

Madison Survey

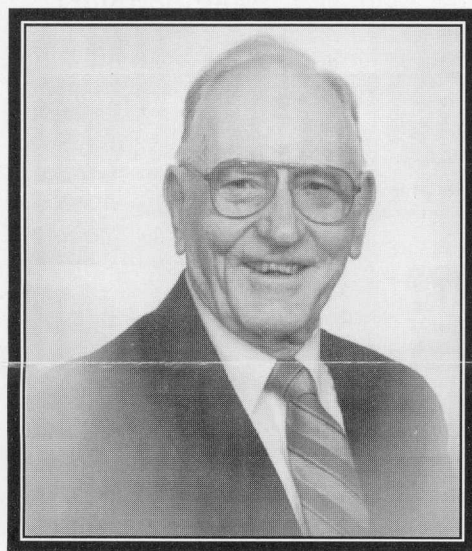
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ALUMNI NEWS



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JANUARY— MARCH 2007

RESTING UNTIL THE RESURRECTION



Leland Standford Straw Sr.

L e l a n d
S t a n d f o r d
S t r a w S r., 95,
J C - '29 - '31,
f o u n d e r o f
L i t t l e C r e e k
S a n i t a r i u m a n d
S c h o o l n e a r
K n o x v i l l e,
T e n n., d i e d
F e b. 5, 2007,
a f t e r a b r i e f
i l l n e s s.

He served
as President of
Little Creek
from its

founding in 1940 until his retirement in 1984.

Professor Straw was born April 11, 1911, in Sheridan, Ill., the oldest son of five children born to Walter and Estella Straw. His parents named him Leland. When he was four years old he chose his own middle name, Leland, having heard of Leland Standford University. He had tired of telling people he didn't have a middle name.

At the time of his birth, his father was principal of Fox River Academy. Walter Straw then served as pastor of a church in Northern Illinois, principal of Bethel Academy in Indiana and assistant pastor of the SDA Church in Battle Creek, Mich.

Early in 1915, the Straw family went as missionaries to Africa.

Young Leland vividly remembered their ship turning off all lights at night to avoid a sinking by

German submarines.

His family lived at Claremont Union College and Solusi Mission, with his father being president of the Zambisi Union. They returned to the United States and lived at Keene, Texas for two years and then went back to Africa for another year.

The Straws permanently returned to the United States when Leland was 14 years old, settling in Loveland, Colo., where his father was principal of Champion Academy. Moves to Keene, Texas, and Berrien Springs, Mich., followed before Walter Straw became dean of Madison College in 1929.

Here, Leland went to college and married Alice Goodge. "Alice and I became acquainted through our interest in music," he later recalled. "She had played the piano for her mother who was a singer, while I had played in school bands since I was 10 or 11 years of age. Alice and I began taking lessons in Nashville, she in piano and I in violin and piano. After I graduated in 1931, I was invited to prepare to develop a music program at Madison. I attended Peabody College for six quarters, majoring in music and graduated in 1933. Madison paid all my school expenses and the standard 10 cents an hour wage. I, in turn, was to teach for seven years or refund their expenses. Alice and I had worked together for several years and I decided it would be good to continue the program, she agreed, and we were married Sept. 3, 1933."

Two sons were born to the young couple at Madison: Leland Standford Straw Jr., on March 13, 1937, and Kenneth Edward Straw on Sept. 29, 1939.

Then they felt the call to extend the Madison influence. Living for nearly 12 years and hearing Dr. Sutherland preach self-supporting work on every possible occasion was pretty strong medicine, and we became interested in the book *Education* by Ellen

White,”he said. “Lida Scott drove us to Knoxville, Tenn., to see some property there. Our basic aim was to carry out as far as possible the picture we found in the book *Education*.”

Straw and a friend named C. R. Frederick arrived on the farm with just one frame house and a barn in the summer of 1940. The resident Scott family could not move out to their new house for three months, so the two men camped out in three tents, one for sleeping, one for cooking and the other to serve as cover for two grand pianos.

“Bud Scott said he didn’t know anyone was going to successfully run a farm and start a school when he spent so much time playing the piano as Leland did,” according to his life sketch,

His family and three students later showed up to start the school year. From that humble beginning, Little Creek operated on the Madison model of a sanitarium, farm and boarding school with close to 100 students enrolled in grades 9–12 each year. During its operation from 1940 to 1994, Little Creek Academy graduated approximately 1,100 students.

In addition to distinguishing himself as an Adventist educator, Leland Straw also played the violin with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for 25 years and served as an active member of the West Knoxville Kiwanis Club from 1964 until shortly before his death.

His many honors included a service award from the Southern Union Conference Office of Education, a Christian Service Award from ASI, the Thomas and Violet Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award and a George F. Hixon Fellow from the Kiwanis Club.

“Yes, Leland Straw was an educational frontiersman, a real trail blazer,” wrote George H. Akers, former director of Education for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in a tribute. Innovation was his middle name. Little Creek Academy, the out working of his dream, filled a distinctive place in Adventist education for many years. It was considered an honor and a privilege to be admitted to this small, high-quality, premier school. Its graduates were highly respected. Seventh-Adventist education will be forever indebted to this man’s legacy, and that of his faithful wife, Alice.”

In addition to his wife of 74 years, survivors include two sons, L. Stanford (Janet)Straw, Jr.,of Knoxville, Tenn, and Kenneth E.(Sharon) Straw of Berrien

Springs, Mich., four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

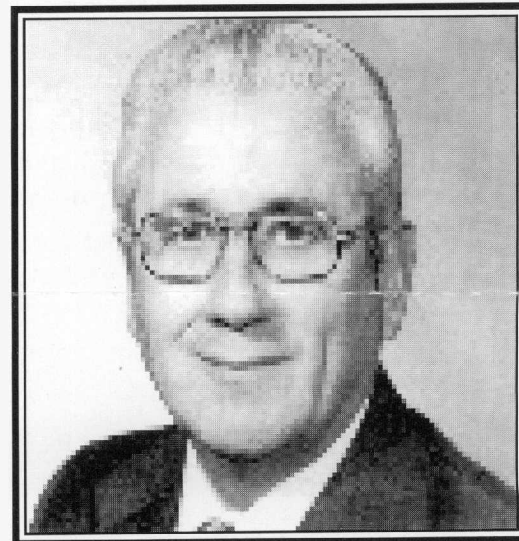
His funeral service was at Little Creek Sanitarium Chapel followed by burial at Highland Memorial Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Little Creek Sanitarium, 1211 Little Creek Lane, Knoxville, Tenn. 37922.



A Former General Conference Associate Secretary Dies

By Don Roth/ Adventist Review

Donald Robert Christman, Acad., '37, S '40, a former associate secretary of the General Conference and a



Donald Robert Christman

long time worker in Brazil and Peru, died on November 2, 2006, in his home in Redlands, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. He was 87.

Christman began working for the church as a pastor in eastern Pennsylvania in 1943. In 1946, he was called to mission service in Hawaii. Six years later, Christman moved to South America. There he served in various posts in Brazil and Peru, including president of the church’s Inca Union Mission. While in Peru, he supervised the construction of the Seventh-day Adventist first floating church on Lake Titicaca.

He returned to the United States in 1966, and in 1977 accepted the call to be an associate secretary of the General Conference. He retired in 1985.

Christman is survived by his wife, Dorothy, four sons, and 10 grandchildren.

His father Harry K. Christman was the co-author of *Madison, God's Beautiful Farm*.

Hass, Walter B. BS '35 Died peaceably in his sleep November 11, 2006 at the age of 93. Walter was a member of the 1935 graduating class. This message came from his wife, Pranee Hass. *We regret we don't have more information on Walter.*



Ruby M. Birch

Service Education.

When Southern Missionary College had their Associate Degree Nursing program at Madison, she was an instructor and on the staff at SMC. Ruby was born August 29, 1927 in South Milwaukee, Wis. and expired January 15, 2006.

Internment was in the Greenwood Cemetery, Sedan, Kan.

She is preceded in death by her parents and one brother. Surviving are her brother Howard (Effie) Birch, nieces, Linda Birch and Beverly Birch Tasche.



FROM HERE AND THERE



California: Willis G. Dick, M.D., N '36, BS '50, wrote. "Dear Albert, The October/ December *Survey* was a very interesting one. I like your articles. Thanks for the write-up on my wife, Eleanor's death. I did not

know your Aunt Frances very well but your Aunt Florence, I considered a real friend. She had known my parents when they were at Madison 1910 to 1913. In fact, I was born at the fledgling Madison Sanitarium March 17, 1913, with Lillian Magan being the physician.

I came to Madison to take pre-med and work in the hospital. The hospital policy was that nobody worked with patients, except nurses. Therefore, if I wanted to work in the hospital — take the nurses course. Enter head nurse, Florence. I was able to agree with her that if I had any gaps in my nurses classes, I could take pre-med class. This went on fine until about end of my second year. Florence had cancer of the breast. I was the only one at her side when she died.

George Cothren became head nurse and said, "Nursing only." I and Julius Paskan quit the nurse's course and became cooks at Kinne Kitchen. I was able to go to Loma Linda September 1936 and was in the same class as your father. The ranks of the "Old Guard" are thinning. We depend on your young hands to grasp the pen. Sincerely yours, Willis G. Dick M.D.

California: Juanita Standish McGann, *see last survey*, sent dues and wrote, Dear Friends, Bob Sutherland and Albert Dittes, This is a follow up of my two phone messages this morning regarding the possibility of sending two extra copies of the recent *Survey* to me. My copy, received yesterday, was very mutilated in the mail, and I would like, if possible, to receive two new copies to send to my two children.

Thank you both for your wonderful work at Madison — my birth place and a very special institution.

Thank you, Al, for the article (with pictures) about the Standish family. This recognition is very much appreciated, especially since our Dad was so dedicated to his work there, designing and building the arched walkway connecting the original cottages of the Sanitarium, all the stone buildings, as well as teaching college and academy classes. He even taught woodworking class for the 8th grade, in which I was a student.

The article about Frances Dittes was also very interesting to me. I remember both she and her sister there at Madison; they invited our family to dinner one time, and part of that dinner stands out in my memory. They served a salad that was so creative and

special to me as a little girl. It was a slice of pineapple on a lettuce leaf with a peeled banana upright from the center hole of the pineapple with a piece of walnut up on top, a marshmallow on it's side at the bottom for a handle, and a little dribbled mayonnaise down the side of the banana for melted wax – making a candle.

As I recall, they were even able to light the walnut. I don't know how many times, through my life, I have told about that special salad. I even made some for my children when they were small, but I don't remember if I tried to light the walnut or not! I did not intend to get into a long letter when I started this "note", but memories flow easily!

The information about Lyle Marie's family I also enjoyed.

Thank you both as well as the helpers at the office.

Ohio: Raymond Campbell, BS '61 sent a generous donation with his dues and wrote this note, Dear Albert & Bob, Enclosed is a check for \$—. Use it for dues, the book *Madison, God's Beautiful Farm*, office, etc.

I purchased the book years ago. I gave it to my father to read who I would only see once each year. I thought I had gotten it back but can not find it on my book shelves. I may have loaned it to another Madisonite. I share my *Surveys* with another friend. I have told him the information is in the *Survey* to order it. Do not believe he has.

Keep up the good work with the *Survey*. I do not stop in at Madison anymore. I suppose it has been ten years or more since I was there for homecoming. Please take out what you need to mail the book. Your friend.

Oregon: Geraldine Bond Thomas, BS '42, sent dues and extra, with these gracious words, "Thank you for all your work with the Alumni Assn. I love getting it. This year is 70 years since I came to Madison!"

Oregon: Violet Stewart Lang, N '50, sent dues and extra with these words, "Was so happy to get the *Madison Survey* recently!! I had just told my husband that I needed to send you all some money or my name would be taken off the mailing list! And I couldn't let that happen, as the *Survey* is about my only contact with "Madison" news, except for James Culpepper. He was in the army with Harold back in 1956, so we hear from him occasionally.

By the way, remember the Hilgers family at Madison? One of their daughters, Carol, N '61, who married Richard Kunau, BS '57, also from Madison, is one of the vice presidents here at Portland Adventist Hospital.

We see them quite often. They came here from Colorado and before that were in Florida, and remembers and knows a lot of people from Madison. She told us that my father had married them, Kunaus, at Madison. (*he also married Stella and I, 62 years ago in July*). Also, do you remember Mr. Floyd Byers? He was (Librarian)(and taught physics, I think) at Madison. He died a few years ago— but his wife, Muriel, and their daughter, Vivian Robertson, (Vivian was in grade school at Madison), live here in Portland, Ore. and go to the "Sunnyside S.D.A. Church" that we attend, so see them often. Mrs. Byers remembered me right away! And we had fun reminiscing!

The only other Madison person I know out this way is Donna Bell (Allen) Luke. BSN '46. I talked to her briefly in December. All for now—need to get this in the mail.

Thanks so much for your faithful and newsy work on the *Survey*. I hope enough people help to support the alumni.

Tennessee: Elden Wilson, S '39-'41 sent dues and a brief note, "Dear Bob and Staff, I do appreciate your interest and hard work in continuing to produce the Madison Alumni paper. Madison changed many lives of young people and headed them in the right direction. Even though I did not graduate there, I'm thankful for its influence."

Tennessee: Joel, BS '50, CME '57, Mary Everett. BS '45, sent dues and, "Hi! We are fine - Joel will be 85 in April. Praise the Lord!"



You are invited to attend the
annual homecoming at Madison
the fourth weekend in June.

50th



Gene & Bobby Harrison



Phil Hunt, Bernard V. Bowen, Mary "Ikey" DeVasher

“Enclosed with my dues, plus some for the office expenses, is a picture of our fiftieth wedding anniversary party, Sept.23, 2006. Our children, Sherry and Steve Harrison, Timothy and Jennifer Harrison of Dalton, Ga. and Thomas and Regina Harrison of Calhoun, Ga. gave us a party at **The Farm** a country club here in Dalton, Ga. Our two grandchildren were also here, Stephanie Harrison from Knoxville, Tenn. and Marine Corporal Timothy Harrison Jr. who had just returned from Iraq.

We had 132 who signed our book. There were many Madison alumni present from all over, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, California, and Arkansas. It was a wonderful party and it was good to be with our friends and family.

My sister, Evelyn Moore Meyer, BSN '57 and I spent much of our grade school, academy and college at Madison. I graduated from Medical Records in 1957. Our husbands, Gene Harrison and Lou Meyer are Medical Lab. Technologists. Gene also became a nursing home administrator after we located here and worked with Edwin Martin for 15 years in the Nursing Home Assoc. We enjoyed it very much. Our younger sister, Patsy Moore Post, graduated from the academy at Madison in 1962. Our brother, Carl Moore, and our other sister, Barbara Moore Link spent time in middle school at Madison. Our parents, Alfred and Opal Moore moved there in about 1947. So we feel Madison is home. We enjoy the papers from Madison and usually never miss the homecoming.

BERNARD V. BOWEN TURNS NINETY

The plaque reads:

“Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia celebrates and honors BERNARD V. BOWEN, CRNA, DSc

MTSA Founder on his 90th Birthday in recognition of his worldwide contribution and commitment to quality anesthesia education.”

The Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA) honored Bernard V. Bowen on his 90th birthday Monday, January 15, 2007 with a reception and presentation of a plaque by President Phil Hunt.

Mr. Bowen founded MTSA in 1950 and served as its President for many years.

Students, staff, alumni, community friends and even three of his nieces from California attended.

Friends may correspond with him at P. O. Box 417

Madison, TN 37116-0417



Come by the booth at ASI in Louisville, KY.

August 6– 9, 2007

We will be by the ASI and Southern Union booths



Celebrating 65 years

Apologies to the Marley family — ideally this would have appeared before Ruth's obituary. However, believing that it will be of interest to those who know Ruth and Everett, we run it now.

Everett, BS '42 and Ruth Bryant Marley, S '40, met while attending Madison College in Madison, Tenn.. When she left Pensacola, Fla. and arrived on the Madison College Campus to take nursing three young men decided that they wanted to date her. They each put up a little wager, sure that they would win her love. Everett stole her heart and they were married the summer of his junior year in near- by Old Hickory, Tenn. on July 16, 1940 After graduation they moved down to Pensacola, Fla. where Everett took a job in property accounting at Fort Barancas, waiting for the army to call him into service. The army never called and a couple of months later they were contacted by Elder Capman and invited to serve as a minister in the Alabama–Mississippi Conference. They felt the Lord had been leading them during the last few months through circumstances that changed their plans, so with much prayer and thankfulness to God they committed their lives to ministry in 1943. Everett and Ruth pastored in the Meridian, Miss. Church; the Montgomery, Ala. Church, the Greenville, S.C. 5 church district and the Columbia S.C. Church. There they established churches in Anderson, Pickens, Orangeburg, and Sumpter S.C. Ruth remained at home during those years raising three children, singing in th choir, teaching Sabbath School and cooking great meals. In 1953 the Little Columbia church decided they needed to enlarge their school. A couple of church members found a property of 50 acres about a mile off Broad River Road. Under the leadership of Elder Marley they purchased the acreage for \$10,000. They sold one acre parcels to many church members, raising the money for the much needed school. They voted to name the street Marley Drive in honor of their “beloved pastor”. While living in Alabama, Barry, their first child was born . Ruth tells stories of washing diapers in the bathtub and having to use an outhouse in those early years. Cheryl and Marcia were added to the family during their stay in S.C. and their family was complete. In 1956 the family moved to Nashville, Tenn. where Everett pastored the Nashville First Church for one year and then was elected President of the Kentucky–Tennessee Conference. Ruth worked as

an accountant for Kenneth Knight along with the responsibility of administrator's wife in the church. Although most of the family trips were to church meetings where the parents went to meetings and the children vacationed, there were a few great vacations. One year they headed to Florida, stayed in a home offered to them near the beach and for two weeks played on and in the water. At night there was good food and ping– pong tournaments for all. In 1970 Everett, Ruth and Marcia moved to Iowa where Everett was Conference President. Ruth worked at home running a Bible business that sold H.M.S. Richard's Helps Bibles. While there the conference purchased a country club situated on a beautiful hill surrounded by green lawns that they turned into a conference office. In 1976 they moved to Minneapolis, Minn. where Everett was Secretary Treasurer for the Northern Union. A year later he became President of the Northern Union until retirement. They are now living in a villa at Fletcher Park Inn. The Marleys love spending time with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Everett still loves to minister any way he can in the community and, of course, he gets his exercise each week by playing golf. Mom loves talking and visiting with her family and friends on the telephone, walking, working crossword puzzles and watching 3ABN. But their greatest desire is for Jesus to come quickly and take them home.



ANOTHER ONE ??

East Tennessee Hospital Leaves Adventist Health System

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.,—A hospital operated by Adventists since 1928 has joined a large health conglomerate in this region.

Wellmont Health System based in Kingsport, Tenn., has purchased a 60 percent operating interest in Takoma Adventist Hospital.

The operating agreement gives Adventists equal representation on the board of directors, and Carlyle Walton will remain as Chief Executive Officer. Wellmont is still the majority owner according to Brad Lifford, media relations coordinator for the Wellmont Health System.

The new hospital name will be Takoma regional Hospital.

“This merger expands our geographical base because we were not previously in Greene County,” Lifford said

“We have long admired Takoma for its quality care.”

Lifford did not know how much money Wellmont had paid to enter into this partnership.

Dr. LeRoy E. Coolidge moved to Greeneville, Tenn., in 1925 and opened Takoma Adventist Hospital in 1928. He turned it over to the SDA Church in the mid-1950's, and it later became part of the Adventist Health System.

Wellmont is the premier healthcare provider in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, according to the press release announcing the merger. Its other East Tennessee hospitals are Bristol Regional Medical Center in Bristol, Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Hawkins County Memorial Hospital in Rogersville, and Hancock County Hospital in Sneedville as well as Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap, Va.

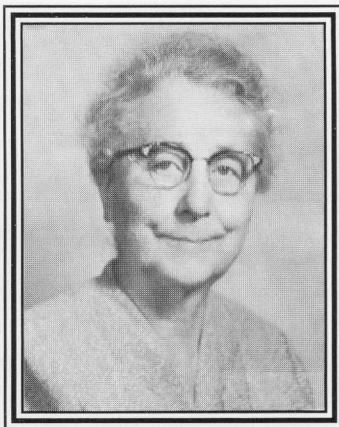


The Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute and its Work in the South.

A Nearby View and Some Practical Experiences of the Students Written By Themselves.

What the Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute Has Done for Me.

By Frances Dittes



Dr. Frances Dittes

The school at Madison was established six years ago for the purpose of giving men and women a brief training to go forth as self-supporting missionaries, but not until two years ago was my attention called directly to this line of work.

Although the greater part of my life has been spent in public schools, still I always longed for

something better, and for the time to come when I could enter some branch of the Lord's work. My ideas of missionary work, however, were vague. My aim was to

complete a college course, thinking that this would prepare me for my future practical missionary work

After promising the Lord that I would go wherever he wanted me, he led me directly into a place which was entirely different from anything I had ever seen or heard of, into a place where manual labor is correlated with study. The value of this method was very hard for me to see in its true light. I could not see why labor should be considered class work as much as the study of literature or Bible.

Only one subject was studied at a time, and three hours were spent each day in recitations, which appeared to me most strange. With only one subject how much time I was going to lose! All my time in this place would be spent for but little. You see how Satan began to reason with me to cause me to doubt God's word. He even led me to think I was burying my talents, and that I would never make a mark or be recognized by our own denomination. This made me dissatisfied with my surroundings, and I wanted to go where I could receive a special training for my work in teaching. Had it not been for pride, I surely would have started for another school. But I was ashamed to tell the Lord I did not like the place he put me in, and I was ashamed to tell my people that I had made a mistake. I was ashamed to give up a work over which I could not say I was master.

Several weeks were spent passing through this stage of reasoning before light came to me. But I told the Lord that if my character could better develop under these conditions, then here I was willing to cast my lot. No sooner had I surrendered myself than these troublesome things were made plain to me.

How clearly I could see that the ideal missionary or teacher is the one that can do the common every day duties. I came to see that, as the Spirit of Prophecy says, students should learn to raise their own crops, to care for cattle, and to become self-supporting. A more valuable training than this could not be gained. If need be a woman can dispense with a knowledge of French and algebra or even the piano, but it is indispensable that she learn to cook, to sew, and perform the many duties of the home.

I found that the one-study plan works very nicely, and when correlated with manual work, brings honor and dignity to the student. Christ was a carpenter, and Paul a tent maker, and both linked the highest ministry with their honest toil.

“The class of education given at the Madison school is such as will be accounted a treasure of great value by those who take up missionary work in foreign fields. If many more in other schools were receiving a similar training, we as a people would be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men..The message would be quickly carried to every country, and souls now in darkness would be brought to the light.”



The alumni Association has just printed a brochure of an extended letter Lida Scott wrote to George Foster Peabody in 1929 asking for financial support of Madison College. The letter offers a close look of the school at that time.

Readers might also be interested in another brochure of Bessie DeGraw reporting on the state of Madison to a Southern Union constituency meeting in 1914



I would like to apologize for the untimely mailing of the Oct./Dec..’06 issue. I had personal issues and it was Christmas time when things slowed down. We didn’t even get it proof read. We found at least 13 mistakes, did you find them all?



Coupon

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

MADISON SURVEY & ALUMNI NEWS

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