

Organizations

United Methodist Women

In 1908 the "Ladies Aid" of the Methodist Episcopal Church was an active organizaion, meeting in homes, according to the records of Agnes Buck.

A big money making affair was serving meals at the Rhodes Fair each year in September, until 1916. People attended from a distance as well as local, so it was a big boast financially. Everything had to be carried to the tent site, including stoves, tables, chairs and etc. The charge for meals was 25¢.

Some of the charter members were; Jennie Ruth, Carrie Weeks, Luella Jaroleman, Katie Baker, Nelle Gray and Ethel Everhart. In 1975, 201 women had been members at one time or another.

In 1927 they met twice a month. An interesting item, the cost of painting the church was 25¢ an hour for labor plus the total cost of the paint, \$12.50.

Between 1935 and 1939 meetings were held in homes. The Kate Filer, Town and Township Halls, for their dinners and serving projects. Chicken dinners were held in the Opera House with everything being carried upstairs such as stoves, tables, dishes, pots, pans and water.

In 1942, the M.P. Church building was moved and connected to the M.E. Church, at its present site. All the ladies of the church were known as the Women's Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S.). In October, Florence Wilson was elected as first president of the W.S.C.S. In 1942 the W.S.C.S. purchased carpet for the alter rail. Highlights for the year 1946 were; participation in the First World of Prayer, a three day celebration of the Iowa Centennial and serving lunch to 200 service men when the train came through Marshalltown.

In 1949 they honored Agnes Buck for 42 years as

pianist for the church and in 1976 she was honored on her 100th birthday.

There were four circles started in 1950, with 17 members in each circle. In 1956 a women's evening circle was formed and named the W.E., it mainly consisted of young women. There were 60 active members in the W.S.C.S. in 1960. In 1972 the Evangelical United Brethren merged with the Methodist W.S.C.S. and we became the United Methodist Women (U.M.W.). In 1973 Christmas boxes of homemade goodies were first made for the shut-ins of the community.

Through the years the society has held, teachers receptions, dinners for the Alumni, Eastern Star dinners, ice cream socials, soup and pancake suppers, Father-Son and Mother-Daughter banquets, birthday teas, a quilt and style show and annual appreciation dinners.

The Society helps with the missions and other worthy organizations, as well as local church activities. Special membership pins are given to worthy members and members who are 65 years old.

Since 1977 chrismons have been made for the Christmas tree.

In so many ways the U.M.W. fulfilled the duties of the purpose as stated: "The organized unit of the United Methodist Church shall be a community of whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowships; and to expand concepts of mission, through participation in global ministries of the church."

*Submitted by;
Frances Buck
Violet Brittain*

Olden Days

April 1897

The ladies of the Rhodes Cemetery Association will present "The Deestrickt Skule", at the Opera House in a couple of weeks.

Henry G. Buck's Scrapbook

Did you know that in July of 1901 the high temperature in Iowa was 113 degrees? On August 4, 1918 it was also 113 degrees.

Rhodes Elders Residence

On May 14, 1974, Russell Buck, Richard Snedecor, Jake Dannen, Charles (Bill) Hildreth, Allan Eddy and William Overman met with a representative from the F.H.A. to learn the requirements for senior housing. The following requirements had to be met: 25 shares of stock for \$25, one share per person; twice as many people interested in renting than apartments built; land available which was one fourth a block for a four apartment complex; must be a non profit organization; 2% of construction cost estimated to be \$1100; and a board of directors consisting of five to nine members elected by the shareholders.

In June, Charles Hildreth approached St. Joseph's Catholic Church and entered a bid for their property if they decided to sell. They were notified that bids would be accepted before September 17, 1974 and the highest bidders would receive the structure and land. In October of 1974, the deed to the property was signed. On November 8, an auction for the sale of the

years he served in our city. We had eighty-eight shareholders, some of which are deceased. We have received memorials from some of our shareholders over the years.

*Submitted by
Betty Dannen*



Rhodes Elders Residence Inc., #1.

structure was held with it being sold for \$200 and to be torn down by April of 1975. On May 23, the bid letting was held with the contract being let for \$55,705.63, with the construction to begin and be completed by fall.

On June 10, 1977, a meeting was held for the purpose of voting on option of a second apartment building in the north part of town with all in favor. On August 30, the bid was accepted for the construction of a second project for \$69,038. Building #2 was completed by March of 1978 and ready to rent.

Building #1 is dedicated to Charles (Bill) Hildreth for all the work he had done to get this project started. Building #2 is dedicated to Russell Buck for the many



Rhodes Elders Residence Inc., #2.

Pioneer Beef Cattle Division Rhodes Ranch

The late Henry A. Wallace, former Secretary of Agriculture, and founder of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., had long expressed a wish that Pioneer investigate the possibility of selecting and breeding genetically superior cattle much like the work that was being done with corn and other food grains.

John Airy, an extremely successful and thorough geneticist and Production Manager for one of Pioneer's largest Divisions was selected to lead the newly formed Division (the new Division was allowed a reasonable budget supported by other existing Divisions and given 10 years to generate a profit). It was decided at the onset that Pioneer Cattle would be bred with the commercial producer in mind. In addition, all breeds would be represented.

The first cattle were purchased on November 16, 1966 from the first herd in Iowa to produce production tested cattle and the first herd in the nation to have their herd classified by their respective breed association. This purchase was to be typical of the cattle purchased until all breeds were represented in the Pioneer cattle breeding program.

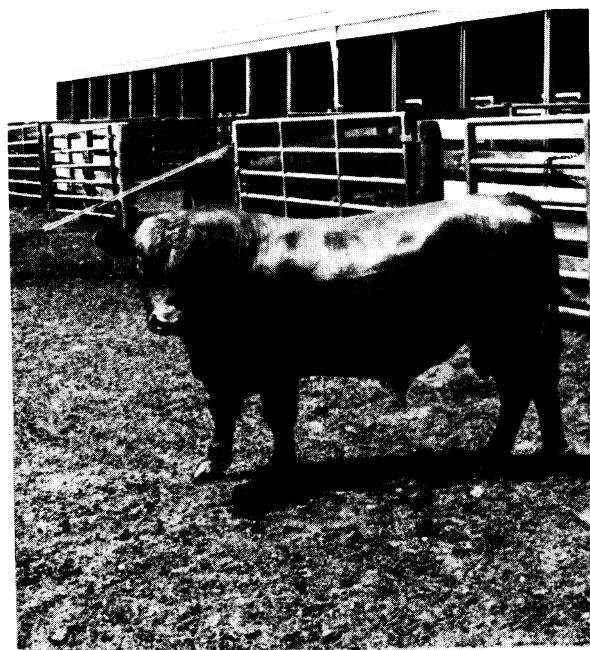
The Knuth family was also to make an important selection at this time. They were offered the job of managing the first elite herd and bull testing station at Algona, Iowa. The acceptance of this challenge created ten fulfilling years for them as well as the opportunity to meet a host of friends.

By 1969, the cattle at Algona had outgrown their quarters, and were moved to 1470 acres of owned and rented land at Rhodes. This tract of wooded and rolling hills was an ideal setting for raising practical, no nonsense cattle. It was immediately and affectionately called "the Rhodes Ranch." I suspect that it will be so named for all times.

For the next few years, the Ranch improved pasture production by introducing new grass varieties, clearing brush and applying nitrogen by air to insure coverage of the steep slopes. These management practices increased cow-calf ratio per acre significantly.

During these formative years the Ranch was the home of the four prominent English breeds, polled and horned herfords and black and red angus. These herds numbered 350 females per breed. In addition, a bull testing station had been developed that would accomodate 500 test bulls with plans for expansion.

These formative years were not without trial. Snow and ice storms during calving, muddy lots and the eternal problem of herd health that sheer numbers generate, challenged the people that cared for the cattle and land.



Red Angus Bull on July 4, 1976.

In conjunction with all other responsibilities, the Ranch hosted several hundred guests each year and became known as the Cattlemans Ranch. The hospitality and herdsmanhip expressed by the Ranch



Red Angus Cattle on July 4, 1976.

personnel again speaks highly of their personal abilities and commitment.

By 1972, Pioneer cattle were recognized as foremost in the industry. The Beef Cattle Division was enjoying recognition for producing genetically superior cattle and acceptance by the commercial cowman as well as the Purebred industry. By 1975, depressed cattle prices, ever increasing cost, and a ten year dead line would influence the decision in the Fall of 1976 to sell the Ranch and cattle. On January 25, 1977, the last Pioneer animal was sold at auction. Even though the auctioneers gavel silenced the Rhodes Ranch efforts, achievement was evident for those that had toiled for so many years striving for success. Despite the lowest cattle prices in years, hundreds of buyers came from nearly every state to establish record setting prices. Progeny of these cattle continue to win recognition at test stations and in the show ring serving as a testimonial to an idea that was conceived in 1966 and aborted in 1977.

Perhaps the most rewarding experience for all of us involved at the Ranch was the support received from the Rhodes community. The friends and relationships established provided the strength to start over and establish useful, productive lives.

Thanks "Rhodes" and congratulations on your 100 birthday.

*Submitted by
Russ Knuth*