

# 1885 - 1985

NOTABLE ANNIVERSARIES



## Church began in a tent 100 years ago

*Editor's note: Dorothy Klemp Price, the author of the following article, is a fifth generation Humboldtter and a third generation Seventh-day Adventist. She is a descendant of the Charles Clark family who settled in the Mattole Valley in 1857. Her grandparents, Otto and Addie Wright Clark, were baptized and joined the Adventist church at Petrolia in 1916.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Clark sent their daughter, DeLoris, to Eureka so she could attend the Adventist school and later Humboldt Academy. It was while in Eureka that she met Ernest Klemp, a member of the Eureka Adventist church. Ernest's mother, Mrs. Theodore (Anna) Klemp, had joined the Eureka church in 1907, and her four children also, several years later.*

*Ernest and DeLoris were married in 1927, and became the parents of five children: Dorothy, Lowell, Wayne, Larry and Gary.*

*by Dorothy Klemp Price*

It was in June, 1885, that the Seventh-day Adventists came to Eureka, pitched a large tent, and started a series of religious meetings. This denomination had been organized in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1863, and the California Conference established in 1873.

Elders N.C. McClure of San Francisco, and Philip Kent of St. Helena had been sent with the tent to Eureka aboard the steamship *City of Chester*. They obtained permission from Mr. W. Pierce to use his lot at the corner of 4th and G streets on which to pitch the tent. The Daily Humboldt Standard reported "The subjects to be investigated and elucidated are Prophecy, Signs of the Times, Modern Spiritualism, the Millennium, Redemption Through Christ, Ministry of the Angels, and the Home of the Saved. The meetings will be held daily at 7 o'clock p.m. until further notice."



This 1911 photo shows the Seventh Day Adventist Church built in 1908 at Harris and E streets. The building, minus the tower, now houses Sequoia Bible Church.



Adventist church school students in 1910 included, back row, Fred Klemp, George Greer and Earnie Klemp; middle row, Laura Klemp, teacher Louisa Wood. The only others identified are Lucy Gay, third from left in third row, and Sattie Klemp, first in bottom row.

These were not the first Adventist meetings in Humboldt County, however. In June 1883, the California Conference had sent Elder McClure and Elder G.D. Ballou to Ferndale with the



L. M. Stump

Ted Calkins

tent, and after several months of meetings, a church was built. The dedication of the building and formal organization took place on February 3, 1884, with Elder J.H. Waggoner of Oakland officiating.

In the northern part of the county, meetings were held in August, 1884, on the Plaza in Arcata. The same newspaper had this to report:

"The religious denomination known as Adventists have spread their tent in the plaza and commenced a series of meetings. We are informed that large crowds assemble to hear them. They will continue their meetings as long as they think they can accomplish any good."

By March, 1886, a church had been organized in Arcata.

During the summer of 1885 a church of 20 members was established at Dows Prairie. Elder McClure had held meet-



The congregation moved to this new church in 1967, the year this picture was taken.

ings there in the schoolhouse during the winter and early spring of 1885. These ministers traveled back and forth from San Francisco to Humboldt Bay quite often, and their ship of choice seemed to be the *City of Chester*, as evidenced by the ships' passenger lists published in the local newspapers.

The meetings in the tent in Eureka continued on Fourth Street until the end of July, when the tent was moved to Connick's Grove at 14th and H streets, where a camp meeting was conducted. Besides the large meeting tent, there were 15 family tents pitched, and at the conclusion of the camp on August 11, twelve converts were baptized in Humboldt Bay, at the foot of I Street. The Daily Humboldt Standard recorded the event:

"The baptism...occurred this forenoon at the end of the Redwood Company's wharf. There seemed on the part of some, quite a serious misunderstanding as to where the immersion was going to take place. A large number first went to the foot of G Street, only to be told that the appointed place was at the head of Second Street. This was a mistake also and as the party had become worked up to a high pitch of excitement, some ejaculations indicative of impatience were heard. Finally some good Samaritan informed them of the exact locality, and they arrived at the proper place in ample time to see the rites of baptism administered."

In September that year, the new members purchased a lot on the northwest corner of Sixth and M streets, and started construction of a church building. On October 19 they formally organized as a religious body, with the trustees being N. Hurlburt, G.H. Gibson, and N.C. McClure. Philip Kent remained in Eureka as the first pastor. In the Standard of December 1, there was a description of the church which said that "the color of the dome will be slate with brown trimmings, but the color the body of the church will be painted is difficult to describe. Perhaps a dark cream color

is nearest it."

During the next 22 years the church continued to grow and prosper. Camp meetings were held every summer somewhere in Humboldt County, and meetings were also conducted by ministers sent from the California Conference in Oakland during the year. Such names as John N. Loughborough, E.J. Waggoner, William Ings, E.P. Daniels, and W.C. Grainger, were familiar ones to the Adventists in Humboldt County. They made many trips by steamer to Humboldt Bay.

In a small building at the back of the church was the church school. It apparently started shortly after 1900. The first teacher was Mrs. L.E. Kenison, followed by Monroe Jones. Other teachers were Miss Barbara Stickney, 1906; Miss Rachel Stockton, 1907, and Miss Louise A Wood, 1908-1911.

There was an interesting occurrence during the camp meeting of 1907 which was held in Eureka. A woman and her four small children came to the camp meeting from Elk River. Mrs. Theodore (Anna) Klemp had been reading about the Adventist beliefs and wanted to know more about them. So that she would be able to attend as many meetings as possible, she prepared some of the food they would need before leaving home, including a good quantity of fried chicken.

The family arrived at camp, and the first lecture on the first night was on the subject of health reform and the benefits of a vegetarian diet. Mrs. Klemp was a woman of very strong convictions, who took her religion seriously. When the meeting was over, she got her camp shovel, went out behind her tent, dug a hole, and buried all that fried chicken! She never ate another bite of meat as long as she lived. When she passed away in 1950, she was still a staunch and faithful member of the Adventist church. Although all Adventists are not vegetarians, the denomination still

advocates a vegetarian diet for optimum health.

In 1907, under the direction of Pastor Albert J. Osborne, the members decided their church building was not suitable for their purposes any longer, as they desired to move out from the center of town, into the outskirts of the city of Eureka. They put the buildings up for sale, and they were purchased by Joseph Barca, who turned the church building into a paint shop. After many years, the building was torn down and there is a city parking lot there now.

The new property chosen was at Harris and E Streets, 3 miles "out in the country" from their old church. The members themselves did the building, and it included a bell tower and a side room which was used for the church school. Over the next several years the men who served as pastors included W.L. Sims, Stephen T. Hare, L.L. Hutchinson, Adams J. Stevens, and Josephus D. Alder. The teachers at the church school were Miss Jessie Hicks, Melvina M. Fox, Pearl Stone, Victor Wolfkill and Irma Young.

By 1916 the school enrollment stood at 25, and larger facilities were needed for the students. "Realizing the unsatisfactory condition, and with keen foresight of something bigger and grander just a little way ahead, Elder A.J. Stevens and some of the local brethren, walked out to the end of F Street and there among the stumps and redwoods marked out a site for the future Humboldt Academy." (From The Redwood Trail, the yearbook of Humboldt Academy, 1930-31)

In the 4000 block of F Street, several buildings were constructed during the next few years which eventually including two dormitories, an administration building, grade school, dining room and kitchen, carpenter shop, print shop and medical clinic.

From 1925 to 1932 Humboldt Academy was a 12-grade boarding school, with students coming from many parts

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## Church marks its 100th year

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of western United States. At its peak, enrollment reached 165 students, including the grade school. The first principal was Professor Lawrence M. Stump, and when he left in 1930 to go to the Philippine Islands to conduct educational work, Professor Lowell Rasmussen came to take his place.

In order for the students to earn part or all of their tuition, the girls did housework in the community and the boys built and sold houses on F Street, near Harris, and around the Rosewood area. Judson Whitney, Joe Nevis, and Elder O.E. Sandness were in charge of the building program.

With the coming of the depression of the 1930s, financial difficulties started to plague the school, and in the spring of 1932, Humboldt Academy was reduced to a 10-grade non-boarding school. Later it was reduced to eight grades, at which level it remained until 1968, when the constituents of the Eureka and McKinleyville Adventist churches joined forces to create a union school. The present school, Humboldt Bay Adventist School, is located on Stephens Lane in Bayside.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the church at Harris and E underwent some extensive remodeling and enlarging. First of all, the steeple which housed the church bell, was taken down, because it was deemed unsafe. Three additional classrooms for Sabbath School were built on the back of the church. Church membership at this time was 132. The remodeling projects were done under the leadership of Elders S.O. Martin and L.E. Tupper.

By the 1950s serious thought was being given to once again moving and building a new church. The present facilities had been outgrown and some felt they were not representative in the community. A location committee was selected and they located a beautiful, wooded site consisting of 6.4 acres at the south end of F Street. It was about 2 blocks south of the school. This property was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Russell Harvey in the spring of 1961. Since it had been a chicken ranch and the chicken houses were still standing, the members had work bees on Sundays for many months, tearing down the buildings. In the summer of 1962 a garden was planted consisting of potatoes and peas, and when harvested and sold brought enough money to pay the prop-

## Program of celebration events

*Centennial Celebration events:*

*October 18-20, 1985, at Eureka Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

*Schedule: Friday evening, 7 p.m., "Homecoming in Heaven," former pastors Anderson, Grimstad, Hartwick and Rutan.*

*Saturday, 9 a.m., sabbath school with Lester Bennett in charge; 11 a.m., church service with Elder Philip Follett, President of the Northern California Conference delivering the sermon.*

*Following church service a fellowship dinner will be served and at 2:30 p.m., "I Remember When..." and musical pro-*

*gram.*

*Saturday night, 7 p.m., slide program and more reminiscing.*

*Sunday, 9 a.m., brunch will be served at the church and special guests who will attend include:*

*Eureka Mayor Fred J. Moore, Jr.; former pastors A.E. Anderson, 1975-80; Arvin Winkle, 1968-72; Duane Grimstad, 1963-68; Lester Bennett, 1958-63; Gene Erickson, 1955-56; Sam Rutan, 1950-55; Charles Hartwick, 1943-47 and Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Stump. He was principal of Humboldt Academy, 1925-30.*

erty taxes for that year.

In 1966 the church started looking for buyers for their Harris and E Streets property. They had two lots, the corner one being used for the parking lot, and the next lot to the south was where the church actually stood. In April 1966 the corner lot was sold to the Atlantic Richfield Company, and in October 1967 the church was sold to the Sequoia Bible Church.

Construction of the new church was started in June 1966 under the direction of Merritt Crawford, building superintendent. The pastor was Duane Grimstad, the chairman of the building committee was Robert L. Spoo, one of the local members. When the project was completed in June 1967, it was found that the members had given more than 10,000 hours of donated labor.

The opening ceremonies were held the weekend of June 10-11, 1967, and among the special guests who were present were Don H. Clausen, Representative of the First Congressional District; Elder James Chase, President of the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Elder Miller Brockett of the Youth Department of the Pacific Union Conference in Glendale; and Eureka's Mayor, Gilbert S. Trood.

Immediately after the opening, the evangelistic team of Cliff Walter and Monty Jones came and held meetings. As a result of these meetings, 24 new members were added to the church. Over the next several years other evangelists were invited to come and hold meetings and they included Elders Fordyce Detamore and Gordon Henderson in 1970; Elder L.E. Tucker of the Quiet Hour radio program in 1976 and Elder Duane Corwin in 1979.

It is the practice with Adventists not to hold the dedication service for a church building until after all the expenses incurred for the building have

been paid. Accordingly, the dedication for the new church was held November 21-22, 1969, under the leadership of the new pastor, Arvin Winkle. Elder James Chase was again in attendance and with him from the Conference office were Elders Stuart Jayne, secretary, and E.A. Schmidt, treasurer. Elder Lester L. Bennett, who had been the local pastor when the church property was purchased in 1961, returned, and with Mrs. Bennett, took part in the program. Also Elder Grimstad, who had been transferred to Santa Rosa, returned for the ceremony.

The current pastor since 1983, Elder Ted Calkins, states, "I see the church as a growing, vibrant, living fellowship, working together to hasten the Lord's soon return. We have experienced great blessings during the past 100 years—through the years, three locations where we have been able to worship, the freedom and support of our government leaders, and most of all a caring congregation.

"We are happy to open the doors of our church and help in health awareness programs such as Health Seminars, Five-Day Plans to stop smoking, and cooking schools. We have been blessed with a beautiful school plant that we share with the McKinleyville church, where an eight-grade school is operated to meet the mental needs of our community. As well as our worship service, we have seminars, sharing groups, mid-week Bible study, community Bible study and other special programs. Through our Community Services, emergency food and other services are provided to those needing special help. We thank the Lord that we have something to share with others in need.

"We look forward to being a vital part of this community, meeting the physical, mental and spiritual needs." HH