



Memorable Methodists

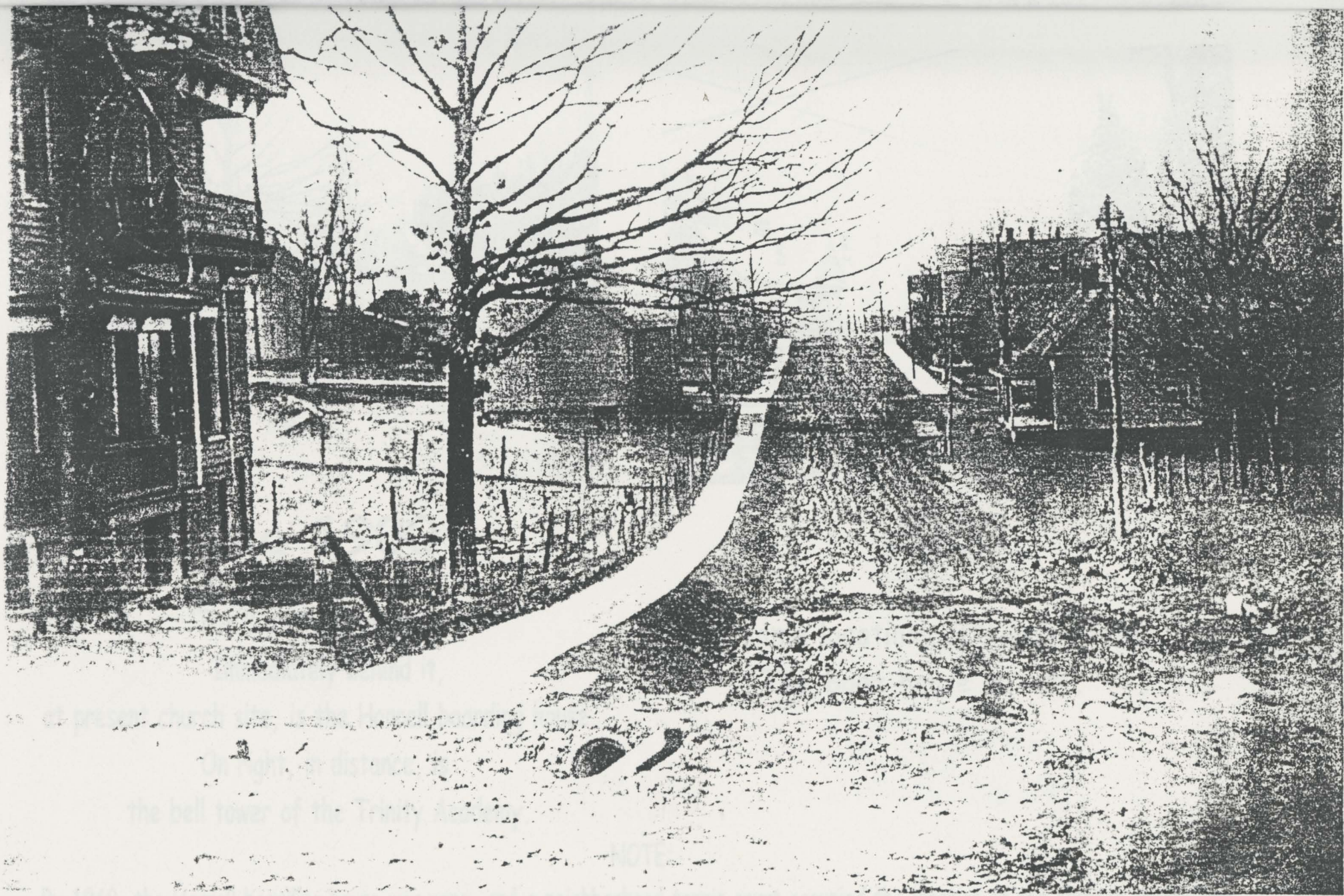
The First 100 Years

1899-1999



MEMORABLE METHODISTS
THE FIRST 100 YEARS





By 1940, the parcel containing the house on the left and the building on the right were owned by the same person.



circa 1900

The Boaz house on left.
Immediately behind it,
at present church site, is the Harrell boarding house.
On right, in distance, is
the bell tower of the Trinity Academy.



2000

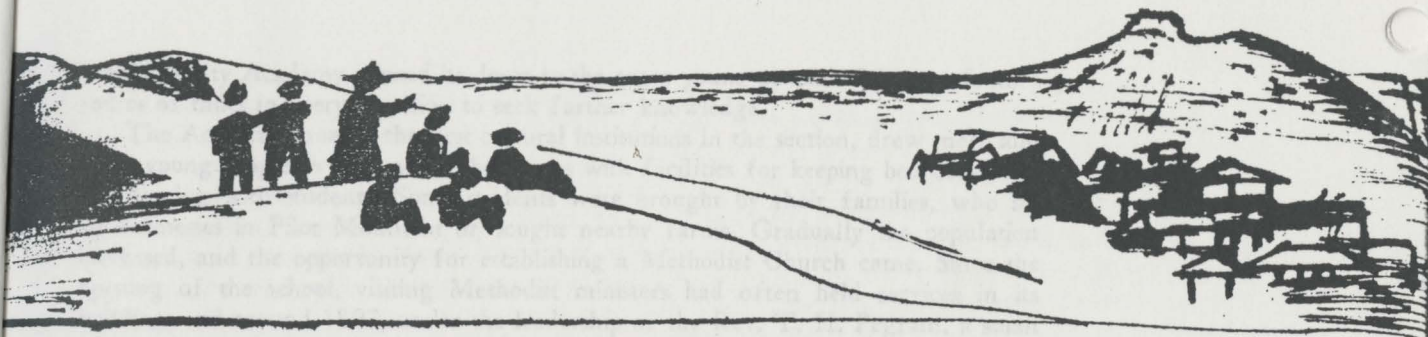
The same location, 100 years later.
The Boaz house on left.

NOTE:

By 1940, the Harrell boarding house was gone, and a neighborhood tennis court occupied the location of the present church site.



Members of the Wall family in front of the present church site in 1940. All houses on the block had burned and there was a tennis court on the site. Behind them are the steps to the former Harrell boarding house and the house on the left was the former J.C. Turney house which burned in 1999 and was rebuilt as a brick house that year, next to the kitchen of the family life center.



History

By MELBA YOUNT SIMMONS

Across the pages of the history of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church lie the long shadows of two men. One was born almost one hundred years before this church was established—the beloved patriarch, Father James Needham. The other, Hardin L. Adkins, was the instigator and chief figure of the movement that established Trinity Academy, out of which institution Pilot Mountain Methodist Church grew.

Father Needham served a fruitful ministry of nearly eighty years, a large part of which was spent about and near Pilot Mountain. He organized Blue Ridge Mission and served it three years. He also served Fisher's River Mission, which later was joined to the Blue Ridge Mission. He rode the circuits of Sauratown and Pilot Mountain during the Civil War. His life, spent so sacrificially for others and for his Master, was a benediction to the whole section. There was hardly a man from the Blue Ridge to the middle of the Piedmont Plateau who did not know and revere Father Needham. It might have been said that his spirit was the leaven that grew and spread into the beginning of Methodism in Pilot Mountain.

Sometime in the late 1880's, a tall young man halted his horse at the crest of a hill in Surry County, North Carolina, and looked out over the little hamlet nestled below. There were only one or two stores encircled by a score, perhaps, of homes and a church and a school of sorts. The gently rolling land stretched away to the Sauratown Range in the south and east, and farther away to the west there appeared the misty outlines of the foothills of the Blue Ridge. It seemed to the silent young man on the horse, that here God had left good fallow fields to be tilled. With his mind's eye, he could glimpse the future of the valley as a thriving, prosperous community. But his heart burned within him over the needs of the people for churches and for schools. This young man was the Methodist circuit rider, Hardin L. Adkins, and he was returning from his congregations at New Hope, Little Yadkin, Chestnut Grove, and others. Providentially for the Pilot Mountain Valley, Hardin L. Adkins was also a man of vision. He saw how the young people were hampered by lack of education in helping their community to take its rightful place in the state, and he saw how few and far between were the churches where their spirits could find refreshment.

After further thought and much prayer, Hardin L. Adkins and others who caught the fire of his zeal appealed to Trinity College, now Duke University, for funds to build a school in Pilot Mountain. This became an accomplished fact in 1890,

when Trinity Academy opened its doors to the eager young people who came from a radius of miles in every direction to seek further knowledge.

The Academy, one of the first cultural institutions in the section, drew more and more young people to the town. The homes with facilities for keeping boarders were overflowing with students. Some students were brought by their families, who set up businesses in Pilot Mountain or bought nearby farms. Gradually the population increased, and the opportunity for establishing a Methodist Church came. Since the opening of the school, visiting Methodist ministers had often held services in its building, and around 1897, under the leadership of the Rev. T. H. Pegram, a small Methodist congregation was established. Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Wrike, Mrs. Nancy Gordon, Mrs. Martha Green, Mr. Buck Cox, and others were among the charter members. Father Needham preached the last sermon of his earthly life to this congregation on March 12, 1899. He was to have returned on his one hundredth birthday, May 26 of that year, but succumbed to the grippe on April 1, 1899.

The infant congregation worshipped in the Academy until they could finance a building of their own. At one time the Baptist Church on Depot Street opened its doors and allowed the Methodists to hold a great revival meeting there, at which many souls were joined to Christ. In 1899 and 1900 the Methodists completed their first church building, located on Key Street. This small white frame church, with a graceful spire rising among the trees, was the home of the Methodists for some forty-eight years. It was built under the leadership of Pastor J. P. Rogers, who was transferred in autumn, 1900, and A. L. Coburn, who came at that time. Hardin L. Adkins returned to preach the dedicatory sermon.

Meanwhile, the Academy building had been sold to the town of Pilot Mountain around 1901, and the proceeds applied to the new church building. In 1908 the Academy burned to the ground, and the town constructed a new school. Few can estimate how much Trinity Academy meant to Pilot Mountain, nor how far reaching was the cultural influence of the fine men and women who taught there. Those who attended classes there hold a debt of gratitude which can be paid only by their giving to the next generation the opportunities so graciously given to them.

The small fellowship in the little white church, few in numbers but long on spirit, played well its part in the events of nearly half a century. Together they weathered two great world wars, watching a number of their young men go out to defend the ideals of their country on the battlefronts of the world. During the war of 1917-1918, the women of the congregation joined the other ladies of the town in sewing and knitting, collecting sweets for the soldiers, and packing boxes for overseas relief, under the leadership of Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin as head of the local Red Cross Chapter. The congregation joined the churches of all America in a day of fasting and prayer in the dark summer of 1918, at a time when it seemed that the Central Powers must emerge victorious. The parents of the boys overseas, joined by the other members, gathered at the altar in a great prayer for the defenders of democracy, and from that day the tide of war changed.

Many were the members of the church who met weekly in the class meetings held by Mr. John Green. Much spiritual fruit was garnered from these sessions, which were held up to and during the first war.

This thesis would not be complete without some mention of the part played in

the church by the women's organization. In 1901 the Women's Home Missionary Society was organized, after Rev. A. L. Coburn returned from Annual Conference, inspired by the gift by the Home Mission Board of \$300 toward the parsonage. Later this name was changed to the Woman's Missionary Society when the Home and Foreign Mission Boards were fused. In 1940 when the Methodist Episcopal Church joined with the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to become the largest Protestant denomination in America, the women's organization again underwent a change of nomenclature. This time it became the Woman's Society of Christian Service, with 41 charter members at Pilot Mountain. Mrs. C. W. Patterson was the first president of the new society. The women who have served as president of the Women's organization from its founding are as follows:

Mrs. R. E. L. Flippin

(for the first 25 years)

Mrs. J. A. Pell, Sr.

Mrs. J. A. Howell

Mrs. J. B. Jarrell

Mrs. A. T. Macon

Mrs. Ada Badgett

Mrs. R. A. Frye

Mrs. J. E. Needham

Mrs. C. W. Patterson

Mrs. T. D. Simmons

In 1939 the second world cataclysm came, and in 1941 the United States again entered war, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The little church at Pilot Mountain had sons on nearly all the battlefields of the world. The people at home backed up these lads in every way possible, from bond-buying and Red Cross bandage-rolling to filling unaccustomed jobs left vacant by the fighting men. There were many prayers offered, both publicly and privately, for the preservation of the loved ones and of the world they were trying to save. Again God was merciful, and all of these young men returned safely to their homes.

In spring, 1946, under the leadership of the Rev. Courtney B. Ross, a Young Adult group was organized. This group was made up of the younger married members of the church, and of those of their age bracket. Mrs. O. W. Smith was the first president. This live-wire group sponsored many difficult but worthwhile projects, among which were the furnishing of the club room at the Community Center, the furnishing of the Young Adult classroom in the new church, and the Daily Vacation Bible school. Also, they held many informative meetings with outside speakers and local talent, and spent many pleasant social hours together. Those who have served as president of the Young Adult Fellowship are:

Mrs. O. W. Smith

Mrs. J. A. Pell, Jr.

Dr. I. Frank Stone

In 1947 and 1948, the little white church was worn, dilapidated, and outmoded, after having served for nearly half-a-century as the place of worship. There had been a movement afoot for some four or five years previous to build a modern plant and a temple more worthy of the Father. The Revs. R. Odell Brown and Courtney B. Ross had paved the way by encouraging the minds of the people for this great

Church History from 1950 to 1999

step. Due to the war and to the scarcity of material, work could not be started until summer of 1948. However, under Mr. Ross the Building Fund had grown to nearly \$20,000. In the Fall of 1947, Annual Conference sent to the Pilot Mountain Station a man experienced and knowing in the art of building a church, the Rev. Lee P. Barnett. The Building Committee, in a memorable meeting held on the night of December 30, 1947, approved the plans for the new church and agreed to proceed with them. The contract was let to Fowler-Jones Construction Company of Winston-Salem, N. C. On April 5, 1948, a group of dedicated and loyal members assembled for the ground-breaking, with prayer and thanksgiving.

All through the summer and autumn of 1948, work proceeded steadily on the beautiful modified Gothic structure which was to house the Pilot Mountain congregation. Toward the last the members watched anxiously, hoping they would be able to get into the new church by Christmas. At last the carpet was laid, the pews installed, and an humble, grateful group gathered on Wednesday night, December 15, 1948, for Prayer Meeting, the first service held in the new church. On Sunday, December 19, the first preaching service was held. Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, was the day visitors and friends came to the formal opening. That afternoon the service of the Laying of the Corner-Stone was held, and the cornerstone of the old church was opened and its contents eagerly inspected.

Through herculean efforts on the part of the Building Committee and the congregation and its friends, the building was declared free of debt and ready for dedication. On May 22, 1949, Bishop Costen J. Harrell dedicated the new church to the "greater glory of God" and the greater good of His people on the earth. Another milestone in the history of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church was reached.

Through many vicissitudes and joys, through many labors and pleasures, the people of Pilot Mountain Methodist Church have "toiled along the upward way." All that the little white church of the past has meant to its sons and daughters, they hope the more imposing temple will mean to the future generations. It has been built upon the strong foundation of abiding faith and confidence in the God of our fathers, and long may it stand as a monument to our hope and faith in the future!

BRIEF STATEMENT FROM BUILDING COMMITTEE

We, the members of your building committee, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the members and friends of this church, who without stint have given wholehearted co-operation in the erecting and furnishing of our beautiful church. You have made this service possible. From our hearts we thank you, and assure you that it has been a joy to work with you in this project.

Signed:

A. P. Fulk, Chm.

O. W. Smith, Sec.-Treas.

P. E. Simmons

R. B. Davis

P. G. Wall, Jr.

R. J. Boaz

J. A. Pell, Jr.

Church History from 1950 to 1999

This is the authorized, but totally biased, history of the First United Methodist Church, Pilot Mountain, NC. Briefly, the church began when a group of people met under the leadership of a Methodist Circuit Rider in the 1890's. That Circuit Rider was Rev. James Needham, who preached for over 80 years in this area. He preached his last sermon in 1899 to the congregation of this Methodist Church only a few weeks prior to his death. Church had been held in Trinity Academy on the corner of Butler Street and Key Street. In 1899 a church building was erected on Stephens Street and that building was the site of services until 1949 when the present church was erected. The old church was demolished and a new parsonage was erected on the site in the early 1950's. The present church was remodeled in 1983, adding an office and a drive-under canopy. That canopy was removed in the 1998-1999 renovation and construction of a Family Life Center. This new addition was dedicated on March 22, 1999. The building committee for the Family Life Center, chaired by Judge James M. Long, was comprised of the following:

Jerry Tilley
Ben Black
Juanita Henderson
John McKenzie, Jr.
Lee Cook
Van Dearmin
Rev. Sidney Lanier
Barbara Wilkerson

That, in a nutshell, is the history of the church. The history prior to 1950 may be read in the attached article by Melba Simmons, an English teacher in Pilot who was quite active in this church. Her history is notably more readable and embellished.

My purpose here is to remember names and the history of those names who during the last 50 or so years are the people who were the foundation of this church, as sure as the bricks and mortar in the basement. Let me take you on a tour of downtown in the 1950's. There is an attached map so you can follow the journey.

The rock building on the corner of Main and Depot Streets was Oscar Smith's drug store. It was the center of town in more ways than one. It was also the Greyhound Bus Depot, where people waited to take the bus to Winston and points beyond. There was no four-lane at that time. There was just Main Street and the by-pass. At the Pinnacle end of town was the Pilot Inn Restaurant, with curb service and great milk shakes. The Busy Bee was a restaurant on the by-pass. Downtown was the City Café. Next to Oscar's drug store was the primary barbershop in town co-operated by Pete Needham. Next to that was the Post Office and beside that Reid's mercantile. Next to Reid's was an alley where they played horseshoes and swore. At least that's the way I remember it. Then came P.G. Wall's dime store where at Christmas Gene Autry sang "Here Comes Santa Claus" through the speaker over the sidewalk.

Up the same side of the street on the corner of Main and Stephens Street was Bud Boaz's Esso Service Station where a kid could get them to check the air in their bike tires. Crossing Main Street to the north side, approximately across from town hall, was Charles Fulk's Hardware. Next door was Glenn Stone's grocery store, one of at least 5 in the immediate downtown area. Across the alleyway was Surry Drug, then operated by Rupert Cox, later by Joe Stone. Going down to the corner and crossing the street you will find Bill Reid's law office. Going up the street toward Pinnacle to the next light you will find Brad Thomas' Pilot Hosiery Mill. Coming down the street on the same side was Gregory Chevrolet. Dr. Louis Spillman's office was beside the Bank of Pilot. Turning the corner on Depot Street going toward the railroad track on the left was the Pilot Theatre, owned partly by Joe Pell. Next door was the Big Store, owned by Phillip Pell, P.G. Wall, and Kate Graham's husband. On the corner of Depot and Marion Street was John Henry Blalock's law office. Around the corner on Marion Street was Frank Stone's dentist office. Everyone named in these paragraphs were faithful Methodists. In other words, in the 1950's you couldn't swing a dead cat downtown without hitting a Methodist.

In 1999, as part of the Centennial Celebration, names of memorable Methodists were solicited from the congregation. The response was acceptable but not as thorough as we had hoped. Most of the following names were read and their part told as part of the program on March 22, 1999, at the building consecration. They are in no particular order, but hopefully these names will strike a chord in the memories of you folks in 2049. To make this list you had to be either not attending church here anymore or deceased.

Memorable Methodists

Rev. James Needham: Methodist Circuit Rider in 1800's for almost 80 years. Began this congregation of Methodists. Was the great grandfather of Arthur Needham who is the father of present church member Carole Needham Hooker. He preached his last sermon to this congregation of Methodists on March 12, 1899, 2 months short of this 100th birthday. ★

The Patterson Family: Charles Wesley Patterson and Lillie Davis Patterson lived on the corner of Marion and Stephens Street beside the church built in 1899, "the little white church." Lil Patterson was active in the Women's Home Missionary Society, the Eastern Star, and the quilting society. Her whole family sang in the choir, three of her children having served as choir directors. Her husband Charles was town commissioner, lay delegate, a Mason, and sang bass in the choir. He sang at many funerals. He always closed choir practice with "Above the Hills of Time" page 145 in the old black hymnbook. Sol Patterson, Charles' brother, built the brick house now attached to the church. Robah Davis, Lil's brother, was the last occupant of the house. He sang in the choir and in about 1960 donated the first electric organ to the church. There were five Patterson children. They got to know the Methodists next door very well because there were no bathrooms or dressing rooms in the little white church. Dick Patterson played on the Methodist basketball team, which won the Winston-Salem tournament in 1945. Bill Patterson sang tenor in the choir for many years. June Patterson Fulk married Charles, a member of another prominent family in the church. June was the first woman appointed to the Board of Stewards of this church. She directed the youth choir for years. She also taught piano at several area elementary schools. Margie Patterson Folger once directed the choir, organized

★ Buried at New Hope Church on the Ararat Rd.

children's Christmas programs, and taught adult and children's Sunday School. Nancy Patterson Simonton was married to the late Al Simonton, for years the editor of the Christian Advocate.

The Fulk Family: Samuel and Drucilla Fulk lived in the big white house you face turning off Key Street onto Butler Street. Samuel had a hardware store on Main Street across from the present parking lot beside the town hall. Drucilla was active in the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). They had seven children active in the church. Arthur Fulk was the first director of the NC Highway Department. He also operated Fulk and Needham Building Supply at the foot of Depot Street near the train track. Magdalene Fulk Reid was a member of the Epworth League and was married to the President of Western Carolina University. Charles W. Fulk operated the hardware on Main Street after his father. He was an avid fisherman and a renowned bass singer. He sang in the choir and his most memorable song was "How Great Thou Art." He also performed in minstrel shows and womanless weddings. Fanny Fulk Fowler was married to Charles Fowler. She is presently the oldest living member of this church, age 97. She remembers when Main Street was a dirt road. Myrtle Fulk Nichols taught Sunday school and enjoyed having the preacher over for Sunday dinner. Rebecca Blalock is presently active in the service aids. She was married to lawyer John Henry Blalock and was the mother of lawyer John Henry Blalock, Jr. Both lawyers died too soon. John Sr. had a heart attack in the basement of the county courthouse and Johnny died of a heart attack at age 32.

The Boaz Family: R.C. and Ethel Boaz lived on the corner of Main and Key Street nearest the church behind the parking lot at the end of the front walk. R.C. was on the building committee for the 1949 church building, was church lay leader, and the first chief of the Pilot volunteer fire department. He also sang in the choir. Ethel, known as "Emy," was a devoted church member and was famous for her yeast rolls. She reared three children who were quite active in the church. Bud Boaz served as Trustee, Chairman of the Board of Stewards, and delegate to annual conference. He was also on the school board, a Mason, Fire Chief, and Citizen of the Year in 1962. Sue Boaz Swanson Meyers served as choir director and taught music at Pilot Mountain School. Betty Boaz Smith was President of the Young Adult Fellowship and was the delegate to annual conference for several years. Her husband Oscar Smith was town druggist, Mayor, and an avid coin collector. The grand piano in the Family Life Center was given in his memory. Oscar was on the building committee for the 1949 church project and served on the board at Surry Community College.

The Wall Family: Porter and Pearl Wall lived at the end of the front walk. Porter sang in the choir for over 50 years and Pearl was communion steward for over 30 years, growing the grapes for communion juice. Porter once sold Annie Oakley a bird dog. The crepe myrtle on the right side facing the parking lot at the end of our front walk was planted by Pearl Wall. P.G. Jr. was on the building committee in 1948 and active with the scouts. His wife Marie was an artist.

The Pell Family: Joseph A. Pell, Sr. and Mollie lived in the big white house at the intersection of Main and School Street. Joe was a tobacconist and Mollie was active in WSCS. They had sons Joe, Jr. and Phillip who were active in the church. Joe A. Pell, Jr. and wife Tut were active in every phase of church life for the last 50 years. Tut sang in the choir and Joe chaired the official board. Joe served for eight years as chief advisor for Governor Hunt in Raleigh. The Pell family made a major donation to the Family Life Center.

Immediately after WWII, returning veterans were starting families. From 1946 to 1960 was known as the "baby boom." In this church during that time several families were really booming. The Diamonts and Frank Stones had three children; the Blalocks, McKenzies, and Joe Stones had four each; the Elliotts, Wilsons, Thomases, Spillmans, and Judge Reids had five each; and the Templetons, six. Needless to say, we had a junior choir without equal in the 50's.

Other memorable Methodists include:

Frank Stone: Was very active in the church. He was a beloved town dentist and an active Boy Scout leader. People today remember him as a wonderful person, even though the dentist drill in his day had no water and there was no numbing. A veteran of the US Navy in WWII.

Mrs. R.E.L. Flippen: A charter member of the church in 1899. Head of local Red Cross. Helped organize WSCS. The chancel furniture was given in memory of her and Dr. Flippen.

Ada Badgett: Served as organist for years. Was Postmistress in Pilot for 23 years. Her daughter, Emily, is current Mayor of Mt. Airy. Her brother, Wick Gordon, was a frequent visitor at our church. When the family homeplace burned on this site, the family donated the land to our church and the church was built on the land D. Wilkerson and Lilla Gordon gave.

Paralee Reid Fentress: Sang in the choir, was known as the "pound cake lady" for her habit of making and delivering cakes to friends and sick persons. Bill Reid's aunt.

Brad Thomas: Served as church treasurer for 27 years. He owned and operated Pilot Hosiery on Main Street. He was an avid flyer and was President of the national antique aircraft association, which held its annual fly-in in Oshgosh, Wisconsin.

James Jarrell: Ruth Jarrell Stone's father. Served as town Mayor and gave himself in service for others and the Lord.

Gone too soon: Families have lost loved ones at an early age, besides the ones listed to this point. The Templetons lost Sharon, a bright and involved daughter, and a son, Mark. James Stone was active in the church, Ruth's son. He died a young adult.

Hudson and Mathie Graham: He served as Sheriff and she sang in the choir and taught school.

Mr. Kreeger: Served as treasurer and was town postmaster.

Dr. John Peddicord: Town optometrist

P. O. Wilson: Had five children in the church, made many donations to the church.

D. Wilkerson Gordon: Wick Gordon's father, donated the land for this church, although he was a Baptist. Their homeplace stood on this site before it burned. His brother was I. M.

Gordon, founded of the Bank of Pilot on the corner in the middle of town, later sold to become Centura Bank, the large brick bank next to the intersection of 268 and 52.

W. J. Swanson: Ran a store downtown where children bought their schoolbooks.

Herman Griffin: Beloved school principal at Pilot Elementary. Sunday schoolteacher, chairman of administrative council, chairman of United Way, and served on the town board. The church library was given to memorialize his love of learning.

Reid Walters: Died in a car wreck at age 16. Beloved son of Bill and Cindy Walters and grandson of Bill and Jeanette Reid. Reid was a member of the band and was mascot for the East Surry sports teams. He attained the rank of Eagle Scout and the scout lifeguard badge. The new scout hut on Jessup Grove Church Road for Troop 545 will be named for him.

The McKenzie Family: Mrs. R.L. McKenzie became a member of this church in the 1950's having moved from Rockingham, NC, where she had been a school principal for 27 years. Her teaching career spanned 50 years. She was a Sunday school teacher here. Her son John McKenzie, Sr., was Sunday School superintendent, lay leader, Sunday School teacher, town Mayor for six terms, Citizen of the Year, and President of the Old Hickory Council of Boy Scouts for three terms. His wife Eloise sang in the choir for over 40 years and served with June Fulk as youth choir director for years. She sang the alto solo in the "Messiah" for years.

The Simmons Family: P. E. Simmons served this church faithfully for years. His son Dudley ran a clothing store on Main Street across from the Bank of Pilot on the corner. Melba Simmons, Dudley's wife, taught Latin, English, and Spanish in the local high school. She also sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. She wrote the history of the church, which appears in the 1949 booklet. She was the finest teacher I ever had.

Arthur Needham: Great-grandson of Rev. James Needham. Started the Methodist Men's breakfast in 1963.

Henry Smith: Usher, Men's breakfast, and avid golfer. Brought candy for the children on Sunday and held down the back pew.

David and Hyacinth Diamont: David was the coach of the local high school teams in Pilot, which was then a 12 grade school. He also was active in the Boy Scouts and produced a record number of Eagle Scouts in Pilot. His wife Hyacinth sang in the choir for many years. The pipe organ was given in her memory.

Henry Newsome: Beloved town doctor. Active in the church. He made house calls any hour of the day or night.

Dr. R.A. Frye and Bennie Frye: Built the rock house beside the Baptist Church. Active in church affairs.

"Miss Wilma" Swanson: Dedicated church organist from 1945 – 1979. She taught piano in Pilot. Had recitals at the old elementary school that lasted for 3-4 hours on a hot spring night with hundreds of individual numbers.

Junius Byerly: Served as treasurer for years before Brad Thomas.

Anne Reid: Bill Reid's mother, taught math in the local schools.

Sally Fulk: Sang in the choir and made a major donation to the church in her will which helped to finance the Family Life Center.

Katherine Reid: Started the art fund, is 93 years old.

Dora Venable: Active in the WSCS.

Mr. Davenport: Men's Bible class

W. R. Badgett: Taught Sunday school, attorney.

A.B. Macon: Sunday school superintendent, town druggist before Oscar Smith.

David and Aldene Lineback: Sang in the choir. He was town commissioner and one time choir director. He also played in the Moravian band in Winston-Salem at the Easter Sunrise Service.

Pete and Captola Needham: He served in the Marines in WWII and ran the City Barber Shop beside Oscar's drug store. She taught the 5th grade. Their home was on the corner of 268 and Butler Street where Trinity Academy once stood.

The Choir: Some facts about the choir are: In 1916 Mrs. Cora Hiatt played for church. Ada Badgett followed, playing the piano and directing the choir. Wilma Swanson then became organist in 1945 and served until 1979, when present organist Betty Rierson began. In 1941 Mary O'Brien and Marge Patterson Folger directed the choir for about a year. Betty Patterson and Marjorie Harding started the junior choir in about 1945. June Fulk and Eloise McKenzie directed the junior choir during the 1950's. There was a renowned men's quartet composed of Roscoe Boaz, C.W. Patterson, P.E. Simmons, P.G. Wall, Sr. and Dr. R.A. Frye (I know that's five...history isn't an exact science.) Soloist in the choir were Charles Fulk, Sue Boaz, and Eloise McKenzie. I sang in the choir in the 60's and 80's. Sue Boaz Swanson Meyers, Charlie Johnson and Martha Smith directed their respective choirs to great performances.

Suzanne Dearmin: Beloved school teacher and Sunday school teacher. The quilt made to look like a stained-glass window in the Family Life Center was given by her "sewing sisters."

Charles and Sadie Hiatt: Charles was school principal and Sadie was active in the WSCS. Charles' first wife, Pearl Council Hiatt, was poet laureate of NC and a poem she wrote is on a tablet at Brookgreen Gardens south of Myrtle Beach.

Rev. Jody and Betsy Seymour: Jody served three years in the early 1980's. He brought new life and vigor to the pulpit and the congregation. He over-saw the renovations in 1983. Betsy was effervescent. She had hobbies without end and could do them all with perfection, especially cooking. They are now in Gastonia, NC, and Jody has written several books.

Rev. Henry and Ruth Ridenhour: Henry was minister to the baby boom crowd from 1956 to 1964. He was a man's man who also served as line coach for the local football team. He preached memorable sermons, which the adults of this era can still remember. Ruth taught English in the local schools and is the reason many of us regard the spoken word and higher education so highly. Ruth, after Henry's death, offered her home to be the parsonage with great savings to the church and the parsonage on Golf Course Road is her former home. Henry served as mayor and county commissioner.

Rev. Jim and Marge Boles: Jim Boles stayed 13 years, which to this date is a record and will probably always be. He was a beloved minister who was a friend to all. He collaborated with church member Jim Long to begin taking us down the path to building the Family Life Center. Marge sang in the choir, directed the bell choir, and served the church in any other capacity where she was needed.

Rev. L.P. and Jennie Barnett: Rev. Barnett stayed six years and oversaw the building of the sanctuary in 1949 and later the parsonage on Stephens Street where the little white church once stood. Mrs. Barnett bought the first TV set for the parsonage.

Glenn Stone: Husband of Ruth Stone, faithful church member, operated a grocery store, one of five in downtown Pilot at the time.

The Legacy: What have these people left his church besides their service and gifts? Some of the members who yet attend this church are Cindy Reid Walters, David Thomas, Liz Smith Tilley, David, Ronnie and Donnie Diamont, John McKenzie, Annette Blalock Hill, Andy Pell, Jeff and Forrest Boaz, Carole Needham Hooker, Harry Folger, Martin Wall, Dan Stone; Great grandchildren attending the church are Kelly Pell (Joe and Mollie), Nathaniel Hill (Samuel and Drucilla Fulk) and Mollie Tilley (R.C. and Ethel Boaz).

Other memories supplies by older members of the church:

During Rev. Henry Ridenhour's tenure, noted evangelists who held revivals were Dr. Gaston Foote of Fort Worth, Texas, and Rev. Pierce Harris of Atlanta.

The Easter service of the lilies was originated at this church by Rev. Henry Ridenhour in 1959. This was a 6:00 am sunrise service with lilies placed in the front of the church, sometimes as many as 75. This service was replaced by the sunrise service on Pilot Mountain in the late 1970's.

During the tenure of Rev. P.T. Dixon in the 50's, the junior choir was organized as well as the M.Y.F.

Before the parsonage was built on Stephens Street in 1950, the parsonage was a house where we now have a parking lot, the corner of 268 and Pine Street.

The steeple was added to the church in 1971 with the consecration service on August 15, 1971.

In the 30's, church was held only once a month. Sunday school was every Sunday. The Baptists and Friends (there was no Presbyterian Church then) had services once a month also and real churchgoers would attend their services too.

Ada Badgett, former organist, remembers her Sunday school teacher, Mrs. R.E. Worth. She was hard of hearing and held a trumpet to her ear to hear. She wore a long black skirt and must have had a taffeta petticoat because she rustled when she walked. She was about 85 years old and gave a tiny testament to those with perfect attendance.

Besides the Gordon house burning on the site of our church, a house on the corner of Key and Marion Street, now part of our front yard, burned one night killing Postmaster Buck Merritt and his wife, second grade teacher Willie.

There was once a visiting revivalist, Jim Green, who was popular with the ladies. One member, Solomon Gruff, said, "Choose this day whom you will serve, the Lord or Jim Green."

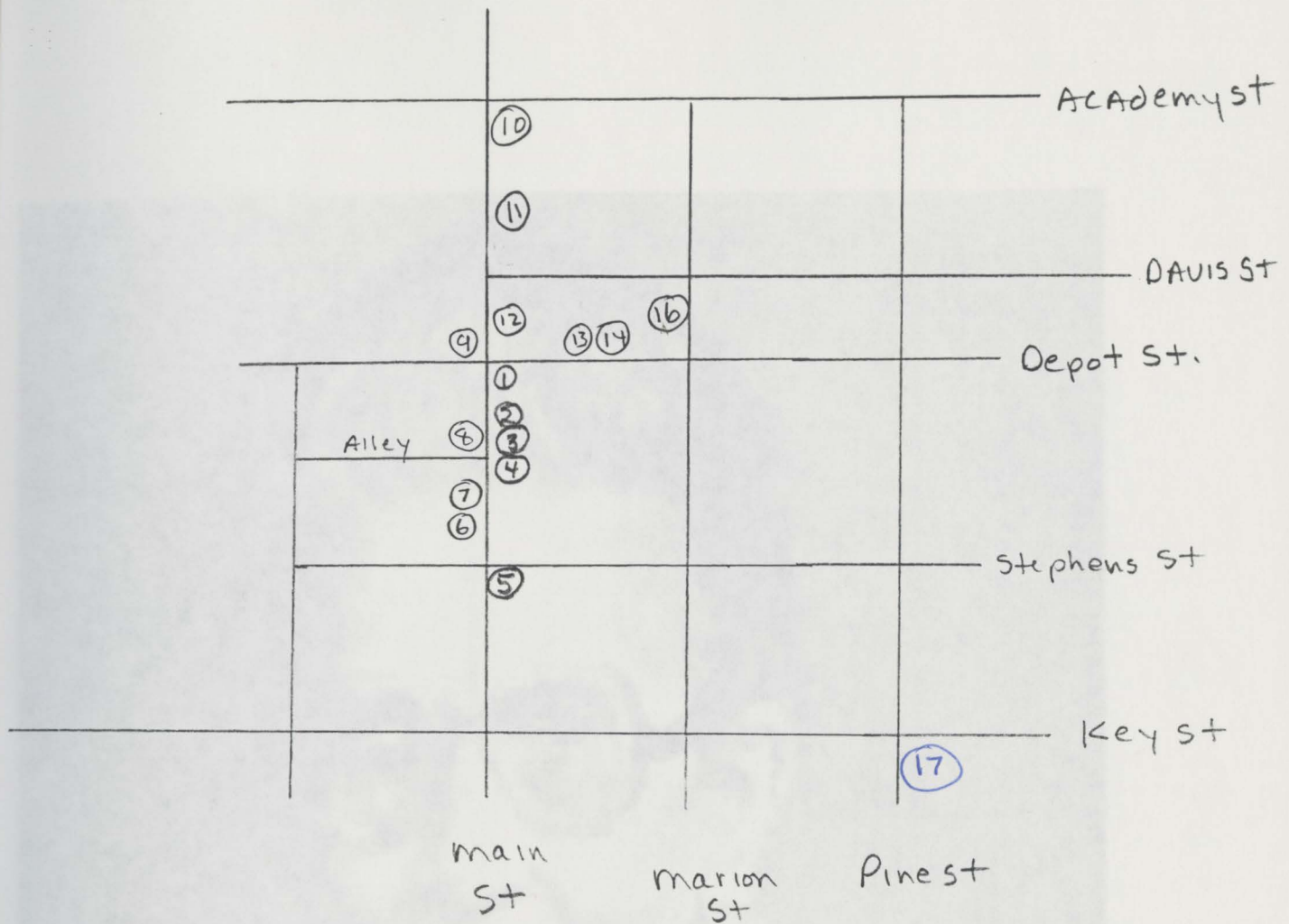
Sue Boaz Swanson Meyers started using music arranged for choir when she became director, from 1945 to 1959. Prior to that the choir used the hymnbook. Some men learned to sing with shaped notes in the 20's and their books were stamped with those notes using special rubber stamps. The first performance of the Messiah was in 1948.

Soloist in the junior choir during the 50's and 60's were Linda Pell, Jane and Sandra Graham, and Pat and Lee McKenzie.

Courtney Ross first organized the young adult class and meetings were held in various homes until the class grew too large and met at the church. He also reorganized children's classes, started the children's Christmas programs and Vacation Bible School.

Respectfully submitted.

John C. McKenzie, Jr.
Church Historian



- ⑧ Oscar Smith Drug
- ⑨ City Barber Shop
- ⑩ Reids Store
- ⑪ walls Dime Store
- ⑫ BOAZ motor Co
- ⑬ FOLK Hdw
- ⑭ Glenn Store Groc.
- ⑮ Surry Drug
- ⑯ Reids Law office

- ⑩ Pilot Hosiery
- ⑪ Gregory Chevrolet
- ⑫ Dr Spillmans office
- ⑬ Pilot theatre
- ⑭ Big Store
- ⑮ Black Law office
- ⑯ Frank Stone Dentist
- ⑰ Formersite Trinity Academy



ADA GORDON BADGETT

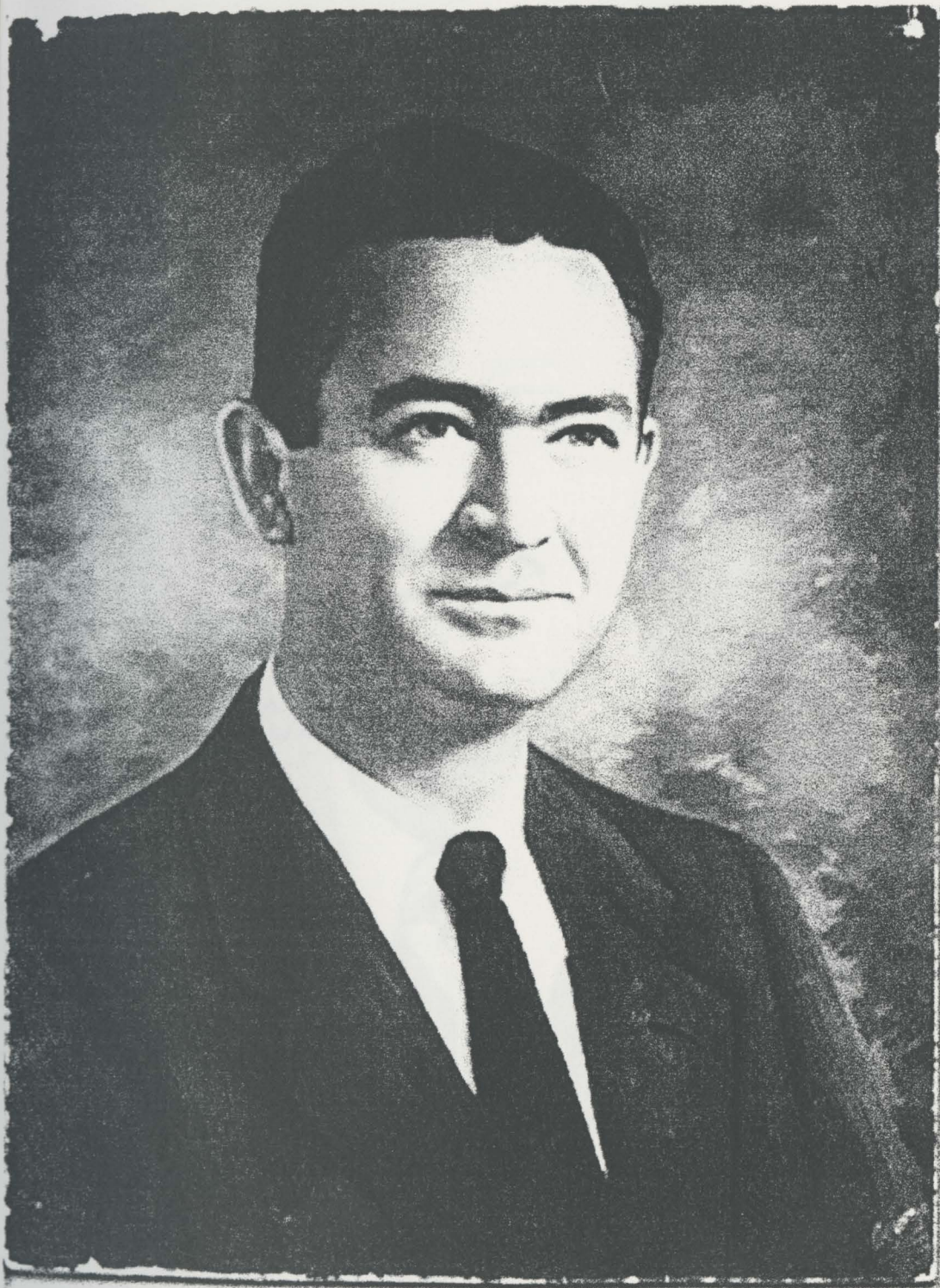


REV. J. H. BENNETT (left) and REV. LEE PAIGE BARNETT

made at formal opening of church, April 17, 1949



↑ JENNIE W. BARNETT and REVEREND LEE P. BARNETT



JOHN HENRY BLALOCK, SR.



JOHN HENRY BLALOCK, JR.



R. C. BOAZ



ETHEL FULK BOAZ



R. J. "BUD" BOAZ



THE J. JAMES BOLES FAMILY

Rusty, Marge, Kristy (standing) and Rev. Boles

on steps of his house (joined to church building in 1990)



ROBAH B. DAVIS

on steps of his house (joined to church building in 1999)



SUZANNE DEARMIN AND FAMILY

Suzanne, seated, Leslie, Andrew and Van Dearmin)



FANNIE FULK FOWLER



JUNE PATTERSON FULK



SALLY PITT FULK

David H. Diamond
Ronnie Diamond
Donnie Diamond



THE DIAMONT FAMILY

David E. Diamont

Hyacinth H. Diamont

David H. Diamont

Ronnie Diamont

Donnie Diamont



PARALEE REID FENTRISS



MRS. R. E. L. FLIPPIN



at corner of Marion and Stephen Streets
MARJORIE PATTERSON FOLGER

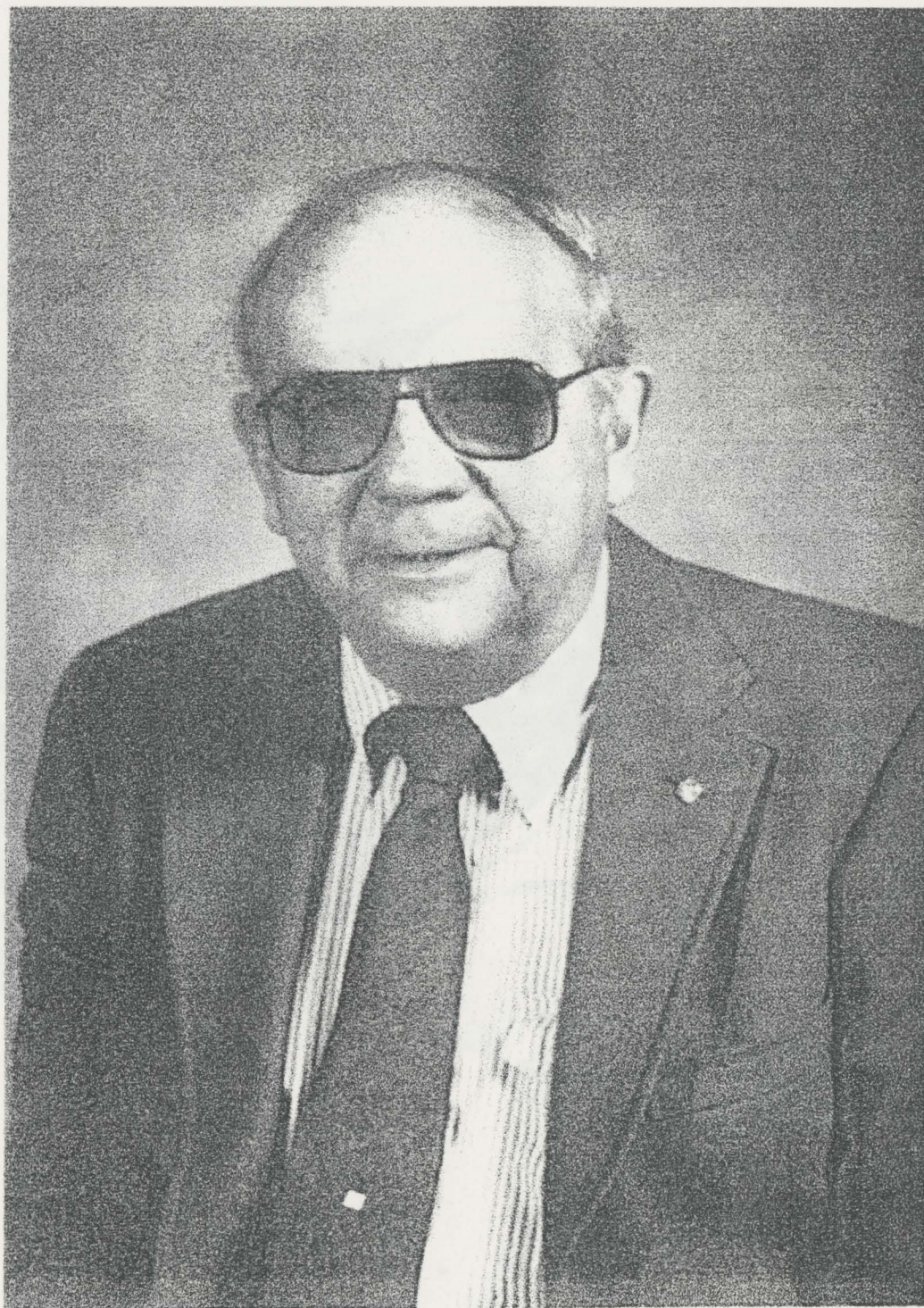


CHARLES W. and JUNE PATTERSON FULK

(standing at corner of Marion and Stephen Streets
looking toward Main Street)



DRUSILLA F. FULK



HERMAN R. GRIFFIN



JAMES B. JARRELL
and daughter
RUTH JARRELL STONE

FRONT ROW: (L to R) North Hill, East Street, Mt. Hood, Deer Valley, Forest Heights, Big Meadows

SECOND ROW: My Mother, Dad, Mother, Cash, Mother, El. Station, J. B. Jones, Bobby Carson, Tufts Field



METHODIST BASKETBALL TEAM - 1945

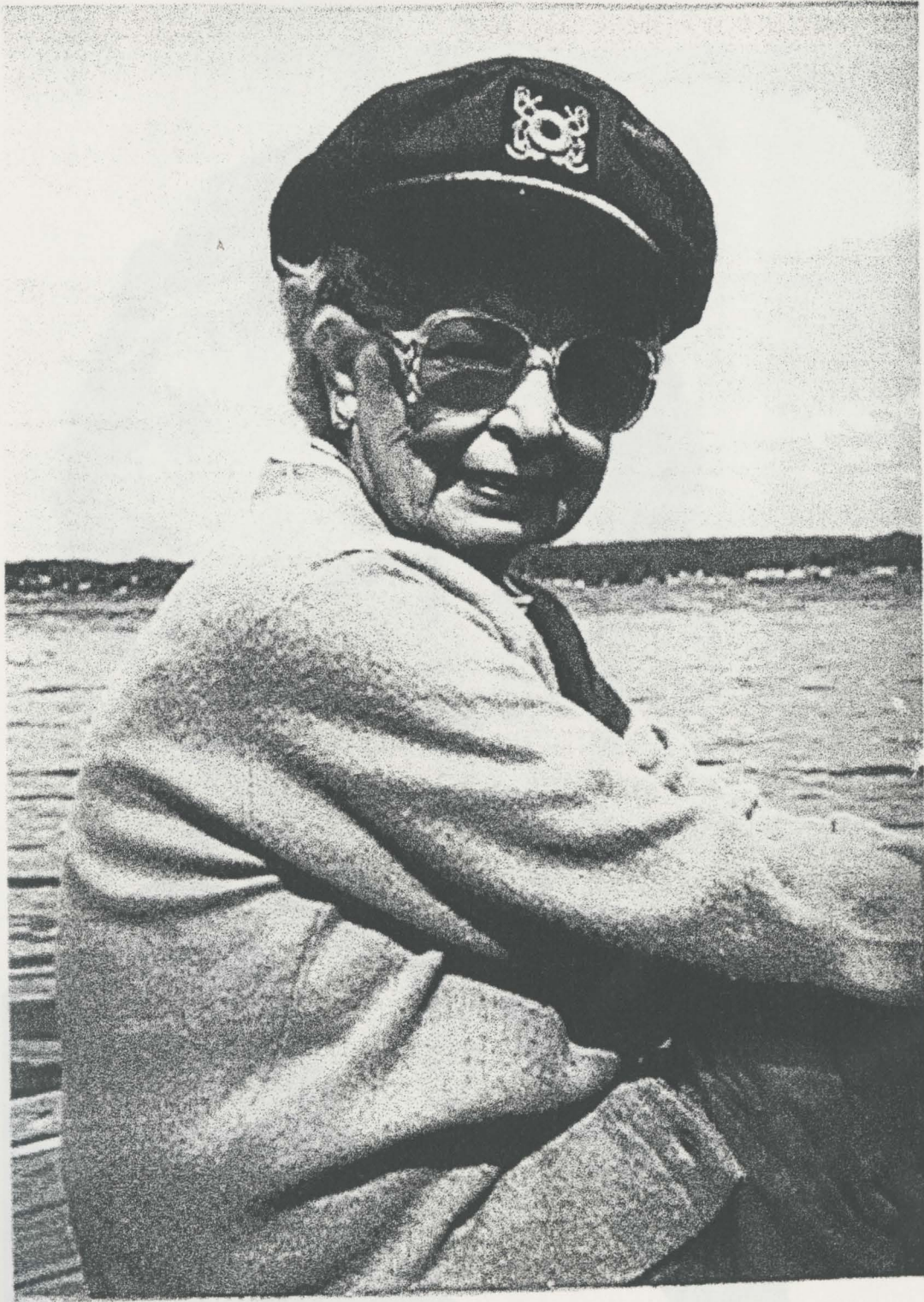
This team won the Surry County and Yadkin Valley tournaments and came in 4th in the Winston-Salem Journal Sentinel tournament.

FRONT ROW: (L to R) Martin Wall, Buck Simmons, Bill Reid, Bubs Fowler, Frank Badgett, Ray Motsinger

SECOND ROW: Billy Matthews, Dick Patterson, Coach Motsinger, Ed Swanson, J. B. Inman, Bobby Carson, Toots Fowler



JOHN C. McKENZIE, SR.



ELOISE S. MCKENZIE



MRS. R. L. MCKENZIE



LILLIE W. DAVIS PATTERSON

MYRTLE FULK NICHOLS



LILLIE M. DAVIS PATTERSON

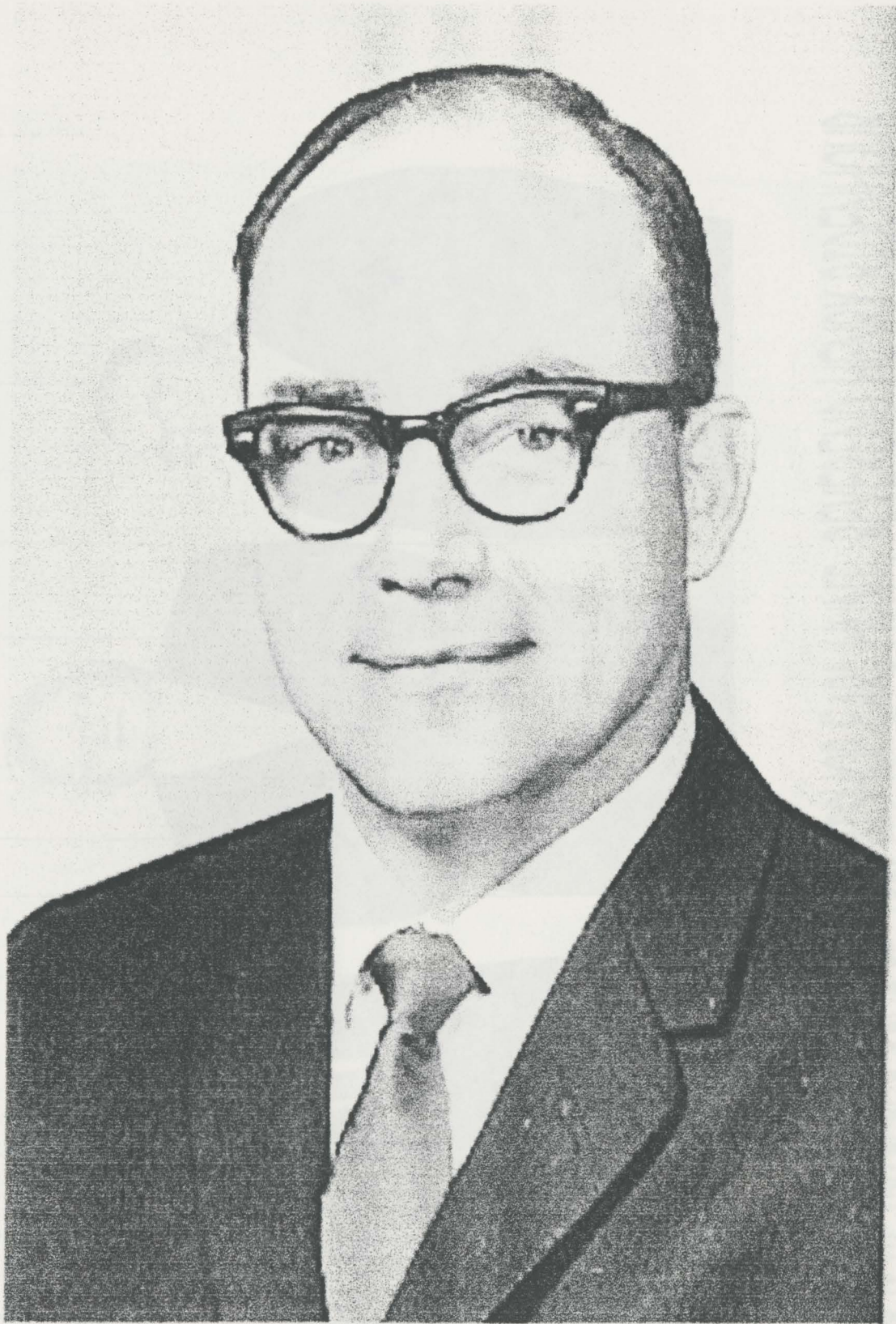
at her home, corner of Marion and Stephens Street



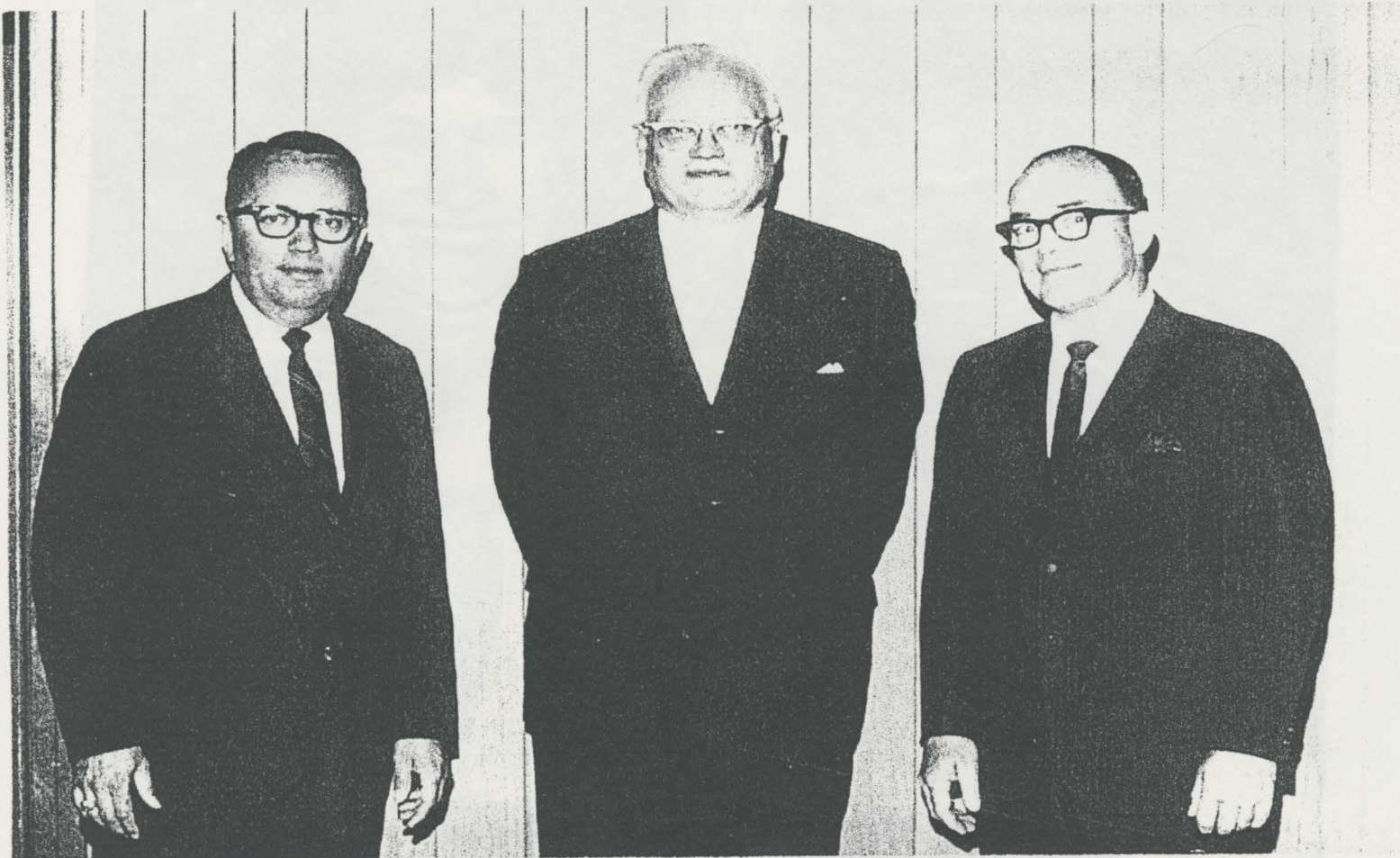
JOHN C. MCKENZIE, SR. (L) and
JOSEPH A. PELL, JR.



MAGADALENE FULK REID



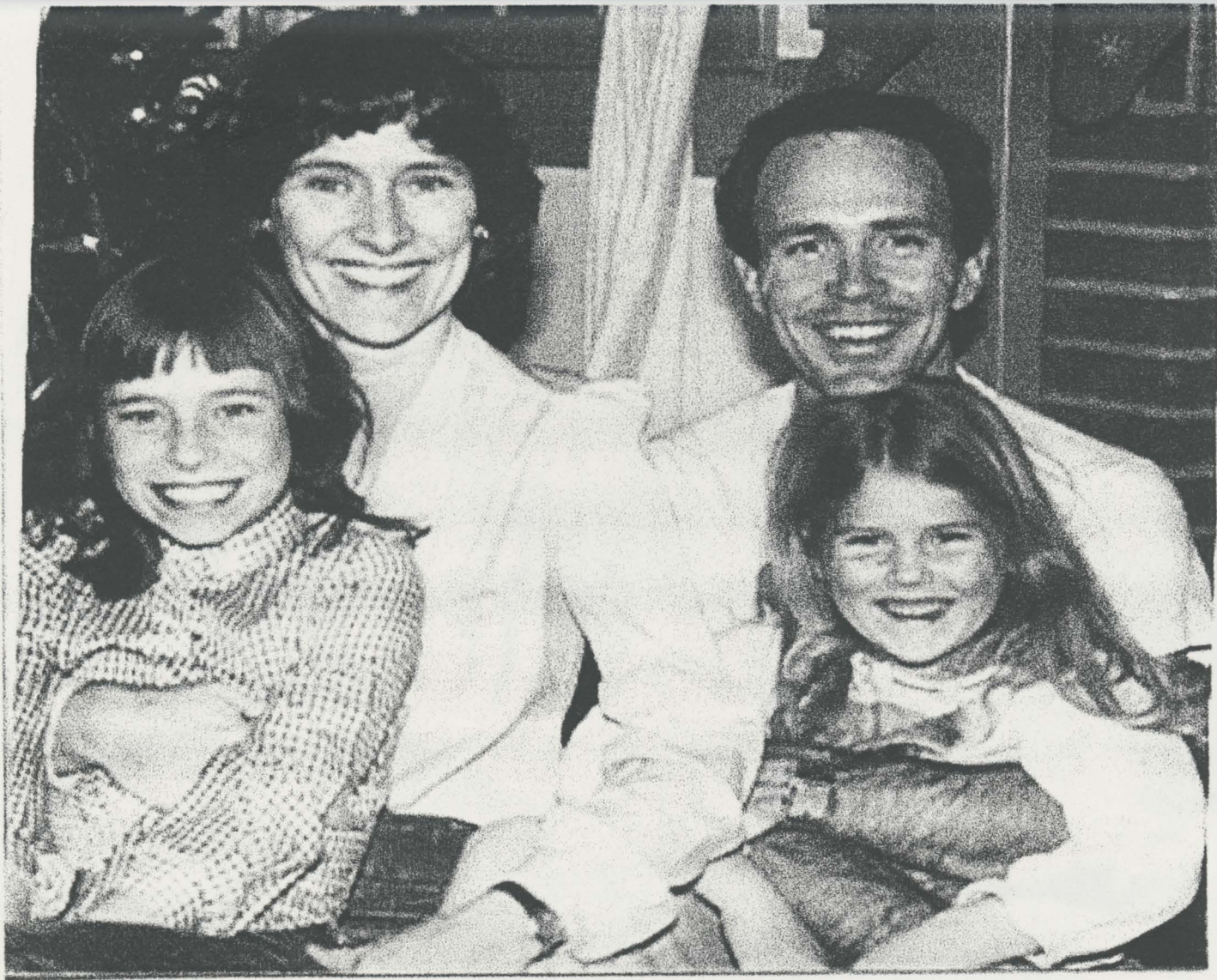
REVEREND HENRY I. RIDENHOUR



(L to R): REVEREND GENE LITTLE, BISHOP EARL HUNT, REVEREND HENRY RIDENHOUR

BETSY
ABIGAIL

JODY
AMANDA



OSCAR W. SMITH, SR.

THE SEYMOUR FAMILY

BETSY
ABIGAIL

JODY
AMANDA

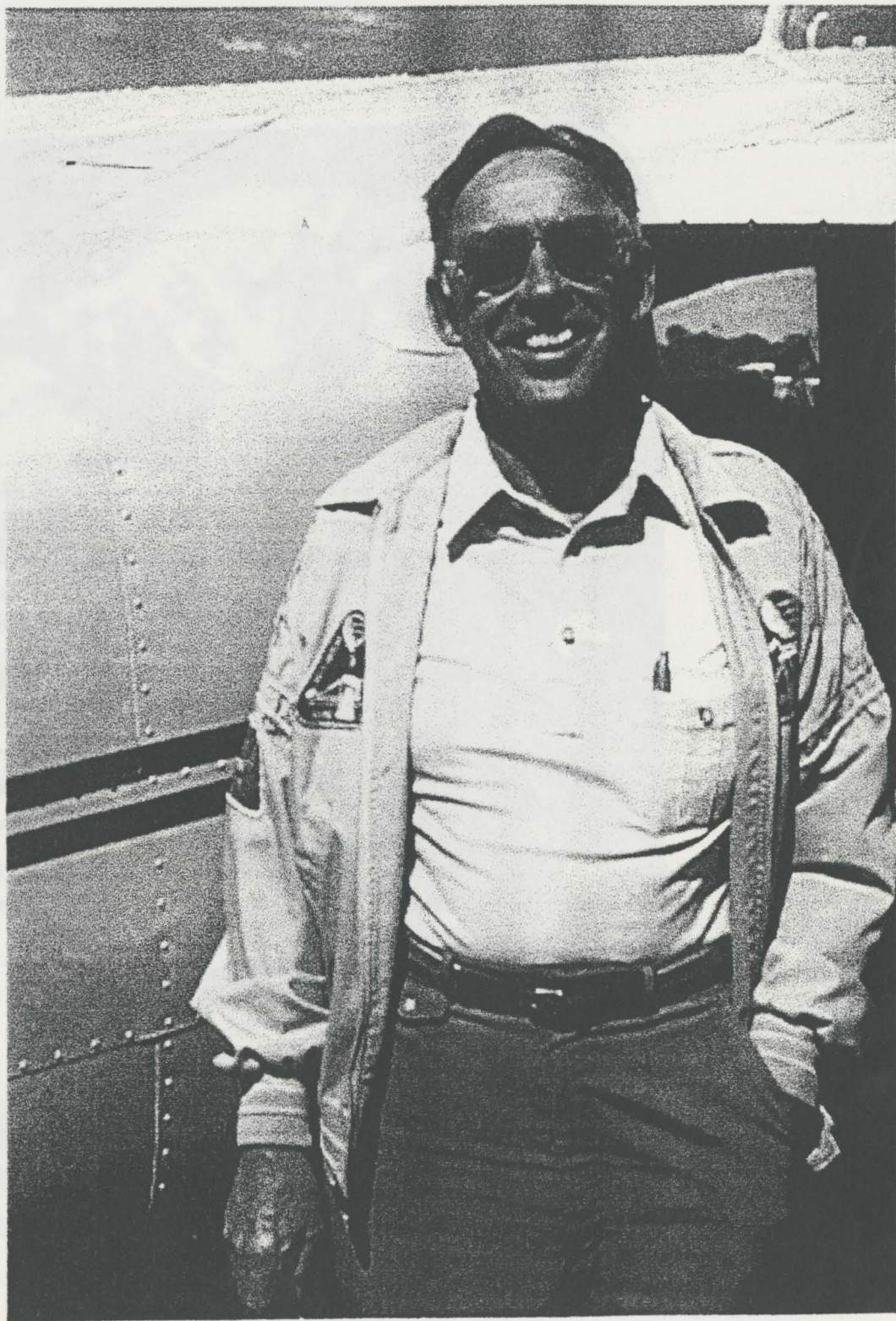


THE J. L. SMITH COMPANY
(Eleanor, Rocky, Terry and Dr. Frank Stone)

OSCAR W, SMITH, SR.

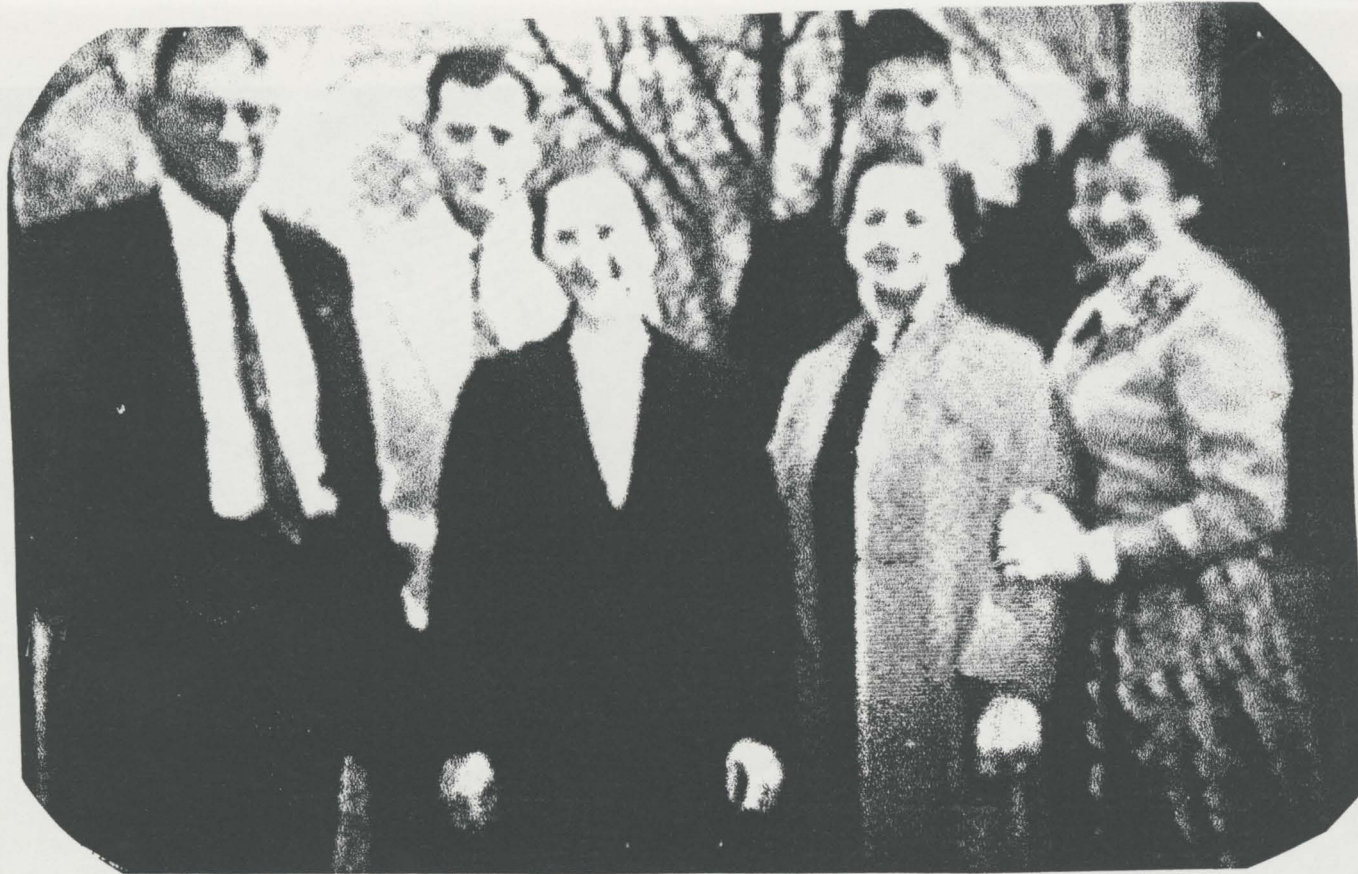


THE I. FRANK STONE FAMILY
(Eleanor, Rocky, Terry and Dr. Frank Stone)



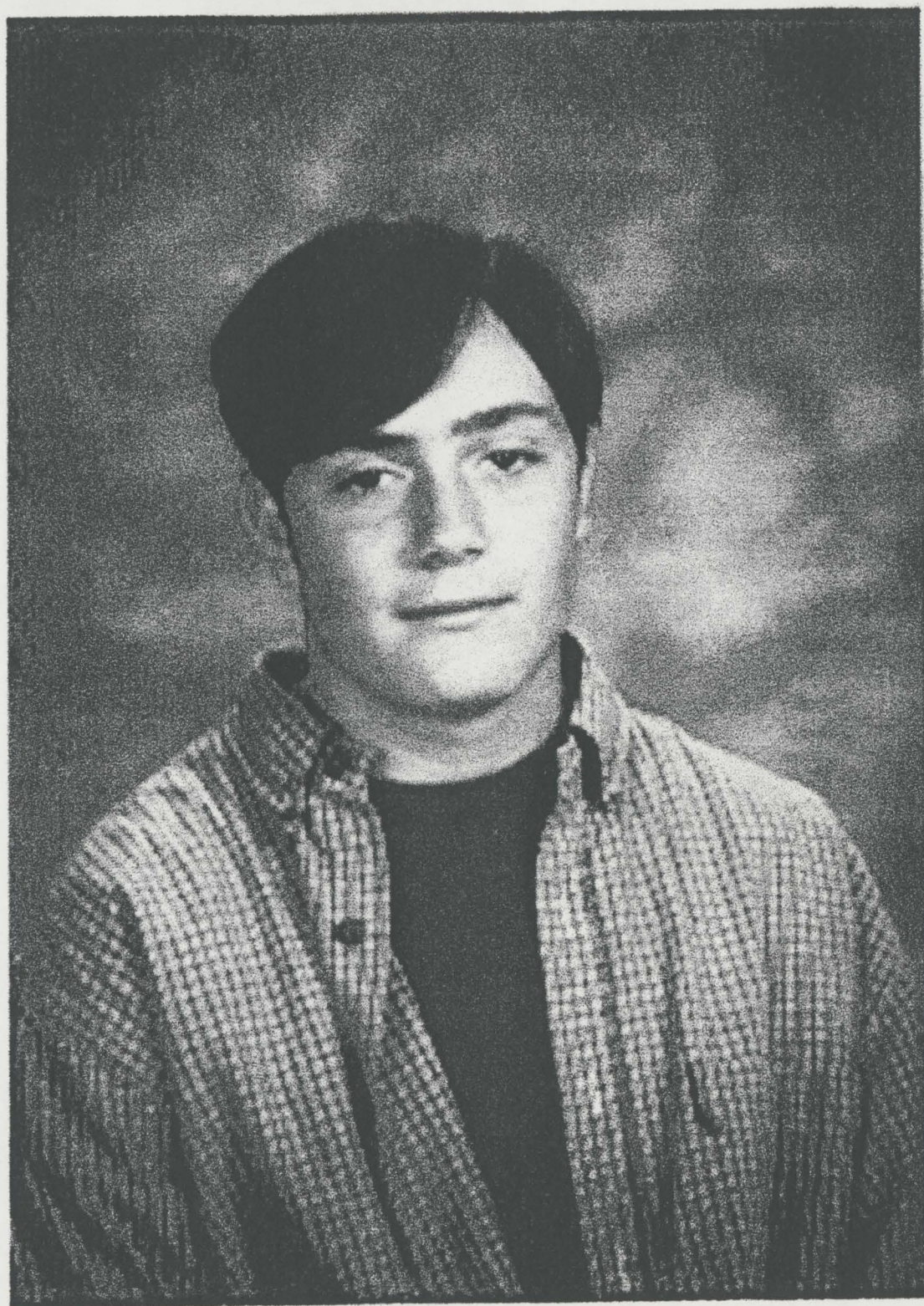
Walter B. "Brad" Thomas, Jr.

Left to Right: Porter, P. G., Pearl, Lessie, Martin and Mildred



THE PORTER WALL FAMILY

Left to Right: Porter, P. G., Pearl, Lessie, Martin and Mildred



REID WALTERS