



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 12, 1980

80-128

Texans Thankful Allen  
Slowed Before Hitting

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (BP)—South Texas Baptists were wind-blown and rain-soaked, but prayerfully glad Hurricane Allen lost some strength before slugging ashore Aug. 10.

Even though the first hurricane of 1980 was not as destructive as predicted, it did cause widespread flood, wind and tornado damage. At least two deaths in Texas have been credited to the storm, at one time called the second strongest hurricane of the century.

The storm drew disaster relief units from four state conventions: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi, in what was said to be the first such cooperative venture.

The storm, however, was not as bad as predicted. It stalled offshore for more than 12 hours, loosing part of its potent punch. When it moved ashore, it took a less heavily populated path. Even at that, it set off heavy flooding in some sectors, touched off tornadoes across South Central Texas and its wind—even though diminished—caused some damage.

Corpus Christi was in the direct path of the diminished storm. Only two churches—Primera Iglesia Bautista in Flower Bluff and Gardendale Baptist Church—were extensively damaged. The Baptist Student Center at Del Mar College also was damaged. Other churches received slight water damage from heavy rainfall.

Further down the coast, in the Rio Grande Valley Association, the same was reported: little damage to Baptist properties. The only reported destruction was to the Santa Rosa Mission where the roof was blown away.

In Harlingen, two Baptist institutions, Valley Baptist Medical Center and Valley Baptist Academy escaped with minor damage.

The medical center was without power or water for a short time and a temporary building was unroofed at the academy.

Further upstate, tornadoes spawned by Allen touched down in Bishop, San Marcos and Austin.

As the hurricane moved toward Texas, Disaster Relief Units from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi moved into place to help feed and provide other aid to the storm's victims.

In the immediate aftermath, the Louisiana unit was stationed at the National Guard Armory in Robstown, and the Mississippi unit served at Morgan Avenue Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

Heavy flooding caused problems in the Robstown-Bishop areas and three of the units—Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana—were stationed there to feed evacuees and provide other relief. The Mississippi Unit was released to return home Aug. 11.



August 12, 1980

80-128

Art Departments Pioneer  
Loves Religious, Fine Arts

By Renee Wash

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Rachel Joy Colvin sees masterpieces on blank canvasses and grand statues in lumps of clay. And 40 years ago she realized the great possibilities of using visual communications to spread the word of God.

So, with the creativity of an artist, Colvin molded the art departments of two Southern Baptist organizations: first at Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., and then at the Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

Colvin just retired as head of the Radio and Television Commission's art department after 40 years of Southern Baptist work to concentrate on the kind of art she has loved since she was a little girl--the fine arts of painting, sculpting, and calligraphy.

She came to the commission in 1960 from the art department she had pioneered in 1940 at WMU.

While at WMU Colvin did everything from writing and directing pageants to designing magazines. She created posters, offering envelopes, and other promotional materials for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions and the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions.

She also did the photography and layout design for the first church bulletins sent through the Baptist Bulletin Service when it was first established in 1945. Approximately 1.4 million bulletins are now distributed weekly.

As a summer job before she went to WMU, Colvin was a "staffer" at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina.

"Working at the hotel desk, you really get to know people. I guess that's why I never put the top leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention on a pedestal," Colvin chuckled. "I was around when they didn't have any clean towels or had run out of hot water."

After 20 years in the WMU art department, which by then had accumulated a larger staff, Colvin felt it was time for a new challenge. Paul Stevens, then president of the Radio and Television Commission, offered her the chance to start an art department for the commission. Stevens was skeptical when she accepted, probably because it was on April Fool's Day.

When Colvin started her new job in August 1960, she must have felt like she had stepped back in time. As she had done at WMU, she started from scratch.

"I started out making posters for 'The Baptist Hour,' and 'Master Control,' at that time the only radio programs produced by the commission. Then I did the layout and cover designs for their magazine 'The Beam' and began designing brochures for programs as more and more were produced," she said.

Colvin is best known in Fort Worth for her design of the 29-foot bronze and copper panel of Christian crosses in the reception area of the Radio and Television Commission building.

Now that both art departments are running smoothly, Colvin said she wants to take some time out for her fine arts interest. As well as painting and sculpture, she does research on traditional calligraphy and plans to further develop her skill in "beautiful lettering."

"I enjoy commercial art, especially the work I've done for religious agencies, but I guess my first love will always be fine art," Colvin admitted. "From the time I was a little girl back in South Dakota, lying on the floor behind a big rocking chair, drawing with my colored crayons, art has made me happy."

Colvin began her art career as a young girl. Her elementary school teachers immediately recognized her genuine talent for any kind of art work. Even the other children would come around her desk to see what she was drawing.

"I never really understood why they all wanted to see my pictures. I just knew I loved to draw," Colvin said.

Even now she still does not give herself full credit for the many beautiful works of art she has created.

"Many pieces of work I do are created through me by another source much greater than myself," Colvin said. "I start out with an idea but as I work, something else takes over. The projects I undertake don't always turn out as I had imagined they would, but the final product is often more beautiful than I had originally pictured it. I honestly believe most of my ability to create works of art comes from God."

She applied that belief to a commitment for a career in religious organizations. Though her jobs have been demanding, she enjoys the extra benefit of developing close Christian friendships.

Famous people she has met, photographed, and designed awards for as a result of her work at the commission include Billy Graham, Ladybird Johnson, Bob Hope and astronaut Jim Irwin.

Because of her friendship with Irwin, Colvin took up flying and earned her pilot's license when she was 56 years old.

"I've never been one to sit back and watch," she laughed. "I just love life."

After all, Rachel Colvin's middle name is Joy.

Education Commission  
Director's Son Dies

ATLANTA (BP)—Greg Walker, 22, son of Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, was found dead in his apartment Aug. 10.

The funeral was Aug. 12 in Birmingham, Ala.

Young Walker, an engineering student at Georgia Tech, was found dead in his bed early Sunday morning by his roommate.

"We are at a loss to explain what happened," the elder Walker said. "He had been working outside Saturday and told us over the telephone that he was awfully tired and hot."

An autopsy was performed to determine the cause of death.

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Allen, White House  
Deny Falwell Claim

Baptist Press  
8/12/80

WASHINGTON (BP)—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Allen has sided with the White House in its claim that evangelist Jerry Falwell "fabricated" a conversation with Jimmy Carter.

Falwell, according to a taped account, told an "I Love America" rally in Anchorage, Alaska, in March of a conversation he had with Carter: "We had breakfast with the president about a month ago and we were discussing national defense and all these things and I asked the president, 'Sir, why do you have practicing homosexuals on your senior staff at the White House?'"

Falwell did not attribute it to Carter, but his next words inferred that the president responded, "Well, I am the president of all the American people and I believe I should represent everyone."

That conversation never took place, according to Allen, now the president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, who was at the January meeting. "I was present all the time the president was in the room and he (Falwell) did not ask that question," Allen said. "That simply was not said."

The taped account of the Anchorage meeting was secured only recently by Bob Maddox, Carter's special assistant for religious liaison, who released it to the press with the statement that Falwell's question and Carter's answer "never took place."

Falwell, spokesman of a political organization of evangelicals devoted to electing Ronald Reagan president, said the White House is trying to discredit him by making an issue of the incident, which he claimed was intended only as an anecdote.

In a prepared statement, Falwell said: "My Alaska statement was not intended to be a verbatim report of our conversations with President Carter. Instead, my statement was intended to be, and was, an honest portrayal of President Carter's position on gay rights."

Maddox' office denies that Carter approves of the homosexual lifestyle as insinuated by Falwell's statements.

"Anecdotes that do not tell the truth certainly ought to be avoided in any pulpit that I know of," Allen said. "I don't know that the person sitting in the crowd can tell the difference between that kind of anecdote and the facts. He ought to stick to the facts."

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