

Pastor Receives Frank Opinions Of Sermons

NEW JERSEY, Jan. 11—Rev. Charles Brackbill, 30-year-old pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, N.J., took a rather daring initiative last Sunday by handing adult members of his congregation a printed questionnaire and urged them to tell him with "ruthless honesty" what they thought of his sermons. Some of them did.

Of sixty parishioners who filled in the list of thirty-eight questions 18 per cent said they had not understood what the sermons were about. Twenty per cent said the sermons were too long.

Thirty-eight persons said Mr. Brackbill was "convincing" five said he talked too fast, four that he talked too slow, and after the question: "Are there disturbing mannerisms?" One member of the congregation wrote, "Yes — chin pulling."

Forty-four said they tried to change their ways after hearing a sermon. Only ten said they made no attempt to practice what was preached.

Other sample questions and replies by the parishioners follow: "Should a sermon be about modern times and living?" Yes, thirty-four, no, nineteen.

"Do sermons make you think?" Yes, fifty-four, no, three.

"Would you like to stand up some time to take issue or ask a question about what is being said?" Yes, twenty-six; no, twenty-nine.

"Is the voice: Graveyard, singing, monotone, belligerent, harsh . . . does it fit the subject matter?" Forty-three persons thought Mr. Brackbill's fitted the subject matter; two answered "graveyard"; two said "belligerent."

Mr. Brackbill told an interviewer that his unusual survey was to find out whether the message contained in a sermon really "gets across" to churchgoers.

There are upwards of 6,000,000 sermons preached every Sunday in the United States and Canada," he said. "The big question is: 'What comes from all of this?' It is becoming increasingly difficult to fashion the ancient art of preaching into something practical and worth while."

One of the reasons is the competition offered by radio, television and other media which tend to pre-empt everything for the public. As a result, today's sermon must talk cock turkey. You can no longer scare people into religion or out of false ideas.

Most ministers haven't had any constructive criticism since they were graduated from their seminary. We go on preaching year after year thinking we are getting our point across. "I think some of us are kidding ourselves."

Canada Army Casualty List

Today's list brought to 665 the number of casualties so far suffered by Canadian troops in Korean action, including 125 dead, 478 wounded, 57 injured, four missing and one captured.

Killed In Action
Hall, Reginald Archibald, Pte.; 25th Canadian Field Ambulance; Mrs. Margaret Ann Hall (mother), 871 Goulding St., Winnipeg.

Wounded In Action
Carriere, Leo Richard Joseph, Pte.; 2nd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment; Joseph Carriere (father), 700 Farm St., Montreal.

Gaboriau, Jean Paul, Pte.; 2nd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment; Mrs. Philias Gaboriau (mother), Farnham, Que.

Jourdain, John, Gnr.; 2nd Field Regiment, R.C.H.A.; Mrs. A. Bouvier (mother), 255 12th Ave., Cochrane, Ont.

Murphy, William Anthony, Pte.; 2nd Battalion, R.C.R.; Michael Joseph Murray (father), 2663 Coleraine St., Montreal.

McLean, John Hugh, Pte.; 1st Battalion P.C.L.I.; Singhampton, Ont.; Archibald McLean (father), 274 Mississauga St., West, Orillia, Ont.

Paquette, Roland Joseph, Pte.; 25th Canadian Field Ambulance; Henry Paquette (father), Quarries, Ont.

Roy, Joseph Fernand, Acting Cpl.; 2nd Battalion, R.C.R.; Albert Roy (father), 370 Bond St., Sudbury, Ont.

Toronto Questions Telephone Co.'s Expansion Plans

OTTAWA, Jan. 11 — (CP)—Bell Telephone Company proposals for financing its \$80,000,000-a-year plant-expansion program in Ontario and Quebec were questioned yesterday by the city of Toronto in opposing the company's application for a rate increase.

The city contended Bell could save itself and its customers money by doing more financing through bonds instead of issuing through service charges on bonds would lighten the city told the Board of Transport Commissioners.

G.G. Richardson, Toronto expert on public-utility accounting, appeared after the company had concluded 2½ days of testimony in its application for higher rates that would draw about \$10,000,000 a year in new revenue from its 1,600,000 Ontario-Quebec phones.

Mr. Richardson concluded his direct evidence late in the day and was to be cross-examined tomorrow by company counsel. He was expected to be the only witness for six municipalities in the two provinces that are opposing the rate hoists.

Mr. Richardson took issue with the company's plan to finance part of its 1952 construction by floating about \$1,500,000 in share capital. He said a considerable saving could be effected by borrowing through bonds.

For the last nine months of this year, he said, the cost of serving such a stock issue would be \$5,599,999 after payment of income taxes and dividends. If \$45,000,000 worth of bonds were sold at 4½ per cent, the cost would be only \$1,518,000 since there would be no income tax on the bond interest.

The difference would be approximately \$5,000,000 Mr. Richardson said.

Mr. Richardson also suggested the impact of the current revenues of the company could be eased by another \$1,873,000 this year through charging up some items of expense to capital instead of operating expenses. These consisted of a portion of such expenditures as pensions and employee benefits.

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Government Urged To Revise Federal Inheritance Laws

OTTAWA, Jan. 11 — (CP)—The revamping of Canada's federal inheritance tax set-up to place wives in the role of partners rather than that of dependents as far as their husbands' estates are concerned, was one of the principal aims of a delegation of women which met recently with Finance Minister Douglas Abbott.

The delegation, headed by Mrs. Alan Turner Bone, of Montreal, president of the National Council of Women, presented a resolution asking that one half of a deceased husband's estate be considered as belonging to the wife and therefore not subject to succession duties.

Further, the resolution demanded that only one half of the value of any gift from a husband to his wife be subject to gift tax; and that a woman's income from her husband's estate not be reduced by succession duties to yield less than \$3,000 a year at the current rate of interest paid on bonds.

Other resolutions presented by the group urged the removal of the 15-per-cent federal tax on refrigerators, washing machines and stoves, and voiced strong opposition against Parliament's proposed revision of the British North America Act to allow the provinces to levy indirect taxes.

Mrs. D. C. Hamilton, of Ottawa, chairman of the Council's Economic and Taxation Committee, and member of the delegation to Ottawa, emphasized the inequality of the status between men and women as federal inheritance laws stand at present.

On capital expenditures at the port, Mr. Smith said a proposed extension of east side piers and other port development are matters for parliamentary decision and appropriation.

The board chairman said that reports which he has studied while in Saint John indicate that this year's business will be greater than that enjoyed by the port in 1951.

Today, Mr. Smith, members of the Board and its local manager conferred with the Trade Board's Port Committee on port expansion, top wharfage and harbor dues and other subjects, and inspected facilities here.

He met the common council Thursday morning to discuss grants in lieu of taxes on board properties and left for Ottawa in the afternoon.

HAMILTON, Jan. 10 — (CP)—Dr. F. B. Overend testified yesterday that Frank Kenyon, in explaining his wife's condition, said "I filled her up with water."

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Dr. Overend told a Supreme Court jury that when he arrived at the home Kenyon almost ran from the back of the house to meet him. He quoted Kenyon as saying "I think my wife is dead."


When he entered the house he found Mrs. Kenyon in a bedroom "completely disrobed." She had the appearance at first of being five or six months pregnant. He could find no signs of life.

When he asked what happened, he said Kenyon told him: "She stayed out late. I waited for her. We had a terrible fight."

Crown Attorney Harvey McCulloch said the crown would attempt to prove that Kenyon after the fight held his wife against the tap, filling the inside of her abdomen with water.

He contended this tore the diaphragm, filled the cavity around her heart and killed her.

STORE WIDE WATCH FOR BARGAINS



DOLLAR STRETCHERS

CROCKETT AND STOREY LTD.

\$250,000 For Harbor Maintenance In Saint John

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Jan. 11 — (CP)—An expenditure of more than \$250,000 for harbor maintenance work at the port of Saint John will be made in 1952, with work being started as early in the spring as weather conditions permit. This announcement was made here Wednesday by R. K. Smith, K.C., Ottawa, chairman of the National Harbors Board.

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Returned Nuns Had No Part In Red Trial

WINNIPEG, Jan. 11 — (CP)—Two Roman Catholic Nuns who recently reached here from Hong Kong had nothing to do with a trial of five other Nuns by the Chinese Communists, Sister Superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary said yesterday.

She declined to state where the pair had been or give details of their departure from Red China.

"We can't see that it would do any good," she said.

First reports indicated that the two were deported following the trial of five Nuns of the Sacred Heart Orphanage in Canton on charges of murdering orphans.

Roman Catholic sources in Hong Kong today said none of the five has reached Hong Kong, although three were to be deported. The others were sentenced to prison.

Two who reached here are known as Sister Edelberta and Sister Notre Dame Des Agnes. The Sister Superior declined to give their home towns or family names.

Hamilton Man On Trial For Murder

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Cemetery Revises Rule Re Negros

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 10 — (AP)—A Phoenix cemetery announced a change in its policy today to allow burial of a Negro soldier who was killed in action in Korea June 5.

The body of Pfc. Thomas C. Reed, 19, was returned to a Phoenix mortuary on Nov. 28 and had been held there awaiting clearance on a burial site in Greenwood Memorial Park, owned by Arizona Lodge No. 2, Free and Accepted Masons.

Private Reed's father asked that his son be buried in the veteran's section of the cemetery. Until recent months the section was limited to white burials.

The board of trustees of Greenwood will require in the future only proof of military status of all veterans buried in the cemetery.

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New Paint Repellent To Barnacles Tested

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 11 — (AP)—A jacked-up fly repellent gives promise of curing the age-old plague of ship barnacles.

A compound added to the usual paint on a ship's bottom, it has completed a round-the-world test of 7 1/2 months.

Shipping officials were excited over its possibility of reducing trips to drydocks for scraping off the marine growths and preventing deterioration.

"It's certainly a great beginning at the least," said Capt. H. L. Houser, skipper of the test ship, Wednesday.

"The experiment definitely proved a success," said J. D. Holliday, representative of the Isthmian Line.

The Isthmian Line's Architect was raised out of the water at the Maryland Drydock Company

after the 17,000-ton ship finished a cruise around the world. Before it started, a strip 25-feet wide had been painted with a compound to kill barnacles and other marine growths. The rest of the ship was painted normally.

The strip was free of all such growths. The rest of the ship showed marine life attached.

The new compound was developed out of an insecticide repellent.

Amherst Pays \$1 For Old Airport

AMHERST, N. S., Jan. 11 — (CP)—Amherst Town Council is buying the town's old airport—for \$1 cash.

Transport Minister Chevrier told Council the Airport, on Crown Land, will be transferred to the town for that sum.

The town hopes to use the Airport for sites for new manufacturing plants.

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