



# The ILIFF Reporter

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## Jean Miller Schmidt Elected to Faculty

Dr. Jean Miller Schmidt, Leonia, New Jersey, has been elected to the Faculty of The Iliff School of Theology.

Dr. Schmidt will be Assistant Professor of Modern Church History at the graduate theological school, effective June 1, 1975, it was announced by Dr. Jameson Jones, Iliff President.

A native of Teaneck, New Jersey, Dr. Schmidt is a summa cum laude graduate of Drew University, and has Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Chicago. She studied a year at Oxford University, England.

She was awarded a Kent Fellowship by the Danforth Foundation, a Rockefeller Doctoral Fellowship in Religion, and a University of Chicago Divinity School Fellowship.

From 1969 to 1974 she taught in the Department of Religion of Southern Methodist University.

Dr. Schmidt was elected Vice President of the American Academy of Religion's Southwestern Region, and then President. She is a member, also, of the Society for Religion in Higher Education, the American Society of Church History, and the American Historical Association.

She is married to Stephen Schmidt. They and two children will move to Denver during the summer.

## Professor Van Sickle Dies After Sudden Illness

Professor Harold Gordon Van Sickle, a member of the Iliff faculty since September 1, 1952, died on March 17, of the result of a stroke suffered on March 10.

He was the first full time member of the Iliff faculty to die in active service since the death of Professor Albert Behner in 1928.

Memorial services were held at First United Methodist Church of Littleton on March 20, conducted by Iliff President Jameson Jones. Memorial tributes were paid by The Reverend Russel Rehm, Professor Van Sickle's student assistant, and Professor Harvey H. Potthoff.

Mr. Rehm noted how Professor Van Sickle "loved his work, and we, his students, loved him in return, for he was an excellent teacher . . . Leaping back through history with Professor Van Sickle to rel'ive exciting events was a great adventure! He knew how to make it come alive."

Mr. Rehm continued: "He gave great lectures! It was a joy to sit through them. He introduced us to real people,

saints and sinners, and many a bubble was punctured under the pinprick of his wit. I loved to watch his mannerisms — that well-timed pause, that tilted eyebrow, and those funny favorite expressions. He had this one characteristic look that put the capital 'T' on truth in an unforgettable fashion. He lectured honestly; he lived honestly. We students respected him because he was our friend."

Dr. Potthoff spoke of Professor Van Sickle as a Christian scholar who found joy and fulfillment in his calling, and as "a great human being — large in outlook, warm, resilient in spirit, with a wonderful sense of humor that brightened many a committee and faculty meeting."

Dr. Potthoff continued, "He was a great teacher. Possessing a remarkable memory he lectured with a minimum of notes, linking history with the living present, revealing the human side of the persons he was talking about, helping students toward that wisdom which comes only by way of an historical perspective."

Dr. Potthoff spoke of how those on the Iliff faculty held Professor Van Sickle in such high regard, respecting his scholarship, knowing him as a warm and cooperative co-worker who brought dignity and deep dedication to his position. "Gordon Van Sickle was a churchman, deeply committed to what the church at its best represents, but quick to call to account when the church failed to measure up to its calling. His interest in the ecumenical movement and in the world mission of the church bore witness to his vision. To know him and to study with him was to see church, ministry, and mission in a larger way."

Typical of many tributes is that of David F. Woodyard, an Iliff student currently on a full time internship at First United Methodist Church in Seattle, who wrote: "Professor Van Sickle's contribution to both the academic and 'human' dimensions of life at Iliff will be evident even in his physical absence. He truly had a unique talent for wit, humor and

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Harold Gordon Van Sickle



# NEWS OF FACULTY AND ALUMNI

Mrs. Gayle Morris Beam died March 19 in San Diego. Her husband, Dr. Harry Morris, was president of Iliff from June 15, 1942 until his death on February 14, 1946. She is now survived by Dr. Russell Beam of San Diego and two daughters.

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George E. Pennell (BD '20, ThM '23, ThD '31) died in Clarinda, Iowa on April 3. He served churches in Illinois, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska for forty years. He was the author of "J Document" and contributed to several periodicals and volumes of sermons. He was 90 years old.

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Leroy G. Snyder (BD '22) died October 25 at Newton, Kansas.

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Dennis Tenney (BD '29) was appointed by Governor John D. Vanderhoof as Honorary Poet Laureate for the State of Colorado. The Governor's citation said: "In view of your talents and the many contributions you have made to the field of poetic literature," he was making the appointment, and said that Mr. Tenney is "a great asset to the State and an inspiration to all of us."

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Jordan E. Detzer (ThM '51, ThD '53) is the author of a meditation in the current issue of The Upper Room, worldwide inter-denominational devotional guide. He is now working on a new book entitled "Sources of Wisdom."

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Taylor McConnell (ThM '51, ThD '57) is the author of a major volume in the Management and Communications Series edited by George Vardaman at the University of Denver. Dr. McConnell's book, "Group Leadership for Self-Realization," is published by Mason and Lips-



Charles S. Milligan (ThM '42, ThD '52), left, professor of philosophy of religion at Iliff, presents the "Alumnus of the Year" plaque from the Iliff Alumni Association to William C. Tremmel (ThM '44, ThD '50), whose ministry for twenty-five years has been primarily in teaching. He is now professor at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

comb Publishers of New York, and it was the January selection of the Executive Book Club. The book is written for the person whose professional or work responsibilities calls for him or her to lead a small group, but whose professional or job training doesn't provide specific skills of this nature. The book is based on solid

research and theory, but written in the language of persons who are not professionals in the field of group leadership.

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Robert Clazie (ThM '53) is one of 31 United States ministers involved in the ministerial exchange program of the World Methodist Council. He will exchange with the Reverend Charles T. Gill in England for a six weeks period this summer.

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Bruce McConnell (Th '53) will leave a pastorate in Beaverton, Oregon and become Superintendent of the Southern District of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of The United Methodist Church this June. The new address will be 532 C Street, Springfield, Oregon, 97477.

\* \* \* \*

Fred Venable (ThM '55), for eight years pastor of First United Methodist Church, Littleton, Colorado, has been appointed pastor of First United Methodist Church, Boise, Idaho, known as "The Cathedral of the Rockies." The Boise congregation has some 2,200 members. The Venable's new home address is 7680 Cherrywood Drive, Boise, Idaho, 83704.

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William S. Sparks (ThM '54, ThD '57), Librarian of Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Sparks will serve on the Committee on Development.

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Richard L. Phillips (ThM '60) has been elected Executive Director of the American Youth Foundation, a 50 year old non-profit, non-denominational organization conducting educational conferences and programs. The Foundation is an independent

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Gene D. Yelken (MDiv '69), right, pastor of Washington Park United Methodist Church, Denver, presents the "Alumnus of the Year" plaque from the Iliff Alumni Association to Jon R. Nieves (ThM '66), pastor of Brentwood United Methodist Church, Denver, as Jane Nieves looks on. Awards are presented annually at the Alumni Association banquet during the Iliff Week of Lectures.



## ALUMNI NEWS

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organization, but has had relationships with the Danforth family and the Danforth Foundation. The Phillips' family will live in Saint Louis for nine months of the year and at the Foundation's Camp Miniwanca, near Shelby, Michigan, in the summers. For nine years, Dr. Phillips has been at Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, as a member of the faculty and administrator.

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**Elbert C. Cole** (ThD '65), pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, has an article in the March, 1975, issue of the *Interpreter* entitled "An Alternative To Institutional Care." The article describes the Shepherd's Center concept, an ecumenical ministry among older persons in which Dr. Cole has had a major role in establishing and continuing.

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**J. Thomas Bennanzar** (M.Div. '65) has been appointed consultant to the Utah United Ministries Council, effective March 1. He had been pastor of First United Methodist Church, Alamosa, Colorado since 1972. He now directs an ecumenical ministry carried on jointly by United Methodists and Presbyterians in a state where those two denominations comprise about 60 per cent of the total Protestant population. The Bennanzars will live at 1445 East, 9175 South, Sandy, Utah 84070.

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**Binford W. Gilbert** (ThM '58), now on the ministerial staff at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Denver, tomorrow becomes pastor of First United Methodist Church, Alamosa, Colorado.

\* \* \*

"A School of the Prophets at Maryville" is the title of an article written by **Harold M. Parker, Jr.** (ThD '66) in the Spring 1975 issue of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*.

\* \* \*

**Linda and Paul Holland** (M.Div. '74) have a son, **Austin Adams**, born January 27.



**Ransom B. Woods, Jr., Chaplain (Colonel), USAF, Command Chaplain of the Pacific Air Forces, presents to Iliff Professor Harvey H. Potthoff a plaque of appreciation from the Pacific Air Forces. Iliff Professor Oliver Read Whitley, center, and Dr. Potthoff were resource leaders for Protestant Chaplain Career Development Institutes held by the Air Force in Japan and in the Republic of the Philippines during January.**

## Alumni Honor Steve Ailes as Student of Year

Steven Ailes, a senior M.Div. student from Valparaiso, Indiana, was honored by the Iliff Alumni Association as "Student of the Year" for 1974-75.



Ailes

is a probationary member of the North Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. He has served for two years on the staff of Christ United Methodist Church, Denver.

At Iliff he is chairman of the Liaison Committee and one of the student members of the Faculty Council.

Last summer, in Clinical Pastoral Education in Atlanta, he was the only chaplain on duty when Martin Luther King, Sr. was brought to the hospital, and ministered to the family in that tragic situation.

Selection of the "Student of the Year" is made by the Faculty of the School, considering such qualities as scholarship, leadership, service within the life of the School, and promise of future service in the Church.

Steve Ailes is a graduate of Lawrence University. He



## Albert F. Frahm, Long-Time Trustee, Dies in Kansas

Albert F. Frahm, a resident of Colby, Kansas, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Iliff for more than 15 years, died December 31.

Mr. Frahm had a deep interest in education. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of Iliff, he was a leader in his community in helping to establish Colby Community College and served as chairman of its Board of Trustees. He also served on the Board of the Pioneer Library, and helped to promote a great number of other community projects. As a life-long resident of Colby, he won the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

A variety of events have commemorated his life and honored his memory. The latest is an April 3 Albert F. Frahm Memorial Concert sponsored in Colby by Western Plains Art Council.

The activities of The United Methodist Church at Colby were a part of his life and thought. He gave considerable leadership to the church and supported it generously with his time, abilities and resources.

The Memorial Service was held at The United Methodist Church at Colby on January 2. The Reverend Marshall Stanton and The Reverend Donald Blanton (M.Div. '68) conducted the service. In addition to his wife, Helen, Mr. Frahm is survived by a daughter, Sharon, of Colby, three sons, Ronald of Colby, Kenneth of Wichita, and Bruce of the home; and eight grandchildren.



## Prof. Van Sickle Dies After Sudden Illness

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'storytelling' that really brought church history alive for many. I for one am glad to be able to say that Professor Van Sickle had a part in my seminary experience."

Harold Gordon Van Sickle was born in Pondcreek, Oklahoma, September 26, 1910, the son of Roy Scott Van Sickle and Ethelyn Violet White Van Sickle. He was educated at Lon Morris Junior College, Southwestern University, Yale University Divinity School, and the Graduate School of the University of Texas.

He was ordained a minister of The Methodist Church in 1940. He served five years as a pastor in Texas. He then began a distinguished teaching career, including faculty appointments at Tulane University, the University of Texas, and the University of Denver. At the time of his death, he was Professor of Christian History and Missions at Iliff.

He served as a Navy Chaplain in the Pacific Theater, World War II. He was a member of the Southwest Texas Conference, The United Methodist Church. He was active in civic and community affairs, and a member of numerous professional associations and societies. He traveled extensively speaking, lecturing, and conferring with national leaders and missions leaders around the world.

He married Iva Loretta Henly, who survives him, on June 8, 1937. Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Iras Crymble of Carbondale, Colorado; Mrs. Janet Kalinski, Boulder, Colorado; his mother, four brothers, an aunt, two cousins, two grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

It was his request that any memorial contributions be made to The Iliff School of Theology to provide scholarships for students. The Harold Gordon Van Sickle Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established and will be continued in his memory.



Ron Page, left, receives from Iliff President Jameson Jones the Louis A. Haruf Memorial Award for 1975. The Haruf award, in memory of the Rocky Mountain Conference minister and Iliff graduate of 1933, is given to a senior student at Iliff who is entering the parish ministry in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Ron Page is from Glenwood Springs, Colorado, a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, now in his fifth year as pastor at Platteville, Colorado.

## Seven Students Receive Honors

Several student awards were announced by Dr. Jameson Jones at a President's Convocation March 6.

Each year, the student body votes to choose those students who will be included in "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." This year, Iliff had six students so honored:

Steven Ailes, 3rd year M.Div. student from Valparaiso, Indiana.

Rinya Burrill, 3rd year M.Div. student from Port Byron, Illinois.

David Conner, 3rd year M.Div. student from Jackson, Mississippi.

Michael Hartman, 2nd year M.Div. student from Indianapolis, Indiana.

Charles Mingle, 3rd year M.Div. student from Guymon, Oklahoma.

John Pascoe, 3rd year M.Div. student from Perry, New York.

The American Bible Society Scripture Award, for excellence in biblical studies, was presented to Judy Orr, a 3rd year M.Div. student from Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Harvey H. Potthoff Scholarship Award, given by Dr. Carl J. Potthoff in honor of his brother, to encourage excellence in ministry, was presented this year to two students. Awards of \$500 each were designated by the Faculty for Rinya Burrill and David Conner.

### From

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