



The Iron Curtain between free Austria and Red Hungary is a barbed wire entanglement concealed in the foliage at night in photo above. Austrians have put up the sign as a warning to anyone strolling along the road at left. Sign says, "Warning - Barbed wire - Beware." Picture was taken near Hungarian town of Szentgotthard. Similar "iron curtains" keep enslaved satellite peoples in Communist held countries. Occasional cracks indicate revolt is seething against Red control. (Crusade for Freedom Photos)

God Still Lives Behind Iron Curtain

Political conventions, baseball pennant race and family vacation trips occupy most of our thinking these days and we have little time to worry or care about Kremlin controlled countries. And they are so far away and there is so little we can do about it and the communists have everything all wed up their own way — so we tell ourselves.

Cracks in the Iron Curtain give us an occasional peek and it tells a different story than the one we are used to. We have heard it quite a lot lately that the Reds have pured the youth of Europe.

Yet just within the last ten days, four young Polish air pilots flew their training planes into Austria and asked to be set in a free nation because of the "unbearable living conditions" in their native country.

These youngsters, the oldest is 23, were grade school children when communist rule was imposed on Poland. Communist propaganda was drummed into them through their pressable teens — and they must have been judged efficiently indoctrinated if the Reds permitted them to be pilots. Now, with heroic bravery, they jump the Iron Curtain thrown around 200 million people and testify that they and their fellow countrymen repudiate the Communist domination of their homeland.

And Poznan's workers in demanding bread and freedom defied the Reds and shouted through the streets, "We want bread, freedom and God."

It's little wonder that the Kremlin big shots have urged their tune. They are obviously faced with a seething revolt within their empire. While they enforce their domination behind the Iron Curtain they mark time before the tide with smiles and vodka parties.

And it might just be that the Soviets have unsuspectingly swallowed the pill that will convert them in absorbingly religious Poland with its tradition of Catholic loyalty, yet Russia has locked within its borders the staunch faith of the Polish people. Churches housing our Lord in the Sacred Sacrament are still kept open despite taxes, and restrictive measures.

Bishop Sheen recently stated he expects some day to say Mass in Russia.

Perhaps he has greater confidence than most of us that the Blessed Lady will keep her Fatima promise in our lives. "In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. Russia will be converted and there will be peace."

The little we have learned from occasional glimpses behind the Iron Curtain give at least a continuing hope that the ideology is not as firmly entrenched as we had been previously led to believe.

Strange But True

Advertisement for 'COURIER JOURNAL' featuring a large illustration of a woman in a long dress and a man in a suit. Text includes: 'BEST DANCE EVER DANCED ON THE DAY OF THE CONVENTION', 'THE PUBLIC WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE STORY OF THE CONVENTION', 'COURIER JOURNAL', 'OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE', 'Vol. 67 No. 46 Fri. Aug. 10, 1956', 'ROBERT REV. JAMES E. HEARNEY, A.D., President', 'Member of the Assn. of Circulation Managers and the Catholic Press Association', 'Published by the Rev. Robert J. Heaney, Editor', 'COURIER JOURNAL', '415 N. W. 1st St., Rochester, N.Y.', 'Subscription: \$2.00 per year in advance', 'Single Copies: 10c', 'Published by the Rev. Robert J. Heaney, Editor', 'COURIER JOURNAL', '415 N. W. 1st St., Rochester, N.Y.', 'Subscription: \$2.00 per year in advance', 'Single Copies: 10c'.

JOSEPH BREIG

A New Fatima Chapter

In my many years of newspaper work, nothing has impressed me more forcibly than the first story I ever came upon about the appearance of Our Lady of the Rosary to the three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal.

The apparitions took place in 1917, but World War II was well advanced before I heard anything about them.

The news item gave few details. It mentioned the appearance, and quoted the Virgin Mary as saying that God would grant peace to mankind in return for prayer (especially the Rosary), sacrifice, Holy Communion (particularly on the first Saturday of each month) and consecration of the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

THE IMMEDIATE occasion for the story was the fact that Pope Pius XII, in a radio broadcast to Portugal, had consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart. And the occasion for the broadcast was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the final apparition.

The news item said that a million pilgrims — yes, one million — had assembled at the Fatima shrine for the observance.

It was dumfounded, for two reasons. First how could news so overwhelmingly important as Our Lady's message have taken a quarter of a century to reach America? Second, why weren't our newspapers, newsmen and radio newscasters filled with excited comment about the assembling of a million pilgrims at one of the great shrines of the world?

IN A SENSE they were. The atmosphere of the western world, at that time, was still thick with the silly materialistic dogma that miracles are impossible and that anything that suggests a divine intervention in human affairs cannot be other than crass superstition.

Reporters and editors to put it bluntly, were biased. They shared the fashionable prejudice against the supernatural. The Piltown Man was the big rage.

A million pilgrims might be news in the sense of being a curiosity, but after all they weren't important. And perhaps there was even an element of kindness in the attitude of the editors: why expose the simple pilgrims to the ridicule of the sophisticated?

HOW RAPIDLY the climate of public opinion has changed in a few years! Today, the problem is to persuade people not to run helter-skelter to every self-elected mystic who hangs out a shingle.

In the intervening years, we have learned a great deal about the great events at Fatima. And now, a new and touching chapter of the story has been made public by the parish of Lisbon, Emmanuel Cardinal Cerejeira.

Cardinal Cerejeira delivered a radio talk the other day, asking for contributions for a great statue of Christ the King which is being erected near Lisbon. It is to be Portugal's expression of gratitude for having been spared the ravages of World War II.

Cardinal Cerejeira reminded his people that in 1931, their bishops, in a body, had consecrated Portugal to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was 14 years after the apparitions, but less than a year after the final report of the Church commission which had "investigated" the Fatima events and declared the apparitions authentic. Portugal's bishops had acted as swiftly as possible in the matter.

CARDINAL CEREJEIRA revealed that in February, 1933, Bishop Jose da Silva de Leiria (Fatima) received a letter from Lucia, the only survivor among the three shepherd children. She had since become a nun. She informed Bishop da Silva that World War II, foretold to her by Our Lady, was imminent, but that Portugal would be spared because the bishops had consecrated the nation to her Immaculate Heart.



Presidents pray prior to signing the Declaration of Panama reaffirming solidarity of the republics of North, Central, and South America. Photo shows Archbishop Francis Beckmann of Panama City at far right leading the prayer. President Eisenhower is second from left. Prayers at American public events express U. S. tradition of acknowledging God as author of all blessings. (NC Photo)

Public Prayers Indicate Americans Religious People

By REV. HENRY ATWELL

In the next two weeks, the nation's two top political parties will launch their full scale effort to seat their candidates in the key offices of our country.

Both parties will invite distinguished clergymen of various denominations to open the convention sessions with prayer asking God's blessing.

As a matter of fact, the overwhelming majority of American organizations make it a practice to start their meetings and their conventions with prayer.

Foreign visitors to the United States are often surprised at this practice.

Japanese trade union leader Toshio Mishizaki recently reported to his members in Japan, "I was much impressed by the fact that prayers were offered all four days of the (December AFL-CIO merger) convention. It is easy to associate America with all-out materialism... but when I saw the people standing up and praying with eyes closed, and saw how on many occasions they emphasized the incorporation of spiritual and religious elements in their labor movement, it somehow made me realize the strength of the foundations of America's economy."

Most unions, including those in the Rochester diocese, also regularly have a priest, minister, and rabbi at their principal functions.

So also do veterans' organizations, community chest drives, scout programs, and other civic and fraternal activities.

SURVIVORS of the Andrea Doria - Stockholm disaster described the public prayers said in the first moments following the midnight collision at sea. And the captain of the Ile de France later told of hearing the first fervent S.O.S. from the stricken ship, "I gave an intense mental prayer for a clearing of the fog. In truth the fog did start lifting and there was the Doria." WIT-

Making Marriage Click

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANO (Director, Family Life Bureau, N. C. W. C.)

Man's mind and woman's mind are equal, but they go in different directions. Just tell your wife after visiting friends that Mary, whom you have just visited, has good taste. That is all you have said, but she pouts for a week.

She thinks you are implying that she does not have good taste. Just tell her the roast on the table is good. "Where did you get it, honey?" you ask. And she probably leaves the table in a huff — as if she couldn't cook it herself.

A YOUNG MARRIED girl was literally wailing. A neighbor rushed over and picked her up. "What's happened, Alice?" "Oh, Helen! It's Jim!" she said. "The brute! What did he do to you?" Helen queried. "Oh, he bought me a new washing machine." "But that's not bad, is it?" "Yes," lamented Mary. "now I can't complain anymore." Though she asked for a machine, that was not exactly what she wanted.

FATHER SHEERIN

Rock-N-Roll Not To Blame

Recently a "rock-and-roll" riot occurred at Asbury Park, New Jersey. The audience at the Asbury Park musical show was made up mainly of teenagers. The brawling youngsters wielded switch-knives and battled each other in a wild free-for-all. A squad of policemen had to be called to restore order out of the ruckus.

The ordinary reaction to such an outbreak is to put the blame on the music. In fact, a number of cities have banned "rock-and-roll" shows. Paul Henry Lang, in the column "Music and Musicians" (N. Y. Herald-Tribune, July 22) describes this type of music as "earthbound and animalistic." He claims that the musicians on this occasion, perhaps unconsciously, evoked savage and primitive passions; their music was on a level with the mating calls of animals.

"The Asbury Park musicians," he writes, "played on good instruments capable of producing fine music, but they were not unlike the trained chimpanzee riding on a bicycle about which he knows nothing."

I disagree. I THINK it is foolish to put the blame on the music. That is too simple a solution for a vast, complex problem. The problem is the breakdown of public morals and the brawling teenagers at Asbury Park are just a picturesque example of the breakdown.

It is surprising that teenagers living in a diseased atmosphere should contract the disease. Their elders glorify adultery, theft, chicanery on TV and in some movies, in magazines and certain newspapers. Even greeting-cards, today, add to all the above factors the constant talk by adults about self-expression and sex which you have some idea of what caused the fracas at Asbury Park.

In that crowd at the "rock-and-roll" show there were the usual daffy girls who went to school over the music or over a certain musician. There were the boys who attended to have a little fun. There is nothing unusual in teenagers wanting to take part in emotional gymnastics.

Crowds of women used to swoon in the streets at the sight of Rudolph Valentino, and bobbi-soxers used to become hysterical over Frank Sinatra.

But along with these emotional teenagers there were other youngsters at Asbury Park. There were the gangs of boys or girls who went prepared to start trouble. They know the ordinary teenagers would rock and roll in a mildly exciting fashion, but they wanted to stir them up to a real frenzy. At the psychological moment they would take out their switch-knives and throw the crowd into an uproar.

In other words, the teenagers had a devil of a time but I don't think the devil came out of the music. The gangs of agitators brought their own devils with them. I suppose some of them had taken a shot of dope, others had taken liquor, but they were ready for a fight.

I don't see any reason to say that there was something savage and primitive in the music that incited the riot. I don't deny that the devil may have been very active at Asbury Park that night. In fact, he seems to concentrate on crowds these days. Like a pickpocket he can work unseen in crowds. But at Asbury Park the devil didn't come out of a bass-fiddle or guitar. He came out of the hearts of juvenile delinquents.

IT IS TRUE that even animals can communicate by means of physical sounds. As Mr. Lang says, they can convey their physical desires and needs by sounds. And it is also true that this type of biological music should not be confused with real music. Music worthy of the name has a spiritual element. It is a communication from spirit to spirit rather than, for instance, a mating call.

"Rock-and-roll" is probably a passing fad. Maybe, in time, teenagers will flock in crowds to the "Tanglewood" concert or other musical festivals. But you cannot hope to improve their behavior by improving their musical taste. A man may be a great musician and yet quite immoral. Teenagers will behave when they see their elders behaving all around them. Their elders will behave when they return to a genuine belief in God, Heaven and Hell.

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