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I. Life Sketch of Ethel Heisler

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[Part 1 of 2 parts]

The following report that was read at the memorial:

Ethel Florence Blabey Heisler was born July 25, 1924 in Dauphin, Manitoba on the family farm. The youngest of 11 children, her older siblings were given turns to go upstairs and see what their mother had in her arms. Her father was a blacksmith while her mother ran the busy household of many children, farmhands and neighbors coming and going. Ethel spent her early years playing with her two brothers closest to her age, swimming in the rivers, riding motorcycles, but also working hard along with everyone on their farm. She helped with cooking, barn chores, laundry on old wash boards, milking cows, ironing with irons heated in the fire and even field work during harvest time. She and her siblings walked 2 miles to the country school even in deep snow during the below zero freezing winters.

Ethel left the open prairies of Manitoba and rode on a bus to Lacombe, Alberta to attend school at Canadian Union College. She was so afraid of being kidnapped on that long trip on a bus all by herself as an untraveled teenager. She completed her high school and pre-nursing courses there. Ethel was active in sports and social events, often shining out as a very popular student. She never lacked for ice-skating partners or those who wanted to be near her bright and playful personality. She loved playing volleyball and played every chance she got. She was the life of the party!

Ethel continued her education in southern California where she finished her nursing degree at the White Memorial Hospital and Loma Linda University hospital. During this time while swimming in the ocean she twisted her back in a rogue wave and had a low back surgery for a ruptured disc. Despite this injury she functioned without serious complication for the rest of her life.

After completing her nursing training, she accepted a position back in Canada at a small hospital in Riverside, New Brunswick, even though she had been offered a position with a surgical group in Loma Linda. Ed Heisler was the treasurer of the Maritime Conference located in Moncton, NB, 35 miles away at that time. Before long they met and interest grew and attraction bloomed. The couple were married September 17, 1951 and settled in Moncton, New Brunswick after they honeymooned in Kentucky where they visited Ethel's sister Pearl Strong.

In 1953 Ed & Ethel took a trip to the Youth Congress in San Francisco.

On the way there, they took a side trip up to Hazelton, British Columbia to visit Ethel's sister Alma McCreery and her brother Neil Blabey and their families. During the Youth Congress leaders were asking for those who might be interested in mission service. It was at this time the couple decided to sign up for service abroad.

The couple moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1954 where Ethel took an extra year of training in Teaching and Supervision.

In December 1955, Ed and Ethel moved to their first mission post in Kingston, Jamaica. Ed was the business manager of Andrews Memorial Hospital and Ethel was Director of Nurses and supervised the 1 year training of nursing aides. The couple threw themselves into their work as well as their church commitments. They started the first pathfinder club in the West Indies Union. They also trained a group of Master Guides. They helped plan a new church building and raised money for that construction. Ethel loved to go with Mrs. Hewitt to help with branch Sabbath School. It was during this time Ethel spent long hours making felt pictures for children’s Sabbath Schools.

Ed & Ethel enjoyed the tropical paradise they lived in and loved going to the north shore to snorkel and visit their friends, the Liskes and Comms.

This was the start of Ethel’s lifelong shell collection from all over the world.

During this time, they began their family. Beth was born in Jamaica.
Barbara was born on Vancouver Island while the couple was on furlough in Canada where she was delivered by Ethel's brother-in-law, Dr. Ray Neufeld. Beverly and Bruce followed in quick succession in Jamaica.

In 1965, Ed & Ethel accepted a mission hospital position in La Trinidad, Nicaragua. They drove a large truck van filled with supplies and their 4 children all the way down through Central America through Mexico, Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras and into Nicaragua not knowing the Spanish language and with few directions or road signs. Ed was again the business manager and Ethel took over the responsibilities of Director of Nurses as well as Director of the 3 year nursing school program. She ran all these programs from home, holding faculty meetings in the living room. There was a Spanish grade school operating on her front porch and overseas kids were being taught by Miss Davis in the back bedroom.

Ethel loved to entertain and hostess all kinds of events from meals to Sabbath evening socials where she directed all kinds of games and fun times. She loved to play volley ball and often organized groups to play.

During evangelistic meetings, Ethel would bring out her chalks and easel and stand in front drawing quickly and decisively creating beautiful pictures depicting what the preacher was preaching. Her dramatic conclusions at the end of the sermons were always jaw-dropping when she turned on the black lite which showed all the highlights and hidden scenes she had drawn with florescent chalks. She drew beautiful pictures of the Holy City, nature scenes and pictures of various songs that were being sung. She drew so many of these beautiful chalk pictures.

Ethel would put on branch Sabbath Schools for the children in remote areas while Ed sat with the adults and taught them Bible studies. She also organized groups of nurses to ride horses into inaccessible areas to bring medical treatment and administer vaccines and even take care of dental problems.

Ed often caused Ethel worry when he would go off to do the hospital shopping in Managua. One time, Ed did not return at his usual time at 9 pm or 10 pm. She paced and worried and wondered where on earth Ed was. After 1 am, here comes Ed dragging home encrusted with dried raw eggs. The car he was riding in had overheated causing steam to blind the driver who ran off the road and rolled the car causing 30 dozen eggs to break all over Ed.

Ethel organized several nursing school graduations to honor the accomplishments of the nursing students complete with all the pomp & circumstance required.

Ethel was an excellent seamstress and sewed matching dresses for her 3 girls most of their growing up years. Occasionally she would sew matching shirts for her husband and son, but mostly she constantly sewed for her girls. She made beautiful banquet dresses as the girls attended academy and even made a couple wedding dresses.

[end of Part 1 of 2]  
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II. GC President Wilson's Visit to Thailand

from the current "Shining Light in Thailand"

[This "news" is somewhat late, but the above periodical came by "snail mail"!]

"Elder Ted N. C. Wilson and wife Nancy attended the Pastoral Convention organized by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division held in the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, from July 14 to 16. 2014. More than 1,200 pastors, workers, administrators and spouses attended these meeting.

"Pastor and Mrs. Wilson, together with Southern Asia Pacific Division, Southeast Asia Union Mission, and Thailand Mission Officers and Ministerial directors spent a day visiting the Thai Government Religious Department. The group met with Mr. Kitsayapong Siri, Director General of the Religious Affairs Department of Thailand and his three deputy directors. Elder Ted Wilson requested permission from the Director of the Religious Department to share Bible verses with the leaders at the Department. The Director was very kind to give permission, and Elder Wilson read Micah 6:8. 'Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before your God.' After reading, he offered a prayer for the leaders, and a very warm atmosphere was felt at the gathering. The Director readily accepted this instruction from the Bible for his daily work at the Religious Department of Thailand. We can see that there is now an open door for the Thailand Mission to reach out to the top leaders in the government with the messages from the Bible.

"The feed-back from the Religious Department is that they were honored to be visited by Ted N. C. Wilson as a world leader of the Seventh-day Adventist church and they were very impressed with the Seventh-day Adventist organization."

"After visiting the Government Religious Department, Elder and Mrs. Wilson came to the Thailand Adventist Mission headquarters to have special prayers for the officers, department heads, office staff and institution heads. He also visited our International Schools and Thai school near the Mission office. We all were very impressed with his spiritual leadership."
Every place where Elder Wilson went, he gathered the people together and prayed for them and their work, and through this we learned that prayer is the main authority from heaven that we can depend on in our day to day work for God's ministry."

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III. SULADS Story -- IT'S SABBATH

by Martiniano Balagot, Haji Hamjan SULADS Academy, Belatan Island, Tawitawi

Haji Hamjan, the new Captain elect of his village is a leader who gives his all support to the SULADS work. People in his island village look up to him as a pious spiritual leader. He is faithful in his prayer five times a day in the Mosque. Hearing about the SULADS work in the other islands prompted him to request for SULADS teachers in his island.

This leader donated three hectares, a portion of his island, to SULADS for a high school campus. One day he led his men to clear the woods where the new SULADS High school will be put up. He also ordered some ladies, wives of his men, to cook for them. They brought provisions for themselves.

As I joined them in clearing the area I came near to Haji so that we could talk more of the High school plans as we kept our hands busy.

"Where do we build the classroom?" I asked.

"Sir," he cut me short. "We will just clear the area and leave everything to SULADS for the planning, and whatever they want in this area.

Just tell me anything I can do to be of help. I believe in SULADS and I trust you people as I have observed how you heartily serve my people. I respect you as an organization and the beliefs you live up to in your faith in serving God."

As we keep busy pioneering the work, clearing and building our teachers' cottage, people come every day to help scraping every minute of the day till in the early hours of the evening. We built fire to keep us lighted. Friday came and still it was just like any other day keeping us busy especially as we prepare for the opening of classes. At noon of that Friday they excused themselves for their worship in the Mosque. They came again after worship to continue to help us.

At 4:00 they started going home. "Sir," they said, "we need to go home now. IT'S SABBATH."

"Yes, I know IT'S SABBATH coming by sunset but who told you about it?"

"Haji Hamjan," they answered.

"Thank you," I replied.

That sunset of the Sabbath we were left alone with my SULADS companions so we could worship with the four of us. That Sabbath morning they did not come either. We had a good day of having our worship that day. We also noticed that the people never borrow anything from us on a Sabbath. We learned later that Haji Hamjan told the people to respect us in a way that SABBATH is a holy day of worship observed by the SULADS teachers. We had a good talk with Haji one day and we have talked about the Sabbath. "Yes, Sir"

he said.

"We need not disturb you on Saturdays because IT'S SABBATH and it's your worship day."

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