

LETTERS

RUGGED RESTORATION

What a wonderful tribute was made to one of the great hymns of the Christian faith, when "Sanctuary for an Old Rugged Church" (Fall 1999) appeared, telling of the initiative which has been made to restore the wooden church in Pokagon, Mich. (close to Andrews University—only 20-30 minutes away!), where the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" was first sung in its entirety, with the author Rev. George Bennard, introducing the hymn to the congregation.

I congratulate Madeline Johnston for the magnificent view of the church--as it reflects ages, with the cross standing tall in the center of the picture.

In 1998, my husband and I were privileged to attend the 85th commemorative celebration of this glorious hymn's debut. The celebration included the worship service, choir and orchestra music, congregational singing, cross-centered preaching, a touch of the Pokagon historical site, and stories from those from the past who could tell of family memories involving this hymn.

For all Christians everywhere, it is significant that today a group of committed people, under the leadership of Andrews alumnus Melchizedek

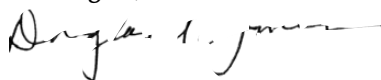
Letters to FOCUS are welcome and should be sent to Editor, FOCUS, Office of University Relations, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1000 or by e-mail to <douglas@andrews.edu> with "Letter to the FOCUS Editor" on the subject line. The editors reserve the right to edit for content, style and space. Opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily shared by the editors or university officers.

FROM THE EDITOR. . . .

I want to thank the FOCUS readers who have sent in voluntary contributions to our publishing fund. With the generous support of such alumni and friends, we have been able to upgrade one of our computers and thus make our production and layout time much easier.

It's generous supporters of Andrews University like you who make such an important difference in the day-to-day business of Andrews. You're helping make a great place *even greater!*

Thanks again,



Ponniah, are planning to restore and preserve the original church, which was built in 1862. We are sending a check with this letter, which we ask you to pass on to the Old Rugged Cross Association. We can all help in preserving this treasure of hymnody for Christians everywhere. Sacred and special indeed is the presence of the great hymns of the faith in our worship experience. We want to encourage all in their love and appreciation for our legacy of hymns of faith.

*Elsie L. Buck (BA '43, MMus '64)
President, International Adventist
Musicians Association
Berrien Springs, Mich.*

NAME GAME

In scanning the list of donors for 1931 and 1934 in last issue's Annual Report, I came across an unfamiliar name, Mabel Lee. With my vast store of superior knowledge I was able to identify this person as me. But I doubt if anyone else was able to do so.

My first name is Mabel, but since my mother was Mabel Wakeham, I never used it, even as an initial, except for

Social Security and a passport.

My fellow alumni, my thousands of students during 45 years of teaching, and the readers of my books and articles all knew me as Irene Wakeham.

Several years into retirement I became Irene Wakeham Lee. Since you don't use maiden names, I suggest at least you list me as Irene Lee.

I notice my fellow classmate, "Robert" McAllister, always went by the name Kirk. That is a risk one takes when not using his first name.

Since I grew up on the campus of EMC as the daughter of W. H. Wakeham, who is honored with a window in Pioneer Hall, the place holds many fond memories for me. I look forward to attending the seventieth anniversary of my '31 graduation next year and hopefully of my BA graduation in '04. Although I realize that many of my fellow alumni are either underground or in nursing homes, the Lord has blessed me with good health, and I anticipate a good many years of activity.

*Irene Wakeham Lee (DP '31, BA '34)
Coalmont, Tenn.*