

Rochester Priest Operates Mobile 'Movie House' On African Gold Coast



With films collected on a visit to his native Rochester four years ago, Father Charles Erb, Divine Word missionary, is operating a highly popular mobile movie unit among natives of the African Gold Coast. Photo here shows Father Erb during his last visit home examining film strip with Joseph Desbarres, Gold Coast Catholic who accompanied him.

By JEAN GARTLAN
Accra, Gold Coast, Africa (NC) — The enthusiasm the American circus generates among its devotees has nothing on the thrill Gold Coast villagers get from the "cinema."

Many a U.S. youngster rises early to see the circus train pull into town and hurries from the schoolroom in the afternoon to watch the circus parade. In the United States the cry is "Here comes the circus!" In the Gold Coast it is "Here comes the cinema!"

The arrival of the dark red van of the Catholic mission mobile movie sets off noisy rejoicing. As the mobile unit moves into town there is no official parade, but hundreds of wildly waving villagers escort it to an open field where the films will be shown.

AN EVENING'S program consists of a potpourri of films ranging from those of religious interest to shorts on cowboys crooning western tunes. An unofficial poll of the villagers puts films of a circus complete with clowns and highwire performers and a newswreel of American football games on top of the most-liked list.

The mobile cinema, operated by Father Charles G. Erb of the Divine Word missionary of Rochester, N. Y., makes its circuit of the Accra diocese complete with all necessary equipment. A portable generator develops electricity to power the projector, which is placed on a table in the center of the field. Pictures are flashed to a makeshift wall set up on the edge of the field. While most of the audience squats on the ground to watch, the elders and chiefs are provided with chairs.

The current film on religion shows the consecration of Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., of Accra in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, last spring. The Gold Coasters are greatly impressed with the dignity of the ceremony and the honor paid to the 43-year-old prelate, the second of Negro blood to be consecrated in the United States. They enjoy, too, shots of the parade before the consecration ceremonies. Their mission schools have bands so they know what a band is and like to watch the American counterpart.

A VILLAGE catechist gives a running commentary on the films in the native language or, when the movie is "silent," he translates the remarks of Father Erb. The enthusiasm for the mobile movies reached a peak recently when the people of the village of Bator cleared a road out of the jungle so the unit could get in. The five-mile stretch also makes the new mission set up at Bator more accessible to the Divine Word priests, who formerly reached the village by river launch.

When the cinema motors to a village for the first time or on a special occasion, Father Erb announces the event over a loud-speaker before the show. It is, perhaps, superfluous to say that, besides entertainment, the mobile cinema serves as a wedge in bringing the Church and Catholic teaching to people who might never allow a missionary to approach them.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday
December 18, 1953
12-A
Priest Author
Hemel, Calif. — Father James A. Hyland, C.S. Sp., 67, nationally-known author and essayist, was buried (December 10)

Girls' Choir, CDA Group Entertain Aged At Home

Owego — The Girls' Choir of St. Patrick's Parochial School provided the musical part of the Christmas program presented at the Tioga County Home, Wednesday afternoon.

The program, an annual event, was sponsored by the Apostolate of the Aged of St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Daughters of America. Mrs. Elizabeth Ridley is general chairman of the com-

mittee. Fifteen pupils, members of the choir, accompanied the 22 members of the Apostolate of the Aged Group to The Home. Following the musical program, refreshments were served and gifts

were distributed to the residents. Later in the week smaller groups of the committee visited the Nursing Homes in Owego and vicinity and presented gifts to the patients.

Army Given OK On Parochial School Pupil Conveyance

Washington — (NC) — Army posts are specifically authorized to use government-owned and operated buses to transport children of Army personnel to parochial schools, a spokesman said here.

The Defense Department's stand in favor of transporting parochial school pupils was made clear after newspaper reports that the Army and White House staff members were "walking on eggs" in dealing with the problem.

COLUMNIST DREW Pearson reported that Defense Department economy moves "plus belief that no one religious group should benefit from the use of Federal money to the exclusion of others" had caused the Army to cancel bus transportation at certain posts in preparation for a complete end to such service in all military installations. He said the White House "stepped in" and countermanded the order.

The Defense Department spokesman made it clear that free transportation for parochial school children "is no longer a matter of interpretation," but is specifically permitted and authorized.

Quoting from a recent statement by Dr. John A. Hannah, assistant secretary of defense for manpower and personnel, the spokesman said that not only is there "no effect against such transportation" but there exists "a specific amendment" which authorizes it. "The desire of the Defense

Department is to provide free transportation for parochial school children when it can be done without expenditure of large additional funds," he said.

Dr. Hannah said that stoppage of such transportation at some Army bases was a "local problem" resulting from economy moves. Army-supplied bus rides for parochial school children depend on three points, the Defense Department outlined: 1) Amount of transportation facilities at the individual base; 2) Amount of drivers available; 3) Funds to operate the bus service.

IN HIS SYNDICATED column, "Washington Merry-Go-Round," columnist Pearson suggested that recent court decisions dealing with the principle of separation of church and state, had influenced the Army's alleged plans to cut off transportation for parochial school children.

Dr. Hannah, in an earlier statement, said that the bus transportation is considered as a legitimate aid to military dependents and is therefore specifically permitted.

A formal statement by Department of Defense heads is expected on the current situation.

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Christmas Goodness



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| CONFECTIONERS
XXXX SUGAR
2 one lb. pgs. 25c | KINGNUT
YELLOW MARGARINE
2 one lb. prints 43c | CANNON BRAND
FANCY PUMPKIN
2 no. 2 1/2 cans 29c |
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| NUT MEATS
EMERALD BRAND Walnut Meats 59c
FUNSTEN BLANCHED Almonds 47c
FUNSTEN Pecan Meats 39c
SHIELLED Almonds 47c
FUNSTEN BLANCHED Almonds 47c | CANDIED PEELS
LYONS CANDIED DICED Mixed Fruits 55c
DROMEDARY MIXED Diced Fruit 23c
DROMEDARY (LITRON, ORANGE) Lemon Peel 17c
DROMEDARY DICED Pineapple 27c
DROMEDARY WHOLE CANDIED Cherries 29c |
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- TEMPTING, RICHLY FILLED
Fruit Cakes
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| 1 1/2 POUND SIZE | 1 POUND SIZE | 1 1/2 LB. SIZE IN GIFT PKG. |
| 85c | \$1.25 | \$1.49 |

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65c L.B.

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| BEEF ROAST | BEST CUT SHOULDER 45c L.B. |
| PORK LOIN | 7 RIB END CUT ROAST 39c L.B. |
| GROUND BEEF | FRESH, FOR PATTIES 39c L.B. |
| BEEF STEAK | ROUND OR SIRLOIN 87c L.B. |

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| Country Style PORK SAUSAGE 47c L.B. | Porch FISH FILLETS 29c L.B. | Porch FISH FILLETS \$1.39 5 lb. Box | Armed Star CANNED HAMS \$8.89 6 1/2 lb. Can |
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U.S. Gov't Inspected
OVEN READY
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| 16 LB. & UP TONS 55c L.B. | 10 TO 15 LB. AVG. HENS 63c L.B. | 5 TO 10 LB. AVG. APARTMENT SIZE 65c L.B. |
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- GLORY WHITE BREAD**
THE BEST BREAD BY COMPARISON
16c
SLICED, DATED LOAF

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| ORCHARD QUEEN MARASCHINO Cherries 11 OZ. PAIL 29c |
| DEL MONTE NEEDLESS Raisins PEG. 21c |
| SUGAR DROP FANCY Apricots 12 OZ. JAR 59c |

- FRESH DRESSED PAN READY FRYING **CHICKENS**
43c POUND

- Maccaroni **KRAFT DINNER** **2-27c**
- SPERRY'S DAISY PASTRY FLOUR** 5 LB. BAG **31c**
- DEL MONTE SLICED or HALVES PEACHES** NO. 2 1/2 CAN **29c**

- SAVE UP TO 13% PER POUND ON **THRIFTY STAR COFFEES**
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| STAR | EAST AVE. | PRIDE |
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- BLUE BOY Canned Foods FANCY PEAS**
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| Cream Style GOLDEN CORN 2 303 Cans 37c |
| Whole KERNEL CORN 2 303 Cans 39c |
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| French Style GREEN BEANS 303 Can 21c |

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VILLA CHOC COVERED **49c** L.B. BOX

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| Zion Fancy Cut ROCK CANDY 10 Oz. Bag 27c |
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| Fancy Assorted Choc. 2 1/2 Lb. Fig. \$1.39 |
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| Breche Xmas Creams & JELLIES Lb. Bag 27c |
| Marshmallow Snow Man & SANTA CLAUS 6 Pk. 25c |
| Bunte Christmas STOCKINGS 1 Oz. Pkg. 29c |

- CHEESE In A Variety CHEESE SPREAD**

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| WHITE LILY BRAND 63c 2 lb. loaf |
| Aged Sharp CHEDDAR CHEESE Lb. 75c |
| Medium SHARP CHEESE Lb. 69c |
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