

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1941.

Jehovah's Witnesses Gather Here



Thousands of members of Jehovah's Witnesses, who believe that the "Kingdom of Heaven" is soon to be established on earth, gathered at the Arena for a five-day Theocratic convention. Convention officers estimated that 75,000 persons would attend. There was an acute shortage of rooms and many members slept last night in cars and on the ground at the Arena and in Forest Park. The man in the foreground is resting under an improvised sun shade.

Jehovah's Witnesses Await Session's Start

Many Delegates Camp Out for the Night — Convention to Open Formally Today.

Pictures on Page 15.

Jehovah's Witnesses today shook off the effects of sleeping in automobiles, tents and in the open to prepare for official opening of their annual Theocratic Convention at 3:45 p. m.

Biggest problem before the convention is securing housing accommodations for the thousands of visitors. While cancellation of some reservations has been reported, members of the order are canvassing the city for additional room reservations.

The delegates are taking the difficulties with good humor. Some of them told of driving several miles to find a house, only to be informed no rooms were available. One woman said, "We drove five miles yesterday and then discovered there was no such address in St. Louis as the one we were looking for."

N. H. Knorr, of Brooklyn, N. Y., one of the convention officials, said hotels had appeared to be reluctant to reserve rooms for Witnesses.

O. P. Greathouse, chairman of the executive committee of the St. Louis Hotel Association, said: "We have offered all the space available to the Witnesses. Because of the National Retailers' convention this week, however, and a general increase in hotel business, the hotels have not had much extra room. I have talked to some Witnesses and told them we would accept all the reservations we could, but I haven't received any official requests from the convention for rooms."

Big Trailer City Built.

The biggest answer to the housing problem for the Witnesses is their trailer and tent city, sprawled over forty acres of rolling hills on Schuetz road about one mile west of Lindbergh boulevard in St. Louis County.

John Waicekons of Brooklyn, Witness official directing the encampment, said today there are more than 6,000 persons living in what is virtually a "mushroom suburb" of St. Louis.

At least 1,500 trailers, tents and temporary buildings are standing in well-planned rows. Sanitary facilities, a headquarters tent, cafeteria, store and refreshment stand have been constructed at the center of the camp.

"This is our permanent home until the convention is over," Waicekons said. "We have had telephones and electricity installed and a wire system will bring all the proceedings of the Arena out here. We do not intend to go to the Arena for convention sessions."

Waicekons pointed to a large water tank which had been installed at the west end of the camp.

"We're having our water hauled out from St. Louis—about 10,000 gallons every day—put in the tank and then piped to the faucets you see standing around," he said.

Camping Out a Lark.

The Witnesses were indulging in the camping adventure as a tremendous lark, an excellent vacation. They were meeting old friends and making new ones. They were crowding around the headquarters tent and refreshment stand to buy cooling drinks and hear announcements. The smell of meals cooking

and fires burning gave the city a true camp atmosphere.

Of interest was 63-year-old A. M. Kirby and his handmade trailer cart.

"Yep," said he as he patted the orange and green cart, "made her myself and pulled her all the way from home—that's Westville, Okla."

"Fellow gave me a ride for about 100 miles, but for the other 300 I pulled her up the hills and rode down. Made 25, maybe 35 miles an hour on good grades. I was eleven days on the road."

30,000 Jam Arena.

Back at the Arena, about 30,000 persons jammed Building A, the parking lots, the corridors under the Arena proper and hundreds more occupied the seats in the Arena hall, waiting for the convention to open.

Those in the hall were entertained by the practicing of the Jehovah's Witnesses orchestra, a makeshift organization which had been gathered from musician-delegates attending the convention.

A large stage has been erected at the south end of the hall and decorated in purple and white with palm trees standing about. Above the stage is a huge sign proclaiming the passage from Revelations: "Salvation unto our God—and unto the Lamb."

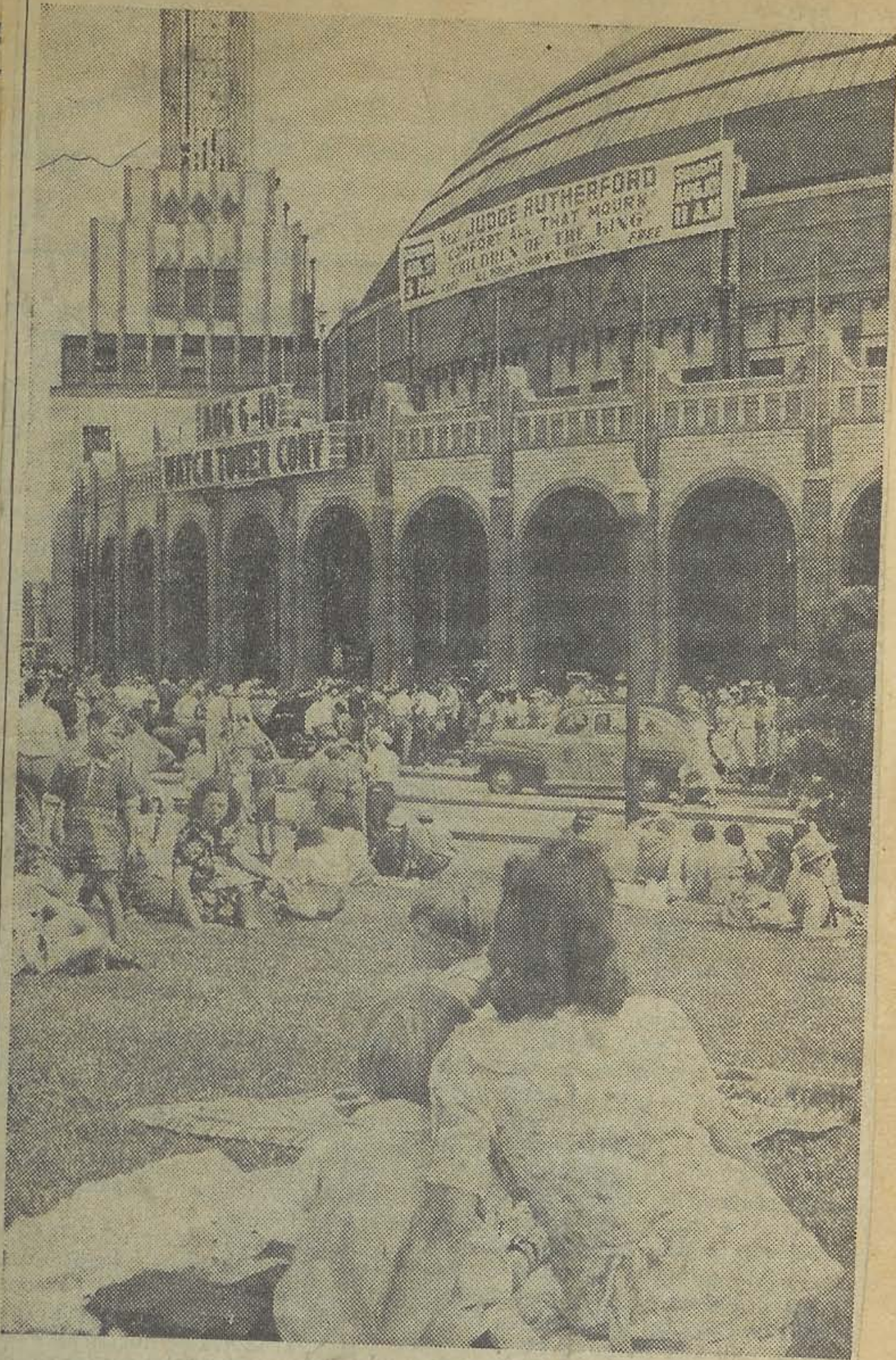
At 8 a. m. today, the lawn in front of the Arena was still dotted with delegates sleeping with their clothes on and lying on newspapers. In the parking lots, which were packed to the last car space, Witnesses were sleeping in their automobiles while others were beginning to prepare breakfast alongside the machines.

T. P. Comuntzis, supervisor of the Witnesses' cafeteria in Building A, reported more than 20,000 delegates had been served for breakfast by 9 a. m. today. The meal consisted of fruit, rolls, cornmeal mush and coffee.

The long housing booth at the north end of the building had been closed down.

"We're having so much trouble getting additional rooms," an usher explained, "that we've decided not to keep the booth open for awhile."

Early-Comers at Convention



—By a Post-Dispatch Staff Photographer.
Scene at the Arena as several hundred members of Jehovah's Witnesses sat and stood about, awaiting the opening of the sect's international Theocratic convention. Because of a shortage of rooms, many persons slept last night at the Arena and in Forest Park. (Additional pictures in *Everyday Magazine*.)

THEOCRATIC SECT OPENS FIVE-DAY MEETING IN ARENA

Lodging Facilities Inadequate and Several Thousand Delegates Sleep on Ground or in Cars.

Jehovah's Witnesses, men and women of serious mien who consider their mission as "chosen people" paramount to all else and philosophically accept persecution as part of their lot, began a five-day Theocratic convention at the Arena today.

The convention will be an uncomfortable experience for many who attend—official estimates reached 75,000—for all available rooms arranged for before the conclave have been filled and several thousand delegates were forced to sleep in cars and on the ground at the Arena and in Forest Park last night, but few complaints were heard from the Witnesses.

A story of persecution and mob violence in many lands, including execution of several members by beheading and German firing squads for refusal to accept military service, is told in a report of the Witnesses activity during the past year, made public in connection with the convention.

During the past year, 600 American mobs attacked and injured about 2000 members of the pacifist

sect which refuses to salute the flag and bitterly opposes all religions, particularly the Roman Catholic, the report states.

"Jehovah's Witnesses have been assaulted, beaten, kidnaped, driven out of towns, counties and states, forced to drink castor oil, tied together and chased like dumb beasts through the streets, maimed, taunted and insulted by demonized crowds, jailed by the hundreds without charge and held incommunicado and denied the privilege of conferring with relatives, friends or lawyers," the review asserts.

In almost every case of mob violence, it adds, "the public officials have stood idly by and refused to give protection, and in scores of instances the officers of the law have participated in the mobs and sometimes actually led the mobs."

The Witnesses, rather than being frightened out of their beliefs by such manifestations of disapproval of their ideas and unorthodox methods of seeking converts have been "strengthened instead of discouraged" by the martyrdom, the report declares, and are carrying on their work with continued enthusiasm. Their methods include ringing doorbells and playing anti-Catholic phonograph records in the homes of people who permit.

Room Donors Withdraw Offers.

Witnesses, who were still pouring into St. Louis by the thousands for the conclave this afternoon—their leaders said about 40,000 were already on hand—regard as a form of persecution the fact that many people who had previously committed themselves to provide rooms in their homes for delegates—"several hundred" was the closest estimate convention officials would make—had withdrawn their offer on learning more about the sect's beliefs. But the "brothers" and "sisters," as they addressed each other, were not discouraged.

"We have come to hear the word of God," one well-dressed Witness told a Post-Dispatch reporter. "Nothing can discourage us."

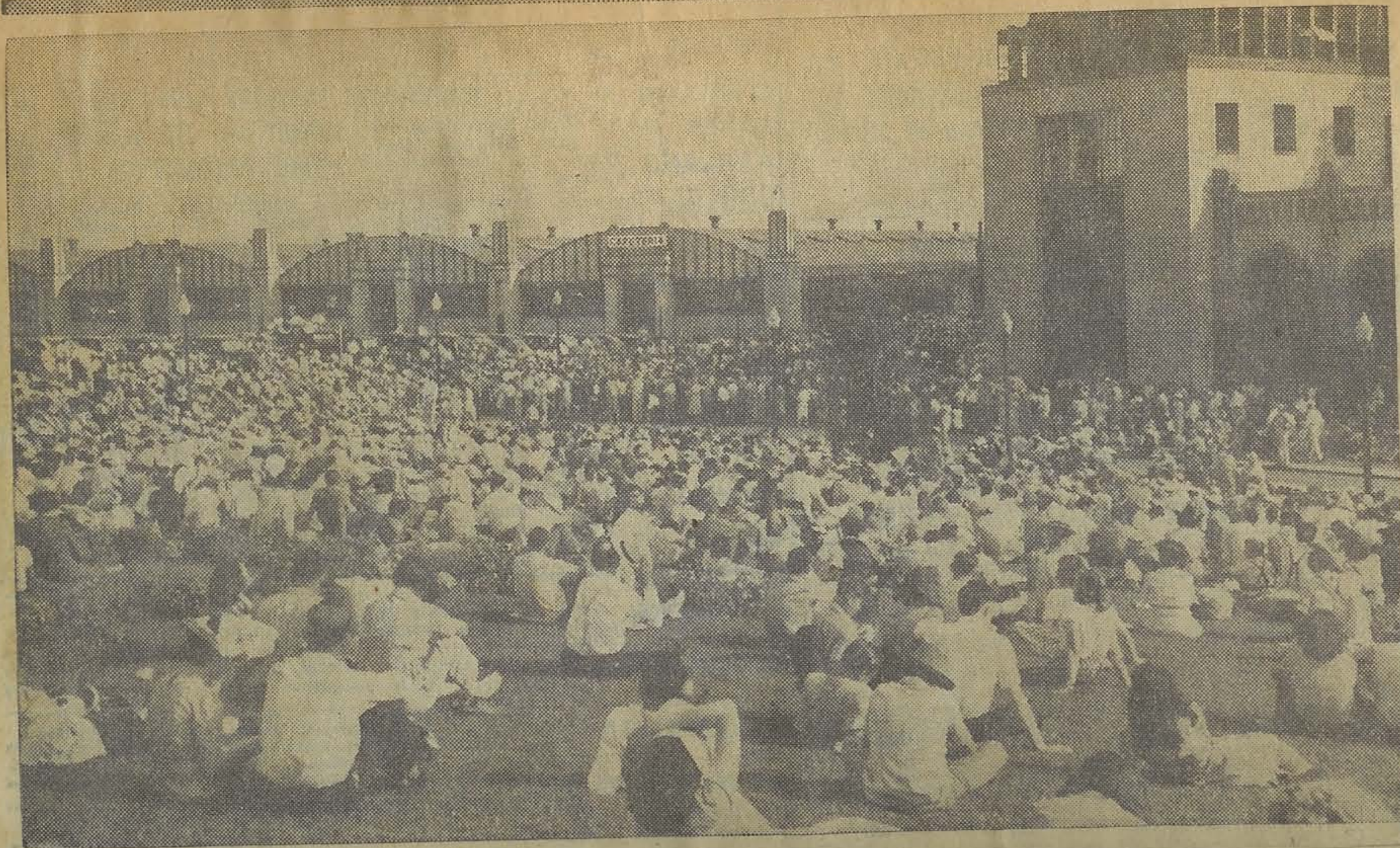
The "word" will be delivered by Joseph F. Rutherford, leader of the sect and president of the corporations and associations through which it carries on its work, who will address his followers at 4 o'clock this afternoon, half an hour after the convention formally convenes.

Seating Arrangements.

Arrangements have been made for seating about 25,000 people in the Arena proper, accommodating an additional 20,000 in two side buildings, and handling an indeterminate overflow in the open space about the meeting place, N. H. Knorr, "convention servant," said. Knorr added that several sound trucks outside the building would carry the proceedings for some distance around, and a direct telephone wire to a trailer camp for 10,000 delegates on Schuetz road, a mile and a half west of Lindbergh boulevard, will permit loudspeaker broadcast there of speeches at the Arena. The trailer camp's capacity, originally 5000, was doubled this morning by rental of 25 additional acres of land, making a total of 65 acres.

Knorr, who is vice-president of many of the sect's enterprises, said "Judge Rutherford," as the leader, is known to his followers, will speak from a plain platform, simply ornamented with purple and white drapes with gold trimmings. No American flags, which the Witnesses regard as "idols" and refuse to salute, were in evidence in the hall.

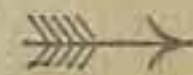
At noon, 7500 delegates had already occupied seats in the Arena to assure themselves a clear view of their leader when he spoke. More than 20,000 people were m



Jehovah's Witnesses



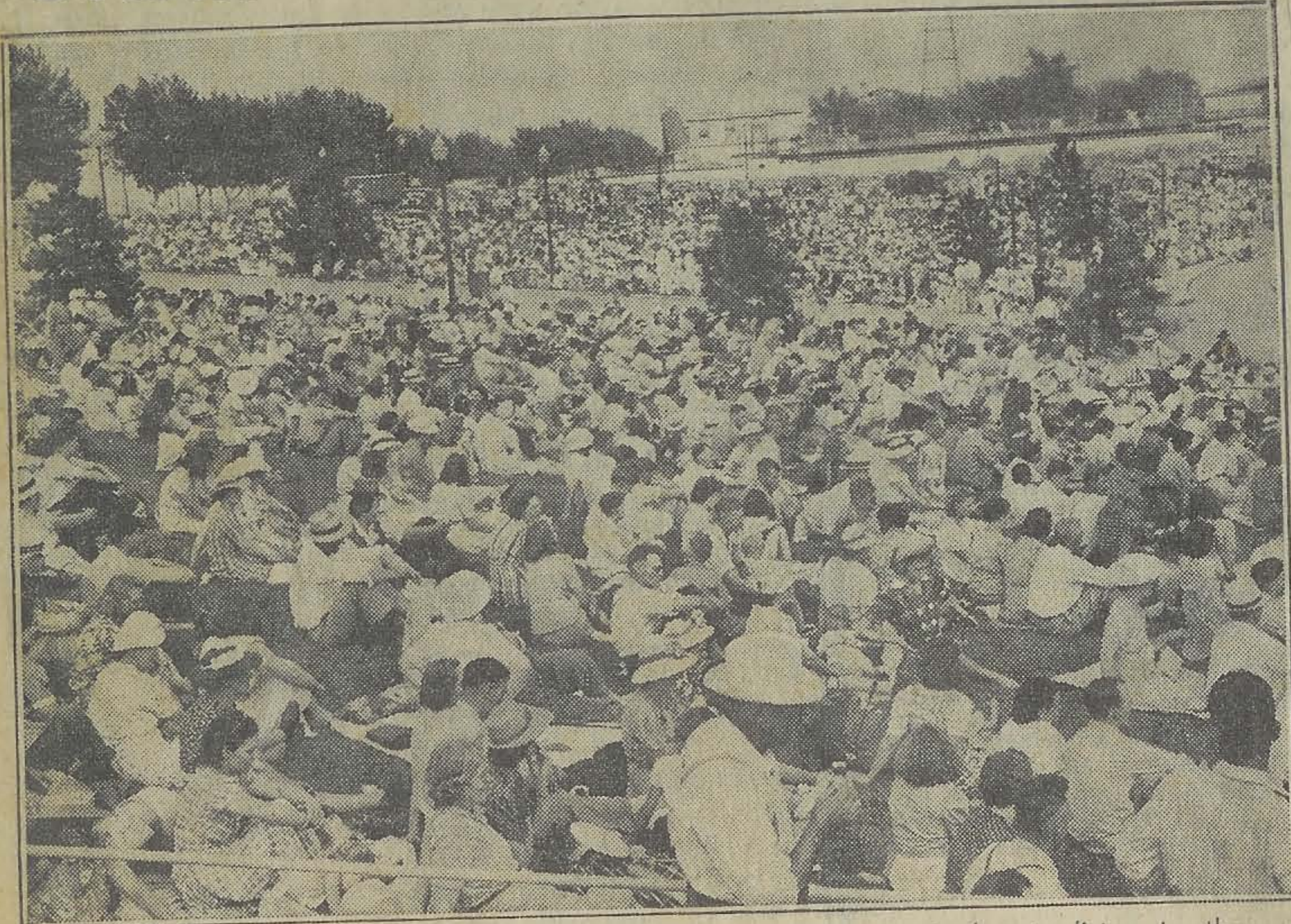
CROWDS AT ARENA



AND TRAILER CAMPS

Multitudes of Jehovah's Witnesses overflowed onto the Arena lawn and sat patiently under yesterday afternoon's torrid sun to hear Judge Rutherford's convention-opening address broadcast from the main building. At the right, Mrs. Russell Brown of Fairview, Ok., is shown at a county trailer camp washing her twins, Iris and Ilis, 7, and their brother, Lee Max, 6.

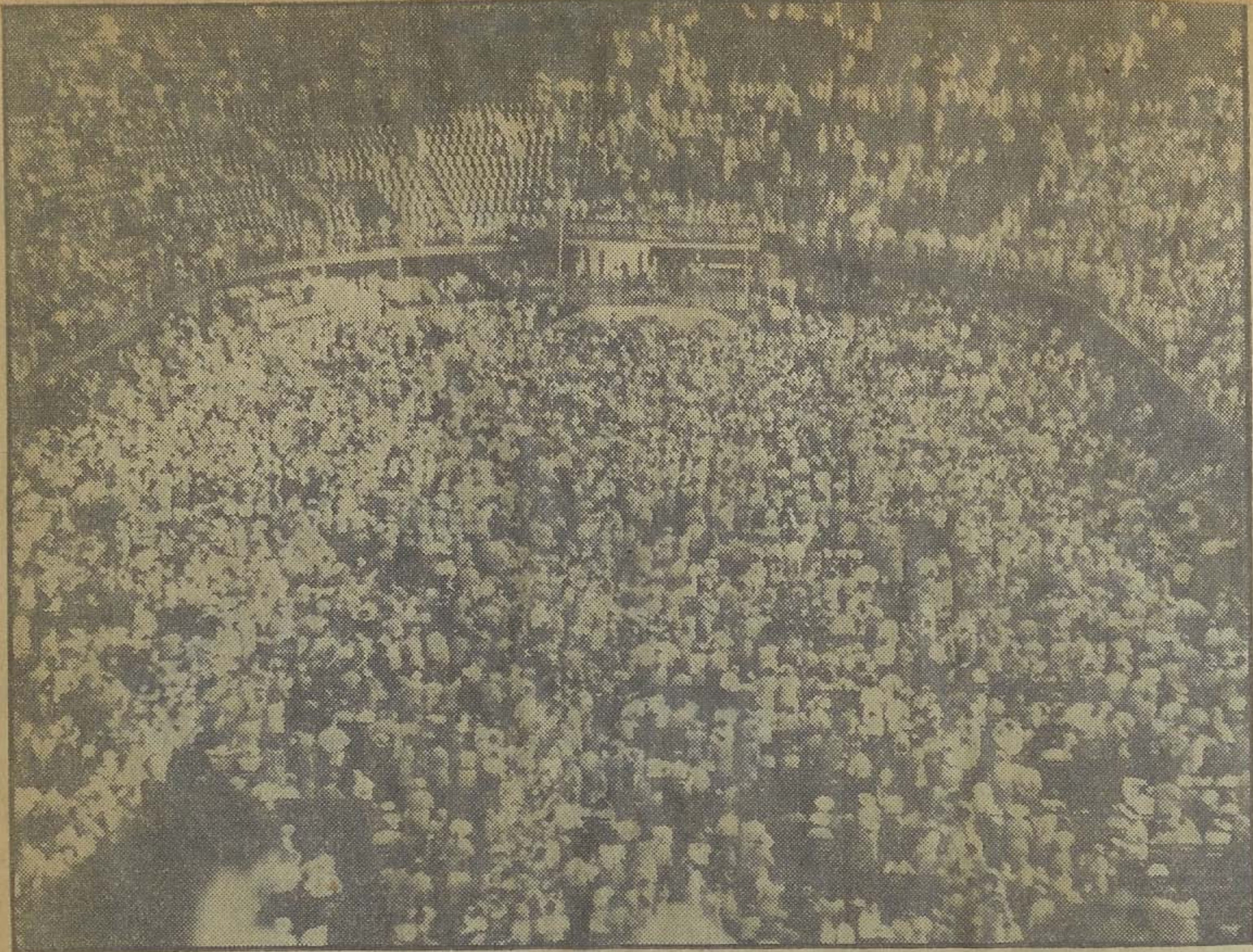
Overflow Crowd Hears Sect Leader



Several thousand persons sat on the ground outside the Arena yesterday to listen to the address of Judge J. F. Rutherford, leader of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The speech was carried to them by loudspeakers.



A crowd of about 18,000 persons gathered in the Arena to hear Judge Rutherford's speech opening the convention yesterday. Most of the seats were filled two hours before the speech.



50,000 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ENDURE HEAT TO HEAR LEADER

Fifty thousand Jehovah's Witnesses yesterday sat in awed silence and endured heat up to 110 degrees to hear Judge J. F. Rutherford, leader of the religious sect, plead that they endure suffering and "rejoice that the vindication of Jehovah and theocratic government through Christ Jesus is near."

The multitude of delegates, representing virtually every state in the nation, jammed the huge Arena to capacity and likewise filled Buildings A and B on each side, to which loud speakers carried Rutherford's address.

They sat in a strange, almost dead silence. After being cautioned by a preceding speaker, no one whispered to his neighbor. Only twice did they applaud, once when their leader declared: "There must be a showdown soon to see which rule the world—the devil or righteousness. It is time for God's kingdom to make its power known. The climax is coming near, so let there be no division among you." They applauded again briefly as he ended his hour's address.

AFTER MILLENIUM

"The Lord has designated Jehovah's Witnesses to be the seeds of the remnants of God's organization after the millenium," the tall, balding, wing-collared Californian said at one point. "The Bible reveals that God promised to set up a theocratic government that will rule the world. The present suffering of His Witnesses foretells the second coming of Christ and the beginning of His reign as King of the theocratic government."

(Webster's dictionary defines theocracy as "the government of a state by the immediate direction or administration of God; hence, government or political rule by priests as representing the deity.")

Rutherford read from a prepared text, seldom raising his voice and never gesturing. He drew a lengthy comparison between the Biblical experiences of Job and Jehovah's Witnesses.

REASON FOR SUFFERING

Job was subjected to trials and tests of righteousness and integrity by the Lord, he said.

"Just as Job was tested and kept in ignorance of the Lord's plan, the Witnesses are enduring perse-

cution now without understanding why. The reason is that you are suffering because you are God's people in a world nearing its end.

"You suffered coming to St. Louis, you are suffering now because many of you have had your room accommodations canceled. This was brought on by pressure to force cancellations. You can expect other suffering and insults in St. Louis and may, like Job, wonder why the Lord led you to this city for a national convention."

CHARGES PERSECUTION

Reviewing the Witnesses' record of persecutions, Judge Rutherford asserted "the United States has ceased to be the land of the free and the home of the brave," which statement brought a chuckle from his audience.

"We have been hailed into courts all over the nation, we have been charged with treason, we have had our homes burned and possessions destroyed by those people who have been blinded by Satan and who call themselves the religious leaders of the world," he said.

At the outset, Rutherford termed this session "the greatest meeting of God's people for Jehovah ever held on earth, the representatives and ambassadors of the great theocratic government—the only hope of the people in these times of world oppression."

He also termed the convention "the greatest assembly of ordained ministers ever held on earth." He asserted Jehovah's Witnesses are not obliged to attend religious schools to be qualified to act as agents of the divinity. "Jehovah's Witnesses have received the highest ordination from God and are commissioned as his theocratic representatives."

Reviewing the European situation, the speaker said the Axis has embarked on a program "of beastly persecutions of Witnesses."

"Our brothers are lying in at least 50 prisons," he said. "But they die in faith and without doubt are immediately resurrected by the Lord and are comforted."

H. C. Covington of Brooklyn, N. Y., convention chairman, opened the first session of the five-day convention yesterday with the prediction "we are about to wipe out our enemies forever," and forecast the meeting will "exercise a great influence on the people of St. Louis."

In his welcome address, he urged the delegates to abandon many customs practiced by other religions and accepted as social usage. As an illustration of the latter, he assailed the custom of hand-shaking as "a waste of time that should be used for the glory of the Lord."

He warned the audience against whispering, exchanging notes or diverting attention of their neighbors since "we are here to learn how to work toward the theocratic government and nothing else."

FLAGS MISSING

American flags were conspicuous by their absence about the Arena, Jehovah's Witnesses steadfastly refusing to salute the flag on the grounds it would be a violation of the First Commandment.

Emory Jones, general manager of the Arena, declared the Arena has not had a flag "since I have been here, since 1932." Flags flown at other conventions were put up by exhibitors, he said.

While the convention is open to the public, an efficient system of loyal guards blocks all but the lobbies and assembly rooms to the public. Outside the groundfloor door to the fourth-floor executive offices was a cordon of men with arms linked, forcibly refusing entry to everyone but officials.

On each landing of the stairway above, from two to four other guards likewise were on duty. In the executive offices all queries were turned aside.

Requests for an outline of the basic elements of the Jehovah's Witnesses faith and in what respects it differs from other denominations were refused on the grounds that "Judge Rutherford used to write pamphlets giving that information, but the newspapers cut them down or declined to print them, so he quit."

When the leader came in the front entrance of the Arena, surrounded by a dozen or more guards, he was escorted upstairs and later to the speakers' platform. He was similarly guarded as he left after his address, before the afternoon convention session closed.

Over the grounds, other thousands of delegates loafed on the lawn, sat on boxes or stood about cold-drink stands listening to the speech by the public address system.

DO GOOD BUSINESS

At each entrance to assembly rooms in the three buildings were slotted boxes to receive contributions of visitors. Vendors of fans, cold drinks and souvenir cards did a land office business.

A lone picket appeared on the street walk fronting the area as the evening session began at 7 p. m. and, for a while, attracted a queue of curious Witnesses.

A man carried in one hand a flaming railroad fuse and in the other a large sign reading, "Oh, Lord, help me keep my mental balance so Thou will honor my country and respect this flag, and keep me from condemning the Catholics, the Protestants and Jews. Amen."

On the reverse side of the placard was the quotation: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

JOINED BY OTHERS

He soon was joined by two other pickets who carried American flags.

The queue, after about the third trip across the area, was dispersed by a convention "servant" who shouted, "Keep your minds on Jehovah."

"He needs help to keep his mental balance," a woman Witness yelled.

Passing motorists on Oakland avenue, slowed and frequently stopped by traffic jams, cheered and shouted encouragement to the lone picket.

SEEK COMFORT

The convention area last night had become a virtual Coney Island, with most of the delegates abandoning the hot meeting halls for the lawns, doffing hats, shoes and frequently shirts for comfort while listening to speakers through the public address system.

They joined lustily in a song fest that opened at 7 p. m. Earlier convention officials had distributed sheets containing Jehovah's Witnesses song lyrics fitted to standard hymn tunes.

Inside the Arena main assembly hall, F. W. Franz of New York, talked on zone and regional servants' duties, followed by a doctrinal discourse by J. C. Booth, also of New York. Not more than 1500 persons comprised their visible audience. The balconies were deserted.

During the speeches, women outside on the lawns in attentive silence dressed each other's hair, washed children's faces or prepared meals in cans.

Fifteen police officers assigned to duty during the convention reported no disturbances and no heat casualties.

"They depend on their faith to keep them from getting sick," one said, "and it seems to work. No prostrations among a crowd of 50,000 in heat like this is unusual."



WAITING FOR ROOMS

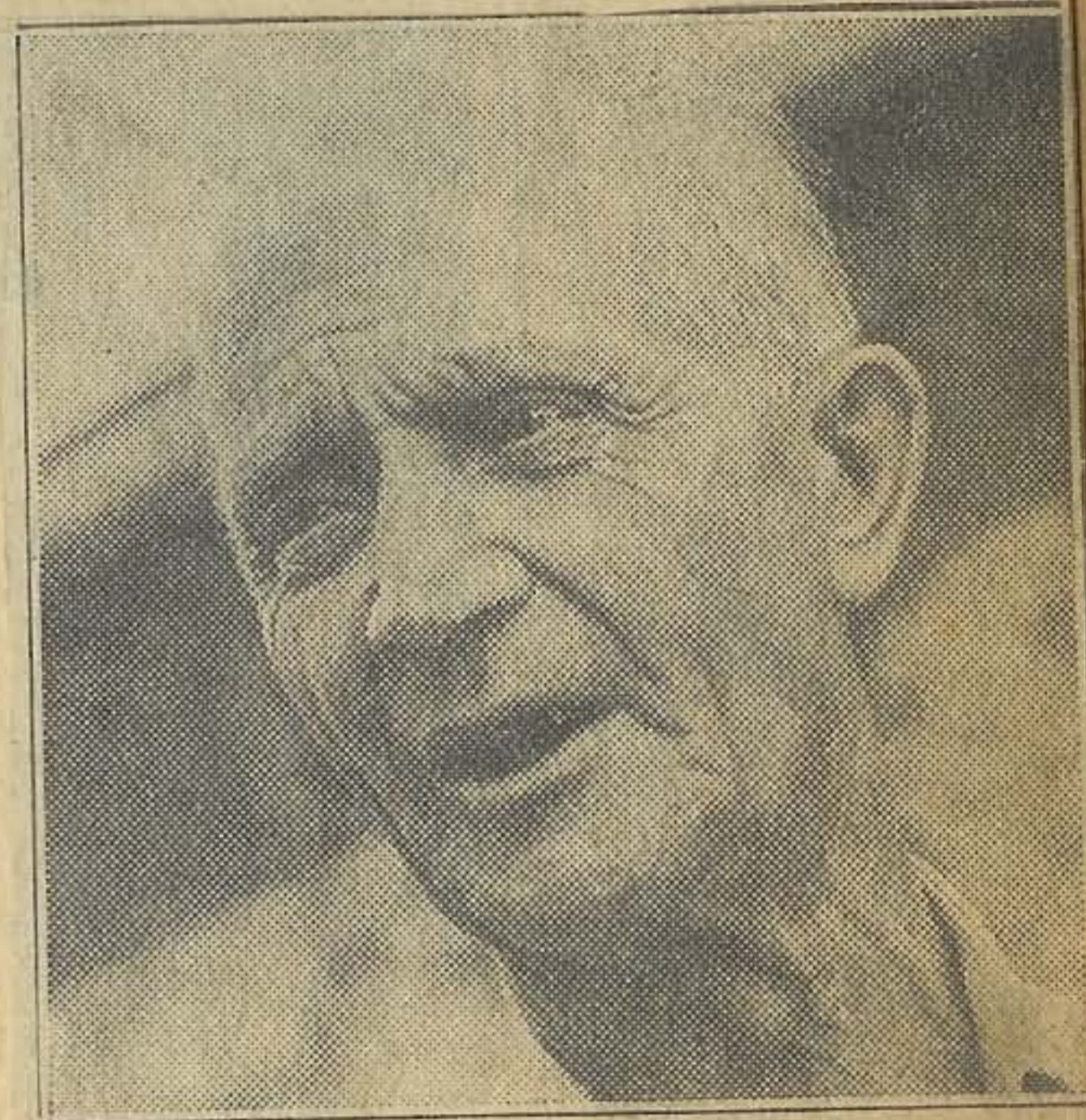
Inside the cafeteria at the Arena, delegates dropped their baggage to face the problem of finding a room for their stay in St. Louis. This family is waiting for accommodations. Many slept on tables and the concrete floor last night.



Dinner is served for this Montana family at the trailer city.



Mark L. Linden of Marinette, Wis., has been a Jehovah's Witness for 35 years.



William H. Cass of Washington, Ind., has been a member for 35 years. By a Post-Dispatch Staff Photographer.



THEY CAME BY TRUCK

The youngest Witness at the trailer camp yesterday was 4-month-old James Robert Gray Jr., who rode in a truck with his parents and 28 other persons from Stamford, Tex.

Jehovah's Witnesses' Leader



—By a Post-Dispatch Staff Photographer.
"JUDGE" JOSEPH F. RUTHERFORD, leader of Jehovah's Witnesses, entering his automobile at the front entrance of the Arena to drive to the rear of the building for his convention speech yesterday.

WITNESSES SECT SPREADS MESSAGE THROUGHOUT CITY

In Sound Trucks, Autos
and on Foot Delegates
Visit St. Louis Homes
Seeking Converts.

Witnesses of Jehovah, in St. Louis thousands strong for their Theocratic Assembly at the Arena, spread through the city today after a brief morning meeting, in accordance with instructions of one of their "convention servants," to "publish the blessings of the assembly and to invite others to participate in those blessings."

In sound trucks, in automobiles, on foot, Witnesses took their message to St. Louis homes by word of mouth, printed matter and phonograph recordings. The evangelists, who believe that institution of the Kingdom of God on earth is imminent and who hold aloof from all state and church organizations, took with them the assurance of their convention chairman, H. C. Covington, that the time is at hand when "our enemies will be wiped out forever."

Leader Speaks.

The chairman gave this assurance to tens of thousands of Witnesses who thronged the Arena and its side buildings yesterday to hear an hour-long address by their leader, "Judge" Joseph F. Rutherford, formally opening the five-day assembly of the sect.

The crowd, hot but patient, jammed the main building, filling every one of its 12,700 fixed seats and 5300 more chairs set up on the floor. A public address system carried the voice of the leader to other thousands in the side exposition buildings and standing in corridors, lobbies, and outside the doors.

A direct wire carried Rutherford's remarks to Witnesses living in tents and trailers at a camp on Schuetz road a mile and a half west of Lindbergh boulevard. Another wire took the address to Brooklyn, N. Y., for broadcast over the sect's radio station, WBBR.

"Battle Is Near."

Gist of the address, heard by all these thousands, was that "Satan

knows that the battle is near in which he must make his last stand." Rutherford said that until that battle, Witnesses must expect to suffer at the hands of Satan and "other demonized creatures."

When the fight is over, however, Witnesses "who have held fast in integrity will receive blessings," Rutherford prophesied. There was applause twice when the speaker dwelt on the imminence of the theocratic state and again at the conclusion of the talk.

Rutherford, tall and bald, spoke from manuscript rapidly and with little expression. Listeners at times followed him with difficulty when the thread of his sentences became tangled in mazes of Biblical quotation. Several thousand persons left the auditorium before he had finished.

Rutherford, accompanied by guards arrived at the Arena just before his speech and left immediately afterward. Thousands of the Witnesses missed even a glimpse of him.

His words, however, elaborating the theme, "God's chosen people shall receive blessings," reached everybody.

Likens Witnesses to Job.

Rutherford likened the Witnesses to Job. He reminded his hearers that Jehovah allowed Satan to torment and try Job, who, however, had the faith to endure to the end. So today, Rutherford said, Satan and his servants are trying and tempting the Witnesses of Jehovah.

"The Axis powers, instruments of Satan, have opposed theocratic

government and have persecuted the faithful," Rutherford said. "Those witnesses who have suffered death in lands controlled by Germany are now in the kingdom of Christ Jesus. Such is the province of the faithful.

"Even in the United States, the land of the free, Witnesses have been persecuted, beaten and haled into court because of their beliefs. But everywhere Jehovah's servants are persevering.

"We shall all be subjected to further insults. But thanks be to God, we see the theocratic government near."

Singing Program.

After a half-day's "witnessing" in the city, sect members returned to the Arena for a program of singing and for instruction in the technique of evangelism. Further talks on theocracy were to follow.

Hymns sung in reverential unison by the convention include, "Fear Not, Little Flock," "Arise and Shine," and "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon." No collections are taken at meetings, but boxes are provided for contributions.

A representative of the business office of the convention said today that more accommodations for Witnesses are being found in St. Louis homes. Numbers of reservations have been cancelled by householders who apparently changed their minds about taking the Witnesses in.

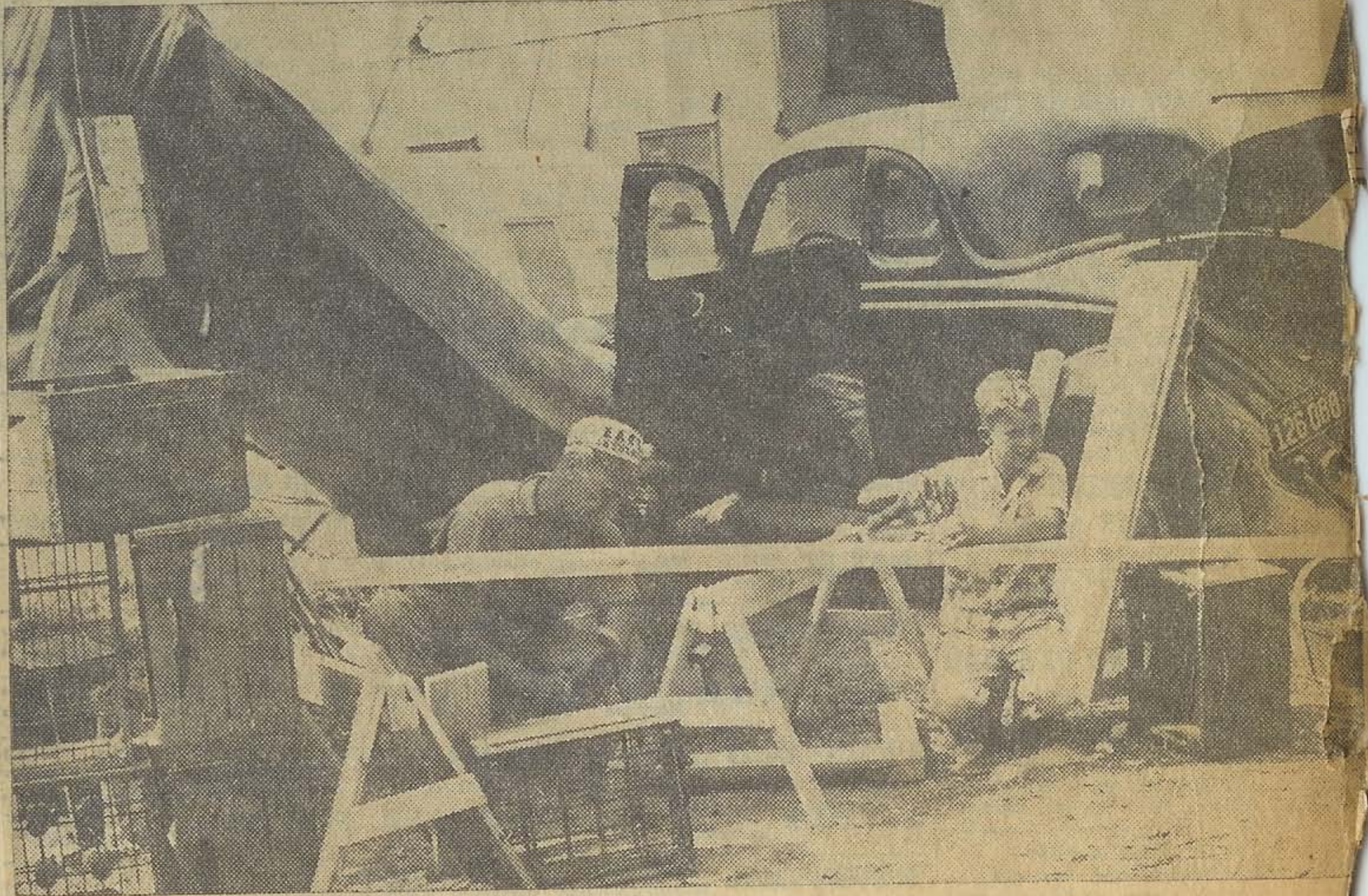
The spokesman would not say how many new accommodations had been found. He said, however, "We have even had telegrams from some home owners to tell us that we're all right."



About 200 men formed a human chain as a guard for Judge Rutherford as he arrived at the Arena for his address late yesterday. The men locked hands and formed a double line from Oakland avenue to the entrance of the Arena, and stood for more than two hours to assure an interrupted passage for Rutherford's automobile. (Star-Times Photo.)



FROM FAR AND NEAR There was much visiting and talking as members gathered at the Arena for the meetings, including long discussions of Theocracy.

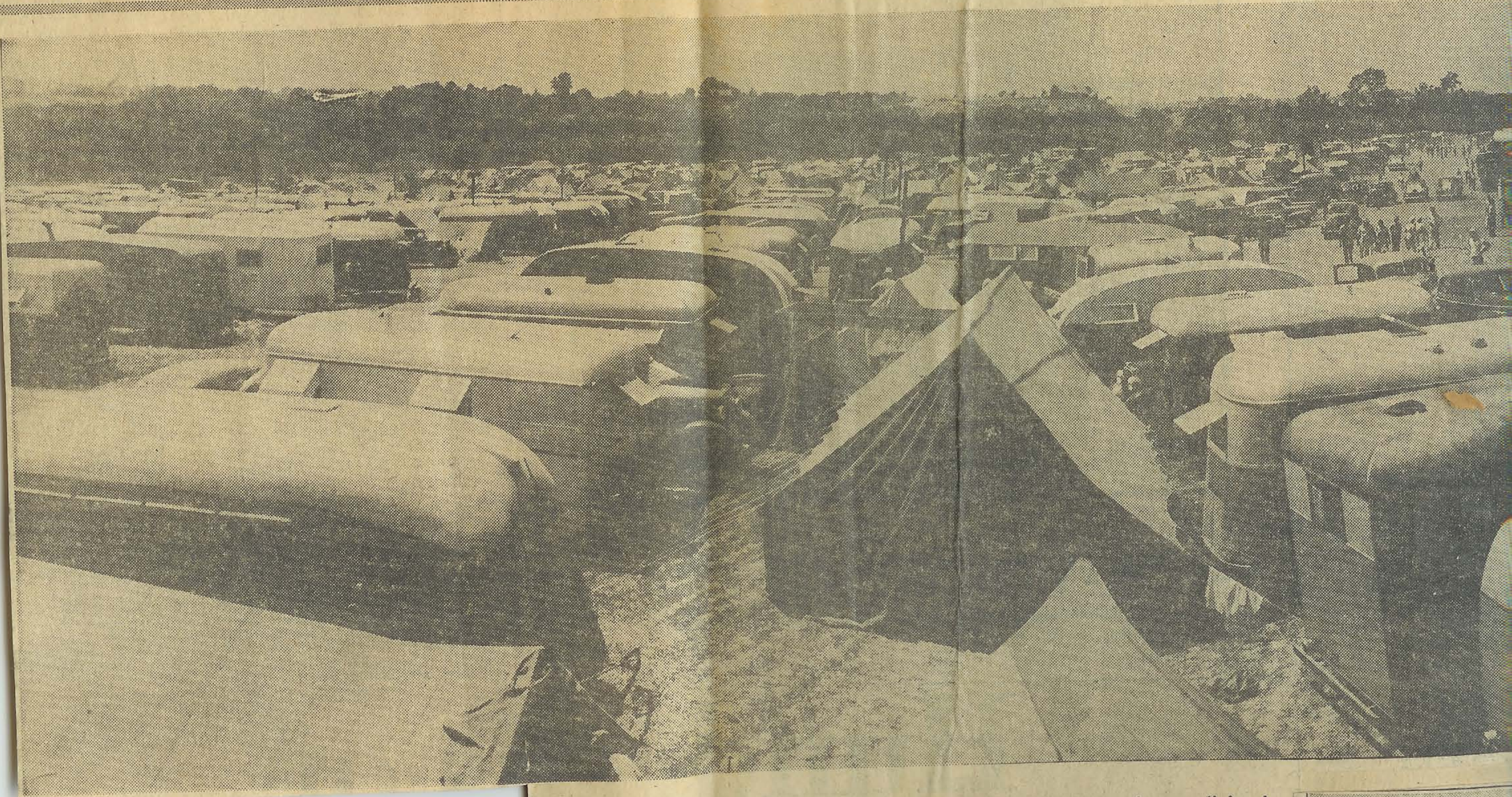


ERECTING SHELTER AT A TRAILER CAMP

The main trailer camp in St. Louis County was jam-packed with conventioning Witnesses, most of whom were subjected to the sun's blistering rays throughout the day. A. D. Maffit of Indianapolis built a canvas shelter for his coupe as his own personal solution to the heat problem. A bale of straw near by will be his bedding

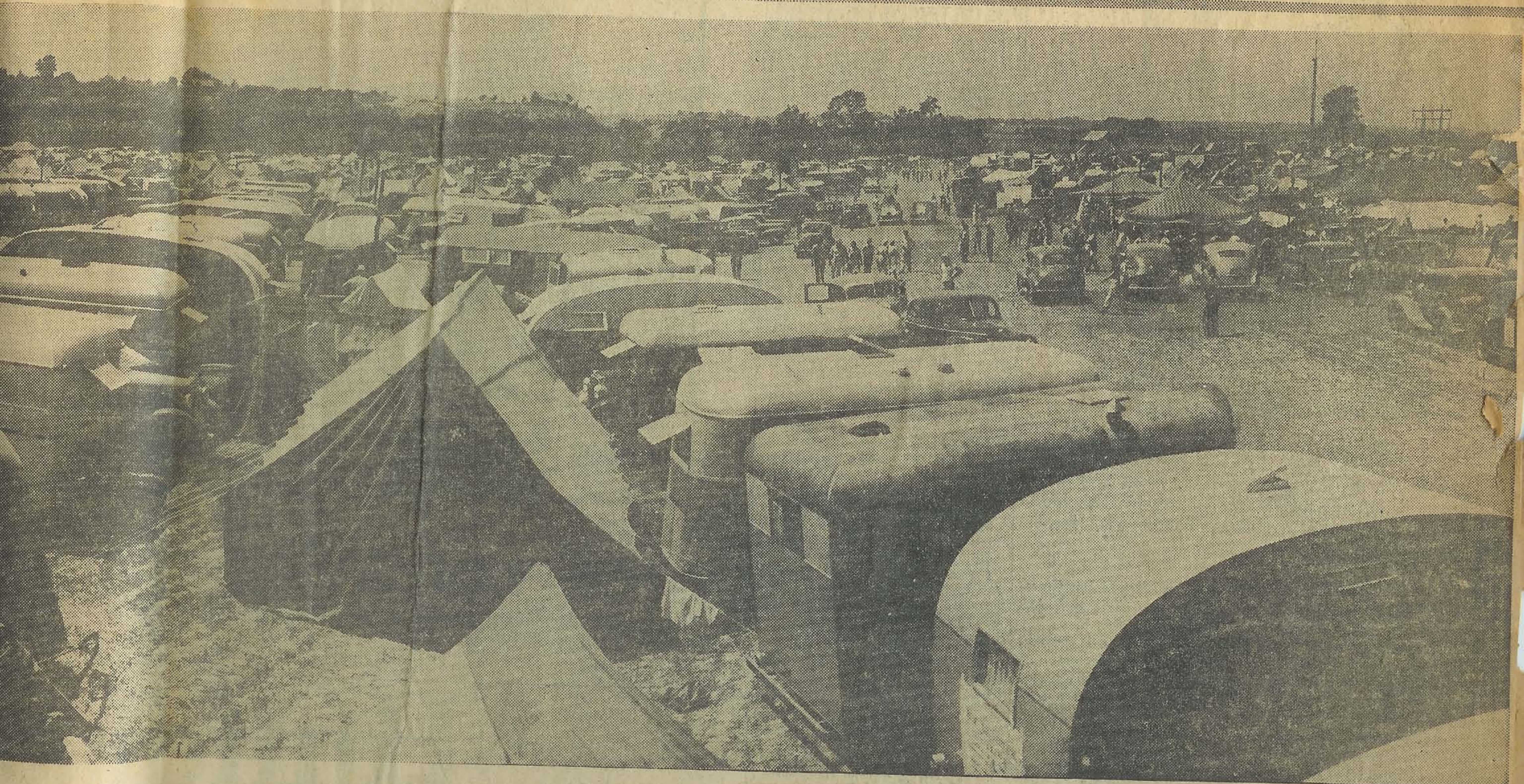
ST. LOUIS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1941.

Jehovah's Witnesses Set Up Trailer Camp



Thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses, here for their national convention, are living in a trailer town set up west of the city on Schuetz road. This view looking west shows only a part of it.

Set Up Trailer Camp

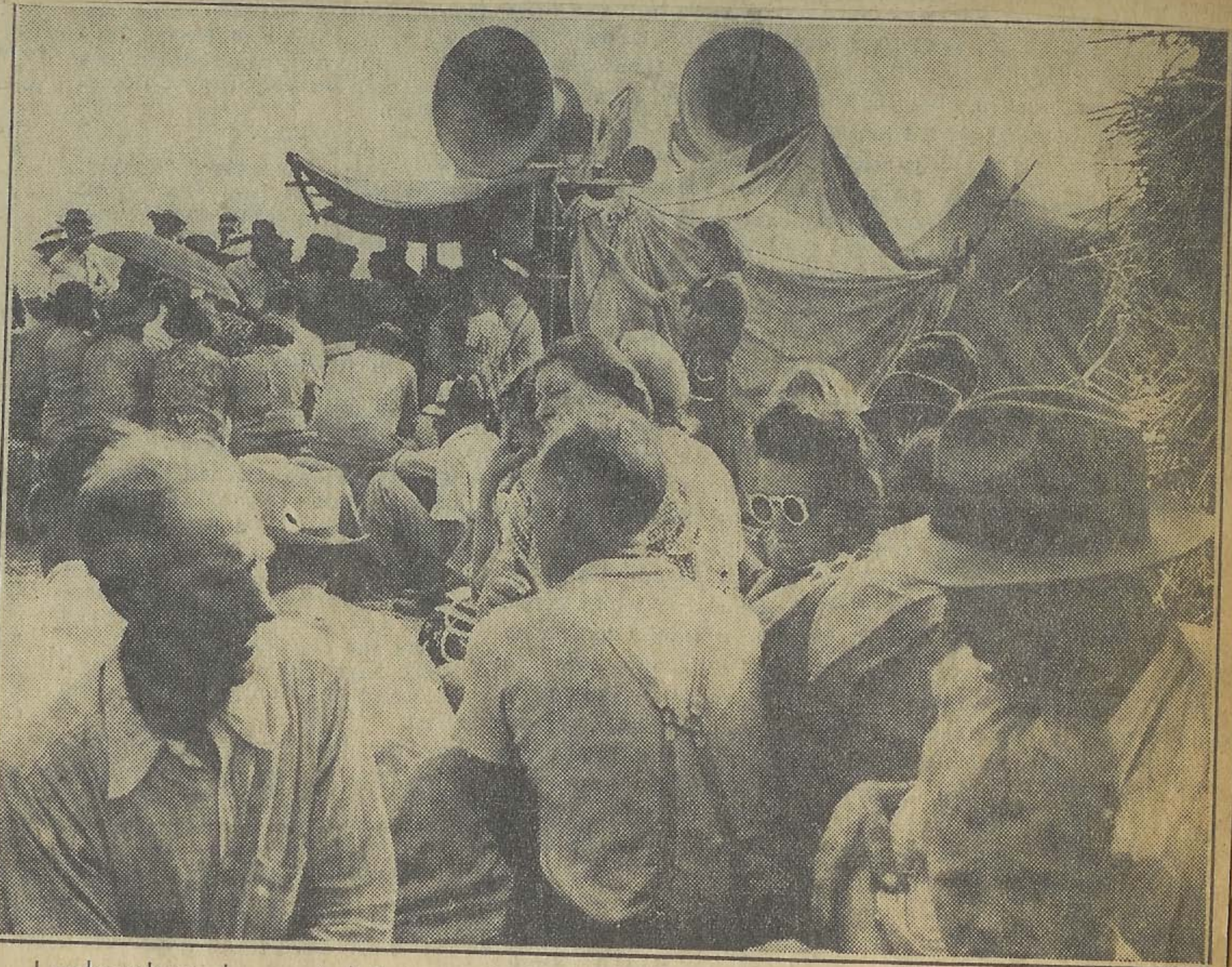


Thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses, here for their national convention, are living in trailer town set up west of the city on Schuetz road. This view looking west shows only a part of it.





Mrs. Thelma Franske of Hampton Va., has been a member for 20 years. She is the wife of a machinist.



Loudspeakers also carried the speech to the trailer camp on Schuetz road, west of Lindbergh, where some 10,000 Jehovah's Witnesses are living during the five-day convention.

Witnesses' Meeting Reaching Its Climax

**Crowds Increase — At Least 1,500 Treated
For Exhaustion and Injuries.**

Slammed doors and verbal rebuffs failed to discourage the Jehovah's Witnesses as they continued calmly today about their business of evangelizing St. Louisans in the morning and listening to discourses of their leaders at the Arena in the afternoon.

Heat alone proved an irritant to the conventioners. Crowds that jammed the Arena and its grounds resembled giant fields of wheat as thousands of palm fans whispered in the still air. Some 1,500 or 1,600 men, women and children were treated yesterday for heat exhaustion, cuts and abrasions in the first aid unit, located in the basement of the Arena.

10,000 Cases of Pop Already Consumed At Arena Meeting

The thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses at the Arena are consuming a veritable flood of soda pop. The local bottling firm that has the contract for all soda sold at the convention told the Star-Times today the Witnesses had ordered 15,000 twenty-four-bottle cases for the five-day meeting and had already used 10,000. As thousands of Witnesses pour into the city for the climax of the convention, the company's officials were convinced the consumption would be doubled—to a total of 480,000 bottles of pop.

There are fifty-five or sixty doctors and nurses, all Witnesses, in constant attendance at the station. Busily they loosen the clothing of the sufferers, put cold water and ice on them, then let them stretch out on tables and benches.

Thousands Arrive Early.

Today's meeting and tomorrow's are expected to be the biggest of the convention. Thousands of Witnesses were on the grounds early waiting for the speech of their leader, Judge Joseph F. Rutherford, scheduled for 3 p. m. The entire parking lot in front of Annex A, to the east of the main building, has been cleared of all cars except sound trucks in order to provide space for the expected overflow.

Those seated in the Arena proper were required to present copies of the official convention program, which was distributed at the beginning of the five-day meeting, and were not allowed to carry bundles of any kind.

The judge's speech yesterday was one of the high points of the convention so far. Speaking without prepared copy, he was informal, intimate and jovial as he answered those who have criticized the Witnesses for not saluting the flag. "Everyone here loves the flag and the things for which it stands," he said. "And everyone here puts forth their honest endeavors to obey every law for which it stands. Demonized, unreasoning flag-wavers are the first ones to violate the laws for which the flag stands."

"Doesn't Mean License."

The speaker was firm in his determination that the Witnesses would not salute the flag.

"I say to the world," he thundered, "that we will not bow down to anything. That flag means liberty to do what is right; it does not mean license to compel people to violate their own consciences."

Alluding to the smashing of windows in the automobiles of two of the Witnesses yesterday, Rutherford said, "You Witnesses are carrying a message. You are liberators of the people because you carry God's message. Because you are carrying this message and attempting to do what is right, some of these unscrupulous things that walk on two legs smash windows and destroy our property."

Another minor outbreak at the Arena occurred last night, when several youths carrying flags on which was blazoned "God Bless America" taunted the Witnesses, many of whom were asleep. Guards attempted to silence the boys, and a scuffle ensued in which Ralph George Nenninger, 3102 Oregon avenue, suffered lacerations of the scalp. He was taken to the City Hospital and then booked with Walter Krysl, 4733 Milentz avenue, at the Hampton avenue station, suspected of affray. The youths were released this morning.

Witnesses for the most part continued to ignore the rebuffs, feeling that St. Louis was on the whole less violent toward them than some of the other cities they have visited.



C. H. Whitefield of Wilmington, Del., has been a member for eight years and now is a full-time worker for the sect.



Mrs. Grace Dinnoff of Bloomington, Cal., has been a Witness for six years. Her husband is a grapefruit grower.

Door Slammed in Face.

Said one Indiana woman, "I went to several houses where the door was slammed in my face, but that's nothing. I've been in mobs and been arrested for the work of the Lord. St. Louis has been nice to us, compared with other towns."

A young girl from Texas explained that she thought St. Louis "nice" but disliked the St. Louis weather. "Everyone seems to think we want to convert them to our beliefs, though," she said. "That isn't true. We're doing what you would do if you saw an automobile heading for a washed-out bridge. We're warning of what is to come."

Support for the Witnesses came today in a letter written to the Star-Times by M. L. Rupp, "founder and leader of a spiritual organization" known as Soul Science, in which Rupp says: "I consider it a great mistake for St. Louisans to object to 50,000 people coming here to advertise God; for that is what the Witnesses are doing. And folks, God can't be advertised too much."

As the convention moves to its close, preparations are almost complete for the "consecration through immersion" to be held tomorrow morning between 7 and 8 o'clock. Several hundred persons are expected to be immersed, the whites at Forest Park Highlands swimming pool, Negroes at a place to be announced later.

ST. LOUIS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1941.



Time to Eat for Jehovah's Witnesses

Part of the huge crowd waiting to get into the cafeteria building at the Jehovah's Witnesses convention at the Arena at breakfast time. Thousands have been getting all their meals here. (Star-Times Photo.)



ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBER

Howard W. Turner of Enon, Pa., talking with a woman member. He said he has been a member of Jehovah's Witnesses for about a year. "It's the greatest thing there is. The people are obstinate, but with the weapons we carry, we'll outwit Satan and his gang."



TIRED

Many of the members travelled long distances by automobile to the convention. This man rested on the lawn in front of The Arena.

WITNESSES FROM MANY STATES

ESTABLISHED 1868

MILK PERMIT NO 37



—Staff Photo

Every shady spot yesterday at a St. Louis County trailer camp was filled with Jehovah's Witnesses from many states. From the left, starting with the woman with glasses: Mrs. Alfred Phillips and her husband, Providence, R. I.; Gus Allen, Valiant, Ok.; Walter Ames, Millersport, Ohio; Sam Hatcher, Valiant, Ok., and T. H. Michias, Milwaukee.

Jehovah Witnesses, by Thousands, Sleep Wherever They Can

Because there was inadequate space for them in hotels and private homes, tens of thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses from the four corners of America are sleeping this week in St. Louis wherever they can find space to lay their heads.

On sun-baked, dusty Missouri hill-sides, on the city's outskirts, on concrete floors at the Arena, on the grass in city parks, in automobiles parked by the roadside, on cafeteria tables and on the floors of homes which will take them in, men, women and children who have been unable to find beds at the end of their pilgrimage to St. Louis are cheerfully accepting their lot for "Jehovah's sake."

And the Witnesses are jubilantly pleased that they have moved into the city in such unprecedented throngs. Lack of accommodations, discomfort and congestion of traffic are but proof of the Lord's power in bringing together his followers, they say.

'SWEEPING THE EARTH'

"Brother, we are sweeping the earth," is a joyful greeting among members of Judge Rutherford's followers as they stop to chat with each other and relate not their troubles, but their triumphs in being present at their greatest convention.

From the main trailer camp, covering 40 acres on the Schuetz road, a mile west of Lindbergh boulevard, have branched off three or four other camping groups. Yesterday, under the blazing August sun, without a shade except that afforded by their trailers, parked automobiles and canvas tents, thousands of families were milling about ankle deep in dust at the Schuetz road camp, visiting and listening to the broadcast from the Arena.

Weather-beaten farmers and their wives with broods of children from every state, small-town folk, carpenters, mechanics, storekeepers, camp population is a cross-

section of Americans from rural districts who had the pioneering spirit of their forefathers to "get up and go" wherever they want to.

NO FORMALITY

Families from Vermont were getting acquainted with their neighbors from the Panhandle and "liking 'em mighty well," as one mother explained. License plates on cars were all the introductions needed in the camp. One does not stand on formality when he has traveled across 25 states to stretch out in the shade of his machine on a St. Louis County hillside.

Above the friendly hum of the crowds waiting for Judge Rutherford to begin speaking at the Arena was the voice from the broadcasting truck bearing a New York license plate.

"Brother, don't waste any of that water. Remember, every bit of it was bought and hauled out here."

WATER IS PRECIOUS

Water is precious on the lot. So many thirsty mouths to drink it. Babies and hot children to bathe. Supper to cook on the oil-burner.

Straw also is of great value. Nothing better for a bed under the open sky. Straw to cover the floors of tents. Straw to keep down the dust in the meager shade of trailer or automobile.

Fluttering pieces of paper are pinned to the side of every stand and available wall. They serve as the only method of communication between Witnesses without addresses, telephones or settled friends.

Like refugees on the march, the Witnesses pin a message wherever they can make one stick.

Pinned up for all to read. In fact in hopes everyone will read them and "spread the word around."

"Raymond, we are on the East Side. Row 3, keep looking for us. Mother."

"Folks from Grand Pass, Ore. We will wait here for you. Lucille."

"Mr. Dutton, you will find Dr.

Jehovah Group's Rooms Canceled

Hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses lolled about the Arena in confusion yesterday as a wave of room-reservation cancellations—estimated up to 4000—poured into headquarters of their national convention.

Officials conceded about 500 private homes had canceled reservations in the last two days, but a canvass about the delegate-filled lawn fronting the Arena raised that figure to nearer the 4000 mark. N. H. Knorr, who bears the title of Convention Servant, asserted the total might be that great, but that the cancellations had been spread over the last three months.

He charged St. Louis hotels until recently had been "under pressure not to reserve us rooms for the convention."

"Only a short time ago did the hotels begin to come to us individually and offer to provide accommodations and to help in one of the biggest conventions that ever came here," he said.

30,000 ESTIMATED

He estimated 30,00 Jehovah's Witnesses already are in St. Louis for the opening of the five-day convention today and predicted the total might exceed 75,000. First session is the convention assembly in the Arena at 3:30 p. m. today.

Conventionites by the thousands visited the Arena headquarters yesterday, many seeking to end the confusion over room accommodations and other hundreds visiting.

Women seemed to predominate, many being fashionably and expensively dressed. Others, obviously poor, were wearing faded "Sunday dresses" and apparently had saved and skimped long to attend the convention, which is regarded in the light of a pilgrimage.

Automobiles filled parking lots on three sides of the Arena and a trailer camp, containing 1000 vehicles and tents and housing 4800 delegates, was set up on Schultze road off Lindbergh boulevard. Forest Park, opposite the Arena, also was an attraction to the religious sect members.

ALL STATES REPRESENTED

Automobiles bore license plates from virtually every state in the nation. Many Massachusetts cars carried signs stenciled on their sides reading "Hear Judge Rutherford at the Arena Saturday at 3 p. m. on Comfort All That Mourn, and Children of the King Sunday at 11 a. m. All persons of goodwill invited."

A voluntary canvass of St. Louis homes "to encourage people to read their Bibles," will begin today, Knorr said. Members will attempt to reach every home in the city with their literature distribution and phonograph record playing.

Members also will offer residents a copy of a book by E. B. Rutherford, national leader of the religious movement, explaining his interpretation of the Bible, for 25 cents, Knorr said.

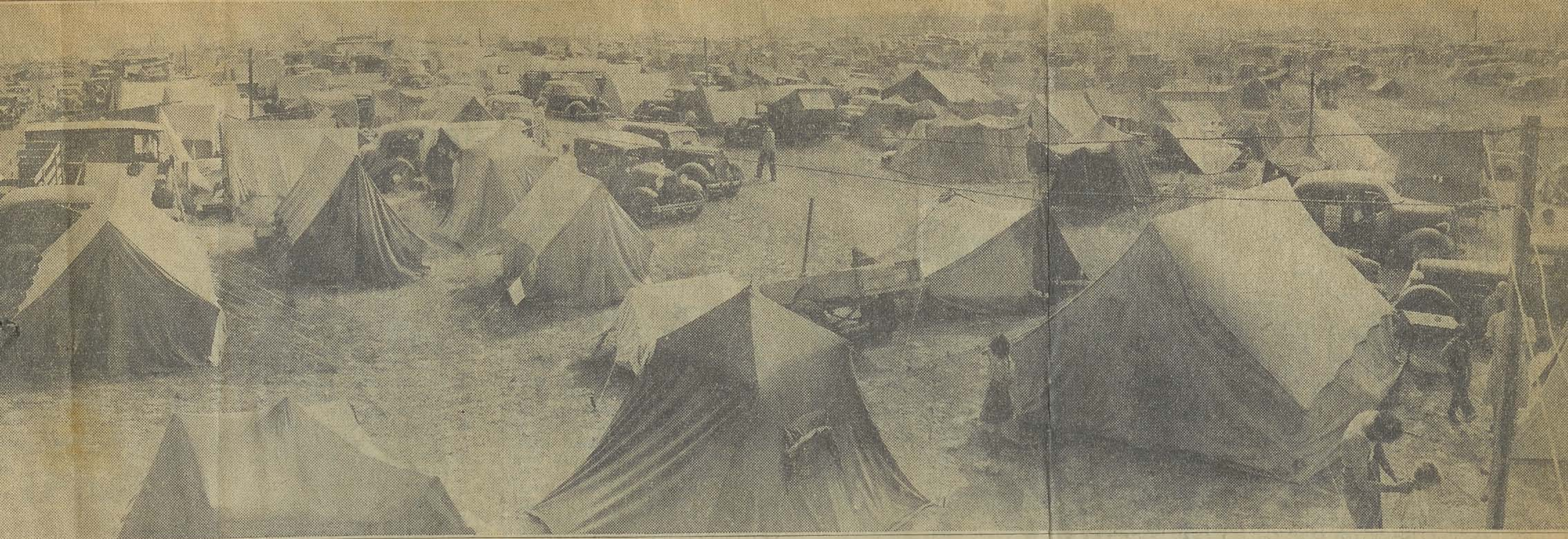
"Please stress that we are not proselyting or attempting to proselyte anyone," he said. "Our purpose is to try to persuade people to read their Bibles and put their own interpretation on what they find. Truth will reveal itself to them if they will give it an opportunity."

CITY-WIDE CANVASS

He predicted 20,000 Witnesses will engage in the city-wide canvass today and probably more on subsequent days. This work is done during mornings and convention sessions are in the afternoons.

Today's convention schedule also includes the welcome of National Chairman H. C. Covington at 3:45 p. m., Rutherford's address to the theocratic conventioners at 4 p. m. and announcement of convention activities by T. J. Sullivan. The evening session will begin at 7 p. m. with songs and an outline of zone and regional servants' duties.

In commenting on convention attendance, Knorr noted special trains from New York, Boston and Washington, each bearing 900 delegates arrived yesterday, as did a chartered bus from Pennsylvania.



TRAILER CAMP FOR DELEGATES

About 10,000 members of Jehovah's Witnesses, who brought trailers and tents, are camped on Schuetz road, west of Lindbergh boulevard while attending the convention. In the foreground at right, a little boy is being given a hair-cut by his father before going to the convention.

convention in his pick-up truck from Sonoita, Ariz. Eight persons rode on benches in the back of the truck. His 480-acre ranch is named "Kingdom Ranch."



A woman delegate buying a copy of "The Watchtower," official publication of the sect.

cycle for the convention.



SISTERS

Mrs. Mildred Kyle (left) of Ocean, Ind., and Mrs. J. V. Nisley of Defiance, O., at the Arena. Mrs. Kyle has been a member of Jehovah's Witnesses for 17 years and Mrs. Nisley for 10 years.



Miss Elma Ross of North Fork, W. Va., has been a Witness for four years. Her father was a Dakota Indian.





Barbara Sue Duke, 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duke of Indianapolis, Ind., draws water at the trailer city. The water is shipped out from St. Louis.



THE ICE WAGON WAS A POPULAR SPOT

This, indeed, was a welcomed sight at a trailer camp—an ice wagon. It was a veritable oasis yesterday among a crowd of sweltering Witnesses, and did a thriving business as the sun bore down. As usual, a group of youngsters was around begging for chips of ice.

Pictures by Globe-Democrat Staff Photographers



A. M. Kirby, 63 years old, of Westville, Okla., showing how he pulled his hand-made trailer cart from his home, a distance of 400 miles.



They Disagree With Jehovah's Witnesses

Not the best of prospects for Jehovah's Witnesses who have been canvassing the city are the residents in the 6400 block of Nashville avenue. Here are some of the neighbors grouped around a sign on a lawn at 6419 Nashville. (Star-Times Photo.)

Defends Jehovah Sect Patriotism

Judge Rutherford Insists Members All Respect U. S. Flag

Asserting Jehovah's Witnesses have "the highest respect for the American flag—certainly far more than some of the country's fanatical flag wavers who are always first to break its laws," Judge J. F. Rutherford, leader of the sect, made an unscheduled address yesterday before 75,000 or more conventionites at the Arena and denounced their "so-called patriotic" critics.

The 72-year-old former Missouri attorney for the first time spoke without prepared text, and, likewise for the first time, spoke to his followers in an intimate and jovial vein. His jibes frequently evoked waves of laughter from a usually silent audience, but his thrusts at "demon enemies" were nevertheless severe.

"All Jehovah's Witnesses love the flag of the United States and the nation for which it stands," he said as the crowded thousands cheered. "We put forth every effort to obey every law it stands for.

WILL NOT BOW

"But I say to the world that by God's grace they will not bow down to anything.

"That flag means liberty to do what is right and does not mean license to compel people to violate their own consciences.

"Now let the roosters crow over that one.

"Some business men may criticise that statement, but I'm sure all old-time Missourians believe in doing what's right.

"You Witnesses are carrying a message. You are liberators of the people because you carry God's message. Because you are carrying this message and attempting to do what is right, some of these unscrupulous things that walk on two legs smash windows and destroy our property."

do what is right, some of these unscrupulous things that walk on two legs smash windows and destroy our property."

WINDOWS BROKEN

The latter was in apparent reference to the first police report of disorderly conduct at the three-day-old convention. Two Witnesses reported rocks had been thrown through windows of parked automobiles, bearing Rutherford address announcements, Thursday night in the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Louisville avenue.

"We serve notice that we will not be intimidated by the devilish work of those who hate righteousness and love iniquity," Rutherford added.

He likewise took exception to references to Jehovah's Witnesses as a "sect" or a "cult," to the amusement of his hearers.

"Jehovah's Witnesses can be referred to neither way," he said. "Both words imply a human leadership. You have no human leader on earth—I'm just one of the boys fighting along with you."

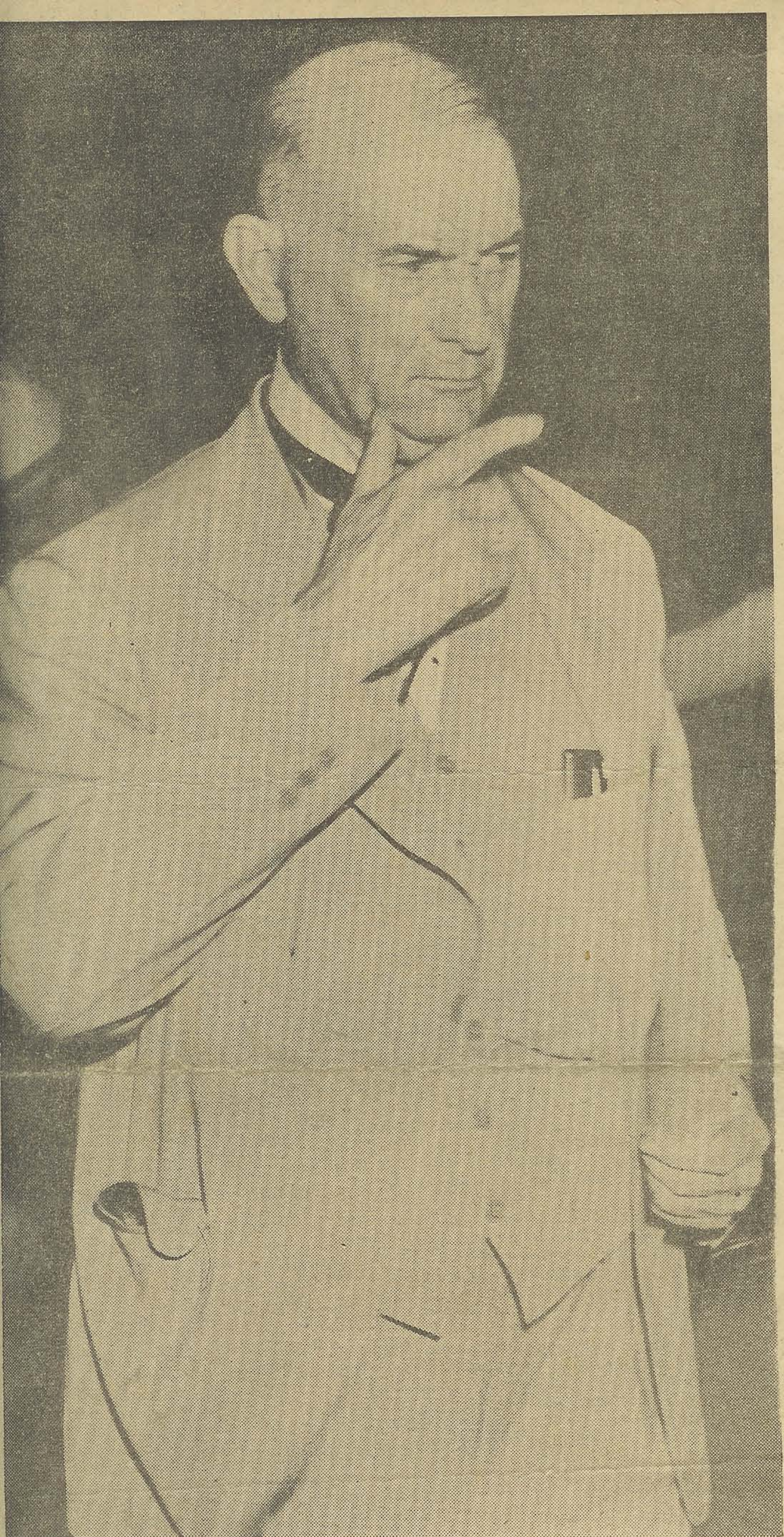
Principal instructional session of

the afternoon, which again jammed the Arena and two flanking buildings, was headed by G. Suiter, New York office representative of the Witnesses. His words were directed at "pioneers," full-time field workers for Jehovah's Witnesses throughout the nation.

N. H. Knorr, convention servant, urged the pioneers to devote at least 150 hours to field work each month.

"Those who work full time will receive the Lord's blessing, who in turn gives them the provisions they need," he said.

Approximately 200 young men formed a human lane by locking hands and standing along the driveway from Oakland to one of the Arena entrances for more than two hours to guarantee safe passage for the automobile bearing Judge Rutherford. They allowed only one other automobile beside Judge Rutherford's to pass.





The Bicycle Squadron

Staff Sergeant Thomas Young of headquarters squadron, Jefferson Barracks, examines one of the fifty new bicycles purchased for runners and messengers at the army post here.

Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford, head of Jehovah's Witnesses, gives an address to the members of the convention at the Arena at 3 p. m. today on "Comfort All That Mourn" and again Sunday morning on "Children of the King." Since 1916, Rutherford, a former Boonville, Mo., judge, has been the sole prophet and spokesman of Jehovah's Witnesses. The religious group was originally founded by Charles Taze Russell, a Pittsburgh haberdasher, who died in 1916. This picture was taken at the Arena this week as the judge spoke. (Star-Times

70,000 Hear

Jehovah Chief

The fall of the Axis powers and democracies and the rise of the theocratic state were prophesied yesterday by Judge Joseph F. Rutherford, leader of the Witnesses of Jehovah, in his major address to the sect's theocratic assembly at the Arena.

Rutherford spoke before a crowd that packed the building and almost every available bit of space on the grounds outside. It was a crowd the "convention servant" who introduced Rutherford termed as "upwards of 100,000."

Police and reporters estimated the gathering at "upward of 70,000." They put the overflow, which listened to the speech via a public address system on the parking lots and lawn at about 50,000 and said about 25,000 more were crowded in the building.

TALK QUIETS CROWDS

When Rutherford began his address at 3 p. m. a hush fell over the Witnesses, who listened intently to their leader. Prior to that they had been swamping the concession stands to purchase popcorn and soda pop. Many in the outdoor audience wore paper hats to protect themselves from the hot sun.

The "Judge" read from a printed copy of his talk and at the conclusion ordered his followers to take 500,000 copies of the speech and distribute them throughout the city immediately. A rush for the pamphlets began shortly thereafter and within 15 minutes men, women and children armed with the tracts were pouring out of the Arena grounds.

Rutherford, whose speech was entitled "Comfort All That Mourn,"

recalled the prophecy of Daniel about two mighty opposing ruling powers, "the King of the North" and the "King of the South."

USES PARABLES

He termed the Axis power as the "King of the North" and the democracies as "the King of the South." The former, he said, is violently opposed to the theocratic government of Jehovah by Christ Jesus, and opposes and persecutes the servants of God who proclaim the coming and universal rule of the kingdom of righteousness. Politics and religion are the chief elements of the 'King of the North.'

"The 'King of the South,'" he said, "is the world-ruling power which rules and claims to rule the nations of the earth in the name of democracy. The dominant elements of such power are commerce, politics and religion. Today it is represented in the British Commonwealth of Nations and the nations supporting that empire. It does not advocate and support Jehovah's theocratic government by Christ Jesus, and is therefore against the kingdom of God; as the King declared: He that is not with me is against me."

Both of the 'kings,' Rutherford said, fight desperately for world domination and are working great destruction upon the nations, increasing their burdens and causing them to mourn. Witnesses, he warned, must remain neutral, must not take sides.

COMMANDS NEUTRALITY

"Almighty God commands that they must remain entirely neutral in the controversy. Because his covenant people are servants and representatives of the Theocracy, they must hold themselves entirely aloof from warring factions in this world."

By way of amplification, the speaker explained that "the prophecy shows that in order to fight against the totalitarian forces of 'the north' 'the king of the south' becomes more and more dictatorial. Both adopt the same method or means, and as a result the burdens of the people greatly increase and they mourn bitterly. Such are the present-day experiences."

While the two 'kings' engage in the "most deadly and destructive war of all times, the God of Heaven is setting up His kingdom which shall never be destroyed," the speaker declared.

Rutherford said representatives of the Theocratic Government have been called 'the fathers in Israel,' but now they will be called representatives of Christ the King, presumably Jehovah's Witnesses.

CROWD ORDERLY

The crowd was orderly, although many of the listeners obviously were curiosity seekers. A fist fight took place Friday night outside the Arena fence when several young men demanded that Witnesses sleeping on the lawn inside the fence salute a banner reading "God Bless America," which one of the youths was carrying.

Rutherford was applauded four or five times during the course of his talk.

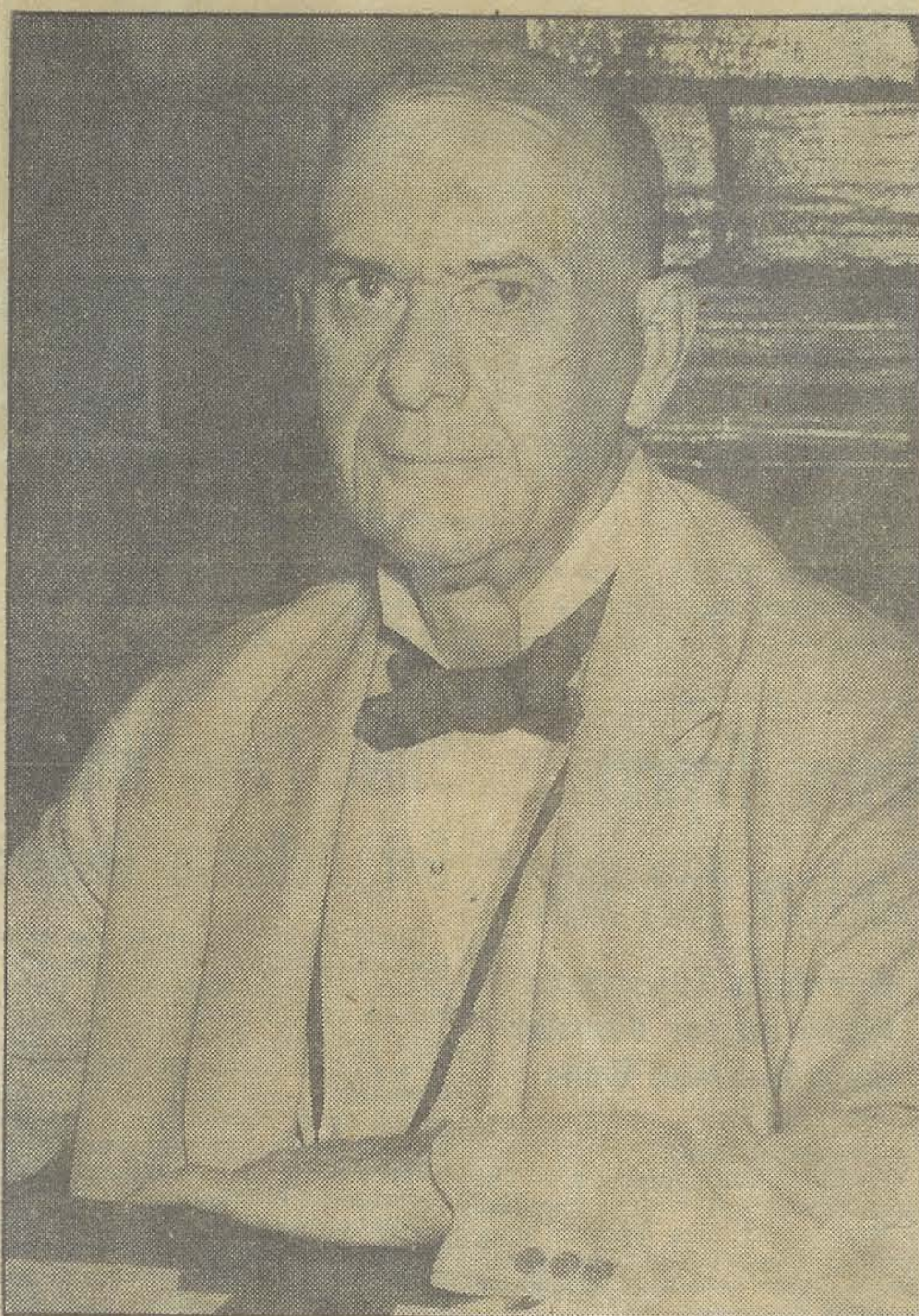
Stores and filling stations near the Arena did a rushing business. It has been estimated that the Witnesses have consumed more soda pop than any convention group that ever has visited the city. Even drinking water was sold for five cents a jug yesterday.

Judge Rutherford, Leader of Jehovah Witnesses, Got His Start in St. Louis

Got Inspiration at Bible Meeting

FORMED GROUP AT BOONVILLE

Associated With Witnesses in East in 1910



JUDGE JOSEPH F. RUTHERFORD

First Newspaper Interview in Three Years

JUDGE KEPT UNDER GUARD

He Objects to Being Called Sect's Leader

Joseph F. Rutherford, leader of the obedient multitude of Jehovah's Witnesses here for their national convention, began his career as a "follower of Jesus" in St. Louis 37 years ago, he disclosed to the Globe-Democrat yesterday in the first interview he has given a newspaperman in three years.

"One night in 1904," he said, "I wandered into a meeting of 150 Bible students on Grand avenue and came out so impressed and delighted I returned to Boonville, Mo., where I was practicing law, and formed a Bible study group there."

Six years later, in New York, he became associated with Jehovah's Witnesses as a lecturer and subsequently traveled every state in the Union and spoke in many large cities in Europe and Asia.

BACK IN CITY

His present five-day visit to St. Louis during the convention is the longest since "that Bible meeting, which was the turning point of my career."

Although his word is absolute among the more than 500,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in United States, Judge Rutherford objects to being called their leader—"I'm just a follower of Jesus like the others, fighting alongside them"—and prefers to be known only as president of the three corporations which do the Witnesses' publishing.

"The many thousands that have come to St. Louis have not come on my account, but only that we together might bear testimony and encourage people who have been misled and deluded by false doctrines in order that they might see that the theocratic government is

the hope and only hope of the human race," he said.

LAWYER 17 YEARS

"For 17 years I practiced law in the courts of Missouri, including the courts of St. Louis, state and federal. The title 'judge' some people still apply to me comes from my service as special judge under the provisions of the Missouri statute. But Christian people are not interested in men, but their interest is centered in the theocratic government and the truth concerning that government is proclaimed by men in all walks of life and one does not stand above the other."

"To me, titles mean nothing," he laughed. "It doesn't matter whether I'm called Judge or jackass."

But from the Witnesses Rutherford is accorded a mixture of reverence due a divine agent, and

honor and gratitude that would go to a teacher and way-shower.

Conventionites deny they fear for his safety, but the tall, soft-spoken man is guarded with a thoroughness rivaling the Secret Service ring about President Roosevelt.

His place of abode in St. Louis is a secret which officials preserve with a polite "I don't know."

When he arrives at the Arena a double line of husky well-instructed men link arms to shield him. Efficient flying squads block any approach near him in the building, while at least two guards are on duty at each of four landings in the Arena stairway leading to the fourth-floor administration offices. The Judge takes the elevator. Others must walk, explaining their mission four times en route. Few survive the gauntlet.

Rutherford said he tries to make

himself available to any Witness, but his subordinates explain they are seeking to conserve his strength.

Before and after addresses from the speakers' platform, the guard is even tighter. He arrives only seconds before he begins to talk and is whisked to an automobile before the concluding applause dies out. The audience is cautioned not to whisper. Ushers have turned back everyone seeking to enter the auditorium with a pop-bottle in his hand. No one not wearing a "convention servant" ribbon is permitted within 50 feet of the platform.

Asked to explain the basic differences between beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses and other religions, Rutherford said:

"They are diametrically opposed and therefore can't be classified together; just as you can't add a man and a house and have two men or two houses. Christianity, as opposed to 'churchianity,' means doing the will of Almighty God. Religion is the doing of anything that is contrary to the will of God."

NO HUMAN LEADER

Along the same lines, Rutherford explained Jehovah's Witnesses could be called neither a sect, cult, church nor organization.

"The first two imply a human leader, which I am not," he said. "The latter two definitions are improper because our work is an individual mission, individuals serving God in their own way."

As to a literal interpretation of the Bible he asserted "we simply do what it says and don't try to twist out interpretations that will serve evil ends. There are no contradictory parts of the Bible."

Rutherford was reluctant to talk of international affairs, since he

Continued on Page 4A, Column 5.

Rutherford Got Start in St. Louis

Continued from First Page.

felt an expression of personal opinion might be construed as reflecting opinions of members "who must, in all things, follow their own consciences."

"We naturally are neutral in the European crisis," he said. "Jehovah's Witnesses are fighters, but not with carnal weapons. It's truth that makes people free, and we are fighting with truth as our weapon. We couldn't conscientiously fight for the German, Italian or such governments, since we are devoted to fighting for the theocratic government.

CALLS HITLER CRAZY

"Hitler," he commented, "is as crazy as a bedbug. He is under the control of demons as sure as the sun shines, but there isn't the remotest chance he will succeed in his purpose of dominating the world."

Jehovah's Witnesses, as ordained ministers, are exempt under the Selective Service act, he said, and have been specifically covered in an exemption order by Gen. Hershey, Selective Service director.

Rutherford, often rumored to be wealthy since he took up residence in "Bethsarim," \$75,000 mansion near San Diego, Cal., laughed at a question pertaining to his personal income.

"If I died tomorrow," he said, "I wouldn't have money enough to buy a coffin. I imagine though, I could depend on the society buying me one. I haven't showed a net personal profit in anything all my life."

NO COLLECTION TAKEN

Collections are never taken among Jehovah's Witnesses, he added, and they never ask for money.

"As the scriptures declare, all the wealth belongs to Almighty God," Rutherford declared. "We are engaged in His work and He sees to it that a sufficient amount of money is provided to carry on the work. He does not beg nor do His faithful followers.

"Every one of Jehovah's Witnesses serves freely and without hire. Every person attending this convention, who is able, pays his own expenses and if he has a little surplus he joyfully gives that to help pay the expenses of the poor, and here we are feeding many poor people free of charge."

He declined to disclose the society's income from literature on the ground that the "religions never submit a public statement on theirs."

The California mansion, he went on, is not his property. "It was bought and is owned by the Watchtower Society," he added. "I have no property myself. Even the copyrights from my books and pamphlets are held by the society. I occupy Bethsarim only by virtue of being president of the society, and succeeding presidents will be entitled to do the same."

CERTAIN UPHEAVALS

Judge Rutherford at one point elaborated on references many convention speakers had made to the end of the world being near. Asked for a date prediction and probable first manifestations of destruction of the world, he said:

"It isn't wise to try to fix biblical prophecies to a calendar, but there are certain upheavals in civilization predicted in the Bible after which the final stage then will begin. The word 'then' is not amplified, but there are many indications a trend toward Armageddon began in 1914. Coincidentally, that marked the beginning of Hitler's evil career.

"The earth will not be destroyed physically. There will always be an earth and there will always be men on it because God put them there. Furthermore, the term destruction does not mean the end of life. It simply means the triumph of Christ's will over evil. The destruction will be a displacement of evil in the same way that light displaces or dissipates darkness.

DIFFERENT MANNER

Judge Rutherford's quiet voice and friendly manner is wholly unexpected in view of the unquestioning promptness with which he is obeyed by subordinate officials. As Rutherford's spokesmen, the commands of his subordinates are likewise law to members.

Their obedience is astounding. At one night session the chairman inside the Arena announced over the loudspeaker the Arena grounds were badly littered with the refuse of a thousand tincan meals and beds made of newspapers. He requested it be cleaned up. Instantly every person within hearing sprang into action and the debris vanished in seconds.

In the lobby of the Arena, during speeches, booth attendants growl a firm "Be quiet" if any stranger has the effrontery to interrupt their listening. Throughout the convention, no smoking has been permitted.

Witnesses' Meeting Reaching Its Climax

*Crowds Increase — At Least 1,500 Treated
For Exhaustion and Injuries.*

Slammed doors and verbal rebuffs failed to discourage the Jehovah's Witnesses as they continued calmly today about their business of evangelizing St. Louisans in the morning and listening to discourses of their leaders at the Arena in the afternoon.

Heat alone proved an irritant to the conventioners. Crowds that jammed the Arena and its grounds resembled giant fields of wheat as thousands of palm fans whispered in the still air. Some 1,500 or 1,600 men, women and children were treated yesterday for heat exhaustion, cuts and abrasions in the first aid unit, located in the basement of the Arena.

10,000 Cases of Pop Already Consumed At Arena Meeting

The thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses at the Arena are consuming a veritable flood of soda pop. The local bottling firm that has the contract for all soda sold at the convention told the Star-Times today the Witnesses had ordered 15,000 twenty-four-bottle cases for the five-day meeting and had already used 10,000. As thousands of Witnesses pour into the city for the climax of the convention, the company's officials were convinced the consumption would be doubled—to a total of 480,000 bottles of pop.

There are fifty-five or sixty doctors and nurses, all Witnesses, in constant attendance at the station. Busily they loosen the clothing of the sufferers, put cold water and ice on them, then let them stretch out on tables and benches.

Rutherford to Speak.

Today's meeting and tomorrow's are expected to be the biggest of the convention. Thousands of Witnesses were pouring into the Arena grounds early this morning. Their leader, Judge Joseph F. Rutherford, is scheduled to speak at 3 p. m. today and again at 11 a. m. tomorrow.

The judge's speech yesterday was one of the high points of the convention so far. Speaking without prepared copy, he was informal, intimate and jovial as he answered those who have criticized the Witnesses for not saluting the flag. "Everyone here loves the flag and the things for which it stands," he said. "And everyone here puts forth their honest endeavors to obey every law for which it stands. Demonized, unreasoning flag-wavers are the first ones to violate the laws for which the flag stands."

"Doesn't Mean License"

"Doesn't Mean License."

The speaker was firm in his determination that the Witnesses would not salute the flag.

"I say to the world," he thundered, "that we will not bow down to anything. That flag means liberty to do what is right; it does not mean license to compel people to violate their own consciences."

Alluding to the smashing of windows in the automobiles of two of the Witnesses yesterday, Rutherford said, "You Witnesses are carrying a message. You are liberators of the people because you carry God's message. Because you are carrying this message and attempting to do what is right, some of these unscrupulous things that walk on two legs smash windows and destroy our property."

Another minor outbreak at the Arena occurred last night, when several youths carrying flags on which was blazoned "God Bless America" taunted the Witnesses, many of whom were asleep. Guards attempted to silence the boys, and a scuffle ensued in which Ralph George Nenninger, 3102 Oregon avenue, suffered lacerations of the scalp. He was taken to the City Hospital and then booked with Walter Krysl, 4733 Milentz avenue, at the Hampton avenue station, suspected of affray. The youths were released this morning.

Witnesses for the most part continued to ignore the rebuffs, feeling that St. Louis was on the whole less violent toward them than some of the other cities they have visited.

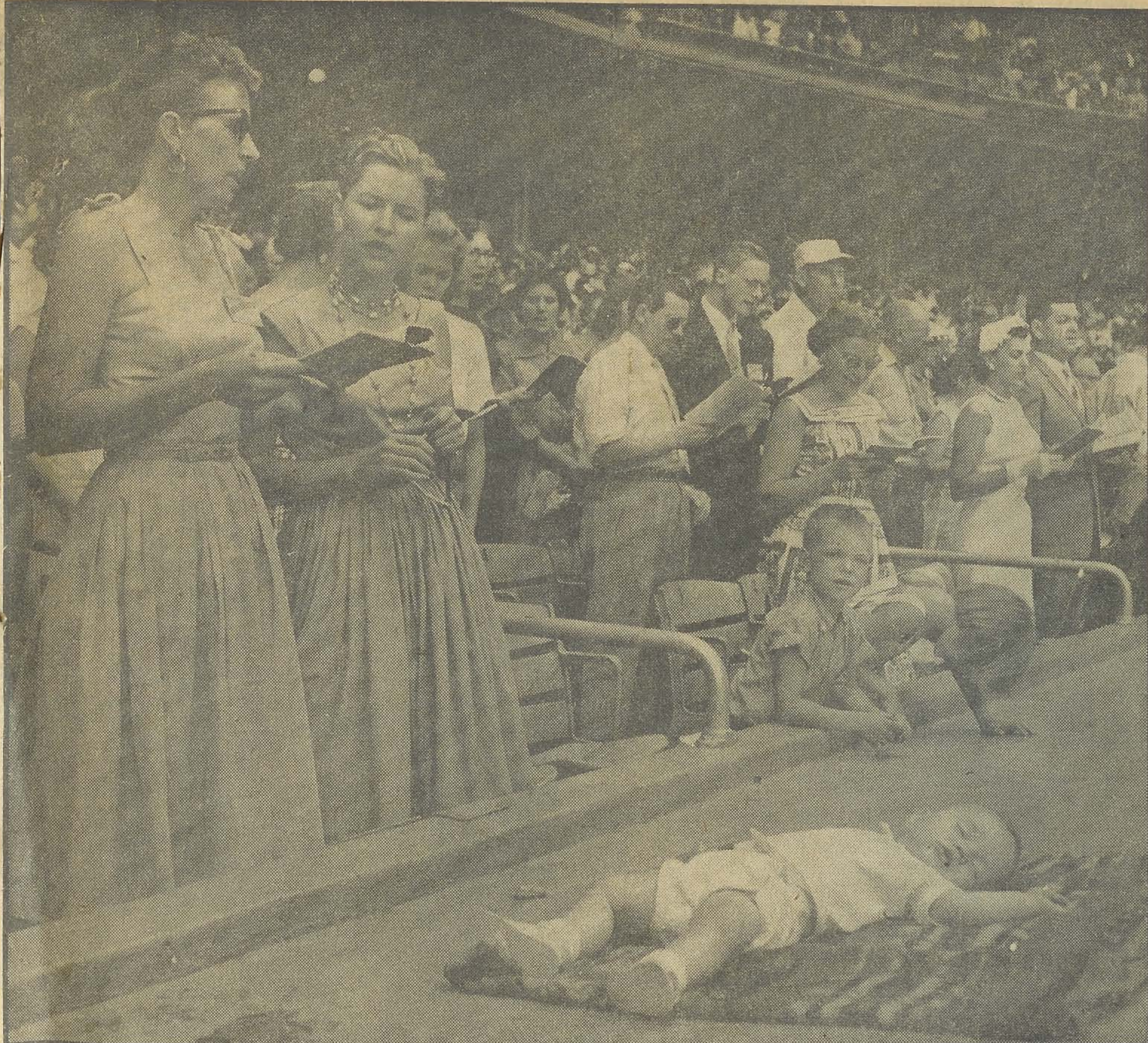
Door Slammed in Face.

Said one Indiana woman, "I went to several houses where the door was slammed in my face, but that's nothing. I've been in mobs and been arrested for the work of the Lord. St. Louis has been nice to us, compared with other towns."

A young girl from Texas explained that she thought St. Louis "nice" but disliked the St. Louis weather. "Everyone seems to think we want to convert them to our beliefs, though," she said. "That isn't true. We're doing what you would do if you saw an automobile heading for a washed-out bridge. We're warning of what is to come."

Support for the Witnesses came today in a letter written to the Star-Times by M. L. Rupp, "founder and leader of a spiritual organization" known as Soul Science, in which Rupp says: "I consider it a great mistake for St. Louisans to object to 50,000 people coming here to advertise God; for that is what the Witnesses are doing. And folks, God can't be advertised too much."

As the convention moves to its close, preparations are almost complete for the "consecration through immersion" to be held tomorrow morning between 7 and 8 o'clock. Several hundred persons are expected to be immersed, the whites at Forest Park Highlands swimming pool, Negroes at a place to be announced later.



.....

Heavenly Lullaby

Lying on blanket atop dug-out, Timothy Porterfield, 7 months, of Los Angeles, is lulled to sleep by the singing of hymns at Yankee Stadium, jam-packed by Jehovah's Witnesses. A touching photo of a Babe in Slumberland. The Polo Grounds similarly was thronged by Witnesses at opening of 8-day assembly.

(Stories on P. 3. Other Photos, P. 3, Center Fold)

(Mirror Photo by Dick McEvilly)

.....

Security Game Paid Out \$50,000



Pretty Jean Wynn has a special "Witness stand" atop the Yankee Stadium dugout.



Baby Claude's stroller serves as lunch counter for Olga Lieber, of Montreal.



Goings-on at the rally don't preclude nap time for Robbie, Patsy and Diane Taylor.
(MIRROR Photos by Art Abfier)

180,000 Jam First Rally of Witnesses

By MIKE PEARL and
HARRY ALTSHULER

More than 180,000 persons, many of them from foreign lands, jammed opening sessions of the International Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds yesterday. It was the largest conclave ever held in the city.

Final attendance count at the Stadium was 117,295, with another 62,996 at the Polo Grounds.

DURING A downpour which began at 4 p.m., those seated in the bleachers either used makeshift head-coverings or moved out, but there was no fuss and no interruption of the program.

Nathan H. Knorr, president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, speaking then, called the showers "a little blessing," and continued to hand out diplomas to Bible school graduates who came up under the shelter of umbrellas.

"We are certain that Jehovah is here with us and that we are here by Divine will," the crowd was told by Milton G. Henschel, of Brooklyn, permanent chairman.

He spoke from behind a yellow

canopy at second base. Rising nearly 12 feet behind the speakers' platform were man-made mountains 70 feet long, 40 feet deep, and adorned with evergreens. Through them ran a waterfall, emptying into a 5,000-gallon pool at third base.

CHIEF EVENT of the first day's proceedings was a graduation exercise for 103 students, many from foreign lands, of the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead, South Lansing, N. Y. The students will go out to missionary assignments in Samoa, Sierra Leone, India, Laos, Japan and other countries.

In many lands, missionaries are regarded as propagandists, the graduates were warned by Fred W. Franz, vice president of the Watchtower society.

"You will distinguish yourselves from missionaries of such kinds," he said.

The school has graduated more than 3,000 missionaries since it opened in 1943. All members of the sect are regarded as ministers; it is estimated that world-



Five-year-old Linda Anderson, of Los Angeles, totes 'n' tilts as she sips her milk while carrying tray in Stadium mess tent.

Continued on Page 4



Coffee-and-cake time makes the Stadium seem just like home for Mrs. Earsel Nalley (left) and her mother, Mrs. Denny Gumm, 82. They came here from Enid, Okla., to attend the giant rally.

(Mirror Photo by Art Abfler)

(Other Photos on Page 1 and Center Fold)

BARGAIN STADIUM MENUS

Witness' Painter Feeds a Multitude

Breakfast menu: eggs and sausages, tomato juice, hot cereal, coffee cake, coffee or milk. Served to 12,660 people, at 35 cents each.

Obviously, it's no small feat to produce that many breakfasts, and at such a price.

THE MAN WHO managed the job is Shields Halvajian, 48, cafeteria manager at the Yankee Stadium for Jehovah's Witnesses.

And yesterday's breakfast was only the beginning. He also served a 65-cent lunch to more than 30,000, and a 65-cent dinner to some 45,000. The dinner menu included baked ham with raisin sauce, au gratin potatoes, diced carrots, cole slaw, rice pudding, coffee or punch, cakes and ices.

Normally, Halvajian is a painting contractor in Los Angeles. But for the last several world conventions of the Witnesses, he has served as cafeteria manager.

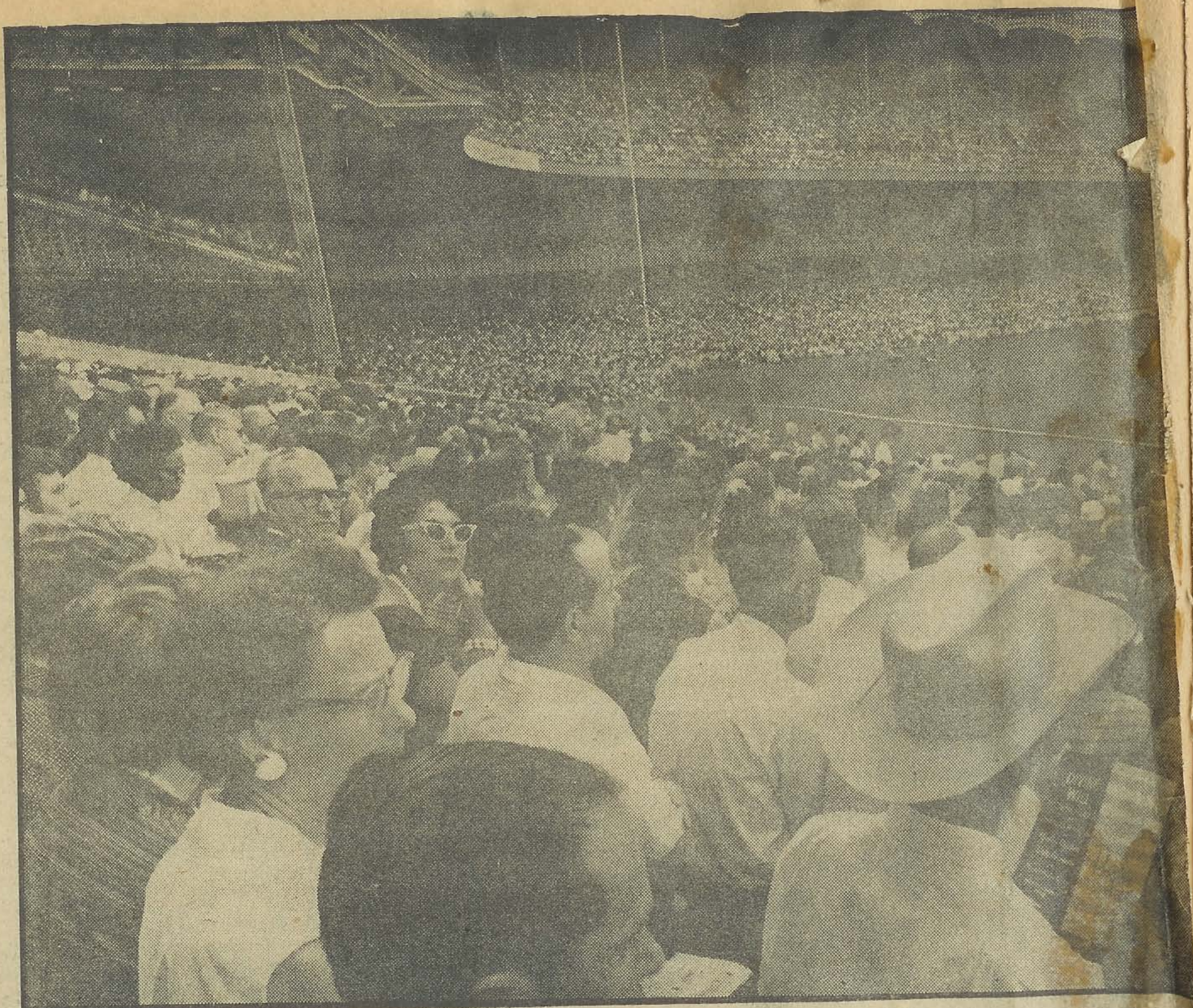
Starting a week ago, he and the 4,500 other volunteers working with him transformed a parking lot outside the stadium into a cafeteria and kitchen, while 78 trucks brought in supplies.

With his wife Betty as secretary, he operates in a tiny office off the kitchen, phones ringing all the time and crises arising for him to solve every minute.

WHAT'S HIS biggest problem? "There's just one problem," he took time to say, "—getting these people fed!"

As to how it can be done, at such prices, he explained: "Because all of us give our time, we can serve the food at actual cost. The rest is just a matter of organization. We start planning far in advance."

The Mirror's Nick Kenny keeps you up to date on Radio and TV. Turn to his column in





MUSIC INTERLUDE. Young women swell voices with thousands of others in hymn session.

Bearing Witness To Faith

Many thousands jam Yankee Stadium (right) as Jehovah's Witnesses begin 8-day Divine Will international assembly. Behind speaker's platform (in-field) is picturesque setting of miniature mountains, plus evergreens and waterfall. Similar colorful sets were featured at Polo Grounds, where thousands of other Witnesses also held rally.

(Mirror Photos by Dick McEvilly and Art Abfier)



SPIRITUAL VIEWPOINT. In right field at Stadium, Charlotte Heller gets closeup via binoculars as Ada May awaits her turn.

MUSIC INTERLUDE. Young women swell voices with thousands of others in hymn session.



Jehovah Witnesses Brave a Storm



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Mrs. George Wezse takes time out from meeting at Yankee Stadium yesterday to feed her daughter, Cathy, 2.

A total of 38,867 Jehovah's Witnesses sat in the rain at Yankee Stadium yesterday and heard their leader, Nathan H. Knorr, president of the Watchtower Society, warn that "the struggle is on between the political powers and the religious powers to capture the minds and loyalties of the people."

At the second day of the assembly at the Stadium, Knorr announced the publication of a 380-page index of all matter printed by the society between 1930 and 1960. The index took two years to compile, he said.

Society officials reported that 8,500 lunches were served—1,000 more than anticipated. There was also a 40% increase in the amount of fruit sold.

(Other pictures in centerfold)

Hung Jury Ends 59G Tax Trial

A jury disagreement late yesterday ended the trial of Ian Woodner, 53, of 39 W. 67th St., hotel and construction firm owner, on charges of evading \$59,000 in income taxes for 1950 through 1953. The jury reported to Federal Judge Edmund L. Palmieri it could not reach a verdict.

UN Slight God, Witnesses Told

The United Nations was scored yesterday at the opening session of the United Worshipers Assembly of the Jehovah's Witnesses as an organization "torn by strife, quarreling and warfare."

That criticism was voiced to more than 25,000 members—men, women and children—under a hot sun in the Yankee Stadium by Milton G. Henschel, assembly chairman and a member of the Watchtower Convention's headquarters staff.

Cites Crucial Point

"The nations have not taken Jehovah into consideration," Henschel said in the opening address of the six-day meeting. "They can't hope to attain world unity until they do."

"Let revolution or war break out in any land and immediately nationalistic or political influences push persons of the same religion to fight and kill each other."

"In contrast, Jehovah's Witnesses today cannot under any conditions become divided because of political or nationalistic influences. They must remain true Christians, separate from the world."

The Preliminaries

Prior to Henschel's address, there was singing of Bible songs and a prayer. There were also greetings from Ghana, South Korea, Iceland, Berlin, India, British Guiana and Australia.

A colorful figure among the delegates in his brilliant, hand-woven robes was Theodore Darko of Ghana. He reported that 8,172 Ghanians, or one in every 800 members of population, were



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)
Janet Eva, 5, and brother Jimmy, 2, from Karns City, Pa., have a snack as Jehovah's Witnesses take over Yankee Stadium.

Witnesses. Of the sect, Darko said: "We are the only people on the face of the earth. There

are no differences. We are one in worship."

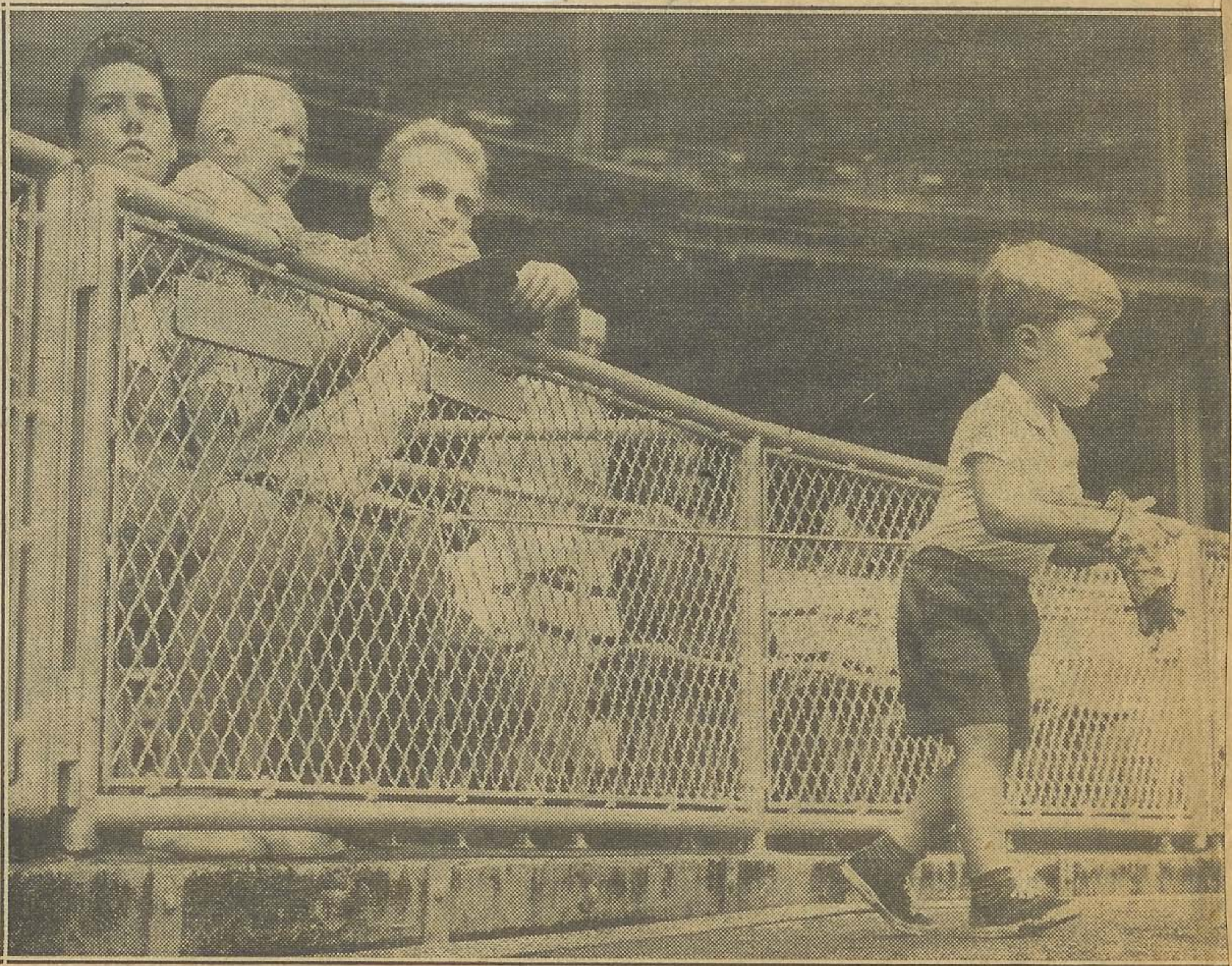
(Other pictures in centerfold)



(NEWS fotos by Dan Farrell)

A Chirpy Swallow

Year-old Sharon Hutson turns from mom's feeding to favor fotog with one of her queen-size smiles. They were among Jehovah's Witnesses attending meeting at Stadium. See foto right . . . —Story



Clay Kleim's peregrinations are limited by cord neatly planted by mom and dad.



DAILY NEWS



NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

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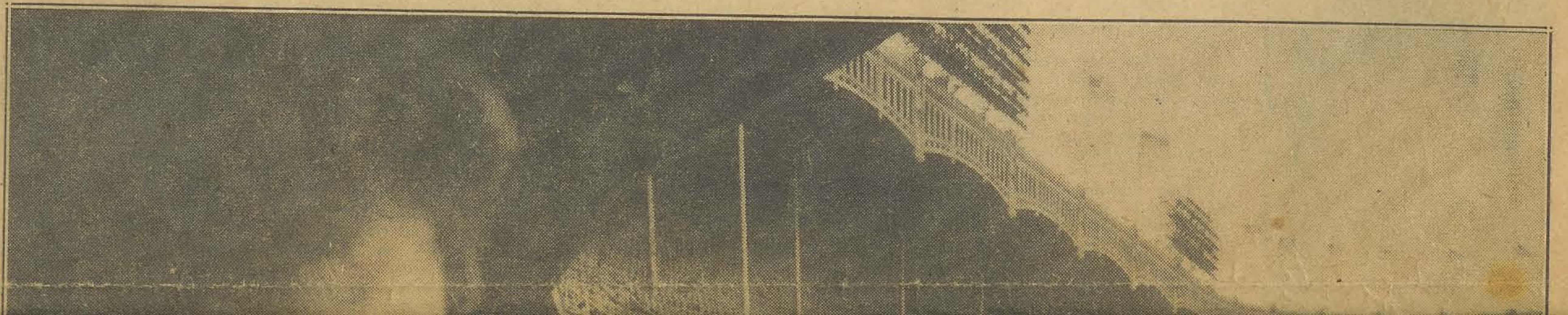
Vol. 42. No. 309

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New York 17, N.Y., Wednesday, June 21, 1961★

WEATHER: Cloudy and mild.

UN DENOUNCED TO WITNESSES





Witnessing the Opening.

Stadium: Throng heard Milton Henschel, Assembly chairman, denounce UN as "torn by strife." Holding her prayer book, Alice Dawson, 11, of Pittsburgh, looks on as crowd of more than 25,000 Jehovah's Witnesses attends opening meeting of six-day conclave at Yank

(NEWS photo by John Duprey)

—Story p. 5; other pics, cent

Keep Blood Ban, Witnesses Told



(NEWS foto by Dan Farrell)

Despite yesterday's rain, this Witness is staying in his first row seat at the Stadium.

Jehovah's Witnesses, at their first 1961 Assembly in Yankee Stadium, were warned yesterday to heed the sect's prohibitions against giving or receiving blood transfusions, and against eating meats not properly drained of blood.

"Blood forbidden as food, is not authorized by God for administration to another person under the guise of medical treatment to sustain life," Nathan H. Knorr, president of the Watchtower and Bible Society, told 44,280 Witnesses present for the third day of the convention.

(Other pictures in centerfold)

Fined \$350 on 32 Bldg. Violations

Frederick Burke of 815 E. 166th St., Bronx, owner-agent of a building at 205 W. 148th St., was fined \$350 in Housing Court after pleading guilty to 32 multiple dwelling violations.

SDAY, JULY 31, 1958

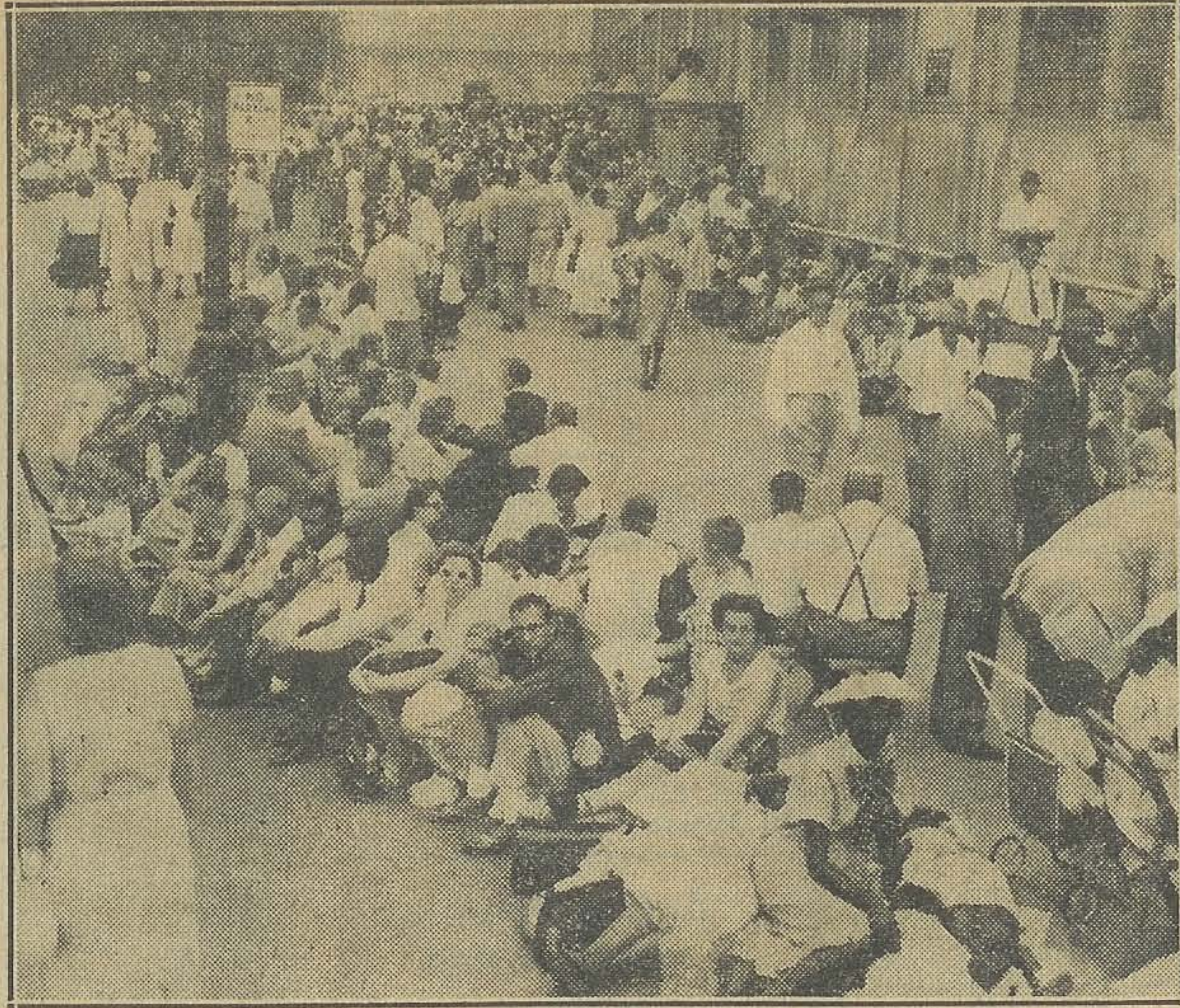


(Air view from NEWS plane by Gordon Rynders; Bill Warner, pilot)

Mass Dedication. Long lines of Jehovah's Witnesses file into the cool water of Orchard Beach, Bronx, to be baptized as ministers. The 7,136 who came forth to dedicate their lives to Jehovah God may constitute the largest mass baptism of modern times. A crowd of 10,000 viewed the impressive ceremony. The baptized ranged from a boy, 9, to a man, 84. —Story p. 5; other pic. p. 1



(NEWS foto by Seymour Wally)



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Some of the 53,805 Witnesses who couldn't get in Stadium listen to speeches, piped to them over loudspeakers. At Polo Grounds, Mrs. Earlene Steele (←) of Seoul, Korea, was one of the happy throng. Meanwhile little Barry Olmsted (→), from Canada, was having difficult time finding his folks' luggage at stadium.



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

253,922 Witnesses Top All Crowd Records Here

In the greatest outpouring of humanity ever recorded here for a single meeting—a turnout that exceeded their own expectations by some 50,000—a record 253,922 Jehovah's Witnesses yesterday jam-packed Yankee Stadium, the Polo Grounds and areas adjoining both ball parks for the final sessions of their eight-day Divine Will International Assembly.

Despite the hot sun and the almost frightening press of the crowds—the largest religious gathering in modern history, according to the Witnesses—the worshipers quietly brought to a close the biggest, most orderly series of meetings in New York history. In fact, Deputy Police Inspector Patrick Kirley reported, the Witnesses had not caused one bit of trouble—only the size of the crowds presented a problem to the police.

Break Graham's Record

Inside Yankee Stadium, 122,814 Witnesses jammed every seat and spread through 10 rope-divided sections of the outfield. The previous crowd record was the 100,000 attracted to the Stadium by evangelist Billy Graham on July 20, 1952.

Outside, another 53,805 under tents and on the sidewalks and streets followed the program by means of loudspeakers, making

the total Stadium audience 176,619.

At the Polo Grounds, where the proceedings were carried by direct wire, there were 65,755 in the stands and field and another 11,548 outside. The day before, the Witnesses had piled 69,000 inside, but the spillover crowd had been only 359.

With more than 7,000 attendants at both fields, the crowds were directed in efficient fashion,



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)
Anton Wittemann, 71, from Frankfurt, Germany, at Witness meeting in Stadium. He's former commander of Hindenburg dirigible. He and 23 others survived the disaster.

and the count was taken efficiently, too. A total of 4,784 volunteer workers were assigned to every section of the stands, the corridors, playing fields and outside areas to make the census.

Some taking notes, others protecting their heads with umbrellas, the Witnesses listened intently as Nathan H. Knorr, their leader, delivered a 30-page talk in the Stadium. Knorr is president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, governing body for the Witnesses.

Nineteen times, his followers interrupted the hour-long address with applause as Knorr warned

of imminent doom for this world.

Emphasizing that "we know not the day or hour but the world's end is near," Knorr told the delegates from 123 countries:

"It is evident that government of the earth by man has not been the best form of rulership. Today we have the accumulated results of man's government of the earth and its inhabitants, and those results are not good. . . .

"The fact remains that government of the earth by man has resulted in a terribly divided world, and the race of mankind faces self-destruction by the inhuman weapons of its own manufacture."

Attacking organized religions for their roles in both the League of Nations and UN, Knorr asserted:

"Let Christendom's churches, Catholic and Protestant, cooperate now with the United Nations as they will, and pray for its success in staving off a third World War. The United Nations will no more have success, it will no more have the blessing and cooperation of God's kingdom than its predecessor did, the blasphemous, abominable League of Nations."

Says Witnesses Won't Rebel

In making "a personal decision to avoid suffering the final disastrous consequences of government by human rulers," Knorr said, there is no thought that Witnesses will "stir ourselves up to revolt against them or will start a revolution or become anarchists."

Either peaceful or violent revolution "would merely substitute the government by other men with a government by ourselves." The only answer, he went on, is to turn to God "for successful rulership."

In the morning, a total of 168,758 had attended the double services at both ball parks. Among them was 71-year-old Anton Wittemann, of Frankfurt, Germany, former commander in Germany's lighter-than-air service, who said he had been the last to escape when the Zeppelin Hindenburg exploded in Lakehurst, N.J., in 1937.

(Other pictures in centerfold)

Affirming the Faith

Into the calm waters of Orchard Beach, Bronx, walk Jehovah's Witnesses. These are new adherents of the sect participating in the mass immersion. Baptism officials, knee deep and waist deep in water, await the approaching neophytes.

(Mirror Photos by Stanley Hall and Art Sarno)





Closeups of neophytes: Immersions for a "new life."



A crowd of Jehovah's Witnesses, many with cameras, are at water's edge watching their co-religionists being baptized.

ESDAY, JUNE 21, 1961



Witnesses have lunch under tents near ballpark.



(NEWS fotos by John Duprey)

Fred Riemenschneider, 76, of Columbus, Ohio, says grace before his noontime meal.

Witnesses have taken under tents near Sunpark.



Kim Konnecke, 6 (left), and sister, Candice, sing hymn.



BAPTISM OF WITNESSES. These women, being ceremonially submerged in the waters of Long Island Sound at Orchard Beach, Bronx, were among more than 7,000 baptized, a record number. Witnesses believe this immersion washes away sins and that they emerge into a new, dedicated life.
(Story on page 3; other photos, page 3, center fold)

(Mirror Photo by Stanley Hall)

INAL  5c

New York Mirror

WEATHER: Mostly fair, with high
80 to 85. Low at night in 60s.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1958

W



RECORD

CROWDS AT

2 WITNESSES

RALLIES

194,418 Hear Knorr

Reaffirm Principles

Story On Page 18—Two Full Pages of Convention Photos on Center Fold

NAL



New York Mirror



WEATHER: Some cloudiness,
warm. High in the mid 80s.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 1958

Including 20-Page Magazine and 12-Page Comic Section

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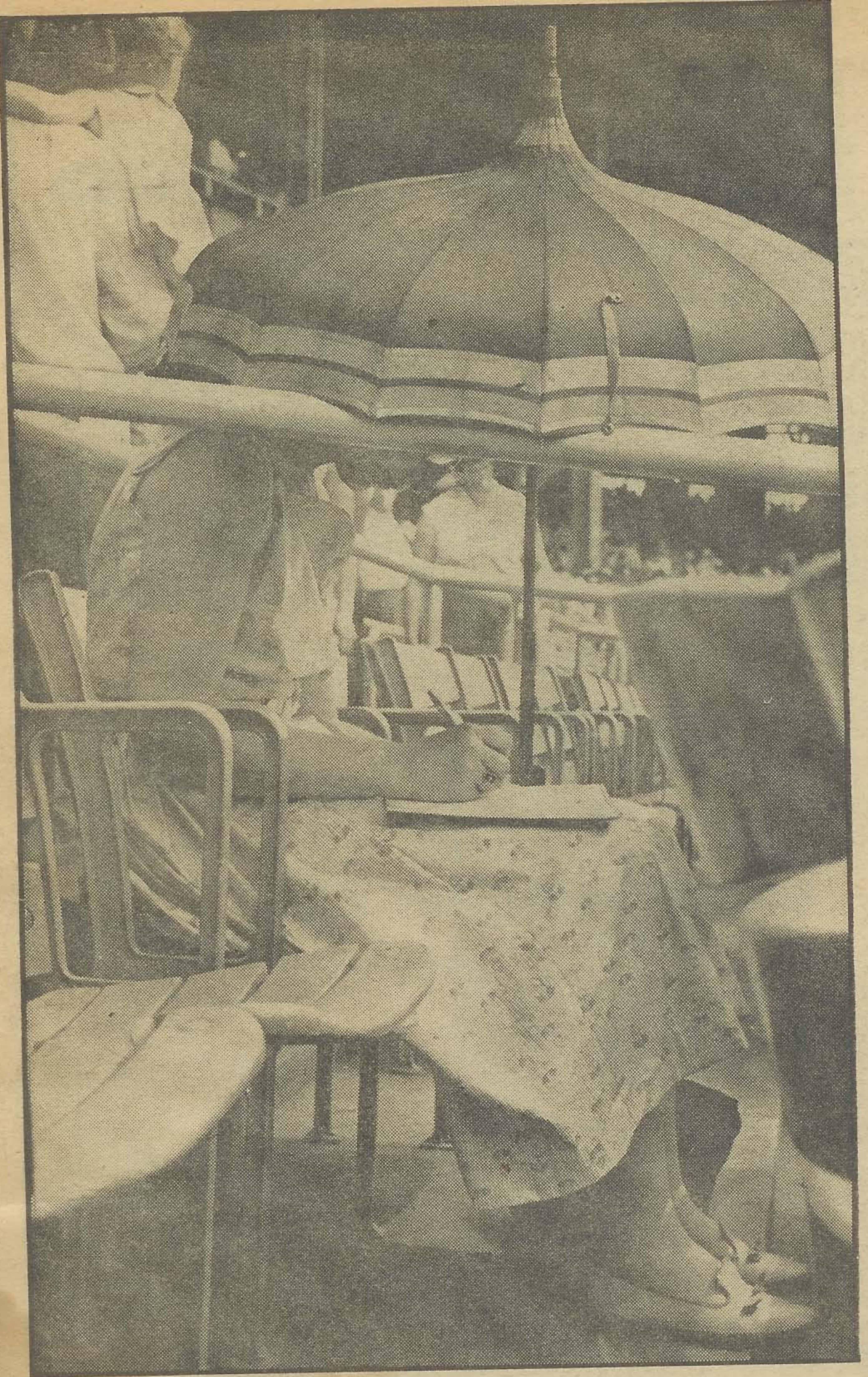
WITNESSES

BEHIND IRON

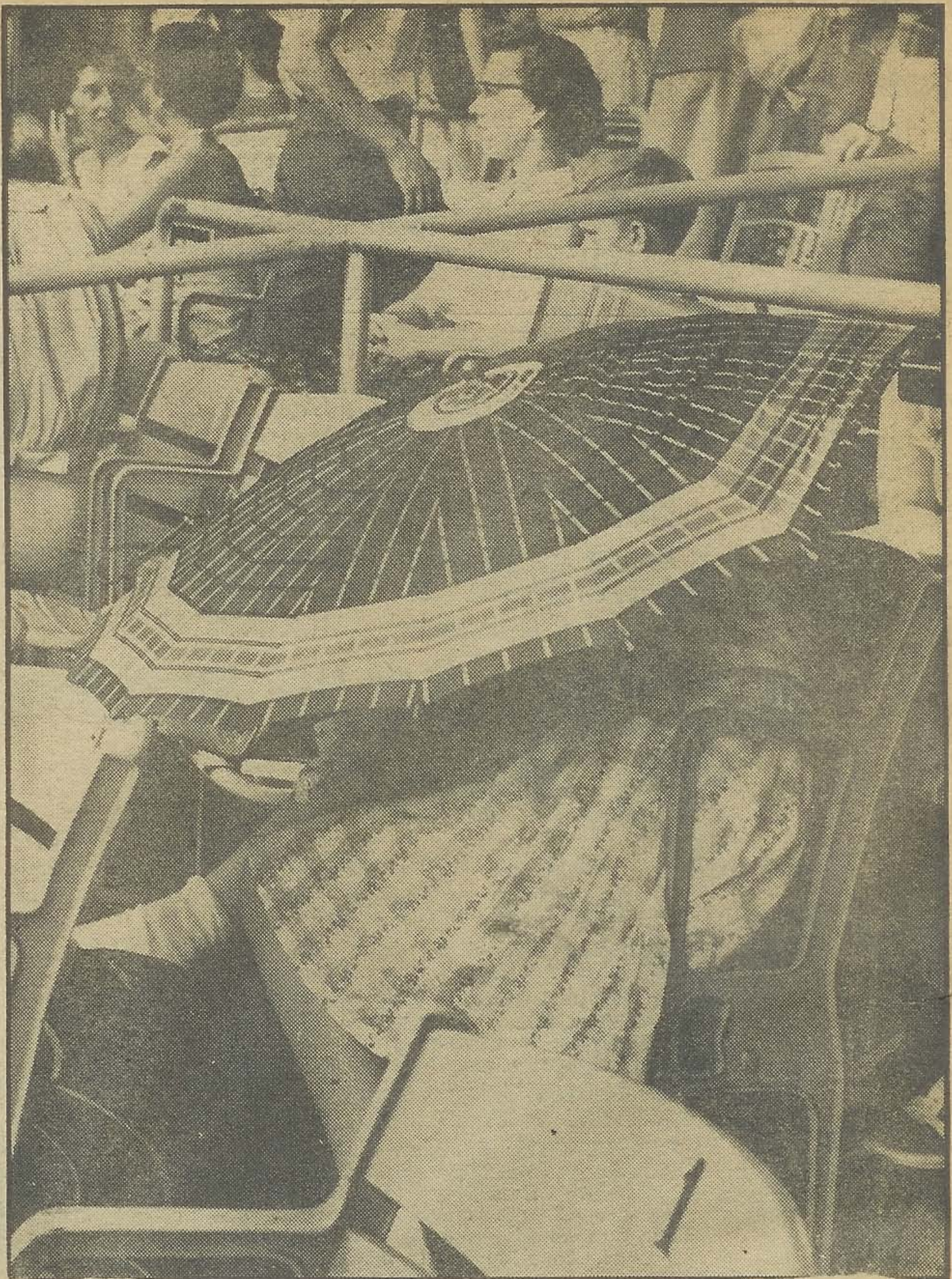
CURTAIN

PLEDGE TO

KEEP FAITH



Before start of proceedings, an umbrella-shaded Witness writes a letter.



She grabs "forty winks" in the shade provided by her umbrella.



Three boys in Stadium seats before session's start, suddenly find themselves transported to the Land of Nod.



Determined to stay awake are Joann Vukov and brother Kip. Huge hats frame cherubic faces.



Harold Chandler, 3, of Michigan, naps on tagged pillow at Polo Grounds.



comfort in a thumb. Ask Donna Young, 3, when she wakes up.



She has a catch-as-catch-can nap on his shoulder by fence outside the Yankee S...







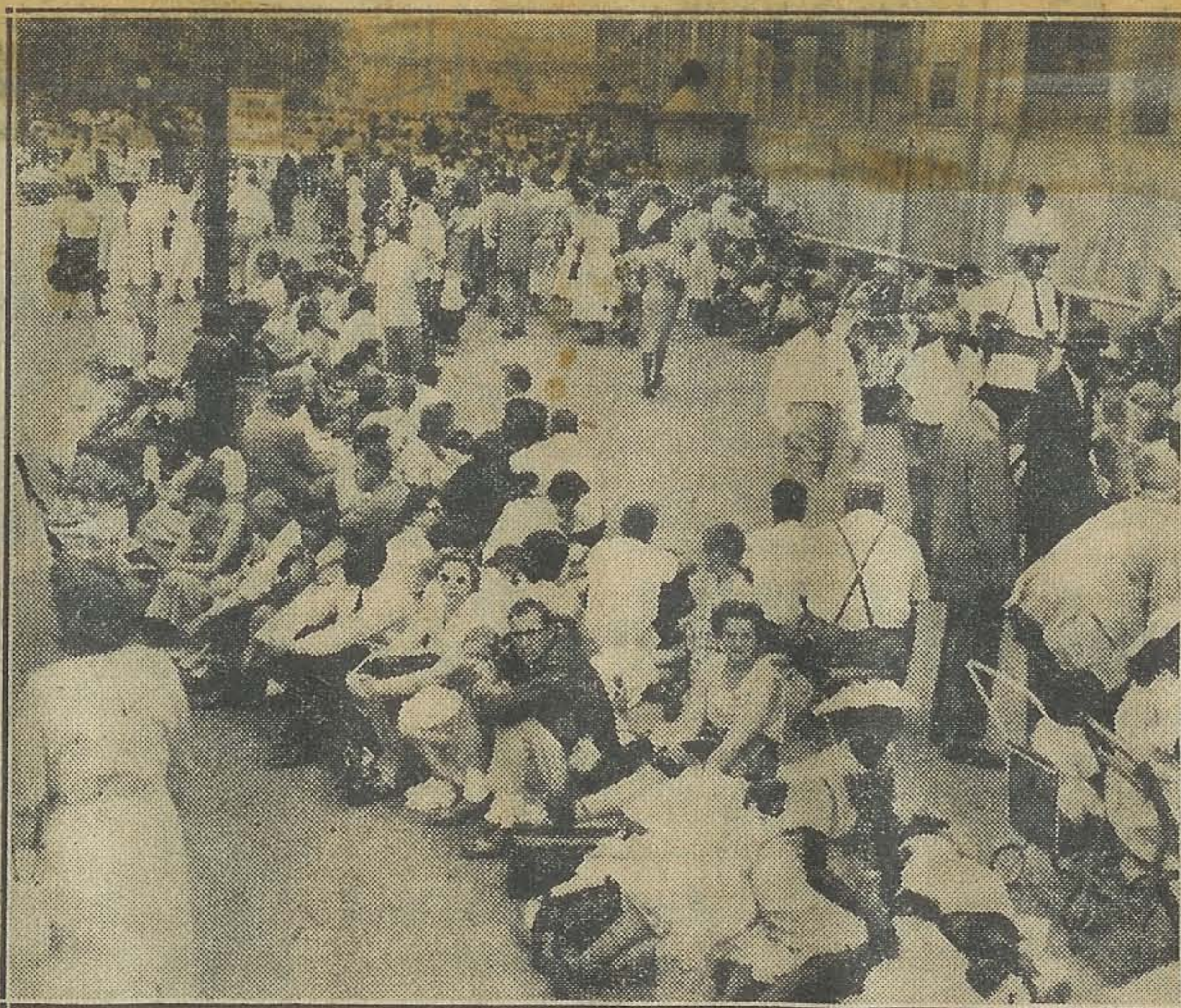
She grabs "forty winks" in the shade provided by her umbrella.

With Faith, Rain or Shine





(NEWS foto by Seymour Wally)



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Some of the 53,805 Witnesses who couldn't get in Stadium listen to speeches, piped to them over loudspeakers. At Polo Grounds, Mrs. Earlene Steele (←) of Seoul, Korea, was one of the happy throng. Meanwhile little Barry Olmsted (→), from Canada, was having difficult time finding his folks' luggage at stadium.



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

7 Firemen Hurt As Witnesses Witness Fire

Seven firemen were injured, one seriously, when a ceiling collapsed as they fought a smoky, three-alarm fire in a row of one-story taxpayers at 161st St. and Gerard Ave., Bronx, shortly after 3 P. M. yesterday.

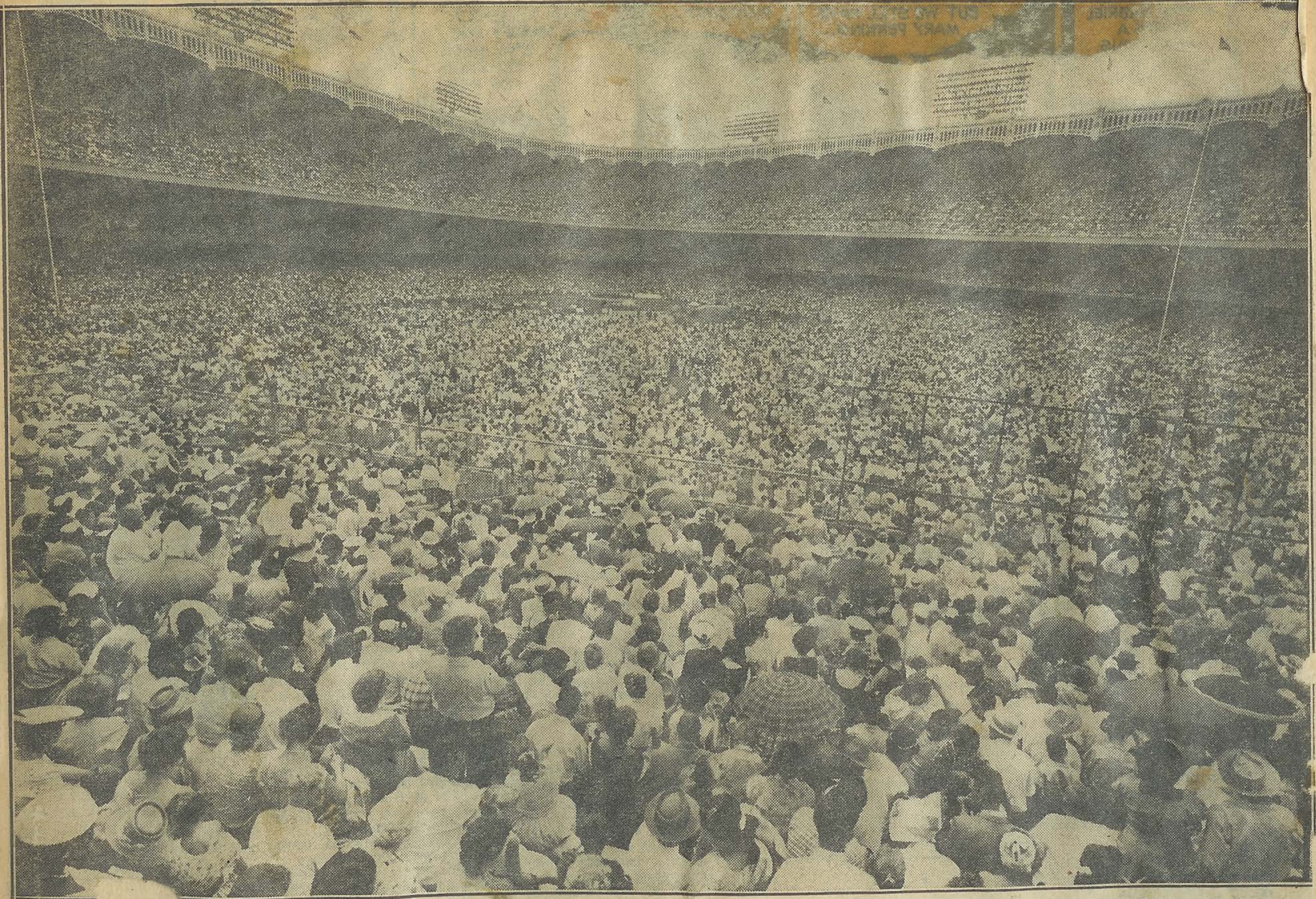
The blaze, one block east of Yankee Stadium, was witnessed by some of the 53,000 persons who formed the overflow at the final session of the Jehovah's Witnesses' convention in the ball park.

Five of the firemen, who were trapped in debris for a short time in the Addie Vallin Restaurant, 75 E. 161 St., were taken to Morrisania Hospital. Two others were treated at the scene.

Most seriously injured was Fireman Pasquale Villani of Engine Co. 71, who suffered second-degree burns of the body. Others hospitalized were Lt. John Rogan and Firemen Leonard Lutz and John Jackman, of Engine Co. 71, and Fireman Vincent Stomato of Ladder Co. 49.

The fire started in the restaurant when a stove flared up and the flames spread to a greas duct. Fifteen employes and the manager, Louis Berger, scrambled to safety.

(Pictures on page 1)



(NEWS photo by John Durren)

(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

As Thousands Worship.

Modern history's largest religious gathering closes at Yankee Stadium on the eighth day of assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses. Sect president Nathan H. Knorr's closing remarks were piped to another vast throng at the Polo Grounds. See foto below . . .





WITNESSES

GROWING,

70,000

EACH YEAR

***Knorr Says: 'Spiritual
Beauty' Is Our Aim***



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Thousands of Witnesses at Fire.

firemen were hurt in blaze in a row of stores at Gerard Ave. and 161st

St
va

Iron Curtain Brethren Greet Witnesses Here

Greetings from Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia were played on recordings yesterday at the Divine Will International Assembly as 174,983 Witnesses gathered in and around Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds.

As a speaker disclosed that 99,000 Witnesses now are living in Russia and other Iron Curtain countries, a translation of the message told the vast audiences:

"Together with you we fight the right fight of faith and keep ourselves unspotted from the Old World. Despite all the great difficulties, persecutions, arrests and reprisals, we have experienced many joys."

ALFRED RUTIMANN, branch manager of the society in Bern, Switzerland, reported that among the 99,000 Witnesses in sub-

jugated countries, there are 200 in prisons in Romania, 30 in Hungarian jails and seven in Czechoslovakian detention camps.

Rutimann's report covered Russia, Poland, Bulgaria and Albania, as well as Romania, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

"Tens of thousands of people in Russia have opened their Bibles again in order to study the truths as published by Jehovah's Witnesses," he said.

Conditions for the believers improved in 1956, when the Stalin dictatorship was denounced, he declared, and sentences of up to 25 years were reduced to "only" six years.

"WELL, THIS improvement is again a thing of the past," he continued. "Witnesses who are

considered as leaders locally or nationally are sentenced again up to 25 years in a labor camp.

"As to Bibles, it is useless to send any to brothers in Russia because they are not allowed to keep them.

"Communism claiming the monopoly of teaching the people, anything else that infringes on that monopoly must be suppressed. We know, of course, that it is the demons that push communism to fight Jehovah's servants, and this all the more as Armageddon is drawing near.

"Communism with its faults, messianic hopes, and its tremendous political power is one of the biggest obstacles the God of this world has placed in the way of the Kingdom."



Weary Rebecca Strauss, 2, of Euclid, Ohio, takes a nap at the Polo Grounds while her mother, Jane, reads from Bible primer.

(Mirror Photo by Arthur Foote)



Friends and relatives of Jehovah's Witnesses who are about to be baptized line up in the water to watch proceedings at Orchard Beach. (NEWS foto by Seymour Wally)

about to be baptized line up in the water to watch proceedings at Orchard Beach.

7,136 Ordained by Witnesses In Record Baptism in the Bronx

In 21½ hours yesterday, 4,199 women and 2,937 men were baptized as Jehovah's Witness ministers in the chilly waters of Orchard Beach, Bronx. The 7,136 total, believed to be the largest mass baptism of modern times, surpassed the Witnesses' own record of 4,640 immersions at their International Assembly here.

Among the newly-baptized were a 9-year-old boy, Bill Petruzel of Brielle, N. J., who said, "I feel I'm going to be a better boy now . . . I will give my life to Jehovah," and 84-year-old John Swabrick of Terre Haute, Ind., who said his wife has been a Witness for 44 years.

10,000 Look On

Police estimated that 10,000 spectators gathered on the boardwalk and behind barricades to watch the baptism. The water temperature was 68 degrees. Many of the 90 official baptizers shivered as they stood in the water waiting for the candidates. They wore bathing trunks and T-shirts; the male candidates wore trunks only; the women wore bathing suits.

Before leaving for the beach in chartered buses yesterday, the

Here Comes 40 and 8

Mock locomotives and other fun-making paraphernalia of the American Legion's 40 and 8 branch will roll through New York streets tonight as a feature of the Legion's three-day state convention, opening at 9 A.M. today at the Hotel Commodore. The 40 and 8 parade will get under way at 7:45 P.M. at 56th St. and Third Ave. and move down Third to 32d St.

candidates were asked at Yankee Stadium by Johan H. Eneroth of Stockholm, Sweden, if "they recognized themselves before Jehovah as sinners who need salvation" and whether they had dedicated themselves "unreservedly to God to do His will . . ."

A Day to Remember

"Remember this day, July the 30th," he told them. "It is the day of your ordination to preach the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven."

At the Stadium and Polo Grounds yesterday, 150,282 Witnesses observed "Fullness of Service Day," with foreign-language meetings, Bible discussions, speeches and reports from delegates of other lands.

(Other pics. page 1, centerfold)



Immersion Set Record.

Ida Bennett of Barrington, N. J., lifts her head out of water at Orchard Beach, Bronx, after being immersed. Along with 7,135 others, she was being ordained as a Jehovah Witness minister yesterday. It was probably the largest mass baptism of our era.

(NEWS photo by Seymour Wally)

—Story on page 5; other pictures in centerfold

KNORR ASKS 'SPIRITUAL BEAUTY'

Cites Growth Of Witnesses

Exclaiming that "Christendom is spiritually starving," the leader of Jehovah's Witnesses told throngs which again packed Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds yesterday that they must work hard "with an aim at spiritual beauty and orderliness."

An estimated 160,000 took their places at the ballparks in 90-degree heat on the fifth day of the Divine Will International Assembly to hear Nathan H. Knorr, president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

TENS OF THOUSANDS of other Witnesses spread out throughout the city to disseminate information about their religious group, which Knorr declared is growing at the rate of 70,000 a year. He said the sect now numbers 787,967.

Before Knorr spoke, various foreign language meetings were held in the Stadium and at the Polo Grounds. Religious discussions were conducted in 16 native tongues, including Russian, by the

assembly visitors from throughout the world.

Knorr said the Witnesses are part of an organization that is "free from what is foolish in God's sight, free from God-denying fools and free from fear of any fierce beastliness in its membership," and added:

"It is walking on the way of holiness, keeping itself free from partnership with this unholy world and unsoiled by any spots from it."

Knorr was cheered when he announced that the Watchtower Society has prepared a publication entitled, "From Paradise Lost to Paradise Returned."

PUBLICATION OF the book, he said, would be "most beneficial in teaching young children," and would assist the ministers to teach their beliefs to Buddhists, African peoples and Spanish-speaking persons.

Each of the Witnesses is a minister. In a mass baptism Wednesday, 7,136 new ones were created. The Witnesses believe that the end of the world is near



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Stadium Study. A junior Jehovah's Witness, 5-year-old Steward Nigh of Buttonwillow, Calif., imagines he's sitting in the Yankee dugout ready for Casey to tell him to step up and belt one. He was attending third day of religious sect's eight-day assembly. After two days of damp and dark weather, the worshippers were glad to see a change—the sun came out in all its brightness yesterday. —*Story p. 4*

Witnesses Will Dip Thousands In an Assembly Line Baptismal



(NEWS foto by Ed Giorandino)

Youngsters are soothed in baby carriages as their folks look down at ceremonies at Polo Grounds.

At the rate of 100 a minute, between 5,000 and 6,000 Jehovah's Witnesses will be baptized today at Orchard Beach, Bronx, in conformity with their belief that complete immersion is a symbol of the death of one life and the beginning of a new one dedicated to God's will.

Spokesmen yesterday said they believe this will be the largest mass baptism of modern times, breaking the record set here at their international assembly in 1953, when 4,640 were baptized.

The baptisms will take place along a strip of beach 416 feet wide, where 90 baptizers will be stationed along 30 immersion lines extending 75 feet into Long Island Sound.

600 Volunteers to Help

The candidates will move into the water two abreast, men in 15 lines, women in the other 15 lines, until they are about waist-high, where they will be dipped under by the baptizers, according to Nicholas Kovalak Jr., a district minister for the Witnesses, who has been making arrangements for the ceremony since June 15.

He said 600 volunteers will help him, including 40 attendants, some of whom he described as "good swimmers." They will be in the water to control the crowds. Park Department lifeguards also will be on hand, Kovalak said.

From Bus to Baptism

The candidates, bringing their own bathing suits and towels, will meet at designated sections of Yankee Stadium at 9 A.M. to receive final instruction. They will travel to the beach in 50 chartered buses. Since baptism comes after a period of personal Bible study, no infants will be baptized.

All baptized Witnesses are regarded as ministers, and in 1953



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

Steven Thompson, 3, of Red Bank, N. J., cools off at Yankee Stadium fountain.

the Supreme Court upheld baptism by complete immersion as a "valid ceremony of ordination" within the law for Jehovah's Witnesses.

Yesterday, the third day of

Witnesses A TA Boon

Members of Jehovah's Witnesses, pouring into the subways to get to and from the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds, poured \$100,000 worth of tokens into the turnstiles from Saturday through Monday, the Transit Authority reported yesterday. On Sunday, 74,279 more persons than average, and on Monday, 114,995 more used the 161st St. station of the Independent subway. The station is near both convention centers. The TA added extra trains and cut down headway.

the eight-day Divine Will International Assembly, 147,135 Witnesses heard speeches and divided into 16 sections for Bible instruction in their own languages at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds. They were told that the Witnesses have added 15,778 members in South America since 1953.

The sect was founded in Pennsylvania in 1884 by a haberdasher, Charles Taze Russell, whose parents were Presbyterians of Scotch-Irish lineage. When he died in 1916, it was said he had traveled more than one million miles, had given more than 30,000 sermons and had written books totaling over 500,000 pages. (Other pictures in centerfold)



BAPTISM OF WITNESSES. These women, being ceremonially submerged in the waters of Long Island Sound at Orchard Beach, Bronx, were among

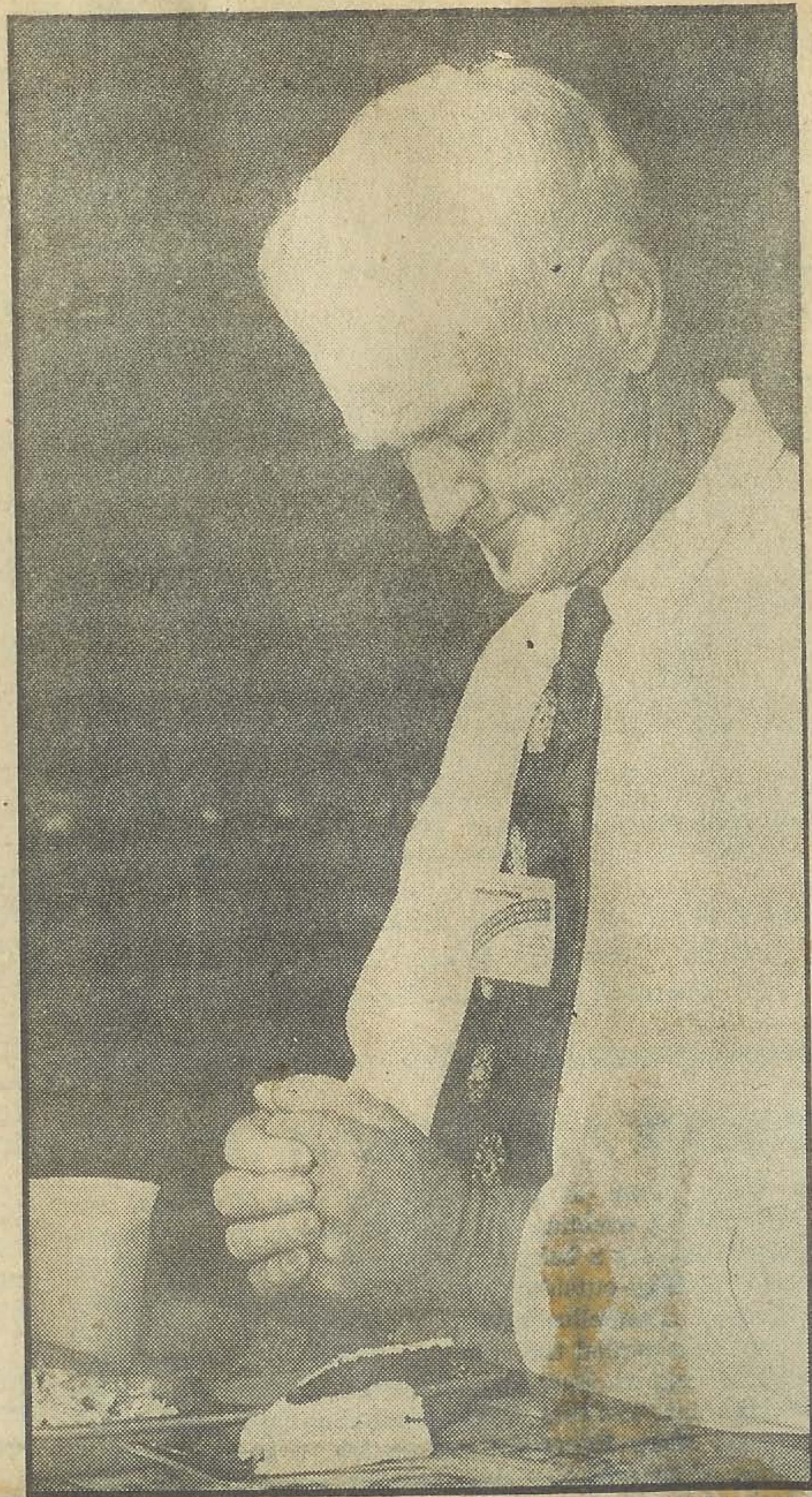
the 7,136 devout baptized, a record number. Witnesses believe this immersion washes away sins and that they emerge into a new, dedicated life.

(Story on page 3; other photos, page 3, center fold)

In Arenas of Faith



IDENTIFICATION on her her back, 17-month-old Ginger Mickler enters Stadium on dad's shoulders.



GRATITUDE. Johnson Henry Cato, a Missourian, says Grace before meal at the Stadium.



TONSORIAL TREAT. During interlude in the raindrops, Scott Fay, 5½, of Tyrone, Pa., has hair cut by Frank Pashley, a Jehovah delegate from Melbourne, Australia. Scott's brother, Danny, 4, was the previous "customer."

Can't Rain-Out Faithful's Fervor

Despite steady drizzle, thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses streamed into Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds yesterday, the second day of the sect's biggest single assemblage ever held here. In Stadium's first-aid room, Dr. Curtis Smith, of Columbus, O., treats bruised leg of Deborah Dunn, shown with mother, Violet, of Ithaca, N. Y.

(Mirror Photos by Wally Akerberg, Leon Hoffman and Art Abfier)





FOR CARRIAGE TRADE ONLY. Mrs. Jean Baubie, of Toronto, Canada, lifts daughter, Diane, 2, from carriage after wheeling it into special area set aside for baby buggies at the Yankee Stadium. Apparently ride ended too soon for Diane.

LOST PERSONS



LOST 'N' FOUND DEPT. With tears streaming down his face, Steve Warden, 2, of Baker, Ore., eagerly reaches out for his dad, who has come to reclaim the lost youngster.

(Story on Page 4)



(NEWS foto by John Duprey)

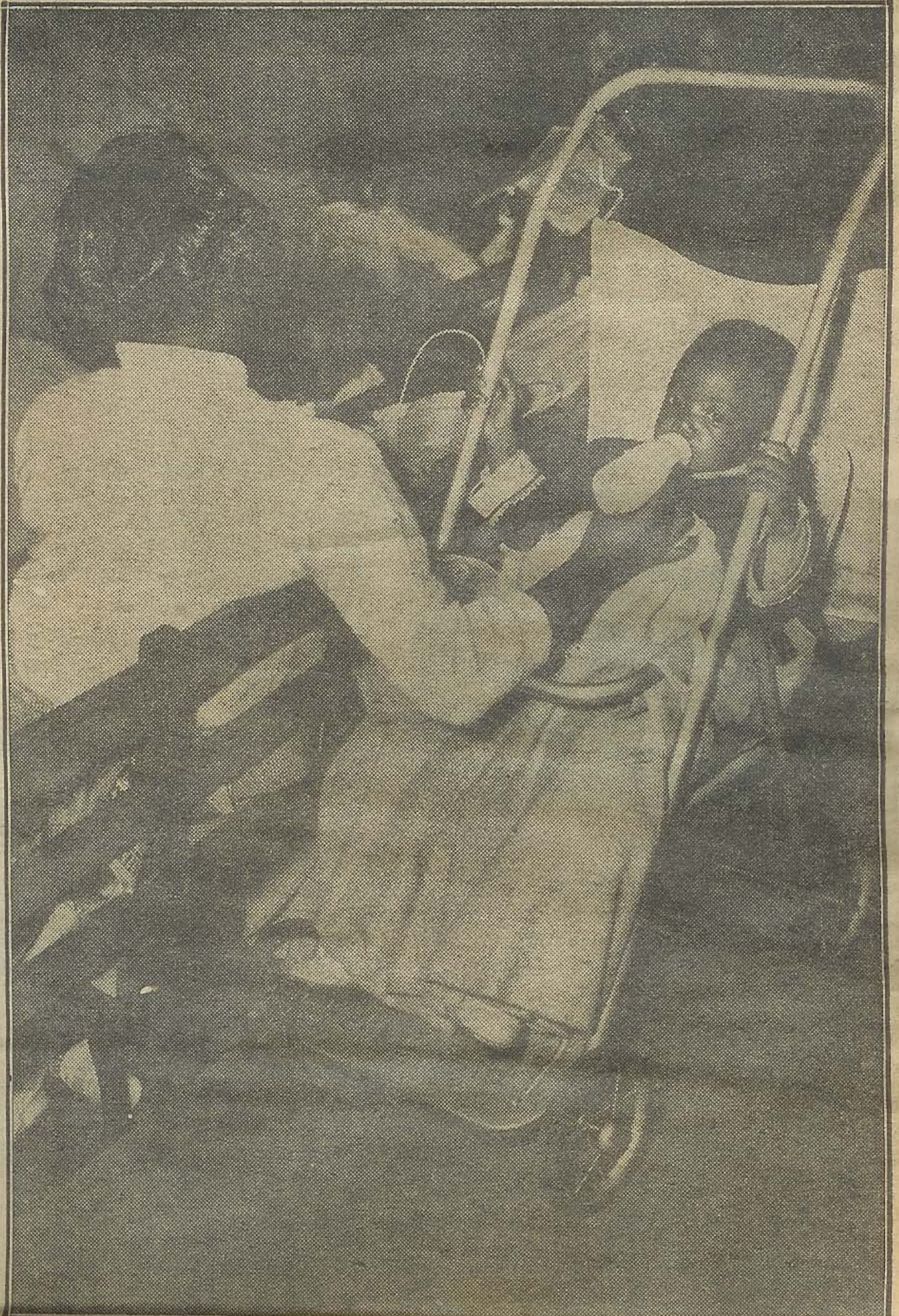
LOST PERSONS



Witnesses Reflect at Meeting

Despite yesterday's grey skies and intermittent drizzle, a throng of Jehovah's Witnesses packs Yankee Stadium for the second day of the religious sect's eight-day convention here. Thousands more jammed the Polo Grounds to hear Exclusive Devotion Day addresses. Ballparks were scenes for Bible instruction in 16 languages.

—Story on page 4



Baptize Witnesses Today

Immersion For 5,000



Mrs. Janet Shakra feeds son in tent which accommodates overflow throng at Polo Grounds.

(Mirror Photo by Stanley Hall)



At Yankee Stadium, Eloise (left) and Elaine Stubbs share a sip in shade of umbrella.

(Other Photos on Center Fold.)

(Mirror Photo by Arthur Foote)

The restless waters of Long Island Sound will give people new life today in perhaps the greatest mass baptism of modern times.

Jehovah's Witnesses, the worldwide organization whose members have jammed Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds and their environments since Sunday, will baptize between 5,000 men, and 6,000 women and children at Orchard Beach in the Bronx.

THE CEREMONY will be at rate of 100 a minute. These believers are dedicated to the proposition that baptism—complete immersion—symbolizes the death of one life and the birth of another.

Five years ago, when the Witnesses held their international assembly here, 4,640 persons were baptized in Riverside Cascade Pool, at 134th St., near Broadway.

Nicholas Kowalak Jr., a district minister of the Witnesses, said arrangements have been in the making since June 15. Yesterday they were complete. Today all that remains is that the candidates meet at designated stations in Yankee Stadium at 9 a.m. for final instruction and the board 50 chartered buses for the trip to the beach.

A corps of 600 volunteers will conduct the immersions and care has been taken to avoid any untoward incident.

THERE WILL be 30 immersion lines, extending 75 feet into the Sound—15 for men and 15 for women. The candidates will walk in pairs into the water until they are waist-deep. Then they will be dipped under by one of 90 baptizers.

In addition to the baptizers, 40 attendants described as good swimmers will be on the alert to assist, if needed. Park Department lifeguards also will watch over the proceedings.

Each candidate will bring his or her bathing suit and towel, and a locker will be assigned at the northern end of the beach.

No infants will be baptized, for the decision is that of the individual after personal study of the Bible.

In day-long seminars and meetings yesterday, 147,135 Witnesses gathered at the two ball parks—86,633 inside and outside Yankee Stadium and 60,502 in and around the Polo Grounds.

'I'm Trying to Save You, Brother....'

The elderly, shirt-sleeved man handing out religious pamphlets on the Bronx subway yesterday admonished one and all:

"I'm trying to save you. When they drop the H-bomb, we'll all be dead, brother."

One of the thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses in town for their eight-day Divine Will International Assembly, he was en route to the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds. Since the convention began Sunday, an average of 180,000 persons have jammed into the two parks each day.

(The Transit Authority said that nearly 200,000 subway fares were registered at the two parks Sunday and Monday over the normal amount of business. The authority estimated that it has taken in nearly \$100,000 in fares from the Witnesses since the assembly began.)

THE MAN HANDED commuters a pamphlet entitled: "This Good News of The Kingdom." It said at one point: "Because Satan is still determined to hold on to his position as 'God of this world,' there must be yet another war between him and Jehovah, and that war is the Battle of Armageddon."

The witnesses believe that the war that will destroy the world as we know it is not far away. This belief has been strengthened by the advent of nuclear weapons.

"Yes, it is good news to know that shortly now wickedness, immorality, fighting, war, yes, and disease and sickness with the accompanying sorrow will pass away forever," the pamphlet said.

The Witnesses have not set a definite time for the end of the world, but "things are now moving toward the last days."

Witnesses Hear Bible Talks in 16 Languages

By LYNN LEONARD

Undaunted by leaden skies and drizzle, Jehovah's Witnesses streamed by the scores of thousands for the second day yesterday into Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds to participate in the reading of Bible lessons.

The second session of the Divine Will International Assembly, observed as "Exclusive Devotion Day," featured speakers delivering Bible talks in 16 different languages. The assembly visitors from all over the world split up into separate language sections for the Scripture study.

Though rain cut the morning turnout considerably below Sunday's record attendance of 180,000, by midafternoon the stands of both ballparks again were jammed.

Attendance reported was 151,003 at both parks. There were 78,144 in the Stadium, 60,535 in the Polo Grounds and 12,324 outside the parks.

IN THE TIERS of bleachers was formed a succession of Bible classes—of contrasting races, dress and dialect. Also there were

groups conducted in sign language.

After the Bible sessions, the Witnesses were told by the leader of the movement that their huge gathering was "a worldwide sign of the last days of this world." Members of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, they believe that the end of the world is near.

Nathan H. Knorr, president of the society, spoke first at the Polo Grounds, then in the Stadium.

THE SIGNS and wonders of Jehovah "portend that we are standing at the threshold of a peaceable, happy and life-giving new world," he said.

"This is the grandest news, though it means we are living at the end of this worry-filled, problem-racked, insane, loveless old world."

He declared that Christendom, with more than 820,000,000 professed Christians and millions of copies of the Bible in many languages, "fails to see the judgment of God written down long

in advance against it and against its friend, this world."

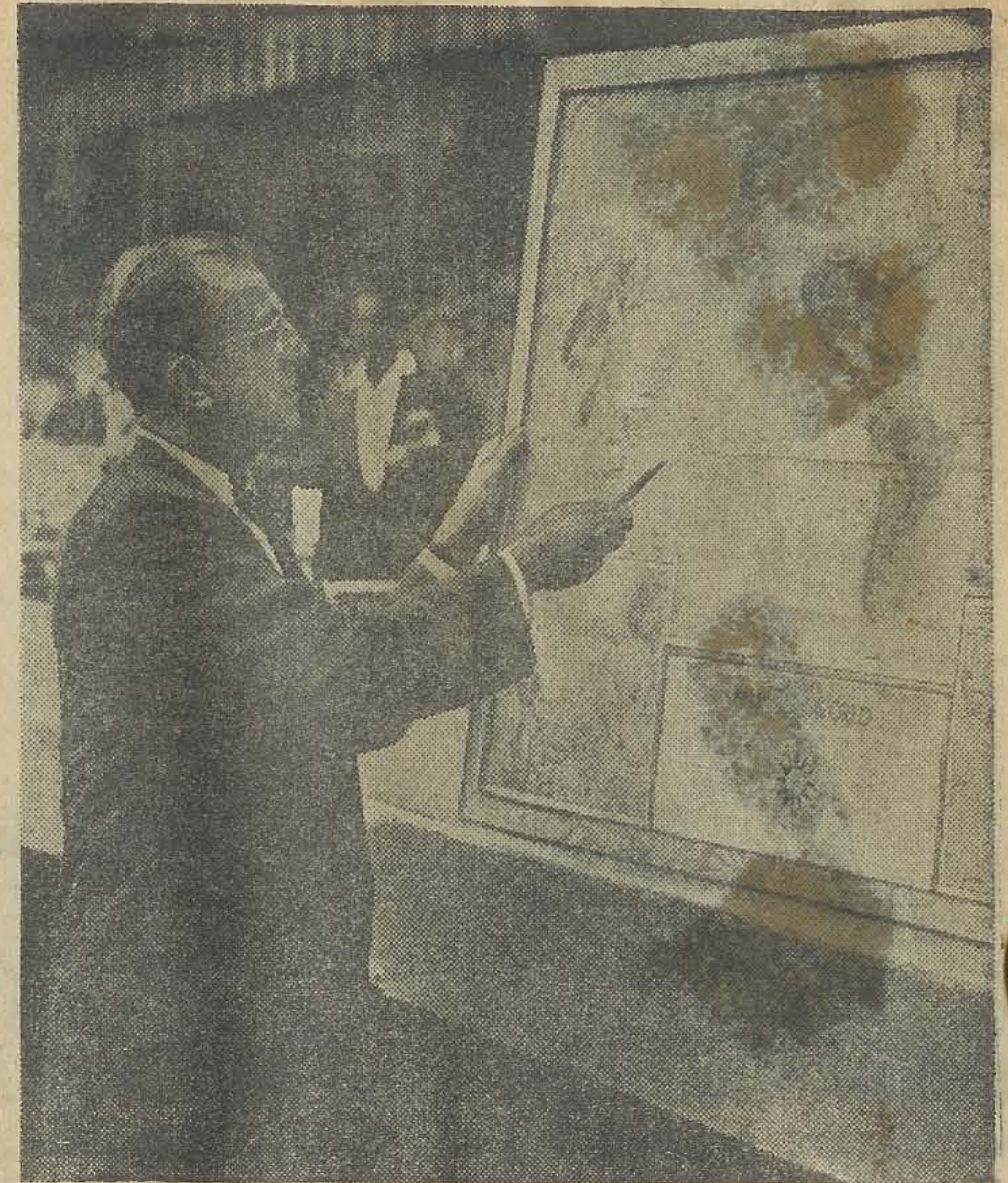
Saying that, "We want the new," he added that "we are eager to leave this old one."

THE COURTS meanwhile went to work on thieves preying on assembly members. Two Baltimore men were sentenced to six months in the workhouse when they pleaded guilty to jostling charges in Felony Court.

Three others were held in \$1,000 each in Bronx Magistrates Court on charges of stealing \$900 worth of clothing from the car of Mrs. Marion White, of 11 Rossman Ave., while she was attending the assemblage.

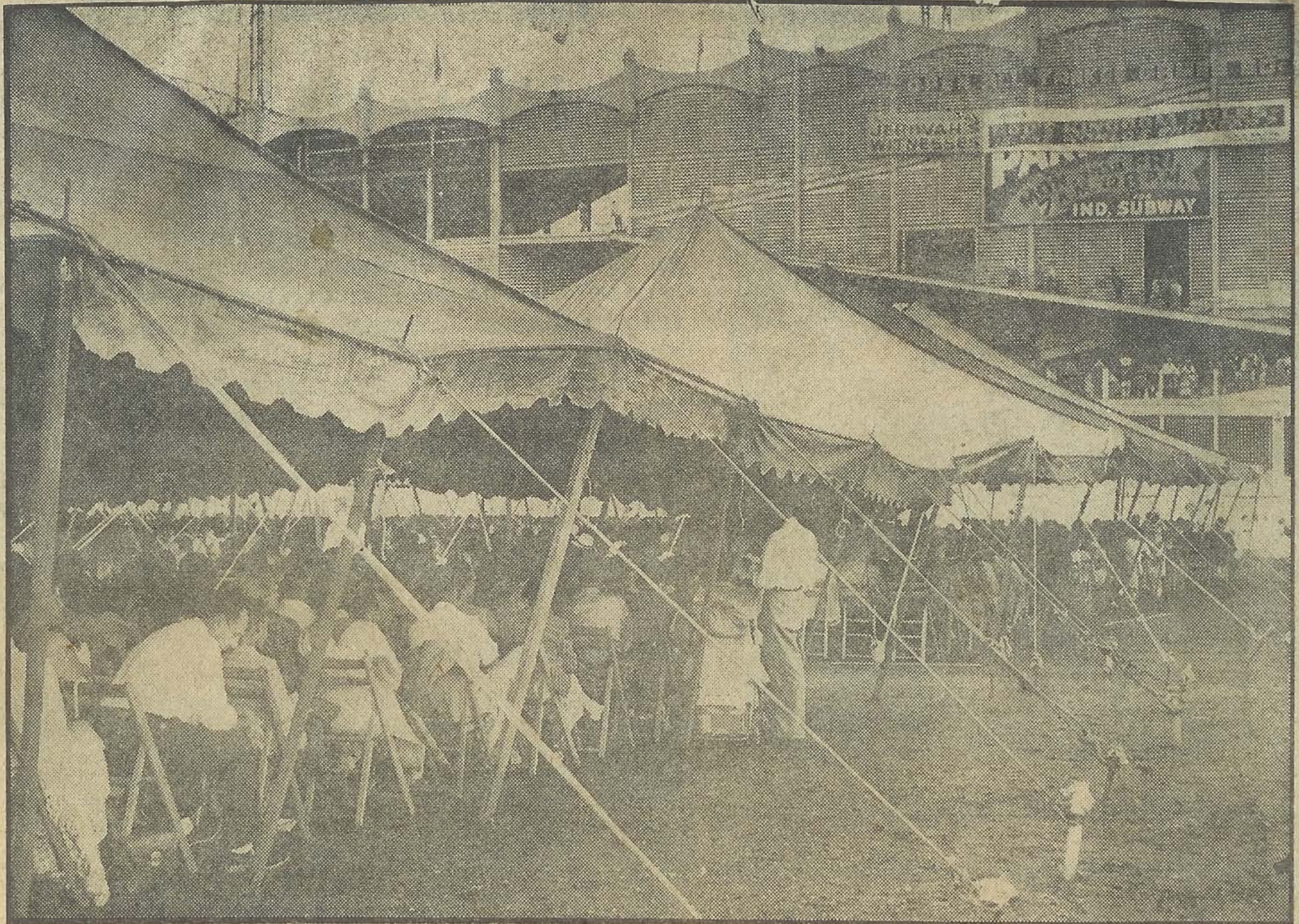
Typhoon Nears Japan

TOKYO, July 28 (UPI).—Typhoon Doris moved toward southern Japan today with winds of 80 miles per hour. The U. S. Air Force weather station said the Pacific storm was 240 miles southeast of the southern tip of Kyushu and was moving at six miles an hour in a northerly direction.



THE WHOLE WORLD IS FIELD FOR WITNESS WORK
N. H. Knorr, head of Watchtower and Tract Society, points to world map at Stadium to indicate scope of society's work.

(Mirror Photo by Leon Hoffman)



'NEATH TENTS on a Polo Grounds parking lot, thousands heed Jehovah's Witnesses service over the public address system. These are among thousands in overflow crowd at the Giants' former ball park, linked in prayer with Witnesses in solidly packed Yankee Stadium.

(Mirror Photo by Stanley Hall)

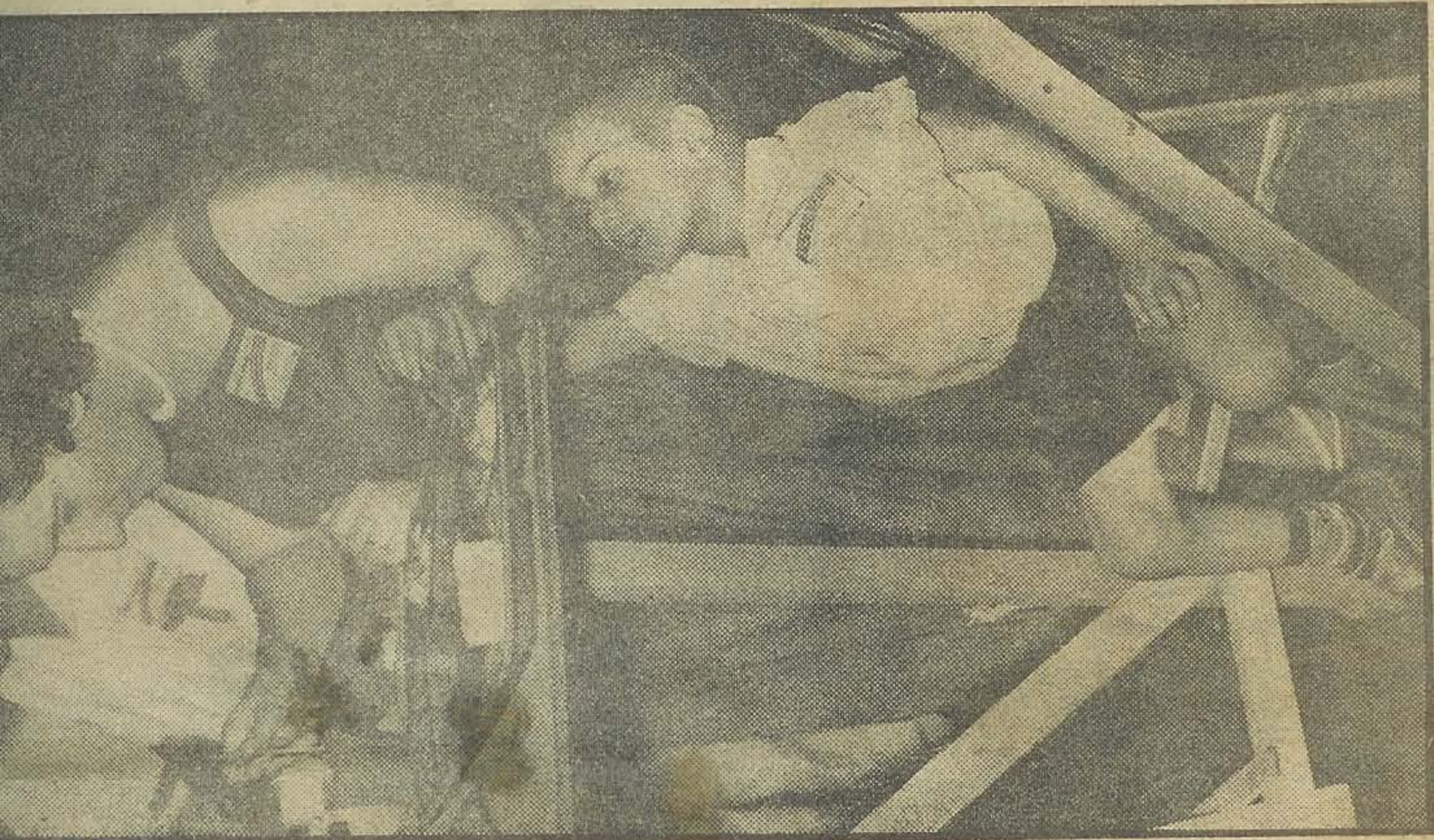
Brood For Thought!





... WHO HELPS HIMSELF. Clifford Cavenece, 3, of Oakland, Cal., needs no pointers in the self-service department!





... WHO HELPS HIMSELF, Clifford Cavencia, 3, of Oakland, Cal., needs no pointers in the self-service department!

SUSTENANCE FOR BODY. Witnesses queue up for early breakfast in huge tent. Later they heard speakers from 15 countries.



IN TEMPORARY 'CUSTODY:' Albert Franklin, 36, a Brooklyn longshoreman, had to resolve a problem quickly, Sunday. His wife, Martha, 30, was rushed to hospital to bear 8th child... and Albert, left with their children, was anxious to get to work. What to do? The Bergen St. police station, of course! Above, Ptl. Brendan Marshall looks after the little Franklins—all lined up for "booking." It appears Nolan, 1, intends to "clam up" on the cops.

(Mirror Photo by Jesse Stratt)

No Mere Bag-attelle!

Cathy Conry, 8 months, waits for help as she finds herself entrapped in a TWA traveling bag at Idlewild. She and kin flew to Shannon, Ireland. Cathy and parents live at 226 W. 242 St., in the Bronx.

Jehovah's Witness

"Is the Religious Revival Genuine?" This is the title of a public lecture to be given this Sunday, July 22, at the Kingdom Hall, 53 Coe Ave., at 3 p.m. This topic is of special interest in these perilous days when persons are turning to religion in face of the threat of war. Even though the religious revival, the real question still remains, "How is true worship found?" A competent speaker, Mr. E. Buch, a representative of the Watchtower Society, will deliver the message.

Following the lecture at 3:15 p.m. a discussion of the June 15 Watchtower will be taken up. Topic for discussion is "Waging the Right Warfare," and "Fighters for Truth."



BENJAMIN TYLUTKE
presiding minister

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Jehovah's Witnesses they are called, these people who devote so much of their time and energy in calling on their fellow citizens, spreading what they consider to be the news about God's Kingdom.

Meriden's Jehovah's Witnesses have been organized since 1923 when a small group of persons met together for Bible study. In just such a way the Jehovah Witness movement started in modern times when Charles Taze Russell of Allegheny, Pa., in 1872 organized a Bible class for the study of the Scriptures regarding Jehovah's Kingdom and the second coming of Christ.

Because the Witnesses are different in many respects from the more orthodox Christian bodies they have frequently encountered misunderstanding and outright hostility, but this has not diminished their zeal or shaken their convictions. The group takes their name from Isaiah 43:12 "... therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God."



Among the Jehovah Witnesses there is no division between clergy and laity. Each Witness is a minister as long as he is active in "witnessing" for the Lord. This means that he has the duty to spread the Gospel and its interpretation as the Witnesses understand it. This he does by a variety of means, but principally by systematically calling from house-to-house, talking with people, distributing Witness literature, notably the WATCHTOWER and AWAKE magazines which is also distributed

Meriden's group of Jehovah's Witnesses now numbers about 87. Since there is no body of clergy, the local leader is known merely as the presiding minister or congregational servant. He is appointed on the basis of his understanding and zeal by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, the name of the national body of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Witnesses claim a membership extending to 160 countries.

In their teachings on such matters as the nature of

God, and the Resurrection, the interpretation of the Witnesses differs markedly from other and more orthodox Christian conceptions. The Witnesses, for example, believe that Christ has already returned in spirit and is ruling in Heaven in the midst of his enemies. They are convinced, on the basis of Revelation 14:3, that only 144,000 persons will go to Heaven, and that others who love God will live forever on earth, and that the wicked will be destroyed.

Relying solely on the Bible as God's Word, the Witnesses look forward to the Kingdom of God as a means of Salvation.

In 1953 the Jehovah's Witnesses of Meriden built their present house of worship known as Kingdom Hall, a neat, one-story building standing in the triangle formed by Coe and Bradley Avenues. The Witnesses invested not only their money, but also their labor in the building which was erected largely by their own hands. The building was opened in January, 1954. In it are held Sunday services, a Bible study on Tuesday evening and theocratic ministers' school on Thursday evening. At this session, at which men, women and children are present, instruction is given in means of spreading the Gospel. The Witnesses say that they aim primarily not at conversion but at calling public attention to Jehovah's Kingdom and the Battle of Armageddon.

The congregational servant of Jehovah's Witnesses in Meriden is Benjamin Tylutke; the assistant is Woodrow Stevens, and Bible study servant Jay Tuttle. When Jehovah's Witnesses were first organized, they were referred to disdainfully as Russellites after Russell. But they have continued to grow in numbers. In 1953 they held an international convention in New York at which time they became the Jehovah's Witnesses World Society in recognition of their growth. The convention was held in the Yankee Stadium with a capacity of 91,000 persons, with 25,000 who listened outside of the stadium and more who listened to the proceedings at a camp ground in New Jersey.



Baptismal candidates and Jehovah Witnesses assigned as baptizers go through rites at Orchard Beach.



Male Witness is immersed during mass baptismal ceremony.

(Mirror Photos by Stanley Hall)

(Other Photos on Page 1 and Center Fold)

Witnesses Baptize 7,136 in L.I. Sound

By GERALD DUNCAN

Jehovah's Witnesses baptized 7,136 men, women and children yesterday in the waters of Long Island Sound—a record for mass immersion.

The scene was a 400-foot wide strip of Orchard Beach in the Bronx, where 10,000 spectators gathered on the boardwalk and behind barricades as 600 volunteers kept the immersion lines moving with clocklike precision. The candidates were dipped at the rate of one a second.

THE CEREMONY, in the belief of the Witnesses, washed away all sins and gave new life dedicated to God's will to 4,199 women and 2,937 men.

The baptisms were singularly without untoward incident. The only casualties were two children who suffered nosebleeds and three men, including a newspaper photographer, who cut their feet superficially.

Some went into the water singing hymns. Some smiled beatifically in anticipation of the new

life awaiting them after the immersion.

Barbar Oglesby, 30, a blonde secretary from Hollywood, Cal., summed it up this way:

"To me it is the beginning of a long search for knowledge and a complete dedication of my life to God, or Jehovah."

MEN WORE trunks and T-shirts. Women mostly wore bathing suits, but some were in shorts and blouses and even housedresses.

They gathered first at Yankee Stadium to receive final instructions. Then they were moved in 50 chartered buses to the beach, were assigned to locker rooms to change clothing and walked to the shore.

They stood in 30 immersion lines, 15 for men and 15 for women, and sloshed as far as 75 feet into the water, where 90 baptizers conducted the immersions.

The candidates were grasped gently, but firmly, told to "take a deep breath" and ducked as the baptizer held the nose of each.

TWELVE PATROLMEN and two policewomen were assigned to the area. They had little to do except observe, because the Witnesses had trained themselves for the task, even directing pedestrian traffic.

Seven lifeguards watched from three towers. There wasn't a single incident to cause them to move from their perches.

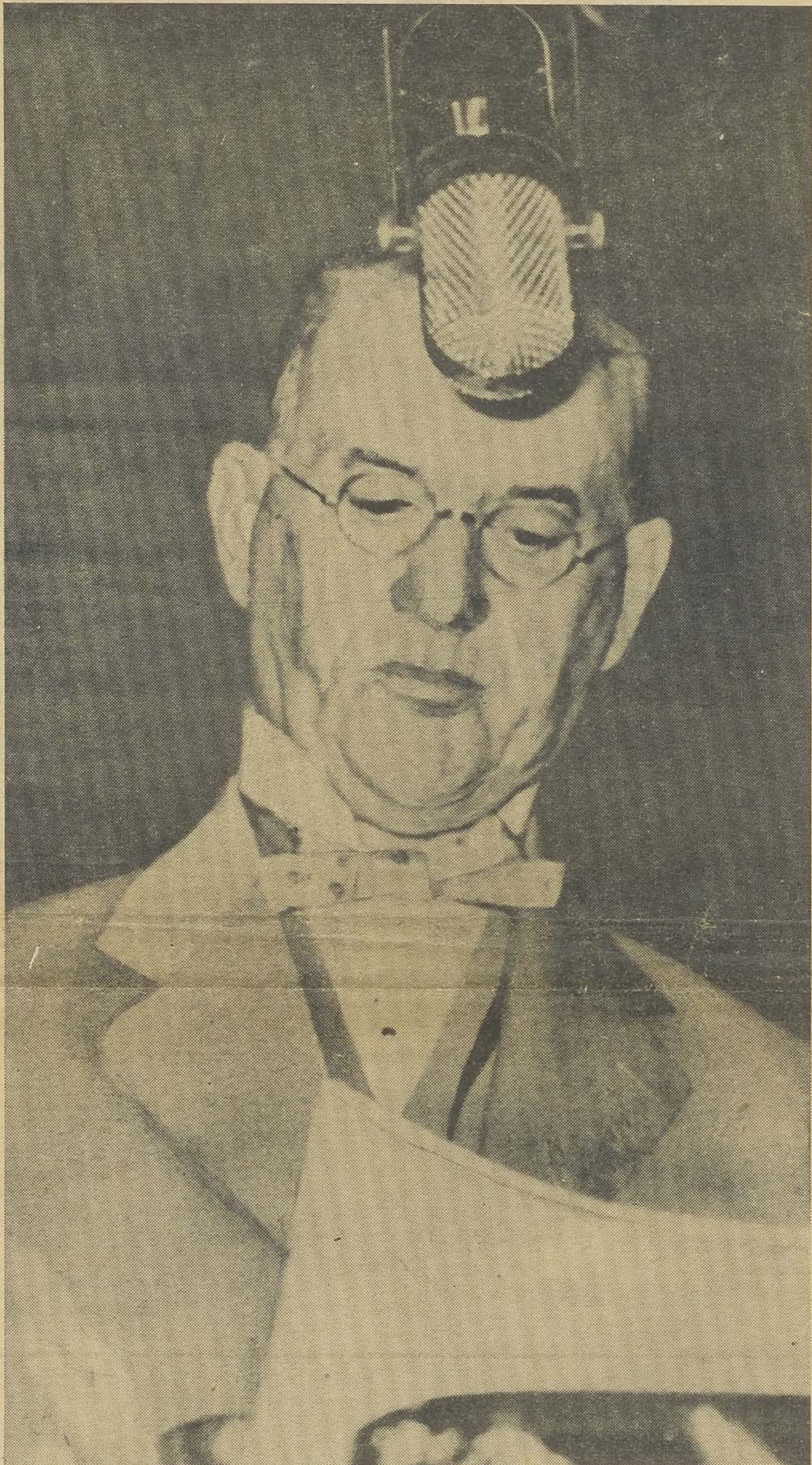
Four doctors and eight nurses were in attendance. A few adhesive bandages were all they had to dispense.

The baptism began at 10:30 a.m. It was over shortly after noon.

The words of the baptismal minister, John H. Eneroth, of Stockholm, Sweden, rang in the ears of the newborn:

"Remember this day, July Thirtieth. It is the day of your ordination to preach the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven."

After the baptisms 150,282 Witnesses jammed Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds for the third straight day to hear a speaking program.



The late Judge Joseph G. Rutherford, who built a world-wide propaganda and publishing network for Jehovah's Witnesses before his death, was a regular speaker on the Witnesses' radio programs.

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PM'S DAILY PICTURE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1, 1942

Persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses Sect . . .

Part I

By PATRICIA BRONTE



This is the story of America's most brutal and far-reaching group persecution since the early days of the Mormons.

From Maine to California, a reign of terror with a patriotic motif has endangered some 250,000 citizens—a sect called Jehovah's Witnesses.

They have been stoned, beaten, shot, burned, tarred and feathered, jailed without charges, expelled from school, dismissed from jobs, taken off relief rolls.

The conscientious objectors among them have been imprisoned more often than confined to internment camps.

Mobs—frequently composed of American Legionnaires and other respectable citizens—have attacked their distributors of literature, set afire their meeting houses, destroyed their property.

Other Witnesses have been thrown into jail as spies, radicals, fifth-columnists and non-patriots.

The American Civil Liberties Union is currently defending 1488 Witnesses involved in some 200 cases which concern the basic rights of freedom and speech and worship as it affects Jehovah's Witnesses.

This is only a fraction of the number of instances reported, for even the Liberties Union has limited time and facilities for investigations and defense.

Persecution Worldwide

That the persecution is worldwide, and imposed by Fascists as well as anti-Fascists, is no less an indictment of democracy's actions. Though nearly 6000 Witnesses are tormented in German concentration camps, they have also been banned in New Zealand and outlawed in Canada.

Although these people, whose very ardor is an invitation to violence, are defended on the grounds of freedom of worship and sometimes described as "modern Christian martyrs," they deny their beliefs constitute a religion. Prosecuted for their numerous conscientious objectors, they protest they are not pacifists.

They respect the country in which they live, yet have become hated for their refusal to salute that country's flag.

In this country, almost every state supreme court knows and dreads them. And that is true also of the Supreme Court of the United States. If Jehovah's Witnesses endure for no other reason, they will always be remembered as the people who thoroughly loused up customary law procedure.

So confused became the highest tribunal in the latest Jehovah's Witnesses case to reach it, that the Kansas Supreme Court and

a Federal court in West Virginia were able later to reverse the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court.

When a Broadway peddler was arrested last year, on charges of disorderly conduct (for hawking, "Religion is the greatest racket on the face of the earth!"), the defense brief claimed:

"This case is only one of many thousands prosecuted in this country in the past decade against Jehovah's Witnesses, and is part of a drive to put the State above Almighty God."

"One of the many thousands" was the incident of Connersville, Ind. (small towns are worst offenders), where 75 men, women

and children were arrested on a blanket affidavit for "conspiracy to commit a felony by advocating violent overthrow of the government." (Some had been proselytizing by door-to-door playing of phonograph records.) Two elderly housewives were held in \$225,000 bail on charges of sedition under the Indiana criminal syndicalism law, and were sentenced to serve prison terms of from two to ten years.

Before Pearl Harbor, Jehovah's Witnesses were usually arrested on such charges as disturbing the peace, vagrancy and selling without a license.

The FBI stepped in, however, when Uncle Sam went to war. Sternly questioned

and investigated were the hundreds of young men who refused to participate because of their convictions. "Conchie" Witnesses have received harsh treatment, on the whole, possibly because they represented a precedent.

In this, as in all other things, the Witnesses were balky and exasperating. They went on hunger strikes and won't-move strikes, but were mostly forced to join the Army anyway.

All over the world, Jehovah's Witnesses are a thorn in the side of nations at war. Australia's Attorney General W. M. Hughes said the organization preached subversive doctrines deliberately calculated to spread dissatisfaction and hamper the war effort.

"Their talk is the talk of madmen," snorted Hughes, referring to JW's statement that:

"Britain and the Empire are followers of Satan, and we will fight only to save our skin, and then only if Australia is invaded."

Mostly, though, the Witnesses don't get arrested. This is what happens:

This Fall, in Klamath Falls, Ore., 850 men, women and children had come together for a Witnesses meeting. They were listening by loudspeaker to the voice of their present leader, H. W. Knorr.

Lock Selves In

Suddenly, a window was shattered and immediately the room was filled with sickening fumes. The stench bomb was followed by rocks, burning kerosene rags and bottles of ammonia, as a mob of more than 1000 stormed the meeting hall.

Mothers clutched their babies closer, and the few men who ventured out the door were met with swinging clubs. Mid-sentence, the voice of their speaker stopped; the wires carrying his message had been cut.

Outnumbered, the group locked themselves in the meeting house. The men made staves from split furniture, tried to barricade their women and children.

The local police stood outside, frightened and ineffectual while the mob besieged the small frame structure and its occupants waited tensely. Then the front doors gave way. A large rock smashed the features of a 5-year-old girl, making her face a bloody blur.

The State Militia broke up the riot a few minutes later, arrested 100 Legionnaires, cleared a path for the believers, some gory and beaten, to the spot where their cars had been overturned, tires stolen and windows smashed.

"I ought to stamp your damned head in," shouted a policeman in Laredo, Tex., as he stood with his foot poised above the head of prostrate Jehovah's Witness Joe Buice.

Buice had been playing his phonograph for householders when someone reported him. The cops dragged Buice from his car, twisted his arms, beat him to the ground.

Then they struck him in the eye, cut a deep gash in his cheek and took him to jail without charges. When they released him, police told Buice to get the Witnesses out of town or they would "break up the whole gang with baseball bats."

In nearby Eden, Tex., two Witnesses were critically injured by a mob.

In Columbus, Miss., two men were lugged to the outskirts of town, stripped, thrown to the ground and beaten with heavy leather belts.

In Greenwood, Mo., a lynch mob of 200 was stopped by the state police after two elderly Witnesses had already been injured. Later, officials advised the Witnesses to get out of town, warned them against "going to Kansas City for one of them goddamned lawyers."

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... Recalls Early Days of Mormon Harassment

Part II

Jehovah's Witnesses is not a church in the accepted sense. It has no creed but the Bible, no clergymen and no places of worship.

Formally, the sect's beliefs are a strange mixture of several ancient heresies, a touch of fundamentalism, a dab of first-century eschatology and pacifism. Briefly put, they have faith in "the millennium and another chance."

They don't smoke or drink, and Biblical prophecies govern every earthly event. A national flag, financiers, politicians and all religions are "agents of Lucifer," who is at large in the world and now grooming himself for a last-ditch fight with Jehovah.

Except for flag-saluting (the flag is the "devil's banner") their attitude toward government is to obey every "righteous" law, which, however, also precludes working in munitions factories, serving in the armed forces and tilling the soil for the nation. They oppose all religious systems on the grounds they pervert the purpose of God, as expressed in the Bible.

In fact, they wage particular and all-out war against organized religion, organized government and big business.

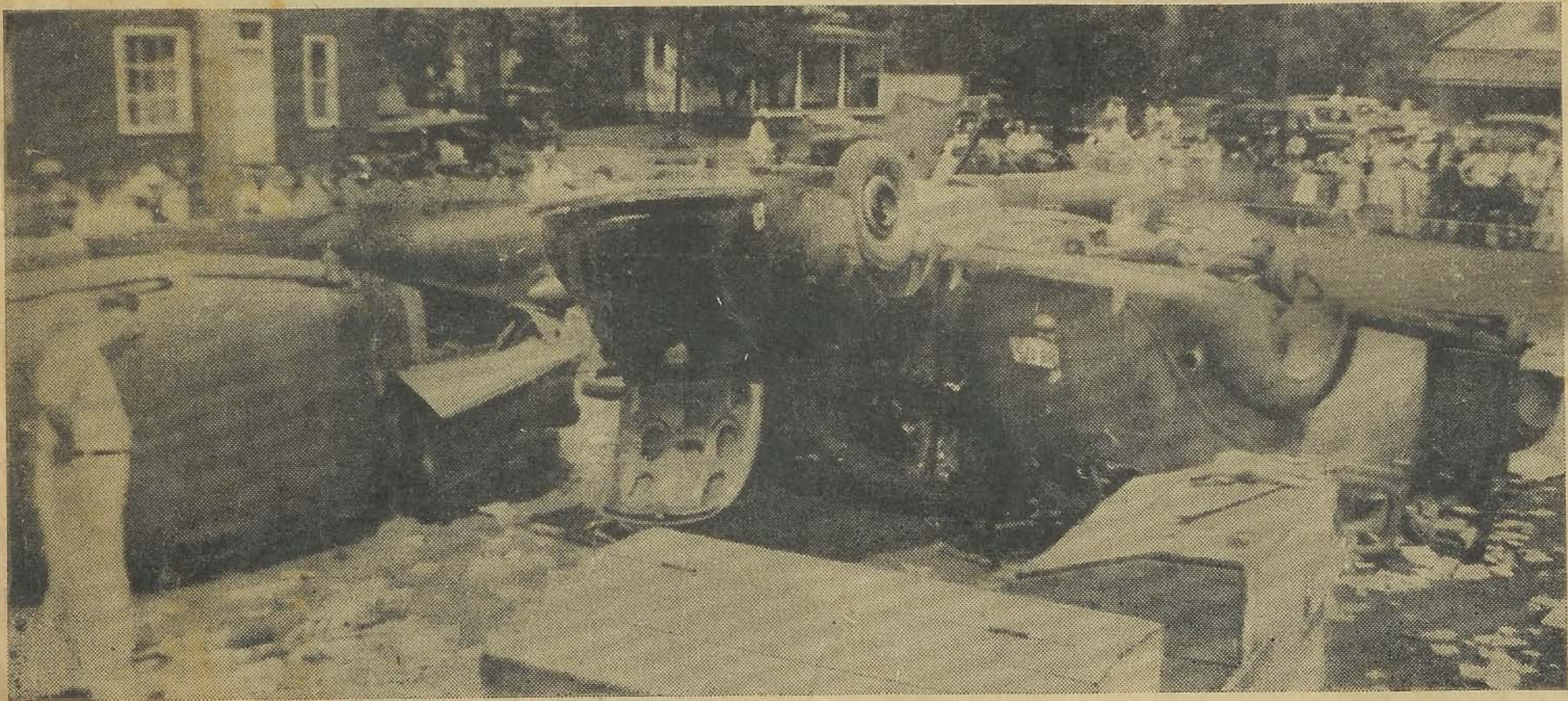
Deliberate Nuisances

Representing important aspects of our folk-religion, the Witnesses are zealous in making converts and seeking martyrdom. They make deliberate nuisances of themselves and like going to jail since it gives them a chance to "witness" and get others into the movement.

God, Inc., does well in wartime, viewed from the standpoint of attracting attention; in fact, if Witnesses tactics had been designed for that purpose, they couldn't be more effective.

Jehovah's Witnesses don't wait to be thrown to the lions; they walk into the lions' den and bat its occupants over the head with the complete works of Judge Rutherford.

Others before the Witnesses have awaited the epiphany from housetops and hillside, braving the profane jeers of skeptics. But



This is what happened to automobiles owned by Jehovah's Witnesses in a riot at Springfield, Ill. Scenes like this have been duplicated in many parts of the country, both before and after Pearl Harbor.

we have been conditioned to regard militant religionists as gauche, and our fear of fifth-columnists plus the fact that today's best-known fanatics are political is a triple-threat

play against the very sincere Witnesses.

Said John Haynes Holmes in *Christian Century*:

"If I want to bring clearly before my eyes



This is the Jehovah's Witnesses' plan of attack. Passers-by are accosted by workers selling the *Watchtower* in this St. Louis street. Another method is the phonograph approach, in which prospects are exhorted by recorded sermonizers.

how early Christians must have appeared to the highly respectable and patriotic Romans of the day, I have only to look at Jehovah's Witnesses. They are a particularly aggressive, even obnoxious set of people as judged by ordinary standards of polite, conventional life. . . . Lastly, there is the irritating question of the flag salute. . . . What were the early Christians doing but this very thing when they refused to put their pinch of salt upon the altars of the Roman emperors?"

The Witnesses explain their religious objection to the homage-paying of a state symbol on the grounds they have already pledged allegiance to the banner of God's Kingdom, that the theocracy in which they believe comes before and above their country.

One persecuted teacher in Canonsburg, Pa., elaborated:

"As a Christian, I am opposed to militarism, to the taking of human life. We cannot salute the flag of love and peace without saluting as well the flag of horror and hate and destruction, for they are one and the same."

Supreme Court Jitters

It was after one classic instance of a school child who wouldn't salute the flag that the Supreme Court *upheld* by a 5-4 decision, the right of the states to expel children from school for this offense. When three of the five judges publicly expressed themselves later, however, as having been "in error," two state courts were able to reverse the highest court's decision.

In Lynn, Mass.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Seaucus, N. J.; Hamilton, Ont.; Bellevue Ill. Monessen, Pa.; Montpelier, Vt.; Riville, Md.; Kennebunk, Me.; Clarksburg, W. Va., Albany, and hundreds of other American towns and cities school children have been beaten by their playmates, punished by their teachers, expelled by principals, sent to reform schools.

Because, from religious convictions, they had been taught not to salute the flag.

In some instances, the community tried to have the children taken from their parents on the excuse that "parents who forbade their offspring to salute the flag were unfit." So far, such radical procedure has failed, but under the state laws of Kansas, Oklahoma and New Jersey, some parents have been prosecuted for the same reason. And, after two years, Massachusetts has just decided not to make this a reform-school offense.

Laws Grow Worse

Worse still, the flag-saluting controversy had sufficient effect to cause the 1942 State Legislature of Mississippi to pass the most sweeping law aimed at free speech in recent history. A result of the agitation against Jehovah's Witnesses, the new law specifically cited "refusal to salute the flag" as a statute violation.

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Already, more than 50 Witnesses have been arrested in Mississippi on these grounds.

In Atlanta, Ga., George Leoles had been in the hat-cleaning business for 30 years, was fairly prosperous, well-liked.

One morning, his 12-year-old daughter was reprimanded at school for not saluting the flag. Then it came out: The Leoles were Jehovah's Witnesses. Leoles didn't show up at his store the next day, but the Ku Klux Klan and American Legion did. Leoles had to sell his store and leave town.



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PM'S DAILY PICTURE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1, 1942

← CONTINUED → Refusal to Salute Flag Causes Most Trouble



These are Jehovah's Witnesses, followers of the evangelistic creed of Judge Rutherford and Pastor Russell. This picture was made at the Theocratic Convention of the Witnesses in Detroit.



Refusal of children of Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the flag has led to most of their troubles. Lydia Epifanno, 11 (right), and Janet Di Giandomenico, leave Wellesley, Mass., junior high school after expulsion for refusal.

Part III

Nearly 100 years ago a Baptist farmer in upper New York state attracted attention by announcing that the world would surely end in 1843.

His name was William Miller, and the event marked the origin of present-day Jehovah's Witnesses.

In the records of the time are cartoons of "Millerites," who, having disposed of all their property, sat around in long white robes awaiting the coming of the New Dawn on the day specified.

What happened to Miller when the dawn did not come is not known but many of his followers were not disillusioned. They simply formed other sects whose leaders set other dates, and so they continue to this day. The granddaddies of Jehovah's Witnesses were called "Millennial Dawnists."

The Name Is New

For the next 42 years (from 1874 to 1916) Pastor Charles Taze Russell of Pittsburgh was leader of the sect known variously as Watch Tower Bible People, International Bible Student Assn., the Peoples Pulpit Assn. The name Jehovah's Witnesses was not adopted until 11 years ago.

Russell's personal impetus was a pool-parlor infidel whose skepticism about heaven and hell first sent Russell to the Scriptures for guidance.

In 1873, Pastor Russell, writing of Socialism, Nihilism and Communism, confided: "The retribution will come *from the Lord, through the masses.*" The italics are his.

Eventually, Russell took over the imposing Tabernacle in fashionable Columbia Heights, Brooklyn (where he followed Henry Ward Beecher, sulphur-tongued crusader against slavery and the Confederacy) and the new hope spread faster than gossip.

12,000 Churches

Russell established more than 12,000 churches here and abroad.

One of his best-remembered utterances was that "many of the Lord's faithful children live in a matrimonial furnace of affliction." From his own furnace he was delivered by a divorce court. He and Mrs. Russell had quarrelled over the space allotted to her in his publications.

During this period the Witnesses were sometimes called Russellites. Russell's guess for the end of the world was 1915, but it continued on its wicked way and he died a year later.

Heir to the mantle was a former backwoods Missouri judge with a basso-profundo voice—bald, gangling, wing-collared Joseph G. Rutherford. He guided the Witnesses'

destinies for the next 25 years, died in January of this year.

Pacifism, like politics, sometimes makes strange bedfellows. Rutherford and his disciples practically shared cots with Eugene Debs and company in Atlanta Penitentiary during World War I. All had been jailed among the 405 conscientious objectors arrested at that time.

Released from jail, Rutherford turned loose an avalanche of religious literature, became famous as one of the first promoters to appreciate the far-reaching possibilities of radio.

Propaganda Widespread

Through the estimated 2,500,000 Witnesses in 83 countries, the combined circulation of Judge Rutherford's books and pamphlets, translated into 89 languages and dialects, including Esperanto, Gujarati and Zulu, reached more than 500,000,000 before his death. Last year alone, some 26,000,000 copies were distributed.

Besides his own radio station (WBBR in Brooklyn), he used 295 other stations throughout the country. His Brooklyn station is manned by 196 Witnesses called the "Bethel Family," who live in one establishment on a co-operative basis, work for salaries of \$15 per month each.

They also print and mail literature, manufacture phonograph and transcription machines (used to play the high-pressure Rutherford sermons), make the 34,997 pounds of ink used in printing and keeping books on the \$700,000 annual budget. Farms in Florida and Staten Island supply them with a large part of their food.

"God's publicity agents," as Rutherford called his Witnesses, are divided into pioneers, who give 110 hours a month; auxiliaries, company publishers and sharpshooters. There are also affiliated sympathizers known as "Jonadabs," who are not full-fledged Witnesses, just fellow-travelers.

The companies meet regularly for worship, prayer, songs and study of latest literature from headquarters.

20,000 Field Workers

Some 20,000 field workers are now working on the phonograph basis, systematically canvassing American communities, and dining home their doctrines on housewives' doorsteps.

Titles of such sermons are cryptic, pointed, more expressive than the messages which follow: *Is Hell Hot?* or *Where Are the Dead?*

When the Roman Catholic Church tried to have him put off the air for his attack on it as the "anti-Christ" (Witnesses are notoriously anti-Catholic, also attack Jews and Protestants), Rutherford countered with a monster free-speech petition bearing 2,000,000 names.

Once he startled the U. S. A. by deeding a big California house, garage and two automobiles, in perpetuity, to await reappearance on earth of King David, Gideon, Barak, Daniel, Samson and other Biblical characters.

Of his two publications, the *Watchtower*, a semi-monthly, is the most powerful integrating factor. *Golden Age* is a vigorously written and well-edited weekly with a "millennarian's" interpretation, but some very readable cullings of the news. It plants some well-directed blows at commercial and military exploiters, is militantly anti-Fascist, yet intemperately baits Catholics.

Although Rutherford claimed he received neither money nor royalties, one magazine commented in 1938 that "he could well af-

ford hook-up wires and wireless, leased from A. T. & T., from a London auditorium, to 23 U. S., 10 Canadian, 10 Australian and four New Zealand cities—a hook-up enabling some 100,000,000 persons to listen. His message, however, was less impressive.

In a recent radio address Attorney General Francis Biddle said:

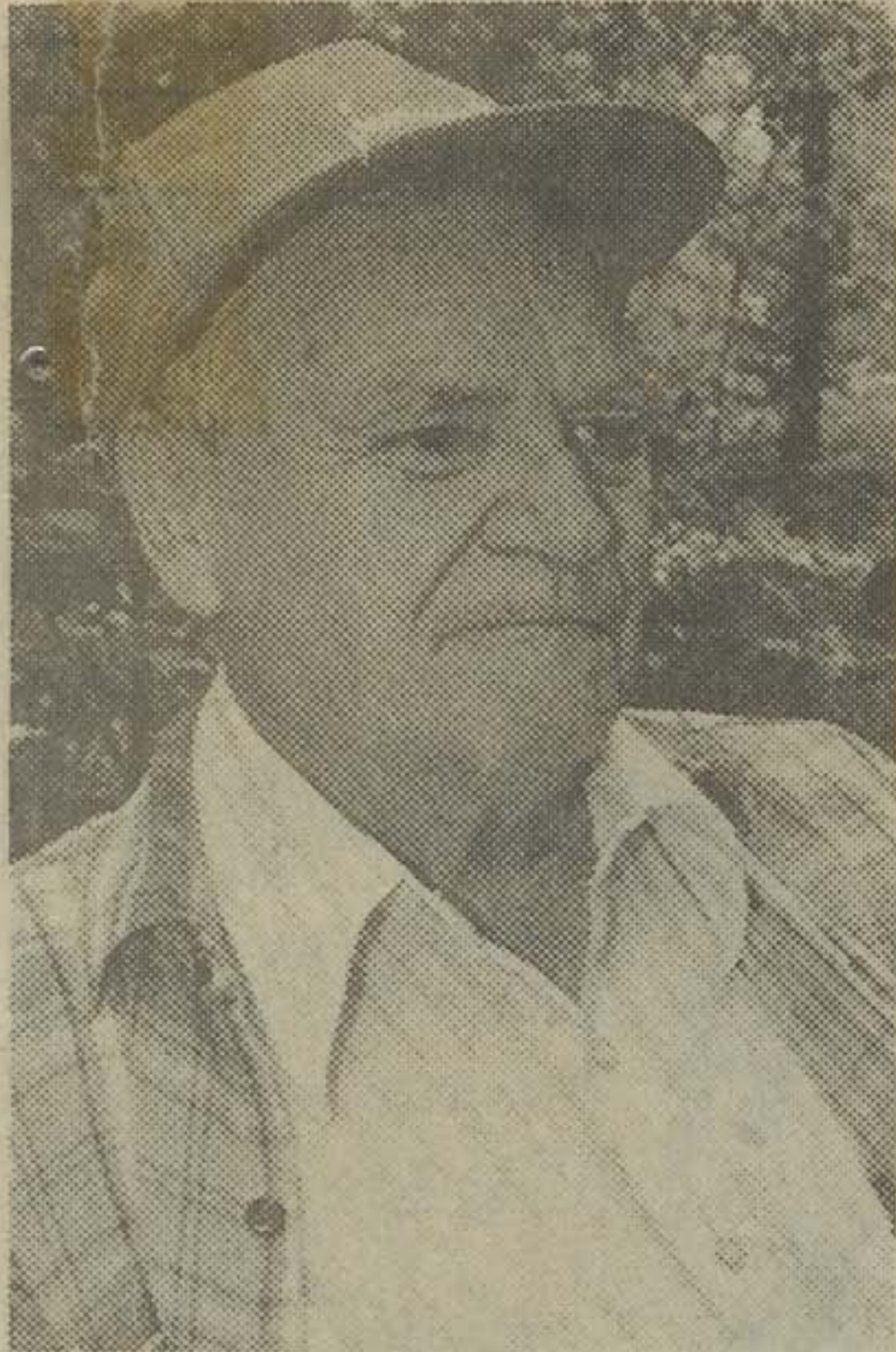
“A religious sect known as Jehovah’s Witnesses have been repeatedly set upon and

beaten. They had committed no crime; but the mob adjudged they had, and meted out mob punishment. The Attorney General has ordered an immediate investigation of these outrages. The people must be alert and watchful and above all, cool and sane. Since mob violence will make the government’s task infinitely more difficult, it will not be tolerated. We shall not defeat the Nazi party evil by emulating their methods.”

Pledge Dispute Evokes Bitter Memories

By DAVID MARGOLICK

Special to The New York Times



The New York Times/Marty Katz

Paul Stull, a plaintiff in the the 1943 Supreme Court case on compulsory salute laws.

CROSS LANES, W.Va. — When Marie Snodgrass and Gatha Edmonds think of the Pledge of Allegiance, what comes to mind is neither a patriotic ritual nor the 1988 Presidential campaign. Instead, it conjures up indelible childhood memories of traumatic times that helped shape American constitutional law.

Forty-six years ago, as sisters named Barnett, the two girls were expelled from a school in nearby Charleston for refusing to salute and pledge allegiance to the flag (or, to be precise, a picture of one) at the front of their classroom. As members of Jehovah's Witnesses, they considered the pledge blasphemous, a violation of the biblical injunction to worship no graven images.

They were only two of the 2,000 or so Witness children throughout the country to endure such an experience, many of whose families were victims of vio-

lent attacks. But it was their father, Walter Barnett, a pipe fitter for Du Pont who lent his name to the landmark 1943 decision of the United States Supreme Court holding compulsory salute laws unconstitutional.

"If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein," Justice Robert H. Jackson wrote in *West Virginia Department of Education v. Barnette* (the name was misspelled in court records).

That ruling, along with the history and significance of the pledge itself, has been at the center of a debate in this year's Presidential campaign.

It was touched off by Vice President Bush, who assailed the Democratic Presidential nominee, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, for vetoing a Massachusetts bill in 1977 that would have imposed fines on teachers if they did not lead their classes in daily recitations of the pledge. Mr. Dukakis cited an advisory opinion by Massachusetts' highest court that the bill was unconstitutional. That opinion, in turn, rested on the *Barnette* case.

But not even the most ringing court rhetoric could lay so volatile an issue to

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Pledge Dispute Evokes Bitter Memories of 30's

Continued From Page 1

rest. For young Witnesses like Gatha Edmond's grandchildren, Kay and Boyd Edmonds, who now stand mute during the pledge much as their grandmother did half a century ago, the taunting by schoolmates and embarrassing visits to the principal remain childhood rites of passage.

What national politicians say on the subject, or any other, does not matter to Mrs. Snodgrass and Mrs. Edmonds; like all Witnesses, they don't vote. Mrs. Snodgrass said she had not heard about Mr. Bush's remarks until a reporter told her about them. As for Mrs. Edmonds, her husband mentioned seeing something on television, but she did not pay much attention.

Mr. Bush raised the issue in his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in August. "Should public school teachers be required to lead our children in the Pledge of Allegiance?" Mr. Bush said. "My opponent says no — but I say yes." Mr. Dukakis responded by suggesting that Mr. Bush did not understand the Constitution. "If the Vice President is saying he'd sign an unconstitutional bill, then in my judgment he's not fit to hold the office," Mr. Dukakis said. "It's a violation of the law, and he knows it."

**'I love my
country, but I
love God more,
and must obey.'**

The Barnett sisters have little doubt what this latest round of flag fervor means. In the 1940's, they were called "traitors," "Nazis," "Japs," "Fifth Columnists" or worse; but at least then, they noted, the country was at war. This time, they believe it signifies something far more profound than war hysteria: a prelude to Armageddon, when, according to their reading of the Bible, God will destroy all corrupt worldly governments and replace them with his own.

"We believe the end is coming very near, and this is one more sign," Mrs. Snodgrass explained. "That's the only thing I can think."

Their apocalyptic vision is shared by other veterans of the pledge contro-

versy. "They're beating a dead horse," said the sisters' uncle, Paul Stull, 72 years old, another plaintiff in the Barnette case. "The whole bunch of them are hypocrites. They all sing the national anthem at ball games, too. But how many would stay and sing if they didn't play it until the game was over?"

Mr. Stull and his younger brother, Alva Lee, quoted the lexicographer Samuel Johnson as they talked about patriotism and the pledge recently while bulldozing a road on a West Virginia mountainside.

"I think it was Johnson who said that 'patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel,'" said the younger Mr. Stull, who, like his brother, was kicked out of school in 1942. "I'm not saying Mr. Bush is a scoundrel. If that's what he wants to do, it doesn't offend or scare me or make me hate him. But when it works into invasion of someone's religious belief, you get to wondering: are they informed of the Constitution themselves?"

The Barnette case was the final act in a legal drama dating from 1935, when a young Witness in Lynn, Mass., Carleton B. Nicholls Jr., became one of the first students to undergo the expulsion ordeal. By 1939 some 200 others suffered similar experiences.

Nearly half those banished from public school lived in Pennsylvania, including Lillian and William Gobitis of Minersville, a small anthracite coal town in Schuylkill County. Their case was the first to reach the Supreme Court.

'I Love God More'

The Gobitis boy, then 10 years old, pleaded with the local authorities to remain in school. "I do not salute the flag not because I do not love my country," he wrote. "I love my country, but I love God more, and must obey his commandments." But his argument proved unpersuasive both with the school authorities and to all of the nine Justices except for Harlan F. Stone. Local autonomy in educational policy and national unity took precedence over the rights of the children, Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote in his opinion for the court. He was to make the same point when dissenting in the Barnette case.

In Minersville, the reaction to the Gobitis ruling was swift and brutal. The Gobitises were jeered on the streets; William was beaten by schoolmates, and local churches led a boycott of his father's grocery store. And around the country a wave of anti-Witness hysteria ensued.

In Richwood, W.Va., the police forced nine Witnesses who refused to salute



The New York Times/Marty Katz

Gathy Edmonds, left, and her sister, Marie Snodgrass. As young girls 46 years ago, they were expelled from school for refusing to salute the American flag in their classroom in Charleston, W.Va.

the flag to swallow large amounts of castor oil. Witnesses were attacked in Illinois, tarred and feathered in Wyoming and castrated in Nebraska. One of the worst incidents occurred in Kennebunk, Me., where a mob of 2,500 people sacked and burned the local Kingdom Hall.

By 1942 three Justices in the Gobitis majority — Frank Murphy, William O. Douglas, and Hugo L. Black — had signaled in a related case that they had changed their minds. By then two others from the majority, Charles Evans Hughes and James F. Byrnes, had left the Court. The Witnesses' legal apparatus, which had already helped reshape the First Amendment in a series of cases involving the right to hand out leaflets and sell magazines on city streets, began searching for a case suitable for overturning it.

They chose Charleston, W.Va., a city that, despite the recent expulsions, had a large and well-respected community of Witnesses and a Federal judge considered sympathetic to them. The first plaintiff they selected was Mr. Stull, a "presiding overseer," or elder, in the

organization and the stepfather of two expelled children. He in turn selected his brother-in-law, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Barnett's sister, Lucy McClure.

On Flag Day, June 14, 1943, the Supreme Court issued its Barnette ruling. Justice Frankfurter wrote a bitter dissent for a three-member minority. For the Barnetts themselves, the occasion passed largely unnoticed; a lower court had already overturned the salute regulation and they had returned to school, half a year behind their classmates.

Like the Stulls, Mr. Gobitis, now a 62-year-old piano tuner in Belgium, Wis., has followed the 1988 salute debate closely, and a bit disgustedly. "It's hard to comprehend why they're raising this issue again," he said. "They're ignoring our constitutional development and history." It reminded him, he said, of a passage in Chapter 16 of the Book of Revelations. "To Jehovah's Witnesses," he said, "all this political fanfare boils down to is 'the croaking of frogs and expressions inspired by demons.'"



INTERNATIONAL

Martyred by martyrs. Dennis Ryan's head was bashed by Witnesses' canes in a riot at their anti-Catholic rally.



GLOBE PHOTO

"Witnesses look like average Americans—as, in fact, they are." A typical Louisville family of Witnesses.



INTERNATIONAL

*Cars of Witnesses who refused to salute
the flag overturned in Litchfield, Illinois.*



WIDE WORLD

Barred from Massachusetts public schools for refusing to salute the flag, these children attend a makeshift Witness school.



PHOTO BY DETROIT NEWS

"Gently maneuvered canes" barred the overcurious from the business offices at the Detroit convention. But, if necessary, the canes could be less gentle.