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## Chapter 4

# Irwin and Myrtle on Their Own

1945–1958

We took a sabbatical year and visited with our sisters and brothers around the United States—Indiana, Nebraska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Colorado, and then to Michigan where Laura was married.

In 1947, Irwin was transferred to South Dakota, and we spent four years at White River, two years at Timber Lake, then Hazel and Thomas.

From there Irwin retired to Squires, Missouri, 14 miles from Ava (south). We bought a furnished home on four acres. It was fun—double fun time. What wasn't furnished we bought. He lived about one year. He had a stroke, died in a hospital in Springfield, Missouri, and was buried in a cemetery in Ava, Missouri. ❀



*Irwin and Myrtle on their 25th wedding anniversary.*



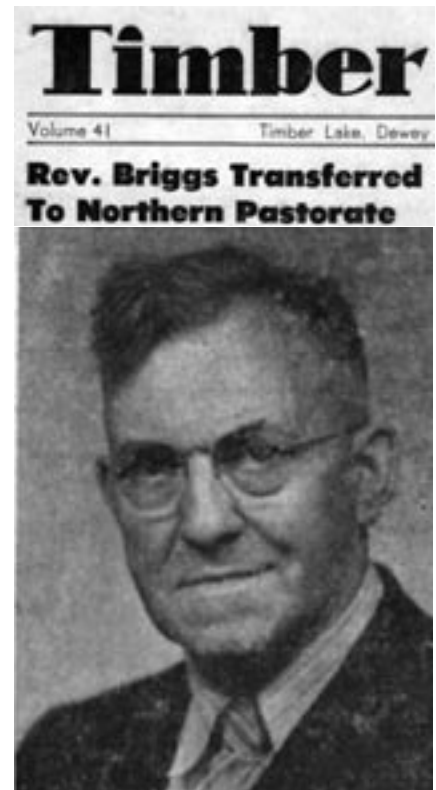
*Irwin and Myrtle, October 1948.*



*Timber Lake Methodist Church in South Dakota.*



*White River Church in South Dakota.*



Rev. H. I. Briggs has been appointed to serve the Methodist churches in Hazel and Thomas in the northern district of the Dakota conference. They will be located 16 miles west and eight miles south of Watertown. The appointment was made during the annual conference of the Methodist churches of South Dakota, held in Aberdeen last week.

Rev. Briggs will deliver his farewell sermon next Sunday, June 14, and will leave next week for his new pastorate. He has served the local church the past two years, coming from White River, where he had served four years.

## Grandpa Briggs

### My Grandpa Briggs

I was in fourth grade when Grandpa Briggs died. We traveled all night from Michigan to get to his funeral in Missouri.

When I was very young, we had visited Grandpa and Grandma in South Dakota. Grandpa had built a step stool with handles and woodburned my name into the top of the lid. He also made a red swing and a blue swing—one for me and one for my sister, Carol.

The year before grandpa died, our family traveled to Missouri to visit Grandma and Grandpa in the wonderful Ozarks, where they lived. I remember Grandpa playing his musical saw with a violin bow, as well as he and Grandma playing their mandolins, which they called Potato Bugs. I'm not sure I remember him playing his violin which was given to me a year or two after he died.

Grandpa took Carol and me for a walk behind their house and showed us the interesting rocks that were there and chatted with us about the area and the strata in the rocky bluff in the distance, as our two year old brother, Chuck, helped Grandma make Thanksgiving dinner.

### Grandpa and Grandma in Missouri

Grandma and Grandpa Briggs moved to Missouri to retire. While reading the scripture during a prayer meeting, Grandpa had a stroke and lived only a few days. He died in Ava, Missouri, on May 13, 1958.—*Louise Smith* ❀



*South Dakota 1954. Grandpa was an outgoing person. Here he is in a receiving line ready to shake hands.*



*Grandpa Briggs at the beach, 1943.*



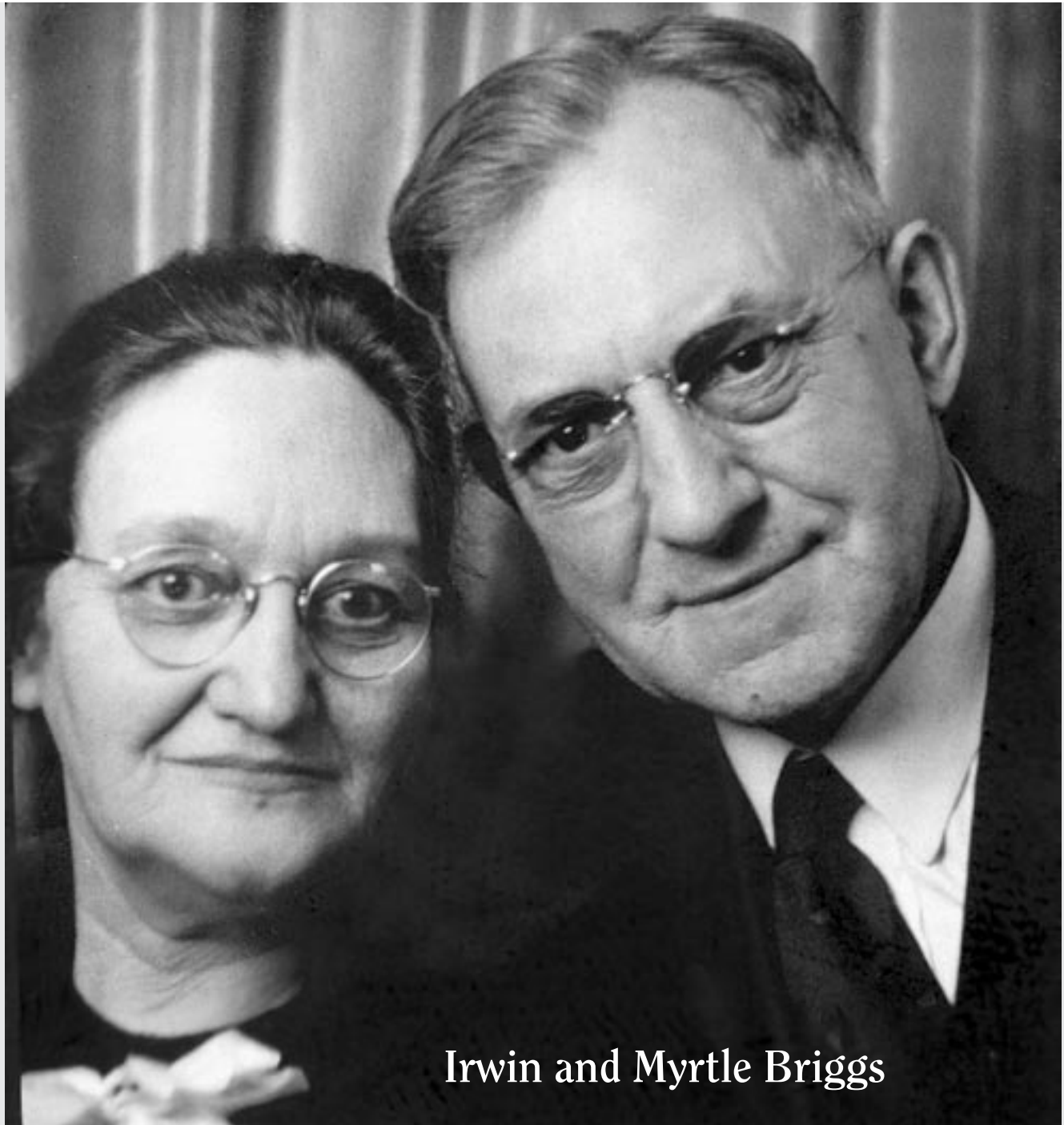
*The Austin Family visited Grandma and Grandpa Briggs in Missouri. Standing: Grandpa and me (Louise). In the wheelbarrow is my sister Carol and brother Chuck.*



*Grandpa Briggs loved to fish. Here he is with children of a friend.*



*Grandpa had several churches at a time when they lived in New York and also when they lived in South Dakota. Here is Grandpa at the parsonage in New York. The Delaware River flows in the background.*



## Irwin and Myrtle Briggs

### **Irwin Briggs' Obituary**

Funeral services for the Rev. Harry Irwin Briggs, 67, of Squires, a retired Methodist minister who died at 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, at the Burge Hospital in Springfield, will be conducted at 2 p.m. tomorrow (Friday) at the Clinkingbeard Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. Edward Watkins, pastor of the Ava Methodist Church, officiating.

*Rev. Briggs, a veteran of World War I, retired last June and moved to Squires from Hazel, S. D. He became ill six days before his death while conducting a service at the Murray Church. He was a minister for 40 years.*

*Born March 23, 1891, in Ainsworth, Nebr., the son of Clinton and Marium Briggs, he was married there on Sept. 2, 1919, to Amanda*

*Myrtie Crabtree, who survives. Also surviving is a son, John, of Yankton, S. D.; three daughters, Mrs. E. J. Brink, Wyanet, Ill., Mrs. L. Lufburrow, Collingswood, N. J., and Mrs. Arthur Austin, Wyandotte, Mich., and nine brothers and sisters.*

*Burial will be in the Ava Cemetery. ❀*