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Sunday School Board Artist
Remembers "Tin Can Art" In WW-II

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By Larry R. Jerden*
Baptist Press Staff Writer

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Sunday School Board artist put down his brush, another illustration finished.

Today, Kenneth (Ken) Powell is a man applying his extensive creative talents to Christian service. But a stop on a recent vacation took him back 22 years and reminded him how his creativity was used in a far different way, in a prison camp in WW-II Germany.

On the trip he discovered some "art work" he and fellow prisoners had done, now on exhibit at the Air Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

Then a second lieutenant, and co-pilot of a B-17, Powell was shot down on his third combat mission, a raid over Munich. When he bailed out he was captured and sent to Stalag One, a prisoner of war camp housing 10,000 allied officers. The camp on the Baltic Coast at first housed British captives, but by the time Powell arrived, it was mostly occupied by American airmen.

"Because we weren't forced to do labor, the men passed time in different ways," Powell remembers. "Some read a lot, others played sports, mostly baseball."

But because of boredom, and a desire to improve their situation, Powell and others were constantly making things. Tin cans made into sheets of metal were the main working materials, and knives converted into saws were the tools.

"The first thing I made was an egg beater. The powdered milk would lump, so I thought a beater would help. The first one didn't last long, but I still have the second one," Powell says.

The prisoners made pots, pans, and even chess sets from the tin.

"We had chess tournaments going all the time," Powell remembers. "Some made players out of barley bread the Germans gave us. The bread was hard, but it could be worked and softened into shape. When it rehardened, you had your pieces."

Some of the more useful creations included an oven that hooked into the stove smokepipe and a fan to give the stove better ventilation.

"The fan," Powell relates, "is now in the Air Museum. They have a label under it saying it was used to ventilate escape tunnels. I don't think there was a single tunnel dug while I was there, though."

Powell said that there were 51 tunnels dug in the history of the camp, but no successful escapes.

"The most intricate thing we made," he says, "was a clock. I had learned to make gears before the war, and made some for the clock. It worked with a weighted string acting as a pulley. It took four days for the weight to reach the floor, and the clock kept perfect time."

The Russian Army liberated the camp on May 1, 1945, and when American planes flew the prisoners out two weeks later, they were limited as to what they could take. Powell took his egg beater.

Powell returned to the states and flew for the Air Force another year. He then went to Furman University (Baptist), where he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1950. He was graduated from the Pratt Art Institute in New York City in 1953, and remained in the city as an artist until 1955.

"It was a time of searching," Powell says, "I had committed my life to Christ but didn't know what to do. I didn't feel I was being used to the fullest, so I went to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville."

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When he received his bachelor of divinity degree in 1959 the door was opened and he joined the art department staff of the Sunday School Board.

Powell said he heard about a traveling exhibit after the war that included some of his war-time work, but never saw it. And his trip to the Air Museum was not totally successful because the man who ran the exhibit, a fellow inmate of Powell's, was not there.

But the displays will always serve as a reminder that the talents given by God can be used in numerous ways - making an egg beater in a prison camp or illustrating books for the Sunday School Board.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photo of Powell being mailed separately.



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Powell New Head of
 H-SU Business Affairs

ABILENE, TEXAS (BP)--Joseph Z. Powell of Charleston, S. C., has been named vice president for business affairs at Hardin-Simmons University, Elwin L. Skiles, president, has announced.

The university will have three vice presidents, Edward G. Groesbeck, vice president for academic affairs, Lee Hemphill, vice president, for development, and Powell, Skiles said.

Prior to coming to H-SU, Powell was business manager for Baptist College at Charleston, S.C. He is the former senior assistant to the Comptroller of The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina, and controller and supply officer at the Charleston Naval Station. He is also the former Navy exchange officer in the Charleston area.

Other Naval supply corps assignments include Military Petroleum Supply Agency, Washington, D. C.; USS Consolation (AH-15), Pacific Command; Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md; Naval Storehouse, Gulfport, Miss.; Port Director's Office, San Pedro, Calif., and Naval Attache Office, London, England.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Powell has done graduate study at George Washington University. He has done further study at Harvard Graduate School of Business, Florida State University and has attended the College Business Management Institute at The University of Kentucky.

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Veteran Newsmen Named To
 Baylor Executive Post

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WACO, TEXAS (BP)--Thomas E. Turner of Waco, a veteran Texas newspaperman who has probably written as much about Texas Baptists and Baylor University as any other person, has been named assistant to the president of Baylor University.

President Abner V. McCall said that Turner will help him in handling many of the details of the president's office.

Turner, 45, has been a Dallas Morning News staff member since 1945. Since 1947 he has operated the Central Texas Bureau of the Dallas News at Waco.

A lifelong Methodist, he has been honored on several occasions by Texas Baptists for his continuous, comprehensive coverage of their activities, from the convention hall to the football field.

In 1960 Turner became the first non-Baptist newspaperman to receive the annual Texas Baptist Press Award. Four years later Mary Hardin-Baylor College at Belton awarded him an honorary doctor of letters degree, the third voted to a man in the school's 122 years. He was the second person to be installed in Mary Hardin-Baylor's Journalism Hall of Fame.

He graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1939 with honors, from Hillsboro Junior College in 1941 and attended the University of Texas, where he was an editorial assistant and columnist on the Daily Texan. He wrote his first newspaper stories in Hillsboro when he was 14.

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Smith Succumbs
After Long Illness

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WACO, TEXAS (BP)--Charles G. Smith, 76, member of Baylor University's faculty since 1922, died Wednesday, Aug. 30, after a long illness.

His wife, Cornelia Marschall Smith, retired earlier this year as chairman of Baylor's biology department.

Baylor officially designated him "Distinguished Professor" in 1961. He began with Baylor as an instructor in the English department in 1922 and had been a professor of English since 1940.

"His contribution to Baylor was tremendous and unique," Baylor president Abner V. McCall said.

Funeral services and burial were held in Waco.

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Continental Baptist Women
To Meet In Washington

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP)--Baptist women from 13 conventions and unions in three countries will gather at the Sheraton Park Hotel in the nation's capital Nov. 16-18 for the Fourth Continental Assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union.

Miss Alma Hunt, acting president of the union, said the program is designed to bring church women to encounter the people, problems, opportunities and hopes of today's world.

She said the theme "Encounter...Response" was designed "to help women evaluate and refine their responses to such encounters...through dialogue and prayer experiences...."

Speakers to be featured at the three-day meeting include Howard Thurman, Robert A. Hingson, Jennings Randolph, Kenneth Chafin, Mrs. Edgar Bates and Josef Nordenhaug.

Thurman is dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University, Hingson is a professor at Case-Western Reserve University Medical School and Chafin is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Randolph is a U. S. Senator from West Virginia, Nordenhaug is general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance and Mrs. Bates is president of the Alliance's Women's department.

Music for the conference will be directed by Mrs. John W. Williams of Kansas City.

The union is one of six which make up the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance. It has met in continental assemblies previously in Columbus, Ohio in 1953; Toronto, Canada in 1957; and St. Louis in 1962.

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Bill Would End Federal
'Invasions of Privacy'

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Does the federal government have the right to question future employes on matters of religion?

Is it any business of the government whether or not an employe attends church regularly, believes in God, the devil, heaven or hell and the Second Coming of Christ?

There are at least 55 senators on capitol hill who would sound a thunderous "no, the federal government has no right to pry into such things."

They maintain that a person's religious beliefs and practices are private matters, and government employes are entitled to silence on these and other personal attitudes and habits.

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Led by Sen. Sam J. Ervin, Jr. (D., N.C.), this bi-partisan group is calling for the enactment of what they describe as a "bill of rights for federal employes."

The purpose of the measure is "to protect civilian employes in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights and to prevent unwarranted governmental invasions of their privacy."

In addition to forbidding both oral and written questions on religious beliefs, the bill would prohibit government agencies from asking questions about race, national origin, finances, sex, family relationships and off-duty activities.

The bill would also prohibit pressure tactics aimed at coercing federal workers to donate time and money to projects and fund drives and to support political candidates.

The concern for such legislation has gained momentum during the last few years because of complaints from government employes and job applicants regarding personnel procedures.

During the 89th Congress, the subcommittee on constitutional rights held extensive hearings on the complaints and investigated personnel practices within the various government agencies.

The 966-page record of these hearings, Ervin told the senate, "shows the necessity for the bill."

"I venture the assertion," the North Carolina senator said, "that if each senator read this voluminous record there would not be a single dissenting vote on the final passage of the bill."

The judiciary committee has reported the bill unanimously to the Senate where debate is scheduled for September 19. A staff member of the committee said that "without a doubt the bill would pass the Senate by an overwhelming vote."

The report issued by the committee states that each section of the bill is based on evidence from hundreds of cases and complaints. Ervin said the committee had received "literally thousands of letters" containing evidence that validates the bill's provisions.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Roman L. Hruska (R., Neb.) accused government agencies of "epitomizing the concept of big brotherism" in some of their personnel practices.

The provisions of the bill, Hruska continued, affirm the simple truth that the government employe, as much as any citizen, has the right to privacy in his thought and personal life and the right to privacy in his off-duty activities.

When Sen. Ervin introduced the bill early in this session of Congress, he told the Senate that many practices of government affecting employes are "unconstitutional" and "violate not only the letter but the very spirit of the Constitution."

Ervin added that many of these practices have little or nothing to do with an individual's ability or his qualifications to perform a job.

The committee report states that the legislation is needed particularly because of the extended use of computers in gathering and storing data.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the only agency that would be excluded from the bill.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) have asked to be excluded, but at this point their request has not been heeded.

The measure does contain a provision that would permit personal questions to be asked by the CIA and NSA if it is necessary to do so to promote and protect national security.

The request of these two agencies was criticized by Sen. Ervin who said the exemption written into the bill was sufficient for them to do their work.

Apparently, Ervin said, "What they want is to stand above the law."

In a strong speech on the Senate floor, Ervin said that the idea that any government agency is entitled to the "total man" and to knowledge and control of all the details of his personal and community life unrelated to his employment or to law enforcement "is more appropriate for totalitarian countries than for a society of free men."

The basic premise of this bill before Congress, Ervin declared, "is that a man who works for the federal government sells his services, not his soul."