

June 10, 1959

Gillespie Leads School
In Community Project

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.--(BP)--J. T. Gillespie, retired director of rural church program for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, has been retained by Gardner-Webb College here as director of church-community development.

Gillespie retired June 1 from his position with the Home Mission Board. He will begin his new duties at Gardner-Webb Sept. 1.

A native of Cleveland County, N. C., Gillespie is a graduate of Gardner-Webb, Wake Forest College, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prior to his work with the Home Mission Board he taught Bible and Greek at Oklahoma Baptist University and at North Greenville (S.C.) Junior College, held various pastorates in South Carolina and Arkansas, and was director of mission programs in Greenville, S. C., and Miami, Fla.

College Pres. P. L. Elliott said, "In my judgment he is one of the South's leading figures in church-community development. We are delighted to secure his services."

Gardner-Webb pioneered in a program of church-community development in 1950, directed by Garland Hendricks, now of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary faculty. He was succeeded in 1953 by W. Lawson Allen, who is now vice-president of the college.

The program concentrates on adult education through night schools conducted in various towns and communities throughout the Piedmont area of the Carolinas. Classes are taught in music, sociology, Bible, church organization, and other subjects.

In the past nine years over 12,000 people have enrolled for the classes.

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Walker Knight Takes
Home Missions Post

ATLANTA--(BP)--Walker L. Knight, associate editor of the Baptist Standard, Dallas, Tex., for nearly 10 years, has been elected secretary of the department of editorial service of the Home Mission Board here, beginning Jan. 1, 1960.

During the interim period from July 15, Knight will work with John Caylor who will retire at the end of the year after 14 years in that position.

Knight, minister and newspaperman, will assume the duties of editor of Home Missions and direction of the board's news service, tract, and book production. The department of editorial service is included in the division of education and promotion headed by L. O. Griffith.

A lifetime of newspaper and journalism experience will aid Knight in his ministry with the Home Mission Board.

He is the son of a former Kentucky managing editor, a graduate of Baylor University's school of journalism, and former editor of an Air Force publication and a Texas country weekly. He also held a student pastorate at Dale, Tex.

He went to the Baptist Standard, published by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, in 1950 to serve as associate editor under David M. Gardner, now editor emeritus. When Dr. Gardner retired in 1954 and present editor, E. S. James, was elected, Knight continued in the position of associate editor.

In this period the Standard circulation has grown from 216,000 to the present 355,000; publication of the magazine has been changed from letterpress to offset.

Knight married the former Iva Nell Moseley of Tyler, Tex. They have two sons, Walker Jr., 12, and Kenneth, 10, and a daughter, Nelda, 4.

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Dr. W. F. Powell Dead;
Was Convention Leader

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Dr. William Francis Powell, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church here, died June 5 of a heart attack. The 81-year-old Baptist leader was en route home with friends after preaching at a night service in a community near Nashville.

Known throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Powell had retired June 1, 1955, as pastor of First Church here. It was on his 34th anniversary as the church's pastor.

He also was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board here for 34 years.

Retirement brought no halt to Dr. Powell's eloquent preaching. Eased of church administrative responsibility, and blessed with excellent health, Dr. Powell---with a calendar "booked up" for a year or two ahead---was in constant demand from many places as an evangelist, for pulpit supply, and for other speaking engagements.

Funeral services were held in First Church here with his successor, H. Franklin Paschall, and James L. Sullivan, Nashville, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, officiating.

Survivors included his wife and three daughters.

Deacons of the church, members of the Sunday School Board executive committee, and trustees of Nashville's Peabody College served as honorary pallbearers.

Dr. Powell had been a member of the college's trustees for over 30 years.

He was a native of Auburn, N. C., and attended Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He taught at Fruitland Baptist Institute, Hendersonville, N. C., for three years and was interim principal for two years.

He held pastorates in Roanoke, Va.; Chattanooga, Tenn., and Morganton and Asheville, N. C., before coming to Nashville.

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Brooks Hays' Father
Dies In Arkansas

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark.--(BP)--Just a year ago, Southern Baptist Convention President Brooks Hays wrote a touching article for father's day about his own dad living in Russellville. (This article was carried in many state papers.)

Two weeks shy of father's day, 1959, the "my dad" of his article is dead. Steele Hays, 87, passed away here June 7. He had been in ill health for some time.

Funeral services were held June 9 in Russellville. Mrs. Hays had died in December, 1955, and Brooks Hays was their only child.

Like his son, Steele Hays was an attorney. The father's day sketch last year was written at the invitation of Erwin L. McDonald, editor of the Arkansas Baptist, who made it available to his fellow Baptist editors.

In tribute to his father while still living, Brooks Hays wrote in part:

" I have never known a man with a more genuine case of religion than my father. . . . My father took me to Sunday school and church with him till I was a big boy, and when I was old enough to enjoy a trip he took me with him to associational meetings. (He was either clerk or moderator of our association for 20 years or more.) I believe that except for his dynamic church life I would not have developed the denominational interests and loyalties that have brought such happy experiences to me in the Southern Baptist Convention."

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Kansas City Invites
9 Methodist Agencies

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Nine general boards and agencies of The Methodist Church,
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located at 740 Rush St., Chicago, are being invited to relocate in Kansas City.

The following general church agencies located in Chicago would be affected: The council on world service and finance, the commission on promotion and cultivation, the board of hospitals and homes, the board of lay activities, the general board of pensions, the board of world peace, the board of social and economic relations, and the Chicago office of the commission on public relations and Methodist information.

The invitation to move to Kansas City will also be extended to the staffs of Together and the New Christian Advocate, official monthly magazines of the church edited in Chicago and published by the Methodist Publishing House.

A spokesman said the invitation was inspired by the launching of the new National Methodist Theological Seminary at Kansas City and the hopes that the city "will increasingly become a great Methodist center in the years ahead."