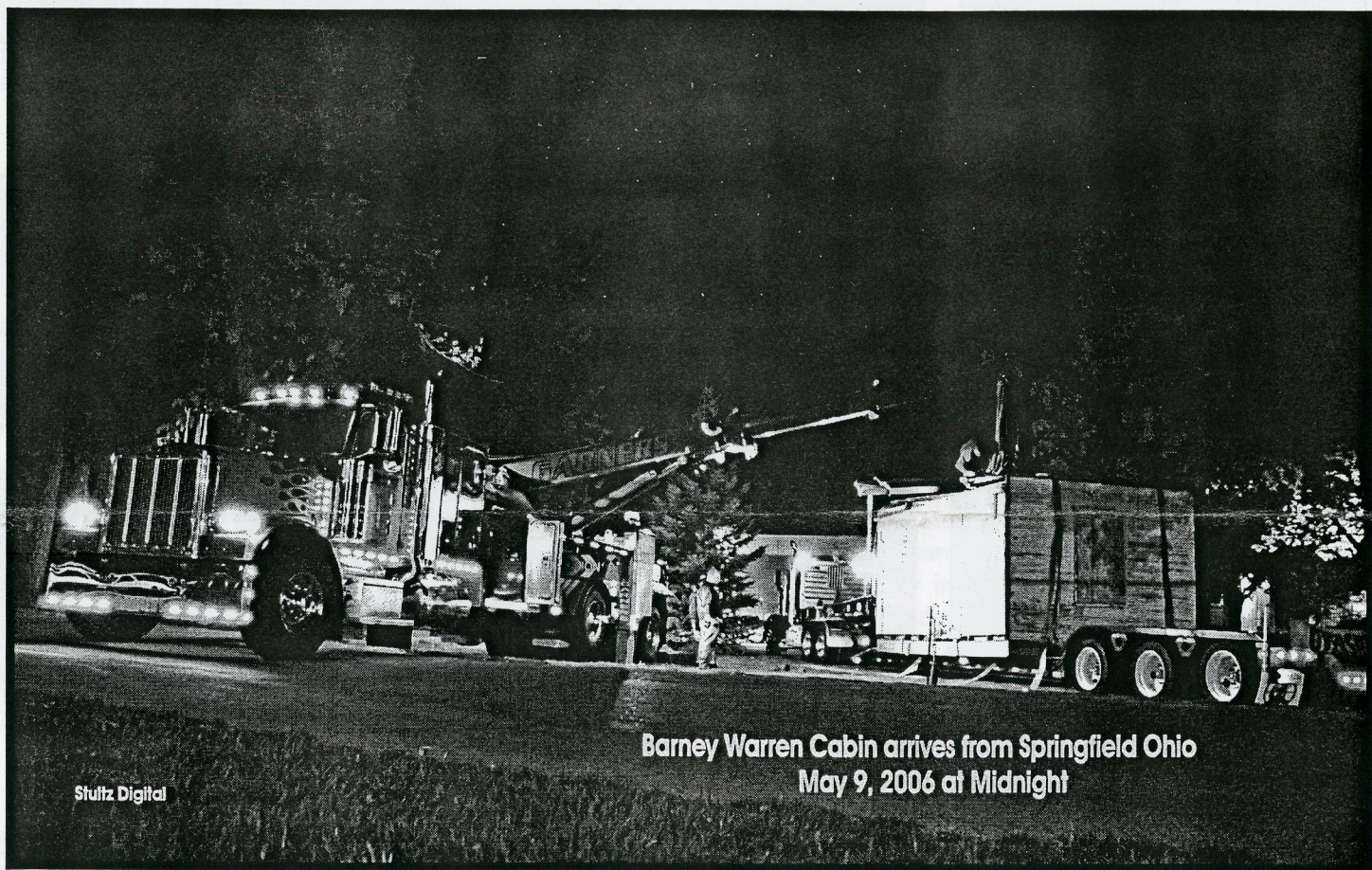
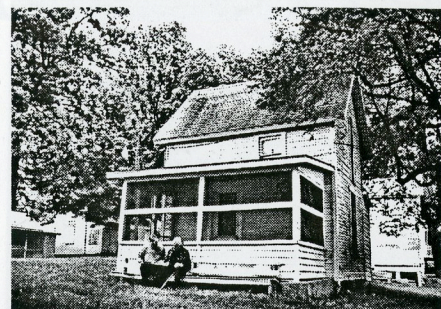


Church of God Historian

Historical Society of the Church of God Vol 6 No 3 Spring 2006



Barney Warren Cabin arrives from Springfield Ohio
May 9, 2006 at Midnight

Stultz Digital

A HISTORIC MOMENT

After months of negotiation, fund raising, planning, and a lot of hard work, the Barney E. Warren cabin arrived at its new home in Anderson, Indiana. After a number of weather-related delays (about a month of them, in fact), the cabin was hoisted onto the flatbed rig late in the day at the Springfield Camp Grounds in Ohio and carefully transported to Indiana.

Dale Stultz, project initiator and manager, with some assistance from friends, removed the roof—which had deteriorated beyond saving—and cut and hinged the second-story gable ends, laying them flat for easy transportation (as the photo above shows). A steel foundation frame had been put in place earlier and the cabin soon rested on it—a perfect fit.

The two-story cabin is 16x20 feet. When fully restored, it will serve as a historical center and museum sponsored by the Historical Society of the Church of God. It is our hope that it will be dedicated during the upcoming North American Convention of the Church of God in Anderson at the end of June this year.

(More photos, pages 4 and 5)

Church of God Historian

*Newsletter of the Historical
Society of the Church of God
(Anderson)*

Vol 6 No 3 Spring 2006

This newsletter is published three times a year: Fall; Winter; and Spring. It is published by the Society on behalf of its members. Printed in Anderson Indiana.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Historical Society of the Church of God, P.O. Box 702, Anderson, Indiana 46015. Email should be sent to *Merle D. Strege*, Society President, at: mdstrege@anderson.edu.

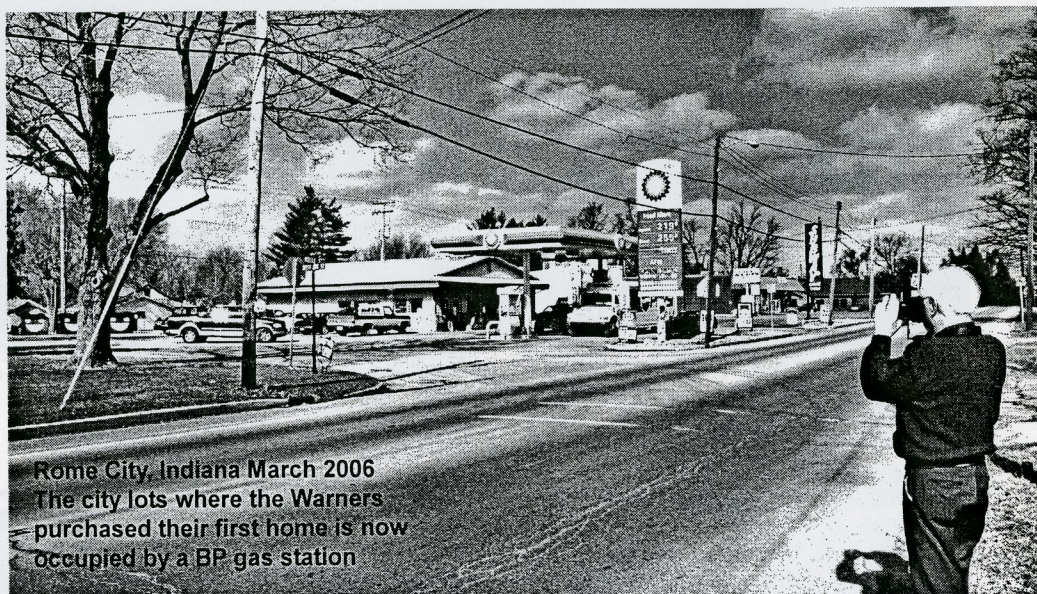
Church of God Historian is managed by the Executive Committee of the Society. Merle D. Strege, President, Dale E. Stultz, Vice-President, and Douglas E. Welch, Secretary-Treasurer. Others serve on the Committee as requested by the President.

The Historical Society

The Historical Society of the Church of God (Anderson) exists to encourage the collection and preservation of artifacts and documents relating to the history of the Church of God; to encourage historical research and the writing of Church of God history; and to provide a forum for like-minded people interested in participating in and furthering the study of Church of God history.

Membership is open to all who are vitally interested in what the Society desires to accomplish. Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$10 for students.) Checks should be made out to *Historical Society of the Church of God* and sent to Box 702, Anderson IN 46015.

25. Bro Martin wife and self called with a few families then came home.
Pm. Before Squire Higgin made out the writings for the Govt of lots 103-104 which I purchased from Mr. Truesdale for \$213.
26 moved things into the home which God in his kindness has bestowed upon us.
Praise his holy name. & glory to God for his infinite goodness his immortal kindness bestowed upon us. O Lord we dedicate this house and lot to thee. O-be I thank



Rome City, Indiana March 2006
The city lots where the Warners purchased their first home is now occupied by a BP gas station



Immediately across the road from the Warner property lies beautiful Sylvan Lake--a fisherman's dream come true.

A HISTORICAL QUEST

After spending a winter with D.S. Warner's journals and other periodical writings, I had the urge to trace some of Warner's movements in northeast Indiana. Of greater interest was the information from a journal that he had purchased a house on two lots in Rome City in the late Fall (November 25, to be exact), 1878.

Accordingly, as soon as the weather permitted, Dale Stultz and I drove up to Noble County for a day of exploration. Our primary objective was to see if we could locate the Warner property in Rome City.

Our first stop was in Albion, the County seat. In the Land Office we were able to locate and copy a Rome City plat map which gave us the location of the property we were seeking. We drove the short distance to Rome City, found the property, and took photos (two of which are reproduced on Page 2). It is on one side of State Road 9 and Crystal Lake, a popular vacation resort, on the other.

We discovered a number of newspaper clippings and photos in the Rome City Library. But we had to travel to Kendallville to access County archives—an excellent collection of documents and old photographs indeed. It was a great find.

We also visited Wolcottville, where Warners first settled in Indiana. The Methodist Church in which he may have preached is still there. It has been remodeled, of course, but part of it is obviously very old (about 150 years) and the original cornerstone is still displayed.

— D. Welch and D. Stultz

A MISSIONARY FAMILY—OR TWO

Chrystal Neff Guggenaster, who is pictured to the right, is the only daughter of early Church of God missionaries, Thaddeus and Kristina Neff. Chrystal, now approaching her 90th birthday, lives with her husband in Columbus, Ohio.

Historical Society Vice-President, Dale Stultz, who was a school companion and close friend of the Neff's grandson, and who spent considerable time in the Neff home, recently visited Chrystal in Columbus. After a generous meal, she sent him on his way with more material and photographs for the Thaddeus and Katrina Neff collection in Church of God Archives at Anderson University.



The photograph below is taken onboard the ship in which the Neff family sailed for the Middle East—probably in 1923. The two children on the left are Lowell and Chrystal Neff. Immediately behind them in the second row are Thaddeus and Katrina Neff. On the extreme right are another noted early missionary family, the Crose family. The smaller of the two boys is Kenneth Crose and beside him is his older brother, Lester. Behind them are their parents, John D. and Pearl. (Photo courtesy of Kenneth Crose.)



WARREN CABIN PROJECT: A PHOTO JOURNAL



Lifting Cabin from Original Site, Springfield



Springfield Campgrounds
Loading Cabin for Transport



Leaving Springfield Campgrounds

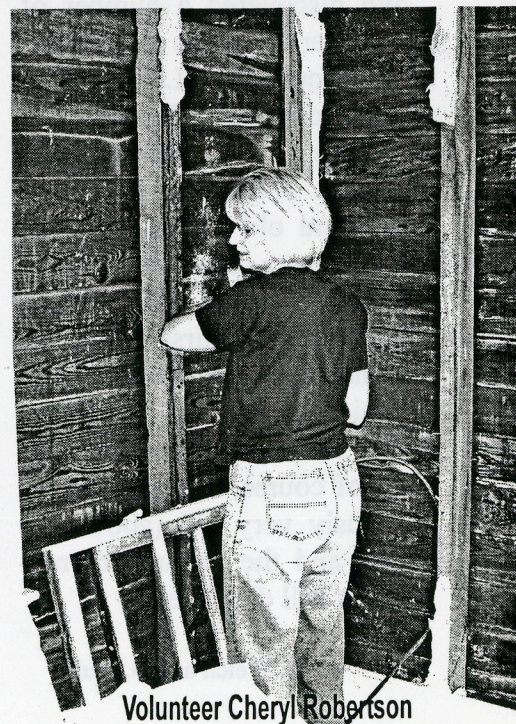


Barney Warren Cabin arrives from Springfield Ohio
May 9, 2006 at Midnight

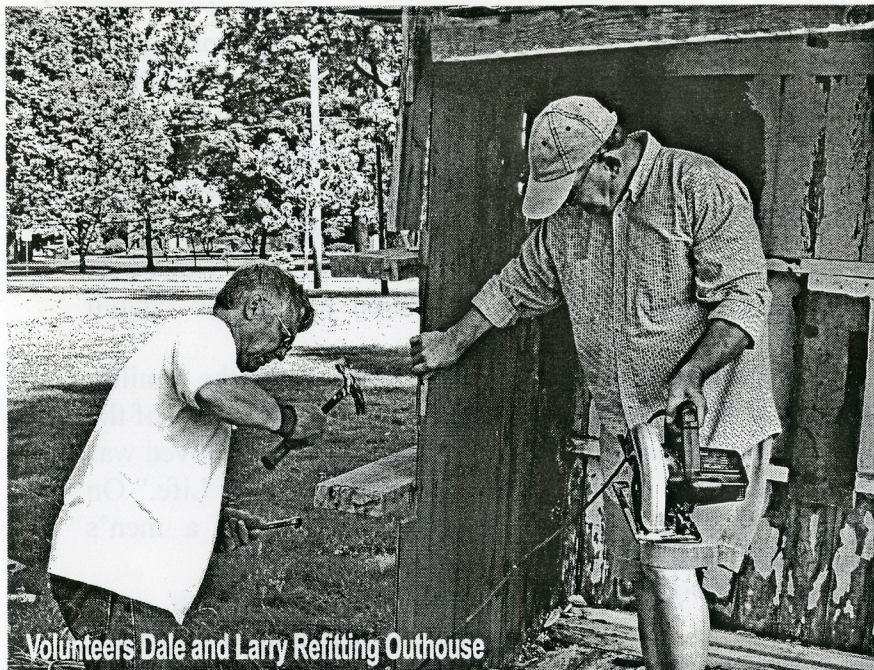


Reconstruction
Begins with a
New Roof

Carpenter
Rod Miller



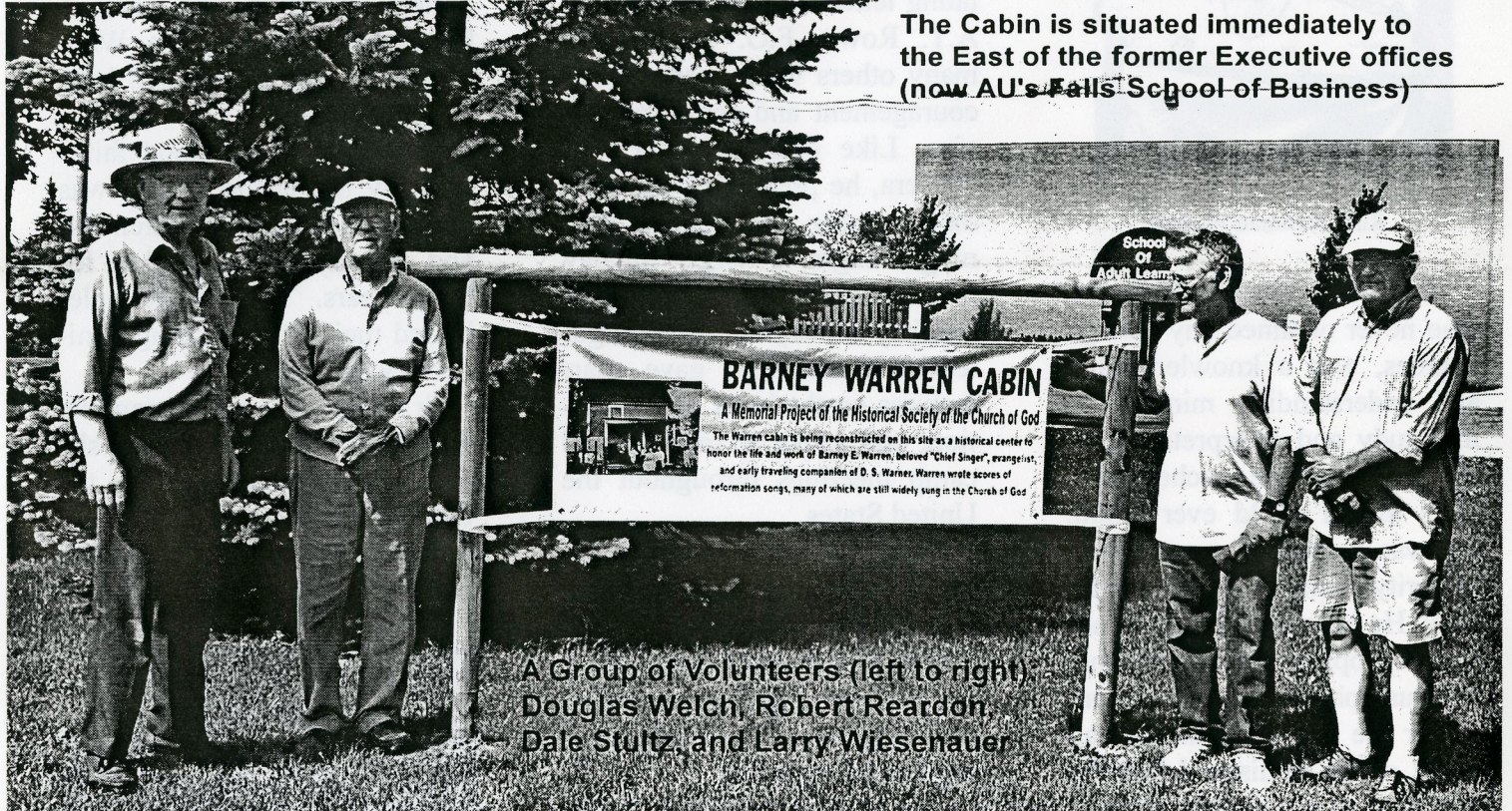
Volunteer Cheryl Robertson



Volunteers Dale and Larry Refitting Outhouse



The Cabin is situated immediately to the East of the former Executive offices (now AU's Falls School of Business)



A Group of Volunteers (left to right) Douglas Welch, Robert Reardon, Dale Stultz, and Larry Wiesenauer



BARNEY WARREN CABIN

A Memorial Project of the Historical Society of the Church of God

The Warren cabin is being reconstructed on this site as a historical center to honor the life and work of Barney E. Warren, beloved "Chief Singer", evangelist, and early traveling companion of D. S. Warner. Warren wrote scores of reformation songs, many of which are still widely sung in the Church of God

Remembering

Charles and Iva Byers

By a Grateful Parishioner: Ruth Hartman Hoover



Ruth Hartman Hoover

Reverend Charles E. Byers, who never obtained any college degrees, was a knowledgeable and understanding minister in the study and interpretation of the Scriptures. He touched more lives than I could ever count. He was a man of compassion, integrity, humility, and spirituality. He always had time to address people's needs, whether spiritual, physical, or emotional.

For the last eight and a half years of his ministry I had the privilege of working as his secretary. Since the secretary's office was next to the pastor's study, I could often hear him praying with great fervor for the congregation. His great love and concern for God's people and the unsaved impressed me very deeply.

As the church grew, he encouraged new ministers to seek this great calling. Twenty nine

or more young men entered the field of ministry due to his great influence. Many young ladies from the congregation as well married ministers, so were able to contribute to God's work. His exhortation to all was: "*Preach the Word.*"

I remember Bro. Byers dictating letters to Clarence Hatch, A.T. Rowe, F.G. Smith, and many others with words of encouragement and scriptural advice. Like other minister's of that era, he preached both Sunday morning and Sunday evening, taught a large Sunday School class of men, held weekly prayer meetings, teacher's meetings, gave chart lectures on the book of Revelation, and spoke at revivals and camp meetings throughout the United States.

He served on several Church of God boards in Anderson, Indiana over the years. He was also very interested in missions. He and the church gave money to build a church in Japan, paying for it completely.

On another occasion, Maurice Berquist persuaded Rev. Byers to go on a world tour with him. They traveled to many countries, some of which were experiencing tension and strife, such as Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising. This was a severe threat, but God kept the travelers safe.

I remember Maiden Lane Church of God and some other

churches in the area joining together in a united evangelistic meeting in Springfield Memorial Hall. Large crowds attended. Many were blessed and accepted Christ because of the great sermons and wonderful cooperation among the church people.

Bro. Byers loved the familiar hymns of the church. One of the hymns he particularly loved was "Wonderful Words of Life." On occasion he sang in a men's quartet as well.

Bro. Barney Warren, who wrote many hymns and spiritual songs, was on the platform one Sunday morning and sang a hymn that he had written. What a thrill it was to see and hear this great man!

Sister Iva Byers stood faithfully by her husband. She was Sunday School Superintendent and Bible School leader for forty years. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1953.

Sr. Byers was an outstanding minister's helpmeet cause she carried a deep concern for the church and its people. She was a quiet and gentle lady who always stood for strong Christian



principles that were consistent with Christian living.

Her early years were influenced by strict religious beliefs. She had a plain style of dress and appearance. Her hair was pulled back into a bun and her clothes were not fancy—but always neat and attractive.

Sr. Byers displayed humor in her activities and enjoyed many events in people's lives. When my husband, Ned, and I were married at the church in 1950, she was there to support us. She came to our baby shower, to parties, and other events with friends. But visiting the sick with her husband was always first for her.

Most of the Byers' vacations were spent at Russells Point, Ohio, where they rented a cabin on Indian Lake to fish and relax. Friends came to visit and enjoy their company. I don't know who caught the most or biggest fish, but they always looked forward to these trips.

Seldom did Sr. Byers ever call the office, for she respected it. Most matters of importance that concerned her were discussed at home. Her home was always open to church evangelists who were very well cared for by this considerate lady. When Bro. Byers passed away, she lost a very loving and faithful companion, but stood strong and followed God's leading.

I will always feel that I was particularly blessed to have known the Byers. Their Christian influence and guidance deeply touched both my life and that of my husband.

Memories are always with us and we treasure all these events of the past. But the future is ahead with just as many blessings awaiting us.

C. E. Byers Closes Long Pastorate at Springfield, Ohio

Springfield, Ohio—One of the longest and most successful current pastorates in the Church of God will come to a close on August 9 with the resignation of C. E. Byers as pastor of the First Church of God on Maiden Lane here. He has served as pastor of this congregation for thirty-eight and a half years.

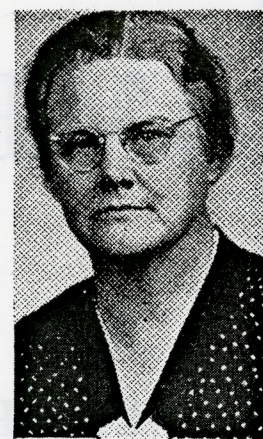
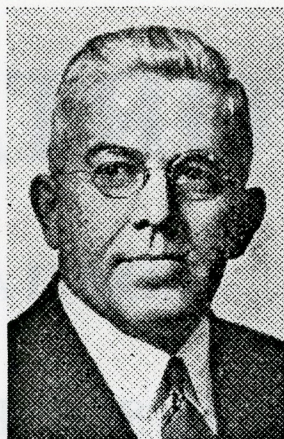
With him his wife will resign as Sunday-school superintendent after thirty-five years in that post.

Ordained in 1909 on the Ohio state campgrounds at Springfield, Brother Byers became pastor of the Springfield church six years later. At that time it consisted of about thirty-five active members and a Sunday-school enrollment of seventy. A one-room cement block building seating some two hundred persons housed the 1915 group.

The Byers pastorate has seen the Sunday-school enrollment climb to 1,139 and the congregation's membership to more than 750. A large sixty-two room edifice with two sanctuaries, one seating a thousand people and the other three hundred, has replaced the old cement block building.

Flourishing congregations on Hillside Avenue and at Clifton Avenue and Rose Street are the results of efforts of the Maiden Lane congregation. Brother Byers was also instrumental in launching the work at near-by Urbana and assisted in numerous other projects.

For the present the Byerses will con-



C. E. and Mrs. Byers

tinue to live in Springfield at 1343 Broadway. After a few months' rest, he expects to do some evangelistic work, give his chart lectures on the church, and show pictures he took on his recent round-the-world tour. He will be open for calls after October 1.

He will continue to serve as a member of the Gospel Trumpet Company, a position he has been elected to regularly since 1923. He was chairman of the Company's board of directors from 1931 to 1942.

He was a member of the Missionary Board for some twenty years and was also chairman of the Ohio state camp-meeting association for twenty years. He and Mrs. Byers will observe their golden wedding anniversary on September 9.

This newspaper clipping (unfortunately neither the name of the paper nor the date are given) was taken from a personal scrapbook loaned to us by Ruth Hartman Hoover, resident of Springfield, Ohio, and long-time former member of Maiden Lane Church of God. The photo of the Byers on the opposite page was also taken from that same book. Such personal reminiscences and collections of photographs, clippings, and other materials are important historical sources. We very much appreciate Sis. Hoover sharing them with us.

The name "Byers" stands high on the list of important names in the history of the Church of God. Most Church of God historians freely use the names Andrew Byers, Jacob W. and Jennie Byers, Andrew L. and Della Byers, A.J. Byers, and Charles E. and Iva Byers. On occasion we have been asked to clarify the relationship of one Byers to another. This proves to be no simple task. The best we have been able to do is to refer inquirers to Charles E. Brown, *When the Trumpet Sounded*. It is stated on Page 145 of that book that Jacob W. and Andrew L. Byers are the sons of Andrew Byers, who was a preacher with the River Brethren, and who resided in Albany, Illinois. Andrew converted to the Church of God in 1888, through D.S. Warner's influence. Then, on Page 162-163 Brown tells of a meeting held in Springfield at Toll Gate House by Barney E. Warren. During this meeting "A.J. Byers and his wife, the father and mother of C.E. Byers, came out into this movement." Were Andrew Byers and A.J. Byers related? Or is it a coincidence that both are named Byers? Possibly. We do not know. Unfortunately, Church of God historians are silent on this question.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

Saturday, June 24, 2006, 2:00—4:00 P.M.

Decker Hall, Room 231

* * * * *

Presidential Address: Dr. Merle D. Strege

“The Church of God at 125: Three Earlier Anniversaries”

Historical Society of the Church of God
P.O. Box 702
Anderson, Indiana 46015

First Class Postage



Archives
Anderson University
Anderson IN 46012