TNS

1991
CONVENTION

Spiritualism is the science, philosophy, and religion of continuous life

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FOREIGN

The National Spiritualist Summit

SPECIAL 1991 CONVENTION EDITION



— 99th Annual N.S.A.C. Convention —
Orlando, Florida

99th ANNUAL N.S.A.C. CONVENTION

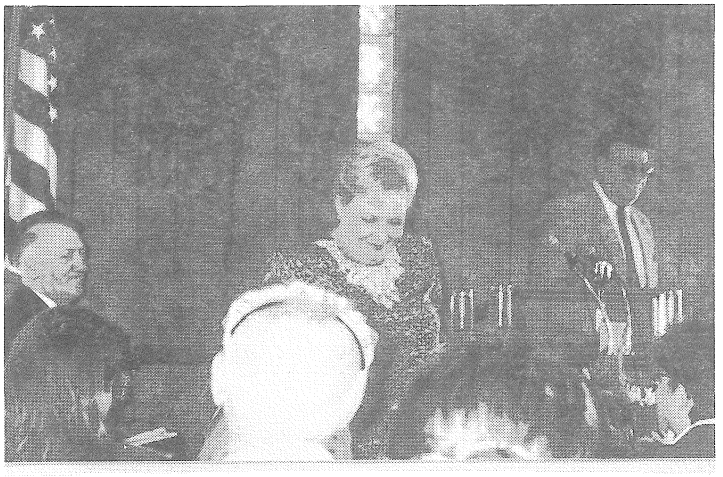
It is time to take pen in hand *(symbolically, for I use the computer)* and write for the readers a brief review of the convention just completed in Orlando, Florida. It is all so fresh in my mind, yet by the time this is off the press, into the mail and reaches you the reader, it will be December.

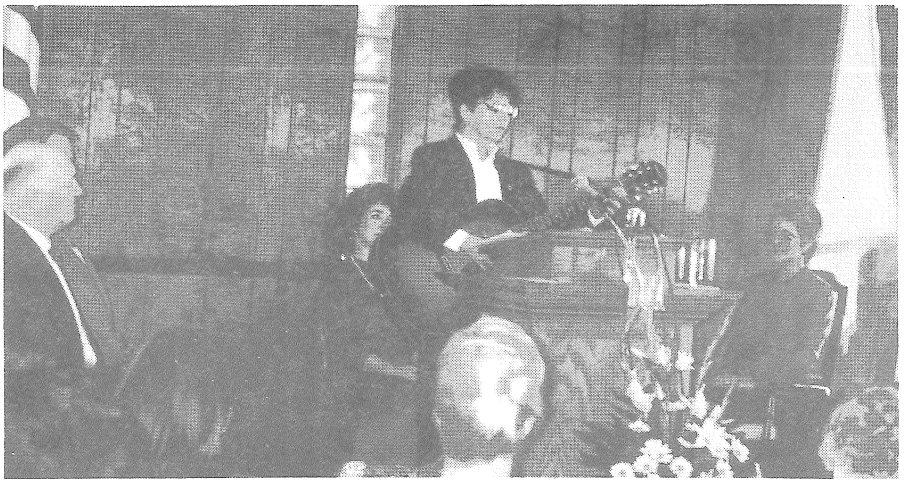
The work for the convention was begun years ago by the Florida Committee with Jeannie Lerch and Ann Otzelberger as Co-Chairman. The entire group of workers from the host church, Spiritualist Church of Awareness, N.S.A.C. must be commended for a job well done.

A week before the convention the Board of Directors of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches arrives and begins to work, attending to important matters of the Association.

Sunday morning found most of the Board Members and early arrivals carpooled to the Spiritualist Church of Awareness, N.S.A.C. in Orlando. A lovely service was presented with several of the National Board as the guest workers and Jeannie Lerch as Chairman. The lecture was given by the Rev. Alfred Conner, with the Reverend's Bernard Baker, Brenda Wittich and Paul Spencer participating as clairvoyants. Ann Otzelberger was presented her healing certificate by the Rev. Baker at the service. Refreshments were served after church.







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rev. Joseph H. Merrill

To the delegates assembled at the 99th Annual Convention of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches...Greetings...

It is that time of year again when we want to welcome you to Vacationland and express our deep appreciation to the Spiritualist Church of Awareness for their tireless efforts to make this convention a success. It is not a difficult task as far as laborious work is concerned, but it is time consuming with many hours of planning and to the hosts we say, *"It's a job well done."*

It has been a trying year for the National office having to move from Cassadaga because of the condition of the building as well as the general atmosphere for Spiritualism and as reports are given we feel sure that approval will be given by the delegates for making the change.

First, we commend those responsible for the improvement of our monthly magazine and with this improvement more subscriptions will be noted.

We followed the action of the Committee for Guidelines to a Course of Study to be owned and managed by the N.S.A.C. and a meeting was held at Lily Dale at a time during the Pastoral Skills Course with James Kiepper, Associate Professor at the University of Albany who has had a thirty year interest in Spiritualism and discussed the plans and we were given the name of the group which would review the Course of Study from an academic standpoint and give approval. The group is a branch of the State Board of Regents - National Program on Non-Collegiate Sponsored Instruction. This is of course, an undertaking that cannot be completed in a short time.

A Missionary program has been sorely neglected and action must be taken to activate a program for ailing Churches. Church leadership is largely responsible for growth or decline in the local areas.

The Lyceum Department has been active this year as you will know by the Lyceum Superintendent's report.

As pointed out earlier in this report - it has been a trying year, not only for the National Office but for your National Board as well. It is expected that with a nine member Board there will be difference of opinion, but when it comes to creating a schism it is time to look within and think of the good for all instead of personal desires. We have come to the time when we, the National Spiritualist Association of Churches must look ourselves in the mirror and seek guidance of those in the greater world of spirit for direction, for the recent past has put us at the crossroads. While there will be disagreement on this, actions speak louder than words. In the words of Milan C. Edson, given at the organizational convention of Spiritualists - *"No great work can be accomplished without harmonious co-operation."* In the first half of the 19th century almost no religious denomination believed in the possibility of communion with those who had passed; the writings of Andrew Jackson Davis aroused the attention of thinking men and the term **"Spiritualism"** came into being. In searching for thoughts to bring to your attention we came across a Census of Religious Bodies in 1926 prepared by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census which states, *"In 1926 the only organized Spiritualist body was the National Spiritualist Association."* The Principal Statistics as reported in 1926 showed that the NSA listed 543 Churches - 41,255 members and 86 reported Sunday Schools (Lyceums) and 29 States with NSA Churches. With this report we cannot be criticized for wondering what has happened. Several Spiritualist organizations have appeared on the scene and there is a tendency within the organization to make Spiritualism a Sectarian religion and Spiritualism is **NOT** Sectarian for the knowledge of continuous life and the relationship of one with the Infinite will not be confined to a Sectarian thought. The NSA brought individuals from **ALL** creeds for a purpose. In a world of changing standards where the religious impact is lessening, especially in the minds of the young people, it is time to re-assess Spiritualism as a moral force for good in the world. Spiritualism does not preach platitudes but facts that have been proven, and in the minds of many, was the incorporation of the term *"of Churches"* in the name of the organization, a really progressive step. All progress is within the balancing of two great forces - Constructiveness and Destructiveness. Is it possible that we are legislating ourselves out of business? Is it the fact that we are trying to force individuals to think as we think? We must protect ourselves from the tendency which leads to becoming a dogmatic and a Creedal religion.

In the world today more people are becoming knowledgeable about Spiritualism than ever before. Organizations have come into existence that are less restrictive yet teach the Philosophy and practice the Phenomena of Spiritualism as we do in the N.S.A.C.

It is true that we can use the battle cry of the recent past and say, *"We shall overcome some day,"* but in doing so we must put aside our ego and stop the politicization that exists in the organization and work for the good of the whole before real progress will be brought about and this cannot come in the next three years as is thought by a few.

This is a serious message, but is very meaningful.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Joseph H. Merrill, President

WELCOME RECEPTION





Ann and Jeannie

The Spiritualist Church of Awareness would like to thank everyone who helped in so many ways to make the N.S.A.C. Convention in Orlando such a success. We especially appreciate those of you who helped (often at the last minute) to fill a need, as well as those of you who brought items for the Ways & Means table. Everyone worked together so beautifully - it really was a lovely demonstration of Spiritualism as a way of life. Thank you all!

In love and light,
Jeannie Lerch and Ann Otzelberger



SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

Sunday Afternoon was the traditional renewing of friendships at the Welcome Reception hospitality hour, hosted by the Florida convention committee.



You're looking good!



Really? When?





The Rev. Brenda Wittich

Sunday evening, Oct. 6, was the first church service of the convention. It is customary that the Board of Directors are the workers for this service. This year the lecture was given by The Rev. Evelyn Muse, the chairman was the Rev. Conner, the message bearers were the Rev. Brenda Wittich, the Rev. Joseph Sax, and the Rev. Patricia Smith.



The Reverends Sax and Smith.



The Rev. Pat Smith



The Reverends Merrill, Muse, and Sax.

MONDAY ACTIVITIES

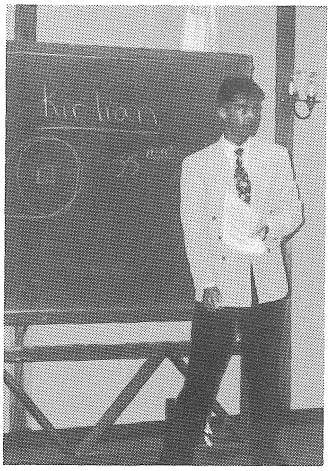
Bright and early Monday morning the Seminar's began. At 8:30 the Healers League presented Healing Energies which was filmed for the archives by the Bureau of Public Relations. The presenters were the Rev. William Buchholz, Jr., Sandra Pfortmiller, NST, the Rev. Arlene Sikora, NST and the president of the club, Gene Pfortmiller, NST. The participants especially enjoyed the toning exercises where they could feel the healing energies.



William Buchholz, Arlene Sikora, Gene Pfortmiller, and Sandra Pfortmiller.



Dorothy Buss and Arlene Sikora.



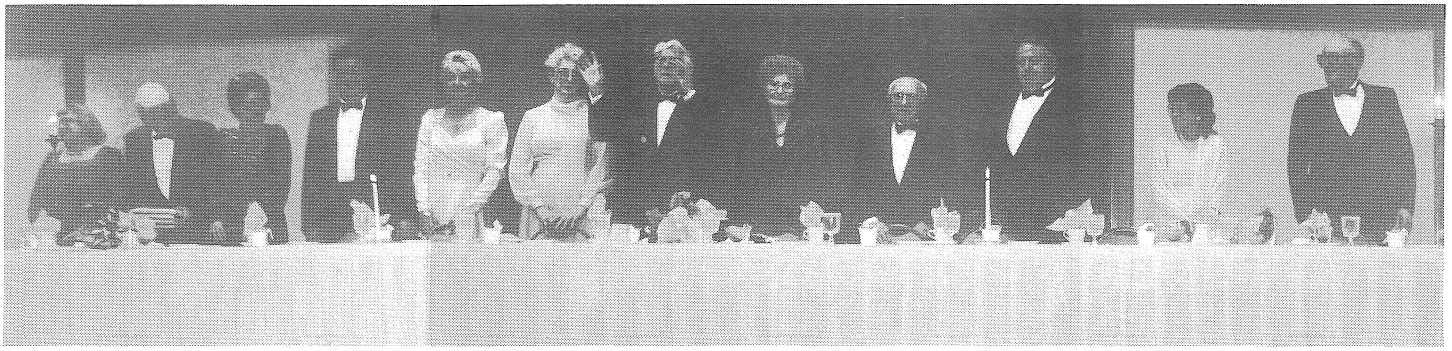
Stephen Robinson

Next the NST Club offered a two part workshop. The Rev. Arlene Sikora, NST spoke about Presenting a Workshop. She gave practical examples and possible demonstrations that could be used. The Rev. Stephen Robinson, NST, talked about the aura, Kirlian photography and showed slides.

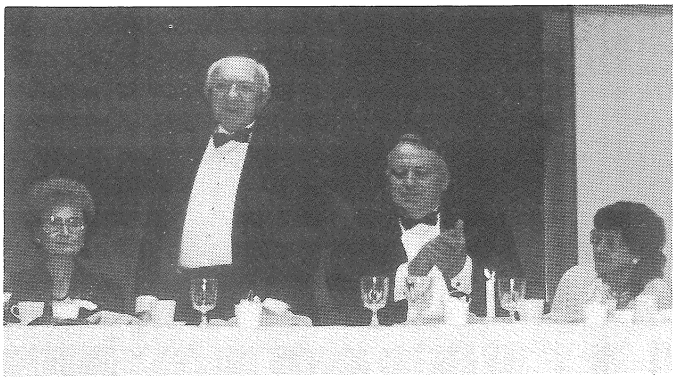
After a lunch break, the Ministerial Association, the Rev. Barbara Thurman, NST presenter, talked about Fund Raising Activities for the churches. The workshop was completed by dividing into groups to share other ideas that each church has used successfully and to suggest some new possibilities. This was also recorded for future use.



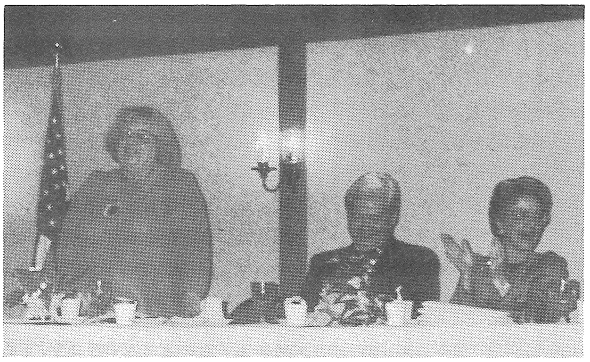
N.S.A.C. BANQUET

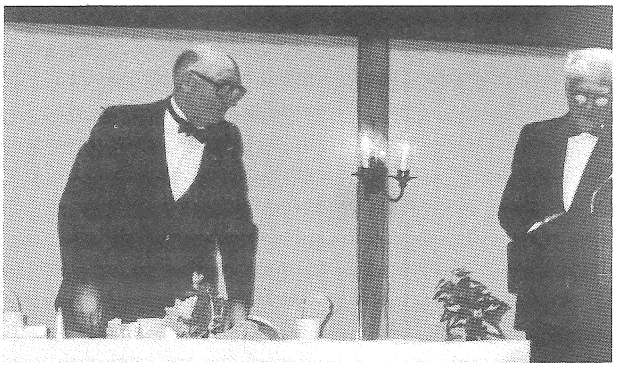


THE N.S.A.C. BOARD









The delegates gathered in their finery to enjoy an evening of relaxation, honoring, greetings and fun. The Welcome Address to the delegates was given by Jeannie Lerch of Orlando, Florida. The Rev. Joseph Merrill gave the response, part of which included a kiss on the cheek of Jeannie.



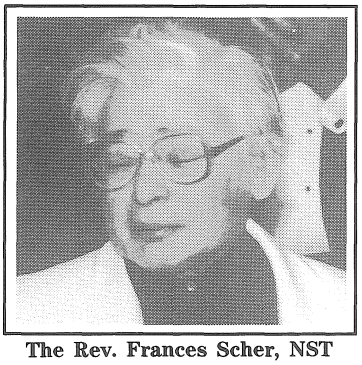
BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS



The Rev. Brenda Wittich, Bureau of Public Relations Chairman Awards Presentation.

The Bureau of Public Relations Chairman, the Rev. Brenda Wittich presented the 1991 N.S.A.C. Awards for Outstanding Spiritualist Endeavors. There are three award categories presented each year.

This year however, there were two *Teachers Awards.* One was presented to **the Rev. Arlene Sikora, NST,** for her excellent teachings of classes, seminars and workshops both in her church and surrounding areas, plus churches and organizations in other states around the country (including a teaching cruise in the Caribbean). Arlene is a tireless worker for the cause of Spiritualism and we are thankful for such a knowledgeable, dedicated educator in our organization.



The Rev. Frances Scher, NST

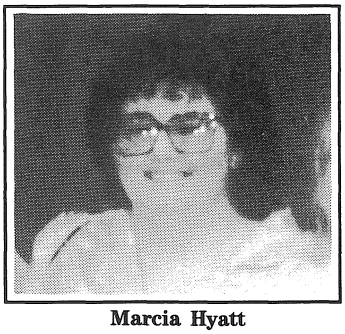
The second *Teachers Award* was presented to the **Michigan State Spiritualists Association of Churches.** Michigan has been a frontrunner in education, presenting education for Spiritualists, as well as for exposing the public to the Science, Philosophy and Religion of Spiritualism. (Three National Lyceum Superintendents found their home in Michigan; the Reverends Anna Gillespie, Ethel McClain, and Norma McDerment.) M.S.S.A.C. received this award due to its extensive, comprehensive teaching program of many years. The president of M.S.S.A.C., Marcia Hyatt, accepted the award for all Michigan educators. *Keep up the good work!*



The Rev. Arlene Sikora

The Literary Award was given to **the Rev. Frances Scher, NST** as well as the *Lifetime Service Award.* The delegates and guests were most pleased with this selection and gave an emotional Frances a standing ovation with each award. Rev. Scher has been continuous in her efforts to support and promote Spiritualism. Just a few of her achievements are the founder of two churches, taught classes and trained numerous workers in Pure Spiritualism, served as President of the California State Spiritualist Assoc., published a book, *"Spiritualism and Mediumship Studies,"* and continues to write articles for *The National Spiritualist - Summit Magazine.*

. . . All Spiritualists thank you!



Marcia Hyatt

MEETING AND GREETING DELEGATES AND GUESTS!













GOOD TIMES!











LASTING MEMORIES!











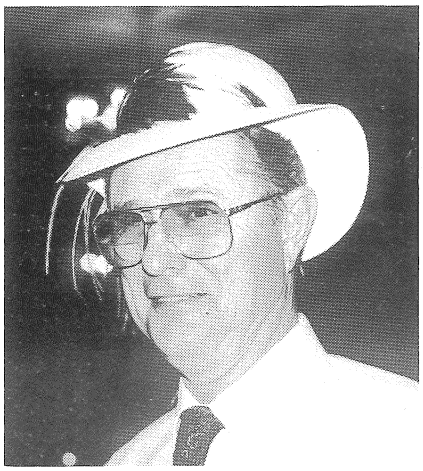
PASS THE HAT FOR FUN AND LAUGHS!



Jan



Sandy and Gene



Tom





Pat



Joan and Mary



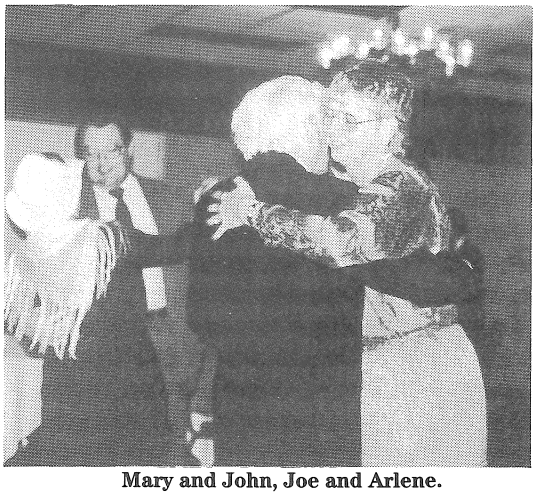
Ann and Bernard

GETTING TOGETHER





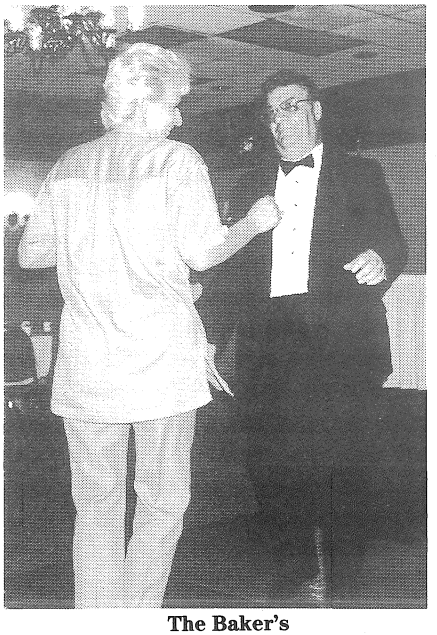
The Entertainment Master of Ceremonies at the banquet festivities was Steven Zepp. **Yesterday's Angels** gave us some great harmony. The old familiar songs were sung by Shirley Hoeft, Marge Robb and Bobbie Stewart. A magician team, **The Markos,** created illusions and involved the audience.



Mary and John, Joe and Arlene.



The Smith's



The Baker's

Dancing to the excellent rhythm and variety of The Rae Heath Trio completed a wonderful evening.





Jan, Ron, Jeannie and Gene.

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Rev. Sharon L. Lynch

To the Officers and Delegates of the 99th Annual Convention of the N.S.A.C., October 1991.

Greetings . . .

Once again it is a pleasure to meet with you and to report on the various activities of your National office. It has indeed been a very busy and active year filled with changes, which I believe will prove to be most productive and beneficial for our organization.

As the time for the reception of the Church Annual Reports drew near, once again we saw that many Churches were still having a great deal of difficulty with the August 15th deadline date. For that reason I have requested that a By-Law change be presented at this convention to revert back to the original August 31st date. It is hoped that this change will make the filing of these reports much easier for our Churches.

Statistics can be a very tedious chore for many, however they are of vital importance to any organization. I have therefore also requested the presentation of several new forms which it is hoped will expedite the process and will make reporting easier and more timely.

The N.S.A.C. Church Handbook has been currently updated and contains all forms necessary to the Church Secretary's office. These forms as of the 1990 Convention may be photocopied or they may be secured from the N.S.A.C. office. Again we do ask that all renewals be accompanied by the N.S.A.C. renewal forms as the information on these is invaluable to the updating of our records.

As to the state of the N.S.A.C. office, I have several important changes to announce. The most evident of these is the relocation of the N.S.A.C. General Headquarters office from Cassadaga, Florida to Lily Dale, New York.

As the necessity of a move drew closer and closer, and after several conference calls with the Board of Directors, a property had been located in Orange City, Florida which seemed to not only be serviceable to our needs, but provided extra office space which could readily be utilized. Rev. Merrill was given permission by our Board to make the trip to Florida to review the property and was also very favorably impressed. As closing drew nearer it was discovered that the building had suffered from termite damage which would have been very costly to repair and the purchase offer was terminated.

Again conference calls were arranged with the N.S.A.C. Board and each Board member was to look in their area to see if a suitable building could be found. It was often found that prices for the purchase of a property large enough to house the N.S.A.C. office were exorbitant to say the least. As an end result, two properties were finally decided upon. One being in Tacoma, Washington and the other at Lily Dale, New York. The Tacoma property being a few minutes drive from Camp Edgewood and the Lily Dale property being in the Camp proper.

Following the investigation of both properties, the majority of the N.S.A.C. Board voted to move the N.S.A.C. General Headquarters office to Lily Dale. This move was then made the end of April, a few weeks after our Spring Board meeting.

On May 2nd the moving company arrived in Lily Dale with 35,000 pounds of records and equipment. The massive job of setting up the office and making it operational began. We had hired Joyce LaJudice to manage our Book Store and with her help and the help of our Bookkeeper and several others, the office was operational by the end of the week. To date, due to the work being conducted in the office, we have not been able to unpack and set up the Archival files, records or paintings. Many of these have remained boxed from when the N.S.A.C. made its move to Florida from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Due to the Historical significance of these documents, this work of necessity remains to be accomplished. So far, however, we have discovered one painting by the Bang sisters.

The Florida property is currently in the final stages of being sold and we do have a backup purchase contract which will automatically be implemented pending any eventuality.

July and August brought about, at the N.S.A.C. Boards request, an unqualified Audit by the Accounting firm of Johnson, Mackowiak, Moore and Myott, CPA which we have hired as Accountants for the N.S.A.C. For three weeks representatives of this firm worked in our office doing field work to accomplish this task. It was with a feeling of great accomplishment that we were able to produce all requested documents and information. The final report from the Accountants which you will review at this Convention was delivered into our hands on August 31st, along with several suggestions which could raise the efficiency of our efforts. These are currently being implemented. I wish to extend our thanks to those of you who were sent letters of validation from our Accountants and responded so promptly. This information was of invaluable aid to them in their work.

At last years' Convention I had reported to you that the N.S.A.C. had held a trial but that the trial results were being withheld pending a settlement agreement. I am sorry to say that the settlement did not occur. Announcement of the trial results were then published in the May 1991 issue of *The National Spiritualist Magazine.* To date we are still involved in a serious litigation concerning these events in an effort to save Camp Edgewood, N.S.A.C. in the State of Washington. We have been working with attorneys for well over a year to this end and the last two months have especially been filled with the securing of records and documents for the Federal Litigation which is yet to come. Some of these documents go back to the inception of the NSA and it has often required the aid of all office personnel to accomplish the task at hand. The list of documents and books required seems endless. I am pleased to announce that within this past week settlement has been reached and the deed to Camp Edgewood should shortly be given to the N.S.A.C.

Last year I said we had 11 Camps reporting in the entire United States. As you can see, even the loss of one Spiritualist Camp would be a severe detriment to the N.S.A.C. and Spiritualism in general. Often it is seen that the first contact an individual has with Spiritualism is through visiting a Spiritualist Camp.

Through all of this the daily work of the office continued with all efforts to remain as timely in our responses to requests as possible. Some things of

necessity had to be put on hold but were responded to as soon as it was possible to do so. If there was a delay in our response we ask your understanding and offer our apologies but it was unavoidable.

Our computer remains our invaluable asset and our bookkeeper. Peggy Lelonek not only attends to the Bookkeeping for the N.S.A.C. but also has put on the Computer much of the free literature that we distribute for the Stow Foundation. This has saved the Stow Foundation a great deal of funds that otherwise would have been used for printing. Peggy has also computerized the updates to our *"Constitution and By-Laws,"* the *"Year Book"* and is currently working on inserting the updates of our *"Church Handbook"* and the many forms that are used in our office. Placing these on Computer has produced a clear copy which we can then photostat and again has produced considerable savings in printing costs.

A major project this year has been the production and update of the *"N.S.A.C. Manual."* It soon became evident that the rising printing costs were going to double the price of our Manual. In an effort to keep the cost of purchase as low as possible, the manual was put on computer as it was to be printed. A computer generated copy of the Manual and computer disk were then sent to the printer. From this he was able to feed this information directly from the computer disk to his typesetting machine which saved us over $1,500.00 in publication costs.

We are currently following the same procedure for the republication of the *"Lyceum Manual."*

We are trying our best to keep the cost of these books as low as possible but with the large increase in publishing costs since our last printing, massive jumps in cost are being seen.

Joyce LaJudice, who has been working in our Book Store at the N.S.A.C. office again has been an invaluable asset. She single handily organized the N.S.A.C. research library, locating numerous treasures for us and making them accessible. We have had 7 professional researchers at our library and received many helpful hints as to the value and preservation of our books. We learned that of Andrew Jackson Davis' *"Univercoleum"* there were only 8 copies known to exist. We found two complete copies which now raises that number to 10. We were told by a lady who works at the Library of Congress that we house many volumes on Spiritualism that even the Library of Congress does not have. We indeed have a unique treasure.

A walking stick was also found with a plate which read, *"This walking stick was the property of General Andrew Jackson."* Stonewall Jackson, President of the United States, gave this walking stick to Andrew Jackson Davis.

Joyce also ran numerous copies of the free literature which we distribute for Stow. It is estimated that during the Lily Dale Camp season a minimum of 1,000 copies per week had been distributed to new comers to Lily Dale and to Spiritualism, during a 9 week period.

This does not count the copies of free literature picked up at our office by the various Camps and N.S.A.C. Churches or the copies mailed to Churches.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank two very special people who with regularity graciously donated their time to help at the N.S.A.C. office. Pauline Kay of Canada and England who donated three hours a day folding free literature. And Juanita Wagoner of Lockport, New York who donated one to two days per week folding our free literature and typing catalogue file cards for our library. Thanks to Juanita, our Library is currently catalogued in alphabetical order by Author.

Under Joyce's supervision, the Book Store sales have again increased dramatically. Our profit margin is up due to the increased number of sales and new outlets.

Statistically there are also many events which have occurred within the organization during this past year.

Ordinations Conferred:

Rev. Georgia Milton, Iowa
Rev. Sandra Dawson, California
Rev. Lillian Johanson, Washington
Rev. Rupert Sigurdsson, Maine
Rev. John Guthrie, California
Rev. Helene Martin Guthrie, California
Rev. Linda Schneider, California

Ordained Ministered graduating to the higher expression of life include:

Rev. Norma McDerment, Michigan
Rev. Elizabeth Lannon, Ohio
Rev. Elmer Actkinson, Texas
Rev. Virginia Leach Falls, Indiana

To each of these we extend our thanks and love for the service which they have freely given and wish them a Blessed progression in their new lives. Their work among us will long be remembered and we wish them love for the privilege of allowing us to touch their lives.

5 examinations are being given by your N.S.A.C. Board at this convention:

4 for Ordination; 1 for NST;

Licentiate Ministers Certificates have been earned during this past year by:

Stephen Herman, Washington, D.C.
Bonnie Horstman, Iowa
Nancy Pitman, Texas
Catherine Snell, New York

Commissioned as Spiritualist Healers:

Rupert Sigurdsson, Maine
Kenneth Wingood, Massachusetts
E. Ann Otzelberger, Florida

Certified as Mediums:

Linda Schneider, California
Catherine Sneller, New York

National Spiritualist Teachers Degrees were granted to:

Sandra Pfortmiller, Arizona
Gene Pfortmiller, Arizona
Pamla Ashlay-Lehrer, Minnesota
Sandra Dawson, California
Rupert Sigurdsson, Maine

Two permanent Ordinations were approved in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws and were granted to:

Rev. Betty Putnam, New York
Rev. Stanley Gutt, Michigan

Honorary Life Memberships were granted to:

Rev. Alfred Conner
Jack Henderson
Sadie Marvell Francisco
Alwin Hasler

Added to our Memorial Plaque was:

Joseph Stopa, Illinois

Charters continuing on inactive status:

—First Spiritualist Church of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
—First Spiritualist Church of Blackwell, Blackwell, Oklahoma

Charters removed, canceled or returned:

—State Spiritualist Association of Washington
—First Spiritualist Church of Elgin, Illinois

Changes in Name of Churches filed:

—Fourth Spiritualist Church, Camden, New Jersey **TO** Church of Eternal Life, N.S.A.C.
—Capital District Spiritualist Church, New York **TO** Capital District Spiritualist Center, N.S.A.C.
—Christian Metaphysical Chapel, Norfolk, Virginia **TO** The Memorial Spiritual Church, N.S.A.C.

Certificate renewals to date. These do not include Ordained Ministers who hold Mediums or Healers Certifications at the time of Ordination:

Licentiate Ministers	60
Commissioned Healers and Certified Mediums	214
Ordinations	51

Office statistics:

Letters received in office	3,356	Incoming Telephone Calls:	1,174
Letters Outgoing	8,744	Outgoing Telephone Calls:	1,016

Visitors in office:

127 since our move to Lily Dale. A few of these were from Churches, seven to do research and the rest were newcomers to Spiritualism seeking information.

Books reprinted this year:

—Encyclopedia of Biblical Spiritualism - Moses Hull
—7 of the Peggy Barnes Books
—N.S.A.C. Manual

In an effort for the N.S.A.C. Board to remain in closer contact with State Association and Individual Churches we have issued the Presidents Monthly Newsletter, and have had a very active Public Relations Department as you will see. We do hope that these have been informative and helpful to you. From the office of the Secretary I have included in these mailings any pertinent information which I thought may have been of some help or interest.

The Desert Storm list of service men and women in the Middle East met with the greatest of response and to each of you, thank you for all you have done. Many of these young people were from our own Churches and from several of these I have been asked to extend to all of you their gratitude for your loving support and understanding. Please remember that many still serve in this unsettled area and are yet in need of our prayers and support.

We have accomplished a great deal at the N.S.A.C. office this past year but there still remains much to be done. During the coming year we hope to complete the cataloguing of the reference library and to be able to set up a system of cross references which will facilitate use. There remains the rest of the unpacking, files to be reorganized, Archival files to be set up, new accounting procedures to be implemented and the editing and reprinting of the Lyceum Manual to be completed.

To Rev. B. Anne Gehman, we wish to extend our thanks for her donation of two office desks, a credenza and a dictaphone machine.

To Peggy Lelonek and Joyce La Judice who have worked some very hard long hours to accomplish what we have, many thanks. And to all of you and the N.S.A.C. Board, we have not always agreed but thank you for your help, support and for just being there.

A special thank you also to the local Convention Committee and the Spiritualist Church of Awareness who have worked so very hard to produce this Convention. Your co-operation and capable handling of the many details have added to our enjoyment of this Convention and I would ask each of you to express your appreciation for a job well done to our host Church.

I wish to close on a very positive note and with some very exciting news. This past September a man entered our office stating that he had been in the area and thought he would stop at Camp Lily Dale. He saw the N.S.A.C. office sign and came in. His wife's grandmother had recently passed to spirit and among chests of her family records, books and papers, he had seen reference to the N.S.A.C. His name was David Kelling, his wife Katrina is a direct descendent of David Fox and thereby the Fox family. The Grandmother, whose records they inherited, was Mariam Buckner Pond, author of *"Time is Kind."* David and Katrina do not wish to lose contact with us and so he gave us his address, which left all of us, including our President, with mouths agape. Mr. David Kelling and wife Katrina live on Crestdale Drive, in the City of Stow, Ohio in Summit County. We then had to explain anomalies such as Crest Dale, - Lily Dale, the Stow Memorial Foundation versus Stow, Ohio and Summit, New Jersey versus Summit County.

We have not heard the last from Mr. and Mrs. Kelling. They have a complete genealogy of the Fox family which they will be sending us and the family wishes to extend the rights to *"Time is Kind"* to the N.S.A.C. for republication. Katrina has a sister in Connecticut who is very interested in us and we have been promised a visit from her also in the near future. They are looking for a home for Mariam Ponds records and we assured Mr. Kelling that we would be very honored to accept them.

And on that note I'll close this report with love, Blessings and many thanks to each of you.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Sharon L. Lynch, Secretary

Early each morning, before the convention, business meetings began and the Service Clubs conducted their annual breakfast meetings.

Service Clubs are important for they offer help, education, gather together those of like minds, and work to be a connecting link throughout the year.

A brief review of each meeting will be presented in the January **TNS** issue.

Ministerial Association
President: REV. BRYAN McCOTTER Secretary-Treasurer: REV. COSIE ALLEN, NST

National Spiritualist Teachers Club
President: REV. BARBARA THURMAN, NST Secretary: REV. DONALD H. HADDICK, NST

Spiritualist Healers League
President: GENE PFORTMILLER, NST Secretary-Treasurer: JANET TISDALE

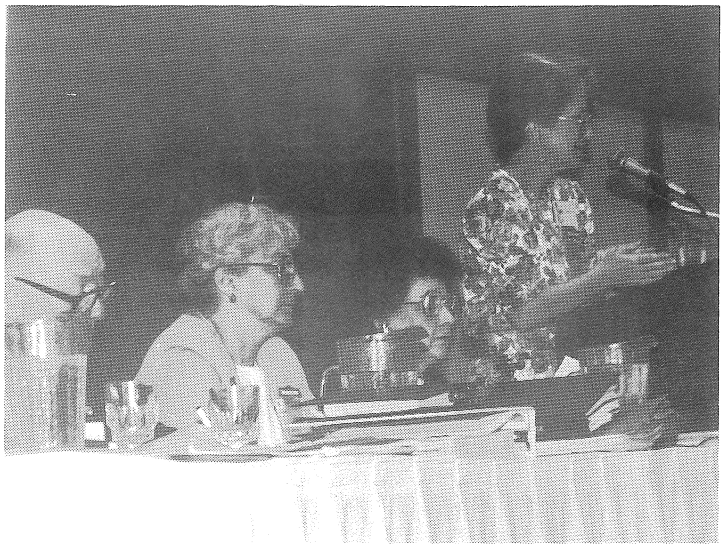
Licentiate Ministers and Certified Mediums Society
President: JUANITA OYER Secretary-Treasurer: SANDRA PFORTMILLER, NST

BUSINESS MEETINGS

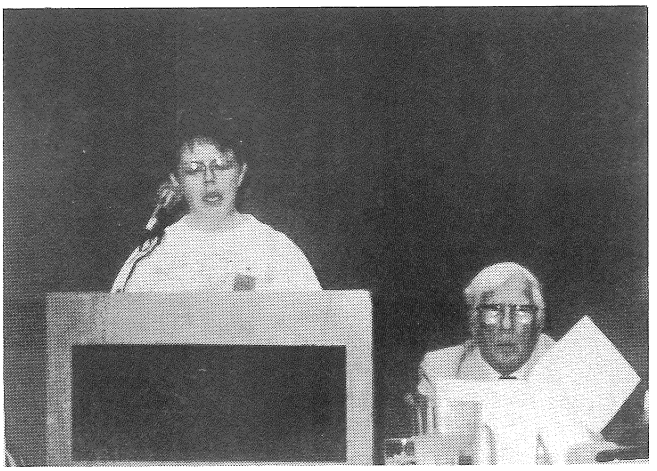
The Credential Committee, Betty Nauratil (Chairman), Alma Reeves and Jesse James, Jr., set up their tables just outside of the Convention Meeting room.



Credentials Committee



The Rev. Brenda Wittich, speaker.



The Reverends Cosie Allen, NST, and Joseph Merrill.

Tuesday morning the business sessions were called to order by President Joseph Merrill. Each session began with an invocation, the singing of America and the salute to the Flag.

There was much harmony and positive progress evidenced at the convention. Each department, each proposal, each speaker was met with serious consideration and courtesy so the business proceedings of the convention went quickly and smoothly. Every year the future welfare of our movement is appraised, discussed and planned for.



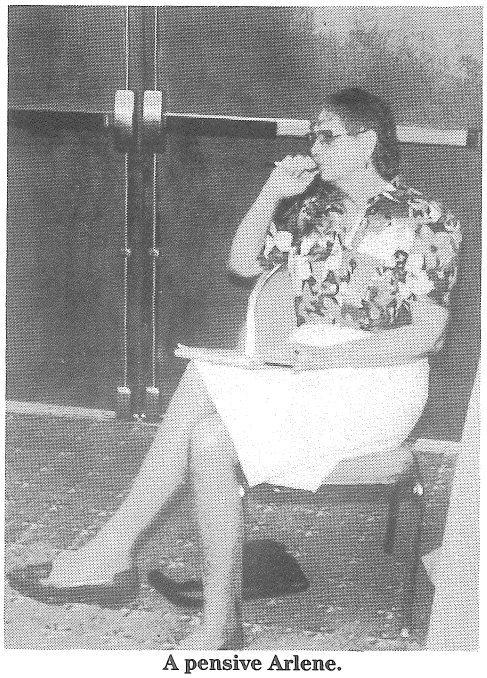
The Rev. Barbara Thurman, NST, speaker.

THE N.S.A.C. DELEGATES

Reports, Listening, Speaking, and Addressing the Issues.



Cosie, Loll and Frances.



A pensive Arlene.

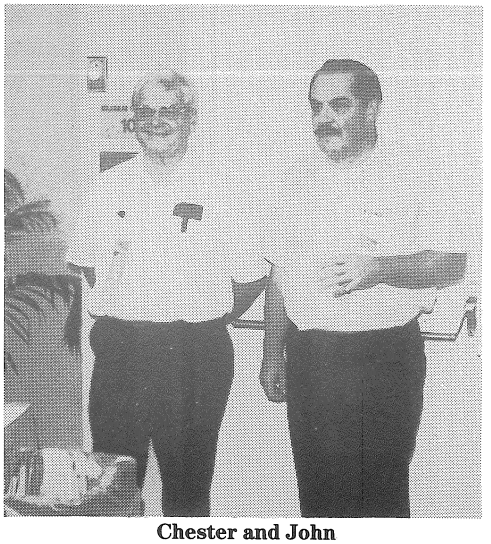


Joan and Jan



Evie and Joe (seated), Chester and Betty (standing).





Chester and John

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES



Frances Scher, Peggy Spencer and Mary Lou Lambert speak out.



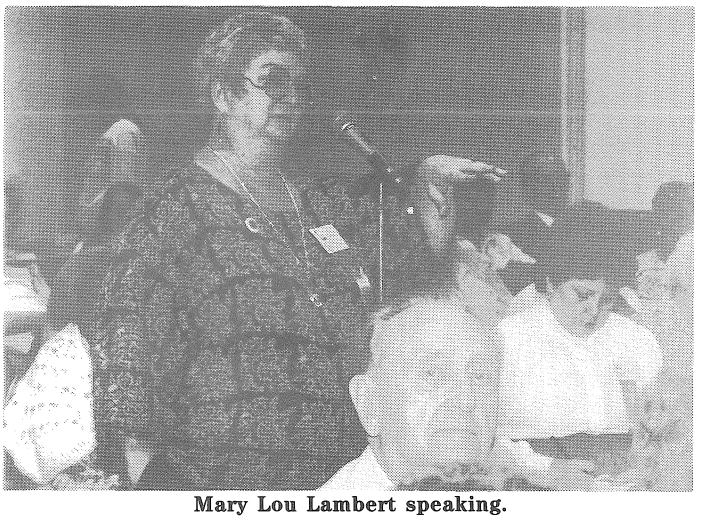
Barbara Thurman and Marrice Coverson share thoughts with the Convention.



Jeannie addresses the issue . . . many others wait to speak.

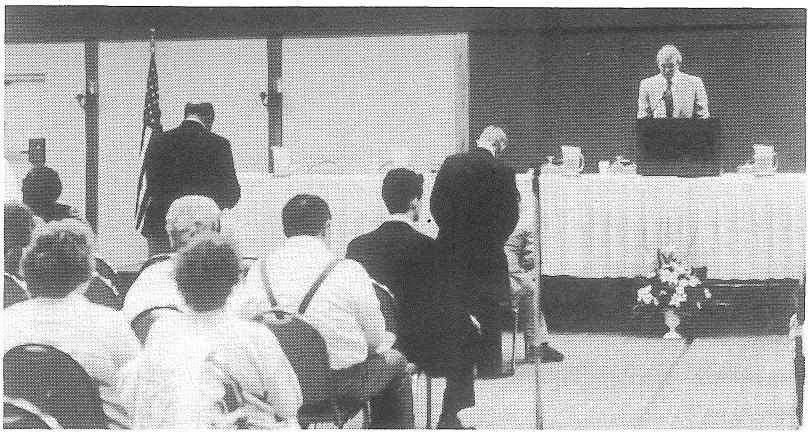


Betty Nauratil, Al Ferency and Jane Klaussman confer.



Mary Lou Lambert speaking.

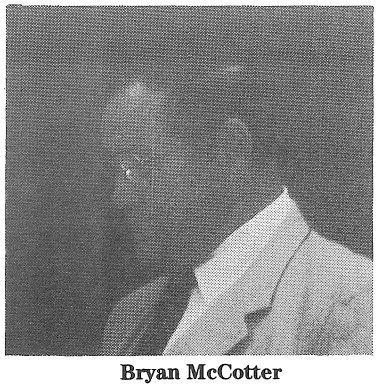
Each evening the devotional services began at 7:00 p.m. with healing which consisted of laying on of hands by commissioned healers and mental healing. The mental healing speakers included Alfred Conner, Gene Pfortmiller, Arlene Sikora, Neil Griffen, and Sandra Pfortmiller. At 7:30 the religious services began and were well attended each evening. There were several solos including Cosie Allen, Lelia Cutler and Shirley Hoeft. The delegates also appreciated the piano playing of Shirley Hoeft and Fred Brown.



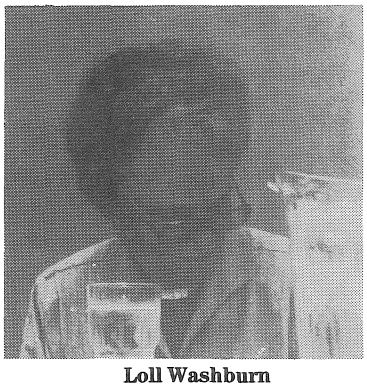
Healing Service



Paul Spencer



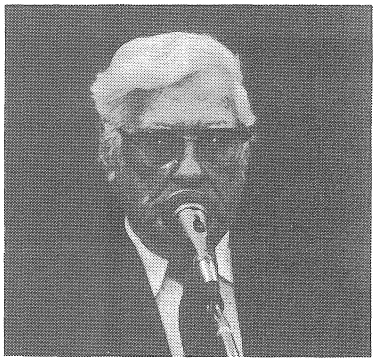
Bryan McCotter



Loll Washburn



Sandra Dawson



Joseph Merrill

EVENING SERVICES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8 ..... *Paul Spencer*
7:00 to 7:20 p.m. ..... *Healing*
Soloist ..... *Lelia Cutler*
Invocation
Declaration of Principles
Hymn
Address ..... *Joseph Merrill*
Hymn
Clairvoyance ..... *Bryan McCotter, Loll Washburn, Sandra Dawson*
Benediction



Lelia Cutler



Cosie Allen



Jessie James, Muriel Karolides and Helen Sherwood.



Muriel, Jesse, Helen, Bernard and Georgia.

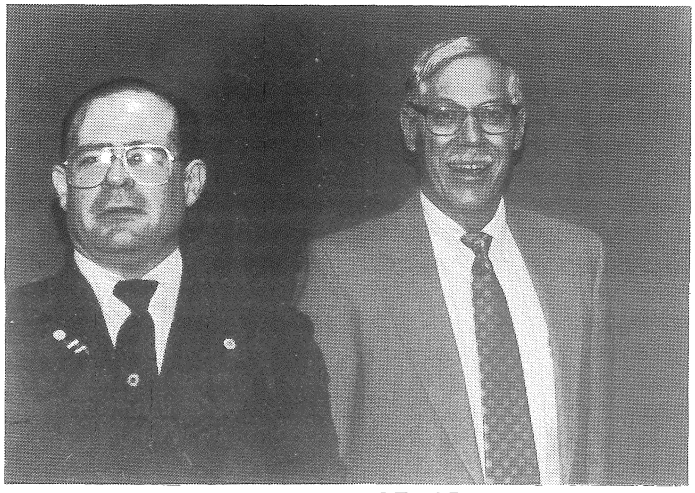


Bernard Baker and Georgia Milton.

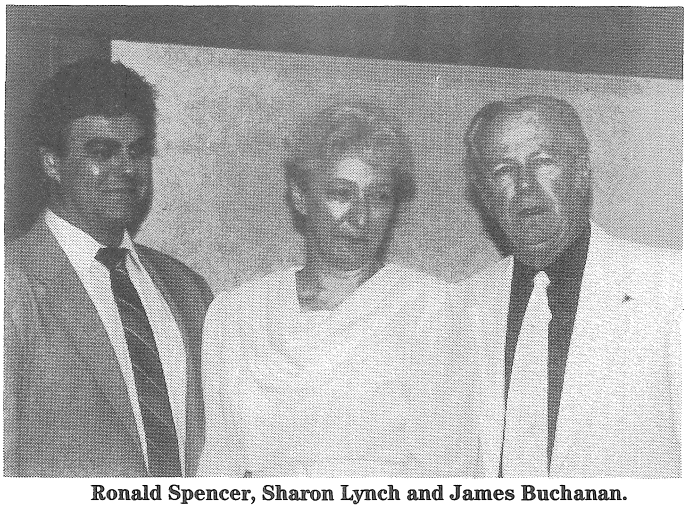


EVENING SERVICES

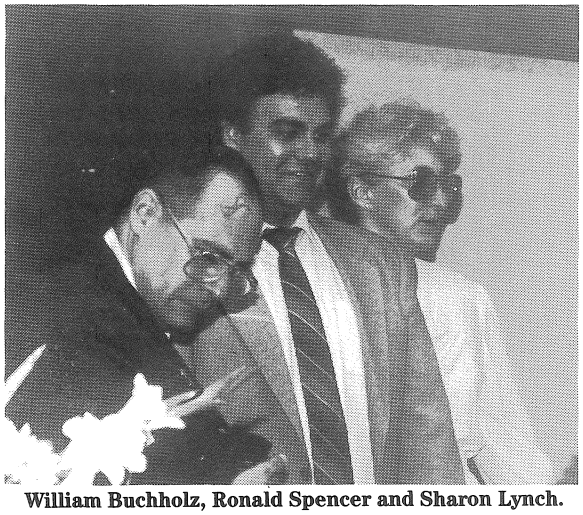
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 ... *Bernard Baker*
7:00 to 7:20 p.m. ..... *Healing*
Soloist ..... *Cosie Allen*
Invocation
Declaration of Principles
Hymn
Address ..... *Georgia Milton*
Offering
Hymn
Clairvoyance ..... *Helen Sherwood, Muriel Karolides, Jessie James*



William Buchholz and Fred Brown.



Ronald Spencer, Sharon Lynch and James Buchanan.



William Buchholz, Ronald Spencer and Sharon Lynch.

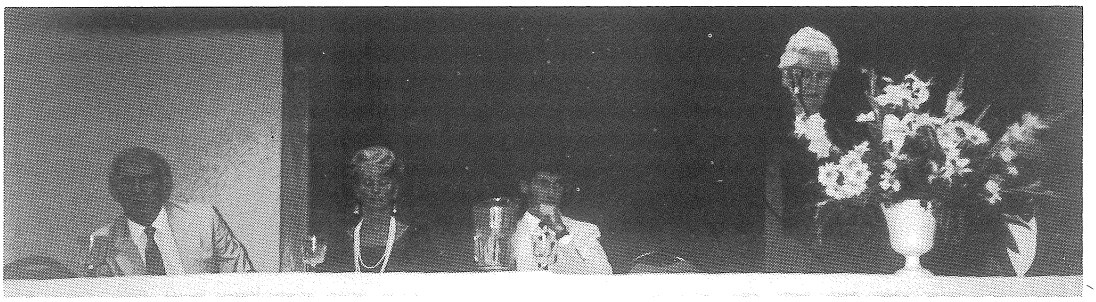


EVENING SERVICES

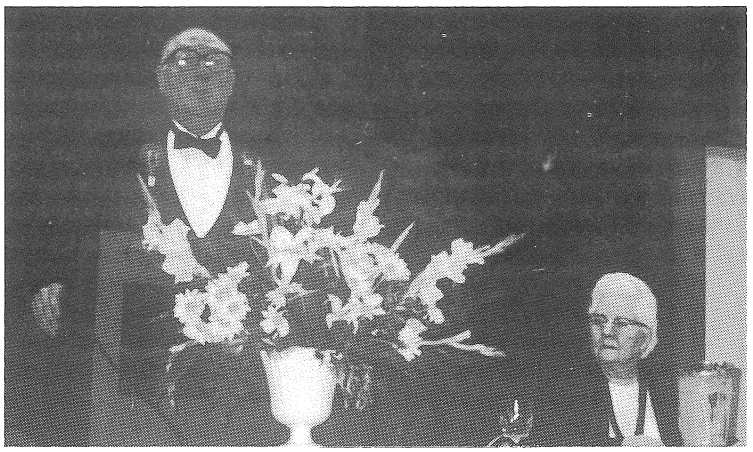
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 ..... *Sharon Lynch*
7:00 to 7:20 p.m. ..... *Healing*
Soloist ..... *Shirley Hoeft*
Invocation
Declaration of Principles
Hymn
Address ..... *William Buchholz, Jr.*
Offering
Hymn
Clairvoyance ..... *Fred Brown, Ronald Spencer, James Buchanan*
Benediction



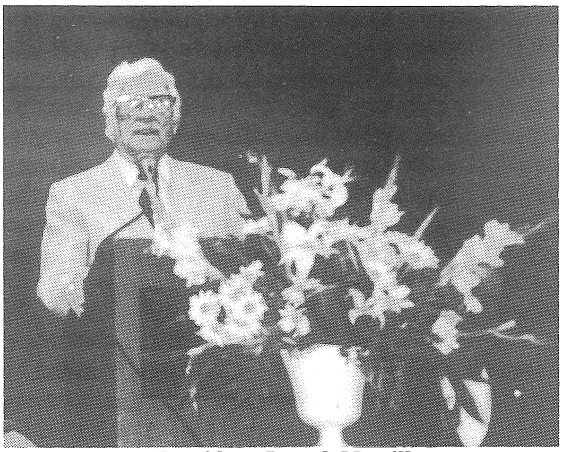
Gene Pfortmiller, Betty Nauratil, Stephen Robinson and Alfred Conner.



The address by Alma Reeves.



Alfred and Alma



President Joseph Merrill



EVENING SERVICES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 ..... *Alfred Conner*
7:00 to 7:20 p.m. ..... *Healing*
Soloist ..... *Cosie Allen*
Invocation
Declaration of Principles
Hymn
Address ..... *William Buchholz, Jr.*
Offering
Hymn
Clairvoyance ..... *Betty Nauratil, Gene Pfortmiller, Stephen Robinson*
Benediction
Closing Farewell ..... *Joseph Merrill*

LYCEUM REPORT

To the Officers and Delegates of the 99th Annual Convention of the N.S.A.C.



Maude Spencer

Greetings . . .

It is a pleasure to bring to you the report of the National Spiritualist Association of Churches Bureau of Lyceums.

At the present time we have 40 lyceums. In September, the children's lyceum in the Harrison D. Barrett Memorial Spiritualist Church, in Etna, Maine was re-activated. The Spiritualist Chapel of the Rockies, in Westminster, Colorado, started their lyceum in April, with 12 children, ages 4 to 12 years old. The Church of the Spirit, in Chicago, Illinois, have started their lyceum with 12 children in attendance.

Each year the N.S.A.C. Annual Lyceum Report Forms are mailed to all churches to insure no lyceum is left out. On the first of May, reports were mailed to 116 churches with a request letter stating that if the church had a lyceum, the forms should be given to the Lyceum Conductor to be completed and if a lyceum did not exist, the secretary was asked to fill in the name of church and return to the Bureau of Lyceums. All reports to reach the Bureau of Lyceums by the 15th of June. Many reports, where we know there is a lyceum, have not been returned. Several forms were mailed back simply stating NO LYCEUM. One such form was returned in an envelope without return address and mailed in a town where we do not have a church. In addition to the 116 reports to churches, 11 camp reports were sent out, and State Lyceum Superintendent's Reports were sent to Superintendents in California, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Texas and Washington. Also a State Superintendent's report was mailed to Indiana, Maine, and to Minnesota State Secretaries requesting information of lyceums in their states.

We have received State Superintendent's Reports from Rev. Louise Peruch of California, Gladys Kellerman of New York, Arsenia Williams of Illinois, Jovita Garcia of Texas, Birdi Torgerson of Minnesota, and the Rev. Lillian Johanson of Washington.

We did not receive individual reports from our camps this year, but were happy to learn that lyceum classes were held at the following: Mississippi Valley Spiritualist Association (camp) in Iowa; Chain Lakes Spiritualist Camp in Michigan; Lily Dale Assembly (camp) in New York; and Western Wisconsin Spiritualist Camp Association in Wisconsin.

Only 23 of the 40 Lyceums returned their individual reports to the Bureau of Lyceums, so it is impossible to give a full report. From the reports received, we have 184 adults enrolled in lyceum and only 103 children. We know many of the lyceums which failed to report, do have classes for children. Every church should be proud of their lyceum and make sure it is reported to the N.S.A.C. Bureau of Lyceums on the Annual Lyceum Report Forms, which is sent to every church, every year.

Hats off to the State of Illinois. On Saturday, August 17, State Lyceum Superintendent, Arsenia Williams and members of the State Board held their first Annual Lyceum Retreat at Cherry Valley Spiritualist Camp. It was a pleasant and rewarding experience for your National Lyceum Superintendent to be present and present a Lyceum Seminar in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon, assisted by Rev. Cosie Allen of Michigan.

Congratulations to Lillian Kilmer of East Aurora, New York and Elsie Feathersong of Rochester, New York. Both ladies have successfully completed the Lyceum Course for teachers, and are now Certified Lyceum Teachers. We encourage all of our teachers and those interested in teaching lyceum in the future to take the course of study offered. We feel this to be another step in the direction of bringing uniformity in our Lyceum System.

We are greatly impressed with the increase we have had in Lyceum Literature Sales during this past year. We are happy to report that all of our Lyceum lesson materials are back in print. At the present time we are updating the Lyceum Manual and expect to have it available to all Lyceumists soon.

Many letters have reached the Bureau of Lyceums requesting help in starting a lyceum; ideas or direction for their existing lyceum; and available lyceum material. In response to these requests, there has been twenty sample kits mailed out. Each kit contains guidelines for structuring a lyceum, helps with class ideas for all ages and samples of our lesson material.

It is encouraging to see that our lyceums are holding classes for all ages. From the reports we received, we find that many of our lyceums do have a class for the preschoolers, thus giving a chance for the young parents to attend the adult class. We note that the lyceums are holding the opening of their lyceum session as a group, then going to their individual classes, re-grouping for the closing session.

Our pre-schoolers are learning a great deal about Spiritualism through the stories they hear, through coloring pictures relating to Spiritualism, and through guidance as they play. They are learning lessons which will help them through life.

Our Primary and Junior-Senior age children are able to comprehend a great deal of the science, philosophy and religion of Spiritualism as well as the Laws of Nature. We find this age being a big help to the churches, as this age loves to help with the cleaning of the church, helping to set tables, being allowed to serve the food, and by ushering in church. We find they love to present programs and plays as a means of learning.

Our adult classes are being run as open discussion classes, open to all people, members and non-members alike for the study of Spiritualism in all areas, free from any form of development.

We are pleased to see that our lyceums are involving themselves in community programs. Many lyceums are collecting food, clothing and gifts for needy families during the holidays. Some of our lyceums are joining forces with the *"Just Say No To Drugs"* programs.

We find most of our lyceums reporting parties at Halloween, Christmas, Valentines, and just about any time to have a good time, as well as going on trips and holding picnics. We are pleased to learn that even the lyceums having only adult members are celebrating these holidays. Many of our adult groups have programs to raise money to help their churches as well as their lyceums.

We find that more of our churches are realizing the need for lyceum, and are finding a way to have a lyceum in their church for all ages. We also find that those churches which do hold lyceum for all ages are the lyceums that continue year after year.

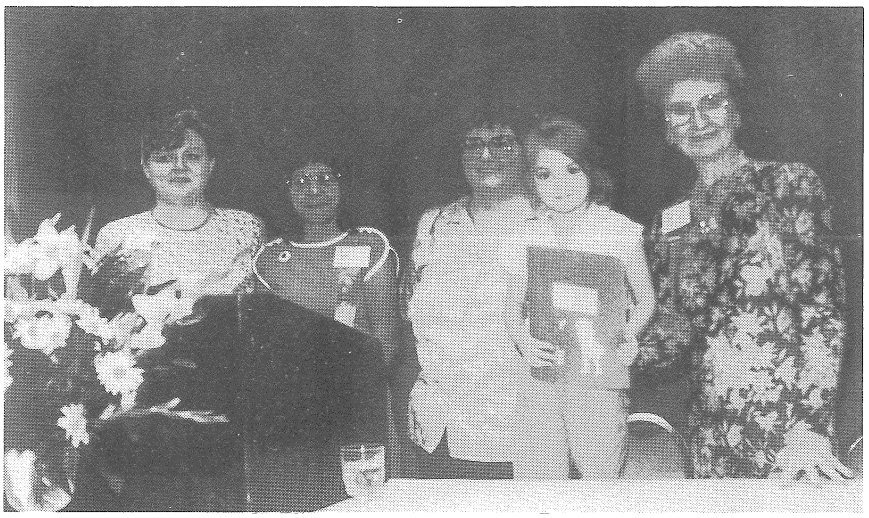
We have come a long ways in these past few years, but have a lot further to go. We have our old literature back in print, now we must strive for new lesson material. Every Conductor and teacher is invited to share their ideas and lessons with the Bureau of Lyceums that others may benefit.

Many thanks to all our Churches, State Associations, and individuals who donated so generously to the Bureau of Lyceums in remembrance of Founder's Day. Your donations make it possible for us to print lesson material.

In closing this report, I would like to share with you a quote, found in the Lyceum Banner, October 1930 titled, LYCEUMS ARE NEEDED: *"If any Church exists without a Lyceum, not only are the children being religiously neglected, but the adults are missing a golden opportunity of providing the necessary liberty groups for the discussion of Spiritualism in its many aspects. There should be a Lyceum in existence as one of the operations of every church."*

As National Superintendent, I wish to thank the Officers and Trustees of our National Board for all the help and support they have given to the Lyceum, and I wish to thank all who have contributed in any way to help the growth of our Lyceum System.

Respectfully submitted,
Maude Spencer, Superintendent
N.S.A.C. Bureau of Lyceums



Marcia, Peggy, Beth, Samantha and Evelyn.

LYCEUM FORUM Lyceum director Maude (Peggy) Spencer presented a Lyceum Forum with reports given by Marcia Hyatt and Beth Yates. A mascot, Samantha Zernicek was presented with a Lyceum book by the Rev. Evelyn Muse. Let us work with our youth and sow generously the joy of Spiritualism so we may continue to grow in the future.



Samantha Zernicek



HONORING

THE TITLE OF PAST In recognition of service, the honor of being able to use the Title of Past with the position that was held and their name has been granted to past board members. The Past Secretary of the N.S.A.C., the Rev. Elizabeth R. Edgar was awarded the Title of Secretary Emeritus.

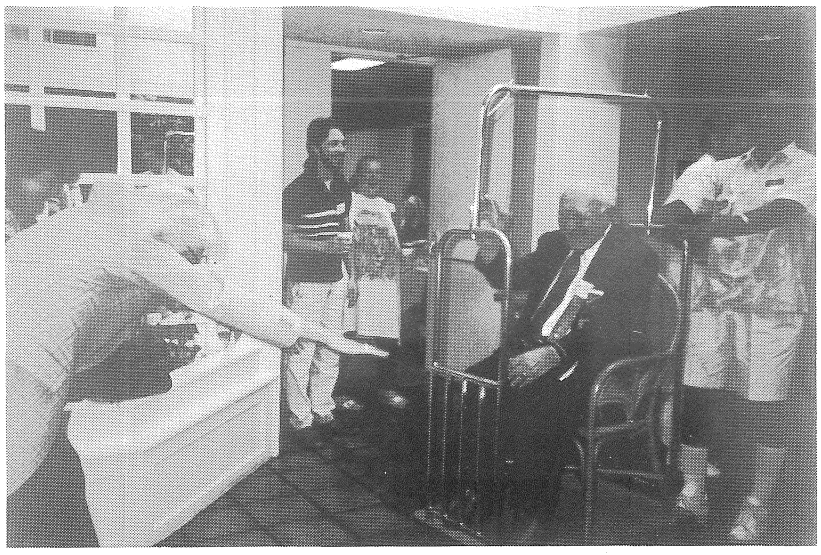
Rev. Edgar coming to speak on this honor granted to her.



Virginia Bevans, age 76, and her mother, Hazel Owen, 100 years young.



Parlimentarian, Jane Klaussman and Time Keeper, Elsie Feathersong.



President Joe bows to "KING FOR A DAY, JOE." . . . Love your chariot!

HONORING

Honoring All Who Attended





COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
Each year at the convention a Commemorative Service is conducted to honor the Spiritualists who have graduated to higher life. On Wednesday afternoon a quiet, meaningful service was conducted by Ann Otzelberger. She gave a short inspirational talk, then reading each individual's name, placed a carnation in a vase. *Blessings to them all.*





— NOMINATING —



Neil Griffen



Dorothy Thurlow



Mrs. Smith

— VOTING —



Evelyn Muse followed by the rest of the N.S.A.C. Board.



B. Anne Gehman



The credential report on Friday afternoon was given by the Rev. Betty Nauratil, with 123 delegates and 9 Board members as the final count. We then proceeded to the election of officers. The final roll call indicated delegates that were absent bringing the total number to 131 voting delegates.

The Rev. Neil Griffen was chairman for the elections, assisted by Harvey Horstman and Ed Cummings as the official counters.

The Rev. Sharon Lynch was the only nomination for Secretary of the N.S.A.C. and was unanimously elected.

Nominated for the office of trustee: The Rev. Paul F. Spencer and the Rev. Stephen Robinson were nominated. Paul Spencer was elected.

Nominated for the office of trustee: The Rev. Pat Smith, the Rev. B. Anne Gehman, Dorothy Thurlow and the Rev. Bryan McCotter were nominated. Anne Gehman was elected in a second balloting.



N.S.A.C. OFFICERS

President: Rev. Joseph H. Merrill

Vice President: Rev. Evelyn L. Muse, NST

Secretary: Rev. Sharon L. Lynch, NST

Treasurer: Rev. Alfred A. Conner, NST

TRUSTEES

Rev. Joseph Sax, NST

Rev. Paul F. Spencer, NST

Rev. Bernard F. Baker, NST

Rev. Brenda J. Wittich

Rev. B. Anne Gehman

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUALIST SUMMIT REPORT

Greetings to the N.S.A.C. Board, Convention Delegates and loyal T.N.S. Readers.



Sandra Pfortmiller, NST

First I wish to thank the Board for appointing me the Editor of *The National Spiritualist Summit* . . . it is a job I love. Next I wish to thank the Rev. Bernard Baker for working with me, for all his unpaid hours of devotion to the magazine, for his great ideas and support. I wish to thank the Stow Foundation for making the magazine possible. Last, but far from least, I wish to thank all the readers and contributors to the magazine.

The preparing of yearly reports necessitates looking back to review the year and the achievements. It also should include the plans that are projected for the future.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to all of you for the cooperation we have received during the year to help make our magazine so special. Articles have been coming in with increasing regularity, the churches are writing notes from the field with pictures, and each month we are getting new subscriptions. We have a copy machine in the office, and a phone which has helped us in many ways. We keep working to improve, modernize and create an interesting, informative and uplifting magazine, and your wonderful letters have encouraged us.

The magazine is part of our missionary work when we can give one to someone that is interested. Think of the good that we could do if everyone in the organization gave one (more would be great, too) subscription to someone else. Maybe the beautiful philosophy of Spiritualism, found in the magazine, could interest another in our religion and start them on the Spiritual path. Most of us know someone who would appreciate this gift, if not for a friend or a family member, how about for a shut-in, for the local library or college. It is a gift that keeps on giving. I would like to report next year that the subscription list has doubled.

Years ago they had a Booster Club with membership eligibility obtained by sending in ten subscriptions. The person or organization with the largest number of new subscriptions, between October first and October first, received a prize and acknowledgement at the annual N.S.A.C. Convention. Maybe we should again activate this club. If we did, this years award would go to the Rev. Rupert Sigurdsson, NST, from Maine. Anyway, my goal for next year is to see the subscriptions grow, but I need **your help!** The holiday's are fast approaching so check your gift list and see who you could give a *National Spiritualist* subscription and throughout the year consider it as birthday presents, congratulations or I love you gifts.

Sometimes I have heard people ask, *"What does the National Organization do for me or for our church?"* Well, *The National Spiritualist - Summit* magazine is just one terrific thing that they do. A magazine with a limited circulation costs more per magazine to produce than a magazine that is distributed to thousands. To help keep the cost reasonable for the subscribers and the churches, the N.S.A.C., through the Stow Foundation, subsidizes each issue of the magazine with a grant. **Thank you, National!**

Our National Spiritualist Association of Churches can only be strong if you make it strong . . . can only grow as you grow . . . and *The National Spiritualist - Summit* is a wonderful tool to help accomplish this. Support it with your subscriptions, your news and your writings. You will benefit yourself, the magazine and **Spiritualism.**

Sincerely submitted,
Sandra Pfortmiller, NST
Editor

ENJOYING GREAT COMPANY

SMILE!

Thank you **all** for your smiles and your help. A special appreciation to the photographers, Gene and Sandra Pfortmiller, and to Tina Coe, Betty Nauratil, Cosie Allen and the Florida Committee who shared their pictures.



Neil Griffen, Sandra and Gene Pfortmiller.



Janet Tisdale, Lillian, and Hal Johanson.



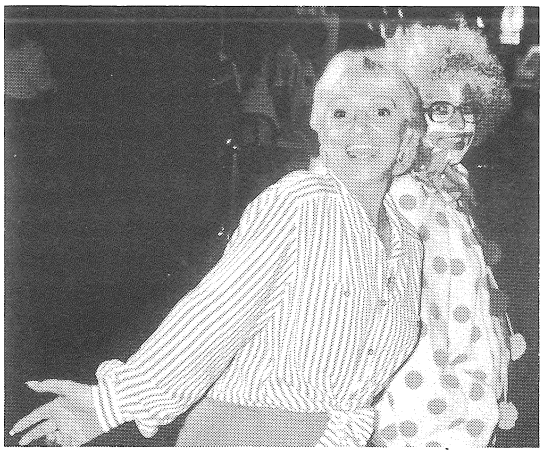
Paul Spencer and Bernard Baker.



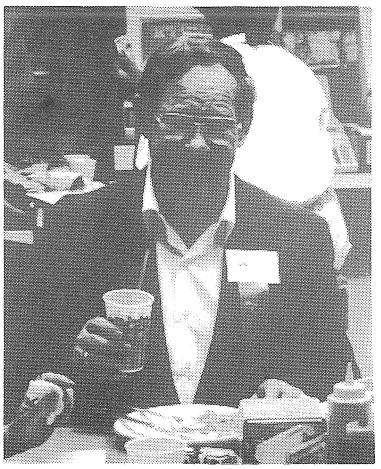
Arlene (left) and Stephen (right).



Ann Otzelberger and James Buchanan.



Is that Nancy Perry clowning around with Renate Baker?



Bryan McCotter



Mary Lou Lambert

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS



John, Mary and Joan.



Katie Mahan, Gene Pfortmiller (Sargent-At-Arms), "Clown" Nancy, and Joe Sax.



Cosie Allen, Brenda Wittich and Loll Washburn.

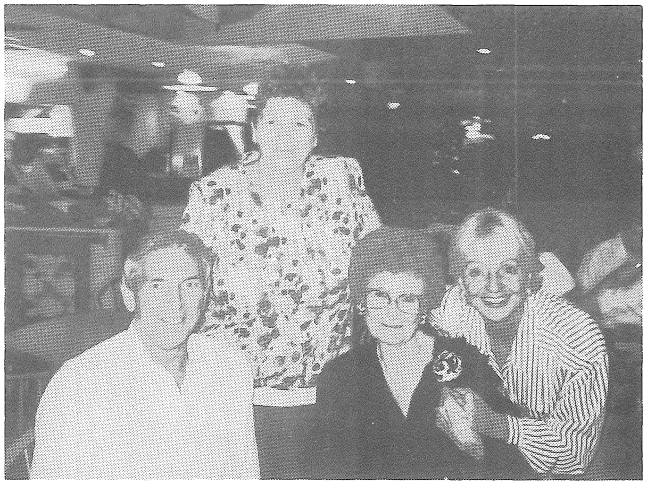


Anne and Lelia.

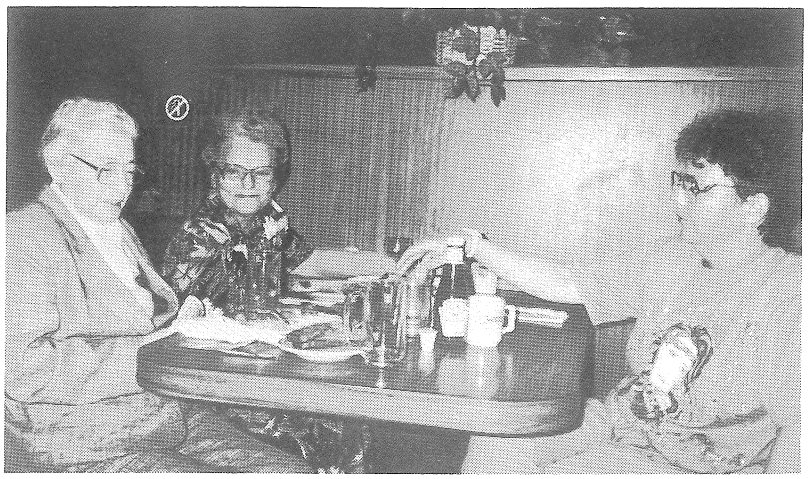
— Future Convention Sites —

1992 - St. Louis, MO.
1993 - Chicago, IL.
1994 - Northern CA.
1998 - Minneapolis, MN.

How about your state hosting a future convention? It is a wonderful way to get to know Spiritualists from around the country and to be able to do your part for the religion.



Gene, Joan, Evelyn and Renate.



EATING, MEETINGS, AND SOCIAL HOUR!







. . . Some of the Winners!

WAYS N' MEANS Friday afternoon there were drawings and an auction with the Rev. William Buchholz, Jr. as the auctioneer. It was fun with some *"spirited"* bidding for the lovely articles that had been generously donated. Blessings on all those that gave to the Ways N' Means to help finance the convention expenses.



Joyce Orcott

. . . I'LL BID!



Ann Otzelberger

. . . I WON!



Peggy Gutt

. . . THAT'S MY NUMBER!



Birdie and Barbara Smith.

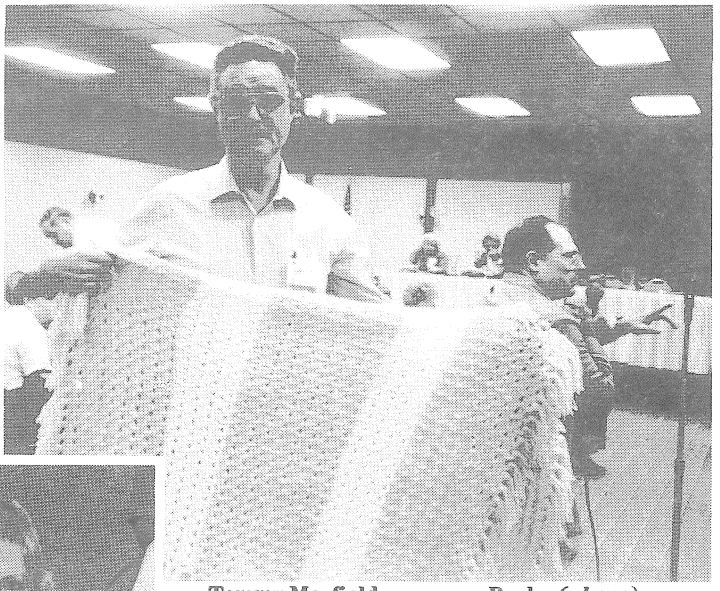


Joan McDaniel

. . . Thank you so much Bucky!



Mary Sullivan



Tommy Mayfield Bucky *(above)*

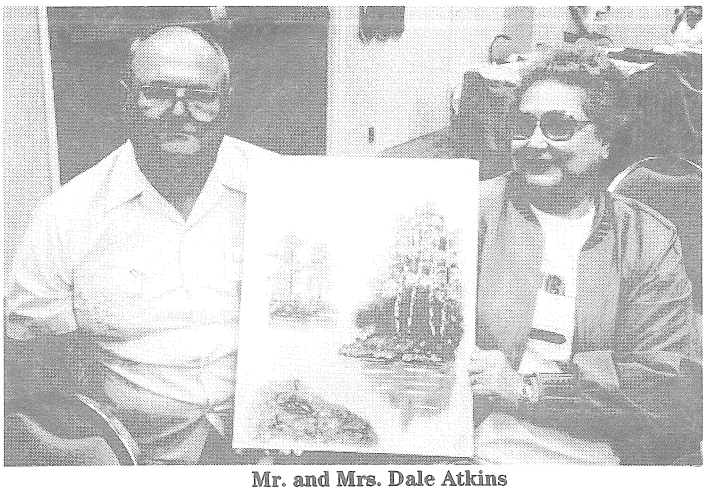
. . . I WON!



Jessie Haddick



It was a good convention with many pleasant memories to recall as the year goes by . . . until you **"Meet me in St. Louey, Louey."**



Mr. and Mrs. Dale Atkins



Declaration of Principles

National Spiritualist Association of Churches

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of Nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you do ye also unto them."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any human soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing contained in the Bible are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.



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