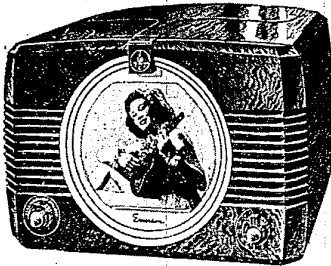




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Early Ministerial Start Narrates Biography Of Dr. Adams In History Of Universalist Church

VIII. — DR. ADAMS

(EDITOR'S NOTE — The Universalist Church at Warner and Thomas Streets, Farmington's oldest house of worship, is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1952. Apropos of this centennial, The Farmington Enterprise is publishing a series of articles on the church's history, of which this is the eighth. Reprints of the entire series, in booklet form, may be obtained from Chester E. Downing, R.F.D. No. 4, Farmington.

For more than a quarter-century the Farmington church has had as its mentor one of the shining lights of all Universalist history, a world traveler, author, scholar and peerless pulpit orator — the Rev. Frank Durward Adams, D.D.

His influence began to be exercised even before the expiration of Dr. Beresford's pastorate, for from his acceptance of the ministry at the Church of Our Father in 1923 Dr. Adams was a frequent visitor in Farmington.

He became a part-time pastor here after the departure of Dr. Beresford and has served the church ever since, sometimes traveling hundreds of miles to fulfill the obligation.

Frank D. Adams was not originally a Universalist. Members of his family, which was descended from THE Adamsons of New England, were Methodists and Second Adventists. At the age of 16 Frank joined a Congregational church in his native state, Iowa.

He was graduated from high school on a Wednesday, and on the next Sunday he preached, as a licensed but not ordained minister, in the Congregational Church at Big Rock, Scott County, Iowa. For a year he was the acting minister at that church, supplementing his income by teaching school.

He went to college and obtained his bachelor of arts degree at Dixon, a master's degree in letters at Iowa Christian College and a bachelor of divinity degree at Ryder Divinity School (later Meadville), where the doctor of divinity degree was subsequently conferred on him.

At the age of 29 he was ordained a Universalist minister. That was in 1905. Before assuming the pastorate of the Church of Our Father he served as minister at Avon and Urbana, Illinois, Indianapolis, Spokane, Washington, and Elgin, Illinois, besides serving as a first lieutenant (infantry) and instructor in the OTC, U. S. Army, during the first World War.

One of the highlights of his civilian career was his chairmanship of Mayor Frank Murphy's Unemployment committee in Detroit from 1931 to 1933.

He was the first State chaplain of the Illinois Department of the American Legion and has served as president of the Illinois Universalist Conference and of the Universalist Church of America, and as trustee of Lombard College. He has been president of the Michigan Universalist Convention since 1949 and is a member of the Universalist-Universalist Joint Commission organizing and incorporating the Free Church of America.

When Dr. Adams left the Church of Our Father in 1935 to assume the pastorate of the Unity Church at Oak Park, Illinois, he did not resign his part-time pastorate in Farmington, and at the urgent request of Ida Steele, the church secretary, he came here from Oak Park at least once a month to preach.

In 1945 he returned to Michigan to become minister of the Lansing Universalist Church and continued to fill the Farmington pulpit, usually on alternate Sunday evenings.

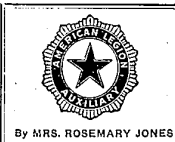
A heart attack suffered on one of his trips from his Pine Lake home to Lansing was a severe blow to his aspirations but in some ways a blessing to the Farmington church.

For although he was obliged to resign the Lansing pastorate, he has been able since his recovery to preach regularly in Farmington.

Perhaps the principal obstacle to growth of the Farmington church had been the fact that for years the small congregation had been unable to provide regular preaching services.

Now, fortunately, Dr. Adams occupies the pulpit every Sunday morning. His scintillating sermons, far above the caliber of others ordinarily heard in Farmington, are a powerful force working for the growth of the church.

In 1949 the Farmington meeting-house was extensively remodeled. The building was turned so the narrow faces Warner Street, and a modern heating plant was installed. A higher foundation had been laid. (Continued on Page Four)



By MRS. ROSEMARY JONES

Election of officers was held at the regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, unit 246, on August 13.

New president for the coming year will be Mrs. Mary Willard. Mrs. Mary Markel was elected first vice-president; Mrs. Florence Alt, second vice-president; Mrs. Jean Bennet, Chaplain; Mrs. Jean Niles, secretary; Mrs. Zella Nourjan, treasurer; Mrs. Lulu Schaeffer, Historian; Mrs. Daisy Aland, sergeant at arms; Mrs. Beatrice Carpenter, Mrs. Ada Goers and Mrs. Mattie DeVriendt, members of the executive board.

The new officers will be installed with the new Legion Post officers on September 29 at 8:30 p.m. Following the installation ceremony, a pot luck luncheon will be served. On September 7 new officers for the 17th District will be installed at the American Legion Home in Royal Oak. The affair will begin at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Peg Hupert and Mrs. Marjorie McKeegan gave a complete report on the 32nd state American Legion convention held in Detroit August 2 through 5.

The local Auxiliary unit needs many new members. Come to our next meeting, September 10, at 8 p.m., get acquainted with the members, and have luncheon with us. Following the meeting you will find the various social activities awaiting you this coming year. Perhaps you enjoy bowling. Mrs. Trema Quinn, who is secretary of the bowling league, will gladly sign you up. We have a beautiful Legion Memorial Home in Farmington, and we are very proud of it, yet it takes many, many members to keep it going. So come on, join the American Legion Post 346, or the Legion Auxiliary unit, and enjoy this beautiful memorial home with us.

ATTENDS COUNCIL

Mrs. Clifford Mortimer attended the National Home Demonstration Council at East Lansing the week of August 13. She also stayed over for the Country Women's Council which followed.

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Extension Group Women Donate Food At 4-H Fair

Members of the Farmington Eight Mile Extension Women's group, with the help of the Wapren and Greenbriar Extension groups, donated, cooked and served lunch Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. at the 4-H Fair at Belleville.

Persons from the Farmington group were Miss Florence Ackery, Mrs. Leo Blatter, Mrs. E. Marks, Mrs. William Brock, Mrs. William Thornton, Mrs. S. Palmer, Mrs. J. Clifford and Mrs. F. Platz.

After expenditures are paid, the residue of funds taken in each day by other Wayne County Extension groups will be reserved for a home demonstration building on the Fair grounds.

IT'S A GIRL!

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Page have an eight pound, three ounce daughter, Karen Grace, born Wednesday, August 15. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Workman of Farmington and Mr. Carl Page of Detroit.

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TO HOLD PICNIC
The North Farmington District Civic Association will hold its fourth annual family picnic Sunday, August 25, at the Farmington City Park. It will be an all-day affair, starting at 11:30 a.m. Charles P. Wissinger, the general chairman, reports that games and contests especially for children, with feature prizes, will be among the features. Softball and horse-shoe pitching are on the program. Free pop will be provided for children.

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Sunday, September 9

AUG. 31-SEPT. 9
DETROIT

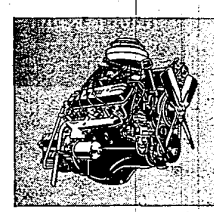
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