

Bible Sales Boom as Religious Revival Continues in America

Editor's Note: The last few years have seen a great upsurge of religious feeling and interest in the United States. It's still growing. How great is it and why has it come about? Following is the first of three dispatches attempting to measure this spiritual awakening with statistics and explain why Americans are turning again to the church.

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press Correspondent

New York—(U.P.)—The religious revival that began as a ripple during the war years is running at flood tide in America today.

Bible sales are booming. An estimated 12,000,000 Bibles and testaments will be sold this year alone.

The American Bible Society's distribution has doubled in a decade. During that same decade the population increased only 14.5 per cent.

Churches Growing Fast

The churches are growing twice as fast as the country. During the last quarter-century church membership went up 59.8 per cent, population 28.6.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen gets 4,500 fan letters a week from his television program.

Billy Graham, the evangelist, in the last year preached to audiences totaling more than 2,000,000.

Newspapers are blossoming with religious features. At least two newspapers have begun printing the whole Bible in installments.

Religion on Radio

Millions hear a vast assortment of religious radio programs. One prominent Protestant clergyman was started to learn a survey showed 1,425,000 sets tuned

in to his network sermon on Sunday afternoons.

One of the most remarkable of these manifestations is the growing market for Bibles. Next September 30, the revised standard version of the Holy Bible will be published—the fifth authorized version of the Bible in English. Price \$6. The first printing will be 925,000 copies.

But listen to this: As of now, five months before publication, advance orders stand at more than 600,000. If you've ever doubted that the Bible is the all-time best-seller, consider the fact that last year's top-selling novel, "From Here To Eternity," reached 240,000.

Figures Not Released

The big publishers don't release the figures on their yearly sales of Bibles. The religious editor of one big house said that "sales have been going up in almost a straight line since 1947." One of the largest publishers of Bibles said it did the best business in history last year; its sales rose 20 per cent in 1951 over

Murphy Citizens Ask For Business Name

A number of citizens in the Murphy, Ore., area have filed an application in the county clerk's office for the assumed business name of the Bridgepoint Ditch company.

They are Vivian and Roy Whitsett, Elery and Elva Stone, Arthur Gilmore, Mark and Juanita Young, David and Lucretia Hvall, Callie and Louvella Hill, Lester and Bertheena Hill, Herman Messinger, George and May Fields, I. G. and Rose Naylor.

Sam and Nellie Letteken, Ralph and Olive Plannalp, August and Mary Sakraida, T. E. and Myrtle Lewman, Florence Bentley, A. J. Farra, A. S. Farra, Gladys F. Clegg, W. N. and Flossie Carl, Harold and Dorothy Whitestone, H. A. Richardson and John K. Samsel.

1950. During the same period, the country's population rose about two per cent.

"Last year," Publishers Weekly reported recently, "Bible sales for some publishers were simply fantastic."

High Gains Disclosed

A questionnaire which the magazine sent to bookstores in all sections of the country disclosed high gains in the religious book and Bible market, with some stores reporting Bibles gaining one-third to 50 per cent in 1951 over 1950.

The increase is in the face of a decreasing sale of all other books except those on religious and inspirational subjects.

Figures Fair Index

The American Bible Society's figures are a fair index to what has been happening. It distributes whole Bibles, testaments, and single books of the Bible at cost of production, the preponderance of its sales being the small portions of Bibles. Its total U.S. distribution in 1940 was 3,772,559. Then the climb: 1947—4,020,683; 1948—4,047,915; 1949—4,727,626; 1950—6,250,370; 1951—estimated at 8,000,000.

The last Bureau of Census figures available show 9,248,000 Bibles and testaments sold in the U.S. in 1947. A book publishing authority projects that to 12,000,000 in 1952—a "very conservative estimate."

Butte Falls

Butte Falls—Mr. and Mrs. Ward Sybouts and daughter visited Mrs. Sybouts' parents in Prineville last week-end.

A three-act play, "Aaron Slick From Punkin Crick," was presented last Friday evening in the high school auditorium by the juniors and seniors. The play was directed by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Horn. In the cast were Dwight F. Redenburgh, Gene Wright, Lee Jolliffe, Beth Abbott, Phyllis Trefren, Barbara Ellis, Marlene Casey, Glenn and Rayetta Sheppard.

Between acts Ward Sybouts sang, accompanied by Mrs. Sybouts and Ralph Holbrook played two violin solos, accompanied by Mrs. Sybouts.

Home Extension met May 1 at the home of Mrs. Bill Edmondson. Miss Eula Wintermote gave the lesson on "Streamlining Your Housework."

Next meeting of Mt. Pitt club will be Thursday evening, May 8, at the home of Mrs. Dave Bregren.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Ellefson are parents of a boy born April 27 in a Medford hospital. He has been named David Lee.

Mt. Pitt club members, with their families, enjoyed a turkey dinner May 2 at the high school. Cards were played later in the evening. Mrs. Ward Sybouts was in charge of the dinner. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman and daughters, Mrs. Virginia Dillon and children, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Albert and girls, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Poole and Priscilla, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Sy-



NO SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT—Strike pickets James Cooper (left) and Eddie George, Oil Workers International Union (C. I. O.), parade before entrance to an idle high octane unit at Port Arthur, Texas. With no settlement in sight at this plant, the world's largest, Bruce Brown, deputy petroleum administrator announced that an order would be issued this week to limit flying in general.

Estimated 10,000 Persons Return To Seasonal Jobs

Salem—(U.P.)—Nearly 10,000 persons returned to seasonal jobs in April, the State Unemployment Compensation Commission said Tuesday.

That left the number without work at 22,722, still 6,262 more than a year ago.

Loggers Not Included

Estimates of unemployment from the commission's 28 local offices did not include several thousand loggers who became involved in a labor dispute shortly before the end of the month. Until they enter actively into the labor market they cannot be considered as "without work," the commission said.

Practically every area of Oregon showed definite improvement in employment conditions, but agriculture and construction still were not picking up as rapidly as a year ago. Only Hillsboro reported a shortage of farm workers, asking for 50 family groups to hoe and dig berry plants. Salem noted a lull because of early completion of hop yard tasks. Medford and Eugene also had more than a thousand seeking jobs.

Payments Drop

Payments to unemployed workers also dropped in April. Insurance benefits were \$1,285,294, a decrease of 34 per cent from March but half a million dollars higher than a year ago. Payments for 10 months of the benefit year reached \$12,747,141 compared with \$9,884,071 at this time in 1951.

Claims for insurance also have declined steadily but remain slightly above the same weeks last year. Construction, food processing and lumber continue to supply most of the claimants.

Radio Operator Tests Saturday at K. Falls

Klamath Falls—Radio operator examinations will be held in Klamath Union high school here starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, May 24, it was announced today. The examinations will include written code and radiotelephone tests, amateur code and written tests, and novice and technician code and written tests.

Pens, ink, rulers and pencils are to be furnished by applicants and those desiring code tests must also bring telephone receivers, according to Francis H. McCann, acting engineer in charge of radio District 13. McCann stressed the importance of arriving on time to take the examinations.

Gov. Martin's Son Delegate Candidate

Samuel H. Martin, Portland lawyer, is a candidate for delegate from the state at large to the Republican National Convention. He states: "After twenty years of 'Deals' under the Democratic party, it is high time we had government for all of the people. In these critical times, we are in urgent need of a president who will restore the faith of all Americans in the dignity, strength and integrity of our national administration and I feel that General Eisenhower is eminently fitted for this high office."

Martin is president of the Dartmouth Alumni association of Oregon, a graduate of Harvard law school, a member of the American Bar association, Oregon State Bar and Multnomah Bar association, having been secretary of the latter, and has practiced law in Portland for 20 years. His father, the late Charles H. Martin, was a former governor of Oregon.

Rogue River Hires Teacher, Janitor

Rogue River—Bill Esselstyn of Wasco, Ore., was hired as teacher for the eighth grade and W. H. Tenney was hired to replace janitor R. Godfrey who is returning to California. It was announced at the regular meeting of the school board last Thursday.

Enrollment of the high school was given as 179 and the grade school has 340 students.

Lights Requested

A petition with 30 signatures, requesting the lighting of the athletic field be submitted to the voters was read and acted upon. This would require \$4200 be added to the operating budget of the coming year and would cost the taxpayers of the district an additional three and one-third mills, it is estimated. This proposal will be voted upon when the new director for the district is elected on June 16.

The county rural budget election will be held May 19, from 7 to 9 p.m.

APPLE TRICK EXPLAINED

Ntchez, Miss.—(U.P.)—F. Brinton Finn, New York art collector who exhibited some of his rare prints here, says that if you halve an apple crosswise, then cut off a thin slice from one of the halves and hold it to the light, you will see a perfect outline of the blossom from which the apple grew.

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