

Legion Elects Dallas Nollsch Of Portland

SEASIDE (U) — Dallas Nollsch of Portland was elected commander of the Oregon American Legion at the closing session of the organization's annual convention here Saturday.

Nollsch, a World War II veteran, was unopposed.

Carl R. Moser was elected vice commander and Thomas D. Stoughton, finance officer. Both are from Portland.

Hollis C. Hull, Albany, defeated B. E. (Kelly) Owens, Salem, for the post of national committeeman.

Clyde R. Dickey, Portland, was elected alternate. Rabbi Julius Nodel, Portland, was elected chaplain.

Resolutions indorsed by the convention:

Commended the Legislature and Gov. Paul Patterson for enacting

Vote-Getter Wins 9th Straight Office

GUNNISON, Colo. (AP) — Dick Bratton of Salida, Colo., has yet to lose an election. He passed milestone No. 9 with his election this spring as president of the student body at Western State College.

At Salida he was president of the 8th grade, freshman, sophomore, junior and senior high school classes, and followed up by being elected head of his freshman, sophomore and junior classes at college.

the civil rights law. Favored a strong national defense but with all possible government economy.

Favored compulsory courses in American history and civilt government in schools and that textbooks for these courses "present the American point of view and American philosophy of government in clear and positive fashion."

Urged that teachers for these courses be specially qualified.

Indorsed the work of the Farmers Home Administration.

\$5000 Smile



SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Gregory Melanson, 34, smiles as he waits for a look at triplets born to his wife in Santa Monica Hospital. Melanson has \$5000 insurance policy, issued by Lloyds of London for a premium of \$200, on multiple births. His wife, Mary Louise, 26, has record of multiple births in her family, although she, herself is not a twin. (AP Wirephoto.)

Clergy Enthused Over Film Based On Martin Luther

By GEORGE W. CORNELL

NEW YORK (U) — A new big-tin notion picture is working up a groundswell in religious circles.

Although the film "Martin Luther" so far has been unveiled only in three cities and in special showings to top church leaders, it already has become something of a sensation.

Owned by six Lutheran church bodies, the half-million dollar picture is said to be the first church-backed movie ever distributed commercially.

Various Protestant spokesmen say it eventually could spark fresh revival in their faith.

"I believe it will become both a religious and historical experience for the American people," said Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Philadelphia Baptist Minister and editor of the Christian Herald.

Dr. E. E. Flack, dean of Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio, said "I can almost visualize a new reformation to be produced by this film. Its far-reaching influence can never be estimated."

Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, called it the "most interesting and absorbing" religious film yet and urged pastors to alert congregations to it.

Up to now — in Minneapolis and in Hickory, N.C. — it has drawn a bigger boxoffice than any current Hollywood offerings, including three-dimensional hits.

"Amazing x x x boxoffice giant," commented Variety.

The movie opened Friday in its third city — Houston, Texas.

Borden Mace, president of Louis de Rochemont Associates, hired by the Lutherans to produce and distribute the film, said distribution gradually will be increased nationwide by next fall.

Wary at First "At first theaters were wary of the picture," he said. "Most of them wouldn't touch it. But this thing has mushroomed so today we couldn't begin to meet the requests — from theaters and major chains."

Their original hesitancy was due to the fact the movie deals with a profound religious theme and unlike most big-scale religious films, offers no sex or sugarcoating. But it has sweep and drama and tension.

The picture tells the history-making story of Luther, a 16th Century Roman Catholic priest who sought reforms in church conditions and was excommunicated by Pope Leo X, thus kindling the re-

formation and rise of Protestantism.

A "must" for every Christian, said Dr. James G. Patton Jr., of Decatur, Ga., executive secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern).

Provides Inspiration "It is not only a thrilling movie, but it tells in an unforgettable way the story of religious freedom in a day when that story is sorely needed," he said.

Lutheran officials emphasized that they relied strictly on historical documents, both Catholic and others, to portray the story, but there has been some criticism.

William H. Mooring, a syndicated writer whose column appears in various Catholic publications, said the picture "appears to have been filmed less in defense of the Lutheran position than attack against the Catholic one."

The "Sunday Visitor", a Catholic publication in St. Paul, said the film "is evidently propaganda."

Hollywood's censor, the Motion Picture Producers association, which bans ridicule of any religious faith, approved the film unconditionally.

The National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc., gave it star billing, terming it a "mature, well-made movie about a historically important man" and "not so partisan as to be bigoted."

"Masterly Well Made" "The practices of the Catholic Church against which Luther rebelled," the board said, "are presented not as examples of institutional faults, but as failings of individual men."

The picture was shot in Germany. British actor Nial MacGinnis plays the title role. The professional craftsmen who made the film were of many faiths.

Director Irving Pichel is a Presbyterian; producer Lothar Wolff, a Jew; art director Paul Markwitz, a Catholic.

A special consultant was Rev. Peter Heinemann, a former Catholic monk, now a Lutheran. A choir of German lay Catholics from a nearby monastery provided a Gregorian chant in one scene. The monastery did not participate officially.

Henry Endress, head of Lutheran Church Productions, Inc., said "we leaned over backward to be fair. Although it would be good for boxoffice, we hope the picture won't be made an issue of controversy."

Hopes to Lay Open Facts "We are trying to lay before people the facts of the reformation," he added "and you don't do that by starting a fight. We believe informed people are better Christians, that this picture will help them be better informed."

"It will help the whole community understand why some are Catholic and some are Protestants, why each feels deeply about certain things as we all search for God's truth." Some churchmen noted modern political parallels in the film's theme.

"It deals with one of the most critical problems of our day — the freedom of individual conscience," said Rev. T. K. Thompson, a Congregationalist, an official of the National Council of Churches.

"It portrays a man standing firm in his faith, no matter what the cost," Endress said. "In this day of pressures of Communism, materialism and other isms, it is important for men to stand firm."

Dr. J. Manning Potts, of Nashville, Tenn., editor of the Methodist devotional, "The upper Room," said "At long last, a great Protestant film has been produced."

Anti-Commies In Asia Said Backing Rhee

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (U) — All anti-Communists in the Far East today support President Syngman Rhee of the South Korean Republic, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, noted Christian clergyman, said Saturday night.

"Like it or not, I believe that all anti-Communists in the Far East support lonely, adamant, unrealistic, perhaps mistaken but always heroic Syngman Rhee," Poling told an Aaronsburg Assembly meeting.

Poling is editor of the Christian Herald and chaplain of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, returned last month from his second trip to the Near and Far East.

"As of now, I believe that if Communism solidifies its position in China and across South Asia to Assam, India's door will be opened from within," he said.

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Only two things have checked the "steadily worsening situation for us in the Far East," Poling asserted. He named these as our prompt defense of the Korean Republic against Red invasion and President Eisenhower's immediate denouncement of Laos.

BEND BUDGET VOTED BEND (U) — Bend residents approved a city budget of \$214,220 in a special election here Friday. The budget was in excess of the 6 per cent limitation. The vote total was 161-67.

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Red Liberation Claim Scorned

LEOPOLDVILLE, Belgian Congo (AP) — The Czech consul here had a reduced attendance at the yearly cocktail party he gives on the anniversary of his country's liberation from the Nazi rule.

This year, his invitations were labeled: "on the occasion of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Armies." Only a dozen people turned up.

Last year, he had written "on the occasion of the liberation of Czechoslovakia." 120 persons came.

The Leopoldville Press took up the occasion to write articles insisting on the part played by the U. S. forces in the liberation of Czechoslovakia and on the importance of the Czech underground army in the final struggle.

TRUCK CRASH FATAL

EUGENE (U) — Gene Vavarelli, Blue River, was injured fatally Friday in the crash of the gravel truck he was driving. It went off a mountain road some 50 miles east of Eugene. He died en route to a hospital.

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