



--- FEATURES
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77-20

Dan Diamond the Deejay
Now R.T. Hanchey, Minister

By Jon Pederson

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--"When I first came to New Orleans in 1959, the Dan Diamond Show on WNOE quickly became the 'Number One' radio program in the Deep South.

"I had regular listeners in 13 different states and received mail and telephone calls from 15 others.

"I was popular...the world was my home, money was my motivation, and fun was my avocation."

The words are those of Ron Tullos Hanchey, the former "Dan Diamond" of New Orleans whose early morning talk format dominated the southern broadcast world of the mid 1960s.

Hanchey, now a student in the School of Christian Training at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, was raised the son of a deacon of Cherry Grove Baptist Church in Grant, La.

His father was a "successful leader and singer in a Western music band." When Tullos--the name he prefers--was born, however, his father quit the band claiming, 'It was no fitting way to raise kids.'

"I had my own radio show at age 15 on the only station in town. Popularity at the time confused me more than it thrilled me. Yet, I thought that I was happy," said Hanchey.

"Then one Sunday in the First Baptist Church of DeRidder, La., I learned what happiness is... knowing the Lord. I will never forget the look on the faces of Dr. Bob Lee and Pastor Jimmy Cole when I walked down that long aisle."

As a disc-jockey in New Orleans, Hanchey, then known as "Dan Diamond" by thousands of listeners, "ran around with other deejays, entertainers, singers, dancers and models. It became a way of life for me. I got to know all the big people. I had 'friends' in high places." Some disc-jockeys are active Christians, but it just didn't work out that way for Hanchey, he said. The turn back toward Christ came one night when he and his wife, Sylvia, were driving down New Orleans' Tulane Avenue.

A drunken, older man stepped into the path of Hanchey's automobile. The car struck the man, throwing him onto the hood, then back to the pavement.

The man lay still in the street. Hanchey ran to his side.

"I knelt beside the man and for the first time in ten years I began to pray--'God, let this man live and I'll be in church on Sunday morning.'

"I ran across the street to a pay phone and called Charity Hospital for an ambulance, then I went back to the body of the old man.

"Kneeling again I started praying. Slowly, there was a little movement--the old man was alive."

Dan Diamond was in church that following Sunday, just as he promised God. the Hanchey family, he said, has since had years of joy, and "years of testing," as some associates who were skeptical turned their backs on the "has been for Jesus."

Romans 8:28 says: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose (KJV)."

"I have really learned the truth of that verse of scripture," said Hanchey who has committed himself to full-time ministry.



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Lord's Day Alliance Urges Six-day Business Week

MERCHANTVILLE, N. J. (BP)--President Jimmy Carter has been urged by the state and national affairs committee of the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States to consider an executive appeal to curtail unessential business activity to six days a week.

Samuel A. Jeanes of Merchantville, N. J., committee chairman, said, "An appeal for voluntary cooperation supported by the nation's commercial outlets could effect substantial savings of energy and could lower commodity costs. Available studies indicate that seven day a week operations by retail stores cause higher costs for the consumers. The conservation of petroleum products, natural gas and electrical energy could be substantial by a return to six days a week operations.

"Some states have enacted a 'Common Day of Rest Act,' " Jeanes continued. "Others have considered similar legislation. We would recommend consideration of such legislation on a national level."

The Alliance spokesman said, "We believe that this would make good economic sense for the federal government to take whatever steps may be required to curtail unessential business activity to six days a week."

National headquarters of the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States is in Atlanta, Ga., under the leadership of James P. Wesberry, executive director.

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Fire Destroys Main Building Of Historic Virginia Church

By Charlie Warren

Baptist Press
2/3/77

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (BP)--The main building of First Baptist Church here, a downtown historical landmark for 75 years, caught fire during Wednesday night activities Feb. 2. There were no injuries, but the building was destroyed.

About 200 church members in an educational building adjoining the main building fled the church as the ornate, pine-paneled sanctuary burned for nearly two hours while more than 90 firemen fought the three-alarm blaze.

Mrs. H. Cowen Ellis, the pastor's wife, said the church people were very upset because of the history involved. "The church has been extremely important in Baptist history," she explained. "Lottie Moon (for whom the Southern Baptist foreign missions offering is named) was baptized in this church. The first (Southern Baptist) Training Union was started here. John A. Broadus, the church's first pastor, founded Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. The people are proud of that."

The personal libraries of five pastors, along with priceless artifacts including the pipe organ and antique stained-glass windows, were lost in the fire. Firemen were able to keep the flames from spreading to several adjoining buildings.

News reports indicated the fire was "of suspicious origin." Charlottesville Fire Chief Julian Taliaferro said it looked like several fires were started near the sanctuary. He said the fire spread "incredibly fast." The state arson investigator was called in to investigate further.

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A Charlottesville man was questioned and released by the Charlottesville police and others were going to be questioned, according to news reports.

"We really discount that theory (arson)," said Mrs. Ellis. "There are more reasons to believe it was not arson. I think the fire started in the organ chamber. It happens to be located directly over the furnace. The building is 75 years old. We had feared this. Everybody had feared fire."

Mrs. Ellis said her husband was alerted by a 12-year-old girl that there was smoke in the sanctuary. By the time he reached the sanctuary, fire had broken out and within minutes the flames were reaching 65 feet in the air, according to Mrs. Ellis. "The pine was like kindling," she said.

"We were having our regular family night dinner," Mrs. Ellis said. "This was to be the last one because of the energy crunch but this one had already been planned."

The church property has been for sale and the church planned to move into a new building six blocks away in about a year, according to Mrs. Ellis.

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TV Turn Off Effort
Drawing Wide Response

Baptist Press
2/3/77

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (BP)--A minister here urging a national boycott of television, Feb. 27-March 5, to protest violence and the distorted image of sex shown on network programming, says response to his "Turn The Television Off Week" (TTTOW) project has been widespread.

Donald E. Wildmon said, "We have received support from people and groups all across America. This is not a movement confined only to the Bible belt.

He said the TTTOW project, which urges people to turn off their television during that week and publicize their actions, has drawn widespread national attention from politicians, news media, the networks and religious groups. He estimated that 1,000 churches, synagogues and clubs were participating in the effort as of Feb. 3.

"The effort will not end with this week," he told Baptist Press. "If the networks don't respond, the battle has just begun."

Wildmon said he's not asking for a massive letter writing campaign, just that participants publicize their activities as widely as possible.

Wildmon, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Southaven, Miss., said also that Feb. 27, the first day of the effort, has been designated as a national day of prayer for network programmers and advertisers.

He urges people of all faiths to participate, noting that he has had response from many religious groups, including Baptists, Catholics and Jews.

Violence and sex on television has been drawing widespread attention from many areas.

Three examples indicate reactions: A Church of God body has called for a television boycott, April 11-18, the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission has conducted a series of hearings across the United States on television programming, and the 32,000-member Screen Actors Guild recently passed a resolution deploring excessive violence in television programming.

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