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The Truth About Church Membership

Babson Gives Reason For Decline—What Young People Say

By ROGER BABSON

Babson Park, Mass., Aug. 13—During recent weeks I have read several editorials congratulating our churches on their progress during these perilous times. I am loath to disagree with those who have accepted these Polly-Anna reports; but I do believe many of my regular readers will be interested in my conclusions:

1. The so-called "church membership" figures published annually by the Christian Herald and broadcasted by the Press Associations are incorrect. They contain not only the names of millions who have repudiated the Church which they joined in their youth—but also millions who are dead and buried physically.
2. Protestant Church attendance has been falling off for many years. This may not show by recent statistics on Church Attendance at the Sunday morning service; but in many churches attendance at this Sunday service has been kept only by omitting the mid-week and evening services, and by closing down in summer-time. A record of the number of Protestants entering the churches during a year shows a constantly falling off. This decline is taking place despite the fact that our Protestant population is increasing each year.
3. Sunday School attendance is also falling off. The Congregational Christian Churches of which I am Moderator have had a net loss of over 150,000 Sunday School scholars since 1925. At first I assumed this to be due to a serious drop in the birth rate among us indifferent Protestants; but study shows that the decline is primarily among those of high-school age and adults. The young children are still being sent to Sunday School to give fathers a chance to read the Sunday paper!

Reasons for the Decline

I have attempted to ascertain the reason for this collapse of Protestantism. Upon visiting the national headquarters of different denominations, the secretaries dispute my conclusions. When interviewing parents they blame it onto the preachers, the latter in turn blame it onto the young people and the schools. The only fact all groups are agreed upon is that "young people are more intelligent and inquiring today;—they do not accept as readily what their grandparents did." Yet statistics show that the liberal churches—such as the Unitarian—have even greater trouble in holding their young people than do the Fundamentalists. So "creed" is not the real reason.

Determined to find the cause, I devoted the month of May, 1937 to visiting twenty prominent Protestant Colleges most of which were started many years ago by ministers and earnest church people. To my great surprise, these colleges were having their troubles also. Attendance at chapel has fallen off tremendously and there is an indifference toward religious instruction. Although the colleges of the Midwest have a more religious atmosphere than most New England Colleges all educational institutions are losing control of their young people.

Unlike the demagogical secretaries and the preachers and parents these young people gave me a definite reason for their lack of interest in their churches. They stated kindly and diplomatically that we church-goers appear to be a group of hypocrites! They connect our mode of living and methods of doing business with the teachings of Jesus whom we claim to follow. They do not understand how we can attend church, sing the hymns, and make the prayers which we do on Sundays, and then act as we do the other six days of the week. As a result of this inconsistency on our part, they ask, "What use is the church?"

What Young People Say

The troubles from which our churches are suffering are due to the fact that Protestant young people are "getting their eyes open" and are beginning to think for themselves. Furthermore, the day is coming when Catholic young people will reach the same stage. In fact, the Catholic Church probably has its troubles ahead so that they need do no bragging now. Young people insist that for the Church to interest them, laymen must be better men, better employers and workmen, better parents and neighbors than those who do not go to church. In short, we laymen must take our religion seriously and pay the price if the Church is to continue to grow.

My answer to these criticisms is that we laymen are living and doing business in a competitive world. We can be a little more generous than the non-churchman; but if we really follow Jesus we would be like the poor and helpless disciples of His day. To these students

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Local News...

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Miller and daughter June, with Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart of Hillsboro, spent Sunday at Sauvie Island.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Anderson, county commissioner of Tillamook visited with Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Fordney this week.

Miss M. Stricker was injured last week in a crash one fourth mile east of West Slope when cars driven by Joseph R. Sabel of Garden Home and Phil Sumri of Portland crashed. Twenty-one members of the Beaverton Rebekah lodge visited the Hillsboro lodge Tuesday evening.

Miss Dorothy Lewis, noble grand of the Beaverton Rebekah lodge accompanied by her mother visited the Gaston Rebekah lodge Monday evening in her official visit as chairman of good order of the district.

Miss Elsie Whitworth accompanied friends from McMinnville on a camping trip in the Cascade Mts. open Tuesday, September 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert McCrane of Great Valley, Calif. with their daughter Ethel, and Miss Rose Crane visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Sheets from Saturday to Tuesday. Mrs. McCrane is a niece of Mr. Sheets.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Felsler and family visited at the home of Mrs. Felsler's mother, Mrs. Emma Johnson, daughter Mrs. Theodore Witzel and daughter Nancy Lynn of Milwaukie, Wis. visiting her.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Keller and Mrs. Mary Safely returned to their home here Tuesday after a ten days visit to various cities in California.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Janssen, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Summers, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Stipe and Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Talbert, attended the Shrine picnic at Jantzen Beach park last Friday enjoying a picnic dinner together and staying for the evening's festivities.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Oesther and Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Nelson of St. Johns, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Felsler Saturday afternoon and evening.

Ed McElroy, who is with the S. P. railroad in Eugene, spent the week end here with his family.

Mrs. B. Doughty is visiting her sister in Seattle, Wash., who is seriously ill.

Mrs. David Patullo and Miss Gertrude Robertson of Portland were calling on friends in Beaverton Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Mrs. George Thyng, Mrs. George Blasser, Mrs. W. H. Engleke and Mrs. Matilda Kelley drove to Milwaukie to attend a luncheon at the home of Mrs. Joe Bishel and Mrs. Lily Ackers.

Gus Dessinger, Henry Nelson and John Waters spent the week end fishing in the Trask river bringing home a nice lot of trout.

Mrs. Elmer Benson and daughter Vanda, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Vandy Myers and daughters Sally of Portland, with her uncle Mr. Lindberg, left for Seaside Monday, where they will spend a short vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kerby and family left for Seaside Tuesday to spend their vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. John Felsler and their daughters visited Mrs. Elizabeth McGowan Friday evening. They found Mrs. McGowan much improved in health and very anxious to see old friends.

Ed Janssen, who is employed near Prineville visited his parents here for a few days last week. Returning to Prineville Friday he was accompanied by his brother who will spend a week there.

Mrs. Howard Hughson and Miss Mable Richter visited Mrs. Hughson's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Ligert at Sandy Monday.

Mrs. Carl Wolf entertained relatives with a birthday dinner for her mother, Mrs. Winnegar of Laurel, Wednesday evening. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Winnegar, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Wolf and Mr. and Mrs. Wahl of Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. George Thyng accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gardner of Hillsboro spent Sunday at Netarts.

daughter Eunice and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Robinson and family spent Sunday at Wilhoit Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bersch of Portland and Mrs. Emma Hesse of Aberdeen, Wash., visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Olds Saturday. Mrs. Billy Pinton of Portland, visited Mrs. Olds Sunday and Mrs. Frank Plinkwitsch of Portland spent the day at the Olds home Monday.

Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Welsh drove to the Wilson river Friday where they spent several days fishing.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Saylor and daughter of Ocean Lake are spending the week with Mrs. Taylor's parents Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Tallman. Jay Gibson, Jr., spent the week end at Gaston visiting at the Carl Klinge home.

Robert Downing, proprietor of the Robierre Beauty Salon in Portland is confined to the home of his parents Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Downing with double pneumonia. He is improving.

Paul Downing, who has been confined to his bed for three weeks with rheumatism is able to be about the house.

Farmers Union Endorse Ross Administrator

Bonneville legislation came before the meeting of the Farmers Union held Saturday at the Veterans Hall in Hillsboro. Albert Strief and J. E. Lewton spoke on the matter declaring that the Army engineers were pawns of big interests and sighted the fact that the private utilities were fighting Ross which only went to show where he stood in regard to public ownership. The Union endorsed J. D. Ross of Seattle, for administrator of the project.

Because of the September meeting coming on Saturday, Sept. 4 the last day of the county fair, it was decided to hold the next meeting Saturday, August 28.

Max Gahler will be the guest speaker of the annual state picnic at Champeog Park August 15, was announced.

Hillsboro Plans Swimming Pool

Under the auspices of the City Park Commission, with J. L. Anderson as chairman, and representatives of ten Hillsboro civic groups, a meeting was held Tuesday night to formulate plans for establishment of a swimming pool.

The park group has been advised that swimming facilities such as desired would cost approximately \$17,000.

The meeting was addressed by P. H. Huedepohl physical director and a Portland park representative, who explained safety, sanitation, and method of operation.

A committee of ten will be appointed by Mr. Anderson to work out plans to further the pool project.

Earl Wesley Norman Apprehended in N. Carolina

Earl Wesley Norman, 35, has been apprehended by R. C. Mandrin, Chief of Police at Elizabeth City, North Carolina according to a wire received by Sheriff Connell and is held for Washington County authorities.

A warrant has been on file charging Norman with burglary not in a dwelling following his indictment by a grand jury for allegedly burglarizing the Cate Motor Company office at Forest Grove, August 24, 1935. He is also accused of having forged indorsements to checks taken from the garage.

Sheriff Connell states that he would seek to have federal bureau of investigation officers effect the man's return.

Persons living in the center of Aloha were awakened early one morning last week by a crash, caused by a car hitting the light pole in front of the Morrison store, which snapped off at the ground. The car then turned across the highway and ended up on the railroad track. It was said a man was found lying in the wreckage, not even scratched. He could not give the name of the driver of the car, peeped on the highway to warn vehicles but even then some would not stop until they were almost on top of the life wires.

Beaverton public and union high school will open Tuesday, Sept. 7, the day after Labor Day.

Miss Justin Ackerson has been engaged to teach English in place of Mrs. Adams at the high school. One other vacancy has not been filled.

Work was started this week on a garage for the seven buses for the Beaverton high school. It is located across the street from the high school building and will include a shop. O. C. Novell will be in charge of the repair shop.

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The Court House

Happenings of the Week at the County Seat

By ROSE CAVE

Officials to Loop Sea Roads

James Lewis, County Commissioner and J. W. Barney, county highway engineer, together with WPA officials from Portland, state highway officials, newspapermen and others left Thursday morning for Seaside over the Wolf Creek highway on a tour of inspection. The tour will be from Seaside to Tillamook and return over the Wilson River road.

This will be the first traffic to cross the divide via Wolf Creek. The party will drive to Bear creek camp on Wolf creek for luncheon, continuing on to Seaside for an evening banquet with the Chamber of Commerce. Friday the party will continue on to Tillamook where the chamber of commerce will be host for luncheon at noon. Returning on the Wilson river road to Hillsboro.

Orders were given in the following Cases by Judge R. Frank Peters and filed with the Clerk

Wanda E. Adams vs Andrew Carrick, dismissed.

Fred H. Adams vs Andrew Carrick, dismissed.

Fred L. Proctor, executor vs John Haldea, et als publication of summons.

Federal Land Bank vs Maude E. Pattee, confirming sale of real property.

State Highway Commission vs Revil Olds, et als final judgment.

Glen S. Ehle vs Frank Waldron, ordering publication of summons.

Tillie Kelley vs Charles Kelley, order to pay court costs and attorney fees.

Orders were signed by Judge Templeton and filed with the Clerk

Henry Weaver, order of publication setting time and place of hearing final account.

William Houston, closing estate of record and discharging administrator.

Edward Schulermerch directing executors to pay certain sums of money, and sell personal property.

Frank L. Costley closing estate of record.

Wendell Campbell admitting estate to probate and appointing Daisy Soule, administrator.

John C. Young, confirming sale of real property.

George Wise, confirming sale of real property.

James C. Tobin order of sale of personal property.

Emil I. Kurall, order to release mortgage.

John McClaran, confirmation of sale of real estate.

B. P. Cornelius, order sale of real estate.

Joshua W. Marsh, approving final account and report.

Wm. G. Cole, admitting estate to probate and appointing Geo. R. Hancock and Camilla A. Cole executors.

Charles J. Homm, admitting estate to probate and appointing Bernice Homm Ogilvie, administratrix.

John Jensen Johnson, authorizing sale of personal property.

John C. Young fixing time and place of final settlement.

Marriage Licenses

Thomas Donnell, Forest Grove, and Phoebe Ann Coulter Hillsboro.

Medford Persons, Oreoco, and Elizabeth Ryan, Reedville.

Darrell A. Coon, Beaverton, and Loreta Ella Peek, Monroe route 1. Robert Maynard, Everett, Washington, and Ruth Eleanor Chalmers, Forest Grove.

Stimson Mills Open Tuesday Morning

Closed nearly 10 weeks while workers an woodsmen were uniting with the American Federation of Labor union groups Stimson mill will reopen Tuesday morning with a crew of nearly 180 men; the mill will operate one shift only.

Expected labor troubles did not develop but state police and sheriff's deputies were at the scene prior to the arrival of the Stimson men. A caravan of 60 cars drove to the mill and then followed only four Glenwood pickets at the mill entrance.

The mill crew is composed of former employees of the mill who have organized a local of Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Jack Lillard is chairman and headquarters are at Gaston. Mill workers first signed with the Glenwood group, which later voted in Tacoma to affiliate with the C. I. O. and abandon the A. F. of L. Immediately following this action, union carpenters in the Tacoma vicinity began refusing to work with lumber produced in mills managed by C. I. O. affiliates. As a consequence the local of the Carpenters and Joiners were formed.

From Governor Martin of Salem, came the comment "I was glad to learn that the CIO rowdies realized the jig was up, and let the men return to work without violence. There is some picketing at the mill now, but to hell with the pickets."

The Governor gave full credit of opening the plant to Charles H. Gram, state labor commissioner.

"I intend to keep a close watch on the mill," the Governor added, "and if there is any violence I will take a hand in the situation."

Shifts will be resumed at the mill a rapidly as membership in the Gaston local can be recruited.

Damage Action Filed Against Lumber Co.

Suits filed in Circuit Court the past week include a damage action for \$10,000 brought by Orvid C. Chartrey against the Carnation Lumber Company, Forest Grove alleging he was injured while employed at the company's saw mill. Complaint states that lifting and carrying heavy timbers resulted in a strain which has served to impair his ability to work.

Peter A. Ronnig is asking for closure of a contract given by Ralph E. Benvie and wife covering property in Newton Acres.

Seeking a quiet title to property in West Portland Heights is asked in a complaint filed by Glen S. Ehle against Frank Waldron et als.

Fred L. Proctor, executor, is asking foreclosure of mortgage given by John Holden on 344.72 acres in sections 7, 18, 12, 13, Township 3 North of Range 4 West.

\$100 damage \$40 rents and profits and restitution of a tract of land in section 25, Township 1 south range 2 west is asked in complaint of Ross and Louis Grenfield against James E. and Hannah Smith.

Appointment of Josephine Wessels, as guardian for Goldie Wessels is asked in petition for representation in personal injury damage action of Goldie Wessels while riding in school bus May 6, 1938, when the bus collided with a logging truck piloted by Russell Hines and owned by George L. Hendricks. Damages sought are \$35,000.

Tillie Kelley is asking divorce from Charles Kelley of North Plains.

R. H. Spencer Opens Saw Shop Here

The Holbake building has been rented to R. H. Spencer, who plans to open a shop for general saw repairing and cabinet work.

Mr. Spencer has operated the Spencer Saw Shop in Portland for the past 5 years selling the business March last. He has been a resident of Beaverton for nine years, residing on McMillan avenue east of town.

Drinking Fathers are Denied WPA Cash

"Liquor is a contributing factor to three-fourths of the crime and juvenile delinquency in the community" was the startling assertion made recently to nearly a thousand mothers of the Congress of Parents and Teachers for the Los Angeles Tenth District of California. The speaker was Judge Robert Scott of the Juvenile Court, who voiced his determination that fathers should no longer be allowed to spend their WPA money for liquor.

"These drinking dads must let their pay checks come through the office that we may see it is spent for rent and groceries and not for booze" he said, declaring that "we have hundreds of cases where children are getting nothing," and deploring the fact that under such circumstances, "the P. T. A. is feeding these children luncheons and breakfasts."

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Holbard with their daughter Mrs. Harry Johnson and four children were calling on former neighbors here Sunday.

Pea Fields Discussed By Cyrus

Question Whether to Plow Under Fields Or Burn Remains

WM. F. CYRUS
County Agent

"Should we burn our pea fields in the hope of decreasing the amount of weevil infestation in next year's crop, or should we plow under this straw and stubble to maintain fertility?" That is a question which can only be answered by considering the condition of a particular piece of land when the burning can be safely done and the possible value of the burning as a weevil control measure.

Benefits to the soil from plowing under Austrian field pea stubble and straw are probably greater than the benefits have been or are likely to be from burning. Burning of straw and stubble following the harvest of this seed crop when done as it has been generally the past few years in Washington county, has probably accomplished very little in the control of pea weevil. Most of the burning has either been incomplete or too late. More good can probably be done in Washington County by cleaning up some other sources of carryover and by control practices other than burning. Land can not be repeatedly burned over and the fertility maintained.

This year weevil were practically eliminated from the commercial canning pea crop through the use of rotenone dust applied when the peas were in bloom. This same method of control offers promise in fields of Australian peas for seed. In the larger fields it probably will not be necessary to dust the entire field but apply the dust only to a reasonably wide strip around the outside. The past two years Kenneth Gray and Glen Chamberlain of the Oregon Experiment Station have been doing considerable work in connection with the pea weevil control and it was through their efforts that the control of this pest in the canning peas has been developed. Since the infestation is practically always more severe around the outside of the patch and usually in a big field relatively unimportant in the center of it it appears that the dusting around the outside would be adequate although this remains to be proven.

Messrs. Gray and Chamberlain state that it would do more good in weevil control to plow under the pea straw and stubble if it is buried six or seven inches deep than to burn it. If plowing is poorly done so that the material is only partially covered, it doesn't do much good. Disposing of patches of garden peas promptly, if this were done generally, would cut down on the amount of infestation. Usually most of these are left until late in the summer or early fall when it is too late to accomplish any worthwhile results in decreasing the next year's weevil population. Similarly most of the burning that has been done in this county has been done too late to accomplish enough weevil control to compensate for the loss of plant food and organic matter destroyed when this practice is carried out.

As soon as the peas are cut, the weevil begin to develop rather rapidly and most of them have left the peas for winter hibernation by the latter part of August. If burning is to be effective it should be done immediately after harvest is completed. This is an extremely dangerous time to burn and if the relatively small amount of good such burning can do is taken into consideration and the undesirable effect of such burning on soil fertility is considered, it appears that burning is an undesirable practice and not warranted from the standpoint of weevil control. It should be borne in mind that the plowing, to be effective must also be done immediately after harvest before the weevil have left the peas.

Prompt handling of the crop as soon as it is ready, early fumigation of the seed and screenings planting winter peas in as large fields as possible and possibly dusting with rotenone are measures that will probably accomplish much more towards weevil control than all the burning that has been done.

Nursery Makes Gift To Oregon College

Howard E. Weed, landscape gardener of Beaverton, has made a gift of 200 named varieties of peonies for a peony garden at Oregon College; the planting will be used for decorating and experimental purposes. Blooms from the planting will be used in experiments in preserving cut peonies, while the many varieties will make testing possible of the different kinds for commercial purposes.

In recent years Weed's peony and iris gardens have attracted attention of hundreds of visitors.

