

Atheist Colony Granted Land in Kansas

United Press International Stockton, Kan. (UPI)—The citizens of this dusty western Kansas town are having the jitters over a seven-letter word that many of them didn't even know the meaning of until they looked it up.

The word is "atheism." For years Stockton lived contentedly in a regular cycle of spring plowing, the gritty and sweltering days of harvest, and the sweep of winter winds.

But this summer, as townspeople meet after Sunday church or step into the drug store to escape the blazing heat, the talk isn't of familiar things—rain, or the lack of it, and the wheat harvest.

It's about atheism and the actions of their own Farmer Brown.

The word atheism comes clumsily to the lips of the citizens of this strongly religious community.

"Six out of ten people here couldn't have told you what atheism is," said Mayor L. B. Waller.

Farmer Brown Helps

Stockton's anxiety began last month when Carl R. Brown, 77-year-old former Rooks county legislator and retired farmer, offered 180 acres of his land to an atheist colony.

Brown, who lives alone in a rundown, cluttered house two miles south of here, became interested in the cause of Mrs. Madalyn Murray, the Baltimore, Md., housewife who carried her protest against required Bible reading in public schools to the U. S. Supreme Court and won.

He offered two 80-acre tracts on the Solomon river to Other Americans, Inc., an atheist organization founded by Mrs. Murray.

Mr. Murray says she has \$100,000 in pledges toward building the atheist colony, including a university, information center, radio station, printing press and home for the aged.

She wrote Mayor Waller asking for police protection when she visits the site here this week end with her mother and two sons. Waller, noting the small size of the town and its peaceful history, turned down the request.

"We are inclined to believe your presence here will go unnoticed," Waller wrote Mrs. Murray.

Deed Ready

Brown said the deed on one of the 80-acre tracts "is ready to turn over to her when she comes."

Brown's action jolted the community. Church attendance, which ministers say usually dips 25 per cent with the summer heat and vacations, shot up 25 per cent. Petitions asking Brown to change his mind about the land offer began to circulate.

"I haven't heard of anybody in the community who has a friendly feeling toward the atheist center," said the Rev. Clifford Hauxwell of the Christian church.

"Most of the people are almost sick at their stomachs at the very thought of it," said Mrs. Lee Phelps, a housewife.

Brown, an enthusiastic ad-

vocate of nudist camps, has made four trips to Europe where he attended international nudist gatherings and has a 5,000-book library that

Forestry Projects Are Authorized in Public Works Plan

Congressman Robert B. Duncan (D-Ore.) has announced he has received word from the Department of the Interior that \$887,000 in new forestry conservation

projects have been approved under the Accelerated Public Works Program for Oregon's Fourth district.

The projects will not only create jobs for many chronically-unemployed workers, but will improve facilities for campers and hikers and conserve the nation's timber and water resources, Duncan said.

Oregon is one of 24 states which will benefit from the work to be done on public lands, national parks, national monuments, wildlife refuges and Indian reservations.

Fourth district projects include a \$166,000 bureau of land management forestry job to begin late in August in Josephine county. It will create 120 man-months of employment and the work will

include reduction of tree hazards, seed collection on 2,800 acres, and the construction and improvement of protection and sanitation facilities along the Rogue River Trail.

Another Project

Another Josephine county project is the construction of the Galice forest access road to be undertaken by the bureau of land management in October. This \$200,000 project will provide an estimated 130 man-months of employment in the county.

In Coos county, a \$95,000 multipurpose forest improvement project will be started by the bureau of land management in late August. The work includes 150 acres of reforestation, 150 acres of site improvement, 1,300 acres of snag-felling, slash disposal along 80 miles of roadway, and construction of 20 miles of control fence to protect forest seedlings, providing 108 man-months of employment.

Another Coos county job is a \$137,000 project which will provide 96 man-months of labor and is to be invested in construction of the Elk Creek Forest access road. The bureau of land management expects to start the road in October.

In Douglas county, a multipurpose forest improvement project, valued at \$289,000, is scheduled for late in August. BLM will fell tree snags, improve sites, reforest, clear away downed timber, and build protection and sanitation facilities at Wolf Creek and Little River. This nine-month project will create 372 man-months of work.

said. Brown denies the relation.

Denies Communism

"Emotionalism should not play any part in studying any subject, including religion and atheism," Brown said.

"It is unfair to link atheism with Communism, for atheism condemns Communism as being dictatorial, with a disregard for human rights."

Hauxwell said "what we fear the most is the influence on our public schools."

The minister said if the atheists move into the community and send their children to public schools, the baccalaureate services, prayers that open PTA meetings and other religious observations in the schools would be endangered.

Most of the citizens consider Brown to be community-minded.

"Carl Brown has probably given more to charity than anyone I know," said Don Peebles, who heads a project to build a nursing home to which Brown is said to have made the largest pledge, \$1,000.

But Brown's standing in the community has been going downhill.

He gave the city \$2,500 in stocks, the interest of which is used to hold an annual swimming meet for children of the community. Mayor Waller said the stocks probably will be returned.

"I don't think the children should be taught that he is a great man," Waller said.

Brown shrugs off the fermenting opposition in the community. "I'm not mad at

them," he said. "It (atheism) is what I believe in."

He said he will politely turn down petitions asking him to change his mind. He already has answered one bearing 42 signatures.

"I have come to the conclusion that all religions are man-made," Brown wrote the petitioners on a battered typewriter in his kitchen, which also serves as a study.

A Pipedream

Many Stockton residents, including Mayor Waller, consider the atheist colony "a pipedream" and have taken a hopeful wait-and-see attitude.

"Many don't think it will come to be," Waller said.

"Have you seen what they (the atheists) plan to do? It will take much more than the \$100,000 they have. Why a sewer system out there could cost that much."

"When Mrs. Murray comes out she may change her mind about the land. I've heard that she's painted a very rosy picture of the site back East. It's poor land - very

sandy - with poor improvements and a poor house."

The core of this community's uneasiness was expressed by Waller.

"We might be getting people in here who aren't accepted in any other town," he said. He said most of the letters he has received from other parts of the nation in support of the atheist center were poorly written and riddled with bad grammar.

"They all sound like nuts," Waller said. "Just who is coming out?"

Portland Attorney Chairman of Board

Chicago - (UPI) - Portland attorney James C. DeZendorf was elected chairman of the board of directors of the American Judicature Society here Wednesday at the group's golden anniversary meeting.

The society, with a membership of some 20,000 attorneys, judges and laymen, is devoted to promoting efficient administration of justice.

Cordovan leather is made from the hides of horses.



DEED IS READY—Retired farmer Carl R. Brown, 77, seated at the typewriter in his kitchen-study, says the deed on one of the 80-acre tracts is ready for the atheist organization. He is contemplating turning over 180 acres to Other Americans, Inc. (UPI)

Oregon Pharmacists Have More Earnings Than U.S. Average

Corvallis - Oregon pharmacists have almost 13 per cent more earning power than the national average and the net worth of Oregon pharmacists averages almost \$36,000, some \$4,000 above the national average, according to a recent study made by Oregon State university pharmacy graduate student Charles R. Harrison.

At the same time, Harrison's study shows that Oregon pharmacists owned more of their business than the nation's average pharmacy owner. The national average is 61.7 per cent and Oregon's is 68.2 per cent.

The study was conducted among selected Oregon pharmacy owners in an attempt to find what extent and by what methods Oregon pharmacy owners plan and control their financial operations.

To Find Effect

In addition, the survey was aimed at finding what effects the sales volume, form of ownership, and type of store have upon financial management by pharmacy owners. The study also wanted to determine the amount of academic background preparation of pharmacy owners and their opinions as to how well this educational training prepared them for a role of business manager.

The study was made by personal interview and questionnaire. Fifty per cent of the pharmacies studied were owned by one pharmacist. The other half were divided between partnerships and corporations.

The survey found that pre-

scription sales accounted for an average of 42.6 per cent of total net sales in Oregon pharmacies. Prescription sales averaged just over \$53,000, approximately 7.3 per cent above the national average. Overall average gain in total net sales was 3.8 per cent over the previous year although one third of selected Oregon pharmacies suffered a loss in total sales volume.

Harrison also found that neighborhood pharmacies had a low percentage of prescription sales and a high per cent of non-prescription sales. Downtown pharmacies had a higher per cent of prescription sales when compared to neighborhood pharmacies.

Less Expensive

Prescription and clinic pharmacies were less expensive to operate and more profitable than the medium sales volume pharmacies. Salary and wage expenses were highest in the latter pharmacies while rent was highest in the former pharmacies.

Another point of interest found by Harrison was that 92 per cent of the pharmacies granted credit to their customers on a regular basis.

The study also revealed that Oregon pharmacists tended to be passive in the financial management of their stores. Every pharmacy owner interviewed in the study believed he did not have sufficient business training in college. Pharmacy finance, accounting, insurance and selling were courses most frequently mentioned by the owners as being most needed.



SECOND GLANCE—Glamour and gasoline combine to make passersby take a second glance at this service station in Roseville, Calif. Manager Richard Rakes was caught in a rush hour struggle and the gas hose had to be propped up while he serviced the car. He utilized a mannequin, being used in front of his station to advertise a sale, to help him complete the task. (UPI)

NOT UP TO PAR

Wimbledon, England - (UPI) - Baker Thomas Walters was fined \$28 (10 pounds) Wednesday for selling bread that was not up to standard. A woman testified she ate a slice of Walters' bread and found a glass thermometer in it.

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