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WMU Eyewitness Historian,
Lois Mauk, Retires

By Carol Sisson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--When World War II ended so did Lois Mauk's job inspecting machine gun belts in a Birmingham, Ala. defense plant.

Looking for another job, she went by Woman's Missionary Union and asked the receptionist, "Ya'll aren't hiring, are you?"

The answer to her backhand question resulted in a 33 1/2 year career-with Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Mauk retired in July as WMU's longest tenured employee. With her go eye-witness accounts of working with many famous WMU pioneers, including three executive directors.

When Mauk began temporary work opening mail in 1944, her desk was the top of a sewing machine cabinet, and WMU was housed on two floors of the Comer building. The 40 employees gathered every morning around a big table in the Board Room for Prayers. "With these Samford students there working as interns, after Prayers you'd think you'd been to church," Mauk remembered.

Kathleen Mallory was executive secretary then. "She was just like somebody's granny, with her beautiful white hair and pastel clothes," Mauk said. She also remembered Miss Mallory fondly because "when a shipment of nylons would come in downtown, she would let us off to go buy them."

Mauk told tales of other "events" such as employee fish fries, family picnics, and occasionally "sneaking out the back door to go get some blackbottom pie."

Mauk began work as a permanent employee in 1949. In September, 1951 (Alma Hunt was new executive secretary) WMU moved its headquarters from the Comer Building to its present location on 6th Avenue and 20th Street North.

With more building space came modernization of Mauk's job. NCR analysis machines were installed, and order processing was no longer done strictly by hand.

Upon retirement Mauk's title was analysis coordinator. Her responsibilities of coordinating analysis machine work, training analysis operators, and crediting magazine accounts were a far cry from that first temporary job of opening mail.

As Mauk's responsibilities grew larger, so did the scope of WMU. Magazine subscriptions, 851,078, have almost tripled since 1949, and WMU now employs 125 people.

"You know, all WMU's leaders have been different in personality," Mauk said, citing Mallory, Hunt, and present executive director Carolyn Weatherford, "but they've all kept WMU successfully growing."

Once again WMU is preparing for "moving day," this time to a new headquarters building under construction on New Hope Mountain southeast of Birmingham.

Mauk attended recent dedication ceremonies for the new building. "I stood there on that mountain with the sun beating down, and thought what an impressive, ideal spot it was for WMU's future," she said.

24-Year-Old MK Killed While Visiting Parents

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)--The 24-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries Wayne and Elinor Pennell was killed Aug. 5 when the motorcycle he was riding collided with a truck.

Mark A. Pennell, visiting his parents in Indonesia for the summer, was returning home from visiting another missionary family when the accident occurred.

His father, from Lenoir, N.C., is director of the Yogyakarta area seminary extension. His mother, from Atlanta, Ga., is a student worker. His brother, Brian, 22, lives in Knoxville, Tenn.

Mark was a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, studying geophysics.

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Oldenburg Joins RTVC Staff As Associate Producer/Writer

By Greg Warner

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Bob Oldenburg, minister of adult education at North Richland Hills Baptist Church, will join the staff of Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission Aug. 22 as an associate producer and writer.

Oldenburg, 48, is best known to Southern Baptists for introducing folk musicals in churches. He wrote "Good News", one of the first youth musicals published by Broadman Press, "Happening Now" and "Real." More recently Oldenburg has done musicals for other age groups, including "Kingdom Within" for senior adults and "Blessings," a worship musical.

At the RTVC Oldenburg will work on "Life Today," a live daily TV talk show being planned for the American Christian Television System, as well as other TV programs.

Before going to North Richland Hills Church, Oldenburg held education positions in several churches, including twice as minister of youth/education at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas (1964-66, 1969-75). He was church recreation consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1966-69.

While in San Antonio, Oldenburg produced a weekly 30-minute program called "Good News" for four years. The show was aired on NBC affiliate KMOL-TV.

A native of Muskegon, Mich., Oldenburg graduated from Northeast Louisiana State College (now Northeast Louisiana University) in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in history and English. He received a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, in 1963. As an adjunct professor he has taught youth education at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and drama at Southwestern.

Oldenburg and his wife, Jane, have three sons and a daughter.

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Normal, Or No Hike Signaled In Non-Profit Postal Rates

By Larry Chesser

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WASHINGTON (BP)--When Congress left town Aug. 5 for a five-week summer recess it had yet to determine the level of funding for the postal subsidy that provides reduced non-profit mail rates, but action in both houses indicates non-profit mailers may face either no increase or a one-step increase beginning Oct. 1.

When Congress returns Sept. 12, the House and Senat will have just three weeks to settle the matter, either by passing a regular funding bill for the Postal Service, or by including it in a stop-gap appropriations bill which Congress has repeatedly used in recent years to keep government programs operating when regular funding bills are not passed in time.

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Appropriations committees on both sides of Capitol Hill once again have ignored President Reagan's request to make deep cuts in the postal subsidy. With the administration requesting \$400 million for the subsidy--a dramatic drop from the \$789 million level funding in fiscal 1983--the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a figure of \$802 million for fiscal 1984. That amount would mean a one-step increase in non-profit rates which the panel's report estimates would boost non-profit rates four to 12 percent.

The House Subcommittee on the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government has twice approved a funding level of \$879 million--the amount the Postal Service estimates necessary to preserve current rates through the next fiscal year.

In June, a funding bill containing the \$879 million figure for the postal subsidy reached the House floor but was defeated, largely because of a controversial amendment barring federal health insurance coverage for abortions. During that debate, a move to cut the subsidy to the \$400 million level requested by President Reagan was defeated.

Under present law, reduced postal rates are available to a wide range of non-profit organizations, including religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans and fraternal groups.

Representatives of these groups have strongly opposed the administration's annual requests to sharply reduce the postal subsidy, charging it is unfair to ask such groups to pick up the slack created by federal cutbacks in spending for social programs while undermining their ability to communicate and raise funds by increasing postage costs.

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Coups Topple Governments
On Two Mission Fields

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Upper Volta left the capital city where a coup toppled the government there while missionaries in Guatemala City reported calm after that country's government was ousted.

Sporadic gunfire in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, three days after the coup there prompted the two missionary couples and one volunteer couple from Tennessee to join their colleagues outside the capital.

Former prime minister Capt. Thomas Sankara overthrew head of state Maj. Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo in an overnight coup Aug. 5 in which 13 people were reported killed and 15 wounded.

U.S. State Department spokesman Nancy Morgan said that while Sankara is known to be an admirer of Libya and has visited Tripoli, information thus far fails to indicate Libyan involvement in the coup.

She said U.S. embassy personnel in Upper Volta believed shots were being fired into the air near the airport to discourage Voltaics from cutting through that area to get from the city to their villages. The airport and the country's borders remained closed Aug. 8 and a 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew remained in effect.

As a precaution, missionaries Jim and Sue Wilkins, from Detroit, Mich., and Cobden, Ill., missionaries Bob and Dixie Schrier, Brutus, Mich., and New Orleans, and volunteers Floyd and Helen Choate of Greenbrier, Tenn., joined other mission personnel at Sanwabo.

Their plans were relayed to the Foreign Mission Board by Billy Bullington, associate to the board's director for West Africa, from Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Aug. 8.

Meanwhile, missionary Joe Bruce reported by phone Aug. 9 from Guatemala City that the 20 Southern Baptist missionaries in Guatemala are safe, as well as a group of 14 volunteers from Eastside Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. The volunteer construction group arrived in Guatemala City Aug. 7 to refurbish a local church.

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"Everything still seems to be business as usual," Bruce said. "Everybody (the missionaries) are in their own places.... Outside of town it was as if n thing was going on. Most of the activity was here in (Guatemala City)."

Bruce said the volunteer group would probably stay and work on the church a week, as planned, "unless anything else happens."

Defense Minister Oscar Mejia Victores overthrew President Efraim Rios Montt Aug. 8 as planes and helicopters circled the National Palace. Mejia Victores said one soldier was killed and three other people were wounded in fighting around the palace. Other unconfirmed reports said as many as five soldiers died as Rios Montt and his honor guard held out for 90 minutes in the Presidential House, adjacent to the palace.

Rios Montt is said to have alienated senior military officers, the business community and Roman Catholics with his fervent and vocal Protestantism. He is a member of the Church of the Word, founded by missionaries of Gospel Outreach, based in Eureka, Calif.

The proclamation announcing Rios Montt's ouster, signed by top military officials, said, "We have determined that a fanatic, aggressive religious group, taking advantage of the positions of power of its highest officials, has used and abused the government for its own benefit, ignoring the fundamental principle of separation of church and state."

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Wake Forest Gets
\$700,000 Estate Gift

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--Wake Forest University has received \$700,000 from the \$4 million estate of Minnie Huffman of Morganton, N.C., who died in 1978.

The late William H. Reddish, who was Mrs. Reddish's husband, was a minister of First Baptist Church of Morganton and attended Wake Forest College.

James Ralph Scales, Wake Forest president, said the funds will be used to improve student housing and for the music wing of the Scales Fine Arts Center.

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First Chinese Church In Southwest
Celebrates 60th Anniversary, Roots By Leisa A. Hammett

Baptist Press
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SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)--A church without roots is like an orphan, according to Alvin Louie.

"Sooner or later, the child desires to know his true mother and father," said Louie, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church of San Antonio.

September 1983, marks the 60th anniversary of First Church, the first and oldest Chinese Baptist church in the Southwest and the only Chinese Baptist church in San Antonio.

Missionaries organized the church as a language school in 1919. It later became a mission church, and from 1923 to 1934, was the only Chinese Baptist church in the South.

Louie, also the only American-born Chinese senior pastor of a Chinese Baptist church, said 1983 was a peak year for Sunday school attendance at First Church.

The 150-member church provides ministries for Mandarin, Cantonese and for English-speaking Chinese. The latter composes 75 percent of the congregation.

"Many people say, well, all Chinese are the same. That's not so," said Louie. "Chinese groups are very different.

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"A Chinese church must always have a multiple staff to minister to all the needs of the Chinese," stressed Louie, whose forte is English-speaking ministries.

Louie feels meeting the multi-lingual and multi-cultural needs of Chinese congregations is a major obstacle and First Chinese Church of San Antonio's attempt to meet these diverse needs through adequate staffing has contributed to a more "holistic" church.

"It has given us a balanced ministry in reaching out to the total Chinese-Asian community," he said.

Louie feels multi-lingual Chinese offer major contributions to the Southern Baptist denomination. "Some Chinese speak Spanish, which sounds kind of funny," Louie admitted. "But Chinese speaking Spanish would be primary candidates for reaching Chinese groups in Latin America."

Louie foresees possibilities of some of his church members venturing on such missions in five to 10 years.

"It is helpful to look back into the records...we have this history. Surely we can learn what works and what did not work and it can steer us from repeating our mistakes," he said.

Charles Dewese, editorial services director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, commended the 60-year-old church.

"Because of the Historical Commission's 1981 and 1983 annual meeting emphases on black and ethnic Southern Baptist heritage, our agency is now more attuned to the diversity of Southern Baptists.

"A lot of Southern Baptists do not have any idea that there are black Southern Baptists and there are ethnic Southern Baptists," he said.

After the Commission's April, 1983 ethnic-themed meeting, an ad hoc committee for exploring ways to preserve ethnic Baptist history was formed, under the direction of Oscar Romo.

According to Romo, director of the Home Mission Board's language mission division, the committee will meet in Dallas this fall.

Romo said the meeting will consider and discuss approaches in which ethnics can gather and make their history available and work effectively with the Historical Commission.