

Lenten Message

By
THE REV.
DR. JOHN F. WILLIAMS
Pastor, First United Presby-
terian Church, Franklin, Ind.
(Written for UPI)

LENT - "a time of penitence and of self-denial." Penitence for what, and to what end shall we deny self? To be penitent simply because we regret either the commission or omission of certain acts, and to deny self simply to develop a little pride in will power, these are hardly worthy motives.

To really be penitent because we so casually fall short of the example of our Christ, and to deny self that we might more nearly approach the selflessness of our Christ, would more likely produce for us the spiritual potential the season contains.

The possibility of a more definite identification with the realities in our Master's life should then evaluate in less of the nebulousness of faith and deepening of faith in the specifics of our avowed discipleship.

So may it be that Lent could become for us the "great adventure" in seeking the Holy Grail of Christian devotion.

Four Appear in District Court

Clifford Ray Willoughby, 918 Maple Park dr., Medford, has been bound over to the grand jury on charges of forgery, District Court Judge L. L. Sawyer said Friday.

Willoughby waived the right to an attorney and preliminary hearing when he appeared in district court. He is charged with forging a name to a check for \$100.

Ernest W. Small, Phoenix, was bound over to the grand jury on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses. He also waived right to a preliminary hearing in district court Friday. He is charged with giving a bad check for \$10 to a Phoenix tavern Feb. 11.

Earl Wayne Taylor, Third st. and Central ave., Medford, was bound over on charges of burglary not in a dwelling. He waived a preliminary hearing and was bound over to the grand jury. He is charged with burglarizing a drive-in theater Feb. 13.

Del Raymond Beebe, 15 North Riverside ave., Medford, was bound over to the grand jury on charges of obtaining money under false pretenses. He is charged with issuing a bad check for \$10 to a Medford market Jan. 21. He waived right to a preliminary hearing.

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Confessed Bank Embezzler Gets 15 Years in Penitentiary

Sioux City, Iowa—UPI—Mrs. Burnice Iverson Geiger, who admitted embezzling \$2 million from the accounts of her friends and neighbors at the Sheldon National Bank, Friday was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a federal judge.

Mrs. Geiger, the slightly graying only daughter of the bank president, stood impassively before U.S. District Judge Henry N. Graven as he pronounced sentence. Her hands gripping the table, she could have received a prison term of 175 years.

She remained tight-lipped until the end about the big remaining questions in the case, why she took the money and what she did with it.

Nothing To Say
When the judge asked if she had anything to say in her own behalf, Mrs. Geiger replied, "No Sir, I have not."

Graven asked again if she had anything to say that might mitigate the punishment and then said "Do you have any information for the court?"

To both questions, the woman replied, "No, Sir."

However, Dist. Atty. F. E. Van Alstine shed some light on these questions in his presentation to the court.

"Mrs. Geiger got to indulging in speculation of her own and the money was disposed of in various ways," he told the court.

He said one of the principal ways was speculation on the Board of Trade which amounted at times to \$1,000 a month over a period of many years.

Ledger Sheets Withdrawn
He explained that she had withdrawn customers' ledger sheets from bank files to cover shortages. Some of the money was loaned to local people, and some, for one reason or another, were allowed to draw on their accounts at the bank without records being kept of the credit, he said.

Van Alstine also said that up to January of 1960, the shortage at the Sheldon National Bank was about \$1 million. He said a little more than an additional \$1 million was

withdrawn in the past year.

He said Mrs. Geiger's husband, operator of a Sheldon hardware store, had no apparent knowledge of his wife's speculation.

Harris, 54, a widower, who died last Saturday morning in his apartment in San Francisco. The death was ruled accidental.

Harris once did some interior decorating at the Geiger home in Sheldon and was named in four of the 35 counts against her. Mrs. Geiger pleaded guilty. The total amount involved in the Harris counts was \$1,652.53.

Judge Graven sentenced Mrs. Geiger to five years on each of the first three counts against her with the terms to run consecutively, a total of 15 years. On counts 4 through 35, he sentenced her to five years each with the terms to run concurrently with Count one.

No fines or costs were assessed. She could have been fined a total of \$175,000.

Ruled Accidental
He said the person died a few days ago "in an accidental fire in his apartment."

He did not identify this person but he apparently was referring to Samuel Marvin

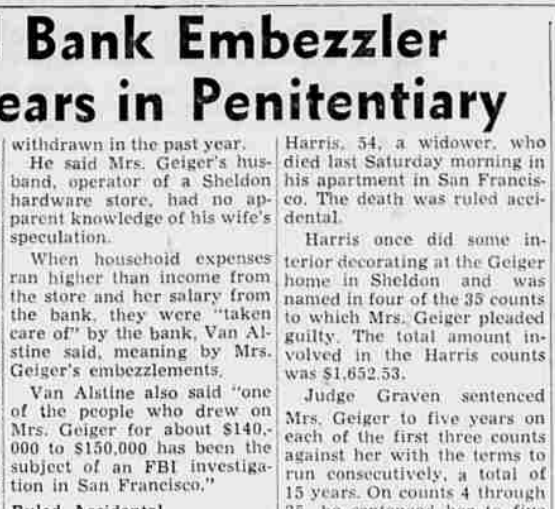
Kennedy Briefed—President Kennedy flew by helicopter to the Atomic Energy Commission's headquarters at Germantown, Md., for an inspection of the installation and briefing by officials. Dr. Glenn Seaborg, AEC chairman, shows the Chief Executive a 3 1/2-pound piece of natural uranium.

Venezuela Jobless In Demonstration
Caracas, Venezuela—UPI—Hundreds of unemployed persons tried to storm the Presidential Palace of President Romulo Betancourt Friday and were beaten back by police and national guardsmen using teargas bombs.

The crowds formed in front of a union headquarters in the Paraiso section of Caracas and were intercepted by police as they neared the El Silencio area, the big square where major outbreaks broke out last November against the government.

Those outbreaks led the government to suspend constitutional guarantees in the country and to prohibit future demonstrations as Friday's.

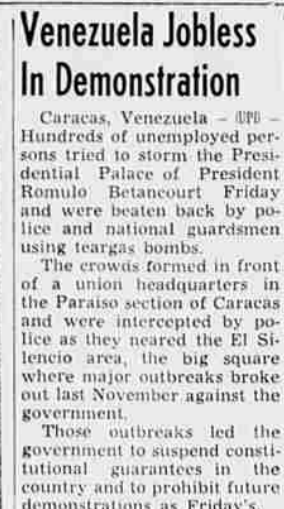
Salem—UPI—Gov. Mark Hatfield Friday sent a telegram to President Kennedy confirming that Oregon is doing all it can to stimulate the economy.



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Halsey Man Faces Embezzling Charge
Portland—UPI—A federal grand jury Thursday indicted A. Ray Martin, an employee of the Halsey branch of the Bank of Lebanon, on charges of embezzling more than \$9,000.

One of seven counts against Martin claimed he embezzled \$6,300 in March of 1959. The remaining counts charge embezzlement of more than \$3,000 from June to August, 1960.

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Police Chief Talks To County Motor Court Association

Medford Police Chief Charles Champlin told the Jackson County Motor Court association last week the Medford police department will continue to cooperate with the motel and trailer court operators.

The police department is continuing to work out a better calling system for motels on check flashes and other information, the police chief said at a recent meeting.

During 1958, the police handled 225 fictitious checks, in 1959, 258 checks and in 1960, more than 400. Many of the 400 were passed by travelers going through Medford, he pointed out.

The police chief emphasized that all checks should be examined carefully as to dates and other information. If a check is post-dated, there has been no crime committed under Oregon law, he said. The case would be civil, not criminal.

Registration Cards
Tamper-proof locks on motel units, and complete filling out of registration cards were stressed by the chief. Each registration card should have the guest's correct license number and state in which issued.

The group discussed House Bills 1010, 1024 and 1173 which affect motor and trailer courts. The group decided to oppose all three bills and write letters to legislators.

Miss Ila Estelle presented Max Weston a plaque for his work and leadership of the association for the last two years.

Guests introduced by Dale Hearrell, president, were Charles Hendry, D. H. Van de Sande and Ray Lambert.

Mental Health Group To Meet

The Mental Health Association of Jackson County will meet tomorrow, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the offices of the Jackson county welfare department, according to Lindsay Vinsel, chairman of the group.

The welfare offices are located at the corner of Fourth and Grape sts., Medford.

Mrs. Ruth Renfro, executive secretary of the Oregon Mental Health association, will discuss mental health legislation. Recommendations of the advisory committee on mental health for the state of Oregon and the Governor's proposed reorganization of mental health activities will be explained, according to R. Ren Taylor of the education committee. The meeting is open to anyone interested.

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