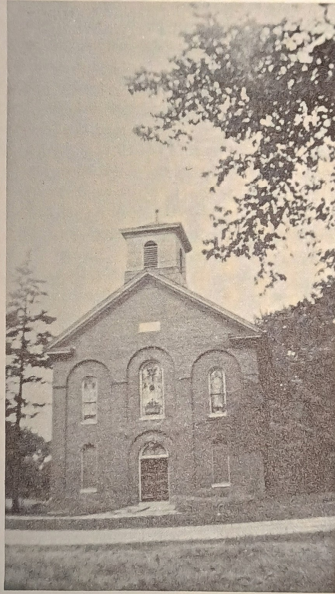
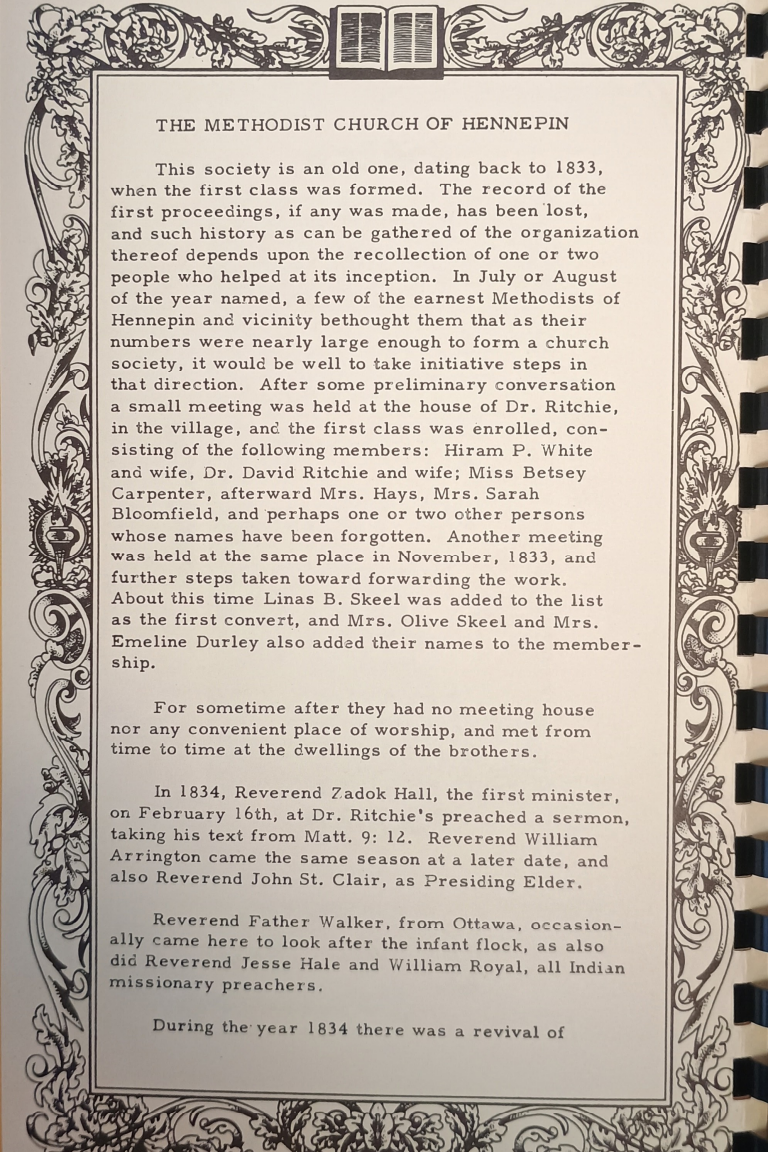




CHURCH
MESSENGER





THE METHODIST CHURCH OF HENNEPIN

This society is an old one, dating back to 1833, when the first class was formed. The record of the first proceedings, if any was made, has been lost, and such history as can be gathered of the organization thereof depends upon the recollection of one or two people who helped at its inception. In July or August of the year named, a few of the earnest Methodists of Hennepin and vicinity bethought them that as their numbers were nearly large enough to form a church society, it would be well to take initiative steps in that direction. After some preliminary conversation a small meeting was held at the house of Dr. Ritchie, in the village, and the first class was enrolled, consisting of the following members: Hiram P. White and wife, Dr. David Ritchie and wife; Miss Betsey Carpenter, afterward Mrs. Hays, Mrs. Sarah Bloomfield, and perhaps one or two other persons whose names have been forgotten. Another meeting was held at the same place in November, 1833, and further steps taken toward forwarding the work. About this time Linas B. Skeel was added to the list as the first convert, and Mrs. Olive Skeel and Mrs. Emeline Durley also added their names to the membership.

For sometime after they had no meeting house nor any convenient place of worship, and met from time to time at the dwellings of the brothers.

In 1834, Reverend Zadok Hall, the first minister, on February 16th, at Dr. Ritchie's preached a sermon, taking his text from Matt. 9: 12. Reverend William Arrington came the same season at a later date, and also Reverend John St. Clair, as Presiding Elder.

Reverend Father Walker, from Ottawa, occasionally came here to look after the infant flock, as also did Reverend Jesse Hale and William Royal, all Indian missionary preachers.

During the year 1834 there was a revival of



considerable strength, and many new converts were made and the society largely increased in numbers and influence.

In 1835, Reverend A. E. Phelps officiated, and Reverend Asa McMurty in 1836. Mr. Phelps contributed his personal efforts largely toward building the old church. The latter part of 1836, Hennepin and Pekin circuits were divided and changed to Hennepin and Washington circuits. In 1837, Reverend William Condiff was the preacher, and died at the close of the year, at Caledonia.

In 1838, Reverend Zadok Hall and Reverend Mr. Moffit were sent here to the work, and were aided by Reverend S. W. D. Chase, of Bloomington, who with them made excellent progress in procuring new members.

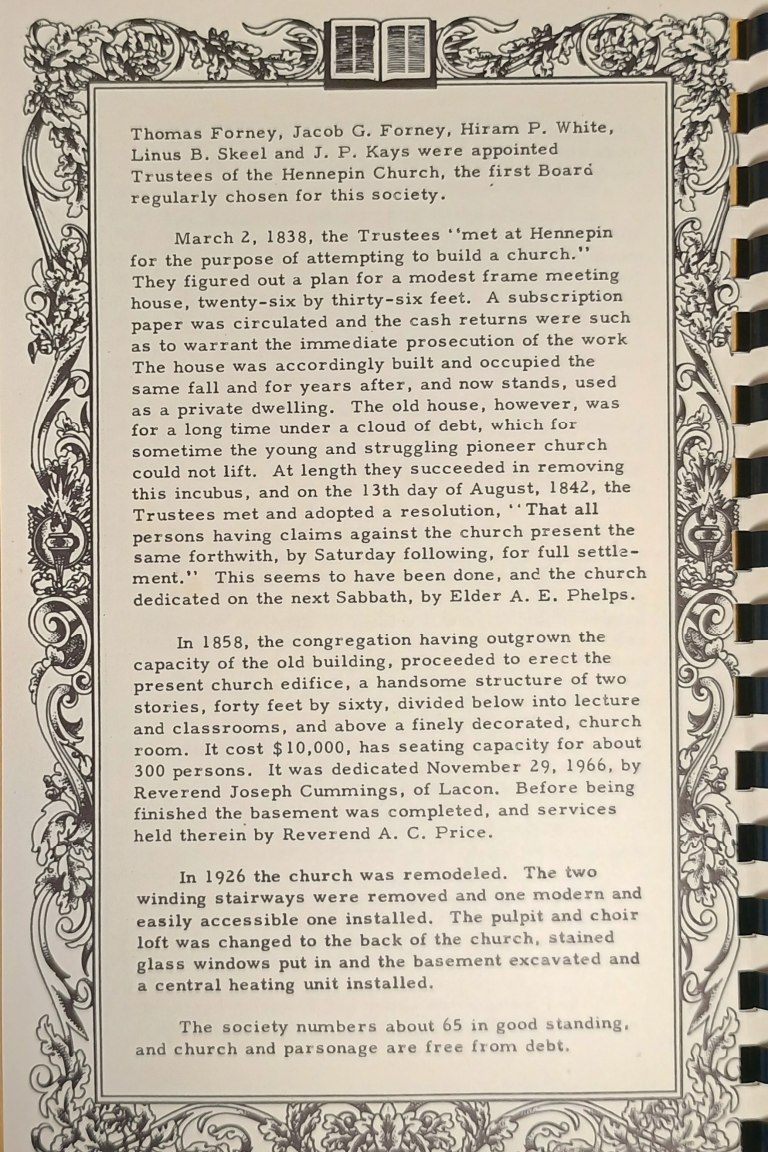
Among the other reverend gentlemen who appeared at Hennepin from time to time from 1829 to 1835, was Reverend Mr. Cook, a Presbyterian, father of Honorable B. C. Cook, formerly of Ottawa, Reverend Mr. Hays was a local preacher of Hennepin and vicinity for many years, and among the first who came to this locality. He put up the first frame house on Henry prairie, and one of the first frame houses in the village.

In 1839, Reverend John Morris came and officiated occasionally, and Reverend John appeared and took charge of the church about 1840.

The first records commence in the Trustees' book, June 14, 1836.

Efforts had been made to raise money to build a meeting house, but with ill success, and we find them in 1837 adopting an order to refund the small sums of money which had been raised for that purpose.

At a meeting of the Lacon and Hennepin Conference February 25, 1839, Joseph Caterlin, David Markley,



Thomas Forney, Jacob G. Forney, Hiram P. White, Linus B. Skeel and J. P. Kays were appointed Trustees of the Hennepin Church, the first Board regularly chosen for this society.

March 2, 1838, the Trustees "met at Hennepin for the purpose of attempting to build a church." They figured out a plan for a modest frame meeting house, twenty-six by thirty-six feet. A subscription paper was circulated and the cash returns were such as to warrant the immediate prosecution of the work. The house was accordingly built and occupied the same fall and for years after, and now stands, used as a private dwelling. The old house, however, was for a long time under a cloud of debt, which for sometime the young and struggling pioneer church could not lift. At length they succeeded in removing this incubus, and on the 13th day of August, 1842, the Trustees met and adopted a resolution, "That all persons having claims against the church present the same forthwith, by Saturday following, for full settlement." This seems to have been done, and the church dedicated on the next Sabbath, by Elder A. E. Phelps.

In 1858, the congregation having outgrown the capacity of the old building, proceeded to erect the present church edifice, a handsome structure of two stories, forty feet by sixty, divided below into lecture and classrooms, and above a finely decorated, church room. It cost \$10,000, has seating capacity for about 300 persons. It was dedicated November 29, 1866, by Reverend Joseph Cummings, of Lacon. Before being finished the basement was completed, and services held therein by Reverend A. C. Price.

In 1926 the church was remodeled. The two winding stairways were removed and one modern and easily accessible one installed. The pulpit and choir loft was changed to the back of the church, stained glass windows put in and the basement excavated and a central heating unit installed.

The society numbers about 65 in good standing, and church and parsonage are free from debt.





REVEREND AND MRS. A. H. NOTHDURFT

Reverend and Mrs. A. H. Nothdurft came to Hennepin as Pastor of the Methodist Church in April, 1949. He received the B.A. Degree from the Central Wesleyan College in Warrenton, Missouri in 1911. Mrs. Nothdurft also attended the Central Wesleyan College and studied music.

On June 14, 1911, they were united in marriage. There are three sons in the family. Orville is director of admissions to the Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

Wesley is public school instructor in the Roosevelt Junior High in Peoria, Illinois.

Vern is in the LeTourneau plant in Peoria as personal director and manager of the activities of the plant.





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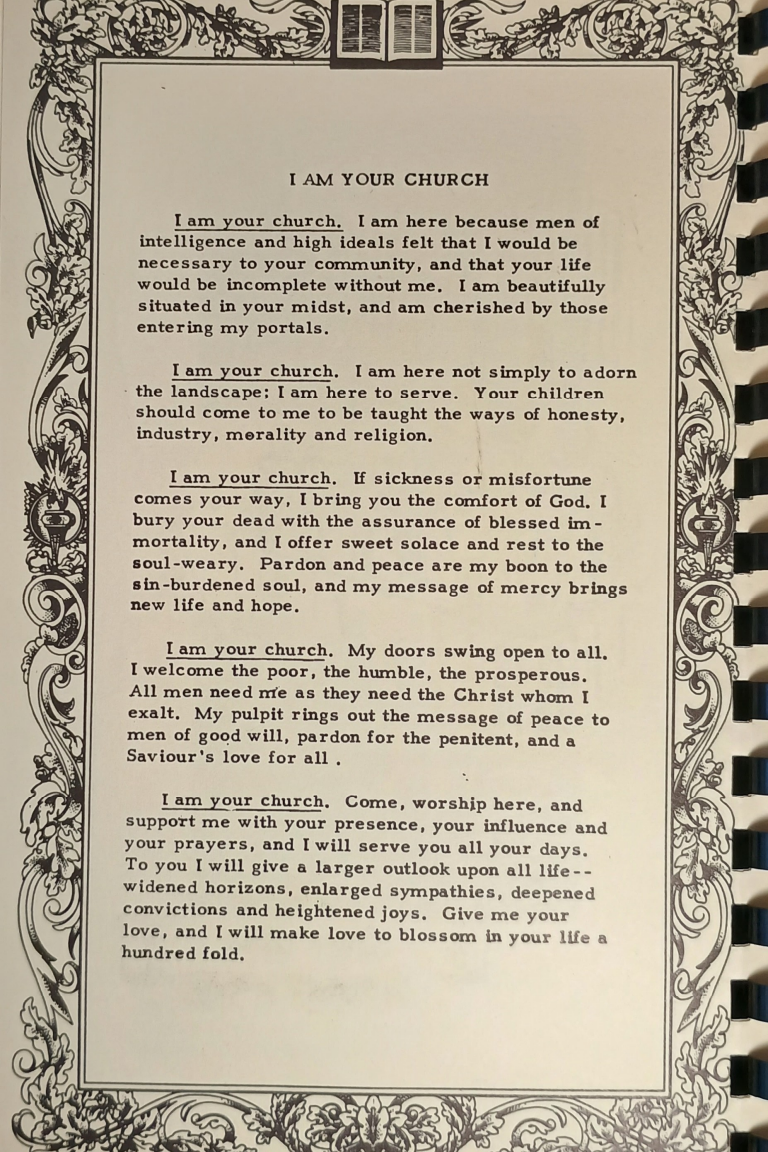


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The Choir



I AM YOUR CHURCH

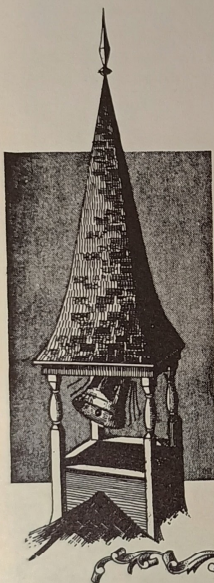
I am your church. I am here because men of intelligence and high ideals felt that I would be necessary to your community, and that your life would be incomplete without me. I am beautifully situated in your midst, and am cherished by those entering my portals.

I am your church. I am here not simply to adorn the landscape; I am here to serve. Your children should come to me to be taught the ways of honesty, industry, morality and religion.

I am your church. If sickness or misfortune comes your way, I bring you the comfort of God. I bury your dead with the assurance of blessed immortality, and I offer sweet solace and rest to the soul-weary. Pardon and peace are my boon to the sin-burdened soul, and my message of mercy brings new life and hope.

I am your church. My doors swing open to all. I welcome the poor, the humble, the prosperous. All men need me as they need the Christ whom I exalt. My pulpit rings out the message of peace to men of good will, pardon for the penitent, and a Saviour's love for all.

I am your church. Come, worship here, and support me with your presence, your influence and your prayers, and I will serve you all your days. To you I will give a larger outlook upon all life--widened horizons, enlarged sympathies, deepened convictions and heightened joys. Give me your love, and I will make love to blossom in your life a hundred fold.





WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE



WE ALL GO TO CHURCH



Sunday School



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OFFICERS



WE ALL GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL



W. A. P. CLASS

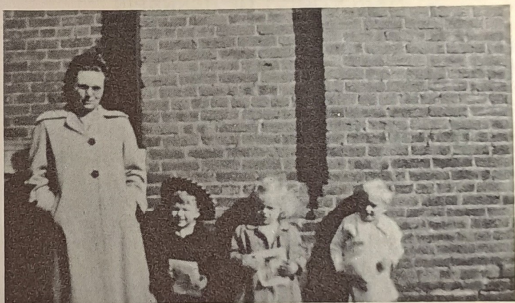


WOMEN'S CLASS











MAIN STREET OF HENNEPIN

Hennepin, County - seat of Putnam County, was once a thriving river town of 2000 inhabitants. It was named from the great explorer, Father Hennepin. It is claimed to be one of the oldest towns along the Illinois. A trading house was built in 1817 and the history of Hennepin dates back to that year, when Beaubien a Frenchman, employed by the American Fur Company, built a trading post, one mile above the present site of the village. Thomas Hartzell, a fur trader, became their agent at Hennepin in 1824, and he operated the first ferry across the Illinois river, north of Peoria in 1831.

The early settlers were religious people and held services in private homes, in 1833. The present Methodist Church was built in 1858 at a cost of \$10,000 dollars.

The first Catholic Church was built in 1852.

The Hennepin post office was established October 31, 1831.

The first schoolhouse was a log cabin built in 1833. The present township school was built in 1924.

The Deck Memorial Gymnasium was built in 1949-50.

The beautiful bridge, one of the longest and most expensive built by the state department of highways, over the Illinois river, and connecting Putnam and Bureau Counties, was built and dedicated Sunday September 17, 1939. The cost was around \$700,000.

We would be building; temples still undone
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely
lift;

Waiting till love can raise the broken stone,
And hearts creative bridge the human rift;
We would be building, O Master, let Thy plan
Reveal the life that God would give to man.

Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
We set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with the steel that time and change doth
mock,

Th' unfailing purpose of our noblest creed;
Teach us to build; O Master, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the light.

O keep us building, Master; may our hands
N'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs;
We build with Thee, O grant enduring worth
Until the heav'nly Kingdom comes on earth.

JESUS CHRIST - AND WE.

Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.

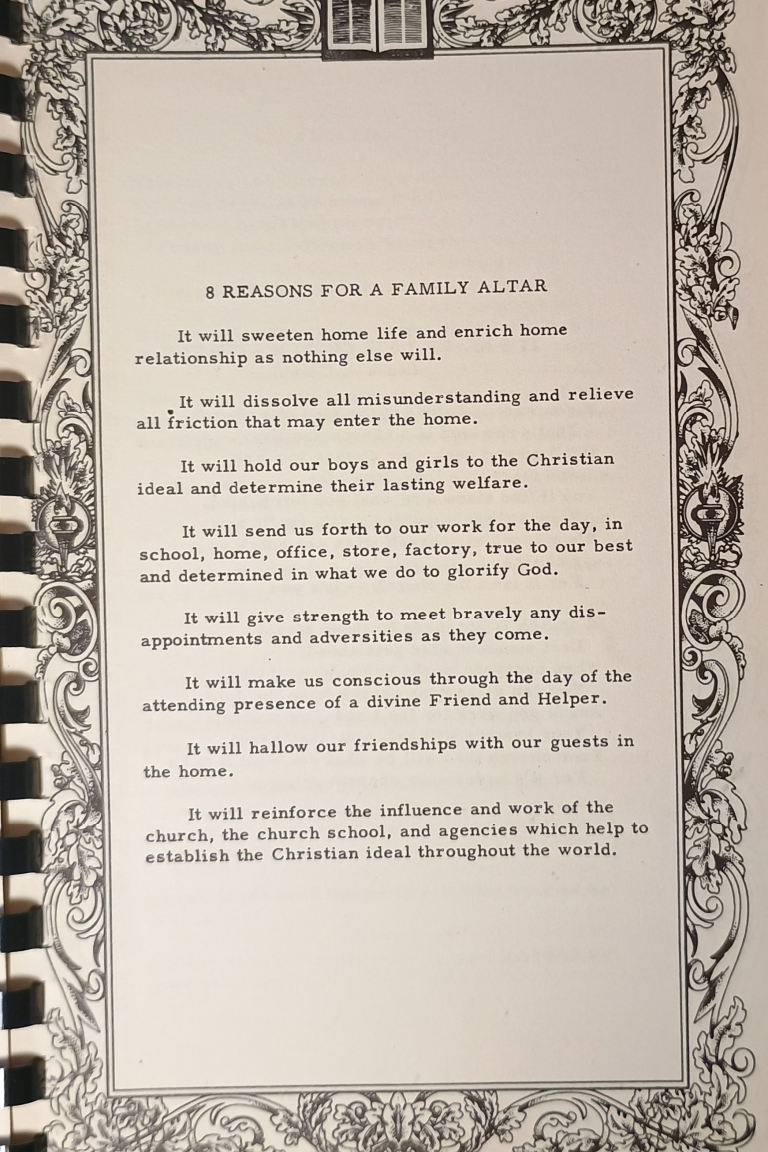
What if our hands are busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
Unless from Him we learn?

QUIET MOMENTS:

An old man, going along a highway
Came, at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old Man", said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide---
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught for me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."
-Will Allen Dromgoole.

"WHAT DO YOU OWE"?

What do you owe God, you ask?
Suppose He sent this bill:
One hundred thousand dollars for sun upon the hill;
Two thousand dollars for the little brook that runs
along the way;
Five hundred for the night time, and a thousand for
a day;
Six hundred for the little birds that trill and chirp
and sing;
Six hundred for the tiny flowers which tell us that
it's spring.
These are the bills which everyone of every clime
forgot
If God should charge you what you owe, you'd al-
ways be in debt.
Marcella Hooe.



8 REASONS FOR A FAMILY ALTAR

It will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else will.

It will dissolve all misunderstanding and relieve all friction that may enter the home.

It will hold our boys and girls to the Christian ideal and determine their lasting welfare.

It will send us forth to our work for the day, in school, home, office, store, factory, true to our best and determined in what we do to glorify God.

It will give strength to meet bravely any disappointments and adversities as they come.

It will make us conscious through the day of the attending presence of a divine Friend and Helper.

It will hallow our friendships with our guests in the home.

It will reinforce the influence and work of the church, the church school, and agencies which help to establish the Christian ideal throughout the world.

IT'S NEVER YOUR CHURCH - IT'S YOU
(Ross A. Clapp)

If you want to belong to the kind of a church
That's the kind of a church you like,
Don't go and pack your clothes in a grip
And start on a long, long hike.
You'll find elsewhere what you left behind,
'Cause there's nothing that's really new;
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your
church
For it isn't the church -- it's you.

A church is not made by those afraid
Lest someone else gets ahead;
When everyone works and nobody shirks,
You can raise your church from the dead.
And if you work for the Lord--not praise,
Your brother will help you, that's true;
Your church then will be what you want it to be
For it's never your church--it's you.

PITH AND POINT

Who learns and learns
Yet does not what he knows,
Is one who plows and plows
Yet never sows.--Persian Proverb

A living faith is a creed in action.

It takes as much religion to live right as it does to
die right.

There is a man who boasts that he is one hundred
per cent; but his voice is so noisy that he has never
heard the whispering of the real spirit of America.

Killing time is a good way to end life's aspirations.

The best sermon ever preached is a life well lived.

Good government is impossible where moral charac-
ter is lacking.

Free speech is one thing; honest speech another.

A worn Bible is better than a new one.

There is little room for pride at the foot of the
cross.

A jazz age seeks thrill instead of a thought.

Eleventh hour salvation may be safe but it is
hardly honest.

Many a man thinks that he is religious because he
is emotional.

One can ride all day on a merry-go-round without
going very far.



The church is a band of well-being; have you made your deposit?

There is more hope for a soft head than for a hard heart.

If a man is satisfied with himself, he finds awfully disappointing.

The best training for a child is the training of good example.

When a man or motor knocks, it shows lack of power.

Ability never amounts to much until it becomes stability.

Love is the key that fits all locks.

The home is the cornerstone of the nation.

Show nerve, not nerves.

The gods we worship write their names on our faces.

The secret of life is not in externals, but in eternals.

Life will give us back whatever we put into it.

What you are is more important than what you've got.

To mount -- accept the sermon on the mount.

The highest form of spending is spending self for others.

Honking your horn doesn't help so much as steering wisely.

To get up, never give up.

Have a purpose, Then plan and plug. Finally----
plug still more.

If God is your partner, make your plans large.

Money talks; what does it say about you?

Loveless giving is lifeless giving.

Heaven is not reached by a single bound,
We build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to the summit round by round.

Forgetting the things which are behind and looking
to the things which are before, I press on toward
the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus, my
Lord.

* * * * *

Solid Ivory -- "Ouch! I bumped my crazy bone! "
"Oh, well, comb your hair right and the bump
won't show."

Ikey (eagerly): "Fadder, I vos in de woods an' I
saw a nest full of young birts an' dey did nothing
but sing 'Cheep! Cheep! ' "

Cohenstein: "Mine gracious, Ikey! get all dem
birts you can. I'll hang dem in der front of der
store and let dem holler 'bout der goots."

"I feel awfully anxious about my wife," said
Jones to his friend, "she's out in this downpour of
rain,"

"Oh, she'll be all right, old man," answered
Brown, "she'll find shelter in some store."

"Yes," sighed Black, "That's what makes me
anxious. She's got \$10 of mine."

"How are you feeling this morning, Uncle Tim?"
"Poorly, mighty poorly, been thinking a whole heap of jining the church."

"With a single stroke of a brush," said the schoolteacher, taking his class 'round the National Gallery, "Joshua Reynolds could change a smiling face to a frowning one."

"So can my mother," said a small boy.

"Mother goes to the Methodist Church," said a little girl to the new neighbor.

"And isn't your father of the same denomination, dear?"

"I don't know zackly what daddy is; he don't go to church with mother. Uncle Robert said daddy must be a Seven Day Absetist."

A gentleman who was visiting his lawyer for the purpose of making his will, insisted that a final request be attached to the document. The request was, that the family Ford be buried with him after he died. His lawyer tried to make him see how absurd this was, but failed, so he asked the man's wife to use her influence with him. She did the best she could, but she also failed.

"Well, John," said she finally, "tell me why you want your Ford car buried with you?"

"Because I never have got in a hole," said he, "but what my Ford could pull me out."

Johnnie was gazing at his one-day-old brother, who lay squealing and yelling in his cot.

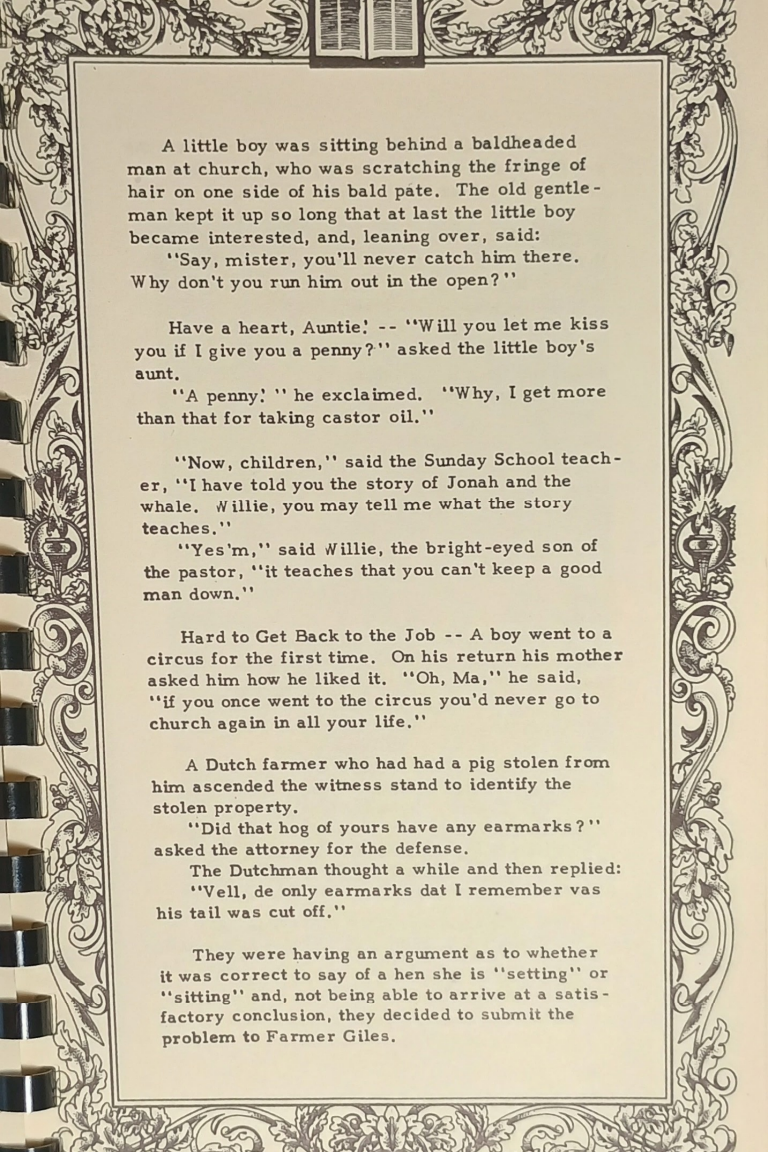
"Has he come from Heaven?" inquired Johnnie.

"Yes, dear."

"No wonder they put him out."

Uncle Jack asked little Celia if she didn't want him to play with her.

"Oh, no," she said, "we're playing Indian, and you're no use, 'cause you're scalped already."



A little boy was sitting behind a baldheaded man at church, who was scratching the fringe of hair on one side of his bald pate. The old gentleman kept it up so long that at last the little boy became interested, and, leaning over, said:

"Say, mister, you'll never catch him there. Why don't you run him out in the open?"

Have a heart, Auntie! -- "Will you let me kiss you if I give you a penny?" asked the little boy's aunt.

"A penny!" he exclaimed. "Why, I get more than that for taking castor oil."

"Now, children," said the Sunday School teacher, "I have told you the story of Jonah and the whale. Willie, you may tell me what the story teaches."

"Yes'm," said Willie, the bright-eyed son of the pastor, "it teaches that you can't keep a good man down."

Hard to Get Back to the Job -- A boy went to a circus for the first time. On his return his mother asked him how he liked it. "Oh, Ma," he said, "if you once went to the circus you'd never go to church again in all your life."

A Dutch farmer who had had a pig stolen from him ascended the witness stand to identify the stolen property.

"Did that hog of yours have any earmarks?" asked the attorney for the defense.

The Dutchman thought a while and then replied:

"Vell, de only earmarks dat I remember vas his tail was cut off."

They were having an argument as to whether it was correct to say of a hen she is "setting" or "sitting" and, not being able to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, they decided to submit the problem to Farmer Giles.

"My friends," said he, "that don't interest me a-tall. What I want to know when I hear a hen cackle is whether she be laying or lying."

"Is the world round?" a schoolma'am asked the little boy.

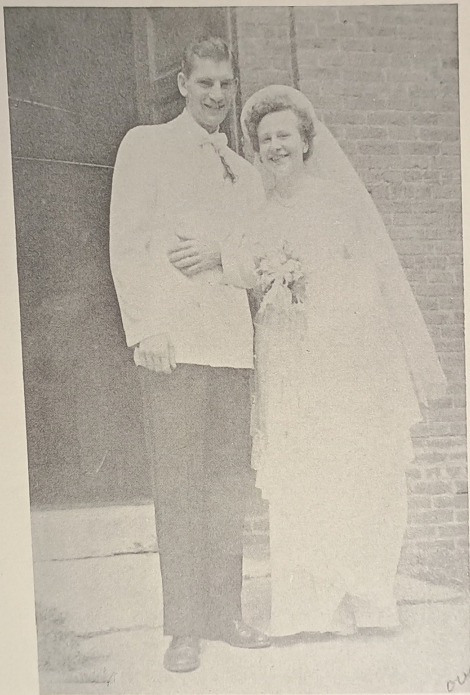
"No'm."

"It isn't, eh?" Is it flat, then?"

"No'm."

"Are you crazy, child? If the world isn't round and isn't flat, what is it?"

"Pop says its crooked."



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD HILLNER were married in the Hennepin Methodist Church on August 13, 1950.



MR. AND MRS. THORTON ALLEN BURWELL were married in Hennepin Methodist Church August 8, 1948.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT H. CLAUSEN were
Married in the Hennepin Methodist Church December
8, 1949.

WHY SHOULD WE ATTEND CHURCH?

There are many basic reasons for attending church. We should go to church because God expects us to go. He tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. People must meet and worship to keep religion alive. JESUS went to church.

Because one of the highest benefits derived from church attendance is worship. The human spirit cannot engage in a holier exercise than the act of worship, as the Psalmist made plain when he declared:- "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go unto the house of the Lord."

Worship helps us to be reverent. There is no institution like the church fitted to teach reverence. A man spends the week in grinding toil. His mind and time have been occupied with material things, thus he comes to the Holy Sabbath with a spiritual need that can be supplied only by the church.

We should go to church because of the example we set for others. Example is a mighty teacher. People do as we do, not as we say. If we fail to attend church we are not only robbing our soul of the spiritual it so badly needs but we are also helping to break down our civilization. Parents have no right to expect children to do what they themselves are not doing.

We should go to church because as Christians we have made a pledge to do so. We took this vow voluntarily. We must keep it or prove ourselves untrue to God.

We should go to church because it is a very sure sign of spiritual decay to be continually absent. When a christian ceases to go to church it is usually the end of his work in the church. Very often it is the end of his or her religion.



Sunday is not rightly spent unless they have been to church. Spiritual growth is a gradual matter and must be effected over a period of years by regular participation in worship.



WALSWORTH

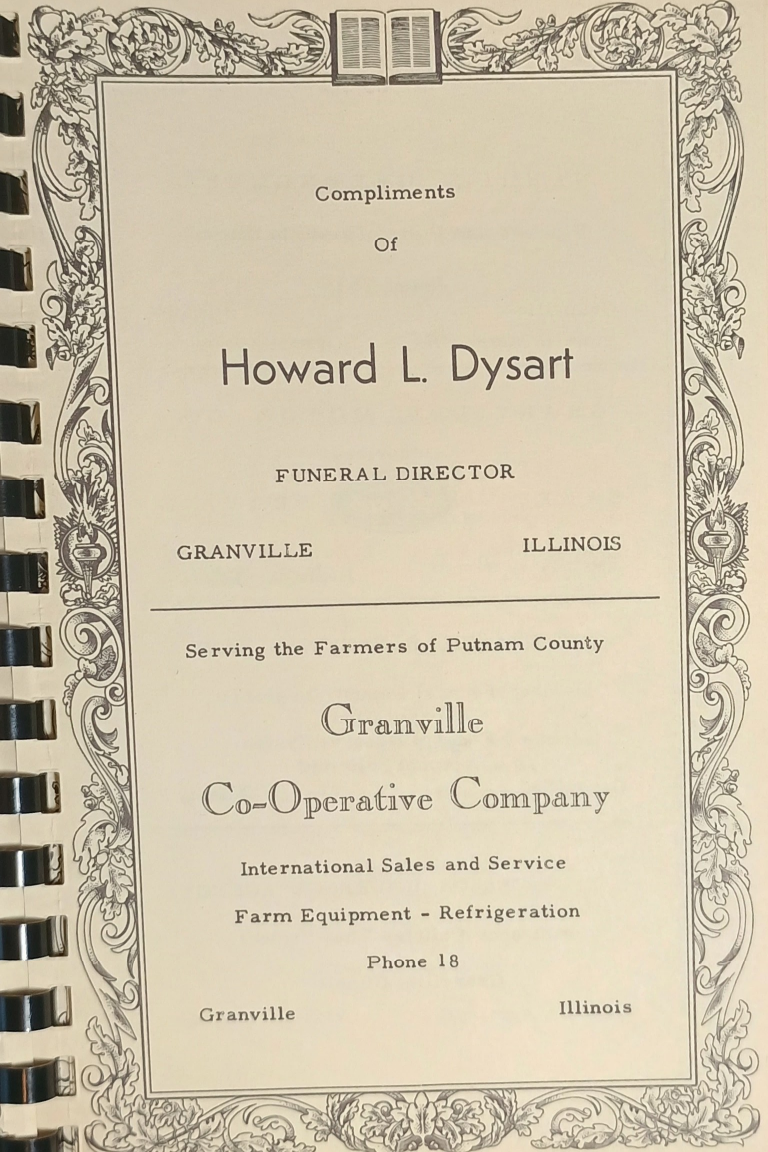
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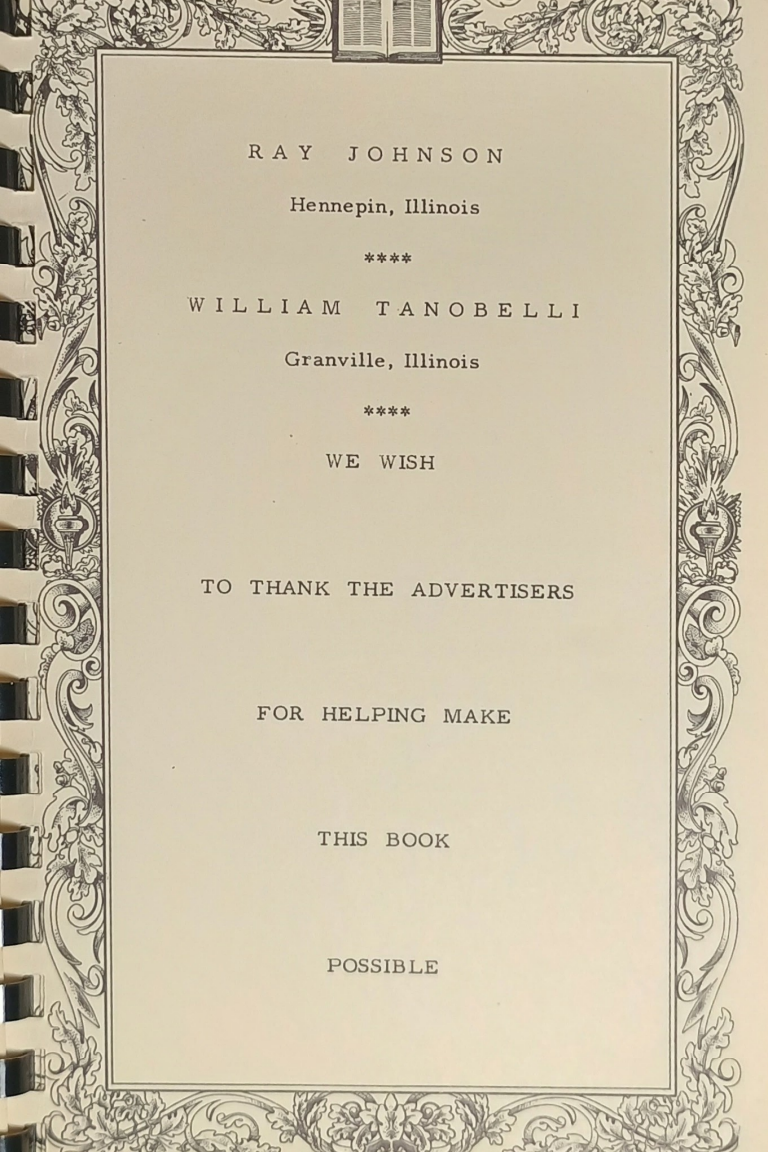
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