

## 'No Glory In Being A Glorified Drunk' Says Lillian Roth

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Washington — "I'm a Catholic and I'm a Jew. I love them both—my religion and my race."

The nightclub singer sat at a table in a dim-lit hotel cocktail lounge over her second cup of coffee. Over the first cup she had talked of names like St. Bernard, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Gibbons and his book "The Faith of Our Fathers."

She spoke with quiet sincerity, with a firm spirituality. There was no sentimental trilling.

A nattily dressed woman approached the table. "Miss Roth," she said, "I want to tell you how much I admire you—and to wish you every good fortune."

Lillian Roth smiled a thank you.

This was Lillian Roth—a child star at the age of eight, a Ziegfeld girl at 17, a wealthy film star at 19, an alcoholic at 28, a near-suicide at 35.

SHE SAT NOW, her brown hair clipped youthfully, a dash of lipstick her only cosmetic. Her dark eyes glowed when she said, "You know, people are pretty wonderful."

Back at her singing career after a struggle to regain her integrity with help of Alcoholics Anonymous, after seven years of sobriety and after being received into the Catholic Church, Miss Roth has some things she wants to do.

One is to continue her career on the singing merits that first won her fame. "There's no glory in being a glorified drunk. I'm working because I'm a singer. Critics have accepted—and I have—her new career on just those grounds."

The second goal is to help alcoholics and to help others understand. Alcoholics. She has done that in a whitening book "I'll Cry Tomorrow," which set out to prove that a human being, with God's help, can rise out of complete degradation. The book has impressed Catholic and non-Catholic critics.

Another thing Lillian Roth wants to do is strengthen the natural bridge that exists between Judaism and the Catholic Church.

INQUIRY? She knows there are Catholics who thoughtlessly discriminate against Jews. But "for every one of those, I've met hundreds that were wonderful."

She has seen self-identified communists move through theatrical parties from group to

group, fanning hatred between Catholic and Jew. "The only way we can fool them is to stick closer together," she said, "to form a front against hatred."

When she was looking for the facts on the Catholic Church after she heard a radio story of the miracles at Fatima, Miss Roth herself wanted to find "a Christian who understood Judaism." Providentially, three blocks from the theater where she was performing she found Father William Fox, S.S.S., a Jew who became a Catholic priest.

From Father Fox she learned that the Catholic Church springs as naturally from Judaism as the tree from "the root of Jesse." But it took the actress with the notorious past—and many marriages—a long time to enter the Church. "You don't just walk in and say, 'Here I am.' I knocked and I knocked 'til I was weary."

"You can't just feel you want to become a Catholic," they told me. "You must know. You must have no doubts about anything."

LILLIAN ROTH studied, asked questions. Her husband, a lapsed Catholic studied with her. But McGuire, whose Catholic family had long been associated with such Catholic works as Maryknoll, wanted to find out what he'd lightly given up.

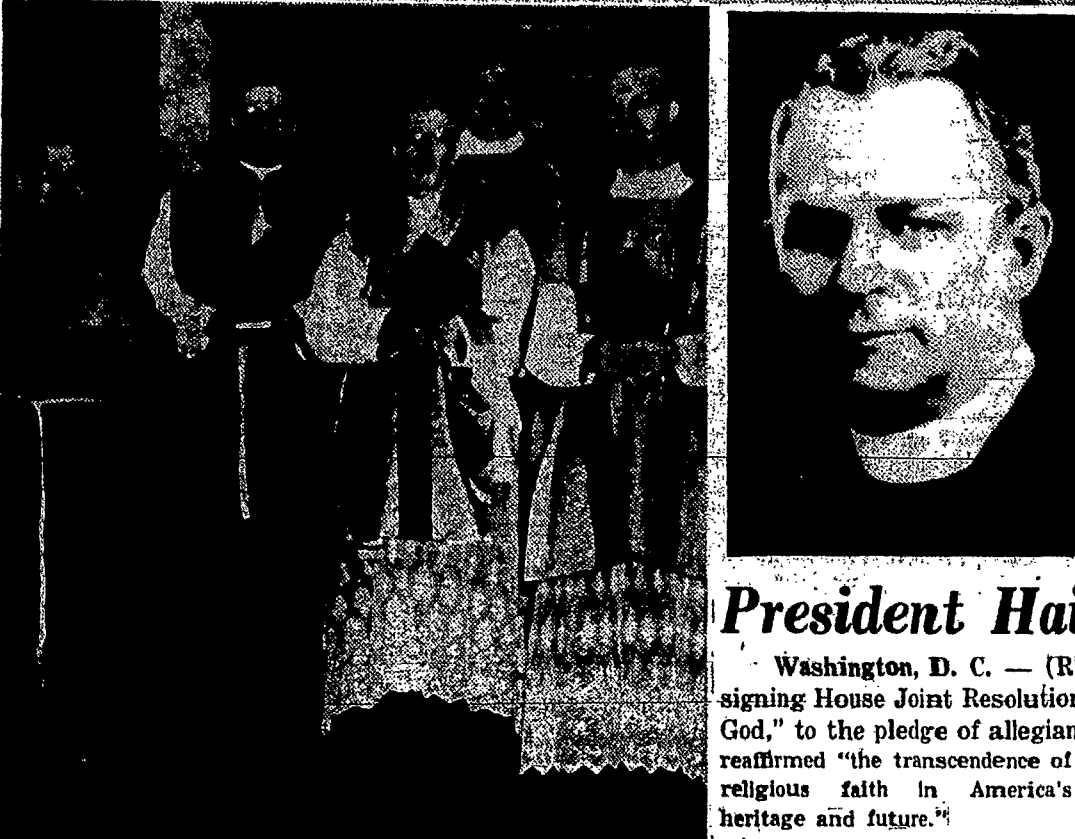
Mr. and Mrs. McGuire at last were married in the Catholic Church. And with the Sacrament of Baptism, Lillian Roth wiped out a past she wanted to forget. She did not, however, forget her people.

At a Catholic women's club meeting she received her first shock of hearing anti-semitic comment. She remembered what Father Fox had told her when she first wondered about her own interest in Our Lady of Fatima.

"Naturally you are interested in the Blessed Mother," the priest said. "She is the greatest Jewess that ever lived."

As gently as she could, Miss Roth explained that to the club women. She also reminded them that Christ, suspended from a crucifix at the front of the room, was a Jew and that she herself was one of many Catholics to pray who are Jews.

## 50 Years In Priesthood Observed



GOLDEN JUBILEANS celebrate at Solemn High Mass. At top, Monsignor John A. Conway, V.F., pastor and dean of Cayuga Deanery with officers of Mass at Holy Family Church, Auburn, June 15. In photo: Monsignor John M. Duffy, dean; His Excellency Bishop Kearney; Monsignor Conway and Rev. John B. Crowley, subdeacon. Lower (from left): Father Innocent, O.F.M. Cap., Geneva; His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Casey; the Rev. Thomas P. Stafford, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Ovid, who celebrated his Mass on June 6; Rev. Henry C. Bieler, Naples and the Rev. Thomas J. Florack, Ovid. At right is the Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Zwierlein who celebrated his Golden Jubilee Mass on June 15 at St. Leo's Church, Hilton.

## Canada Priest Released By Chinese Reds

Hong Kong (NC)—A Canadian priest who headed the new suppressed Catholic Welfare Committee of China has arrived here, ending four years of house arrest in Shanghai.

Father Gerard M. McKernan, a Scarboro foreign missionary of Toronto, was released through negotiations carried on with the Chinese communist delegation in Geneva. It was reported here. Before the negotiations in Geneva, the priest had tried unsuccessfully for several years to obtain an exit visa.

Since 1947, Father McKernan served as a representative in China or War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference, the worldwide relief agency of the American Bishops. In that capacity he had supervised the distribution of vast relief supplies donated by American Catholics for China's needy.

FATHER MCKERNAN was named executive secretary of the Catholic Welfare Committee of China early in 1950. He succeeded Father Frederick McGuire, C.M., who was recalled to the United States by his religious superiors and has since become executive secretary of the Mission Secretariat in Washington, D. C.

## Congress Enacts Pledge Addition Launched By KC

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

New Haven, Conn. — Congress having completed action on the resolution adding the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the Knights of Columbus have the satisfaction of seeing enacted into law a proposal advocated by them for more than three years.

As a matter of fact, the amended pledge is the same as that taken at meetings of Assemblies of the Fourth Degree, K. of C., since April, 1951. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

The leader of this movement to give open recognition of the nation's dependence upon Almighty God has been Luke E. Hart, former Supreme Advocate and now Supreme Knight of the K. of C. He not only introduced the motion adopted by the Supreme Council of the K. of C. at its Los Angeles meeting in August, 1952, urging Congress to amend the Pledge of Allegiance, but also was instrumental in enlisting the support of other fraternal organizations for the change.

IN 1952, when Mr. Hart was president of the National Fraternal Congress, he called the attention of its annual meeting in Boston to the omission of any reference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance. He cited that fact that Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address added the words "under God" after the word "nation," and recommended that the Fraternal Congress go on record as favoring the amendment.

This was done and following this action several State Fraternal Congresses adopted similar resolutions.

Thus the movement launched by the K. of C. was gaining headway and in April, 1953, Representative Louis C. Rabaut of Michigan introduced the resolution in the House providing for the suggested amendment. The Supreme Council of the K. of C. at its meeting in St. Paul in August, 1953, adopted another motion recommended by Supreme Knight Hart, urging Congress to amend the pledge.

Last February, Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan introduced a resolution in the Senate, providing for this change which was unanimously adopted. CONGRESSIONAL action was completed when both House and Senate unanimously adopted the Rabaut resolution. The Senate adopted the House measure at the suggestion of Senator Ferguson in order to obviate the need of sending both House and Senate resolutions to committee.

Mr. Hart recalled here that the idea of the Pledge of Allegiance dates back more than 60 years, when it was conceived by Francis Bellamy of Rochester, N. Y., who was associated with "The Youth's Companion," a popular magazine for young people. The pledge was recited for the first time at a Columbus Day youth rally in 1892.

## President Hails Flag Pledge Change

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — President Eisenhower, signing House Joint Resolution 243 to add the words, "Under God," to the pledge of allegiance to the flag, said the change

was a reaffirmation of the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future.

The President's statement on the signing said:

"From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty."

"To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than to contemplate this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's meaning."

"Especially is this meaningful," the statement continued, "as we regard today's world. Over the globe, mankind has been cruelly torn by violence and brutality and, by the millions, deadened in mind and soul by a materialistic philosophy of life."

"MAN EVERYWHERE is appalled by the prospect of atomic war. In this somber setting, this

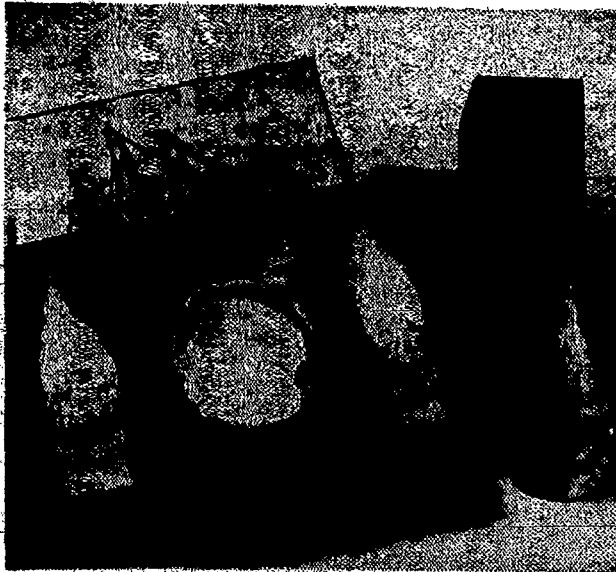
law and its effects today have profound meaning. In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's powerful resource, in peace or in war."

The measure amends a section of the joint resolution of June 2, 1952, which codified existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the United States flag. Since the code is advisory, the flag pledge change will not be compulsory.



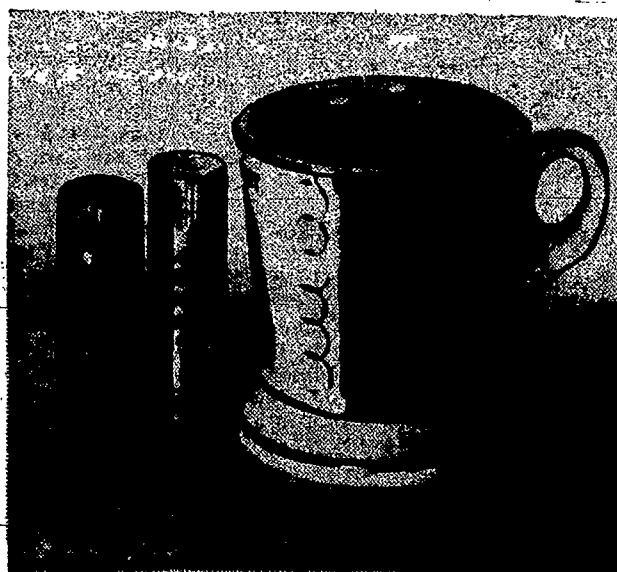
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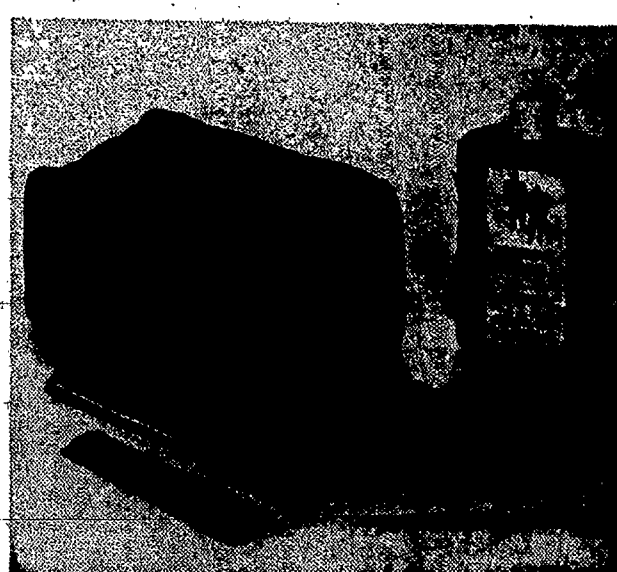
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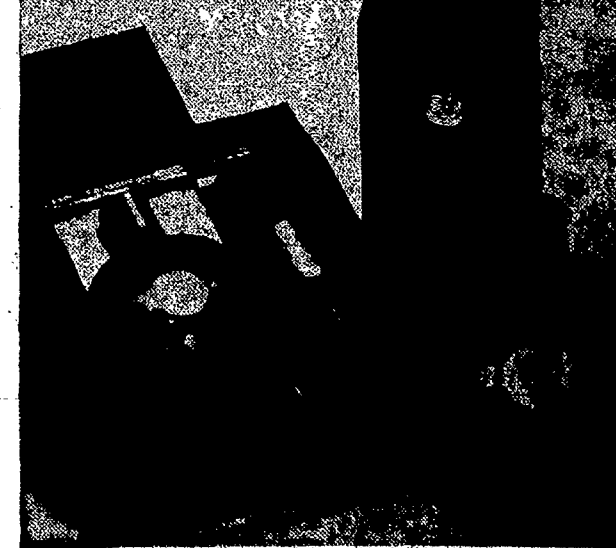
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