

# Western Circuit Rider

**Newsletter of the Western Jurisdiction  
Commission on Archives and History**

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## Promoting the Ministry of Memory

### WJ Circuit Rider President's Corner

BE MINE FOREVER is a Valentine poster right now in a restaurant in Clarkston, Washington, where we live. Kathy and I remember feeling those thoughts as we dated, and still do as we celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 12, 2011. Jim and Rusty Lewis shared those love sentiments for over 50 years, celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2013 . Kathy and I recall helping our parents plan for their 50th Wedding Celebrations and the BE MINE FOREVER poster was a perfect remembrance as they celebrated as Christian couples.

God's Word to us in the Old and New Testament is a call to love and marriage. We continue as the Church to have meaningful and special words to celebrate Christian love and marriage. Maybe we will see the day soon when we can marry persons of the same sex. I wonder why in our churches we have fewer couples coming to the church for Christian Marriage. Bo Bryan and I were on staff together at Puyallup UM Church in the 80s, it kept three of us as pastors busy helping couples celebrate Christian marriage. As pastors we report fewer weddings, where couples are promising , BE MINE FOREVER.

Jim Walker



Submitted by Lyle Johnston (Arizona): Here's a Bea Shepard story from our 1994 WJA&H.

She let me be driver for her rental car as we did Anchorage that Friday. It was delightful to have her as an interpreter as we rode around. When we got back to Alaska University, I let the ladies out, and went to park the car. When I got back to the student rooms complex, we talked more. She finished the conversation with, "Where's the damned (car) keys?" I smiled, reached in my pocket, and handed them back to her. She was a classy lady never to be forgotten. I still smile at this remembrance nearly 20 years later, and shed a tear as I read "Miss Alaska Conference's" memorial. I shall put it in my Alaska Conference history book.

Here is another story:

In 1946, our World War II soldiers were returning home from the Burma-China-India Theater. A Santa Fe train carrying 450 men made a stop in Winslow, AZ. on Easter night. "This was the first Sunday in the United States after an absence of three years.

. . . [T]hey sent for our Methodist minister [Noel LeRoque] to conduct a brief Easter service on the station platform in front of the Harvey House." (Frank Williams, Arizona District superintendent's report, 1946) (The Harvey House in Winslow has been in private hands since 1997, completely renovated and serves the public. It is a center-piece of society and culture there.)

Regards, Lyle

Here's more interesting church names:

**Oregon-Idaho Conference:**

Clatskanie

Jason Lee Memorial, in Blackfoot, ID

Jason Lee, in Salem, OR

Marquam, in Mt. Angel, OR

**Coming in the Next Issue:**

- ◆ More submissions by our fellow readers
- ◆ Important information of some sort.

Newsletter editor:

Larry Hayden

lhaydennjuno@gmail.com

907-330-9488

Editor's report of the General Commission and Historical Society meetings on the campus of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

Between 50 and 80 people attended this 5 day event. There were representatives from Britain, Hungary, Russia and Africa, and the Philippines. People met as a group during the Plenary and at times went into committees (History and Interpretation; Heritage Landmarks; Archives and Library). The Distinguished Service Award was given to Gordon Melton for his work "African American Methodists in the Antebellum and Reconstruction Periods: A Timetable, 1760-1860." The Ministry of Memory Award was given to Lila Hill. The Saddle Bag Award was given to Randy Maddox. Tours were given of the archive building. The Sunday service was at John Street Church in Manhattan. The search committee is in the process of preparing to interview a number of candidates to take the position of Robert Williams who will retire in mid-2014. The [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org) web site is undergoing a major renovation. Budgets were passed. Memberships were confirmed. Alaska was awarded the bid for the 2017 Historical Society meeting. Some handouts and reports may be available from those who attended upon request. See Presidents report in September Western Circuit Rider. Some reports may be posted at the General Commission web site.

## **Bylaws Attached**

Please review the bylaws attached to confirm that they match your most recent version. As far as I can tell, this is the final official version. Let President Walker know if you have a disagreement with this so we can put it on the next meeting agenda. You may recall that Lyman Ellis did some preliminary work on the wording, specifically difference between "jurisdictional" and "jurisdiction" and who the "consultants" were. As far as I can tell from the *Book of Discipline* 2012 the church hierarchy goes like this: General Conference → Jurisdictional Conference → Agencies → General Commissions → Jurisdiction Commissions → Annual Conferences → Local Church. These bylaws reflect this I believe.

Please also note Article XI Section 2 which requires our review of the bylaws for changes made at the 2012 General Conference to be incorporated into ours.

♥♥ The National Coast Guard Museum slogan is: Respect the past, engage the present and look to the future; more information at [www.coastguardmuseum.org](http://www.coastguardmuseum.org)

♥♥ On November 3, 2013 the United Methodist City Society celebrated 175 years; more information at [www.umcitysociety.org](http://www.umcitysociety.org)

♥♥ Live in the Present, Think of the Future

## **Arizona's First Capitol**

The Territory of Arizona was created by an Act signed by President Lincoln February 24, 1863 (marking 150 years now). Lincoln appointed John Gurley from Ohio to be the first Governor but he died before he got there so John Goodwin was then appointed. The Old Governor's Mansion in Prescott was built in the Summer of 1864.

Mining was active in the area which is now Prescott, and the park-like basin, Granite Creek water supply, open space, pines and tall grass convinced the Governor to settle there.

The Legislature at its session November 1864 made the seal that bears the motto "Ditat Deus" (God Enriches). In the Spring of 1865 Masonry was first organized and established in Arizona. In 1867 Tucson became the Capitol, then it went back to Prescott in 1877 and then to Phoenix in 1889.

Before 1899 the property was willed to the Congregational Church of Prescott.

## **Tippecanoe Battlefield**

The Tippecanoe Battlefield is located 7 miles north of Lafayette, Indiana. The Battle started in 1791 when the Indian villages in the area were razed by the advancing white settlers. Another town was built in 1808 which became the seat of diplomacy and training center for the Indians. The capitol of the Indian Confederacy was organized by Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa.

The Indians attacked a nearby camp that General William Henry Harrison commanded. Then the Indians abandoned their town. Later an artesian spring was discovered and a railroad track was laid down along the eastern edge. A refreshment stand and the surrounding acreage became the property of the Northwest Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church in 1857. Some land north of the site became a Methodist campground. The camp was active through 1961 but eventually was shut down.

## **Pequot's to Point Lay, Alaska**

The Pequot's were displaced from their native Noank, Connecticut coastal reservation in 1713, tearing them away from their traditional subsistence of fishing, fowling, and clamming. They went inland a little to join the Mashantucket reservation (now the owners of the Foxwood Gaming Resort). The men of the tribe used their skills to become mariners and went to exotic ports around the world as seamen on merchant and whaling vessels. They became contributors to America's maritime history. Four Pequot's went to Point Lay, Alaska to reconnect with their whaling cultures. It took extensive research in various archives to connect this genealogy so identities could be confirmed. More information at [www.indianmarinersproject.com](http://www.indianmarinersproject.com)

