

July 19, 1958

Historical Week Dates To Change

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has voted to change the dates of its participation each summer in assemblies at Ridgecrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M.

Starting in 1959, the Historical Commission's week of participation will coincide with Writers' Conference week at the two Southern Baptist assemblies.

Through 1958, the Historical Commission's week has coincided with the yearly Bible Conference.

Executive Secretary Norman W. Cox, Nashville, said this marks the first change in the week of assembly participation since a Baptist history committee (the forerunner of the Commission) was named in 1937.

He said the Historical Commission's activities at the assemblies are better suited to coincide with the Writers' Conference than with the Bible Conference, because of the interest in writing histories of Baptist church life.

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Historians Re-Elect Richard Owen President

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Historical Society has re-elected Richard N. Owen of Nashville as its president. Owen edits the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist weekly journal.

The society also re-elected its vice-president and secretary-treasurer. Vic -president is J. L. Boyd, Clinton, Miss., executive secretary of Mississippi Baptist Historical Society. H. I. Hester of Liberty, Mo., is secretary-treasurer. He is vice-president of William Jewell College there.

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Thailand Church Adopts Budget For Missions

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Calvary Baptist Church, the new English-language church in Bangkok, Thailand, has adopted a budget including 10 per cent for world missions through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Missionary J. Glenn Morris sent a check for \$27.46 to the office of Convention Treasurer Porter Routh here as the church's first contribution through the Cooperative Program.

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Historical Commission Comes Of Age As Agency

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Historical Commission---through the publication of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists" and its other work---has come of age as a Southern Baptist Convention agency, its executive secretary declared.

"The events of the past year joined with the services of prior years brought us a climax in the matter of our being accepted as a needed, permanent, functioning agency of the Southern Baptist Convention created by it to serve the vital history needs of Southern Baptists," Norman W. Cox, Nashville, said in a report.

His report was given to the Commission at its yearly meeting here .

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During the past year, the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists" was published by Broadman Press, book publishing wing of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Gathering and editing of the material for the two-volume work, however, was under the direction of Cox.

Other marks of achievement during the 12 months since the last annual session of the Commission included:

Publication of a series of graded Baptist Training Union study course books on the theme "Our Baptist Heritage." These emphasize the history of Baptists.

Planning of "Operation Baptist Biography" to develop a Convention "book of remembrance" for Baptist people---both men and women, lay and ministers---who have rendered outstanding service for God. The biographies of these people will be collected and preserved.

Library accessions which "have brought more material than in any other year," according to Cox. The accessions were in printed material and in microfilm.

Increases in the services offered by the Dargan-Carver Library, located in the Baptist Sunday School Board Building at Nashville. The library is a co-operative enterprise of the Sunday School Board and the Historical Commission.

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Over 170 Persons Come To Summer Conference

WAKE FOREST, N. C.--(BP)--More than 170 persons registered for the second annual summer conference held at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

This figure includes only those registered in classes. Counting visitors, it is estimated that more than 250 people attended. This year's enrolment represents an increase of more than 50 per cent over last year.

Visiting lecturers for the conference were: Charles A. Trentham, pastor, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., inspirational speaker for the week, and J. Winston Crawley, area secretary for the Orient, Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, who led a special study group each day in foreign missions.

Other program personalities included Southeastern Seminary Professors Garland A. Hendricks, E. A. McDowell Jr., John W. Eddins, and W. C. Strickland.

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Operation Biography Goals Have Been Set

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"Operation Baptist Biography" moved into high gear following approval of plans by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual session here.

Executive Secretary Norman W. Cox of Nashville reported that goals have been assigned each co-operating state Baptist convention. If all state goals are met, the biographies of 45,004 Southern Baptist laymen and denominational workers will be gathered.

"No Southern Baptist will be denied the privilege of submitting his or her biography," Cox said. Special forms have been prepared for persons to fill out. Provisions are made to gather information on both living and dead Baptists.

The denomination's "book of remembrance" is patterned after the one mentioned in Malachi 3:16, the Commission's executive secretary declared.

Plans for gathering the data include presentation of the operation at state and associational meetings as well as churches during the months ahead. January, 1959, is the target date for receiving the information at the Historical Commission office in Nashville.

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Cox said that state Baptist leaders will be relied upon to help supply the material, just as they were key persons in assembling monographs for the recently-published "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists," also prepared under Cox's direction.

To help defray costs of the operation, \$1 will be submitted with each person's biographical sketch. Half of the money will be kept by the state Baptist convention's historical society and the other 50 cents will be sent to the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission.

State historical groups will keep a copy of the biographical information for their files.

When biographies have been received in Nashville, Cox said, they will be turned over to the research and statistics department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

This department will code them on International Business Machine (IBM) cards for quick future reference. Information to be obtained and coded includes age of conversion, years of church service in various positions, education, occupation, and similar material.

Martin Bradley, researcher and statistician with the Sunday School Board, said the IBM-coded data will provide a source for surveys to be made about Baptist life.

Albert McClellan, Nashville, director of publications for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, pointed out that the biographical files will be helpful to editors of Baptist periodicals.

He said the files would provide illustrations from life to include in feature articles, be source material for personality sketches about the Christian influence and achievements of Southern Baptists, and furnish a record for checking facts for accuracy on persons mentioned in articles.

Homer L. Grice, retired Sunday School Board worker in Nashville, said the events which influenced the lives of persons described in the biographical forms can, in turn, "influence and inspire others."

State goals for "Operation Baptist Biography" include:

Alabama, 3288; Alaska, 21; Arizona, 165; Arkansas, 1457; California, 625; Colorado, 114; District of Columbia, 175; Florida, 2057; Georgia, 4122; Hawaii, 19.

Illinois, 786; Kansas, 127; Kentucky, 3021; Louisiana, 1841; Maryland, 237; Michigan, 49; Mississippi, 2216; Missouri, 2101; New Mexico, 348; North Carolina, 4250.

Ohio, 116; Oklahoma, 2165; Oregon-Washington, 133; South Carolina, 2341; Tennessee, 3543; Texas, 7559, and Virginia, 2128.

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Commission Elects
Edmunds Chairman

NASHVILLE--(BP)--J. P. Edmunds, secretary of research and statistics for the Baptist Sunday School Board here, has been elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission.

Other officers elected include W. Fred Kendall, Nashville, vice-chairman; Mrs. Richmond O. Brown, Nashville, recording secretary, and Norman W. Cox, Nashville, treasurer.

Cox serves also as executive secretary.

Kendall is executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Mrs. Brown is office secretary for the Historical Commission.

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Cox Gives Resignation
Effective August, 1959

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A five-man committee will be at work during the next 12 months seeking a successor for Norman W. Cox, retiring as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission.

Cox as early as three years ago had announced his plans to retire. He submitted his resignation at the 1958 annual session of the Commission here, to become effective on Aug. 31, 1959.

In a resolution drafted in recognition of Cox, who has headed the agency since February, 1951, the Commission called attention to his "wise planning, prudence, and vigor which . . . led to a series of achievements."

During the more than seven years as executive officer thus far, Cox has assembled over five million pages of Baptist source material on microfilm from America and Great Britain, the resolution said.

He also directed the publication of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists," which went on sale last January. The Commission said that Cox further published other new literature in Baptist history and was active in promoting Baptist history at denominational assemblies.

Members of the committee to nominate a successor to Cox include J. P. Edmunds, Nashville, chairman; Homer L. Grice, W. Fred Kendall, and James M. Gregg, all of Nashville, and Leo T. Crismon, of Louisville.

Edmunds is secretary of research and statistics for the Baptist Sunday School Board. Kendall is executive secretary of Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Gregg is a Nashville minister, Grice a retired denominational worker with the Sunday School Board, and Crismon librarian of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Commission adopted a paper entitled "A Description of the Man who Should be Sought to become Successor to Norman W. Cox in 1959."

It described the responsibilities of the executive secretary as including:

"Continually developing a history consciousness and appreciation among our people; the enlargement and utilization of Dargan-Carver Library (operated in partnership with the Sunday School Board); developing research projects that will recover needed information.

"Maintaining proper relationship with our partner, the Baptist Sunday School Board; selecting titles and writers to write needed articles, monographs, and books; maintaining co-operative relationships with the state Baptist historical commissions and societies.

"Assisting churches, associations, conventions, institutions, etc., in the collection and utilization of the materials of their history, and the co-ordination of the activities of the Commission's staff."