Retired Baptist Missionary Honored
For Many Years Service in Burma

Adoniram Judson Weeks' life from beginning to Sunday was presented in a special surprise program honoring the former Baptist missionary to Burma at the First Baptist Church in Lynden.

More than 200 persons watched a skit entitled "This Is Your Life" and joined in congratulating the 83-year-old retired missionary after he received an award from the American Baptist Missionary Society for his 34 years of missionary work in Burma.

Rev. Arliss Johnson, right, is seen above presenting an honor medal from the Society to Rev. Weeks.

Rev. Weeks has lived in Lynden since 1932, when he retired from active missionary work. His first wife, the former Louise Scrimger, was a Lyndenite and former principal of the Lynden schools before their marriage in 1905, the year they left for Burma. She passed away a few years ago. Rev. Weeks remarried in 1953.

The old Mulmein pagoda are not just words in a song to the Weeks family. Rev. and Mrs. Weeks served among the Karen people at Mulmein and Tavoy in Burma, with some work in Rangoon. All their three children were born in that country. Besides Burma, the couple have been to Japan, the British Isles, Naples, Cairo, Arabia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, the Philippines and Hawaii on visits.

Before deciding to become a missionary, Rev. Weeks had studied to be a mechanical engineer at Michigan State College. With such a background, he was asked to serve as chairman of a property committee in Rangoon during his years there. He supervised the spending of a million and a half dollars worth of building in the...
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Rev. A. J. Weeks

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early '30s, when that amount of money was really worth something. They named "Weeks High School" in Mulmein after him.

The life of Judson Weeks was portrayed in a special play written by Pastor Johnson in honor of the missionary's award presentation. Beginning with his decision to enter the missionary field, it tells of incidents in his life which then led to his trip to Burma and his marriage to Louise Scrimger, a college classmate.

The play opens at his birthplace in Leslie, Michigan, as he returns from Kalamazoo College one Christmas vacation to tell his mother of his decision to become a missionary. His experiences in the Student Volunteer Movement, a missionary organization for young people, led him to do so.

His mother then explains that she and his father had hoped he would become a missionary before he was born and had named him "Adoniram," which means Lord of the Mountain and "Judson," after one of the greatest of Baptist missionaries in that hope. He did not know this until after he had told his mother of his decision.

Then as Judson describes to his mother the reasons for his decision and his conversion, various "flashbacks" portrayed the scenes as he and his mother talked. The last scene was his meeting with Louise before he leaves for seminary at Newton.

The final part of the program was devoted to a talk by Pastor Weeks about his life in Burma.

Characters in the play included George Fredlund as the boy Judson, Ed Sprague as the "college" Judson and Don Harlow as the "young man" Judson; Mrs. Charles Sprague as his mother; Ken Larson as his father; Maude Wood as his sister Lois and Sandra Hardin as his first wife Louise.

Dinner was served to 85 persons earlier in the afternoon at tables in the form of a cross. A cross-shaped cake with 34 candles was cut by the honored guest.

Recorded greetings from two of his children, Mrs. Roosevelt Basleeer of Nashville, Tennessee, and Dr. George Weeks of Harbor City, California were heard. George is a music teacher at Narbonne High School in Los Angeles. Their other daughter, Mrs. E. J. Lovely and her husband from Everett, attended the program. Pastor Weeks has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Rev. and Mrs. Weeks are now living at 212 Front Street. The veteran missionary now spends his days with many memories of his years in Burma. He would like to still be engaged in his lifelong work as he was willing, but his motor needs a rest." (Tribune Photo.)