

# (BP)

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# ---FEATURES

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460 James Robertson Parkway  
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Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

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**Ex-Drunkard for 50 Years  
Wins Sunday School Honor**

By Bob Smith

FALL BRANCH, Tenn. (BP)--Once there was a drunkard named Alfred who had a good wife named Mary.

Alfred wasn't a boisterous drunk, but he could guzzle with the best of them. He hit the road at the age of 12 as an orphan, and says he was a drunkard for nearly 50 years.

But his life is changed now. Alfred Harrison has been on the wagon for more than 12 years, all because he became a Christian.

Back in the early days of his life, bootleggers around Fall Branch made a lot of money off Alfred for many years.

He drank a pint of whiskey each morning as soon as he got up, put down another pint at noon with his lunch and coffee, then hit the bottle again "quick as I came in."

"I'd wake up at night and have to have a drink," Alfred said. "You can drink it so long that you go all to pieces when you can't get liquor."

But he was very careful to keep his whisky habit a secret, and for years his closest neighbors never knew.

"I'd never cut up," he said. "If I met someone on the road walking, I'd drop my head and start wheezing to hide the smell."

Orphaned before he was old enough to start school, Alfred began drinking before he was a teenager.

He wandered around for several years ("Guess I been in all the states"), then met Mary in Greene County, Tenn., and married her.

Mary, a faithful Christian, tried to tell her husband how to be saved.

He would head for the nearest bottle.

"I used to beg him to go to church with me," Mary said.

"Go on and don't aggravate me," Alfred would reply.

"My wife prayed hard for me at nights," recalled Alfred. "She didn't think I heard her. She thought I was just lying there drunk."

It looked almost hopeless, but Mary continued to pray for her husband. Decades passed before her devotion paid off.

It happened one night when Alfred decided to allow a preacher to visit his home. Alfred became a Christian.

Then it was as though conversion had turned whisky into water. Alfred never drank another drop.

He became the most devoted Sunday School goer at Fall Branch Baptist Church. Alfred went to church no matter how sick he or his wife might be.

Recently, Alfred Harrison completed 12 straight years of perfect Sunday School attendance. No one else, before or since, has beaten his record in attendance at the church.

"I think as long as a feller's able to go to Sunday School, he ought to be found in the House of the Lord on Sunday," he said.

"As for me, I'll go till the Lord says it's enough."



July 7, 1966

**Navajo Ecumenical Council Organized**

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593  
**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226

GANADO, N.M. (BP)--Representatives from eleven major denominations voted here to organize a Navajo Ecumenical Council that initially will be aimed at consolidating communication with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the tribal councils.

Southern Baptist "observers" attended the conference on mission strategy in the vast Navajo Reservation, but they did not participate in a decision to form a Navajo Ecumenical Council.

"We agreed to attend the meeting as observers to become better informed of future work on the reservation," Oscar I. Romo, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's assistant secretary of language missions, said.

"We learned some things about planned population centers and future industrialization that will help us project our own work," he said.

Participating in the decision were the American Baptist Convention, Church of the Brethren, Christian Reformed Church, Protestant Episcopal Church, Lutheran Church in America, American Lutheran Church, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Methodist Church, Reformed Church in America, and the Roman Catholic Church.

Irwin Dawson, Baptist language missions director in Phoenix, Ariz., Mike Mojica, Baptist language missions director for New Mexico, and Romo attended as observers of the meeting, at which each denomination also spelled out its plans and objectives for reservation missions.

Romo said the representatives agreed after considerable discussion that no comity agreements existed that affected work on the reservation, and that the Ecumenical Council would represent the first efforts in cooperative mission strategy.

Participation is out of the question for Southern Baptists, he said, since no representatives could speak for the whole convention.

Southern Baptists now have about 25 missions and preaching points on the reservation, which includes parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado and about 108,000 Indians.

The meeting, at which the Ecumenical Council was formed, originally was called by the Department of Indian Work of the National Council of Churches, acting in cooperation with the National Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

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**Baptist Named To Head American Medical Group**

7/7/66

DALLAS (BP)--An outstanding Baptist medical doctor, Milford O. Rouse of Dallas, is the new president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Dr. Rouse will be installed as the 122nd president of the AMA at its convention in Atlantic City in June of 1967. He has been a member of the medical association's policy-making House of Delegates since 1953. He also attended as an observer of the meeting, at which each denomination also spelled out its plans and objectives for reservation missions. Dr. Rouse is a deacon and teacher of a men's Bible class in the Lakeside Baptist Church of Dallas.

Rouse said the representatives agreed after considerable discussion that no comity agreements existed that affected work on the reservation, and that the Ecumenical Council would represent the first efforts in cooperative mission strategy. He is also a member of the Board of directors for the Baptist Standard, weekly state Baptist newspaper in Texas.

Dr. Rouse's interest in journalism started as a cub reporter on the Vernon (Tex.) Record. He was business manager of the Baylor Lariat, campus newspaper published at Baylor University, (Baptist), Waco, Tex.

He holds three degrees from Baylor--the bachelor of arts, master of arts, and doctor of medicine degrees.

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Buckner Home Plans  
West Texas Center

LUBBOCK, Tex. (BP)--The board of trustees for Buckner Baptist Benevolences, which administers a vast benevolent homes program for Texas Baptists, has announced plans for a West Texas Regional Center in Lubbock.

The announcement was made following the board's semi-annual meeting held recently in Lubbock.

The new center will contain resident facilities for child care as the first phase with expansion in adoption services and aging programs to be added later.

Seventy acres of land have been purchased for the project, and construction is expected to begin within the next year.

Buckner already operates a children's home in Lubbock, originally called Buckner Baptist Girls' Home. The board, meeting here, approved a charter change to name the unit Buckner Baptist Children's Home, Lubbock.

R. C. Campbell, president of Buckner Benevolences with main offices in Dallas, said the new regional program "will contain all our services and make them available where the people are who need the services."

By having all the facilities for children, the aging, and adoptive services in one location, the center will be able to operate one kitchen instead of a separate one for each group; and all the doctors, nurses, and counselors will be located in a consolidated unit instead of being scattered.

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Radio-TV Commission  
Promotes Seven Men

7/7/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Promotion of seven employees to key positions in the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's radio and marketing departments has been announced by Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the commission.

John C. Smith, director of special events programming in the radio department, was named marketing director for the western United States. Smith, a graduate of Baylor University, (Baptist), Waco, Tex., succeeds Edward Shipman, new promotion director for the commission.

Edwin S. Malone, unit manager of the commission's variety program, "Master Control", was promoted to director of radio programming for the commission. Malone, a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, and former account executive for a Dallas advertising company, succeeds Smith.

J. O. Terry, director of engineering for the commission, was named associate to Malone in the radio department, a new position on the staff.

Donald J. Sturgis, retired Air Force production technician serving currently as the commission's staff announcer, will become production assistant charged with directing the commission's religious news department.

Three radio production engineers were promoted to unit managers in charge of production of specific radio programs produced by the commission.

The three are James W. Rupe, James Denton Goodwin, and Paul E. Potter. Rupe and Goodwin fill vacancies created by the promotion of Malone and Sturgis.

In announcing the personnel changes, Stevens pointed up the rapidly expanding work of the agency in producing religious programming, some 37,804 hours a week to an estimated weekly audience of 60 million.

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NOTE: Photos available on request from the Radio-TV Commission.

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**ONE MILLIONTH PHONE PRESENTED:** A gold-plated telephone, the one-millionth installed in Alabama by Southern Bell, is presented to Samford University (Baptist), Birmingham, Ala., in appreciation for the contribution education has made to industry. Frank Newton (right), vice president of Southern Bell, made the presentation to Leslie Wright, (center) president of the University. Frank Samford, (left) an insurance executive for whom the university is named, has served as a board member for both the university and for Southern Bell. (BP PHOTO)

**CHINESE PROFESSOR'S REUNION:** The chaplain to President Chiang Kai-shek of the Republic of China and a professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Taipei, Lien Hwa Chow (center with glasses) was re-united recently with several Southern Baptist educators who taught him in both China and the United States. After speaking in chapel services at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., Chow visited with (left to right) J. B. Higgs of Wake Forest, a retired SBC missionary who taught Chow at the University of Shanghai; Edward A. McDowell Jr., professor emeritus at Southeastern, and Olin T. Binkley, president of Southeastern, both who taught Chow at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Frank P. Lide, former SBC missionary to Hong Kong who taught Chow at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Shanghai. (BP PHOTO)