

About 60 Per Cent Who Answer Graham's Call Fall Into Classification of Converts

Editor's note: This is the third of four special reports by the United Press on Billy Graham's New York crusade.

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent
New York (U.P.)—Of the hundreds who respond each night to Billy Graham's invitation to make "decisions for Christ," about 60 per cent fall into the category that church traditionally has called "converts."



The other 40 per cent are church members—some nominal, some active—who are reaffirming their faith. Graham calls them all "inquirers" or "seekers" for Christ. He agreed with his critics that

others, who may have been genuinely moved to accept Christ, fall along the wayside in the difficult transition from a revivifying atmosphere to the less stimulating environment of a local church.

Graham pointed out, however, that he has tried to minimize

the attrition among his converts by setting up a "counseling and follow-up system" that is unique in the annals of mass evangelism.

Accompanied By Counselor
It goes into operation the moment an "inquirer" starts down the aisle at a Graham meeting.

Before he reaches the front of the auditorium, the inquirer will find at his side a person of the same sex and approximately the same age—a "counselor" who has had nine weeks of special training for his role.

After the service, the counselor accompanies the inquirer to a

large auditorium in the basement. When everyone is seated, Graham or one of his assistants makes a brief talk.

The inquirers are urged to return each evening at 6:30 for the duration of the crusade, to attend classes of instruction. They also get individual interviews with the inquirers who later will fill out a "decision card" containing the inquirer's name, address, age, telephone number, occupation, the nature of his "decision," and his local church "preference."

Card Sent To Church

Within 48 hours, a copy of this card will go to the minister of the local church. The coun-

selor is supposed to keep in touch with the inquirer, by telephone or in person, until he has established contact with a local church.

Some ministers follow up these leads diligently. Others, who do not particularly approve of Graham's methods, resent what they regard as an attempt to draft them into his crusade.

Graham does all he can, at ministerial conferences and private talks, to win the wholehearted cooperation of local clergymen.

Many attempts have been made to determine what proportion of the "decisions" made at Graham's meeting bear lasting

fruit. Admirers have demonstrated through spot-checks that many converts are now active, witnessing church members.

British Survey

The only survey which seems to have covered a statistically significant sample was conducted in 1955 by the British Weekly, an inter-denominational church paper in England which has never been identified as pro or anti-Graham.

On the basis of a poll of British clergy of all denominations, the paper reported that 64 per cent of the converts who joined churches during Graham's London crusade were "still attending church and taking part in

church life regularly" one year later.

Graham himself will not venture a guess, in terms of percentages, as to how many signers of decision cards become true, lasting converts to Christianity.

"Frankly," he said, "I don't think there is any way we can tell, this side of heaven. If even one of them is saved, the whole crusade is worthwhile."

Next—How the crusade is financed.

Among lesser-used narcotics are the derivative of the thornapple, henbane, hops and common lettuce.

Back Stairs: A Clue To Ike's Illness

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Writer
Washington (U.P.)—Backstairs at the White House:

A truly superstitious individual could have forecast President Eisenhower's illness this week when he was at American University Sunday night to receive his honorary degree, the massive presidential seal fell from the speaker's stand and smashed to pieces on a platform a few feet from Eisenhower.

For the more practical, the omen pointed in another direction. The White House shortly will stop using the big plaster seals at the site of presidential appearances and shift to an unbreakable plastic product.

It is customary to display the seal of the President on a speaker's platform or banquet head table every time the chief executive speaks outside the White House.

Wife on Telephone

Within a matter of minutes after the seal was broken the President was back at the White House and Mrs. Eisenhower was on the telephone to the White House doctor, Maj. Gen. Howard McC. Snyder, asking him to come at once to treat her ailing husband.

One news photograph made of the President at the university ceremony Sunday night showed him standing rather grave-faced, with one fist clinched. Even at that moment, he must have been fighting back the nausea that made him so painfully uncomfortable later in the night.

Probably the group most disappointed over the President's illness was Sen. Fritz Lawaetz and a group of fellow lawmakers from the legislative assembly of the Virgin Islands.

Brought Bottle of Rum

They were waiting in the anteroom outside the President's office Monday morning as his first callers of the day. One of the senators even brought along a bottle of prime Virgin Islands rum as a gift for the chief executive.

Just when they expected to be ushered into the President's office, Bernard Shanley, Eisenhower's appointment secretary, came into the room and told the delegation that the President was indisposed and their meeting was off.

To be sure that the Virgin Islanders did not disclose the situation before the White House was ready to announce it, they were carefully ushered out a side door not being watched at the time by reporters and they were told to keep quiet.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty announced the President's illness about 50 minutes later.

The President's doctors believe that his upset was due in part to partaking too heavily of parties and desserts, along with some other foods a bit too rich

for his somewhat restricted diet.

Hagerty was asked the other day whether Eisenhower was particularly fond of pastries and desserts.

"Of course," Hagerty said. "Who isn't—particularly when you're not supposed to have 'em."

The President's "home town" of Gettysburg, Pa., is about to receive a present. This Sunday, the Collegial Society of Hungarian Veterans—college students of Hungarian origin—will present to the city a full-length portrait of the chief executive.

Mayfield Discusses Medford Schools at Kiwanian Luncheon

Medford's present school district board and administration are trying to maintain the policies which have given the community a good school program in the past. City School Superintendent Leonard Mayfield brought out Wednesday in a talk at the Kiwanis club luncheon meeting at Rogue Valley Country club.

The school official said the board and administrative staff recognizes that there are changes and are keeping the best of the old along with adding the new. Medford schools have had a

good administration in former years, Mayfield stressed. "The record will show it," he declared. Mayfield pointed out that Medford has consistently been average or below in school costs and yet students who have good averages from the system have been near the top in college.

School Problems

Mayfield spoke concerning the school budget and taxes, school needs, comparison with other districts financially and academically, trends in the local system and plans for the future. He pointed out that Medford is going to continue to have school problems as long as the growth of the community continues.

The superintendent told Kiwanians that the district is well off financially. He said that the Medford district constantly is being compared with 18 other large districts in the state and that, in school tax rate, only four other districts currently are lower than Medford. Combining all taxes, city, school and county, Medford has the lowest rate of the 18 districts, Mayfield reported. He stated that a school budget reflects what a community wants and what type of schools a district has. He added that the budget is carefully analyzed here.

Need for Space

Mayfield said that there is need of more elementary and high school classroom space in the local system. He said that everytime there are 30 new students in a community a new classroom has to be built and equipped and a teacher obtained. The superintendent reported that the cost of a building must be borne by the local district and that codes require many more things in buildings which also cost more than they used to cost.

Stating that the administration plans to maintain a high academic standard here, Mayfield reported that the district checks itself both statewide and nationally. He pointed to tests taken which show Medford first grade students 8 of a grade ahead of the national average, second grade students 9 of a grade ahead and third through sixth graders a full grade ahead. Mayfield reported that more is going to be done here for training gifted students. He said that the possibility of doing more for students who terminate their formal education with high school is being considered, he said.

Boy Scout Camp To Open at Lake Soon

About 725 Boy Scouts from the Crater Lake Area council will spend at least a week apiece at Lake of the Woods when the Boy Scout camp opens for the first of five summer sessions July 7. The camp will close Aug. 11.

Twenty of the 22 troops in the Big Pine district have registered to date. The camp is complete with various improvements, including additional cabins, a new cooking range, a revised water front system, and five new plywood row boats.

Dick Lamb district scout executive, heads a staff of 24 in charge of the camp. The camp will have a new assistant director, Darl Gleed, field executive in Yreka, Calif., recently arrived from Blue Water, N.M. Scouts spend seven days at the camp, arriving on Sunday and returning home the following Sunday. Cost to each Scout is \$15.50 for a week. Any Scout wishing to stay longer may join a provisional troop for \$17.50 registration charge.

Information concerning the camp is available at the council headquarters, 500 East Main st., or can be obtained from any Scoutmaster.

\$5,686 Raised in Area In Heart Fund Drive

Jackson county raised \$5,686.82 for the February Heart fund campaign according to John Billings, county fund chairman. This went into the state collection which totaled \$60,000, an increase of one-third over last year's campaign.

Billings said \$2,650.81 of the county total was collected on Heart Sunday.

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