REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Nearly three years have passed since I began my duties as Executive Secretary of this Association and Editor of Methodist History. As I look back over the last 35 months, it seems to me that my meat and drink, my thoughts day and night, and my ever present responsibility have been plans and procedures for encouraging and helping Methodism to celebrate appropriately the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Beginning of the Methodist Movement in America.

My predecessor, Dr. Elmer T. Clark, appointed me a member of the preliminary Bicentennial Committee in 1961. Others on that original committee were Bishop T. Otto Nall, Frederick E. Maser, and Edwin Schell. Those brethren are due credit for pushing up a number of valuable ideas at our first meeting at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. At that time they suggested that we produce a historical book, strike a medallion, hold contests, provide scholarships, and arrange for some great addresses and historical papers in a meeting that would climax the celebration. Those suggestions were of course incorporated in the final plan for the celebration.

On beginning work at Lake Junaluska, it was my responsibility to draft a general outline for the Bicentennial celebration and submit it to the members of this Executive Committee. The paper was prepared and mailed out. Replies brought suggestions and corrections which were noted in the second draft. With minor changes the second document was printed in the Daily Christian Advocate at Pittsburgh, April 27, 1964, and was approved by the General Conference on May 9, 1964.

Meantime, our Treasurer, Mr. Edwin L. Jones, persuaded the Executive Committee of the Council on World Service and Finance in the fall of 1963 to increase the appropriation for the Association of Methodist Historical Societies from $39,000 to $52,000 per year for the new quadrennium so that we could pay Bicentennial expenses as well as enlarge our program. Then last year Mr. Jones secured a special appropriation of $20,000 to assist with the expenses of the celebration. I may say at this juncture that Mr. Jones is due special thanks for the service he has rendered the Association. Perhaps it is in order to say also that Mr. Jones has reminded Bishop Nall and me that he agreed in 1963 to serve as treasurer of the Asso-
ciation for "a short time." He says the brief period has ended, and his resignation is in our hands. We cannot say too much in praise and gratitude for what Mr. Jones has done to help the Association, not to mention the outstanding service he has given The Methodist Church as a great layman through the years.

Once the General Conference had approved the Bicentennial plan, it was the responsibility of the Executive Committee of the Association to articulate it. Bishop Nall called a meeting of the Executive Committee at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, August 18-19, 1964, where we initiated the necessary organization. At that session we decided to place responsibility for the Bicentennial Celebration in the hands of a General Committee, along with a number of Consultants and some appropriate Sub-Committees. We elected Bishop Paul N. Garber as Chairman of the General Committee, and charged Bishop Nall and the Executive Secretary with the responsibility of naming the personnel of the General Committee, selecting the Consultants, and arranging the Sub-Committees.

Bishop Garber gave us his suggestions, and over the next few weeks we chose 23 persons for the General Committee, designating one bishop and one or more persons from each Jurisdiction in the church to make the Committee broadly representative. From the general boards and agencies of the church we selected 50 Consultants. Eleven Sub-Committees were set up. The names of all these persons together with their assignments were printed on the Bicentennial letterhead which has been used in the office at Lake Junaluska. Also, for the sake of the record, all of the names appear in both the Dramatic Story of Early American Methodism and in the Souvenir Historical Book. The first book was given to all pastors in the church who would ask for it, and the latter was donated to all who paid the registration fee for the Baltimore meeting.

After the committees were named, the next step in preparation for the Bicentennial Celebration was an important one-day meeting of the General Committee and Consultants here at Lovely Lane Church, December 21, 1964. The proposed procedures for the celebration were subjected to scrutiny, and alterations and improvements were made. It was agreed that the bishops would be requested to name 10 to 20 official delegates to the Baltimore meeting, April 21-24, 1966. The names of all the official delegates, except a few which came in late, are printed in the Souvenir Historical Book.

In due time all eleven Sub-Committees held meetings, organized, and began their work. With few exceptions, the Executive Secretary attended all of the Sub-Committee meetings, and he can report that he has nothing but praise for all of the chairmen and the committee members. Every committee took its work seriously, and not one of the chairmen neglected or failed in his responsibility. A few of the
committees had to meet only once; others convened several times before completing their work.

I cannot report at length on the work of every chairman and his committee, but if I do not run out of adjectives, I would like to give some credit to all. As General Chairman, Bishop Garber's standing as a church historian and his counsel have been most helpful. As President of the Association, Bishop Nall has kept in close touch with all phases of the Bicentennial and has given good guidance to the work. Bishop Lord's imagination and leadership ability contributed markedly to the arrangement of our fine program. Leland D. Case conceived, wrote, and piloted the filmstrip through to pronounced success. J. Manning Potts knew what to do about the Methodist Tourist Guidebook; he assigned the task to George H. Jones, who did a herculean job as an editor. In addition, George chaired the Committee on Displays at the Baltimore Civic Center. W. Guy Smeltzer was the man to do the detail work needed to make the hymn and essay contests a success. John Hoon assiduously kept in touch with the Annual Conference Historical Societies and nearly all agreed to promote observance of the Bicentennial in their conference sessions this year.

Emory Bucke and I served as Co-Chairmen of the Historical Book Committee, and I can say that Emory and every man on that committee took the assignment seriously; each one made a contribution to the fine book compiled by Frederick E. Maser. Frederick A. Norwood, a scholarly church historian, drafted an excellent plan for the Association's continuing scholarship program. In addition, he and Bishop Nall prepared the message for the Methodists of the year 2066 A.D. Kenneth S. Jones originated the Saddlebags East idea and, with the permission of the Publicity Committee and the General Committee, executed it with remarkable economy and efficiency. It is probably fair to say that the 12 circuit riders, starting from all points of the compass, some of them as far as 1,000 miles from Baltimore, and converging on that city on April 20, created more favorable publicity for Methodism in the newspapers and over radio and television than it has ever had in a single year in its 200-year history in America. Then as if the "ride in" to Baltimore was not enough, Kenneth, as a licensed air pilot, promoted a "fly in." In my book he gets a high mark for helping the church to make news. Ewing T. Wayland, his Publicity Committee, and his assistants in Methodist Information, did a superior professional job in publicizing the many features of the Bicentennial. They prepared fine news releases which were accorded much space in the church and the secular press. They rendered notable service.

While Edison M. Amos, Ernest R. Case, William L. May, Mrs. R. G. Queen, Jr., and E. Jerry Walker were not designated as chairmen of Sub-Committees at the time the organization for the Bicen-
tennial was effected, they as individuals were later assigned responsibilities which might well have been entrusted to committees with them as chairmen. With advice and counsel from several persons, Amos designed the Bicentennial medallion which shows four of our national Methodist shrines and the Bicentennial insignia. He accepted the responsibility for collating and editing the material for the *Souvenir Historical Book* and seeing it through the press. He had fabricated 12 postage meter slugs which are being used by different boards and agencies for calling attention to the Bicentennial during this year. Ernest Case took responsibility for the Time Capsule, originated ideas about what should go into it, carried on much correspondence about it, had it manufactured, and with the assistance of the Local Committee, made arrangements for its burial. Mr. William L. May, with considerable advice from several persons, had three fine Bicentennial plates fabricated and has directed the sale of them. Mrs. R. G. Queen, Jr. thought of and designed the Bicentennial napkins which are of special interest to the ladies. Also, she has done a prodigious amount of good work as the assistant in the office at Lake Junaluska. Jerry Walker's reputation as a producer of religious drama is well established. I read his "Warm Hearts and Saddlebags" twice and I liked it. Dr. Walker has cooperated with the Program Committee, and he has worked hard to make the Bicentennial meaningful to American Methodism.

In concluding the tributes it is proper for me to say a special word about the two men who worked the hardest and the longest on the Bicentennial—Frederick E. Maser and Edwin Schell. We could not have put on the Bicentennial without them, or at least two men like them who could have shouldered the load and walked off with it like Samson carrying away the gates of Gaza. Maser wrote the official Bicentennial book, *The Dramatic Story of Early American Methodism*, and won the praise of the committee that supervised the writing, no mean achievement. Incidentally, the first edition of the book, 20,000 copies, is about gone, and we have ordered a second printing of 5,000. Maser was Co-Chairman and Secretary of the Program Committee, a heavy assignment. He chaired the sub-committee which chose the themes and enlisted the writers for the 19 historical papers. He served as a working member of several of the Sub-Committees. All along he has been generous with his time and his means. Edwin Schell began by designing the Bicentennial insignia. Like Maser he has been a working member of several sub-committees. His big responsibility was the Local Arrangements Committee in Baltimore, an assignment which almost literally made him work night and day for weeks. He directed a large number of helpers who did good work. With a love for Methodist history, an enthusiasm for the Bicentennial, a passion for detail, and a capacity for sustained hard work, he seemed to think in advance of everything that ought
to be done and then somehow managed to do it or get it done by others. In my book both Fred Maser and Ed Schell are due votes of thanks for jobs well done.

A word of thanks is due the General Commission on Promotion and Cultivation. At the meeting of the General Committee and the Consultants in Baltimore in December, 1964, the late Elliot L. Fisher said that since the Bicentennial was a part of the Quadrennial Program, the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation would assist the General Committee and the Association in any way possible. After Fisher's untimely death, Dr. Howard Greenwalt assured us that the Commission still stood ready to help. The Association was faced with the necessity of sending mail to 28,000 pastors, and filling orders for thousands of books, hundreds of filmstrips, and many other Bicentennial materials. At Lake Junaluska we do not have the staff or the facilities for such operations. Without the help of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation we would have been overwhelmed.

Though the celebration in Baltimore is over, we should bear in mind that the Bicentennial will be observed in many Annual Conference sessions in the next two months, and that throughout 1966 many local churches will no doubt be using the filmstrip "Live or Die, I Must Ride," The Dramatic Story of Early American Methodism, and Bicentennial plays and pageants.

The Association is keeping a complete file on the Bicentennial in its library at Lake Junaluska. This collection will contain minutes, papers, letters, pictures, documents, articles, books, souvenirs, clippings, and the like. The library at the Methodist Publishing House is also collecting a file on the Bicentennial.

The writers of the 19 historical papers have been advised that we plan to publish the collection as a book or in some other way. Probably the Executive Committee will want to name a committee of three persons to examine the 19 papers and make recommendations concerning them. Those who delivered addresses on contemporary subjects have not been asked to submit copies of their messages to the Association.

Since the meeting of the Executive Committee at Lake Junaluska last July, your Executive Secretary has attended the following meetings and conferences:

South Central Jurisdictional Historical Association Workshop, Mount Sequoyah.
Joint Commission on Church Union, Chicago, to present draft on Commission on Archives and History for the new Discipline.
Southeastern Jurisdictional Council, Nashville.
Centennial of the Mississippi Mission Conference, Central Jurisdiction, New Orleans.
Special Service in the Ballingrane Church, County Limerick, Ireland, in which the Irish Methodist Conference felicitated American Methodism on its Bicentennial.

In addition, I attended two meetings of the General Bicentennial Committee, and several Bicentennial Sub-Committee meetings. Also, I preached on several occasions. However, I was not in a position to accept all invitations to speak and preach.

Perhaps I should elaborate a little on the trip to Ireland. Last year the Rev. J. Kenneth Sheane, pastor of Ballingrane Church, wrote us that a special service had been planned for February 27, 1966, and asked if we could send a representative from this country. Bishop Nall and I tried to find some bishop or preacher who would be going to or near Ireland in February and who could represent American Methodism. Failing in our search, Bishop Nall asked me to go. Of course, the Ballingrane Church is significant for us because Philip Embury and Barbara Ruckle Heck were members there before they set sail in 1760 for New York, where in 1766 they started what is now John Street Church. Barbara Heck’s house still stands near Ballingrane Church and a monument marks the site of Embury’s old home. Through the years the name Ruckle became Ruttle, and several Ruttes are members of the Ballingrane Church today.

I made a quick trip to Ireland, being away from New York less than 72 hours. The service in Ballingrane Church on Sunday afternoon, February 27, was quite impressive. Among others in the crowded sanctuary were the American Ambassador to Ireland, the Anglican bishop, an army officer representing the prime minister, a priest representing the Roman Catholic bishop, Presbyterian and Baptist ministers, and others. Barbara Ruttle, a descendant of Barbara Ruckle Heck, played the organ. Dr. Robert A. Nelson, President of the Irish Methodist Conference, delivered a very appropriate message. The people sang Charles Wesley’s hymns. During the service I was deeply moved as I reflected that Philip Embury and his friends were members of that very congregation or society more than 200 years before, and that they set sail from Limerick a few miles away in August, 1760, for New York where they on their own initiative started a little Methodist society which with those launched about the same time in Maryland and Virginia by Robert Strawbridge grew to be The Methodist Church with more than 10,000,000 members, to say nothing of a few millions more who are in other branches of American Methodism.

Later in the day a reception was held in the Methodist Church at Limerick during which all the dignitaries spoke. The others were limited to 10 minutes each, but as the representative of American Methodism I was allowed more time. I spoke some 16 minutes telling them about our Bicentennial and speaking of the great debt we owe to Philip Embury, Barbara Heck, and Robert Strawbridge. I had the privilege of preaching twice in Ireland on Sunday, February 27
—at Adare in the morning and at Limerick in the evening. I noted that each order of service called for four congregational hymns, and that every worshiper from the oldest to the youngest joined heartily in the singing.

You will recall that the draft on the Commission on Archives and History was in your hands at our meeting at Lake Junaluska last summer. Also, you will remember that some members of the Executive Committee were not in agreement with some of the provisions in the document. Still further, you know that Leland Case, John Hoon, John Ness, Lester Welliver, and the Executive Secretary were asked to confer and if possible to iron out the differences and revise the paper accordingly before submitting it to the Joint Commission on Union. We agreed on some alterations in the draft. However, we did not succeed in making the instrument entirely satisfactory to every member of the Committee. The slightly revised version of the paper was adopted by the Joint Commission on Union in Chicago last September. Probably most of you have received, or will soon receive, a copy of the voluminous Plan of Union in which the draft on the Commission on Archives and History is incorporated. It is paragraphs 1478 to 1483 on pages 286 to 291.

This Executive Committee should bear in mind that the draft on the Commission on Archives and History will have an important bearing on the budget needs of our historical organization, whatever its name, in the quadrennium 1968-1972. The paper calls for the establishment of a central archives and possibly regional archives. If a central archives is established, a larger budget will be needed. If church union is not consummated by 1968, the General Conference Committee on an Archival Policy for The Methodist Church will still recommend that the 1968 General Conference authorize the establishment of a central archives and regional archives. Thus the historical organization, whether it continues to be the Association of Methodist Historical societies or becomes the Commission on Archives and History, will likely need a larger budget in the quadrennium 1968-1972 in order to establish archives.

Our magazine, *Methodist History*, continues to be favorably received. At the present time we have approximately 900 subscriptions. For a while we did not have many good historical articles on hand awaiting publication. At the present time we have more than we can publish within a reasonable time. Some writers become dissatisfied when their papers do not appear in the magazine within a few months and request that they be returned. Heretofore we have been paying for articles at the time they are published; we may have to begin sending checks to authors as soon as we know their contributions merit publication; then the papers will be the property of the Association until such time as we can get around to printing them in *Methodist History*. 
Both the Wesley Works Editorial Project and the Encyclopedia of World Methodism are long range undertakings. Many of our friends over the church and some members of this Executive Committee may wonder why these publishing ventures should take so long. But persons who have worked on such assignments know that they take time. Dean Robert E. Cushman, Chairman of the Wesley Works Project, is now promising the first printed volumes in 1969. But though these projects will take time, we can assure all that they will be outstanding contributions to Methodist history and to scholarly study. At the same time they will have considerable popular appeal. Some $2,500 has been contributed by Jurisdictional and Annual Conference historical societies for the Wesley Works Project since our last report. Within the next few weeks we expect to send to all concerned an up-to-date financial statement. We urge that historical societies and individuals continue to support the Wesley Works Project with their gifts.

Progress has been made on the Union Card Catalog of all Methodist historical materials, thanks to the good work of Miss Elizabeth Hughey, Mr. Brooks Little, and others. We will meet with the Methodist Librarians' Fellowship in regard to this matter at Louisville in June. In order to save funds for the Bicentennial, we reduced expenditures on the Union Card Catalog during this year. In the new fiscal year we hope to allocate the budget amount of $3,000 for the project. At the proper time Miss Elizabeth Hughey and Miss Elizabeth Royer will give you a more complete report.

You will recall that at our meeting last summer, we voted on several designs for an official grave marker for Methodist ministers. The design we adopted won by a majority of only one vote. Your Executive Secretary hesitated to proceed with the manufacture of a marker which was adopted by so small a margin. If it meets with the approval of the Executive Committee, I would recommend that a new committee be set up to consider the matter in the hope that a design can be prepared which will win something like unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBETTA GODBOLD
Executive Secretary