

Biggest Religious Boom In History Sweeping Every Part of Nation

Church Membership at All-Time Peak, Still Rising; Buildings Springing Up

By BRUCE BLOSSAT, Times Special Writer

NEW YORK, Mar. 13—Religion is enjoying the biggest boom it has ever had in America.

Church membership is at an all-time peak and embraces a larger share of the population than ever before. It is still rising. And new churches are springing up all around the country to meet the swelling need.

Hundreds of newspapers have published serialized versions of religious books and played them up like spot news stories. Millions are gobbling up these same books at the bookstores. Some of these works have been printed twice in the same paper.

An evangelistic, revivalist spirit has spread widely. Right now 35 Protestant denominations are engaged in a 15 months' drive to "win America for Christ." Upwards of 1 million church laymen are ringing doorbells in a down-to-earth effort to draw every good prospect into the fold. The target is big: 10 million eligible non-churchgoers.

Last November, 700 Methodist ministers from all areas joined 300 local preachers in Philadelphia for an intensive week of evangelism. Nearly 35,000 religious-minded folk crammed into the city's huge Convention Hall for a windup meeting.

Religious campaigns are getting to be big business. In the most recent "Religion in American Life" program a while back, four national radio networks were enlisted to help. The highly expert Advertising Council lent a hand for the first time, and 5000 religious posters sprouted on billboards across the land.

A special fervor sometimes seizes particular places or groups. Milwaukee people, troubled over what they thought was the "excessive commercializing" of Christmas, plunged eagerly into a pre-holiday campaign to "Put Christ Back in Christmas."

With 200 merchants co-operating, they pasted up 1200 posters bearing the slogan. It was carried on hotel and theater marquees, 160 billboards, auto stickers. Pictures of the Nativity appeared in 275 taxicabs. Radio and television broadcasts entered into the unprecedented drive.

In the last month or so, some American colleges have been caught up in the rolling tide. Marathon campus revival meetings—one carrying on nearly a week—have occurred here and there. Though exhibitionism may have played a part, most of the

Two Employment Officials Honored

Given Plaques for Aid to Veterans

Two employment officials were cited here yesterday for "meritorious service in furthering veterans' employment" by Clyde A. Lewis, national Veterans of Foreign Wars commander.

Mr. Lewis presented plaques to Col. Everett L. Gardner, director, Indiana Employment Security Division, and Fred W. Jenkins, Veterans Employment Service representative, at a luncheon in the Antlers Hotel.

The VFW commander-in-chief, speaking before more than 200 post, district and state officers, scored public apathy toward important problems concerning our security and economic welfare.

Urges Interest in Politics He urged all citizens to be more active and take a greater interest in politics and important affairs.

"If we do not take such interest, which is our responsibility as well as our privilege," Mr. Lewis said, "we shall soon be members of a government run by default."

Mr. Lewis voiced opposition to the United World Federalist movement, saying its success would mean a loss of our national sovereignty. He lauded Indiana VFW progress and community service.

Herman J. Fritz, Druggist, Dies

Operated Stores Here for 50 Years

Herman Joseph Fritz, 843 N. Oxford St., an Indianapolis druggist for nearly a half-century, died today in St. Francis Hospital. He was 71.

A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, he was one of four brothers who independently have owned and operated a group of stores under the Fritz name during the last 50 years.

He owned stores at 1202 E. 10th St., 2202 Madison Ave. and in the 600 block S. Illinois St., but sold them eight years ago to help his brother, John P., operate his store at 641 Virginia Ave.

A requiem high mass will be sung at 10 a. m. Thursday in St. Philip Neri Catholic Church after services at Grinstead Funeral Home at 9:30 a. m. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon.

Surviving are three brothers, John P., Otto H. and Albert C., and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Huttie, all of Indianapolis.

Robert A. Adams Funeral To Be Held Wednesday

Well-Known Local Lawyer Dies in N. Y.

Robert A. Adams, Indianapolis authority on insurance law, who died yesterday in New York, will be buried in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Ky., after services at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday in Second Presbyterian Church here.

A well-known attorney and civic leader, Mr. Adams had been under a doctor's care in New York since December. He was 58.

Mr. Adams, junior member of the law firm of Dowden, Denny and Adams, was a practicing attorney in Indianapolis since his graduation from Harvard University Law School in 1916. He lived at 1321 N. Meridian St.

Mr. Adams handled the legal affairs of 19 major insurance companies. He recently was elected president of the National Association of Life Insurance Companies.

In World War I, Mr. Adams was a field artillery officer overseas, and in World War II was chairman of the speaker's bureau of the Indiana War Finance Committee, civilian aide for Indiana to the Secretary of the Army and chairman of the committee on war work of the Indiana State Bar Association.

From 1920 until 1927 Mr. Adams was national judge advocate of the American Legion. He was appointed to the Marion County Welfare Board in 1945 and resigned in 1948.

Born in Columbus City, he was graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in 1913 before attending Harvard.



Robert A. Adams

He was a member of the Indiana Bar Association and the Indianapolis Bar Association and practiced before the Supreme Court of the United States for many years.

Past president of the Literary Club and Phi Gamma Delta fraternities, Mr. Adams was a member of the University Club, Country Club of Indianapolis, Traders Point Hunt Club, Dramatic Club, Contemporary Club and Indianapolis Athletic Club.

He was a member of Second Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his wife, Mary, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Martha Lois Reynolds, both of Indianapolis.

Crash Fatal to 80 Blamed on Motors

Plane Broke in Two, Says Airport Official (Continued From Page One)

Tudor" when trying to account for the disaster.

All Tudor planes on regular airlines have been grounded since two disappeared mysteriously in the sea near Bermuda. However, they have been used on the Berlin airlift and by charter companies.

Pretty Spring Day

The crash occurred on a beautiful spring day, with not a cloud in the sky.

Mrs. Handel Rogers, wife of one of those who survived, said her husband told her "the plane seemed to leap into the air and fly on again before it crashed into a field."

"The jolt threw my husband's head forward," she said. "He believes his head got jammed in the seat in front of him."

"The next thing he remembers is hearing someone shouting his name. It was Gwynne, his brother-in-law."

"But my husband could not move to free himself. Gwynne, who was only scratched, tugged him upright and undid his safety belt. They both struggled out of the tail."

Engines Conk Out

Eyewitnesses said the four-rolls Royce Merlin engines powering the airliner appeared to fall when the pilot tried to pull the ship up for another landing attempt after coming in too low the first time.

They said the plane was climbing slightly to starboard when its engines cut out and it suddenly heeled over on its side and fell two miles short of its landing point, an RAF field here.

Broken suitcases in the wreckage spilled cigars, chocolate, fruit, nylon stockings and other luxuries the football fans bought in ration-free Ireland as gifts for their friends and families in Britain.

The world's worst air disaster previously occurred Apr. 4, 1933, when 73 persons were killed in the crash of the U. S. Navy dirigible Akron. The Akron crashed into the sea southwest of Barnegat Light, N. J.

Pennsy Official To Visit Here

J. P. Newell, general manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Chicago, will be in Indianapolis Friday to see Pennsylvania Railroad employees of this division.

Mr. Newell will visit employees at work during the day and in the evening will address a general dinner meeting of employees and their families at the Athenaeum.

Mr. Newell Special trains will run from Louisville and Vincennes to bring Pennsylvania Railroad workers to the meeting.

FRENCH HONOR IRE

PARIS, Mar. 13 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected an associate member of the French National Academy of Moral and Political sciences by unanimous vote today. He fills the place left vacant by the death of Gen. John J. Pershing.

Surviving are his wife, Mattie, two daughters, Mrs. Ruby Lee Patrick and Mrs. Nellie Marie Grant, both of Indianapolis; four sisters, Mrs. Bell E. Tobison, Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Dora Wilson, Cincinnati, O.; Miss Cyota Roberts, Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. Marie Lanning, Barberton, O.; four brothers, Loe W., Indianapolis; Blon, Springfield, Ill.; Adell, Muncie, and William, Indianapolis.

Muskies Cause Leak

In U. S.-Mexican Canal EL CENTRO, Cal., Mar. 13 (UP)—Inquisitive muskrats with international ambitions were blamed today for a break in the All-American Canal that flooded a small section of Mexico.

Elmer Hartzog of the Imperial Valley Irrigation District said muskrats burrowed through the canal near Calexico. Escaping water widened the break to 80 feet and poured forth on the Mexican side of the border.

The break was discovered Saturday in the south bank of the giant canal which parallels the international boundary.

Isaac N. Roberts Dies at Age 52

Kentucky Native Ill for 3 Years

Isaac N. Roberts, Indianapolis resident for 26 years, died today in his home, 1221 Pleasant St., after an illness of three years. He was 52.

A native of Webb's Cross Roads, Ky., Mr. Roberts was a member of the Fountain Square Church of Christ, and was employed by the U. S. Rubber Co. Services will be held in Ella, Ky.

Surviving are his wife, Mattie, two daughters, Mrs. Ruby Lee Patrick and Mrs. Nellie Marie Grant, both of Indianapolis; four sisters, Mrs. Bell E. Tobison, Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Dora Wilson, Cincinnati, O.; Miss Cyota Roberts, Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. Marie Lanning, Barberton, O.; four brothers, Loe W., Indianapolis; Blon, Springfield, Ill.; Adell, Muncie, and William, Indianapolis.

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