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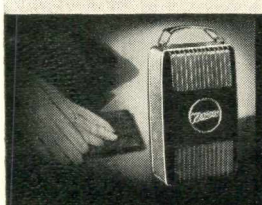
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RELIGION

Practical Pacifists

Episcopalian Franklin Delano Roosevelt last week issued an executive order authorizing Selective Service Director Clarence Addison Dykstra (Dutch Reformed) to initiate a program of non-military work of "national importance" for conscientious objectors. But the most practical of all pacifist sects had beat him to the plowshare. Four days previously the American Friends Service Committee had already opened its second work camp for C. O.s in Patapsco State Forest near Baltimore. Soon the Quakers, the Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren will have ten camps set up for the 6,700 C. O.s so far turned up by the draft.

More than 500 C. O.s got U. S. prison sentences in 1917-18. In 1941 they are faring better. Those who are certified by their local draft boards and the national board in Washington as having proved scruples against armed service can enroll in work camps, will pay $30-$35 a month toward their keep (other churchmen will pay for it if they cannot), will work eight hours a day at reforestation, flood control, irrigation, control of soil erosion, other jobs of the C. C. C. type. The C. O.'s day, like the Army's, will begin about 5:30 a.m. But unlike the draftee he will have a few minutes after 6 a.m. breakfast for a group meditation based on the Quaker meeting. Evenings he will hear lectures on non-violent methods of meeting problems and sociological issues.

In charge of the Friends' camps, as their director of Civilian Public Service, is grey-haired, robust Quaker Thomas Elsa Jones, who in December took a year's leave from his presidency of Fisk University. Besides Patapsco, he will supervise the Friends' camp for C. O.s already operating at Cooperstown, N. Y., others soon to open in California, Indiana, Ohio. Mennonites will also establish their camps at Colorado Springs, Grottoes, Va. and Bluffton, Ind., and the Church of the Brethren will start camps at Onekama, Wis. and Lagro, Ind. The three sects plan to open joint camps later in the Pacific Northwest, New England, Florida, Texas.

As practical pacifists, Quakers seek to overcome evil with good, not in isolated cases but in every way they can. They believe in tackling troubles at their root. In World War I this philosophy led them to start rebuilding ruined French villages even before the Armistice. Afterwards they fed starving children, stopped epidemics, restocked whole provinces with farm tools, seeds and livestock, left permanent centres for "international good will" in Berlin, Vienna, Geneva, Paris. Between wars they built schools in Mexico, helped Okies and jobless coal miners, ran hostels for refugees. Now they are busy once more in war-torn Europe. Last week Marshal Pétain received Quaker Howard Kershner at Vichy, expressed "profound gratitude" for the work Quakers have done in occupied France.

Nearest thing the Friends have to an international spokesman is 78-year-old Philosopher Rufus Matthew Jones of Haverford, Pa. He helped organize the American Friends Service Committee in April 1917 to give U. S. Quakers something specific to do in World War I. He is still its chairman. Said he last week of the Quaker work camps:

"We hope to enable the conscientious objector to make a constructive contribution to national life, to clean up forests, to recover abandoned farms, to put his willingness to serve into tasks that will be contributions to the life of his people. In the last war he [sometimes] had to go to military camp or prison. . . . This time the U. S. will receive the benefit of his labor. . . . Should peace come and there be a constructive job to be done in Europe, he may again serve there."

In the name of patriotism and religious devotion, the United Church of Canada (Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian) appealed to its 700,000 members to buy war savings stamps, give them to the church to pay off its $1,750,000 debt.

Catholics v. the Axis

In two countries the Roman Catholic Church last week clearly aligned itself against the Axis:

▶ In Belgium Joseph Ernest Cardinal van Roey, Archbishop of Malines, and five other bishops issued a pastoral letter strikingly parallel to the pro-Allied pastorals of the late great Cardinal Mercier which kept up the morale of occupied Belgium during World War I. Angry Nazis promptly closed every Belgian church for three days but the pastoral circulated regardless. In it the six prelates recognized the Nazis only "as a *de facto* power," proclaimed that "the Belgian fatherland continues to exist," urged "national solidarity" and "moral unity," closed with an appeal to remember Armistice Day and to pray for all Belgians fallen in "the preceding and in this war."

▶ In Canada Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, led 4,700,000 Catholics (42% of Canada's population) in a day of prayer for "victory"—in definite contrast to earlier prayers which were merely for "peace." The action offered even more concrete encouragement to the British, for Cardinal Villeneuve, probably the most influential French Canadian, by himself celebrating a votive High Mass for victory in Montreal's famed old Notre Dame Church and afterwards reviewing a parade of French-Canadian troops, gave the Church's full blessing to Britain's and Canada's war. Other Canadians, who know that the policy of the Quebec hierarchy has always been ultramontane, hoped fervently that this indicated indirect Vatican backing of the British cause.

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FOR EDUCATION ONLY — Young visitor Jamie Naylor inspects the business end of a still set up by National Park officials in the Catoctin Mountains, Md., for high educational purposes. It's built on a site called "Blue Blazes" and it duplicates the real thing, an illicit still which operated in the 1920s. The cooking vat of the present still has a massive stone foundation — something a moonshiner's would never have, given his need to be able to make a quick getaway. The still attracts thousands of visitors every weekend when it produces an undrinkable moonshine, for demonstration only. (AP Photo)

Feds Operating Genuine 'Still'

By JOHN WOODFIELD
Associated Press Writer

THURMONT, Md. (AP) — Tucked away in a quiet little mountain glen on the doorstep of Camp David, the rustic presidential retreat in the Catoctin Mountains, a moonshine still is producing 150 proof "white lightning" every weekend with the blessing of the federal government.

National Park officials hasten to assure that the whiskey is not for presidential consumption, although the pungent odor of mash undoubtedly wafts over the mountain retreat to be inhaled occasionally by VIP nostrils.

It's part of a program to educate visitors to the culture of the hill country—a sort of "living history."

The still, located on a site known as "Blue Blazes," duplicates a similar enterprise that operated on and off at the same spot until Aug. 1, 1929, when U.S. Treasury agents made a final raid and demolished the still and dumped 25,000 gallons of moonshine whiskey.

So large was the still at that time that coal was brought in by truck for the operation and the whiskey was stored in 18 vats, each holding 2,000 gallons.

The present still has been operating only about a year, although it has been on the site for nearly two.

"When we decided to put in a still, it was sort of carrying coals to Newcastle," says Park Superintendent Frank Mentzer.

"I'm told that there are still some stills operating around here," he said.

Mentzer was able to obtain the still from Tennessee, where it had been seized by revenue agents during a raid at Cades Cove in the Smokey Mountains.

But although many old-timers in the Western Maryland mountains confess to having operated such moonshine facilities at one time or another, Mentzer says they became suddenly ignorant when asked to set up one for the federal government.

"It was so unusual, I guess, for the federal government, which has been running them out of business for years, to ask them for help in setting one up that they were very suspicious of it," Mentzer says.

He finally found a diagram for assembling the still in a magazine published by a high school in Rayburn Gap, Ga., by a class that was attempting to present the culture of the southern highlands as a class project.

But though Mentzer had received approval for his project from the Treasury Department, he had neglected to inform Maryland officials, and on the first day the still was in operation an agent of the state's alcohol tax division appeared at the park with two deputies all set to make yet another raid on Blue Blazes.

"He finally realized they couldn't do much about it, since we were on federal property," he said.

"I'm still known as the only park superintendent in the service who's ever been raided for being a moonshiner," Mentzer says with obvious relish.

The still attracts thousands of visitors to the park every weekend.

Mentzer says park personnel use yeast and sugar to prepare the mash, unlike genuine moonshiners who use germinating corn sprouts that have been ground.

Also, he says, they time the mash for weekend use while the real moonshiner doesn't run mash until it is just right—maybe 10 to 15 days.

Although the moonshine produced at Catoctin is adulterated with a chemical that makes it unfit to drink, Mentzer says it probably is a pretty high proof before it's treated.

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