

# Revival of Interest in Spiritual Healing Noted

**Editor's Note:** The news that Queen Juliana of the Netherlands has turned to a faith healer in efforts to restore the sight of her partially-blind daughter has stirred up fresh controversy over the place of miraculous cures in modern religion. The following dispatch reports that the attitude of many churches toward spiritual healing has undergone sharp changes in recent years.

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press Correspondent  
Washington—(U.P.)—A strong revival of interest in spiritual healing is underway in many Christian denominations.

Skepticism and embarrassment about this long-neglected phase of the church's trained ministry is on the wane. More and more churchmen are swinging around to the belief that miraculous cures do occur, even in this age of scientific medicine, and that modern Christian should take a new look at the whole subject.

This attitude is, for the many bodies of Protestant Christianity, a radical change from the prevailing opinions of a few years ago. While the Roman Catholic Church and some fundamentalist sects of faith healing, leading Protestant groups were inclined to soft-pedal or disavow what they regarded as a primitive and unsophisticated belief. Some liberal theologians even sought to explain away the gospel accounts of Christ's healing miracles.

The new respectability of spiritual healing was reflected in a recent symposium published by the respected quarterly journal, Religion in Life. Four prominent clergymen who participated in the symposium agreed that the evidence for remarkable cures through prayer is so abundant that the phenomenon must be taken seriously.

**No Longer Dismissed**  
"Faith healing can no longer be dismissed with a shrug of the shoulder, a snap judgment, or a clever phrase, either by the church or by the medical profession," said the Rev. John Pitts, minister of the First Welsh Presbyterian church, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. "There seems to be more than enough evidence to affirm that spiritual healing is a fact."

Cyril C. Richardson, a professor at Union Theological seminary in New York, emphasized that faith healing does not mean having faith in a particular "healer," nor does it mean persuading yourself that you will be healed. "The faith required is that in Christ is revealed the power and wisdom of God. It is God and not we who is the healer," he said.

This point is stressed by many other clergymen, who draw a sharp distinction between bonafide spiritual healing and the "demonstrations" of some self-styled "faith healers." Churchmen who acknowledge that much outright quackery is practiced in the name of faith healing point out that medical science also has its fakes and charlatans.

If the efficacy of genuine radiation treatments is not questioned just because some unscrupulous racketeers bilk the gullible with "uranium poultices," they say, neither should true spiritual healing through earnest private prayer be discounted just because some superstitious-mongers make a mockery of it for their own profit.

**Impartial Study**  
The Church of England, in an effort to draw a clear line between quackery and legitimate spiritual healing, recently asked the British Medical association to conduct an impartial, professional study of the facts. A commission report took a middle course between skepticism and credulity. They said the tenets

of modern medicine leave little room for "miraculous cures of organic disease" and many so-called miracles are susceptible of natural explanations. But they also acknowledged that some well-authenticated cures are "at present inexplicable on scientific aspects of healing that are still outside our present medical knowledge."

Among the scientifically-attested cures studied by the British physicians were a number which took place at the famous shrine of Lourdes, France. A sizeable medical staff is stationed at Lourdes to examine pilgrims on arrival, a check designed to rule out error in diagnosis, which is often cited by non-believers as the "explanation" of many apparent miracles of healing.

This medical staff has recorded numerous scientifically-inexplicable recoveries. In some cases, the cures involved organic diseases in very young infants—conditions which would appear to rule out any explanation on psychological or psychosomatic grounds.

## Baptists Ask Stop To Hydrogen Tests

Seattle—(U.P.)—The American Baptist convention in a resolution Friday asked the United States to stop hydrogen bomb tests.

The resolution was adopted by a 2 to 1 vote on the last day of the convention's 49th annual meeting. It asserted the tests were dangerous to the Japanese economy, harmful to missionaries, have an adverse effect on Asiatic nations and create a "long range danger to the human race."

Earlier, delegates elected Dr. Harry L. Dillin, president of Linfield College, McMinnville, Ore., president of the convention.

**SNOW FOR GOVERNOR**  
Bangor, Me.—(U.P.)—Gov. Edmund S. Muskie and his aides did some quick thinking when a short circuit started a fire in the wiring of the governor's official car on a highway near here. They scooped up handfuls of snow and doused the flames with it.

## Experiment Station Scene of Tour by Branch Officials

Experiment station superintendents from throughout Oregon toured facilities of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station this weekend as part of a plan to better coordinate work of various branches in the system.

Saturday was devoted to a tour of the branch experiment station to acquaint visiting superintendents in charge of other stations with the nature of the program under way in this area. Attention also was given to how the program was developed and why.

While superintendents were touring the station, wives visited the Jacksonville Museum under the leadership of Mrs. H. H. White, wife of the local superintendent. They also visited other points of interest in the valley.

## Picnic Held

The group held a picnic at Ashland's Lithia park.

Among those visiting were Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Overton, Pendleton branch experiment station; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Sawyer, Squaw Butte-Harney station; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hall, Sherman station; Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Hoffman, Malheur experimental area, Ontario; Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Howell, John Jacob Astor station, Astoria; Malcolm Johnson, Central Oregon experimental area, Remond; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Larson, Umatilla station, Hermiston; Mr. and Mrs. Jack McDermid, Red Soils experimental area, Oregon City; and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Gross, Klamath station, Klamath Falls.

Last year the group held a two-day inspection trip at Oregon City and Astoria.

## Around Hollywood

Hollywood—(U.P.)—Phil Silvers sailed through Hollywood this week as a returned conqueror.



and blandly turned down movie offers to stick to his "You'll Never Get Rich" television show. The last time "the comedians' comedian" stayed in Hollywood for a stretch was during filming of his stage hit, "Top Banana." Before that he suffered through years of playing "the hero's best friend" in a string of movies.

This trip the triple-ecmy winner was the toast of Hollywood for his biggest success, as Sgt. Steve Bilko in "You'll Never Get Rich." But he brushed off eager movie producers to return to his show in New York.

**Good Story Needed**  
"Lotsa movie offers," beamed Silvers at a cocktail party given in his honor. "But they're all to play Army characters. We've gotten offers to do Sergeant Bilko as a movie, too. But we'll wait until we get a real good story line and then do it as a big movie in color."

## Senators Urge Use of Northwest Colleges

Washington—(U.P.)—Sens. Henry M. Jackson and Warren G. Magnuson Friday urged a department of agriculture committee to select the University of Idaho and Washington State College as a dual site for an \$18,900,000 animal disease research center.

The Washington Democrats said the site would utilize fully the institutions' research facilities. The Camp Adair site near Corvallis and Albany, Ore., also has been mentioned as a possible location of the center.

## TWO-WAY THEATER

New Kensington, Pa.—(U.P.)—Plans for this city's new \$2,500,000 high school include provisions for a reversible indoor-outdoor stage. The stage will be situated so that a bi-parting door will let it face both an inside auditorium and an outdoor hillside amphitheater.

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**MAD KILLER?**—Police at Warren, Ohio are searching for Alfred Wilson, 37 (above), just out of jail on bond after being held for assault and battery. They believe he might be the "mad killer" of two women and a girl. The two women were his sisters-in-law and the girl, an innocent victim, was 16-year-old Nancy Worthington.

## Trumans Touring Great Britain

London—(U.P.)—Former President Truman, enjoying his first day in Britain free of official functions, Saturday joined scores of other tourists in an excursion trip down the river Thames to the Tower of London.

Mr. Truman and Mrs. Truman were the center of attention. The visit of the grim tower, a mecca for all tourists, gave Mr. Truman further opportunity to show off his knowledge of history which has impressed his hosts throughout his European tour.

Mr. Truman made more headlines Friday, along with his chauffeur. Embassy driver Albert Smith caused a flurry approaching a diplomatic incident when he disappeared shortly before the former President emerged from the American school where he addressed some ninth graders.

Smith kept Mr. Truman cooling his heels for several minutes. He had gone around the corner for a spot of tea.

Mr. Truman dismissed the incident with a grinning remark that he would have to get accustomed to the Englishmen's morning tea break.

But the chauffeur was mortified by his blunder and vowed never to let it happen again. Friday night the Trumans attended a private reception given by Sir John Balfour, who was British minister to Washington for three years during Mr. Truman's presidency.

**GOAT-GETTER**  
Norton, Va.—(U.P.)—Insurance agent Paul Irwin almost was eaten out of business by a billygoat. Irwin said he returned to his car after making a collection call to find the goat had eaten his personal mail, a sticker off the windshield and was starting to chew up the front seat of the automobile.

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