

L.C.A. WEB SITE

<http://www.LittleCreekSanitarium.com>

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Excerpt from the Knoxville News Sentinel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

B7

Little Creek founder dead at 95

Spent lifetime helping educate young people

BY BRAD WILLIAMS
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Leland Stanford Straw Sr., founder of the Little Creek Sanitarium and School, died Monday following a brief illness. He was 95.

Mr. Straw played violin for 25 years in the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

He was president of Little Creek Sanitarium from 1940 until 1984, when he retired. The West Knoxville resident then



Straw in the '30s



Straw in 1997

taught part time at Little Creek's boarding academy for 10 years. The academy closed in 1994.

"I think he was a humanitarian and a mentor for so many young people," said niece Ann Goodge, administrator of Little

Creek's nursing home. She said he believed he'd lived a full life.

"He told me, 'I've lived a good life and anytime the Lord decides to take me, I'm ready to go,'" Goodge said.

Mr. Straw became a member of the Kiwanis Club of West Knoxville in 1964. Goodge says at 95 he swept up garbage after football games with the club.

L. Stanford Straw Jr. said his father was also an outdoorsman.

"He liked to hike a lot in the mountains," he said, explaining that his father climbed Mount LeConte at 85.

Family will receive friends 5-

7 p.m. Thursday at Rose Mortuary's Mann Heritage Chapel, 6200 Kingston Pike. The funeral service will be Friday at Little Creek Sanitarium Chapel, 1811 Little Creek Lane, at 11 a.m.

Mr. Straw is survived by his 92-year-old wife, Alice, two sons, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Many alumni of Little Creek are expected at the services.

"That's what his life was devoted to: helping educate young people," his son said.

Brad Williams may be reached at 865-342-6432.



Alice's favorite picture of Leland, taken summer 1997

The death of Uncle Leland has left a void here at Little Creek. I miss seeing him come down the hill from the mail box. His presence was always comforting! He is missed, but his influence lives on.

Ann

A DVD was made of the service, you can contact me for more information.

STRAW, LELAND STANFORD, SR. - age 95 of West Knoxville, died peacefully Monday, February 5, 2007 after a brief illness. He and his wife Alice moved to



Knoxville in 1940 where he founded the Little Creek Sanitarium and School. He was a member of Grace Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He served as president of Little Creek Sanitarium from

1940 until his retirement in 1984, he continued teaching for another ten years. Mr. Straw was a member of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for 25 years, where he played the violin. He became a member of the Kiwanis Club of West Knoxville in 1964. Mr. Straw was preceded in death by his parents: Elder Walter E. Straw and Laura Estella Murphy Straw; brother, Ronald W. Straw; sister, Sylvia Straw-Mitzelfelt and Mignon R. Straw-Smith. Leland is survived by: his wife of 74 years, Alice Goodge Straw; sons and daughters-in-law, L. Stanford Straw, Jr. and Janet Straw of Knoxville, and Kenneth E. Straw and wife Sharon of Berrien Springs, Michigan; grandchildren: Deborah Straw-Tait, Cynthia Straw-Mitchell, Heidi M. Straw and Kristi E. Straw; great grandchildren: Brandon, Sheena, and Christina Tait, Amanda and Dallas Mitchell and Nicholas Straw. Funeral service 11:00 a.m. Friday at Little Creek Sanitarium Chapel with Pastor Rick Greve officiating. Interment to follow at Highland Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: Little Creek Sanitarium, 1811 Little Creek Ln. Knoxville, TN. 37922. The family will receive friends 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel. www.rosemortuary.com.

*Service of Praise
And Remembrance
For*

LELAND STANFORD STRAW Sr.



1911 — 2007

*11 a.m.
Little Creek Chapel
Knoxville, Tennessee*

Pall Bearers

*Gary Carlson Burton Goodge
Grant Goodge Jack McNeilus
Tom McNeilus Kent Williams*

Honorary Pall Bearers

*Marty Gustin Brian Mitchell
Richard Mitzelfelt Ray Ostrander
John Robertson Brandon Tait*



*“But seek ye first the kingdom of
God, and his righteousness;
and all these things
shall be added unto you.”*

Matthew 6:33



*“The greatest want of the world is the want of men--
men who will not be bought or sold,
men who in their inmost souls are true and honest,
men who do not fear to call sin by its right name,
men whose conscience is as true to duty
as the needle to the pole,
men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.”*
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Funeral Service for Leland Straw



Little Creek Chapel

- Prelude Rick Sharp and Pam Forbes
- Welcome Pastor Richard Greve
- Scripture .. *Romans 8:31, 35-39* Pastor David Brass
- Flute Solo .. *“Adoration”* Cynthia (Straw) Mitchell
- Life Sketch Herbert E. Coolidge
- Hymn *“The Glory Song”* #435
Directed by: Dr. H. Vincent Mitzelfelt
- Remembering... .. . Deborah (Straw) Tait
Heidi Straw
- Vocal Solo .. *“The Holy City”* Evan Chesney
- Tribute .. *“A Gentle Giant”* .. by George Akers
Presented by Robert D. Zollinger
- Piano/Organ Duet *“The Green Cathedral”* Rick Sharp and
Pam Forbes
- Homily .. *“A Life in Tune”* .. Pastor Richard Greve
- Vocal Solo.. *“The Lord’s Prayer”* .. Kristi Straw
- Benediction Pastor David Brass



A Biography of Leland Straw

Leland Stanford Straw was born on April 11, 1911, in Sheridan, Illinois, the oldest son of five children born to Walter and Estelle Straw. His parents didn't name him until he was 4 years old, and never gave him a middle name. As a young person, tired of being asked for a middle name and having none, he chose Stanford after hearing the name Leland Stanford University.

At the time of his birth, his father was the principle of Fox River Academy. The family made several moves during his early years in response to his father's pastoral and educational calls. Walter Straw pastored a church in Northern Illinois then as principal at Bethel Academy before moving to Battle Creek Michigan as an Assistant Pastor.

Early in 1915 the family was called to mission service in South Africa where they lived until 1922. Leland had vivid memories of the journey to Africa especially the fact that the boat they were on had to keep all lights off at night to avoid being sunk by German submarines. During their times in Africa, they served at both Claremont Union College and lived at Solusi Mission while Walter served as President of the Zambisi Union, before their final year in Cape Town. They returned to the United States and settled in Keene Texas, for two years until they were called back to Bulawayo, Africa, for another year of service. Leland recalled an incident that occurred during his first stay in Africa. I quote:

"One time I particularly remember. We were going to the railroad siding, called Fig Tree, about 18 miles from the mission. An Ox wagon was going to bring something back from the railway. Also, the horse drawn buckboard, a two seated, covered cart was going for the white folk. I decided to ride with the wagon, while my folks would follow later in the buckboard. I got out to walk part of the time and while I was following behind, the driver swung his lash around in a big circle and somehow it coiled around my neck. He did not realize what had happened and just jerked on his whip until the lash unwound from me. It was somewhat painful, and I felt discouraged and sort of lonely, so I decided to wait for the buckboard to come and I could ride with my folks. When the wagon rounded a circle and was lost to view and I looked around; here I was a little boy alone, out in the wild and a bit scared. I waited a little while; the buckboard didn't show up and I decided that it would be better to be safe in the wagon. I started running as fast as I could to try to catch up. I probably shed a few tears but did manage to catch up and got in the wagon. I know what it feels like when the lost is found, but I had to do the running."

Leland was 14 years old when the family returned to the United States settling in Loveland Colorado, where his father was the principal of Campion Academy. They made subsequent moves to Keene, Texas, and Berrien Springs,

(Continued on page 4)

Tribute to Elder Statesman, Leland Straw (Founder of Little Creek Academy)

February 9, 2007

Here lies a gentle giant, "Prof" Leland Straw.

Who, by his vision and tenacity, set a perpetual benchmark for Seventh-day Adventist education...

Who demonstrated that one begins a great and noble work for God— not with an outstretched palm, but a gloved hand ready to go to work(with whatever meager resources are available)...

Who comprehended clearly that the primary sources of Christian education are supernatural: Spiritual principles, words from the prophet, and daily endowments of the Holy Spirit...

Who understood:

- That a truly Christian school deals in INSPIRATION far more than it does in mere information...
- That children and youth catch the vision best through dedicated teachers who are themselves the curriculum...
- That hype is not holiness; that the Master Teacher breaks through with heavenly wisdom mostly in times of receptive quietness, and that entertainment and real worship are universes apart...
- That the best reality therapy in the world is found in the dignity of labor; the paucity of this world's goods can be a great liberator, one of heaven's greatest instructors...
- That a truly Christian educational institution advances on its knees; that every problem is a call to prayer...
- That daring to be different is more than just divergent thinking; it is a noble independence fired by commitment and singular purpose...
- That institutional culture must be ever guarded, for it is a microcosm of God's family on earth...
- That personal mission and selfless service should be the hallmarks of a Little Creek graduate; that this is the rent we all pay for the space we take up on the planet...

Who, as campus priest, wanted his students to know for sure that when everything else might have fallen over their precipice of memory, God's grace covers all...

Yes, Leland Straw was an educational frontiersman, a real trail blazer. Innovation was his middle name. Little Creek Academy, the outworking of his dream, filled a distinctive place in Adventist Education for many years. It was considered an honor and a privilege to be admitted to this small, high-quality, premier school. Its graduates were highly respected.

Seventh-day Adventist education will be forever indebted to this man's legacy, and that of his faithful wife, Alice.

George H. Akers

Former Director of Education

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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(Continued from page 3, **A Biography of Leland Straw**)

Michigan, before locating in Madison, Tennessee, where his father was the dean of Madison College beginning in 1929.

To quote again from Leland’s memoirs:

“Alice and I became acquainted through our interest in music. She played the piano for her mother who was a singer, while I played in school bands since I was ten or eleven years of age. Alice and I began taking lessons in Nashville, she in piano and I in violin and piano. After I was graduated in 1931, I was invited to prepare to develop a music program at Madison. I attended Peabody College for six quarters, majoring in music and graduating in 1933. Madison paid all my school expenses and the standard ten cents and hour wage. I in turn, was to teach for seven years of refund the expenses. Alice and I worked together with our music for several years and I decided it would be good to continue the program. She agreed and we were married September 3, 1933.”

While teaching at Madison Leland and Alice were blessed with the birth of two sons, Leland Stanford Straw Jr. born March 13, 1937 and Kenneth Edward Straw born September 29, 1939. After a time Leland and Alice felt called to further the self supporting work started at Madison.

To quote Leland again:

“Living for nearly twelve years and hearing Dr. Sutherland preach self-supporting work on every possible occasion was pretty strong medicine, and we became interested in the book Education by E>G> White. To make a long story short, Lida Scott drove us to Knoxville, Tennessee, to see the property there...Our basic aim was to carry out as far as possible the picture we found in the book Education. Our whole operation was designed to be an education. THE REAL WAY TO DETERMINE THE OF ANY ACTIVITY IS BY ITS PRODUCT. Little Creek Academy Homecoming ia a satisfying time when we look at our loyal alumni.”

There were no buildings of facilities on the farm except for one little frame house and a barn when Leland and a friend, C.R. Fredrick, first arrived in the summer of 1940. The Scott family who had been living in the house could not move to their new house for three months so Leland and C.R. camped out in three tents, one for sleeping in, one for cooking in, and the other to one to keep the two grand pianos covered. Bud Scott said he didn’t know how any one was going to successfully run a farm and

start a school who spent so much time playing the piano as Leland did. That fall, Leland was joined by Alice and the boys and three students– George, Betty and Shirley Zollinger– who showed up to go to school before the school was even ready to open. From that humble beginning, the school grew to a 9-12 grade boarding school with close to a 100 students enrolled each year. During the years of operation from 1940-1994, Little Creek graduated approximately 1,100 students.

Most of us here today are very familiar with Leland’s work at Little Creek but his sphere of influence and service reached well beyond the school. Around 1947, he became a member of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and played violin with them until the mid 1970’s Concert tickets were frequently made available to students and faculty to enjoy an evening out.

Leland realized that service to his community was as important as his call to education and joined the West Knoxville Kiwanis Club in 1964. He served as secretary and president and was an active member up until his death. He valued the many wonderful friendships through his association with the Kiwanis Club.

Many awards were bestowed upon both Leland and Alice over the years. Several wer especially meaningful. In 1984 he was given a service award from the Seventh-day Adventist Southern Union Conference Office of Education. He received a Christian Service Award from ASI in 1985. The Kiwanis Club named Leland a George F. Hixson Fellow in 1998. Leland was specially honored in 1990 when he received the Thomas and Violet Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award at the 1990 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting.



Leland’s Funeral in the Chapel