Bible Tradition Fades in South

Charlotte, N.C. — (RNS) — The traditional picture of the "Bible Belt" where Christians interpreted the Bible literally and preachers exercised public influence is fast disappearing from the American scene, according to a survey made in the area by the Charlotte Observer.

After interviewing more than 100 ministers, businessmen, housewives and other residents, the daily said it found that "we live not so much in the 'Bible Belt' as on the fringe of an area that used to be the 'Bible Belt.'"

If Christians still live in the belt, the paper concluded, they do so "in part by habit and tradition and in part by public appearance."

CHRISTIANS "no longer are nearly unanimous in their views on religious matters," the Observer continued, "and the literal acceptance of the Bible as the final guide to action is perhaps the single point on which the most people disagree.

"While the Bible itself is revered as a source of all religious guidances for almost all those interviewed," the daily said, "just what the Bible means is far more likely to be a matter of personal interpretation than a matter of denominational doctrine. This is just about as true for one denomination as it is for another."

Concerning the public influence of ministers, the Observer said preachers "are no longer accepted as final authorities by a majority of their members."

"While many church members are devout in their faith, regular in their attendance and giving and religiously sincere in their daily conduct," it said, "they are far more likely to make decisions for themselves than to rely firmly on what the minister says.

"This is markedly true in the larger, more liberal churches in larger cities, but it is becoming truer each day in the smaller churches in rural areas where fundamentalism was once thought to be the only salvation."

Other "Bible Belt" customs which have disappeared or are on their way out and which are missed by church members include, the Observer said, the singing of old familiar hymns in church, Sunday dinners with the preacher as guest, church suppers with their home cooking, and the bringing of gifts, usually food, to church.

The paper also noted such other changes as more commercial activities and sports on Sunday, makeup and shorts for women, smoking, drinking and dancing — all frowned upon in the "Belt" a generation ago.

Catholic Clergy, Orthodox Rite, Protestant Abbey

Taize, France — (NC) — Two Catholic prelates attended cornerstone laying ceremonies for a Greek Orthodox center near Taize's Protestant monastic community.

Archbishop Joseph M. Martin of Rouen, who is president of the French Secretariat for Christian Unity, and Bishop Lucien Lebrun, whose diocese includes Taize, said that the gathering on April 15 of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant leaders was an important step on the way to truth in charity.

Pastor Roger Schutz, prior of the Protestant monastery here, thanked Pope John XXIII and the Orthodox patriarchs for all that they are doing to reconcile Christians.

The Orthodox center here is sponsored by Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople and Orthodox Bishop Meletios, suffragan of the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Unity Retreats Set at Taize

Cormaville — (RNS) — Retreats geared to the theme of Christian unity will be held this year under Catholic auspices in this town near Taize, the community of unity-minded Protestant monks.

Three one-day sessions have been planned for March, August and October and a four-day retreat has been scheduled for August. These meetings will be directed by Catholic priests, but the influence of the Taize community is expected to be strong.

La Croix, a Parisian Catholic daily, commented that "the proximity of the Reformed community, whose life and prayers are consecrated to the unity of Christians, gives Catholics participating in these sessions a testimony of the desire for unity which today animates Christians throughout the world."

Unity Group In Toronto

Toronto — (NC) — Six priests and two laymen are on a Commission on Unity set up by Coadjutor Archbishop Philip F. Pocock of Toronto.

The commission will seek to foster the spirit of unity within the archdiocese at every level and "to encourage, moderate and coordinate useful dialogue with our separated brethren."

PARMELEE SHOES INC.
36 EAST AVE.
Foot Health is becoming shoe for women, children & men
Special consideration for Nuns and Priests
Direction: JOHN J. MOORE
Member of St. Ann's Parish

MOVING TO CALIFORNIA?

Call A. J. McCARTHY

Geo. M. Clancy Carting Co., Inc.
8 Circle Street
GR 3-3120
Agent for NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES

150 Million More Years

Boston — (RNS) — A noted Catholic priest-geologist is gathering evidence here to prove that 300 million years ago New England had mountains higher than the peaks of the Himalayas and that the six-state region arose from the sea.

Father James W. Skehan, S.J., chairman and founder of the geology department of Jesuit-operated Boston College is in the process of reconstructing in miniature what New England looked like topographically ages ago.

HE IS evaluating his findings made in a two-year study of rock taken from a $16,000,000 water tunnel being constructed far below the surface of central Massachusetts.

Father Skehan says the height of the ancient mountains can be determined by the chemical and physical composition of rocks brought up from 200 to 400 feet below the surface in the tunnel.

The Jesuit scholar says, "The Himalayas are only 10,000,000 years old. Give them another 150,000,000 years and they will look like hills in the Northern area of Massachusetts."

Further proof of his theory that New England once had enormous mountains was the discovery of amazonite, a type of feldspar found only in the central parts of great mountain chains.

Father Skehan substitutes a mud-spattered gray sweater, yellow slicker and a hard hat for the usual priestly collar and cassock when working in the depths of the tunnel, and the 39-year-old priest makes a big hit with workmen as he swings a pick to get his rock samples.

"Go Out and Sell the Truth"

Purchase, N.Y. — (RNS) — Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy is shown with the president and a student officer of the Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart. With him at a Conference on Southeast Asia are Mother Eleanor O'Byrne and Miss Beth Feilitt, conference chairman. Some 200 students representing 40 colleges and universities heard Mr. Kennedy say that the failure of Americans to "go out and sell the truth" about this country is "a reflection on all of us."

Lutheran

Pastor Admits Neglect of Mary

Chicago — (RNS) — Protestants have neglected Mary, the mother of Jesus, a Lutheran pastor said here.

Dr. Charles B. Foelsch, pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Loop, suggested in a Holy Week sermon that Protestants, Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox get together to reexamine the place of Mary in the teaching of the Church.

He urged that modern day Christians "not forsake the cross like those disciples of Christ, but stay by Him witnessing, as did the holy women."

Dr. Foelsch referred to St. John's account of the crucifixion: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister . . . and Mary Magdalene."

"When Jesus was arrested," the pastor related, "the disciples all forsook Him and fled . . . fled headlong with terror at their heels, every man among them—but not the women."

"We Protestants have neglected Mary shamefully . . . shutting her out of our hearts and thanksgivings, this mother of our blessed Lord . . . we have steadily done the Virgin Mary far too little honor . . ."

"CONCERNING the need for modern "witnessing," Dr. Foelsch said:

"Out in the world, man still crucifies Christ, by mocking blasphemy and horrible sin, by shameless flagellation of Him in the persons of the weak; in the greedy sale of Him for Judas silver pieces in the exploitation of the poor and guileless; in racial and class antagonisms and brutal containment of the underdog.

"In all these witnessing opportunities, let's pray that we may not flee, but be faithful, like faithful Mary whom we honor and give thanks for, because, most highly favored among women, she was the mother of our blessed Lord."

Progress Noted

Boston — (RNS) — Father Michael J. Walsh, president of Boston College, said here that the Jesuit-conducted school faces a bright future as it starts its second century.

Boston College, the third largest Catholic university in America, is celebrating its centennial this year. Its enrollment now totals more than 10,000 including part-time students.

Enjoy a quality blend and don't overspend

Mr. PM says "I plant finer flavor in your drinks"
for only $5.29 FULL QT.
...so fine it's stamped DE LUXE

Council Asked Atom War Ban

Berlin — (RNS) — The West German Union Against Nuclear Warfare, in a message sent to the Second Vatican Council, expressed the hope that it would "unambiguously" speak out against war, or at least condemn nuclear warfare.

"Not only many Christians, but all who for decades have worked for world peace, wait for such a declaration by the Church," the message said.

The West German peace organization issued its message in connection with traditional Easter marches scheduled by various anti-atomic bomb movements in Europe.

Communist newspapers in the Soviet Zone hailed the message—issued on the eve of Pope John XXIII's new encyclical on peace in which, among other things, he urged a ban on nuclear weapons and an end to the armaments race.

Africa Prelate Says

Missions Face 'Good' Years

Rome — (RNS) — An African prelate told a press conference here "it is absolutely necessary for the Catholic Church to reevaluate its entire missionary program and to find new methods for effectively spreading the Gospel."

Archbishop Jean Baptiste Zoa of Yaounde, Cameroun, was in Rome as a member of the Commission on Missions of the Second Vatican Council. A special meeting of the commission was called on the revision of the schema on the missions. The new draft will now be sent to Council Fathers around the world for their comments.

He said the Catholic Church has three great preoccupations at the Council, one being pastoral (pertaining to the internal Church), the second ecumenical (affecting non-Catholic Christians), and the third missionary (pertained to non-Christians).

"Much missionary progress has been made," Archbishop Zoa said, "but relatively it seems small. In the past, there has been a lack of communication and transportation, as well as the hostility of colonial and national civil authorities, the missionaries were not always looked upon with favor."

Conditions, however, have improved, he noted, pointing out that "communications have changed" and now "we have ten or 15 years in which Black Africa is very well disposed to receive Christian missionaries."

"It would be a pity," Archbishop Zoa commented, "not to make good use of these years."

He said that for a long time it was considered a matter of giving something to the people of Africa, but today's concept is that the world and the Church can receive something from Africa.

He quoted Pope John XXIII as having said that the Council not only must bring the Church up to date, but also make the Church deeply conscious and alive to all its obligations.

Pope John's Encyclical
See Page 8

FOR FIRST COMMUNION NEEDS AND GIFTS THE FIRST NAME IS
TRANT'S
CHURCH SUPPLIES AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

High Quality at Moderate Prices.
VEILS . . . from 2.50
TIES . 75¢
Prayerbook & Rosary Sets
Missals
Statues
Crucifixes
Jewelry
TRANTS
96 CLINTON AVE. N.
115 FRANKLIN ST.
PHONE: BA 5-5623
Open Daily 9:00 to 5:30 — Thurs. Till 9:00

McFarlin's

Here Come the
WHITE LEVI'S
The Pants with the Famous Fit . . . "SLIM FITS," now in sanforized white. Here's lean, hip-hugging masculine fit, toughest fabric for longest wear, double stitching throughout with the strongest thread, zipper fly . . . all this and white too! Every boy wants 'em . . . Here they are!
Sizes 10-12 ..... $3.39
Sizes 27-32 ..... $4.25
A perfect "playmate" for the Levi's . . . a Botany knit shirt from the smart "Award Series," Guaranteed washable. A fine selection of colors and patterns. Here we show an Italian-inspired stripe. $4.00
BOYS' WORLD—Third Floor
McFARLIN'S OF ROCHESTER
BAker 1-2720