THE BEND BULLETIN

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Many Russian Youngsters Are Returning To God—Much to Dismay of Red Leaders

By LEON DENNEN
NEA Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK (NEA)—The fact that many Russian youngsters are returning to God and church — after years of furious anti-religious propaganda—seems to have come as a shock to the Soviet leaders.

Immediately after the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, Lenin said: "Our hope is in our growing youth." The founder of Soviet communism saw the "new" Soviet man, who was to have emerged from the mills of dictatorship, as a totally Godless robot.

However, after 38 years of persecution faith in God still persists behind the Iron Curtain and is even growing among the young people.

Here is a typical story printed in the Komsomolskaya Pravda, Communist youth newspaper:

"The Komsomol district committee discovered that Tatiana Rastroguyeva wanted to baptize her child in church. Brunilina consented to be godmother. The committee spent much time questioning these Komsomol members whether they were in church or not."

Both young Communists denied going to church. They admitted that they wanted to go, but changed their minds. They were punished, nevertheless.

The decision of the "district committee," as reported in Komsomolskaya Pravda, reads:

"In view of the irresponsible attitude toward an attempt to perform a religious ceremony, Rastroguyeva and Brunilina are to be strongly reprimanded and the decision entered on their party record card."

"But we did not go to church," the Komsomol members complained. "Why this penalty?"

"Be thankful that you were not expelled from the Komsomol altogether," the committee secretary replied.

Unhappy Father

Another complaint — this time from an unhappy father—printed in the Komsomolskaya Pravda throws additional light on the growth of religious sentiment among Soviet youngsters.

The father, V. Kudinov, writes: "I inform you that my daughter Vera, a student of the Radio Technical School, told me that she plans to make a pilgrimage to the Kiev Monastery. Please have a talk with her and help her give up this religious prejudice."

It semes that once, when Vera was in her fourth grade, she happened to pass by a church. "She remembered that she was there once with her deceased mother, and a vague desire attracted the girl into the open door of the stone building."

On that day Vera did not attend school. She did not appear in school for several days. All these days the girl spent in church.

Increased Delinquency

In addition to their campaign against increasing juvenile delinquency, divorces, alcoholism and Red-style zoot-suiters, the Soviet newspapers and radio have lately turned their entire editorial fury against youthful religious practices.

Communist Party members are being called upon to help in new efforts to "sever Soviet youth from the reactionary influences of religion." In Krokodil, Russia's only humorous magazine, there are frequently savage cartoons ridiculing Komsomal members who go to church to be married.

Still, religious marriages have become increasingly frequent even among the "gilded" youth — the favored members of the Young Communist Organization.

The Red dictators, in fact, have recently made a "terrible" discovery. It seems that while there is a ban on religious teaching in Soviet schools in many of them there isn't sufficiently effective anti-religious teaching either. In some cases religion has taken hold of both pupils and teachers.

According to the Teacher's Gazette, mouthpiece of the Soviet Ministry of Education, school children in the town of Yaroslavl wear crosses and go regularly to church. One girl, a high school senior, came under church influence quite recently and was already baptized.

In the town of Yaroslavl, too, the teacher of biology no less has been a regular church-goer and even had her child baptized. Worst of all, the principal of a village school actually taught his pupils to pray and made no bones about it.

To the Komsomol, an organization with nearly 19,000,000 members between the ages of 14 and 23, has been assigned the key role in combatting religion described in the Red press as "a weapon of the class oppression of the toiling masses."

Important Task

Said Komsomolskaya Pravda: "The struggle towards overcoming religious survivals is one of the most important tasks of the Communist upbringing of children."

The Reds, avowed atheists, permit the church to function in Russia and at the same time try to deaden its influence by furious anti-religious propaganda. This policy has succeeded over many years in sharply reducing the attendance of young people at religious services. Now the church seems to be winning back much of the lost ground.

One thing seems certain: Lenin and Stalin are dead, Lavrenti Beria executed, Georgi Malenkov deposed, but God lives on in Russia—38 years after the revolution.

THIS IS A RUSSIAN CLASSROOM — in the Georgian city of Tiflis. Although the girl is reciting a language lesson, she looks symbolically like a girl in church. Despite ban on religious teaching in schools, many Soviet youths are discovering God.

Recruiter Plans Madras Visits

Special to The Bulletin

MADRAS — Beginning Tuesday, T-Sgt. Charley R. Dump, United States Air Force recuiter, will be in Madras at the post office from 1 to 3 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month.

In addition, he will be in Maupin from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Warm Springs, each first Tuesday.

This is the first regularly scheduled series of visits to these cities, the recruiter explained.

AN OLD CUSTOMER

MEDFORD, Mass. (UP) — Liquor store clerk Richard Dyer, 53 didn't blink an eye when a gunman threatened to "blow his brains out." Dyer wearily handed over his money. It was the third time in a month he had been held up — by the same bandit.

Judge Recesses Bridges Case

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman has recessed until July 11 the civil case in which the government is making its fourth attempt to deport leftwing longshore leader Harry Bridges.

Goodman said he would hear defense arguments for dismissal of the denaturalization suit and rule on the admissability of key government testimony presented in a deposition from a witness who later died.

The two-week recess was ordered when both sides asked for sufifcient time to question some 25 witnesses expected to be called by the defense.

Only College for Deaf Has Need for Additional Space

By WILLIAM WARTOFSKY
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON (UP) — The world's only college for the deaf has systems worked out for "knocking" on dormitory doors and "ringing" bells for fire alarms.

Gallaudet College, a government-sponsored institution here, is much like other colleges as far as studies, sports and campus activities go. The only difference is that its 300 students communicate almost entirely by sign language.

And since most of the pupils could not hear a fire alarm, a special master switch turns on lights which flash on and off all over the campus. Students living in dormitories also use a heavy sash-weight knocker suspended in the door jamb which a visitor may use by dropping it. The vibration announces the caller to the student.

Classroom discussions are lively and often heated although most students specialize in fields that require little conversation and much thought. Professors and instructors, who may or may not be deaf themselves, simultaneously speak the words and signal with their hands. Students who lip-read are aided by this method.

Extracurricular activities such as dancing, "listening" to music by vibrations and printing a newspaper and magazine are also enjoyed by the student body.

The dramatics club recently presented a performance of "Macbeth" entirely in sign language. An interpreter who sat backstage spoke the lines for the benefit of persons in the audience with normal hearing. While some members of the cast have some speech, sign language is said to be most effective for the deaf.

Some years ago, the cast of the college's production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" was transported to New York where it replaced the Broadway cast for one night.

Though deafness impairs the sense of balance which an athlete needs, sports are very popular here. This handicap and a small enrollment did not prevent Gallaudet from winning several conference championships in the letter sports and wrestling.

The 97-acre campus also includes a training center for teachers of the deaf. These teacher-trainees have normal hearing and usually work with about 100 youngsters of elementary school age.

Gallaudet was founded by congress in 1864 through the efforts of Edward Miner Gallaudet, a pioneer in education for the deaf and college president for 46 years. Its charter was signed by Abraham Lincoln.

The school is plagued by inadequate space and turns back two-thirds of the students applying from 48 states and several foreign countires.

POOL 'ATTACKED'

MOENCHEN - GLADBACH, Germany (UP) —Aircraft taking part in air atomic war games here "attacked" the swimming pool at 2nd ATAF headquarters Monday, a straight-faced communique said.

"Four enemy aircraft attacked the main headquarters at Moenchen-Gladbach," the communique said. "The attack was poorly carried out but succeeded in flattening a number of people in the swimming pool."

Chessman Tells Of Smuggling Out Manuscript

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — Author-convict Caryl Chessman disclosed Tuesday that he and several other San Quentin convicts conspired to smuggle the bulky manuscript of his latest book, "Trial By Ordeal," out of death row.

Chessman told a reporter from the San Francisco Chronicle that "five or six" persons were involved in the smuggling scheme and that it was "strictly a convict deal."

The scheme began last January after Chessman's first book, "Cell 2455, Death Row," had been published to critical acclaim. He had just finished typing out 585 pages of his second, "Trial By Ordeal."

When Chessman tried to turn over the manuscript of "Trial By Ordeal" to his attorney, Rosalie Asher, prison officials confiscated it. Assistant State Attorney Clarence Linn said the officials were within their rights and that they could even destroy it if they wanted.

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