

Mormons Returning to Eastern U. S. Where Smith Originated

By LARRY DAY
United Press International
Palmyra, N. Y. — "The Mormons are coming!"

As the cry rang out, a mob of wild-eyed men broke and ran away from the Carthage, Ill., jail.

It was June 27, 1844, and the mob had just gunned down the Mormon prophet, Joseph Smith, and his brother, Hyrum, who had been lodged in the jail for their protection.

With Smith's death, they sought to kill the new religion he had founded.

But the Mormons are still coming, and in ever-increasing numbers. Nowhere is this attested more vividly than in the impressive pageant they have presented annually for the past 25 years on the slopes of the Hill Cumorah, in western New York. The silver anniversary performance this summer drew 100,000 spectators.

The Mormons are growing throughout the world. The 2-million-strong church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the wealthiest church per capita in the world. The Mormon Tabernacle choir was featured on the first formal international television broadcast via the new Telstar satellite.

Missionaries Proclaim
The Mormons are about to build a skyscraper on Fifth avenue in New York City and 10,000 young missionaries proclaim the Mormon gospel throughout the earth. They converted and baptized 90,000 persons last year.

Typical of the missionary zeal with which these young men proclaim the "restored gospel" was Young Steve Covey of Salt Lake City. As a missionary in Ireland, Covey used to run through the streets of Dublin shouting, "The Mormons are coming!" to bring a crowd to the street corner where his companions were preaching from a soap box.

But mostly the Mormon missionaries go quietly from door to door, making contacts, leaving tracts and giving "a prayer and a message."

There are 65 Mormon missions throughout the world. From north of the Arctic circle to south of Sydney, Australia, the church sends its volunteer missionaries. They stay two or three and a half years and pay their own expenses.

Mormon converts, whether they live in Venado Tuerto, Argentina, Osaka, Japan, or Council Bluffs, Iowa, receive the same intense religious training before they are baptized. Before they become Mormons, they must testify that Jesus is the savior of mankind and that Joseph Smith and the church's present president, David O. McKay, are prophets of God.

Converts abstain from tea, coffee, tobacco and alcohol and adhere to the "word of wisdom" proclaimed by Smith in 1830 as a health standard.

Mormons Tithe
All promise to give 10 percent of their gross income to the church, in keeping with the old testament law of tithing. All attend Sunday religious services, both morning and evening.

Mormons don't neglect the temporal side of life. Mormon businessmen, professional men and politicians strive in their careers with the same zeal they bring to religion. U. S. Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall is a Mormon, as are George Romney, presi-

dent of American Motors, Senator Wallace Bennett, (R-Utah) and Frank Moss, (D-Utah).

Other prominent Mormons include former Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson and Middleweight Boxing Champion Gene Fullmer.

The church, in addition to 515 chapels under construction and the proposed New York City skyscraper, is engaged in a \$40 million building project in Salt Lake City. It owns three cattle ranches, 650 farms, a number of canneries, processing plants and factories. It is whole or part owner of two insurance companies, a hotel, a motel, a department store, a radio television station, a book publishing firm, a sugar processing company, a newspaper and large stretches of undeveloped real estate.

The Hill Cumorah, where the annual pageant is performed, has come to be known as the cradle of Mormonism. It was atop this hill in 1827 that Joseph Smith said he received a set of golden plates from the hands of an angel called Moroni. From these plates Joseph Smith brought forth the church's scriptural companion to the Bible, the Book of Mormon. It is a record of God's dealings with an Israelite civilization which flourished on this continent for centuries and was finally extinguished by war and conflict.

Returning To East
Mormons, persecuted and driven west during the last century, the Mormons are returning to this cradle of their religion. There are 7,000 Mormons in New York state today.

The Mormons have no professional clergy. The male members of the church receive the priesthood at the age of 12, becoming deacons. From then on they progress through a series of callings to become high priests.

Mormon congregations are called wards and roughly compare to parishes. They contain about 1,000 members each. A bishop and two counselors preside over each ward. The bishop may be a salesman, the neighborhood television repairman or a business executive.

Five to eight Mormon wards grouped together make a stake (diocese) which is presided over by a stake president and two counselors. In western New York, where for years the only Mormon was the man who cared for the Joseph Smith farm, the church is growing rapidly. A stake, the 34th of the church, was recently formed, with some 2,250 members.

The Cumorah stake, typical of the other 345, is presided over by Bryant W. Rossiter, 31, a research chemist from Rochester.

So the Mormons are coming back to the place where the unschooled farm boy with his tales of visions and revelations founded a religion which "didn't have a chance".



PAGEANT GIVEN—Brinda Moore, Morgantown, Ky., adjusts the costume of Kent Bagley, Sunnyside, Wash., who was cast in the role of the Prophet Ezekiel for the 1962 Hill Cumorah pageant near Palmyra, N.Y. Mormons have presented the pageant annually for the past 25 years. The silver anniversary performance drew an estimated 100,000 spectators. The Mormon church is returning in force to the East Coast, where it got its start with Joseph Smith many years ago. (UPI)

Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER
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TRUTH ABOUT THE U. S. DOLLAR
Repeatedly, we in the United States are being told that the value of the American dollar is being relentlessly undermined by our "irresponsible" financial policies and that the currencies of other industrialized Western nations are performing far better than our "once mighty" greenback.

The "irresponsible" label isn't pinned on our federal government alone. It's slapped on our big businessmen, our big labor unions, our big agricultural interests too. At times it seems that no matter what the various power blocs in our nation are doing, critics at home and abroad are determined to convince us that the dollar's record is among the more dismal of the free world's currencies.

The truth is precisely the opposite. Yes, it is a fact that the U.S. dollar has lost buying power each year during the past decade. The dollar that could buy 100 cents of goods and services in 1951, could buy only 95 cents' worth in 1956, can buy only around 87 cents' worth now.

But this percentage loss has been half the loss in buying power of the British pound sterling, the only other great currency in the world—and this is the only other great currency, regardless of your impression about the Swiss franc, the West German mark, other "strong" ones.

The annual losses in buying power of the currencies of these nations have been slightly less than the yearly loss in the U.S. dollar. But the losses have been only slightly less and comparisons between these currencies and the U.S. dollar are utterly misleading.

The money of tiny Switzerland or tiny El Salvador or tiny Portugal could hardly be the pivot of the world's currencies—hardly. Other governments do not proudly pledge their readiness to sell gold at \$35 an ounce to all eligible buyers.

Other money markets aren't open to all borrowers, domestic or foreign. Only ours is wide open, only London's is fairly free, all the rest are shut tight or brutally restricted. Other currencies haven't stood up under the burden of rebuilding the free world. Rather, most currencies have been the beneficiaries of our billions of dollars in gifts and loans. As for Switzerland, she has thrived on her neutrality, refused to involve herself.

The facts are in the annual table showing the rates of depreciation of the currencies of 44 nations from 1951 to 1962, just released by the First National City Bank of New York. With the dollar under such constant attack, the yearly compilation is even more significant than usual. Depreciation is measured by the rise in the nation's official cost of living or consumer price index.

Ahead of the U.S. with practically no loss from 1961 to 1962 or loss up to 1.3 per cent a year are these nations in this order: Philippines, Ceylon, Guatemala, Venezuela, El Salvador, Portugal, Belgium, Ecuador, Switzerland, Lebanon, Germany, Canada.

Then comes the U.S. with a loss of 1.4 per cent. Following with losses ranging to 3.3 per cent a year are: India, Italy, Netherlands, Denmark, Pakistan, Austria, South Africa, Japan, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom.

After this comes a long list, including France with an annual rate of loss of 4.2 per cent, and ending with Bolivia with an annual rate of loss of 36.2 per cent. (That's inflation.)

Even this compilation doesn't tell the full tale. Many of the nation's indexes of prices hide the real losses because they are so limited in coverage or do not indicate government policies which hold down prices of specific items. In our country, in contrast, the rise in the consumer price index in recent years has been due almost entirely to increases in the costs of services, not in prices of goods.

I am not underestimating an annual loss in the dollar's buying power of 1.4 per cent; I know what this does to the value of a nestegg in cash over a generation. But I am putting the loss in perspective—and in perspective and considering the burden our dollar has carried, the U.S. greenback has performed remarkably well.

Valley Firms Take Part In Tests Of New Dial System

KBES-TV in Medford and Magnolia Lumber company, Ashland, are taking part in the nationwide dial Teletype-writer tests this month, according to J. H. Creager, local manager for Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone company.

The two were selected of the 1,500 subscribers in the nation to pre-test customer to customer dial Teletype-writer service which will become a reality for the more than 57,000 subscribers in early September.

The vast mechanical network will be turned up for a few hours on two Saturdays and dial TWX messages will speed to all corners of the nation culminating two years of planning and installation work by the telephone companies.

Checking Equipment
A small army of telephone people throughout the nation will be marking and recording every step of the great network, checking for equipment bugs.

TWX calls are presently handled through manually operated switchboards. The change to dial operation means faster service for the customers who send more than 2,300,000 written messages each month.

The entire nation will be switched to the new dial system simultaneously. It will be the first nationwide conversion in telephone history.

Koolenai Sheriff Injured in Crash

Lewiston, Idaho — The Koolenai county sheriff remained in serious condition at a Spokane hospital today after his car collided with one driven by another law officer on the Lewiston grade near here Wednesday night. Sheriff Walter J. Cox, 68, Coeur d'Alene, received a broken right arm and multiple face lacerations when his car collided with one driven by Edward W. Mayer, 48, Lewiston agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Deputy Sheriff Hans K. Blount, riding with Cox, received possible fractured ribs and a broken hip. Mayer, alone in his car, was reported in fair condition today at a hospital here with fractured ribs, chest and leg injuries.

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