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**Role of Women, Deaconesses,
Traced by Virginia Pastor**

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--Ordination of women as deacons, a topic much in Baptist news during the last few years, is hardly a new thing, a Virginia Baptist pastor related during an address to the Southern Baptist Historical Society meeting here.

William L. Lumpkin, pastor of Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., told the Baptist historians that as early as 1770, Bedford Baptist Church, oldest congregation in the Strawberry Baptist Association of Virginia, had deaconesses, and women were upon occasion credited with prophetic gifts.

Tracing the "Role of Women in 18th Century Virginia," Lumpkin said that while women were victims of the 18th century culture, their influence in church matters was quite significant.

Women were prominent in helping to introduce Baptist preaching in new areas, and were "in the forefront as promoters of revivals and helpers of churches," Lumpkin said.

The wives of Baptist preachers of the state played an important role in the spread of the gospel, he said, by both entertaining itinerant evangelists in their homes, and by carrying on "heroically, often with the slightest of resources" while their own husbands were travelling about to preach the gospel. Baptist pastors in those days usually received no salary lest they be considered "hirelings," he observed.

Throughout the three-day meeting of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, meeting for a joint session with the SBC Historical Commission, the importance of state Baptist historical societies was emphasized.

It was the first time the commission, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, had met outside Nashville in 17 years. Sessions were held at Samford University here, which provides archives for what Historical Commission Executive Secretary Lynn E. May Jr., called "one of the best state societies in the SBC--the Alabama Baptist Historical Society."

Papers presented during the meeting emphasized the importance of state historical collections in preserving Southern Baptist heritage.

The first office of the SBC Home Mission Board was located in Marion, Ala., and if it were not for the preservation of state Baptist papers and personal papers of prominent Alabama Baptist forefathers, little would be known of the first 37 anxious years of the board, said A. Ronald Tonks, assistant executive secretary of the commission in a paper presented to the group.

Minutes of the Home Mission Board to 1875 have been either lost or destroyed, Tonks said, and the best source of information on the board's history from 1845 to 1882 are in the Baptist papers such as the Christian Index, the Alabama Baptist, and the South Western Baptist, Tonks said. He expressed hope that one day the minutes might be found.

Another paper presented by Jonathan Lindsey of Judson College in Marion, Ala., described Basil Manly, the first executive secretary of the Domestic Mission Board (now Home Mission Board) as "a man who wore many hats, some of them simultaneously."

Manly was president of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa from 1838 to 1855 and is known not only for his role as educator and administrator but also as a leader and participant in the creation of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Domestic Mission Board, and laying the groundwork for the development of theological education among Baptists in the South with the founding of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Elected as the new president of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, an organization of individuals interested in Baptist history, was R.A. McLemore, retired president of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., who now is executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

New vice president is Walter B. Shurden, professor of religion at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn. Re-elected secretary was H.I. Hester, retired vice president of Mid-western Baptist Theological Seminary. Hester has been secretary of the society each year since the organization was started in 1938.

In separate session, the SBC Historical Commission trustees re-elected Robert A. Baker of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as chairman, and named as new vice chairman, John S. Moore, pastor of Manley Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, Va. Named recording secretary was Mrs. Marguerite Babb of Nashville.

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Shuttle Bus Service
Slated at Portland SBC

4/27/73

PORTLAND (BP)--Shuttle bus service will be provided between downtown Portland hotels and virtually all metropolitan Portland areas to the Portland Coliseum for the benefit of persons attending the Southern Baptist Convention and related meetings, June 11-14.

Continuous service will be provided from the coliseum to downtown Portland areas, and persons who have accommodations in outlying areas will be able to use regular express bus service to downtown Portland on a fare basis and use the shuttle buses from the downtown area to the coliseum, according to convention arrangements chairman Dan C. Stringer.

Shuttle buses will operate beginning at 7:30 a.m. daily, and concluding at 10:30 p.m. Monday morning through Thursday evening.

Use of the shuttle service will be available to anyone holding a \$3 ticket, which is good for any part or all of the four-day period.

Tickets may be purchased at the registration area in the coliseum during the convention. Convention messengers may use the buses on Monday and Tuesday mornings without a ticket so they may wait to purchase tickets when they register, Stringer said.

Outlying areas providing regular express bus service to downtown Portland, connecting with the shuttle buses, include Lake Oswego, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Gresham, Oregon City, Forest Grove, and Vancouver.

Adequate parking is available at the coliseum at the cost of 50 cents per entry, 75 cents per day, or \$3.00 per week, Stringer added.

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