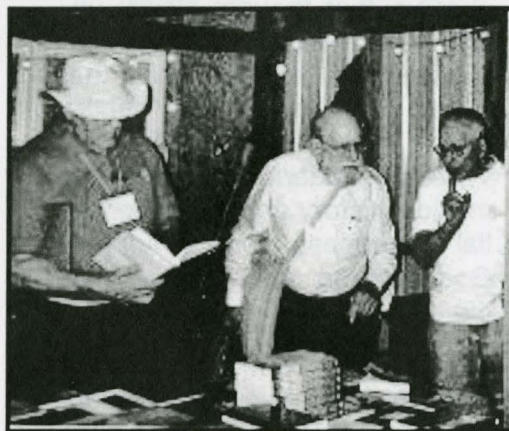




# Church of God Historian

Historical Society of the Church of God

Volume 18 Number 1 Fall 2016



Historical Society  
Retreat June  
2016





## **Church of God Historian**

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

**Vol 18 No 1 Fall 2016**

This newsletter is published three times a year: Fall, Winter, and is managed by the Executive Committee of the Society. It is published on behalf of its members and is printed in Anderson IN. All correspondence should be addressed to: Historical Society of the Church of God, P.O. Box 702, Anderson, Indiana 46015.

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 \$20 per year (\$15 for students.) Checks should be made out to *Historical Society of the Church of God* and sent to Box 702, Anderson IN 46015.

# **A Letter to Readers**

I could not attend the 2016 regional meeting or the GA in Anderson, but I looked forward to our brief time at Timber Rick Woods and our second annual hosting of the Historical Society by Dale and Cheryl Stultz. This year found me driving to Anderson from Winchester KY rather than Battle Creek MI., carrying a \$2500 consignment of early Church of God books from Reformation Publishers for Steve Williams, who was unable to attend the meetings.

Let me review for our readers what I saw and experienced at that gathering at Timber Rick Woods. We were not scheduled for registration until 3:00 p.m., so I hung out with Dale as he completed last minute preparations. We were to begin with a wiener roast and then spend the evening sharing around a campfire.

By the time for the wiener roast about fifteen people had arrived. An abundance of well-prepared food was consumed. Fellowship was warm and so typical of most Church of God gatherings. It was reminiscent of a miniature Anderson camp-meeting, a genuine microcosm of earlier days. This became even more apparent as time went on.

The Sunday evening fireside featured impromptu singing by the Thompson Trio, Lanny (who is Herb and Lola's son), Barb, and Abigail, interspersed with spontaneous sharing by various campers. Using Joel Gregory's *Heritage Songs*, we sang such traditional favorites as 'A Child of God,' 'There is Joy in the Lord,' 'Victory,' 'I Am the Lord's,' and 'What a Mighty God We Serve.'

Most everyone present became aware of a special blending together as John Aukerman described his recent retirement from Anderson University, his renewed interest in our Church of God roots, and his reaction to Barney Warren's hymn that defines each of us as "a child of God." And, John concluded, "That's who I am."

It became a special blessing to observe that thought slowly unfolded and become an unplanned but inspired common bond that slowly enveloped the entire group. "I am a child of God." What a wonderful tribute to our musical history and the experiential uniqueness of our Church of God heritage as a singing people.

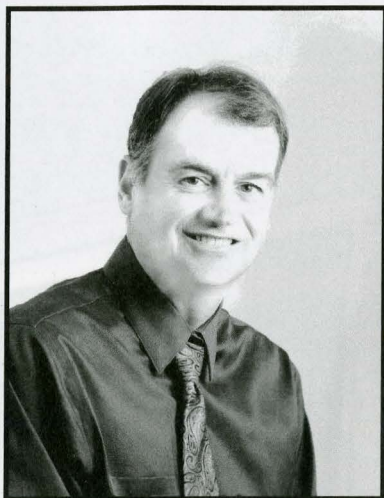
Missionary Tom McCracken highlighted his evening devotionals by describing the Bible as the Saving Word that reveals the eternal Christ who transforms people's lives. Tom told of preaching from a text in Revelation when but a young pastor in Hoopeston IL that led to a man's conversion and total life transformation.

In retrospect, I look back at the evening and recall the keen sense I had of being once more at Anderson Camp Meeting which was so much a part of my adult years from 1944 until it moved to Oklahoma City. Our Historical Society had, in that hour, become a microcosm of Anderson Camp Meeting, a miniature slice of the larger event that is so much a part of our history.

Another highlight was meeting Allan Moore of Kokomo IN and hearing Allan describe H.A. Sherwood's feeding of a tramp. When the stranger showed up at their door, Mrs. Sherwood invited him in, offered him a meal, and

(continued on Page 6)





### *From the President*

Those who gathered on 'Zion's Hill' in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania for the centennial celebration of the National Association of the Church of God, August 7 to 14 participated in an inspirational and history-making series of meetings. Services were well-attended; the worship uplifting; and the preaching powerful.

Time was set aside to honor the pioneers of the movement, who, over the years, had invested so much in the establishment of the National Association and its many ministries. During evening services, actors portrayed movement leaders, including D.S. Warner and Jane Williams, whose association with the Church of God reaches back to the last decade of the 19th century.

Along with a documentary film portraying the history of the National Association, other videos were produced to tell the stories of the various ministries of the NACOG. The Reverend Doctor Cheryl Sanders wrote a history of the National Association which was highlighted during this time.

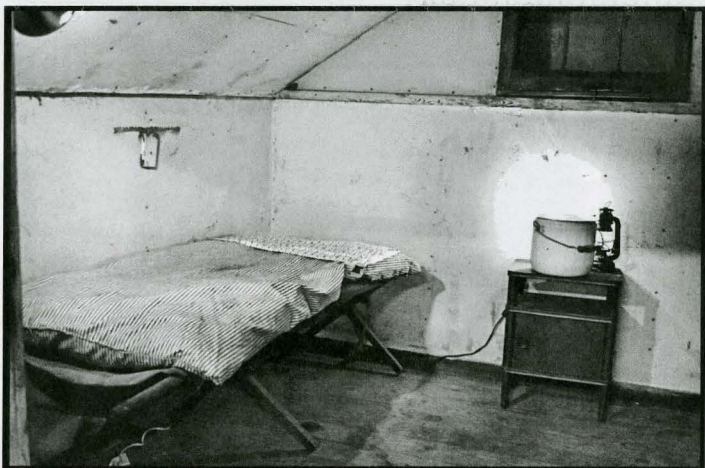
Also, a newly-established museum was opened: the Davis-Massey Museum of the Nation-

to this facility were able to view photos, look over artifacts, and see the tin hut which had been moved earlier from one part of the property into the museum itself.

Tin huts, like the restored exhibit, were, in previous generations, used to house the saints who attended camp meeting. The simple furnishings included

Army cots, straw mats, slop jars, and oil lamps. Even though accommodations on the camp grounds have certainly changed for the better in recent years, one thing has not changed at all, and that is the sweet fellowship of the saints.

*(A special thanks to Allison Carswell for use of the photographs for this story.)*







## ANDERSON UNIVERSITY Morrison House



John A. Morrison and his wife, Eunice, came to Anderson Bible Training School in 1919. With great leadership and even greater faith, they saw the school from a Bible School to a Christ-centered, liberal arts college. Dr. John, as he was called, walked with faculty, staff and students through the Great Depression, World War II and the post-war boom. Morrison shepherded the school through full accreditation and the creation of the Church of God's School of Theology. Morrison, and those who served with him, laid the foundation for the modern Anderson University. Morrison served as president of Anderson College from 1923-1958.

During his tenure, John A. Morrison, his wife Eunice and their four children, lived in this house and warmly welcomed students, faculty and visitors. Today, Morrison House is the home of the university's counseling services and spiritual life office. In 2016, Morrison House was renovated and modernized thanks to a generous gift from John A. Morrison's family.

- Made possible by Eric and Selby (Morrison) Blom, Rededicated Oct. 24, 2016.





This is a photo of the extended family of John and Eunice Morrison. Recently, the family, through a generous gift to Anderson University, enabled the total renovation of the Morrison home on the AU campus as a memorial to John and Eunice Morrison, who were founders of the institution of higher learning which has become Anderson University. Photo by Dale E. Stultz.



(Cont'd from Page 2)

allowed him to wash his hands. The Sherwoods prefaced the meal with washing of hands and having the blessing. They ate together after Brother Sherwood prayed. Asked why they practiced this routine, they explained: "because when we do it unto one of the least of these, we do it unto Christ."

Probably the highlight of this year's meeting was the premier showing of the new Church of God video Dale Stultz had produced over the previous several months, assisted by and on behalf of the new engineering department at Anderson University. And what does a group of professional educators, pastors, and lay people with a common interest in history do when gathering to watch such a video? They spontaneously begin singing, accompanied by Abigail (Herb and Lola's granddaughter) and the guitar that goes everywhere she goes. In the moments that followed, I could close my eyes and once more be seated in the old wooden tabernacle in the capacity crowd of several thousand people singing such songs as 'Consecration,' 'I Am the Lord's,' 'My Soul is Satisfied,' and 'O Church of God.'

The video deals with original and authentic history and we have nothing like it today. It should become a huge hit. We saw the construction of Old Main and much more. My paternal uncle from Grand Junction MI told me and my children of going to Anderson to work on that grand old structure that served so well for so long. I saw the blocks—17,000 of them—being made by hand in the Winter of 1906—and so much more.

I was once part of a General Assembly in which I was one of only 90 ordained pastors in the whole

Movement. I was the oldest attendee at the Historical Society at 89. Space does not allow me to describe the satisfaction of this overnight event at Timber Rick Woods this past June. We shared socially, in business, and in learning. THANK YOU DALE AND CHERYL for hosting us! And thank you Church of God for including me in this great part of God's good family.

— (Rev.) Wayne M. Warner

## Book Review

*The Desk as Altar*, by Dr. Merle D. Strege

From his three vantage points over the past five decades as student, professor, and historian at Anderson College/Anderson University, Dr. Merle Strege has masterfully written a concise overview of the oldest institution of higher learning of the Church of God (Anderson).

We, the readers, are privileged to see A.U. from its conception as the brainchild of J.T. Wilson in 1916 to its coming of age as a university, through all of the growing pains as well as the joyful times; all of which Dr. Strege likens to a marriage between the Church of God and the school...while separate entities, still woven together by commitment and love.

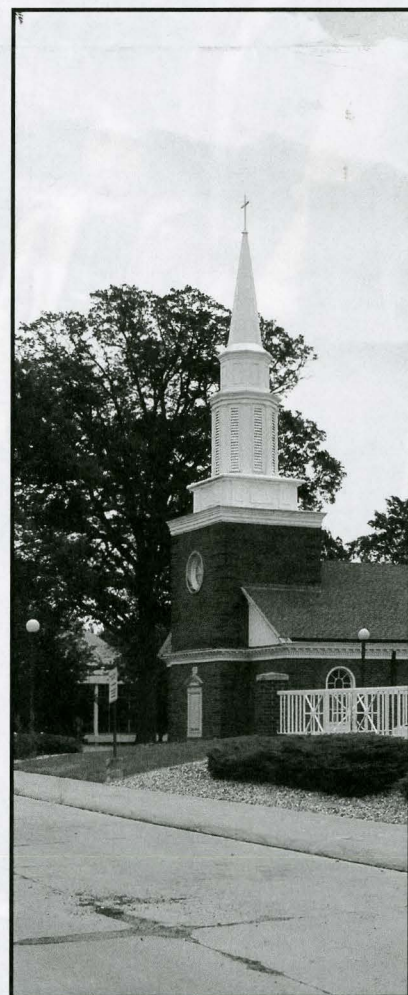
Any reader of this volume who has ever been associated with Anderson College/Anderson University, regardless of the era, will experience a trickle down effect flowing from the presented company facts to his or her own personal memories of life and times on the Anderson campus. This is OURstory! However, should the reader wish to delve more deeply into a certain subject story! However, should the reader wish to delve more deeply into a certain sub-

ject presented in the book, Dr. Strege has provided an abundance of details in both the End Notes of each of the ten chapters, as well as in the book's bibliography.

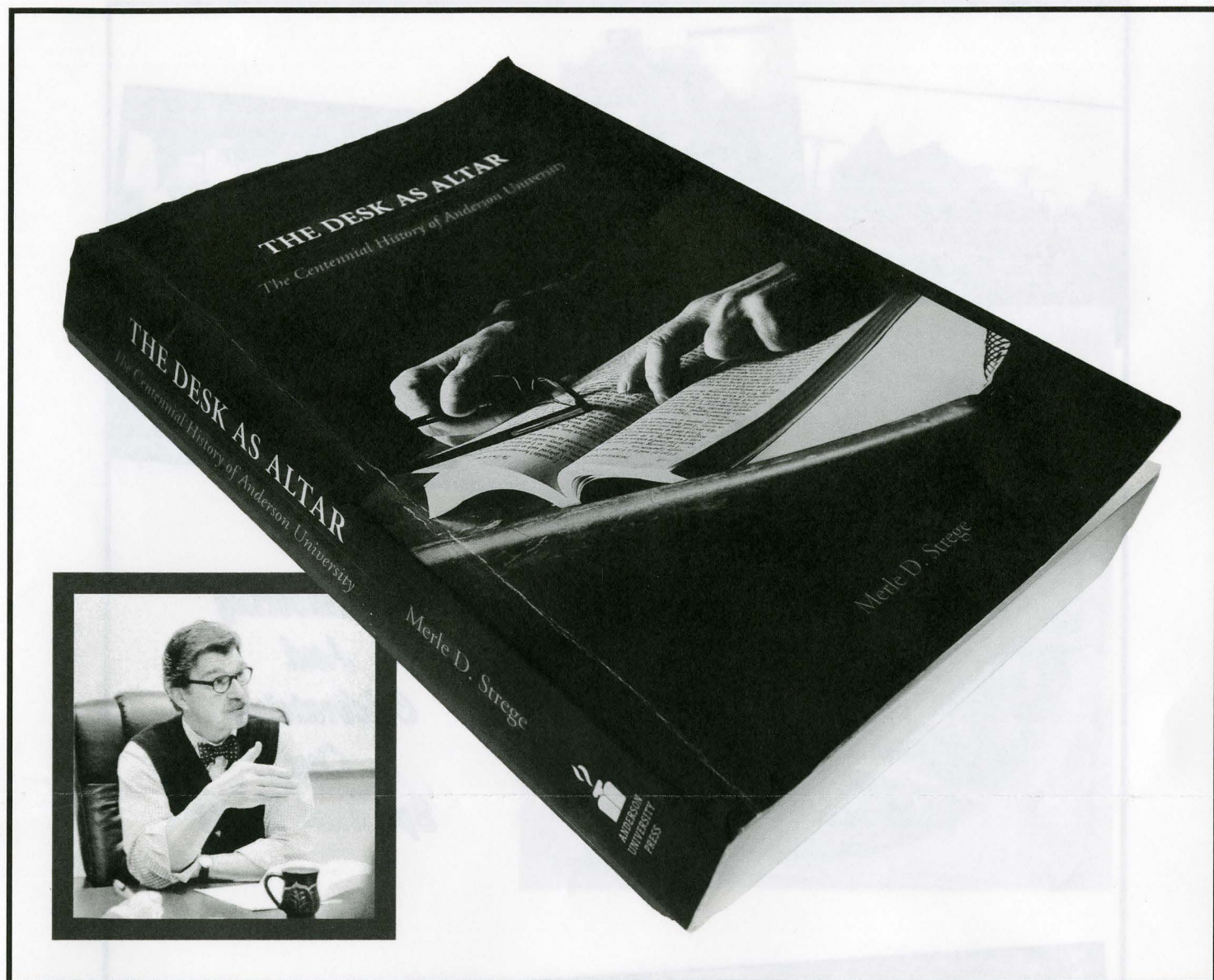
Published by Anderson University Press, the book may be obtained by contacting the Anderson University Bookstore (phone 765-641-4149), or online at amazon.com. Thebook's preface, alone, is worth the price.

While mentally gazing ahead as to the writer of the BICENTENNIAL edition of A.U.'s history, I offer a word of advice...Look no further! The groundwork has already been laid!

— Sadie Evans  
A.C./A.U. Class of 1974  
Sec/Treas. Historical Society  
of the Church of God



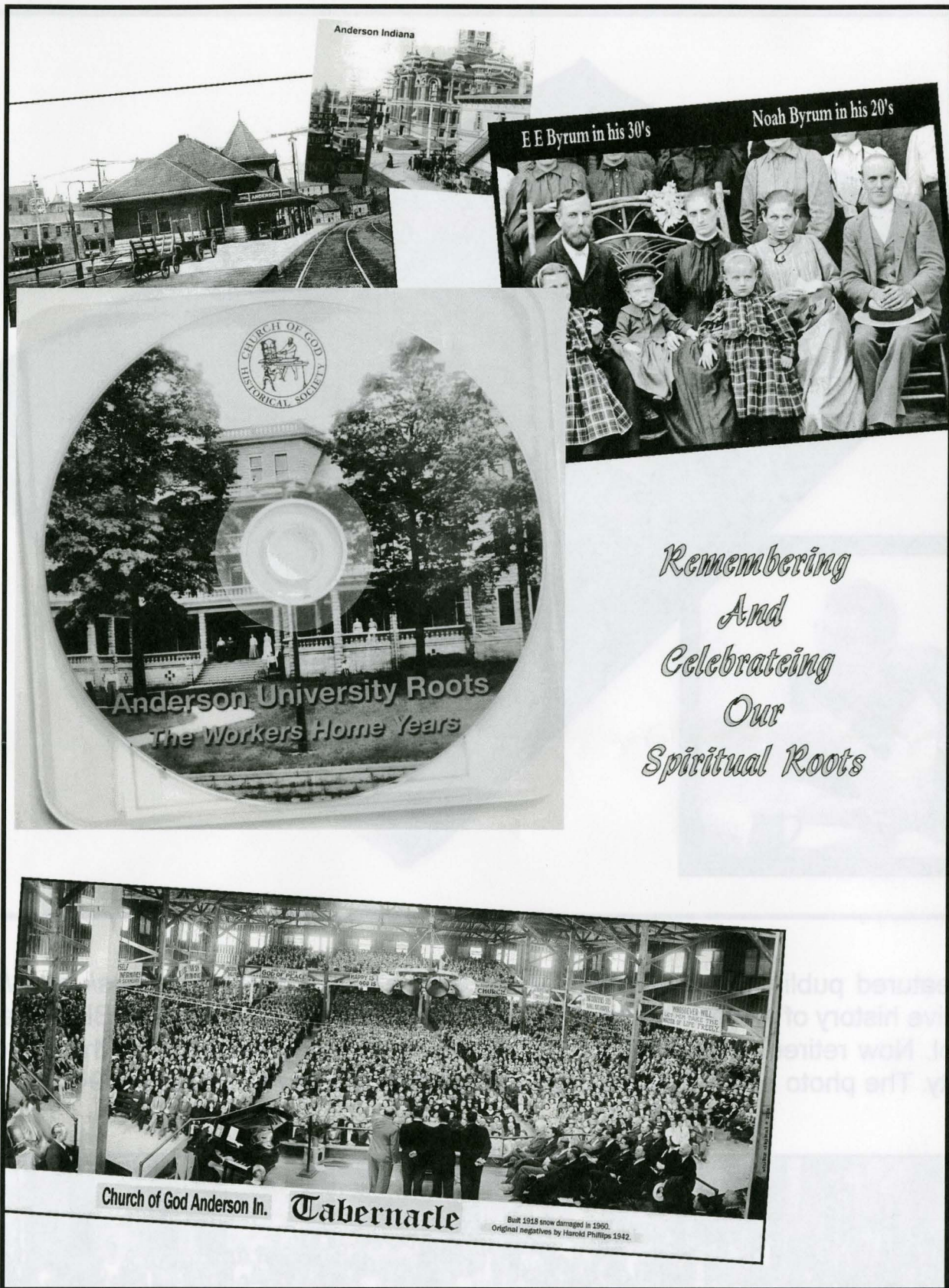




The featured publication this Fall is Merle Strege's new book, *The Desk as Altar*, a definitive history of Anderson University from its beginning as Anderson Bible Training School. Now retired, Dr. Strege served for many years as president of the Historical Society. The photo below is of the student body of Anderson College in 1941.







**A MUST-HAVE DVD VIDEO—ONE THAT SHOULD BE IN EVERY CHURCH OF GOD CONGREGATION!** This story of our history, beginning in Moundsville in 1906 and ending with the building of the Great White Tabernacle in 1918, features many of our pioneers. Contains numerous 'flashbacks' from the present to the past, identifying what *is* today with what *was* then. It runs for about 35 minutes. It may be obtained from the Historical Society, P.O. Box 702, Anderson, Indiana (or phone 765-621-3161) for any amount you choose to donate. All donations will be used to further the work of the Society.