

Madison Survey

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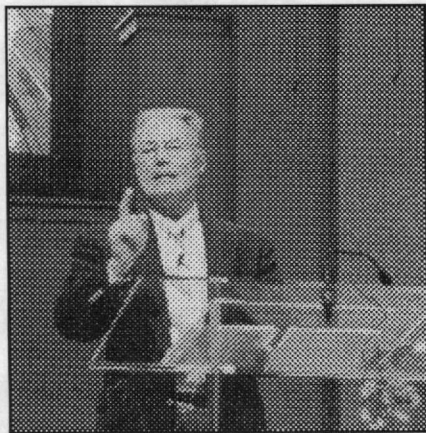
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ALUMNI NEWS



VOL. 79 NO. 3

ADVENTIST
HERITAGE CENTER
James White Library
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

September 1998



Louis Walton

There Were Giants In The Land

Thank you and thank you especially for the lovely music that we have enjoyed this morning. Those horns were beautiful. The organ music has been beautiful and it's just a joy to be with you here today and Happy Sabbath! Are we having a good time yet? Well, we better be. It's a lovely Tennessee Summer day and we are at Madison and it's the Sabbath. How can you beat that, huh?

It's good to be with you and let's get right into the Word of God. I invite you to join me in the book of II Chronicles chapter 20. While you're finding that in your own Bible, let's try to set the stage upon which this little biblical drama plays out. King Jehoshaphat is in the defensive position of Jerusalem.

He is inclosed with rock walls in a barricaded fortress. One day a messenger came in and said, "Your Majesty, we have a problem out East. Kings of the East out in the desert have allied. There are more soldiers than you can count. It's like trying to count the sands of the sea. They are down near Jericho. They're moving this way. They are going to be coming up through the pass. When they do, I don't think we have forces enough to stop them." Indeed, Jehoshaphat did not! Because Judah was a small nation.

So for that kind of crisis, King Jehoshaphat did the one thing that makes some sense. He held a prayer meeting. By the way, does anybody go to prayer meeting any more? Anybody here go out in the middle of the week to recharge your batteries? Good, I see some hands! You know there are worse ways to spend a Wednesday evening than to hear the Word of God studied and to hear other people pray. Jehoshaphat held a prayer meeting there in Jerusalem because he had a problem of major proportions. Somewhere during the course of his little service, out in the congregation somebody stood up. An unknown, just appears in a few verses of Bible text and disappears again. But he claims to be a messenger of the Lord. The irony was that the advice that he

gave made absolutely no sense whatever. Not militarily, not then, not now.

The advice he gave was to move out of the one defensible position you enjoy, barricaded inside Jerusalem, go out in the open and confront an over-whelmingly superior force in the clear without cover. Jehoshaphat felt that he had heard a message from the Lord. The next day guess what they did! The gates of Jerusalem swung open and the defenders went out East to meet the enemy. Now it's time to read a text that ought to be carved in neon letters on the walls of every committee room in this denomination all over the world. II Chronicles 20:20, *And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*

It was a Summer day, a June day, Summer of 1904. A turbulent Summer filled with the haunting memories of what might have been. Just five years before God's Church had stood poised at what seemed like the very edge of incredible success. Everywhere you looked doors were opening. It was as if heaven were saying, Rise, shine, for

thy light is come and it's time for the world to look at you. In Battle Creek, Michigan we had the flagship health care institution of the church. It was of such quality that it was moving toward the point where the whole world would come following to Battle Creek. I'm talking heads of state, I'm talking European Royalty, I'm talking Captains of Industry, like Harvey Firestone, Henry Ford. They came to Adventist Health because they knew it was the best in the world. Folks, the Lord intends for us to be the head and not the tail.

But that was just the beginning. A bright young fellow by the name of W. K. Kellogg was taking information this church had since 1863. He was beginning to develop what would become the multi-billion dollar breakfast food industry. Nor was that the end of the story. In the state of Michigan, our church owned the most modern, up to date, state of the art, printing establishment in the entire state. There wasn't anything in the state that could touch it! The Review & Herald had the best and, folks, our work ought to have the best. Everywhere you looked doors were opening. Turn of the century and then, something seemed to go wrong. Do you know what it was? Do you know what went wrong just at the portals of opportunity? I'll describe it very simply for you. Adventist, both lay people and workers alike began to lose a sense of who they are and why they are here and what it is they have to say. May I speak plainly this morning? They lost a sense of what it means to have identity as an Adventist in an end time world. As they did the doors slowly began to close and as

they were closing, Ellen White's messages from out there in Elms Haven in Northern California became more and more urgent. She was saying, you don't have much time left. Move while you can because God's opportunities aren't going to last forever.

Then it began to happen. Our flagship health care institution burned to the ground. Then eleven months later we lost the Review & Herald and the best presses in the whole state of Michigan came crashing down floor after floor as the floors burned out beneath them, right down to the foundation stones. That bright fellow named W. K. Kellogg ultimately took the breakfast cereal industry out of this church. Along with it, his brother, as bright a man as this church ever had the privilege of claiming. A born doctor, if there ever was one. A fellow named John Harvey Kellogg split the church with a book. A brilliant book, an attractive book, filled with lots of truth but laced with a challenge to Adventism because buried within the first thirty-five pages of this thing was something that Kellogg himself did not even understand. It was a challenge to a concept called the Heavenly Sanctuary. It was so vital to the survival of Adventism that Ellen White said, meet this thing even if it results in an impact like a ship hitting an iceberg. And the opportunities began to disappear. There isn't time this morning to go into the details of that. That is only kind of preparatory to what I want to talk about but it is worth knowing that in that crisis of yesteryear Ellen White said, watch out! Another crisis like that will come. Just before Jesus comes there will be an

apostasy which she chose to term Omega. And she said, when it happens, I tremble for you.

So it was June 1904 and all was not well for the work of God. But on a June day, this remarkable woman named, Ellen White, found herself on a small, half worn out steamboat on the blue gray current of the Cumberland River. With her was a remarkable man by the name of Edward Sutherland. Sutherland's love was education. He had the conviction that there was a right way to train young people. Perhaps his conviction is best illustrated in a little book that I brought along. This one is called The Bible Reader. It was written by a couple of rather remarkable individuals named Edward Sutherland and M. Bessie DeGraw.

Do you know what the thesis is behind this little book? It is designed to be a text book for Adventist kids going to school. The theory behind this book was that a young person can get everything they need, every major educational skill out of the Word of God. We're not talking just theology here. What we're talking about is Science, Mathematics, Literature and Health. Now isn't that a quaint old impractical idea? Learning Science out of the Bible! Doesn't that just reek of the 19th century? Or does it? I am inclined to the theory that the same mighty Holy Spirit who inspired this book was the same being who was present at creation. Is that good enough for you? Maybe there is a little scientific basis for maybe believing what the Bible says.

So here's this man by the name of E. A. Sutherland who is on this boat with Ellen White. Along with them are some other luminaries

from early Adventism. In the midst of a building crisis for God's work some of His chosen workers, had failed Him rather tragically. It appears as if heaven were calling in the reserves. People like E. A. Sutherland and Percy Magan, C. C. Crisler, M. Bessie DeGraw, and Nellie Druillard, you know the list of names. The Lord had an idea of putting things back together again and if it couldn't be done in Michigan maybe it could be done in a place called Tennessee. And the Lord picks one of His often hard to understand ways of getting the motion going on this project.

He began it with a breakdown of an old, recalcitrant, much used steamboat. Right down on the river here, you know the story as well or better than I do. They had an appointment to make. Ellen White was aboard the boat as was, of course, Sutherland and all of a sudden that tired old engine just rolled over and died. They nosed the boat in against the bank, tied it off to a tree. Somebody went looking for parts and at that point it would have been real easy for everybody to say, "Look at what's happening here. We're doing the Lord's work, we have an appointment tomorrow and that steamboat breaks. Doesn't heaven still know we're here?" Did you ever have moments like that when you are doing the work of God and it seems as if maybe the Lord has forgotten momentarily where you are and what you need. Well it's easy to complain like that simply because we don't have the big picture but the Lord did. See, the steamboat quit at just the perfect moment in the perfect place, twelve miles from Nashville, the Edgefield Junction.

It was time to begin an institution called Madison. The Lord could begin to rebuild His work here. Now why is this all so important to heaven? May I suggest that it is because God had a special message that had to get delivered to the world in order for people to be ready for the event called the Advent. If you want to find that special message all you have to do is turn to the book of Revelation, let's do that together this morning. Let's spend a few moments together just kind of reviewing what it means to be an Adventist at the end of time.

If you ever want to discover what God's last church will look like just before Jesus comes, all you have to do is turn to Revelation 14: 6-12 and those verses will give it to you. It is a logically progressive stairway of messages that leads from the beginning of the Advent event all the way to the moment when Jesus appears. We begin in verse 6 of Revelation 14. *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the ever lasting gospel.* May I speak plainly on this point? Everything in the three angels' messages is anchored in the cross. It begins at calvary and in a moment we are going to discover it ends at calvary. The three angels' message is centered in the cross. My friends, if we ever are tempted to forget that, everything else we have to say is just words. Doesn't mean anything. So it begins with the gospel, thank the Lord for that. But the gospel is only the beginning point of a special series of end time messages that have never been given before in human history and must be given now because the world needs to know this information in order to prepare for

the coming of Jesus.

Now, let's go on. That same angel who preaches the gospel to the entire world has something else to say. We find it in verse 7. *Saying with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come.* Ladies and gentlemen, we are a judgement hour people with a judgement hour message. That's why we have to understand the sanctuary. That's why when this thing came along Ellen White said, meet it even if the ship hits an iceberg. You can't have Adventism without the sanctuary and you can't have Adventism without a judgement hour message. Nothing is wrong with the concept of a pre-advent judgement. Jude talks about how Enoch in the morning of human history predicted a time when the Lord would come to do what? Remember that text in Jude 14, 15. *"To execute judgement."* That speaks to me as a lawyer.

Execution of judgement is doing nothing more than carrying out a judgement that has already been passed in court. An execution is not judgement. It is just carrying the judgement out. Folks, when the Lord comes, he will execute a judgement that has already been decided. I can see that instantly, as a lawyer, reading the Word of God. So we have a judgement hour message with a particular need to tell the world this at the end of time but that is not all we are.

Now move on down to verses 8 and 9. We have warning messages to the world about two very, very serious mistakes most of the world will make. A mistake once made in early Babylon that will be repeated by most of the world at the end of time. What was it? We can talk

about 666, Vicarius Filii and all the rest of it but we are just talking symptoms. The real problem is identifiable in Babylon. Now what's the problem? The mistake made in Babylon was people were trying to work their way to heaven. Wasn't that what they were doing? What were they building those mud bricks for? So they could build a tower. They were going to go all the way to heaven through their own works. That is the foundation of the apostasy that entered Christianity that becomes symptomatically identifiable as Vicarius Filii. Folks, the mistake is trying to earn your own salvation. Faith alone, there isn't a one of us here that has a prayer of salvation unless it is through the mercy of God. That's all we have going for us. All we have to argue before the throne is our need. So the mistakes of Babylon, are trying to earn your way to heaven, and a problem called the mark of the beast but that is not all God's people have to say.

Now we move down to verse 12 *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God...* God's people at the end of time will have a gospel message, a judgement hour message, end time warnings about old errors that will recur and they will uplift the law of God as the standard by which the universe still runs and will run after the war is over. They'll talk about, not 90% of the law but all ten of those commandments. Right? Isn't that why we are here this morning? Simply because the Word of God says that's the thing to do. While we are here, it can very simply be expressed, God's Word said it, I believe it, and that settles it. Why is that so important? You know,

some of my Catholic friends maybe see that more clearly than some of my Protestant friends. Here's a little newsletter from a Catholic Church up in Michigan. I share this with many audiences around the country. The parish priest of St. Catherine's parish said on May 21, 1995, *"The boldest thing the Catholic Church ever did happened in the first century. The Holy day, the Sabbath, was changed from Saturday to Sunday; not from any directions noted in scripture but from the church's own power. People who think the scriptures should be the sole authority, should logically become Seventh-day Adventist and keep Saturday holy."* To which I say amen.

There are honest minded people out there and some of them, folks, are wearing their collars backward but they will know what to do when the time comes that this issue has become important and raised before the world. So this is the message God's people have and the last most important thing is these people would have the faith of Jesus. They would begin and end their quest for truth at the cross. That's what God needed to have told to the world. That's the message he needed to get out.

A Summer sun warmed the lovely Tennessee landscape and the Cumberland tugged gently at a moored and broken down steamboat. See, God had a plan for the way to get this message in front of people that was the most persuasive possible way it could be done. The plan, filled with divine genius, he intended for Madison to implement. Here's what it was like. A lot of people might be slow to listen to such new ideas as we have

just talked about here in Revelation 14. There is a way to get their attention and make them realize that maybe there is some truth that they ought to explore. There's a way to open doors and remove prejudices and it is called God's gospel arm, health. Medical Missionary work.

That's the way Jesus worked, is it not? He met their physical needs and then he shared Bible truths with them. People may not understand our theology at first but it is pretty tough to argue with government funded epidemiological studies that reveal 88% reduction in the risk of heart disease, half the risk of strokes, one third less risk of the whole spectrum of cancers, and eleven extra years of life. When people realize that there is a way by which they can live healthier, happier, more productive, lives the honest mind will finally say maybe there is some theological truth there I should look at as well. So the Lord intended to open doors through health evangelism which means, may I suggest, that we got into the health ministry for one and only one reason and that is to win souls for the Lord.

Evangelism is our only excuse for training medical personnel. May I respectfully say, we aren't in this business just to get people well and send them a six figure bill. Anybody can do that. We are in this to show them Jesus. The servant of the Lord even had some very specific advice as to how that could best be done. Let me share something with you from an old book called volume 7 of the Testimonies to the Church. If you want to look it up for yourself, you will find it on page 78. *"Encourage the patients to be much in the open air...."*

where, through nature, they can commune with God.... Amid conditions so favorable the patients will not require so much care as if confined in a sanitarium in the city." Now let's stop, right there. Because what I have been reading you now is not so much from volume seven's era as it is from The Health Care Management Journal for the 1990s.

Now in the first of my practice I represented a couple of acute care hospitals. For a number of years I sat as a Board member and Secretary of the Board of a major acute care hospital in California that did up to and including such things as open heart surgery. As a responsible Board member and General Counsel for the corporation I felt that at least I ought to understand the management challenges that our institution, that I represented, was facing. So I took it upon my self to read the journals from the various associations that have to do with the way you manage a health care institution in the late 20th century. You know something? With the advent of the DRG system and now the contractual managed care, a hospital lives or dies financially based on its ability to get people well and able to be discharged back home as early as possible. You get those people up and ambulating and well and able to go home early the hospital makes money. You get those that stay on the ward longer than they should have statistically stayed there and pretty soon your accountants are calling for buckets of red ink. The way a hospital lives or dies is a concept called length of stay and I find it right here in volume 7, "*Encourage the patients to be much in the open*

air." Put them in contact with nature. Put them in contact with loving people who are there to treat them as a mission not just as a job and you get'em up and well and home quicker. That's the doctrine we're reading about in today's journals. You know something, that lady was a plagiarist. She copied volume 7 from the health management journals of the 1990s!

That's not all she had to say. She also so had some good advice on how the people at Madison and other places were to bring people to the Lord. Let me share it with you. It's worth reviewing. As people are treated this way, volume 7, page 78, "*They will be ready to learn lessons in regard to the love of God...thus opportunity is given physicians and helpers to reach souls, uplifting the Lord... As those who have been sick are restored to health in our country sanitariums and return to their homes, they will be living object lessons, and many others will be favorably impressed.*" I kind of think that's a good way to achieve church growth, isn't it? Meet them where they are, meet their needs and show them the love of God.. She closed by saying, "*God will work wonders for us if we will in faith co-operate with Him. Let us, then, pursue a sensible course, that our efforts may be blessed of heaven and crowned with success.*"

Was Madison crowned with success? One of the best indications of success is the number of ancillary institutions that follow the model from the parent institution. You folk know the list as well as I do. Pine Forest Hospital, Lawrenceburg, Pewee Valley, Little Creek, Faulkner Springs, Asheville Mountain San,

Laurelbrook, Bethel, Pine Hill, Wildwood, and the list goes on. May I also suggest that the greatest lasting contribution of Madison was the establishment of an association called ASI. Thank the Lord for it! It is one of the biggest factors in this church promoting our mission and helping our church remember who we are, why we're here, and what we have to say. So we see success when we do the work the Lord's way.

There is one other job for which the Lord had Madison established. Not only was it important to treat people through physical healing. The message he had for us to give was so unique that there was nothing like it anywhere in the Christian world. One other thing was needed on the Madison Campus and that was a school to train people to deliver the message. See, young Adventist that get science or math or grammar can get that any place in a secular setting but folks, you don't get the third angel's message anywhere but in Adventism, because nobody else understands it. So it was vital to have a school where the third angel's message would be taught with clarity and conviction and where young people would be graduating filled with the world matters half as much as finishing the work of God. I mean it! I'm standing up here in front of you a living, breathing, California Adventist. That alone, along with the fact that I am a lawyer, probably hurts my credibility more than anything. I'm going back to a reasonably good life with a sports car waiting for me in the parking lot at the San Diego Airport and a sailboat on Mission Bay

(Continued on page 8)



L-R: Mary Kurau Woods, W. Shean Sutherland, Mavis Savage Sutherland, William H. Wilson, Stella Rodriguez Gagne, Viola Salsgiver Knight.



Ellen Low Hammond, N '35.



L-R: Merle Kirkwood, Edwin Martin, Mary Belle Martin, June Hunt Kirkwood.



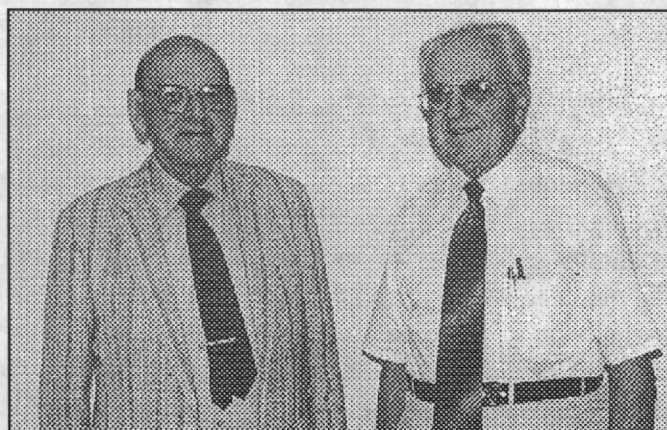
L-R: Nursing Class '58, Arthur Quance, Orrean (Pat) Gill, Otis Detomora, Marilyn Campbell Gunderson, Paul Blankenship, Terry Brown.



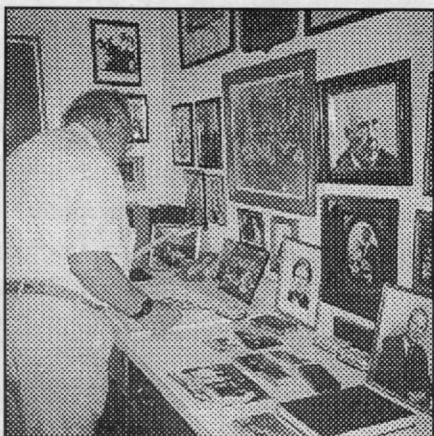
L-R: Nursing '64, Grace Custard Ware, Esther Minesinger Sutton Anes '64, Newell Brown, Ruth McClellan Trivett



L-R: Class of '38, Earline Thomas Moore, Ben Brost



L-R: Dr. Albert G. Dittes, Dr. J.C. Trivett
Students Together in '33



Pat Gill
Looking at a display in the Heritage House.



Rear of Heritage House.



L-R: Sarah Ann Goodge McNeilus, Darline Riffel Campbell, William V. Campbell
Parlor in Heritage House.



L-R: Dollie Russ Bowen, Bernard V. Bowen, Ann Goodge.



L-R: New Gazebo, New Sign, Heritage House.



Part of lunch crowd Sabbath H.C. '98



New Sign and front of Heritage House.

(Continued from page 5)

sail boat on Mission Bay. I'm not preaching to you, folk, I am talking to myself. Folks, we could make the fatal mistake of enjoying life so well we come to the subconscious conclusion we don't need heaven. Real easy to do. Adventist education was designed to counteract that tendency, that's very, very human, to remind us there is nothing in the world as important as finishing the work of God. Now that little of conviction, which I see clearly resulting from Madison, would take a lot of young graduates to some very, very distant places. Many of them into poor neighborhoods and places of great need where conveniences are few and inconveniences abundant. Places where the average person either wouldn't go or wouldn't stay. A graduate from Madison would! Do you know why? Because they are looking for Jesus to come and deep down inside they recognize that until He comes the place that you'll find Him, is where people are in need. For young people driven by that kind of dream, inconvenience becomes a small irrelevance. You may be challenged by tropical heat or mosquitos or whatever else they've got out there. You may be challenged by working in a small town where you are the only Adventist presence in that town. If you do your job right inconveniences don't matter much because you won't be here long because the war can end and Jesus can come. The Advent message has enough power in it to be finished within a generation easily, if, only that level of energy and conviction would permeate Adventist Education. It sure permeated men

like Sutherland.

I have another little show and tell book for you here. This one is called Studies in Christian Education by E. A. Sutherland, M.D. It was printed at the Rural Press, Madison College, Tennessee. The one I've got in my hand used to belong to a gentleman who had written his name right at the top in his own handwriting, there it says W. D. Frazee. This little book is a blueprint for doing the job right. Folk all we need to do is follow God's plan and we can have things wind up much more quickly than we realize.

Once upon a time there were giants in the land. Two of them, many decades ago, had a dream to start a school and follow God's advice even when the human logic said it didn't seem right to buy a piece of farmland that looked to them like the last place on earth they would want to try and build anything. But they decided to do God's work in His way and it wasn't always easy. There were plenty of times that people lived in a place called Probation Hall and worked long hours and endured times, may I say it folks? When even the brethren didn't seem to appreciate or understand what they were doing. Last evening I was really tired. I'd had a busy week out in San Diego so I decided to spend the evening getting ready to spend this time with you this morning by rereading special testimonies Series B No. 11. That's Ellen White's advice to the brethren respecting the Madison school.

There's a lot of wonderful promises in here and there's some heart break too. It doesn't look like people took the needs here as

seriously as they should have and the work of God didn't move as fast as it could. So the pioneers of this place had some long hours and some anxious moments but they kept on and look what happened. Magazine articles called it Utopia University. Ripley characterized it as the only self-supporting college in America and the Reader's Digest, called it a unique institution. Eleanor Roosevelt put it this way, "In the brief time I spent in Nashville one scene stands out in my mind, Madison College. She talks about a college where they are absolutely flooded with applications for entrance. That's worth thinking about because today all too often we hear about schools and academies and colleges struggling to survive. The answer we're given is that there aren't enough Adventist students. I've got news for you folks, there are more Adventist students now than in 1904. Maybe it's time to relearn a precious lesson of yesterday from people who decided they would do it God's way even if it meant buying a farm that seemed worn out and moving into Probation Hall.

God has a plan for his church, a special message and a plan for how we are to deliver that message. How we live and dress. Even how we eat. How we spend our money and our time. How we conduct our health work and how we educate our youth. And, may I say, even how we behave in worship services when we come into His presence. If we would follow His plan the war would be over and we could go home." ✿

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Honor Classes Continued 1938

Earline Thomas Moore,

"I wonder if many of you feel as I do. You are grateful that the Lord has kept you through these years and brought you back. Have you found that the years go by so quickly? I hadn't thought about how long it had been since I graduated here. Someone asked me if I knew 1938 was one of the honor classes and I began to think about it. I cannot believe that it was sixty years ago. Someone over at the Heritage House just now said to me, "After hearing that talk this morning I think what a privilege and a blessing we had in attending." I've thought all through the years that it was truly a blessing. Those were special years. After I had graduated for a few years I would dream I was back in college. What a wonderful time. The years went by. I kept dreaming about college. But I thought just now, what are some of the special blessings at *Madison*.

I came here from public high-school and I remember sitting in chapel and thinking this wonderful place, all of them are saints and it's great to be here with them. Perhaps they weren't all saints but they were good people. Those years, 1934 - 1938, those were good years. Those were the years that Eleanor Roosevelt wrote about the school. The Reader's Digest had an article about the school and it is true students flocked here. I remember one year we had three hundred, one of our largest. That year it was the largest enrollment of any of the Adventist colleges. The things that you learned here stuck with you. What a blessing!

I was pretty young when I

came here. I'd like to think I was younger when I think about the sixty years. At that time when we first came to school we had to go to Miss DeGraw's office. She took my arm and said, "My, you are so young." I thought why does she think I'm so young?. Here I am grown up and in college. Through those years I learned to work. We had to work many hours and go to school, study at night and we had chapel. I came at the beginning of the summer so I could work all summer. We had chapel every night and it was hot. There was no air conditioning. After working all day I'd go and sit in there and look up at the speaker and I would be so sleepy. I did learn to work and apply myself. I learned many good things. We learned to be practical.

Later in our married life we went to the mission field. I was glad that I was at *Madison*. I learned to stick to it when it wasn't a bed of roses. One blessing that came to me, probably came to many of you, I found a mate in college! After graduation I taught in two self-supporting institutions. Fountain Head, now Highland academy, and at Pewee Valley. If I hadn't been to *Madison College* I probably wouldn't have been happy teaching in self-supporting schools. It was dull! Pretty hard, finances were quite close. After I taught two years I began working on my Masters degree but I didn't finish because I got my MRS. Degree. I married Ralph Moore. He lived at *Madison* from the time he was nine years old.

After we married he took the medical course. We lived in McMinnville, TN, worked there. We were in Africa for a few years and while on the mission station I

taught again. The Lord has been good to us through the years and I am grateful for every blessing. I am still thankful that I attended *Madison College*." ❀

1944

June Hunt Kirkwood

"I was first introduced to *Madison* by my aunt and uncle, Betty and Jim Blair. They came to Iowa when I was making plans to go to Union College. My father had been killed in a run away accident on the farm. I knew that it was going to be hard for my mother to send me to Union College and I planned to work my way as much as I could. My aunt and uncle told mother I could do so much better at *Madison*. Uncle Jim was the farm manager and aunt Betty was working as an RN at the hospital. Mother and aunt Betty began to talk to me about coming to *Madison College* and I did.

This was the first time I had the privilege of attending an Adventist school. It was a beautiful place to me, like heaven! We had good speakers, neighbors and students. To me, there was no one bad at *Madison*. The first family that I was introduced to was the Wilsons. Bill Wilsons parents. We used to go on outings with them. Then there were the Davidsons. Dr. Trivett lived next door to aunt Betty and uncle Jim. They all seemed like angels to me because they were Christians.

When I first came aunt Betty said, "We must go see Miss DeGraw. She is the one that has to ok your entrance to the college. That was no problem. She was glad to accept me. When we got outside aunt Betty said, "Now you are going to have to be a good influence for the students her. You are my niece and you have to be a good influence." I thought about

this as Bill gave his talk last night. As we associated with the Wilsons, I noticed that Beverly, only eleven, was really interested in Billy. One day when I came home aunt Betty said, "Come in here I want to talk to you. Has Beverly been watching you and Merle? Has she seen you kissing?" I said, "If she has she sneaked around to do it!" Aunt Betty said, "The reason I asked is that Billy's picture is sitting right beside Merle's on your dresser. I think she is getting some ideas." I said, "Aunt Betty, I'm eight years older than she is. I'm nineteen. She wouldn't be thinking about doing what I do would she?" She said, "You are going to have to be a good influence for her." When Beverly came home she called her in and asked, "Beverly, has Billy kissed you?" Beverly, with tears running down her cheeks said, "When a star fell when we were sitting out at the park with all of you, he kissed me on the cheek." That was the beginning of their romance. There were times in between when each had other boy and girl friends but they did get together at last at Union College and they married.

Aunt Betty and uncle Jim lived next door to the Kirkwoods. I saw these boys coming and going. Donald and Merle. I couldn't tell them apart at first. The kitchen sink was below the window where I was looking out. My aunt said, "You're taking a long time getting those dishes done. What do you see out that window? You don't need to be looking at those boys. They each have girl friends." I just dismissed it.

I was working at the laundry at the time and in the evening when I finished I would go to the cannery

and work. One evening I saw Merle riding around on a bicycle right in front of the cannery window. My girl friend hollered at him. She was more aggressive than I was. She said, "Did you want to see somebody?" At that time I looked like my aunt, he said, "I just want to give little Betty a message that her aunt said for her to come home by ten o'clock." When I went home he was there to follow me. He asked me for a date which I accepted. When I got through with my training we married. He was in military service during that time. It gave me a chance to study hard and make better grades. I also tried to work a lot so I could be independent.

The teachers saw that my grades weren't as good as they should be and I would go to sleep in class because I was sitting with patients at night. When I graduated from *Madison* I got a check for two hundred ninety eight dollars. That was at 10¢ an hour and 22¢ the last two years. I thought I was rich and I didn't owe the school any money. After graduation I went home. While there I was offered several jobs but *Madison* had offered me a job and I felt more at home at *Madison* than I did in my home town so I came back to *Madison* to work.

Merle came home on furloughs and it wasn't long before we were married. We have five children. Our oldest, Merleen, is a nurse, her daughter is a RN, her other daughter is a dental assistant. We have a son, Dean, that is a nurse anesthetist. He took his anesthesia training at *Madison*. Another son is a corps - man in the Navy and cares for Marines also. Menita is the youngest. She worked as an LPN

for ten years and then became an RN. All are in the medical field. I feel we owe all of this to *Madison*."



Honor Classes Continued 1964

Pat Gill, "I took nursing from fifty-four to fifty-eight and then went to Minnesota and took anesthesia. I did anesthesia until five years ago. I never had a law suit so decided it was time to quit. We have been going to Mexico for the winter for the last sixteen years. We leave the Sunday before Thanksgiving and come back the first of March. We enjoy it down there. We enjoy our retirement. We live in Jemison, Alabama. I guess that's all there is to say. If anyone wants to tag along to Mexico we leave Sunday before Thanksgiving. I buy a motor home in the fall and sell it in the Spring and that helps pay for our room in Mexico. You don't drive at night but you can walk on the beach without any problems. You don't leave your radio out on the patio, it will probably sprout legs. You can leave your windows open and they won't break in. If you go to the big cities that is another story. We don't go to the cities, we enjoy our retirement."

Newell Brown, "My first contact with *Madison College* was rather unfortunate. Some of you got your mate here but I was married when I came here and my introduction to the college was a little different. I had not been to college but had taken a GED test and passed it (General Educational Development}. On the way to Dayton, Tennessee we crossed a steel bridge that looked like it was about to fall down. It just shook and I was afraid. Brother Sandborn

was there and I remember one thing he said, "Newell, you'll never make it." That gave me a determination to do the best I could.. I took nursing and then anesthesia. I remember one thing that was rather interesting to me. Pastor Mills was here then, he is out in Kansas, we've kept in contact with him over the years. We always tried to dismiss church at twelve o'clock but when brother Mills was here he would go over quite a bit.

Then there was Ingathering. Jane, my wife, would run the big speaker and recorder and we'd go Ingathering. I remember that I went to the same house three years in a row and never received an offering but down the street they gave me money before I even asked for it! We used to have a great time. We would come back to Williams Hall and have hot drinks etc. That was one of the high points of Ingathering. One incident that I remember was near the end of nurses training. We had several older men in the class and they were going to take our uniforms. I was at West Hall, I jumped out of the window and ran home. That was my initiation to anesthesia. *Madison College* has meant a lot to me. It has really set an ideal here but I look around and most of the landmarks are gone! It saddens my heart but I'm glad for the way people are responding. I am glad to see the fixing up of the Heritage House.

Grace Custard Ware

"I graduated in 1964. I came to *Madison* on a threat to my father. I was supposed to go to Hinsdale. I had spent one year at Oakwood in pre-nursing and was going to Hinsdale but when I got home for

the summer my father said, "Well, I think we are going to send you to *Madison*" and that was the worst summer I ever had. What were they going to send me to *Madison* for? My girl friends from Oakwood were going to Hinsdale and we were all going to be together in Nursing school. I ended up here.

It was an interesting three and a half years. I had a lot of freedom at first and then they kind of chopped me off at the knees and I had to move into the dormitory and that stopped a lot of my running around. I enjoyed every minute I was here after I got here and got into the swing of things. I had a lot of experiences that I can laugh about now that I might not have been able to laugh about then.

Our class was like a family. We were always together, doing things together. It was really wonderful!

I have two sons, they are thirty and twenty-eight now. I had threatened them that I was going to send them to Pine Forest to boarding school. They about died and acted about like I did when my parents told me I was going to *Madison*. I told them they couldn't go to public school. They had to go to an Adventist school. *Madison* was the closest if they wanted to live at home. They both graduated from *Madison Academy*. One is a medical technologist and the other is an accountant at First Union Bank. I have two grandchildren. An eight year old and a fourteen-month-old. They are both girls. I have my two boys and my two girls and they can do whatever they want to do, I'm through.

I am more in contact with Esther Sutton than any of the others, I guess because we live here but next year will be the thirty fifth

year for our class and we are going to try and get everybody to come. Three are deceased. We have told them we are going to take a cruise but we are told we can't do it on Alumni weekend. It has been wonderful being here and now I'll let Esther tell you the rest of the story."

Esther Minesinger Sutton

"I learned of *Madison College* when I was fourteen. I went to Wytheville, Virginia and spent a summer with my grandmother. There I met Freda West Huffman, who is now my husband's typesetter in his printing business. We planned to go to *Madison College* together. I came to *Madison* September 9th, 1960 in a drizzling rain on a Friday. My folks drove me, the trip taking two days. They dumped me out with all my belongings. Later my mother said she felt bad about it because she felt they had dropped me off like a dog and left. But I survived. I turned 18 on Sunday and got my first job at 35 cents an hour as a courier. I worked out of the admitting office and if they needed a patient taken to the floor I did it. If they needed something transported from Parkview to the main building I did it. That was my job until I started nursing where we wore our Probie outfits.

It was great. We had a wonderful time. Grace and the whole gang. One thing that I didn't know and Grace mentioned it. It was in the '60s, I was from the North and didn't know anything about the South and Grace lived in the village. I thought that is wonderful, she could afford to live out but we had to live in the dorm. We found out that blacks weren't allowed in the same dorm as whites



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We thought that was awful and when they moved in we wondered what was going on. I guess they were showing that they were integrating because it was not long before Martin Luther King was marching. We were right in the middle of it. We had a wonderful time. Grace is a wonderful friend and we have a lot of good friends from Madison College. We will always have them. I thank the Lord for what He has done for me through Madison College.

I married Howard Sutton, who is a printer. He took printing here. He didn't finish because the college closed a few months before he would finish. But he has had his own business for 26 years. We have been successful. We have two children of our own. We raised two of my sister's children and we've had a wonderful time and are glad we came to Madison." ❀

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RESTING UNTIL THE RESURRECTION

Comer, Ruth Foxworth, 80, died August 16, 1998 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ruth was employed for 45 years as a hospital switchboard and admitting supervisor in Lakeland, Florida and Madison, Tennessee. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 61 years she is survived by husband of 62 years, Virgil Comer; one daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Jim Wolcott.

Biggs, Thomas H. MD, S '29-'31 expired June 15, 1998. He is survived by wife, Shannon Van DeVander Biggs.

Wilson, P. Harlan DO, BS, '52, Age 70, expired May 21, 1998 in Amarillo, TX of neutrophil anemia and prostatic carcinoma. He served his community as a physician and church leader for thirty-five years. The past four years he was only seeing nursing home and Hospice patients, and did until eight days

prior to his demise. He is survived by wife, Jean Heinbaugh Wilson, daughters Donna Jean Wilson-Roper and Linda M. Wilson; four sons, Paul E., Harlan V., Charles G., and Ted N. Wilson.; a sister Norma Hall, a brother, Don Wilson and 16 grandchildren. ❀

Homecoming 1999
Will be held at the Madison Campus Church June 25 - 26 with a pancake breakfast on the 27th. Speakers Louis Dickman and Kay Kuzma Ph.D.

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MADISON SURVEY & ALUMNI NEWS
 President Jim Culpepper
 Editor & Executive Secretary Bob Sutherland
 Home PH: 615/859-5181 PH: 615/865-1615
 (ISSN 32524000) is published quarterly.
 Non-profit postage paid at Madison, TN.
 POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to:
 PO Box 6303 Madison, TN 37116