

THE BUILDING OF THE (Methodist) CHURCH  
A historical recital (1950-51)

(Women enter from Educational Entrance commenting on the addition)

Mabel Thomas ---- The building of a church is often a long, long story. Of course, a church has to start with people \_\_\_people who have in their hearts a desire for better life. The story of this church is a long story which goes back to the first settlers of this community. My great grandfather, Ahira R. Hinkley, was the first man to take up a claim on land that is now called Eagle. That was in Aug. or early Sept. of 1836.

Sue Thomas ---- But he wasn't the first permanent settler in Eagle. My great great grandfather was. Your great grandfather had a bachelor when he cut his initials on a tree over there south of Hinkley's spring now on Hy. NNN. He went back to find a wife and he didn't come back till 1838 when he brought your great grandmother, Mary Daniels, as a bride.

Annetta Wambold ---- But we're talking about building a church. What does first settling have to do with building a church? The first church service of Eagle was held down at Eagleville in the home or mill of Dr. Daniel Bigelow. I'm not any descendent, i.e. of Dr. Bigelow, but I'm a great great granddaughter of Harvey Wambold, the first Harvey, who owned Dr. Bigelow's mill for years and years. But here's the story\_\_\_\_\_

An itinerating minister came to Dr. Bigelow one day and said, "Wouldn't you like to have a church service here on Sunday?" Dr. Bigelow was willing.

Some statements have been made that the date was 1836, but that date is not right. Dr. Bigelow didn't come to Eagleville till Dec. 1836. He had to build his house or mill, and that would take time. If the meeting was in the mill, the date would be after 1839, if what is written in great grandfather's biography is correct

Sue Thomas---after that people had services in their log houses. My great grandfather did and your grandfather A.R. did too.

Mabel Thomas ----Yes, and when great grandfather built his barn in 1843, the first quarterly Meeting was held in it. Grandfather hewed the timbers for that barn and some of that hand-hewn lumber is in the baptismal font that Rev. Petherick made for this church a few years ago.

Mrs. Minnie Cole ---- After school houses were built many church services were held in them. Both Palestine and Jericho had schoolhouses as early as 1841 and both schoolhouses served as Meeting Houses for several years. My grandfather, John Hage, was a Lay Preacher in England. When he came to Eagle, although he took up several acres of land, he still kept up his interest in the church. In 1859, Eagle built a new schoolhouse on the same lot on which the present school stands. This left the old school empty. Grandfather bought this old building for \$80 and church was held there until the present building was erected in 1871, when Mr. T. W. Pittman donated the land.

Mrs. Harold Chapman ---- In 1870's my great grandfather became interested in the Eagle church and especially the Sunday School. He died in 1876, he willed a sum of money, modest in today's

inflation but very sizable in those days. That fund was invested in a northern Land company, but this company became bankrupt in the trying Thirties. The oil portrait in the rear of the room is the picture of Jonathan Parsons when he was a personable young man.

Mrs. Pearl West ---- In the 1870's, my father came back from his service in the Civil War, and married my mother in 1872. From then on, these Hinkleys were interested in the Eagle Church. Charles H. had a very beautiful voice, so much so that he early went to Chicago and was a paid chorister in one of the Chicago churches. When my brothers and sister were young, the church was filled with young people: the Hages, Griffins, Earles, Wests, Schofields. The young People's organization was called and a large body worked with enthusiastic fervor. Unfortunately, soon the lure of the west took so many away from the community and consequently from the church.

Sue Thomas ---- People by name of Mayhew used to live on our farm. Mr. Mayhew had a very fine tenor voice. He and Mrs. W.W. Perry with others used to sing in the choir.

Marlys Badinger ---- I think it's about time for me to put in a word or two about my In-laws, for in teenage terminology, they were the WHEELS of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Persons were always carrying on the work of the church. Their daughters, Mertie and Lottie, my great grandmother-in-law and my aunt kept the church life rolling. Then my grandfather, Theodore Rhodes put in his appearance and soon he and Grandmother Bertie were married. Theodore had a fine baritone voice, and unusual find in so small a town as Eagle, but as he once confessed, "Getting married put a stop to all my voice training". Then My grandfather Badinger did much for the church; was instrumented in having the basement dug and furnace heat installed.

Mabel Finney ---- Like Anetta, I'm not a descendant of any of the builders of the church, but I'm an inheritor, so to speak, of the Hoswell family. I live in the house which the Hoswells owned. Nathaniel Hoswell was a steward of the church, and his daughter Ida was an organist in this church until she married Mr. Herry Tanner and Went to Milwaukee to live.

Pearl West ---- I think we ought to mention some others of the people who contributed to this church. I want to mention Mrs. Wm. Cory who taught a class of boys for almost 50 years. Then there was Mrs. Ellen Richert who was Sunday School for 41 years. Her daughter Maude was church custodian, S.S. teacher, janitor, and general guardian of church affairs for many years.

Mabel Thomas ---- That brings us down to the spring of 1950 and our start as an independent charge, the buying of the Parsonage, and finally the addition of an "E", the Educational Unit which we are consecrating today and Sam Foster. Anybody speak for Sam?

(Church body rises in salute to him) Emery Babcock reads a list of the innumerable things which Sam has done for the church.

Sam replies with the doings of other people

Pastor sums up with appropriate remarks.