

L-R Dr. Nevin Downs, chairman of the board; Dr. Bernard V. Bowen, founder; Dr. L. Paul Hunt, second president;  
Dr. William O. T. Smith, retiring president; Mary "Ikey" Devasher vice president & dean

## Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia Inaugurates

### New President

By Albert Dittes

*The* Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, which started out as part of old Madison College, installed its new president October 27 in an impressive ceremony complete with academic regalia consisting of gowns, hoods and hats as well as dignitaries from major area institutions.

Dr. L. Philip Hunt became the school's second president and gave the inaugural address. He

replaces Dr. William O.T. Smith, who joined the staff in 1972 as an anesthesiologist and recalled starting his career there teaching four students for three full months in an area one fourth the size of the platform of the Madison Campus SDA Church, where the ceremony took place.

Dr. Smith added that the program had grown to the point of becoming a major supplier of anesthetists for Middle Tennessee.

Speakers presenting greetings included representatives from the office of U.S. Representative Jim Cooper, the State of Tennessee General Assembly, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Madison/Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce, the American and Tennessee Associations of Nurse

Anesthetists and Southern Adventist University.

The Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia began in 1950 in an abandoned barber shop in the old Madison Hospital and has had two previous names: Madison Hospital School of Anesthesia and Madison College School of Anesthesia. It is now the only regionally accredited graduate-level school of its kind independent of university affiliation. "Ikey" Devasher, vice president and dean, said that the last graduating class all passed the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) national boards, with many earning the highest score possible.



### A Third Significant Benefactor to Loma Linda

By Albert Dittes

*In* researching the story of how Madison helped Loma Linda in its early days, I found the name of a major benefactor nobody knew anything about.

In letters to his Madison friends, Dr. Percy Magan several times mentioned the names of three people he regarded as crucial to the survival of the College of Medical Evangelists:

"Over and over again I have said, and have told many others, that when the books of God are opened in the Judgment the credit of bringing the medical school to its birth and of keeping it alive will belong to three women—Lida F. Scott, May Covington and Josephine Gotzian. The rest of us have in a way merely been instruments in the hands of this trinity," Dr. Magan wrote on March 3, 1929.

"Miss Covington gave Minden Cottage, which was a matter of another \$8,000, and her dear old mother Covington Cottage," he added.

#### Who was May Covington?

In going through a file of Percy Magan letters in the Adventist Heritage Room at Loma Linda last August, I found one he wrote to Miss Covington and her mother in Minden, Nebraska.

The letter dated February 22, 1918, indicates that Dr. Magan had just visited their home and

thanked them for a \$300 donation.

"I can never tell you how much I appreciate all that you and Miss May have done for us," he continued. "I often feel that if it had not been for a few people — Mrs.



Josephine Gotzian, Miss May Covington, Mrs. Lida F. Scott, and possibly one or two others—there never would have been any White Memorial Hospital. Someone had to start and put their shoulder to the wheel for the heavy turn to get the thing going, and God certainly laid his hand upon you folks for this purpose. Only the Judgment will show what all your sacrifice has meant to the cause of God in this matter."

Dr. Magan added a postscript to Miss May saying he had read a long article in the *Scientific American* about a new heavy-duty tractor on the market like one she wanted. This suggested to me that Miss Covington operated a prosperous Nebraska farm, and that Magan had made friends with the family when he was a young man starting out as an Adventist in the Midwest.

In a 1937 letter to E.A. Sutherland he wrote about being a "tent master" in the summer of 1887 for a series of meetings in Cambridge, Nebraska. "In the end a bad wind storm tore the tent to pieces," he wrote. The evangelists went home "and I remained holding Bible studies and making an attempt at preaching in sod houses in that part of southern Nebraska and northern Kansas . . . I worked until the following January, traveling about afoot in the snow, sleeping at any farm house where night happened to find me, holding Bible readings and preaching in school houses."

Could he have boarded with the Covingtons while doing some of this evangelistic work?

I then looked up her obituary in the *Central Union Reaper* and found that May Covington was born in Stonington, Illinois, on May 28, 1866, and

died at her home in Minden, Nebraska, on November 14, 1937 at the age of 71. She was thus of the same generation as E.A. Sutherland, Percy Magan and Lida Scott.

“She had lived in the community of Minden for nearly 50 years and was a member of our church for 35 years,” states the obituary. “During this time, she was a liberal supporter of the cause. Her interest in our academy was shown by many valuable contributions, among which was the first irrigation well and the cannery building and equipment.”

The obituary added that failing health had prevented her from finishing college as a young woman and that she had been bedfast the past five years. The funeral home record lists her cause of death as pernicious anemia.

“Her mother, who also is remembered for her interest in the work of the Lord, passed away about five years ago,” according to the obituary.

Martha Virginia Covington was born in Illinois on February 27, 1846 and was described as “a pioneer resident” of Minden. She died November 19, 1932. “Mrs. Covington was a devoted member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for many years,” according to her obituary.

I called the local historical society in Minden, Nebraska, for help and more possible information, and they found county courthouse records telling more about May Covington. In her will, she ordered that half of her assets other than household goods go to her younger brother, William W. (Wade) Covington of Stonington, Illinois, and the other half to a personal friend, Katherine M. French of Glenwood Iowa, with that portion to benefit Shelton (now Platte Valley) Academy in Shelton, Nebraska, should Miss French precede her in death. They each initially received \$2,000, according to the court documents, and later split the proceeds of selling property amounting to \$8,800 after payment of all claims against her estate. These must have been substantial amounts of money when the average salary was \$10 or \$15 a week.

According to the Kearney County court records, May Covington was the daughter of a prosperous farmer named Robert Covington. He

was born in 1812 and was 54 years old when May was born in 1866. He died in Minden in 1907 at the age of 95. His will lists property in Minden, Nebraska, Grayson County, Texas and Stonington, Illinois. The court estimated his Nebraska real estate to be worth \$45,000 and land in other states \$75,000 in addition to personal property amounting to \$1,500.

May Covington therefore came from a substantial family and invested her money in the Lord’s work in general and the College of Medical Evangelists in particular at a critical time of its founding, when its very future was in doubt. She as well as the Madison College pioneers thus had a role in the story of what is now Loma Linda University.

After his work closed at Loma Linda, Percy Magan passed into history and took his supporters with him.



## Campus Church Centennial

*On* Sabbath, March 11, 2006, the Madison Campus Church will hold a weekend Centennial Celebration of praise and thanksgiving. Weekend festivities are scheduled to include keynote speakers, current Pastor Lynn Schlisner and Pastor Jim Nix of the White Estate, the children of Madison Campus Elementary dramatizing the history of the Madison project, music and worship, potluck, socialization, and a display of records and archives from the original Madison fellowship.

This event will be on the 100th anniversary of the first recorded meeting of the organization of a church company meeting in the Old Plantation House parlor, according to a document posted on the Madison Campus SDA Church web site. The Tennessee River Conference officially recognized it as a church on June 27, 1906.

The record shows 17 charter members, with the founders heading the list. E.A. and Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. N.H. Druillard, P.T. Magan and M. Bessie DeGraw (continued on page 4)

are the first five. E.E. Brink follows Miss DeGraw in the pecking order. He spent the summer on the farm in 1904 before the students and teachers actually arrived in October. Following him is Braden N. Mulford, a student transferring from Berrien Springs. The next year, he would buy a farm 30 miles north of Madison in Fountain Head, Tenn., and start what has become Highland Academy, Highland Elementary School, Highland Manor Nursing Home, Highland Rim Terrace and Tennessee Christian Medical Center/Portland

Before that, he would co-found a school near Ridgetop with another charter member, Charles F. Alden, who would also later work for several years in Portland, Tenn., as a high school principal. Arthur L. Hall, LeRoy Palmer, C.F. and Effie Yale, C.B. Caldwell, Olive Shannon and Ida Rankin, sister of Nellie Druillard, complete the roster.

The little Madison College Church began to grow, and there were 36 worshipers by 1910. By 1931 the membership had soared to 469, and in 1941 the church held the largest membership in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. In 1949, holding two services to accommodate the increase in membership, and not room for all to be seated, Elder Glenn Coon Sr. asked who would go with him to start another church in the town of Madison. Two hundred members agreed and the Madison Boulevard Church was born November 5, 1949. Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Sutherland were in the charter membership. In 1971 the Campus Church moved into its present sanctuary. The Madison project now includes an Elementary school, an Academy, The Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, and Tennessee Christian Medical Center. Today, with a membership of 1400, the desire of the Madison Campus Church mimics the desire of its founders one hundred years ago, to Proclaim, Reclaim, and Sustain our ministry in this community. Such was our goal in opening MCC's new Family Life Wing in the summer of 2005.

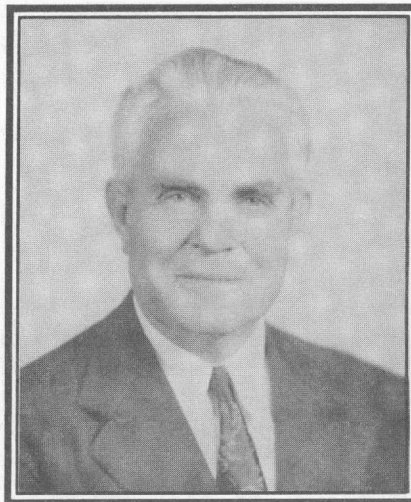
For more information about the Madison Campus Church's Centennial Celebration, as well as a list of pastors for the past 100 years and archival documents go to the church web site at [www.madisoncampus.org](http://www.madisoncampus.org).



## Perry Angevine Webber

By Albert Dittes

The teacher instrumental in the Madison impact on Japan was Dr. Perry Webber, a professor of chemistry. He and his wife spent 22 years serving as missionaries in Japan and also taught chemistry at Madison as well as worked at



Perry A. Webber, PhD Madison Foods.

Perry A. Webber was born in 1890 in Northville, Mich., and graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College in 1911. Two years later, he and his wife, the former Ella Mae Verney, started their mission work in Japan.

They returned to the United States and earned advanced degrees in biological chemistry and nutrition in 1931. Dr. Webber headed the chemistry department of Madison College until 1943.

The August 19, 1942 *Survey* announced a new Japanese studies program headed by Dr. Webber, Yoshio Seino and Masako Yamagata-Seino.

Because of his experience in Japan, the War Relocation Committee selected him to go into evacuation camps and propagandize for the U.S. Government during World War II. He used this position to encourage Japanese students to attend school. At one time, 29 of them were at Madison College.

Webber was released from this duty after a year, and he resumed teaching at Madison until 1947, when he returned to Japan to start a

self-supporting school at Mount Akagi, 90 miles north of Tokyo.

While in Japan, Dr. Webber became ill with Parkinson's Disease in the late 1950's. He and his wife returned to Madison. He died at Wildwood Sanitarium & Hospital, Wildwood, Georgia in 1973.



## FROM HERE AND THERE



**CALIFORNIA:** What an exciting thrill to hear from Mary E. Jacobsen Engbertson! N '43, she sent a packet of color post cards of Madison Sanitarium & Hospital collected over the years. This note accompanied, "As a teenager at Madison (1932–1943 I collected postcards. Before I threw them out, I thought I would see what I had. I came across these. I thought you might find a place for them.

If you were wondering who I am, I was Mary Jacobsen and I went to school there from the sixth grade through Nurses training. My father was Prof. Jacobsen. People seem to forget all the things he did for Madison in his years there.

What a sight we must have been when we "landed" at Madison. It was a hot summer day in the middle of July. There were six of us and a dog in a 1930 Model A Ford with all our earthly goods in a trailer. But it became home for the next ten years and it is still thought of as home even though I haven't been back since 1944.

The rest of the family, except for my sister, Ethelyn Jacobsen Reddig, are all gone. I am 85 and sort of filled with metal in most of my joints. I don't get around much but I can still keep up my yard.

I have two daughters, Donna is a school teacher—Doris is a Media director at a Major advertising firm.

Hope you enjoy the cards."

*(The packet contained two cards that even I, Bob Sutherland, had never seen and they are in color. One was of the early frame construction before the Spanish style white stucco and the other a panoramic view of most of the hospital from that time until 1965. Thank you so very much for thinking of us, Mary. It was so exciting, to me, that I went from the post office directly to "Print Quick" and had 8x10 prints made of each. There are 11 cards in all. If any one else out there has memorabilia that they are thinking of disposing of please send it to your alumni association.)*

**ILLINOIS:** William "Mac" S '47-'49 and Lillian Gray McKinney: wrote this note, "Dear Bob & Stella,

Mac and I were glad to get the Madison Survey last week sent to our new address. I don't know how you got our address.

What will happen next? Will the Madison Survey still come to us? (Yes) You still have the alumni house. Will there be anymore Alumni meetings and where? (Yes, here on campus.)

I am so very thankful we bought or maybe it was given to me by Mavis, the long picture of the old Sanitarium & Hospital

Mac finally made a lovely frame for the picture which now hangs in our office. It is a great conversation piece. We had 8 guests for dinner Sabbath. Madison was mentioned in conversation and we showed them the picture of the old Sanitarium and Hospital.

Dr. Perry Webber was mentioned in the *Survey* by Albert Dittes. We remember the Webbers very well. We were married in their Japanese Garden August 14, 1949. I remember his talk on Japan, once when he came home, telling about soybeans and making milk out of them.

Perhaps Madison has finished its work here on earth. There will be many people in heaven as a result of Madison College and Academy and the fact that we could work our way through school there. I doubt that I would be a Seventh-day Adventist if I hadn't gone to Madison in 1946.

God bless all the Madisonites all over the world.”

Extracts from Christmas letter: “On August 3, 2005 we had the closing on our house in Missouri...we closed on our house in Illinois August 5...God has been so good to direct us in the road we have taken. He says yes and He says no and we follow. We bought a house two miles from 3ABN on less than an acre lot...It has several trees and enough outdoor flowers to keep up and enjoy with out too much work.

We had gone to 3ABN camp-meetings for several years, always doing volunteer work before and after camp-meeting. We have a concern for the work that is being done here. We go and help when they need us and have a wonderful church to go to less than two miles from our house.”

*(They were 43 miles from their church in Missouri)*

**KENTUCKY:** Darwin, Lab'62 & Velma Robinson Secrist N '61 sent dues and office help with these words, “Dear Friends, We enjoy the *Madison Survey* very much.

Darwin 1962, Lab, and Velma Robinson 1961, Nursing, have moved back to Pewee Valley, KY about twenty years ago. Bought land and built a house close to Velma's mother.

It is with sorrow that we read of the sale of T.C. M. C. At Madison we received our college education, met, lived and worked after graduation.

Like other Madison graduates we joined the movement living in Tennessee, Honduras, Mississippi and Kentucky.

We are both retired but busier than when we worked. We both enjoy traveling and visiting family.

Thanks so much for striving to keep Madison Alumni connected.

**OHIO:** Raymond G. Campbell, BS '61, sent dues with this note, “Dear Bob and Albert, Thanks for printing my inquiry about the final days of Pine Forest Academy and Sanitarium of Chunky, Mississippi. I hope someone who knows something will write in and you can print it. Also about the

end of other institutions. Could make for some interesting reading.

Sorry that the hospital was sold. I had to pull Sabbath duty at the old Sanitarium, such as washing dishes and carrying trays although I was not supposed to do it as I pulled Sabbath duty on the farm milking cows since I was an Ag student.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Shirley Throckmorton Moore, S '39 – '41, Sent dues and extra help and her daughter, Lynn Sherman, enclosed these words, “Dear Ones, Enclosed please find the dues for my mother, Shirley Throckmorton Moore, plus a little extra.

I wanted to drop you a line thanking you for your fine newsletter.

Mom gets a lot of pleasure from it and we discuss both the things we read in it and Madison in general whenever it comes.

I'm glad you are keepers of the flame.

Just an update on Mom. She was not raised as a Seventh-day Adventist but met Dr. Sutherland when he visited the home of his cousin, who was her uncle with whom she was living. He discovered Mom was determined to get through college if it took her 12 years of summer school—as she was teaching school at the time. He invited her to apply to Madison, which she did.

Apparently the Madison experience was a very bonding one as any attendee can attest to. She did not become a Seventh-day Adventist at Madison, but the seeds were planted. She attended from June 1939 until September 1941. She met my Dad, Elmer Moore, there but sparks only flew later when they got reacquainted in Washington DC.

Mom got counseling and assistance from someone in the business office and ended up at Benjamin Franklin University in DC where she got her Masters Degree in Accounting. She went on to become a CPA, first working for a tax attorney and when he died, the Lord provided her with a stable of clients the tax firm didn't want! He has been good to her and our family—so good!!

She was able to raise a lot of funds over the years through these clients for Washington

Adventist Hospital, Takoma Academy, Ingathering etc.

She also served on the boards of Washington Adventist Hospital and Takoma Academy, among others

She is retired now and lives with our family in Columbia, SC.

Although growing up I heard Madison referred to quite often, it wasn't until the last few years that I have come to understand what exactly the Madison "experience" meant. It is the true blueprint we were meant to follow.

God bless you as you continue sharing news about Madison and it's students."

**TENNESSEE:** Merle, S '40-'41, and June Hunt Kirkwood, N '44 sent the following note with dues, "Dear Bob and Albert, I am happy you are keeping up the alumni correspondence. I was sad to hear Madison Hospital has been sold. As high as medical expenses are when you have to be admitted to the hospital it should be able to run without being sold. I'm glad the alumni association still has the heritage house.

Will we still have our alumni meeting in June?  
(Yes)

We don't want to lose contact with all we worked with at Madison Hospital."

**TEXAS:** Pat Grismore Schwarz, BSN '59, sent her dues and wrote, "I have been so negligent keeping up with the dues but you so generously kept sending the *Survey*.

I want to thank you very much. I do enjoy the *Survey*, I have a lot of memories of my college days and made wonderful friends there

I really appreciate the work you are doing to keep the *Survey* going.

But I am saddened that there isn't anything left there anymore as I remember my college days."

**GTON:** Dorothy Wayne Bowes, N '41, words with her dues and extra, "Madison I'm sending dues plus office help and the *Madison Survey*. I am sorry about the

hospital sale but not surprised—hard for small hospitals these days.

I now live in Battle Ground, Wash.—a few miles from Vancouver and Portland, Ore.

My home is a few feet from my son, Rick, who pastors the Meadow Glade Church here.

My son, Ron, lives in La Sierra, still working for the blind and disabled."

*(It is very meaningful to receive and share the notes, short or longer. I wish more of you would write something at least once a year.)*



YES, WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER  
HOMECOMING THE FOURTH  
WEEK-END IN JUNE, 2006.  
JUNE 23-24, 2006

### Lodging

There is no on campus housing unless you are staying with friends. There are several nearby motels and for your convenience. I list the motels and the toll free reservation number of each. They are all within a block or two of each other. They are within two miles of a major shopping mall. There are several eating establishments in the area. The Tenn. Christian Medical Center, formerly (Madison Hospital) is 6 -7 Miles away.

### Motels

Madison Area exit 95, Old Hickory Blvd (State 45)  
Madison Inn 118 Emmet Ave. In Madison 1-800-821-4148

or (615) 865-4203..

**We have reserved a block of rooms here.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Friendship Inn 625 Gallatin Pike North (615)-865-2323

I-65 N, exit 97, Long Hollow Pike area

Baymont Inn, 120 Cartwright Ct. 1-800-301-0200

Comfort Inn, Conference Dr.

1-800-228-5150

Comfort Inn, two Mile Pky.

Econolodge Rivergate, Long Hollow Pike 1-800-553-2666

Hampton Inn, Northgate Cir.

1-800-426-7866

Holiday Inn Express, Conference Dr. 1-800-465-4329

Motel 6, 328 Cartwright,

1-800-466-8356

Red Roof Inn, Long Hollow Pike

1-800-843-7663

Shoney's Inn, Long Hollow Pike 1-800-222-2222

\*\*\*\*\*

Exit 96-Two Mile Pike

Super 8, 622 Two Mile Parkway

1-800-800-8000

I advise early reservation to be certain of having lodging.

Coupon

1. Survey & Dues 1 yr. (\$25)\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Sending \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Office Help.
3. God's Beautiful Farm (\$12) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sending \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Heritage House Restoration.

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