

THEO SOMMERKAMP, editorial assistant

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

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Family Estate Becomes
Site For Midwestern

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Property which had been a family estate for more than 100 years will be the site of new Midwestern Baptist Seminary here.

Trustees of the new seminary, sixth one in the Southern Baptist Convention, have signed a purchase agreement with Mrs. Sheffa Vivion Foster. Mrs. Foster sold the seminary 99 acres but retained a home and five acres on which she and Mr. Foster live.

The trustees paid the first payment of \$62,500 toward the total cost of \$252,000 for the 99 acres. The balance will be paid out by December, 1960, according to H. I. Hester, Liberty, Mo., president of the trustees.

Mrs. Foster said that the home and remaining five acres--valued at \$150,000--are to go to the seminary in her will. Hester said that it would probably become the future home of the seminary president.

The property is located in Kansas City North, a section of the city north of the Missouri River. It is at the intersection of two federal highways and a third federal highway is being constructed nearby.

Hester said the property is "highly desirable" land. He said the seminary received the property, despite other offers of purchase, because Mrs. Foster wanted the estate to remain intact and be used for a single purpose.

Conrad Willard, Kansas City minister and chairman of the trustees' executive committee, said that from the standpoint of acreage, the Midwestern Seminary campus will be the largest of the six SBC seminaries.

Midwestern plans to begin classes next fall in Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, where Willard is pastor. Construction of the first buildings on the recently-acquired Foster property may begin about the same time, according to Hester.

Hester reported the property for the seminary is already landscaped and is bordered by a fence along which roses have been planted. He said that seminary trustees will meet soon to discuss a master plan for developing the property and buildings for the seminary.

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Mrs. Foster was born and reared on the Vivion estate. She and Mr. Foster are Disciples of Christ and attend Independence Blvd. Christian Church.

Hester, Willard, Trustee Charles Curry, and Seminary President Millard Berquist were present for the transaction in which the seminary acquired the land. Curry is chairman of the building committee. They met with Mrs. Foster and her attorney.

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Whatley Directs Loan Services In Kansas

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--Howard Whatley, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church Hutchinson, Kans., assumed duties here Jan. 1, as director of the church-loan corporation set up by Kansas Baptists to finance new church construction.

Whatley will continue as executive-secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Southern Baptist Foundation.

The non-profit corporation which Whatley will direct was authorized at this year's Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists. The organization will issue 6 per cent interest, secured bonds to finance new churches and church facilities in Kansas.

For two terms, Whatley was president of the Kansas Southern Baptist Convention.

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Oklahoma Association Asks Sunday Of Prayer

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--Oklahoma County Baptist Association has asked Evangelist Billy Graham to call for a special Sunday to be set aside for prayer and fasting and "greatest church attendance."

The association declared that Americans "are trusting in the strength of scientific achievements and machines of war rather than in the might of Jehovah God."

A day of prayer and fasting, the association added, would serve to "turn our hearts again to the might and the power of God in world affairs."

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Book Describes First
50 Years In Illinois

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--A book recently released entitled "Southern Baptists in Illinois" describes the first 50 years of Southern Baptist Convention work in that state.

L. H. Moore, editor of the weekly Illinois Baptist published here, is author of the book.

In addition to tracing the beginnings of Southern Baptist work in the state, the book also contains brief remarks about Illinoisans now serving in places of denominational leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Home Mission Board
Withdraws Study Book

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has announced it is withdrawing the book "The Long Bridge" originally scheduled for study during the week of prayer for home missions in March.

The book discussed the Home Mission Board's program of work with Negroes.

Executive Secretary Courts Redford said that the book was started in 1952 when "there was no indication that the promotion and study of such a book would incite divisive discussions or aggravate race tensions." He also said its withdrawal is not due to "any criticism of its contents, because no such criticism has been received."

"Because of more recent developments, it now appears that this is an undesirable time to study a subject which in scores of societies and churches may be an occasion for bitter disagreements and harmful divisions," he continued.

The book was published for study by adults and young people. Redford said that the book "Look, Look, the Cities!" by Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, Nashville, would be offered instead.

Redford also said that the decision not to offer "The Long Bridge" for study would have no effect on the Board's Negro work. "The program has been expanded and the budget for such work has been increased," he said.

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