

History of Embury Concludes Church Series

Methodists Back Mission Started In Eco City in 1923

(Editor's note: Today's article on Embury Church concludes the historical series which has appeared weekly on this page. The final article was written by the Rev. Theodore W. Wagoner, Jr., with much of the data supplied to the present pastor of Embury, Rudolph Boyce, and by Dr. Ed. J. Warren, of Detroit. Material from the other church histories were written by Mr. Wagoner, based on data obtained from the Rev. of The Eclectic for his Master's degree thesis at the University of Michigan.)

Embury Methodist Church began its activities in the year 1923. While it is now affiliated with the Methodist Church, at the time of its organization it was a member of the Congregational Church.

In 1923, the Rev. David Curry, then minister of the United Presbyterian Church, resigned his pastorate and soon after was ordained into the Congregational ministry. Under his leadership the Bennaville Church was organized as the Birmingham United Presbyterian Church, Inc. Since no church existed under that title, the name was changed a few months later to Bennaville Congregational Church.

Started in 1923

The present building was put under construction in the Fall of 1923. The plans were to make it not only a place of worship, but a community center. At that time Birmingham extended only as far as Lincoln avenue. The territory from Lincoln to the 14 mile road was a separate community known as Eco City. A house to house canvass of this territory was undertaken in order to determine the religious affiliation of the people residing within its boundaries.

The building was not immediately finished. In October, 1924, a ten-week campaign was inaugurated to complete the structure. The membership was divided into 12 groups, with six persons to each group, and a quota for each group was set at \$125.

During the months of February and March, 1925, a series of conferences were held with reference to the possibility of the Methodist Church taking over the operation of the church and Sunday School. A meeting was held with officials of the Methodist Union in the summer of that year. An agreement was arrived at by which the local congregation agreed to assume an indebtedness of \$1,000 against the property.

Miss Baird Sent

The Methodist Union sent Miss Lydia Baird into the field and she continued through the winter of 1925. The Rev. Leach Hagie, who was pastor of an adjoining church, volunteered a ministry through the spring and summer of 1925 until he was appointed regularly in September of that year. Mr. Hagie continued as pastor until September, 1933, when the Rev. John Marvin was appointed. In September, 1934, the Rev. Erwin King was appointed and continued until June 1935. Since July, 1937 Rudolph Boyce has been serving the congregation as student supply pastor.

The Church has 28 members at the present time, with a Sunday School enrollment of 180.

License Granted for Antique Shop

Mrs. Mary R. Thornton was granted an antique shop license by the City Commission, Monday night. She will operate an antique shop at 266 East Maple avenue, formerly operated in her home in Bloomfield Hills.

Water Table Low; Fear Forest Fires

LANSING—With the northern Michigan water table at its lowest point in five years, conservation department forest fire suppression workers are preparing for a period of high hazard early in the season.

Fire hazard is greater in a dry summer because vegetation "greens up" more slowly and then dries out more quickly in the hot sun and because the drier duff of the forest floor burns more readily. Jet wells used in fire fighting are dependent upon a water table relatively close to the ground surface.

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BUILT IN 1923 AND '24



This is Embury Methodist Church, built in 1923 and 1924. It was known at first as Bennaville Congregational Church. Rudolph Boyce is pastor for the ministry; it is the present pastor.

Exchange Club Hears Ex-G-Man

One of the most interesting programs in months was enjoyed by the Exchange Club Tuesday night when the group was addressed by William Larsen, of 11 years a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, now associated with General Motors. He lives in Bloomfield-Village.

Larsen intrigued his audience with stories of his experiences as a G-Man, relating adventures which he said he never had divulged before. Of greatest interest was a special assignment performed in 1928 in which he secretly made a survey of Atlantic and Leavenworth Federal penitentiaries for the Department of Justice.

False Papers

He was given false citizenship papers to Atlanta, relating that a G-Man, relating adventures which he said he never had divulged before. Of greatest interest was a special assignment performed in 1928 in which he secretly made a survey of Atlantic and Leavenworth Federal penitentiaries for the Department of Justice.

When I asked companions certain questions time and again I was told: "Keep your trap shut. There might be a G-Man around," he related. "Nothing would have given some of these prisoners greater pleasure than to beat up a man doing what I was doing."

He related that he became an accomplished liar, even beginning to believe himself the stories he told. When ever he saw a fox or a dog, he adopted a leaver or a limp, and this habit became so fixed, Larsen related to his audience's amusement, that one time he met a larger Hoover on a Washington street, and immediately fell into his phony facial expression.

After serving at Atlanta, he communicated to his superiors in Washington by a secret letter code that it was time for transfer to Leavenworth, where he worked for a month.

Another Predicament

Another amusing story was Larsen's account of a trip to Honolulu for an investigation and the predicament he had keeping his business secret from a girl he met on the boat who is now Mrs. Larsen.

Larsen is a retiring sort of individual and reluctantly gave his permission to the Eclectic reporter to print a digest of his talk. He was brought to the meeting by Police Chief John P. Hackett, who became acquainted with Larsen when the latter was an FBI agent in Detroit.

DROP CHERRY SEWER

Because there are only three property owners along Cherry Court, a sewer contemplated along that street has been dropped from the city's list. City Manager Donald C. Egbert advised the City Commission, Monday night, that the cost, \$1,000, would be prohibitive.

Shingles on House Catch Fire Twice in Short Period

Sunday, the second fire in two months occurred at the J. B. Williams house on 218 N. Woodward avenue occupied by Robert Hyslop. In both instances shingles on the roof were burned but no other damage done.

Another ran Sunday by the Fire Department to the V. H. Davy residence at 822 Sheffield where an automatic furnace was smoking.

Grass fires continue to be a nuisance to the Fire Department caused largely by careless burning of rubbish, according to Chief Vernon Griffith. There were four calls Saturday and seven Sunday. Water carried in tanks on the trucks was the principal method of quenching the fires.

Grand Trunk Schedule Changed

The regular spring change in schedule because of the advent of daylight saving time in certain sections of the country has been announced here by J. B. Minton, agent for the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Co., effective Sunday, April 22, as follows:

- No. 19 leaves Birmingham 10:17 a. m., will connect at Durand for Chicago, arriving at 3:45 p. m., Central time.
- No. 20 will leave Chicago 9 a. m. Central time, will connect with No. 66 at Durand, arriving in Birmingham at 4:17 p. m.
- No change in suburban or other trains.

Drivers Disagree Over Crash Facts

Two Birmingham drivers were involved in a minor crash on Woodward avenue last Friday afternoon. 452 Parlan avenue, attempted to pass David MacMillan, 228 George street. MacMillan blamed Colgrove for the mishap, alleging that the latter attempted to pass him past the middle of the street. Colgrove accused MacMillan of making a U-turn without giving a signal, in his report on file at the police station.

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Troop B-5 Wins Scout Competition For Third Time

For the third time in three years, Troop B-5, one of the outstanding Boy Scout troops in the district, won the annual Scout in-district rally held at Baldwin High School last Friday evening.

The troop, ably led by victory by Scoutmaster David Wygant, had twice the number of points of the nearest opponent, Troops B-4 and B-7 tied for second place with Troop B-3 coming in third. Scores were, in order: B-5, 135; B-7 and B-4, 45, and B-3, 30.

Pyramid building was the only event that Troop B-5 did not place in. Taking first place in drilling, semaphore signaling, Morse signaling, fire-by-friction with both homemade and purchased sets, and fire by flint and steel, this troop built such a powerful lead before the rally was half over that many Scouters foresaw the victory.

The surprise event, which was not announced before the rally, required two boys. The problem was for one of the boys to rescue another from a smoke-filled room (delimited by a rope stretched on the floor). The "rescuer" was unaided to give the effect of smoke. Winner was the team showing most ingenuity in the rescue, but so ingenious was the rescue that no points were awarded.

Planning the event this year, as in former ones, was in charge of a committee, headed by David Wygant, general chairman, was Charles Latham, floor marshal, James Stanley, chief timekeeper, C. E. Austin, announcer, James Christian of Detroit, chief timekeeper, Andrew Watson, Sr., judge, included Charles Beales, head judge; also Vern Griffith, Heber Gahn, Ralph Mann, Russell Grinnell, A. W. Gillespie, E. LaGrande and C. C. Patterson. The Rally Banner, in orange and black felt, was presented to Scoutmaster Wygant by Mayor John E. Martz.

Eye Testing Lenses Stolen from Office

If a fellow who looks like a thief offers to test your eyes, call the police, for he may be using the kit of testing equipment stolen from the office of Dr. Ralph G. Ferris, M.D., in the Hanna building. At 10 o'clock Sunday evening Dr. Ferris found that the front door of his office had been forced. The lost consisted of the testing lenses and apparatus valued at \$200 and a portable radio valued at \$30.

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Northeast Group Will Incorporate

Incorporation of the Northeast Home Owners Association of Birmingham was agreed upon at a meeting of the group held Monday evening at the Aikman school. New directors were also elected and the appointment of membership and financial committees was authorized as well as committees for district improvement and for the maintenance of building restrictions.

The Northeast Home Owners Association was first formed in 1937; its membership includes home owners in the district north of Oakland between Hunter boulevard and Adams road. The members believe that incorporation will insure permanence and stability of the organization and will facilitate improvement of the northeast portion of Birmingham.

An important committee appointed at this meeting was the building committee, the members of which are J. H. Barrett, O. E. Bender, R. G. Bradley, Harvey B. Greene, and G. A. Ziebler. They will study the legal and practical aspects of building restrictions in the district covered by the association's membership and will make recommendations as to methods of enforcing the building of desirable types of homes.

There are nine directors of the association, three new directors being elected each year for a three year period. The newly elected directors were J. H. Barrett, Harvey B. Greene, and Howard Simpson. Other directors whose terms did not expire are M. D. Archangel, C. J. Book, C. V. Crockett, Howard B. Bates, H. H. Gilbert, and J. S. O'Grady, Jr., one of the retiring directors. A. E. G. Govey has been president of the association since it was first formed.

A meeting of the board of directors is scheduled for next Monday evening at which time officers for the coming year will be elected and activities authorized at the annual meeting will be undertaken.

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Customer: "I want to defend myself."

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