

ROYAL OAK

Royal Oak was started in 1936. In 1935 that three of the members of Ferndale: Bill Oliver, Dewey Montgomery, and Tom Carroll came over to my place on Sunday afternoon and said they were thinking of starting a new congregation. They went out to Royal Oak and started it in an office building on the third floor. That was an "upper room!" Then they bought a house over on Washington which they converted into a meeting place and kept that going for a while. Then they bought their property on 11 Mile and Campbell. I went out to preach for them a few times. They have grown very well. They probably are as strong as any of the suburban churches. They are getting around 300 to 400 people. John Belasco is the energetic preacher there. They have had a line-up of preachers a mile long including Bill Medearis, Paul McGaughey and Lefty Maynard, etc.

Boyd: Were these men unhappy with Wilcox?

Black: Wilcox was gone in '30 so this was after that. I'm not aware that they pulled out because of any disagreement like Beverly Hills. Troy went out with his blessing because he helped them draft by-laws - or wrote them for them. I do not know what the motive was for Royal Oak's beginning. Maybe just a desire to start a new place. They wound up only three miles from Ferndale and both on Hilton (Cambell) Road. I don't know who was their first full-time minister. Lefty Maynard is brother to Zeke who works down in Appalachia country and distributes clothing. We give him a truck load of stuff every year, mostly clothing. He comes up with a truck and hauls it

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Beverly Hills
Troy

Wilcox said all there was to say.

Beverly Hills came about after Wilcox went to California for a couple of months and so the church hired a young man to preach for them. When Wilcox came back, he fired the young man who then proceeded to go among the members until he found enough people willing to go with them to begin a new work in Beverly Hills. I don't know how Madison Heights began. They were going along there when Wilcox got in trouble in Ferndale and needed some place to light. He took a bunch of his friends to a business meeting and out-voted former members three to one when he took over and began preaching. He fired the treasurer and put his own in. There was a manager at an A & P store near here who was a member there at the time. He said, "It wasn't that he was so smart but that we were so dumb to let him come in and do that!" Later Wilcox went to Paducah, Kentucky but his influence has remained there. They had me over there for a few Sundays a few years ago and wanted me to come back. I knew they were quite loyal to T. C.

Beverly Hills

Madison Heights

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