

His Focus: Love Them, Feed Them

By BARBARA BURKLO
Sentinel Staff Writer

To say that Safeway Stores lost a first-rate prospective executive when Roy Kraft left their grocery business to enter the ministry might be an accurate statement.

Because Dr. Roy Kraft, today celebrating 35 years as pastor of Twin Lakes Baptist Church, was early in his life interested in business, and did work for Safeway.

There will be a big anniversary celebration tonight at 8:15 at the church, and all those who have enjoyed Dr. Kraft's church and radio ministry through the years are invited to attend.

The past 35 years have brought fulfillment to Dr. Kraft, along with some dark days and some continuing dreams of the future. He has seen the church, which, when he entered its ministry in 1944 had 50 members, grow to its present 2,100 membership. He has seen growth through numerous expansion programs at the 7th Avenue location culminate in a new building in Aptos.

He has lost a minister son and watched his other three children mature in the faith.

And he has many dreams and plans — some of which are possibly not generally known.

When Dr. Kraft and his twin brother, Ralph, were graduated from Wasco High School, they went to work for Safeway, where their older brother already was employed. Another brother was a student in a Baptist seminary.

When the seminarian, several weeks before his graduation, was killed by a drunk driver in an accident in Bakersfield, the twin brothers were shocked into re-thinking their life goals. Soon, they both enrolled in Biola College, a Bible school in Los Angeles.

The older brother continued with Safeway Stores, was sent to Canada and became chairman of the Safe-

way board there. He is now retired.

Dr. Kraft met his future wife, Jeannette, at Biola and after graduation, the two young ministers and their wives embarked on a youth evangelism ministry that took them all over the United States and Canada. Several summers during that period, they operated the grocery store at Mt. Hermon.

When Dr. and Mrs. Kraft began the ministry at Twin Lakes Baptist Church in 1944, he says, "Our ambition was not to build a big church or a big work. I learned early that people didn't care too much about my politics or the books I read — they wanted spiritual food and love."

"Love people and feed them the word of God — that is what I believe is one of the greatest needs today and that is the advice I would give young pastors."

"There is so much that could be done today — but we don't have enough pastors. We have enough great pulpites — who sit behind desks and read and study — but we are desperately in need of 'undershepherds' who would love and feed the people — spend time with them."

Right from the first, Dr. and Mrs. Kraft began having home Bible studies along with their church services and the congregation steadily grew. A new church was built at the old 7th Avenue location in 1948, and additions followed.

In 1973, the present church complex was erected in the Aptos location — a result, says Dr. Kraft, of the fact that the congregation prayed for a miracle — a million dollar miracle, and were not afraid of a challenge.

The same year, the Kraft's oldest son, David, died of cancer. Married and the father of two children, David had been pastor of the First Baptist Church of San

Lorenzo Valley, which, along with University Baptist Church, had been founded earlier by the Twin Lakes congregation.

"When I had to tell David he had cancer and that the doctors said he had no hope," Dr. Kraft says, "he asked me to come over to his hospital bed and hug him."

"Then he said, 'Dad, I want to tell you that I love you, and I want to thank you for building a faith into me for a time like this.'"

"I wouldn't take anything for those statements. The people of his church were so good to him. He demonstrated his love when he was so ill, and often sent taped messages out to his people."

"David was a scholar and a musician — I really think he would have done a fine job in the ministry."

The Kraft's two other sons are Jim, an ordained minister who runs the Twin Lakes' Camp Hammer and who is described by his father as particularly sensitive to the needs of young and elderly persons; and Dan, who owns Kraft's Body Shop in Santa Cruz and who, as a Christian layman, ministers on a one-to-one basis. Their daughter, Ruth, is married to a Baptist minister in Lincoln City, Oregon. The Krafts have 10 grandchildren.

Jeannette Kraft, according to her husband, has the ministry of being the "perfect homemaker."

"She has been very supportive of my work — no one can do his best if he is not happy in his work — and our home has been a very, very happy place. It has been an enormous help to me."

Mrs. Kraft has taught Sunday School for years and now conducts home Bible classes.

How does the veteran pastor see the world of today?

"There are far more bro-

departed from the basics of the Scriptures and have allowed themselves to be driven into lifestyles they wouldn't accept if they were really thinking. Mankind as a whole today is looking for a voice of authority — a guideline."

Dr. Kraft has two dreams.

One, is to establish some type of home for those whom he terms, 'throw-aways'. "You'd be surprised how many young people have been kicked out, thrown out of their homes," he says. "We are interested in them. They have no place to go. We would love to have a place for them. Our church has been given a 1,200 acre ranch and we are considering using it for this kind of ministry."

The other dream is to initiate a facility, perhaps on the same ranch, where he could take 25 couples at a time for weekend retreats, and give them instruction on how to live happily together.

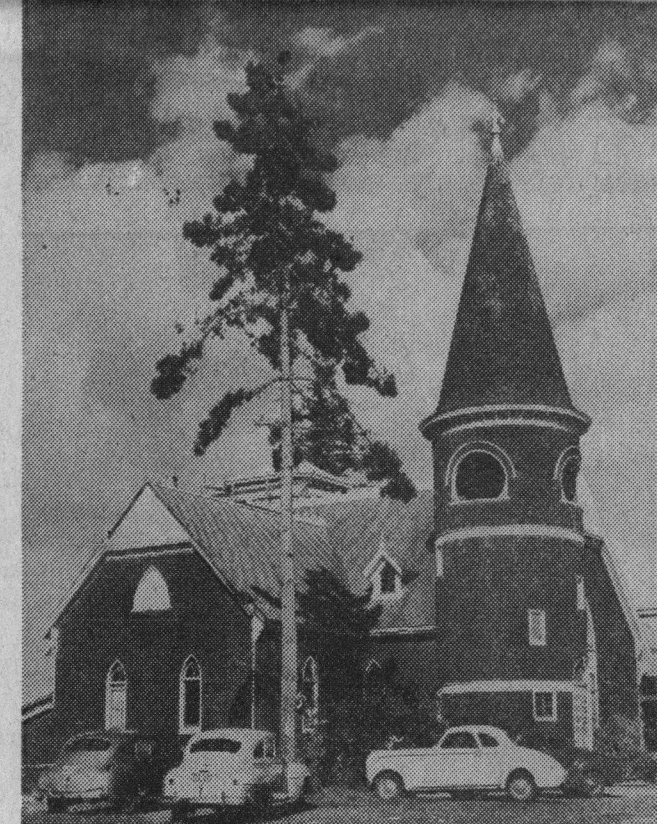
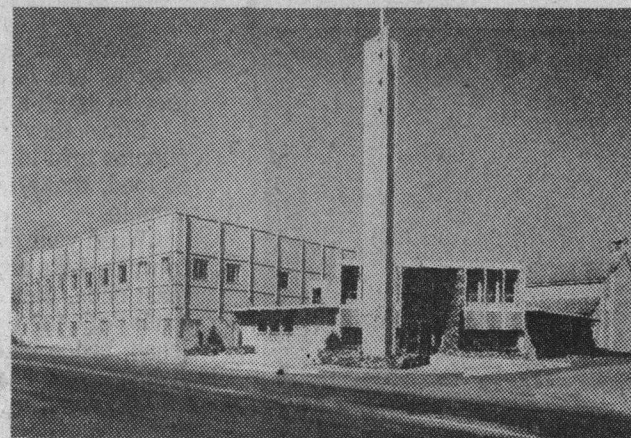
"We carry about 100 people at a time, counseling with our staff," he says, "there are so many unhappy homes, unhappy marriages, and all the problems that grow out of this. If we could just take them to a retreat, and perhaps have them return periodically, there is so much that could be done."

Returning to his feeling for people, Dr. Kraft says, "I like people and I like to minister to people and I don't care about the hour of the day. I like to be with people when they need me."

Above, Dr. and Mrs. Roy Kraft at home. Top right picture is first Twin Lakes Baptist Church. At right is the church built in 1948 and, below, is the new church, built in Aptos in 1973.



"I learned early that people didn't care too much about my politics or the books I read — they wanted spiritual food and love," says Dr. Roy Kraft, pastor of Twin Lakes Baptist Church for 35 years, "I like people and I like to minister to people — and I don't care about the hour of the day. I like to be with people when they need me."



Stop drinking!?

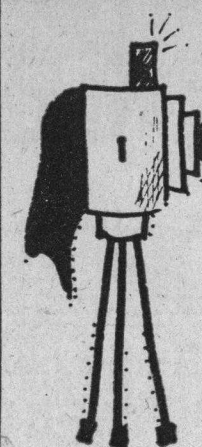
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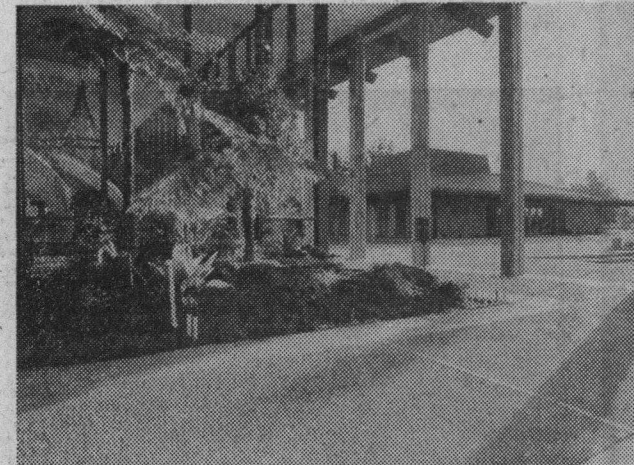
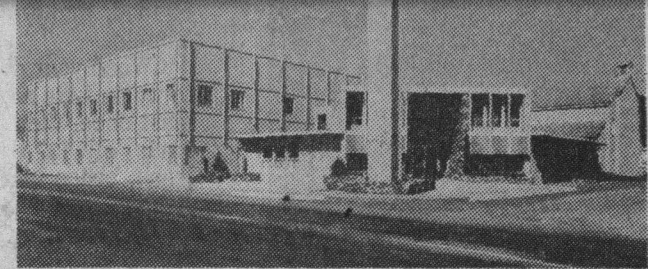
How does the veteran
pastor see the world of to-
day?

"There are far more bro-
ken hearts, broken lives and
broken homes — and it
comes across in all ages,"
he says.

"People are so material-
istically minded — thinking
things will satisfy them
when they never do — they
are so full of despair and
pressure that they are
driven to do things they
wouldn't otherwise do.

"Basically, people have

*Baptist Church. At
right is the church
built in 1948 and,
below, is the
new church, built in
Aptos in 1973.*



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