

May 31, 1949

AMERICA SPENDS FOUR TIMES AS MUCH FOR TOBACCO AS FOR RELIGION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--The average American, smoker and non-smoker alike, spent \$28 for smoking tobacco in 1948. The average American smoker spent \$62.

Such is the revelation of C. Aubrey Hearn of Nashville in his new booklet, "What About Smoking?"

(The average American in 1948 contributed only \$6 to all religious causes, and the average American church member contributed only \$24 to all religious causes, according to United Stewardship Council statistics.)

The publication by Hearn also reveals that the smoking habit has so conquered the American people that the sale of cigarettes has doubled since 1939, and is 130 times that of 1914.

In fact, Hearn's figures reveal: In 1914 there were 3 billion cigarettes manufactured in the United States, but in 1918 this figure had jumped to 46 billion. By 1928 the number had increased to 106 billion. In 1935 the number reached 140 billion; in 1940, 189 billion; in 1945, 332 billion; and in 1948, 388 billion.

The average American smoker consumes 17 cigarettes a day. This amounts to an individual expenditure of \$62 a year -- which sum with interest would reach almost \$750 in 10 years.

Hearn's book is free from the prejudicial ranting that so often characterizes this sort of presentation. His effort is a highly documented manuscript, intended plainly to help young people to intellectually rebel against social pressure which makes smoking fashionable. The book is illustrated by pen sketches by Jack Hamm. It sells for 50 cents from Baptist Book Stores.

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DO YOU KNOW HIM?

RACELAND, Ky.--(BP)--The Flatwoods Baptist Church here is seeking the identity of a 25-year-old man, victim of amnesia.

The man was found in Raceland last January and is suffering from loss of both memory and speech. He has straight black hair, brown eyes, is 6 feet, 4 inches, tall, and appears to be 23 to 25 years of age. There is a long white scar approximately two inches long on the back of his head, which wound presumably accounts for his loss of memory.

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THIRTEEN IS A LUCKY NUMBER
FOR CALIFORNIA BAPTISTS

By Floyd Looney

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--Thirteen may be an unlucky number for some people, but not so with California Southern Baptists.

It is significant to note that:

The San Joaquin Southern Baptist Association, which was the first organization of Southern Baptists in California, was organized at Shafter on the 13th of April, 1939. Thirty-nine is divisible by 13.

The Southern Baptist General Convention of California was also organized at Shafter on the 13th day of September, 1940.

There were 13 cooperating churches which sent messengers to the organizational meeting.

At least one-third of the churches were either organized with 13 charter members or their organization took place on the 13th day of the month.

There were 13 members of the graduating class at Golden Gate Seminary's first commencement, May 2.

There have been many other instances where the number, 13, has played an important part in Southern Baptist life in the Golden West. For instance, in a case or two, 13 members have been known to obligate themselves for thousands of dollars in order to have a church home. Many churches have had 13 additions in revival meetings.

It seems that just as God was with the 13 original colonies, so He has also been with the "lucky 13" in California.

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MARVELOUS AND TRUE

RODEO, Calif.--(BP)--The First Baptist Church in Rodeo made the news recently when both Bob Burns and Charley McCarthy attended services on Sunday evening. Yes, it is true. Bob Burns (not the Arkansas Bob), brother of Rev. H. A. Burns, and Charley McCarthy (not Bergen's Charley), Rodeo business man, were both present in the services.

One Million baptized? That's true. Danny Million, a ten-year-old boy was baptized on Easter Sunday. Yes, it may all sound sensational and fantastic, but according to Pastor Dave Chamblin, it is true.

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