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# SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin  
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

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FIFTEEN CENTS



Photo shows Pastor E. Leroy Hoover of the Marietta Assembly of God Church in his study last Saturday.

## He built a church from scratch

It was around midnight. Pastor E. LeRoy Hoover was sitting in his home, reading the Bible.

Pastor Hoover had started a building fund for a new Assembly of God Church, but he wasn't sure it was a wise decision.

Suddenly, like a voice, God spoke to him, and told him to build a church.

Then the voice said, "Open My Work."

Pastor Hoover opened his Bible at random, and found himself reading the 4th chapter of Zechariah, where the story of how Zechariah built the temple is told.

He read, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts—you will succeed because of my Spirit, though you are few and weak."

The Marietta Assembly of God had a small but growing congregation, and very little money. They were meeting in the Old Zion Church, which they rented from the borough of Marietta in exchange for maintaining the grounds and building.

However, members of the Assemblies of God try to let the Spirit of the Lord direct their work. After their pastor's experience, the members were determined to build a new church.

Today, a new \$100,000 church stands at the intersection of Oremine Road and Route 141. About 300 people attended the opening ceremonies last summer.

That big crowd was quite a contrast to the congregation who heard Hoover's first sermon in the Old Zion Church. Only one person showed up the first time he preached in Marietta.

On the next Sunday, 2 people came to the old church.

"I doubled my congregation in one week," Pastor Hoover recalls.

Preaching was a new experience for E. L. Hoover, who had been called to the ministry late in life. Even today, the church does not pay his salary. He makes his living as a paper hanger.

Mr. Hoover was working at Armstrong Cork Co. when he decided to become a preacher. His wife Arlene and sons Donald and Dale were relying on his weekly paycheck, so going to Bible School was out of the question.

Mr. Hoover took a correspondence course to qualify for the ministry. After a day's work he often struggled with his books far into the night. Finally, after passing his courses

with straight A's, he was examined by the Eastern District Presbytery's Council.

The previous pastor at the Marietta church had been transferred because the church was in debt. **[continued on page 2]**

## Breakthrough in teacher talks

A last-ditch effort to avoid a teachers' strike at Donegal seems to have been successful as we go to press at noon on Tuesday.

Members of the DEA (teachers' union) are meeting Tuesday afternoon to vote on a new contract proposal.

Informed sources think the teachers will accept the contract.

A tentative agreement was reached late Sunday night at a hastily-arranged meeting at the home of School Board president Dr. William B. Landis.

High-level union representatives from Harrisburg arranged an unofficial meeting with Dr. Landis in an 11th hour attempt to ward off a strike.

The meeting was held in an attempt to overcome the lack of trust on both sides of the 10 month-old contract dispute. It seems to have succeeded.

Informed sources say that only a small amount of money was at stake. However, the positions of both sides had hardened during

the negotiations to the point where a strike seemed inevitable.

The School Board negotiating committee met Monday night to draw up a contract proposal based on the agreement.

In an interview early Tuesday morning, Dr. Landis said, "I have been led to believe that the proposal will be recommended by the union

leadership."

Teachers are meeting Tuesday afternoon to vote on the proposal. If the union negotiators recommend the package, the teachers are expected to vote for it.

If the contract is approved by the teachers, it must still be ratified by the entire school board before it becomes legally binding.

## Janitor contract delay

The Donegal School Board wants to change some of the wording in its contract with the Donegal School Service Personnel Association (custodians' union).

The contract had been agreed upon by the two negotiating teams on September 21, and ratified by the district custodians at a meeting on October 2, 1976. The board wants its solicitor to examine the wording of the contract.

In other business, the Board gave contract ap-

proval for Mrs. Pat Bateman and Larry Forrey, elementary teachers. These are temporary professional contracts. Mrs. Bateman is credited with one-half year of experience and Forrey with one year of service. The Board was given a progress report on the "Project D-LITES" by Edgar Jones, president of the Adult Athletic Booster Group.

School Board members voted to offer their moral support to Pequea Valley in **(continued on page 2)**

## Mount Joy gets a new pole for new flag



The official Mount Joy flag was raised for the first time on the new flag pole at the Borough Hall last week. The flagpole was a gift from the Mount Joy Bicentennial Commission. The flag will be flown every day from now on. Small copies of the flag will be available to the public.

Photo shows members of the Bicentennial Commission and local officials at the flag raising ceremony. From left to right are: Vera Gingrich, Larry Gainer, Paul Gingrich, Shirley Gates, Pat Moran, Gene Bender, Ella Gainer, Gloria Straub, Richard Ricedorf, Boro Council president; James Gingrich, Mayor; Omar Groff, Councilman; and Simeon Horton.