

Protestants, Catholics Vie In Efforts To Convert Japan's 82 Million To Christian Faith

By O. H. P. KING

TOKYO. — (AP) — Several hundred missionaries are trying to convert the 82,000,000 Japanese to Christianity. Fewer than 400,000 have openly accepted Christianity so far, church figures indicate, but missionaries regard Japan as a promising field.

There is rivalry to win converts, since an outstanding Japanese brought into one fold or another brightens the prospects for getting others.

Both Catholics and Protestants have regained their prewar strength, according to latest available figures.

Membership in the Roman Catholic church was 119,224 in 1940. The various Protestant churches claimed an aggregate membership



CLEANING SAVER 3-30
By J. R. Williams

Teen-Age Eugene Youths Arraigned For Mishap

EUGENE, March 29. — (AP) — The two teen-age boys accused by a coroner's jury of negligent homicide last week in an accident on river road were arraigned Monday and Tuesday in district court. They are involved in the deaths of two young sisters, Marlene Joyce and Bonnie Myers in an auto accident March 19.

Robert Lee Richardson, 16, was arraigned Monday on the strength of the coroner's jury verdict, and Andrew Holland, age 16, driver of the second car said by the jury to be involved, was in court Tuesday. Both boys were remanded to circuit court.

Their case will be considered by the special grand jury which has been called to meet April 3. If the grand jury indicts them on any charge, their case will go through the courts like any other.

DUAL ROLE CLASH
ENDICOTT, N. Y., March 30. — (AP) — Frank Skobern is village building inspector. He's also president of the Endicott Boys' club, and the situation can be confusing.

As head of the Boys' club, he endorsed plans to build an addition to the clubhouse.

As building inspector, he rejected the plans on the ground they violated zoning regulations.

Now, as Boys' club president, he's asking the village zoning board to reverse the ruling he made as building inspector.

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200,000. Membership and open adherence to Christianity dropped seriously during the war because, according to Japanese, "Christianity was as unpopular as pacifism" under the war lords.

But by virtue of stepped-up missionary activity after the war, Christianity gained back its losses and in some cases exceeded its old membership. In 1949 the Catholics claimed membership of more than 138,388 and the Protestants claimed 201,321.

Although the main religion in Japan is a combination of the native primitive Shinto religion with Buddhism, Christianity is not new to its people. St. Francis Xavier introduced Christianity to the Japanese in 1549 and during the regime of one early emperor it was forced on the people as a state religion as a means of defeating the Buddhists.

Buddhism Still Dominant
The Buddhists, nevertheless, have held the greatest sway over the people of this island empire. Most of the population belongs to one of the 12 organized Buddhist sects, all of which contain some of the old Shinto beliefs, the most outstanding Shinto belief to survive the centuries is that the emperor is descended from the sun Goddess. Each of Japan's 124 emperors is believed to have descended directly from the first sovereign, who was the sun Goddess' grandson.

The modern Christian movement followed Commodore Perry's visit to Japan in 1853. Greatest importance is attached by the missionaries to converting

important personages to Christianity. In Japan this gives added prestige to the church and helps to influence others to join.

Catholic churches in Japan today total 405. There are 3,104 priests, brothers and nuns, 1,974 of whom are Japanese.

Protestant churches total 2,321 with a total clergy of 2,976.

Resistance To Russia Wins Tito Huge Vote

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, March 30. — (AP) — The independent Communist regime of Premier Marshal Tito was supported in its fight against the Russian-led Cominform by 93.2 per cent of the Yugoslav voters in Sunday's general election. It was officially announced today.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported that 9,059,113 of the 9,746,000 who voted supported the unopposed people's front ticket.

The biggest show of opposition apparently was in Catholic Croatia, where some districts recorded more than 20 per cent against the regime.

Nevertheless, the election showed stronger popular support of Tito's regime than did the last general election in 1945. In that first post-war election Tito's government received only 88.7 per cent of the total vote.

For the 12th consecutive year, Delaware Park has increased the added money offered in stake races at the track.

Chicago's Gorilla To Have Birthday Party

CHICAGO, March 30. — (AP) — A birthday party will be held at the Lincoln park zoo today for Bushman, the giant gorilla and Chicago's biggest single draying card.

The 6-foot, 2-inch, 550-pound Bushman was born 22 years ago and has been at the zoo for 20 years. He cost the zoo \$3,500 and now is regarded by zoo officials as "priceless." He has been described as the most outstanding single animal of any zoo in the world and the most valuable. Some 3,000,000 persons visited the zoo last year—primarily to see Bushman.

Zoo Director R. Marlin Perkins has sent out invitations to a select group for Bushman's birthday party.

UNWANTED BOOTY

DIXON, Ill., March 30. — (AP) — Burglars reaped a grim harvest when they looted Harvey L. Basshardt's parked automobile.

They abandoned the stolen articles, appropriately, near a Prairieville cemetery. Police identified the loot as 19 burial gowns, suits and blankets, owned by Basshardt, a salesman for a Ft. Wayne, Ind., funeral supplies firm.

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