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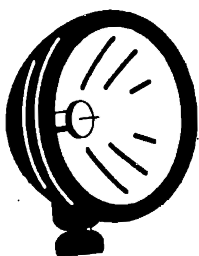
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Spotlight on

Leon's Barn

FALLS CREEK, OKLAHOMA

By Eli Sheldon,
From the writings Of Bertie Brintle

Many of you probably remember when Falls Creek had old wooden cabins with no air conditioning and limited modern facilities. Cooling was supplied by large fans and by raising wooden shutters to allow ventilation through the dorm rooms. This is the story of one such cabin, but in this case it was built better.

Prior to the late 1960's the youth of Leon Baptist Church stayed with others in the Enon Association's cabin. It was now time for a place they could call their own.

In 1967, Leon Church bought a cabin for \$100.00 from St. Louis Baptist Church. Raymond Brintle acted as cabin director and his pick-up was full of luggage, groceries, and mattresses for the bunk beds. Other sponsors that first year were Maxine Taliaferro, Katherine Frazier, the pastor Glen Mace and his wife, Jan. The next year Bertie Brintle joined Raymond, and for 11 more years they took the responsibility of recruiting youth, arranging finances, gathering the groceries, and getting the youth to camp.

One young camper, observed the structure, and named the cabin "Leon's Barn", because it looked like a barn. A big sign, lettered in red was nailed over the front entrance, proudly proclaiming the name.

Leon's Barn was different from most other cabins. It was constructed of used sheet iron and painted with aluminum paint. It was located up the hill behind the medical clinic and past the old ball diamond. The cabin was not too big. It had a large barn door in the front and only a screened in area where a back door would have

been. When you opened the barn door, you were already in the kitchen and dining area, complete with cement floor.

As one entered the barn, the girl's dorm was on the left and accommodated about fourteen girls. It had wooden shutters that opened to allow circulation of air. The boy's side was a different matter. They had no walls in the boy's dorm. The secluded area with great overgrowth of brush and trees provide the privacy needed for the area. Only floor to ceiling screening separated the boy's from nature. Being one of the more modern cabins at the time, both dorms had indoor restroom facilities and a shower. The days may have been hot, but the cool mountain air usually meant campers were reaching for quilts for cover before morning's first light.

The kitchen had all the necessities including an old fashioned ice-box, in which blocks of ice were placed and chipped for drinks. The kitchen-dining area was an important place in the life of a Falls Creek cabin. This was a place where pastors and staffers could get to know the youth better in one week than they could in an entire year of church meetings. The sponsors often became the only parents some children ever knew.

The primitive cabin provided a sense of being with God's little creatures of nature better than most other dwellings. Some nights skunks had to be shooed away and other times armadillos made irritating forays around the cabin. Raymond Brintle was often seen recovering his house shoes he had thrown at the armadillos the night before. A rat came to the kitchen at lunch time one day, perhaps drawn by the aroma of fine cooking. No matter what some believed about dancing in those days, more than one person did a quick two-step to avoid the rodent.

The story of Leon's Barn would never be complete just by describing the cabin. As with the cabins of the past and those of the present, important things happen within the walls of Falls Creek's abodes.

In most cabins, some campers were regular attendees at church, while others were lost friends who needed Christ. The retreat setting and friendly schedule of services and classes provided the place where God's Spirit could work most effectively.

Our story now becomes almost a parable, for what happened in Leon's Barn has happened many times and in many cabins over the years at Falls Creek.

One night in particular, the Holy Spirit was felt in a most miraculous way. It began during the cabin devotion time at 10:00 p.m. One of the teenage girls wanted to know, like the Philippian jailer, "What must I do to be saved?" Her questions were answered, and she immediately made a profession of faith. Other professions quickly followed. The 10:00 p.m. devotion lasted until 2:00 a.m., and the Falls Creek curfew was ignored without complaint. Everyone in the cabin made a decision for Christ. The time ended with singing of praises to the Lord. What rejoicing! Only the Lord knows how far the results of that one night devotion have spread around the world.

The story of Leon's Barn in many ways, is no exception. Throughout the years a countless number of campers had their lives molded and changed by Falls Creek.

What happened to Leon's Barn? Like all of those old cabins, age set in and the structure began to deteriorate. Eli Sheldon recalls the time he was looking for a cabin for his church to use, and Leon's Barn was available. As he entered the boy's dorm, he noted there were no walls, and the screening was long gone. Now, that's really getting back to nature. The churches using Falls Creek began to replace those old structures with better constructed cabins. Leon's Barn was sold to a church with a nearby cabin, and torn down to provide a parking area.

While Falls Creek is now vastly improved, the memories of old friends and decisions for Christ remain forever. For many campers over the years, Leon's Barn does not simply mean a place they stayed, but rather a place they found the purpose of life in Christ.

Editor's note: Much of this article was taken verbatim from *The History of Leon Baptist Church*, by Bertie Brintle, pages 23-25.

NECROLOGY 2010

Alexander, Max M., 79, who served 43 years at Oklahoma City, Putnam City, died May 11. He was a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. He was music minister at Putnam City for 25 years before becoming minister of pastoral care. He conducted many funerals and began a prison ministry visiting the Oklahoma County Jail. He was a member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife JoAnna. (*Messenger* – May 27)

Amos, Juanita, wife of Charles Amos, died January 11. She was a pastor's wife for more than 50 years and 21 of those years were spent at Oklahoma City, Rancho Village, where her husband was pastor. She is survived by her husband of 66 years. (*Messenger* – March 18)

Badry, Jamall, 75, died August 29 in Colorado Springs. He served as minister of music at Oklahoma City, Sunnyside, two years. He entered music evangelism in 1961. He was a charter member of the Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma. After moving to Colorado Springs, he established the Music Evangelism Foundation, a world-wide ministry, presenting the Gospel in revivals, conferences and concerts. Survivors include two brothers and two sisters. (*Messenger* – September 9)

Barker, Lester, 82, died December 27, 2009, in Overland Park, Kansas. A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary, he retired in 1997 after serving 50 years as pastor of churches in Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma, including Ceres Church; Pernell; Loco, First; Enid, Trinity; and Ada, Trinity. He served as second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma in the 1960s.

Barker is survived by his wife Barbara. (*Messenger* – March 25)

Cabaniss, Wayne 70, died October 12. Wayne was the father of Daniel Cabaniss, pastor of Oklahoma City, Southpark, and Charley Cabaniss, youth minister at Tishomingo, Calvary. (*Messenger* – October 28)

Chuckluck, Linda Nell (Brewer), 68, died November 28. The wife of pastor Bridge Chuckluck Jr., she served as a Deaconess, Sunday School teacher, Baptist Young Women's Director, WMU Director, and Acteen's and GA leader. She and her husband served as Home Missionaries at Anadarko, Indian Capitol. (*Messenger* – December 23)

Coleman, George Ermel, 85, died February 7 in Seattle, Washington. He had served as pastor of Southern Baptist churches in California, Oregon, Colorado, and New Mexico. After retirement he served as interim at various churches in Oklahoma, including Cushing, First; Perkins, Immanuel; and churches in Stillwater and Cleveland. He was preceded in death by his wife Gladys. (*Messenger* – March 25)

Dane, Mildred Evelyn, 91, wife of longtime pastor of Oklahoma City, Portland Avenue, J.P. Dane, died May 12. She graduated cum laude from Oklahoma Baptist University and married Dane in 1939. She is survived by her husband. (*Messenger* – May 27)

Dooley, Troy Lee, 72, manager of *Baptist Messenger* Press for 36 years, died January 9. He began his service in 1963 when the *Messenger* was printed in two shifts on a letter press. He retired in 2000. He is survived by his wife Wanda of 53 years. (*Messenger* – January 28)

Drake, Jim, who was pastor of Hudson Creek Baptist in Northeast Baptist Association the past seven years, died March 19. (NEBA Newsletter – April)

Emanuel, Rebekah Sue Jackson, died January 3. She and her husband served as missionaries to Japan for 36 years. She graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and earned a masters degree in library science from the University of Oklahoma. After retirement she continued to serve at the Spanish Mission in Duncan and spent many summer weeks involved with state Acteens as missionary in residence at Camp Nunny Cha-ha. She had served as a member of the BGCO board of directors. Her husband, Beverly Paul (Bill), preceded her in death. (*Messenger* – January 28)

Fox, Sherry Deann, 56, died January 18. Funeral services were January 21 at Healdton, First. Fox was the widow of Phil Fox, pastor of Healdton, First, who died just over a year ago. She was a nurse employed by the Wilson and Healdton Nursing Homes and later worked at the Healdton Hospital. (*Messenger* – February 11)

Freeman, David N., 76, died December 8. He was a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Seminary. He was pastor of Frederick, Bethel; Chattanooga, First; and Oklahoma City, Walker Avenue; and director of missions in Tillman and Arbuckle Associations. He also served as recording secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. (*Messenger* – December 23)

Gibson, Robert Mark, 48, children's minister at Oklahoma City, Cherokee Hills, died January 4. He graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. He previously served at Midwest City, Meadowood, and Claremore, Faith, as well as churches in Texas and Florida. He is survived by his wife Sue. (*Messenger* – January 21)

Gooding, Norman Gene, 76, died April 23. A native of Wilson, Gooding served as minister of music and youth at Rexroat Church; Marietta, First; Yukon, First; Texhoma, First; and Durant, Calvary. He helped charter and build Madill, Cross Roads. After retirement he served in prison ministries for Bill Glass Champions of Life and the Christian Motorcycle Association. The last few years he had dedicated his energy

to help build Durant, Calvary's, Falls Creek cabin. His wife, Cheryl, survives him. (*Messenger* – June 10)

Greer, Sonja, 69, died November 11. Her husband Jim, conducted more than 100 revival and crusade meetings throughout Oklahoma, and they served as music leaders for many state and national Southern Baptist conventions and conferences, many involving Baptist Collegiate Ministries. Jim served as minister of music at Oklahoma City, Nichols Hills (now Quail Springs) from 1972-79. In 1977, the couple recorded a record album and donated all proceeds to Oklahoma's BCM summer missions fund. (*Messenger* – December 23)

Harjo, Julia Ann, 71 BGCO women's missions and ministries volunteer and long-time pianist at Oklahoma City, Glorieta, died October 11. (*Messenger* – October 28)

Haskins, Kyle Andrew, 23, grandson of Robert Haskins, retired associate executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 21 while on a fishing trip on Lake Eufaula. (*Messenger* – June 3)

Hawkins, James "Stacy", son of retired Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Controller, and more recently, historical secretary Marlin Hawkins and his wife, Patsy, died November 30. Hawkins, 43, was a member of Yukon, Surrey Hills. (*Messenger* – December 16)

Hogue, Charles Billy (C.B., Bill), 82, evangelism director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma from 1971-1973, died January 26. He was a graduate of Howard Payne University and Southwestern Seminary. He served as pastor of Ada, First, 1969-71, and Tulsa, Eastwood, 1982-1984. He was vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board, now North American Mission Board, from 1973-1982, and served as executive director-treasurer of the California Southern Baptist Convention from 1984 until his retirement in 1995. Hogue was a member of the International Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism and was also a general

council member and vice president of the Baptist World Alliance. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jane, of 60 years. (*Messenger* – February 11)

Howry, Virginia Sue, 69, wife of Dale Howry, pastor of Chisholm Trail Cowboy Church in Duncan, died July 28. The funeral was July 31 at Ada, First, with burial in Highland Cemetery in Stonewall. (*Messenger* – August 12)

Hultgren, Warren Curtis, 89, who for 35 years was the pastor of Tulsa, First, died November 14. He served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and on the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance. In retirement, he opened an office to help fired church staff members. Hultgren stated: "The single most important thing I've learned in my years of ministry is that no one ever has it made." (*Messenger* – December 2)

Humphreys, Jack Carlton, 88, died December 30. The counseling area in the new Falls Creek Tabernacle, the Jack and Bonnie Humphreys Decision Center, is named in honor of Humphreys and his wife. It was established in recognition of the Humphreys' desire to see others have "the wonderful discovery of knowing Christ personally and trusting Him for all their needs." (*Messenger* – January 13)

Ingram, Marshall H., who served many years in the 1970s and 80s as a doctor at the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, died in April. He owned and operated the Hinton Medical Clinic, and was the only doctor on staff to open the hospital in Weatherford. In 2008 he received a 50-year American Medical Association award. (*Messenger* – July 22)

Jackson, Roy W., 83, retired pastor, died February 17. He served as pastor of Union City, First; Oklahoma City, West Lawn; Guymon, Trinity; and Newalla, First; and was associate pastor at Oklahoma City, Central Hillcrest. He was preceded in death by his wife Margie. (*Messenger* – March 11)

Jones, Billy S. 78, died September 13 at his home in Anadarko. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a graduate of Bacone Junior College. He later served with the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention as coordinator of Indian Missions in Central Association. He was pastor of Oklahoma City, Little Springs, and served as director of Good Shepherd ministries at Oklahoma City, First. He was an elder and a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife. (*Messenger* – September 2)

Jones, Ethel Marie Matthew, 65, mother of BGCO children and preschool specialist Mark Jones, died December 25. (*Messenger* – January 13)

Kennedy, Marie Lorene, 93, mother of Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children President Tony Kennedy, died January 30. Kennedy had worked at the State School in Pauls Valley and served in various roles at Elmore City, First, for more than 70 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, O.W. "Heavy" Kennedy. (*Messenger* – February 18)

Lackey, Herman Frederick, 84, died March 4. Lackey was employed at Tinker Air Force Base for 25 years. After retiring he and his wife, Ruth, became Church Renewal Coordinators for the North American Mission Board, where they led lay renewal programs for 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 65 years. (*Messenger* – March 18)

Lambert, Melissa, 37, wife of Dan Lambert, music minister at Friendship Church in Southwest Association, died March 11. She is survived by her husband and three children. (*Messenger* – March 25)

Lyall, Max D., 71, died February 18. Lyall's list of accomplishments reads like a who's who of renowned musicians, both past and present. A native of Tonkawa, he earned a music degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, master of music degree from the University of Oklahoma, and a doctor of musical arts degree from Peabody Conservatory of Music at

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Lyall served on the faculties of Oklahoma Baptist University and Belmont College prior to his 25 years as professor of church music at Golden Gate Seminary. He was pianist for several meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance, and was accompanist for the Centurymen. Funeral services for Lyall were held at Oklahoma City, First, where he served as associate minister of music. Burial was in Tonkawa. (*Messenger* – March 4)

McKinney, Jerry Douglas, pastor of Oklahoma City, Putnam City Baptist Church, died March 13. In 1994, he came to Putnam City as minister of education/administration. He later became senior associate pastor and in 1997 became pastor. He held a master of divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary and a doctor of divinity from Pocomoke Bible Institute. He received a doctor of philosophy from Oxford Graduate School in Religion and Society. He is survived by his wife Norma. (*Messenger* – March 25)

Naylor, Goldia, wife of former pastor and Southwestern Seminary president Robert Naylor, died Sunday, January 31, at the age of 100. She and Dr. Naylor married in 1930 and enjoyed 68 years of marriage together. Goldia served with her husband as he pastored churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. During that time she served as choir director, Sunday School superintendent, and teacher, and was a leader of the women's mission organization. In 1958 she became first lady of Southwestern Seminary when her husband became the fifth president and served 20 years. Their daughter, Rebekah, served as a surgeon at the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India for 35 years. (*Messenger* – February 11)

Pratt, Henrietta, 67, wife of longtime Oklahoma pastor Duane Pratt, died February 1. Pratt was a full-blood member of the Pawnee Tribe and was employed as a bookkeeper and project manager, and worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs with the Pawnee and Otoe-Missouria Tribes. Pratt is survived by her husband of 50 years. (*Messenger* – February 25)

Renfro, Frank, longtime pastor at Rhea Baptist Church in Beckham-Mills Association, was pastor of Leedey, First from 1952-56. Renfro died in June and his service was June 16 at Chisholm Heights Baptist Church in Mustang. (BMBA Newsletter – July)

Scott, Ruby, 70, died from injuries received from a vehicle accident July 29. Services were August 3 at the Chickasaw Nation Community Building. Scott was secretary for the Chi-Ka-Sha Association and was an original member of Native Praise, singing for 11 years. She also served as a cook at Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center for many years. (*Messenger* – August 12)

Spradlin, C.A. “Pete”, 81, died December 26. He helped start Boggy Depot Church in Atoka-Coal Association while in seminary. He later served as pastor of Loco, First; Pocasset, First; Chickasha, College Heights; and Gracemont, First. He served on the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Board of Directors and as a S.A.N.E. board member. (*Messenger* – January 13)

Standard, James Noel (Jim) pastor of Atwood Church in South Canadian Association died October 12 in Oklahoma City. Standard spent 35 years at *The Oklahoman* and became executive editor in 1984. He was a former Oklahoman Newsmen of the Year and wrote a weekly column, “Jim Standard’s Oklahoma.” After he retired in 1995, he moved to Rome, Italy, where he became active in the International Baptist Church, was ordained, and became pastor of a church in Florence, Italy. (*Messenger* – October 28)

Stell Jr., John Thurman, 86, longtime vocational evangelist, died October 14. Stell attended Oklahoma Baptist University and was pastor of Oak Grove Church in South Canadian Association; Sharon Church in Northwestern Association; Morning Star and Romulus Churches in Pottawatomie-Lincoln Association; Earlsboro, First; Highway Church in South Canadian Association; Comanche, Patterson Avenue; Jay, First;

and Tulsa, Carbondale. He also served as minister of outreach at Tulsa, View Acres; minister of evangelism at Tulsa, Calvary; and was staff evangelist at Owasso, First. He was the author of *Mentoring Men from the Prayer Closet*. (*Messenger* – November 4)

Taylor, James E., 76, retired administrator/chaplain at Baptist Village, Cleveland, died January 25. He had served as minister of music/education at Perry, First; Lawton, Central; Tahlequah, First; and Heavener, First. He also served as associate pastor at Hominy, First, and pastor of Terlton, First. He is survived by his wife Dolores. (*Messenger* – February 11)

Warnken, J. Albert, 85, died February 4. He was a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall and Southwestern Seminary. He served in the United States Navy for three years, including a 21-month tour of duty in the South Pacific during World War II. He served as pastor of Valliant, First; Sayre, First; and Lone Oak Church in Beckham-Mills Association. He also served on the BGCO board of directors. He is survived by his wife Helen. (*Messenger* – February 25)

Wilburn Sr., Cliet Walter 58, theologian, pastor and biblical scholar, died November 4. Wilburn earned a bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary and a doctorate of ministry degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Union Missionary Church and Neighborhood Missionary Church in Shawnee. He was the Director of Christian Education at St. John Missionary Church for 19 years. Wilburn founded Bethesda Church in Edmond, the first and only African-American multi-cultural church in Edmond. (*Messenger* – December 2)

Willis, Carolyn Cornelius, 67, longtime organist at Del City, First Southern, died August 20 after a brief bout with cancer. She was a graduate of the University of Missouri with a BA in music education and a MA in music history. She served as

chairman of the Oklahoma City Metro Library Commission and was a leader with Bible Study Fellowship for 15 years. Survivors include her husband Jon, her mother, two sons and a daughter. She was preceded in death by her first husband Sam Cornelius. (*Messenger* – September 2)

Wilson, Elizabeth “Beth”, former missionary to Hong Kong and New Zealand, died at her home in Norman on August 1. She was a member at Norman, First, along with her husband of 62 years, George. Both she and George graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University, where they met. (*Messenger* – October 28)

Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society New Members for 2010

The following is a list of new members received in 2010. The last printing of the total membership may be found in the *Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, Spring 2008.

LIFE

**John Nixon
Atoka**

Institutional Perpetual

**Criswell College Wallace Library
Dallas, Texas**

**Southern Seminary Boyce Library
Louisville, Kentucky**

Oklahoma Baptist University Students

**Frank D. Ashby, Jr.
Tulsa**

**Caleb Davis
Choctaw**

**Janeth Carreon
Shawnee**

**Jessica Dawson
Shawnee**

**Bryan Cody
Spencer**

**Katie Denny
Fort Worth, Texas**

**Rick Cordova
Shawnee**

**Kayla Denny
Enid**

Clayton Denton
Shawnee

Charity Massey
Shawnee

David Doyle
Rogers, Arkansas

Zac Matthaner
Shawnee

Jordan Gilbert
Chickasha

Jared Maxey
Shawnee

James Gonzales
Shawnee

Myra Montgomery
Katy, Texas

Steve Hall
Shawnee

Whitney Moore
Shawnee

Jacob Hibbard
Chickasha

Ben Moore
Shawnee

Galend Hover
Wanette

Josh Mugler
Saint Peters, Missouri

Shane Huff
Pryor

Jonathan O'Keefe
Shawnee

Jeremy Johnson
Shawnee

Cody Payne
Talala

Beth Jones
Fletcher

Taylor Phillips
Shawnee

Jeremy Lalli
Krebs

Shawn Randall
Haysville, Kansas

Logan Lambert
Shawnee

Jessica Rankin
Shawnee

Jonathan Lookado
Rogers, Arkansas

Ellen Richard
Shawnee

Membership

Zach Rider
Oklahoma City

Michael S. Ward
Oklahoma City

Scott Risinger
Oklahoma City

Devin Warfield
Shawnee

Megan Shelby
Shawnee

Laura Wesevich
Shawnee

Scott Shockley
Saint Charles, Missouri

Cassie Whitehead
Lindsey

Samuel Simmons
Shawnee

Ashley Wyatt
Louisburg, Kansas

Christopher Truitt
Tulsa

The following article was written by George Miller on April 26, 1991. Mr. Miller was a long time legal counsel for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. He and his wife were heavily involved in the Falls Creek campaign and had been part of the Miller Dollarhide law firm. George Miller died on his wedding anniversary, December 30, 2005.

The article gives interesting insights regarding the history of executive secretaries Mr. Miller worked with at the Baptist Building. I especially enjoyed the introductory materials giving history of the world in the 1940's.

...The Editor

I REMEMBER WHEN

By George Miller

Did you ever write out – word for word- a telephone call? I did in May, 1946. I was calling my wife from Munich, Germany to Columbia, South Carolina. She left her eighth grade classroom to take the call. I told her that I could separate from the army overseas, and had been offered a two year appointment by the state department as a military government judge and prosecutor. Before accepting it I wanted to see if Susan would agree to join me in Munich, and live there for at least two years.

My explanation was good enough for her to agree to come before the time limit expired. The operator had said she would cut me off at the end of three minutes. The operator was obviously listening because she broke in to say, "Now you have ten seconds to tell her you love her, before I cut you off."

Susan and I lived in Munich until the fall of 1948. After six more years it was good to get home again. Naturally I remember vividly many things around that time. I hope this background information will convince you that I do actually remember these things.

In 1948, 43 years ago, Oklahoma still had prohibition. The Wets and the Drys were squaring off for a big election in 1950. The W. C. T. U. was still strong then, and they teamed up with the United Drys to fight liquor at the polls. All of the protestant churches, principally Baptist and Methodists, were involved. The Drys won by a good margin. At that time, before so many moved from the farms to the larger cities, it was generally believed that

the church people could win any statewide vote that the Baptists and Methodists agreed on.

In 1950 I met Dr. Andrew Potter, the Executive Secretary of the State Convention. Of course, I knew him before that.

While I was a law student, he had come to the First Baptist Church in Norman. He talked to the men of the church in a special meeting one Sunday afternoon. He was a good money raiser. He said to the men that afternoon, "Do you want to turn this church house into a roost for bats and hoot owls?" He was plain spoken and to the point. He was credited with getting the State Convention free from debt, and carefully building a strong base for growth. He had visions and was a sound thinker. He was a Tennessee coon hunter. He kept coon dogs somewhere down near Atoka in South-eastern Oklahoma. He loved to get out in the woods with his friends and hunt coons at night.

Dr. Potter was a natural politician. He gathered close friends around him. He had many friends and some enemies. It was common knowledge that things happened in the Convention if Dr. Potter, Dr. John W. Raley, OBU President, Dr. Henry Bennett, OSU President, and Governor Robert S. Kerr agreed to support it. Those four men had the following and the prestige to make it happen. Of course, there were many other strong Baptist laymen in the state, including Judge W. R. Wallace, R. A. Young and Guy James of Oklahoma City, J. A. Carnes of Duncan, and Bryce Twitty of Tulsa, to name a few.

Before World War II the Convention offices were downtown on Park Avenue in a building 25 wide and three stories high, with no elevator. The Baptist Book Store was on the ground floor, managed by Kay Killingsworth. You walked up two flights of wooden stairs if you visited all of the Convention offices. When I returned from Germany, the Baptist headquarters had moved. Under Dr. Potter's leadership, the headquarters was a beautiful new four story limestone building at 11th and Robinson. It was grand and spacious, but Dr. Potter was in declining health. He resigned about 1950, but not before he began two big Baptist projects – the Foundation and expansion of the Baptist hospital ministry. Already owning hospitals at Muskogee and Mangum, Dr. Potter led the Convention to take over

operation of hospitals owner by the cities of Perry and Stillwater under long term leases. The other far reaching project was the incorporation of the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma. The Foundation first had offices in Senator Kerr's building downtown.

Dr. T. B. Lackey succeeded Dr. Potter. He served for more than 20 years as Executive Secretary of the Convention. Dr. Lackey came out of western Arkansas, and began preaching as a teenage boy with only an eight-grade education. After he was married and had several children, he completed his education and graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University. History will say that he was a great Baptist leader. His outstanding leadership traits were his wisdom and his humility. You knew he was the boss, but he didn't rub it in. He was eager to give credit to others for goals attained.

Under Dr. Lackey, the Convention experienced tremendous growth. It grew in the number of churches, in contributions, and in community standing.

Under Dr. Lackey, the Baptist Laymen's Corporation was formed. It was the vehicle which Baptists used to raise funds and provide leadership for the operation of medical office buildings and for retirement homes in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

In 1950 I became the lawyer for the Convention and the Foundation. The Foundation had only been formed a few years before. I believe its assets amounted to about \$185,000 in 1950. At Dr. Potter's urging, Dr. Auguie Henry had very recently left a strong ministry at First Baptist Church of McAlester to become its executive secretary. The staff consisted of two people, Dr. Henry and his secretary, Alice Prosser, the wife of Ira Prosser, the convention music leader.

Dr. Henry was energetic and full of common sense. He was dedicated to the task of building a strong Foundation to endow Baptist institutes – primarily children's homes and OBU. He stressed that a strong Foundation was needed to undergird the institutions. He preached so much about it that he was affectionately called "Undergirding Auguie." His first concern was to select strong and highly respected laymen to serve as Foundation directors. He brought in top people from the four corners of the state. He maintained their support by letting them actually make the final decisions. He began a plan of going to the churches with the Foundation program and soliciting gifts and wills. In a short while he began building

his staff - - Horace Lee James from Elk City, then Earl Stark from Holdenville, and later Marvin Hall and Tom Carter. Then Wayne Merritt, an accountant, joined the preachers. Except for women secretaries, I believe Wayne Merritt was the first layman staff member employed by the Foundation.

Dr. Henry was a wise man and a dedicated man. He worked hard, and there is much to show for his efforts. He led the Foundation for about 15 years. When he retired the Foundation assets had grown to about \$7,000,000, as I recall. The period of slow growth was coming to a close. Others would follow to accelerate the Foundation's growth. It could only happen because Dr. Henry had led in building *a solid foundation* for the Foundation.

I have not mentioned any state Baptist leaders who are now living, because contemporaries need no reminiscing. The Foundation is enjoying rapid growth today, partly because of good things done in the past. The Holy Spirit has led the leaders and people, who have obeyed. Praise God as we watch what the Father will do with the Convention and the Foundation in the future.



Jesse Raymond Stogsdill
(1921 - 2011)

J. R. Stogsdill was well known to our Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society and to all Oklahoma Baptists. Stogsdill served in several capacities related to historical aspects of Baptists in Oklahoma, and was a major contributor to *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*.

His articles in the *Chronicle* included "Evan Jones: Pioneer Missionary to the Cherokees" XXII, 1, pp. 8-27; "Tahlequah-Westville" XXIV, 2 pp. 11; "Baptist Conventions in Oklahoma" XXIV, 2, pp. 24-35; "The Development of Baptist Missions and the Cherokee Baptist Association" XIX, 1, p. 32; and "Former Mission School Building Made National Historic Site" XX, 1, p. 28.

He was a native of Missouri, graduated from Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, MO. and Quachita Baptist College in Arkadelphia, Ark. After serving in World War II, he and his wife, Mary, were appointed missionaries to Oklahoma Native Americans by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (now NAMB). In June 1964 they began their work among the Cherokees.

His love for Baptist history and missions was enhanced as he served as pastor of Indian Capital, Anadarko, and as general missionary to the Cherokees. He also was director of missions for the Cherokee Association until 1991. He faithfully served in the ministry for over 52 years.

In addition, Stogsdill served as vice-president and president of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society, was a long time member of the society, and was a commissioner for the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission.

His writings for *The Oklahoma Baptist Chronicle*, show a deep knowledge of early missions, especially among the Cherokee, and provide a wealth of basic information which benefits all interested in Oklahoma Baptist work among the Native Americans.

The Stogsdills were living in Vermillion, S.D. at the time of his death. His wife and two sons survive him, along with many other relatives.

J. R. Stogsdill was well remembered by the Native Americans in eastern Oklahoma, and in honor of his long time service among them, his memorial service was held at Tahlequah Elm Tree, and his burial was at the Cedar Tree Baptist Church Cemetery among his friends of the Cherokee Baptist Association.

The Editor



David C. Hall

(1926 - 2011)

Among the men who have served as a member of the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Society, one of the most productive church builders and soul winners was David C. Hall. Bro. Hall was known as a forceful and eloquent pulpiter, and a great defender of the faith and of Oklahoma Baptist history. His death on February 23, 2011, ended over 75 years of preaching.

Hall was born September 23, 1926 in Oklahoma City. The month of his sixth birthday he was converted in a mission of Capitol Hill Baptist Church and baptized in the Belle Isle Lake in Oklahoma City. From his earliest memories, David Hall knew he would one day be a preacher. At age nine he was asked to speak at prayer meeting. After that he preached often. At age 16 he was called as pastor at Stuart, Oklahoma, 110 miles east of Oklahoma City. He commuted by bus, or hitchhiked. Stuart, Oklahoma was the first pastorate of Dr. T. B. Lackey, and Lackey's

brother, Richard, was one of Hall's deacons. David Hall was ordained June 1943 by Fourth Street Baptist, Oklahoma City. Dr. J. B. Rounds led in the questioning. At age 17 he married Marcine Baum, whom he had met in a Bible class at Central High School.

The history of the churches he served is too long to list, but in almost every case the churches grew to record numbers. Several churches built new buildings under his leadership, and the places he pastored were often in the top five churches in baptisms among Oklahoma Baptists. Just one example was Sequoyah Hills in Tulsa.

In 1951 he accepted the call to Sequoyah Hills. The church was only 30 months old and had already had two pastors, two splits, and an interim that served longer than either pastor. The church averaged 77 in Sunday school. In the next three and one-half years the Sunday school average rose to 400, with occasions when attendance swelled above 500. Kelham Avenue in Oklahoma City and North Phoenix in Phoenix, Arizona were two other examples of his abilities as a pastor.

His legacy and friendships read like a "Who's Who" among Southern Baptists. His work among Southern Baptists nationwide is well attested.

Hall served in several positions in various local Baptist associations, including moderator and evangelism director. He served on several Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma boards and was a preacher at Falls Creek. He preached at both Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers, was a trustee for both the Home Mission Board (now NAMB) and the Annuity Board (now Guidestone), and twice served as a member of the Committee on Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other services include leadership on the North American Committee of the Baptist World Alliance, Baptist Religious Education Association (SBC), United Drys of Oklahoma (in the 1940's), and numerous civic positions. Both of his sons, one son-in-law, and two grandsons have followed him in the ministry.

In the 1950's David C. Hall was elected to the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and helped in the beginning of our state Baptist Historical Society.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Hall's ordination, Dr. J. M. Gaskin wrote:

I have good memories of your service on the Historical Commission. You wrote a part of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists*. One of my deepest feelings of gratitude is the memory of how hard you worked on one of our six historical tours. Almost single-handedly, you made it fly. I have never seen anyone do up any job better.

The Editor

Memorial Gifts

On September 8, 1998 by vote of the Historical Commission, a memorial fund was established whereby a gift of \$25 or more may be made to the Gaskin Historical Archives and Library Forever Fund in memory of a deceased relative or friend.

James Ball, Claremore;
Given by Lemuel Ball

Margie Ball, Claremore;
Given by Lemuel Ball

Bob Burrows, Amarillo, Texas;
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Pluma Cantrell, Sallisaw;
Given by Del & Ramona Allen

E. Farrell Dixon, Tulsa;
Given by Curtis & Betty Dixon

Donald R. Dunn, Chickasha
Given by Jimmie L. Dunn

Virginia Ann Fry, Claremore;
Given by Lemuel Ball

Joseph Alexander Gaskin, Cartersville;
Given by J. M. Gaskin

Jim Glaze, Montgomery, Alabama;
Given by Marlin & Patsy Hawkins

George Hill, Coalgate;
Given by Margaret Hill

George Hill, Coalgate;
Given by J. M. Gaskin

Mrs. Carrell Hooper, Durant;
Given by J.M. & Helen Gaskin

Carleen Jones, Oklahoma City;
Given by Marlin and Patsy Hawkins

Nadean Justice, Oklahoma City;
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Murray Leath, Plano, Texas;
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Dick Lovelady, Bethany;
Given by Marlin & Patsy Hawkins

Clara Luedeck, Weatherford, Texas;
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Charles Mackey, Durant;
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

Robert Mackey, Durant;
Given by Mrs. Robert Mackey

John H. Morton, Durant;
Given by Bill J. Morton

Emma L. Shoemate Morton, Durant;
Given by Bill J. Morton

Memorials

John D. Riggs, Durant;
Given by J.M. Gaskin

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas;
Given by the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission

Todd Sheldon, Dallas, Texas;
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William G. Tanner, Belton, Texas;
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Hazel Marie Williams White, Wilburton;
Given by Del & Ramona Allen

