

# Rector Revives Sign Language of Religion

By GEORGE W. CORNELL  
Of The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Religion also speaks in sign language.

It's an old, half-forgotten language today, but an Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. George Ferguson, of Tucson, Ariz., is putting it back in circulation.

Telling the Lord's story in signs and imagery used to be a common practice, and some of the old symbols still are familiar—such as a dove meaning peace and an apple suggesting Eve's sin.

But much of the picturesque, old idiom has faded with time.

Rector Ferguson has carried out a vast study to recover the meanings afresh. For instance, you may not know that through biblical references and traditions, these symbols imply these meanings:

A lamp—wisdom; a circle—eternity; a red carnation—love; a cat—laziness; a pearl—salvation; an eye or a hand—the Lord.

A LANGUAGE

Such definitions won't be found in the dictionary.

It's a language, Rev. Ferguson said, which uses many objects—animals, nature, plants, parts of the body—to express deep and subtle religious meanings.

"There are no words for them," he said. "Because the experiences of the soul with life's deepest realities are made known through them, they are a truly universal language—the language of the soul."

Here are a few examples:

Vine—Meaning the relationship of God and humanity. "I am the vine, ye are the branches," Christ said. "My Father is the husbandman."

Salt—Strength and superiority the disciples were described as the "salt of the earth."

An eagle—Resurrection. From Psalms: "Thy youth is renewed like the eagles." And, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles."

VICTORY

Palm leaf—Victory. Such leaves were scattered in front of Christ on His triumphant ride into Jerusalem.

Hair—Penitence. From the story of the woman who washed Jesus' feet in her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head.

Lily—Purity. The song of Solomon: "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valley."

Rector Ferguson has published, through Oxford University Press,

a big, illustrated book tracing the meanings of such figures to their origin. It's called "Signs and Symbols in Christian Art."

It reproduces religious art works of the renaissance to show uses of the symbols, and points to sources in the Bible. Here, briefly, are other bits from Christianity's symbolic lexicon:

A bear—Cruelty and evil; the biblical bear was the Kingdom of Persia which brought death and destruction on the world until destroyed by God. There's also a modern "bear"—Russia.

BETRAYAL

Ear—Betrayal. Derived from the incident when Peter slashed an ear off a priest in the party which came to arrest Christ.

Foot—Humility. From the time when Christ washed the feet of His disciples.

Gates—Both death and paradise. From references to "the gates of death" and "lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors."

Tree—Life. The tree symbolized both good and evil existence—the "tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Cedar—Christ. "His countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as cedars."

Horse—Lust. "They were fed horses in the morning; everyone neighed after his neighbor's wife," Jeremiah recounted.

Goat—The damned in the last judgment. Matthew related how Christ on His return would separate the sheep from the goats.

Stag—Piety and religious aspiration. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so my soul after Thee, O God."

Colors, shapes, directions and numbers also acquired definite religious meanings. Among them:

West—Darkness and demons; south—light and warmth; north—cold and night; east—Christ, sun of the universe.

UNDERWORLD

Black—Death and underworld; blue—heaven; brown—spiritual degradation; gray—mourning;

green—spring and life over death; red—love and hate; violet—love and truth; white—innocence of soul, holiness.

Triangle—the trinity; square—the earth; two—nature of Christ, divine and human; three—completion, beginning, middle and end.

An important Christian symbol is the heart—which implied qualities of understanding, love, courage, devotion, sorrow and joy.

The Lord, wrote the prophet, looks not on man's "countenance, or on the height of his stature... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

# Federal Judgeship Delay Protested by GOP Leader

PORTLAND (AP)—The recommendation of Oregon members of the Republican National Committee in the matter of Oregon's vacant federal judgeship is not being followed, a member of the Multnomah County GOP committee reported Sunday.

Henry A. Buehner, Portland attorney, a member of the county executive committee, said a protest was sent to President Eisenhower last week criticizing Atty. Gen. Brownell for what Buehner said was delaying the appointment of Circuit Judge Ralph M. Holman of Oregon City to the post.

It was learned last week that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was running a routine check on Circuit Judge William G. East of Eugene, who apparently is being considered in some quarters for the post.

Similar investigations were made of Holman some time ago after he received the endorsement of former Sen. Guy Cordon. Cordon was defeated by Democratic Sen. Richard L. Neuberger in the November election.

Staff officers said McAuliffe's request to Washington "would indicate another complete armored division for Germany and assignment of more armored carriers."

They said such an armored unit probably would replace one of four infantry divisions now in Germany. There are also an armored division and other armored combat elements equivalent to a division.

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# ENDORSE HOLMAN

Jess Gard, Oregon's national committeeman; Mrs. Marshall E. Cornett, national committeewoman; and Ed Boehnke, state chairman, all have endorsed Holman for the post which has been vacant nine months since the elevation of Judge James Alger Fee to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Buehner also reported that the protest was intended as a criticism of what he said was the influence of John C. Higgins in the matter. Higgins, a Portland and Vancouver, Wash., attorney, is a friend of Thomas E. Dewey, former New York governor, who is close to Brownell.

Higgins could not be reached for comment Sunday but earlier he had affirmed his opposition to Holman.

QUESTIONS LEADERSHIP

"The question in my mind," Buehner said, "is whether Oregon Republican affairs are run by a citizen of Vancouver, or by Oregon Republican leaders."

# Six UO Students Qualify in Exams

Six University of Oregon students have qualified for sophomore honors as the result of fall-term comprehensive examinations.

Included in the group to be honored at commencement in June are Gerald Jones, Eugene; Peter Plumridge, Portland; Anne Hill, Cottage Grove; Mrs. Judith Tucker, Port Orford; Patricia McCormick, West Linn, and Sonia Edwards, Seattle, Wash.

Candidates for the award must pass comprehensive examinations in the fields of literature, social science, history and either biological or physical science. The examinations are given in the fall and spring.

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# Lane Electric Co-op Crews 'Core-Testing' Power Poles

A core test of all untreated power distribution poles in the Lane County Electric Cooperative system is being undertaken by crews this winter, according to officials of the organization.

In the test, dirt is removed from around the pole—preferably on the north side away from the sun—and a forester's auger used to bore to the center below the ground surface. The test determines extent of rot in the untreated pole.

Ken Papehausen, Lane Co-op staking engineer, is leading the test operations. He has reported that, so far, less than 10 per cent of the poles will require replacement or "studding"—bracing with an additional pole inserted nearby.

Actually, according to officials, very few of the co-op's total 11,000 poles are untreated. These are the ones installed during World War II when it was difficult to obtain creosote for the poles.

Some of the poles tested this winter will get a special chemical treatment instead of replacement.

The treatment is called an osmoplastic process, where a plastic substance is painted around the section of the pole that is below ground. The material then seeps to the core of the pole, keeping out moisture. Such treatment is believed to prolong life of the poles from 15 to 20 years.

The practice of burying the heart separately from the body was used in ancient Egypt and has been widely used since, especially in Europe of the Middle Ages.

# General Asks More Armor

STUTTGART, Germany (AP)—Lt. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, new commander of the U. S. Army in Europe, says he has requested more armor to step up the mobility of his forces in atomic warfare.

"In the atomic era," he said in an interview Sunday, "there is a greater requirement for mobility and increased employment of armor and of armored carriers for infantry."

Staff officers said McAuliffe's request to Washington "would indicate another complete armored division for Germany and assignment of more armored carriers."

They said such an armored unit probably would replace one of four infantry divisions now in Germany. There are also an armored division and other armored combat elements equivalent to a division.

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tions, or even in casual conversations with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can make a good impression every time you talk.

To acquaint more readers of this paper with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in everyday conversation, the publishers have printed full details of their interesting self-training method in a 24-page booklet which will be mailed free to anyone who requests it. The address is: Dept. 3282, Conversation Studios, 835 Diversey Parkway, Chicago 14, Ill. A postcard will do.—Adv.

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