

Mission Funds Result In New Guinea Hospital

The Valley View Seventh Day Adventist church has been notified that the special mission funds given by the church for work in New Guinea a year ago have resulted in the opening of a hospital in the Wabag Valley.

The medical unit, called the Sopas hospital, accommodates 100 patient beds. It consists of four wards, administrative block, nurses home and the doctors' residence.

Dr. Roy O. Yeatts, a missionary from Montana, is in charge of the hospital.

Mrs. Vernise Martin, Sabbath school superintendent, has announced that another special mission offering will be taken for the South Pacific on Saturday. The funds will be used to help expand facilities at the Church's Fulton Missionary college on Figi.

The college is one of 4,800 school operated by the Adventists throughout the world. The Rogue River Academy in this area is an Adventist school.

Dwarf Mistletoe Is Conifer Killer

Washington - (AP) - Dwarf mistletoe, already the No. 1 killer of western conifers, may become an even greater killer unless control measures are put into effect, says the American Tree Farmer.

Forest industries and the U.S. Forest service have found many stands of firs, larches, hemlocks and spruces in the West and Southwest with between 50 and 100 per cent of all stems infected with the parasitic plant, the publication said.

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Religion in America

Most Social Action Programs Said Lacking Essential Element

Editor's note: Louis Casels, UPI writer on religion, is ill. During his absence, substitutes for his weekly column "Religion in America" are being written by leading clergymen of various faiths.

By RABBI RICHARD G. HIRSCH, Director, Religious Action Center, Union of American Hebrew Congregations

"The chief output of the churches today is preachers' pious platitudes and laymen's lame laments over even these platitudes."

Thus, in a recent report, college students characterized the social action efforts of religious groups.

Most social action programs lack one essential element — action. Religious groups mistakenly assume that a resolution passed at a national convention constitutes action.

The truth is that resolutions have greater impact on those who discuss and approve them than on the people to whom they are supposedly addressed.

To demand the right to preach to society without becoming involved in the society to whom we preach is to act irresponsibly.

In Genesis 17:1, God prescribes for Abraham the nature of his covenantal obligation—"Walk before me and be wholehearted."

The covenant made by God with all men of religion commits us to strive to walk before God not in compartmentalized, halfhearted but in a "wholehearted" manner.

Our contemporary society, however, is "two-hearted" rather than "wholehearted."

How else can we describe the unparalleled high status of religion and the unprecedented low state of personal and public morality?

"Business is business" seems to have become the new standard in economic life just as "politics is politics" seems to have become the accepted pattern of political life.

When translated into the vernacular, these two seemingly innocuous terms mean "you can't be a success and be completely ethical at the same time."

The next step is inevitably, "religion is religion."

This is already manifest in superficial religious preachments which smear a smoothing balm of fatuous faith over men's itchy consciences instead of pricking those consciences with barbs of social concern.

The primary task for religion and its institutions, then, is to point out unequivocally the injustices still rampant in our world.

Affirm Obligation
In this increasingly complex age, when it is at times necessary for government to extend its influence into areas formerly considered beyond its purview, we affirm our obligation to encourage the individual to preserve and enhance this individuality by actively participating in the social issues of his life and times.

The most formative influence in the life of an individual is neither creed nor scripture nor pulpit but the over-all social, economic and political milieu. We affirm, then, that religion can best affect the character of man by seeking to affect the character of man's environment.

The fundamental division in American religious life is not between faiths but with each faith.

It is the division between true religion and religiosity, between those who are activated by and those who are apathetic to religious ideals, between those who relate religion to life and those who use religion to escape from life.

We live in an era of cataclysmic social change. The fate of our society and our world are determined by the decisions made by men.

Whether we will it or not, we participate in those decisions. Either we participate consciously and responsibly, or we participate by silence and acquiescence.

Religion must function as the radar of morality, employing its insight and sensitivity to identify unethical behavior and to focus on ethical targets despite the haze and maze engulfing our society.

In the process of serving democracy, religion will preserve its own integrity.

Store Operator Shot In Portland Holdup

Portland - (AP) - Three armed men in their early 20s held up Gene's Super Buys grocery store in Northeast Portland Tuesday night and shot its operator.

Taken to Emanuel hospital here with a bullet wound in his thigh was Gene Robertson, 28, Portland. The robbers took \$400 and escaped in a station wagon.



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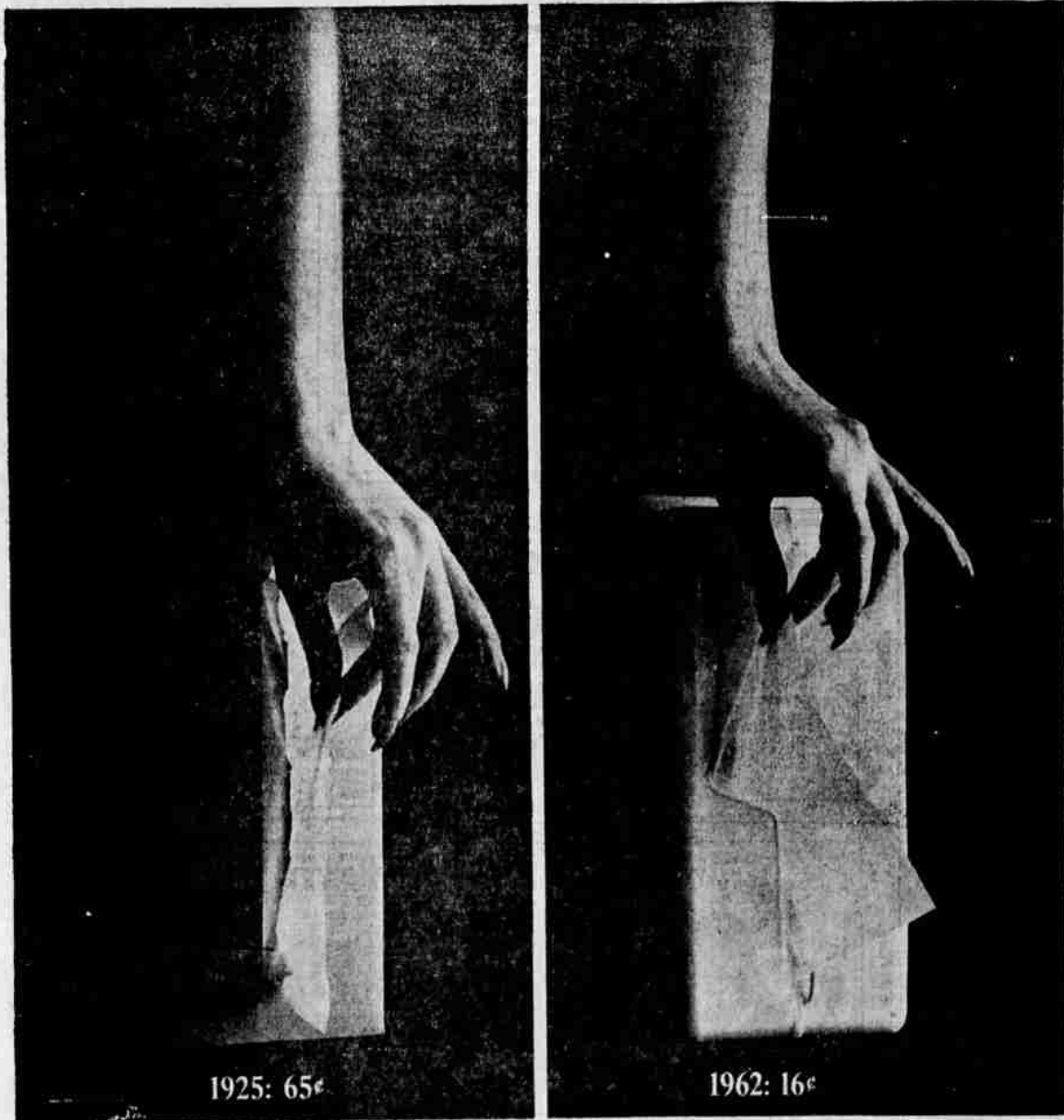
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