

Artist Raps Church Art Styles

LOVELAND, Ohio — (RNS) — Civilization is faced with one of the worst periods of art and architecture in the history of man, a noted woodworker and architect told the annual convention of the Catholic Art Association at Grailville here.

"It is a sad statement of our civilization when art styles are obsolete in five years and the buildings themselves in 20 years," said George Nakashima of New Hope, Pa.

Known throughout the world for his architecture and furniture, Mr. Nakashima recently built the Benedictine chapel, Christ of the Desert, in Abiquiu, N.M. He also built churches in Japan and India and nine buildings on his compound in New Hope.

The theme of the annual gatherings of the CAA was "Thank More, Need Less: A Workshop on Simplicity in Art and Life: True Poverty."

Addressing himself to the convention theme, Mr. Nakashima warned that church architecture is no worse, or no better, than other architecture in our society, and he added, "It should be (better)."

He especially scored harshly constructed religious houses and churches which are built as "status symbols."

"There is a basic immorality, I think, in spending \$1,000,000 for a church bell tower which is built on status symbolism," he said, adding:

"Simplicity and poverty in church architecture is a question of the spirit. It is basically a humble and aspiring spirit resolved into a method and a high technology. Simplicity and poverty are not negative but rather activated on strength, and are hard won."

U.S. Layman Aids Refugees

NEW YORK — (RNS) — Catholic Relief Services has named its former program director in Jordan to coordinate distribution of an emergency refugee relief program in Jerusalem and the west bank of the Jordan River.

Harry J. Nugent of Brooklyn, N.Y., who has been serving with CRS in Nairobi, Kenya, will work with the agency's personnel in the area; Joseph Carmine, stationed in Beirut, Lebanon, and Joseph Nemej, stationed in Amman, Jordan, both of New York City.

The three men will supervise distribution of more than \$1 million in relief shipped to the area by CRS, an overseas aid agency of the United States Catholic Conference.

The thousands of war refugees in the area will receive from CRS 3,785 tons of food and clothing, \$25,000 worth of medicines, eating and cooking utensils for 8,350 families, 7,000 blankets, and 1,000 cases of canned beef.

Mr. Nugent, who joined CRS in 1954, has also been stationed in Italy, Sweden, and Malta. His previous service in Jordan from December 1963 to October 1965 was recognized by King Hussein. He awarded Mr. Nugent a medal of honor for his "work, dedication, and devotion" to the poor of Jordan.

Cathedral Tower Serves New Use

Segovia, Spain — (NC) — Forest rangers have found a good observation post for forest fires at the top of the 270-foot tower of the Segovia cathedral.

From there the rangers run a control center during the summer for 13 other posts throughout the Segovia province.



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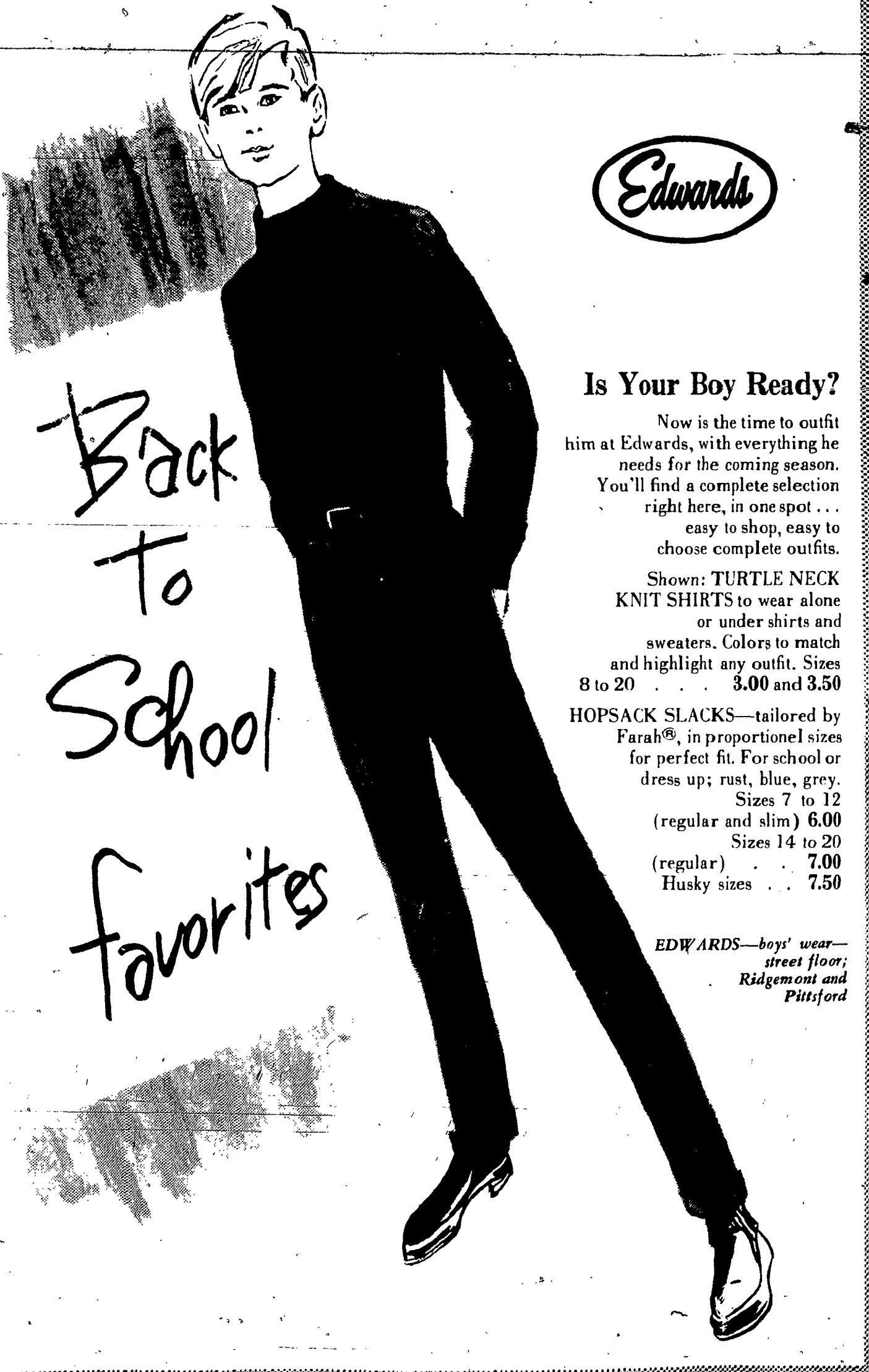
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Wants Simplicity in Church Design

LOVELAND, Ohio — (RNS) — George Nakashima, noted designer and furniture maker, discussed simplicity in church architecture at the recent Catholic Art Association's annual meeting in Loveland, Ohio. Nakashima has designed churches in this country and abroad, other buildings and much award-winning furniture. His awards for craftsmanship include the 1952 Gold Medal from the American Institute of Architects, and the 1960 Silver Medal from the Architectural League.



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Back to School favorites

Pastor Returns to Pueblo Mission

Isleta Pueblo, N.M. — (RNS) — The priest who was handcuffed and evicted from Isleta Indian Pueblo in 1965 peacefully celebrated Mass at his historic St. Augustine Roman Catholic church here to end the pueblo's religious feud.

Msgr. Frederick Stadtmueller was ousted from the community by Andy Abeita, then the Indians' mayor, who charged the priest with ridiculing and insulting the ancestral religious customs and beliefs of the Isleta Indians.

Since then many discussions have been held by pueblo and Archdiocese of Santa Fe leaders, culminating in the peaceful

settlement of the dispute with the Masses on Sunday, July 23. For the past two years Msgr. Stadtmueller has been stationed at nearby Ascension church where many of his pueblo parishioners attended services.

During the two Sunday Masses 15 Isleta Indian men, deputized by the pueblo chief of police, were on hand to keep order.

"There was no incident of any kind. It was very quiet," Msgr. Stadtmueller said. "I am quite glad to be giving Mass to the people again. I do not foresee any problems."

Historic St. Augustine church was built in the early 17th Century and is considered an outstanding example of Spanish

adobe (mud brick) architecture. The Indians of this Rio Grande River valley village were converted to Catholicism by Spanish missionaries and have retained many of their traditional tribal religious customs, including dances and processions.

Working to re-establish services at St. Augustine was the pueblo's Committee on Religious Freedom. When the pastor was evicted Archbishop James Peter Davis ordered the church closed.

The Committee on Religious Freedom petitioned the Pueblo of Isleta Court, which decreed that the services would be held and reaffirmed "the religious freedom" of the pueblo.

The pueblo court also issued an interpretation of the community's "bill of rights" in answer to the committee's petition. It ordered all officials to abide by sections of the pueblo constitution which guarantee freedom of religion, speech and the press and other fundamental rights.

Prelate Denies Shrines Closed

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Latin Rite Patriarch Alberto Gori has not closed any of the Catholic churches or shrines in Jerusalem, a spokesman for the Patriarchate told Religious News Service here.

He contradicted a Jordanian report, broadcast by Radio Amman, that all the Catholic churches and shrines had been closed because of Israeli tourists who were "entering the holy places indecently dressed and behaving improperly there."

The spokesman said that "regrettable incidents" had happened when unsuitably dressed visitors came to the Christian churches, but a notice has now been published by Dr. Shaul Colbi, head of the Department of Christian Communities in the Ministry of Religion after consultation with the heads of the churches concerned.

Posters with this notice have been made available to be put at the entrances of the holy places and it is hoped that these will prevent future misunderstandings.

The notice, in Hebrew, Arabic and English, begins with the words "Kindly bear in mind that this church is a holy place and a place of worship for Christians of the whole world."

Similar to notices which are posted at many religious places in Europe and elsewhere that attract tourists, the poster contains practical advice on points unfamiliar to some of the Israeli Jewish public, many of whom are visiting Christian and Moslem holy places for the first time.

Thus, it advises men to remove their hats and women not to wear shorts, miniskirts or sleeveless blouses. It also asks visitors not to walk around during prayer time and to avoid eating, drinking and smoking.

Similar instructions have been drawn up for those who visit mosques. Catholic churches are the ones that have had the most difficulty with tourists who visit during services. The Armenian Cathedral of St. James is open to visitors only from 5 to 6:30 a.m. During Greek Orthodox services at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the doorkeepers admit only those who have identified themselves as Christians by making the sign of the cross.



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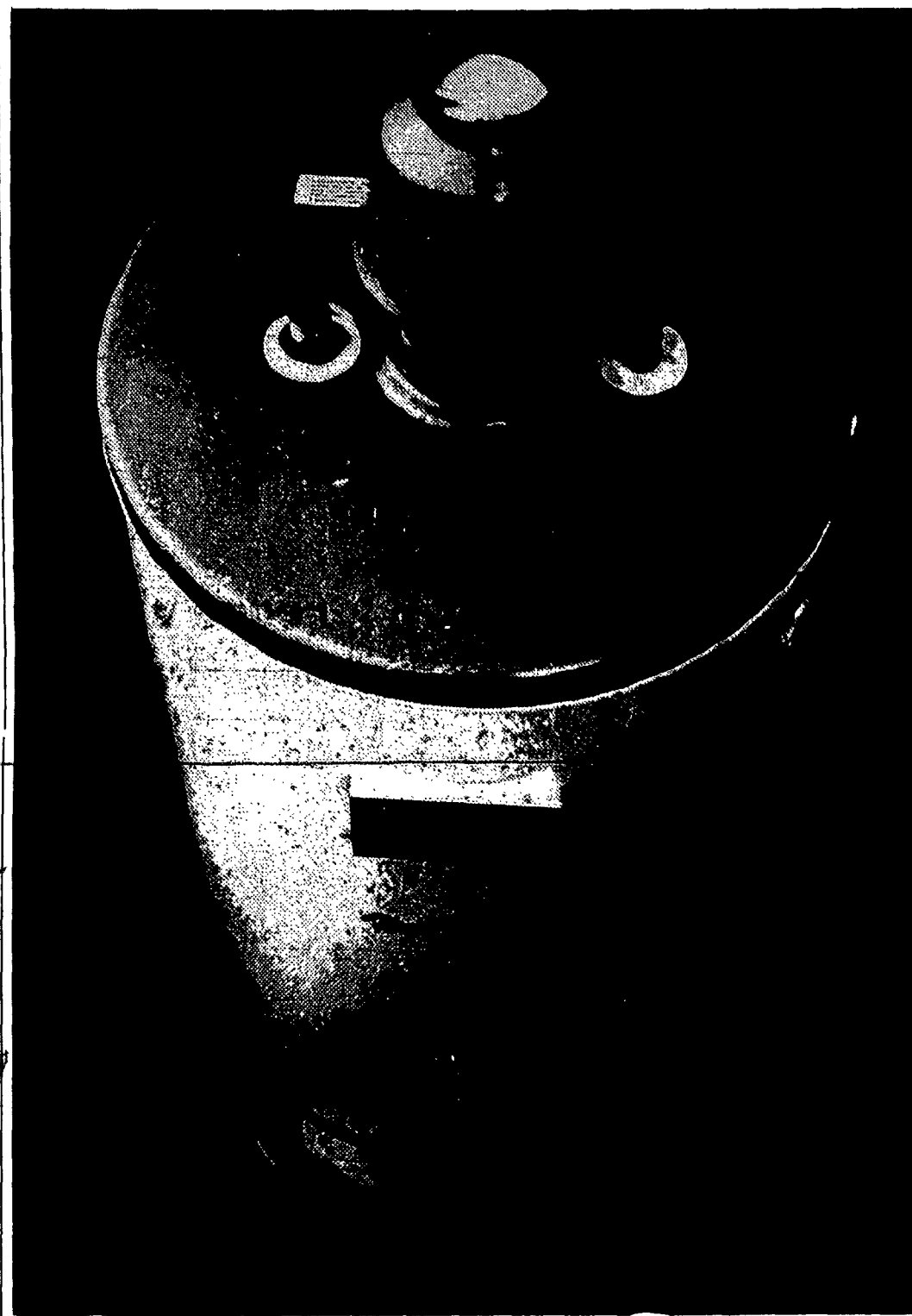
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