

THE COLONEL WAS DELAYED IN ARRIVING

SALT LAKE CITY — Roland R. Wright knew he had to hurry to the air field when the National Guard alert was sounded yesterday evening.

He's a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard and commanding officer of the 1st Fighter Bomber Squadron.

But when the practice alarm went off, he was putting down concrete in the driveway that leads to his garage. And in the garage was his car.

After some fast shoveling, he scooped away enough of the wet concrete so he could get out his car and drive to the air field.

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What Is A Presbyterian?

PART 2

(This is another of a series of informative articles on Presbyterian religions, written for The Charlotte News by leading authorities of the various faiths and denominations. Other articles describe other faiths.)

By DR. JOHN SUTHERLAND BONNELL, Minister of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City

What is the Presbyterian attitude toward divorce?

Divorce is permitted to the innocent party on Scriptural grounds (adultery) and the innocent party may remarry. The earliest Presbyterian regulations are explicit on this point. No Presbyterian minister may divorce persons who have been married less than 12 months.

Presbyterian churches are seeking to curb the widespread evil of divorce by a more careful examination of the moral issues presented by marriage and by organizing groups of young people in "Preparation for Marriage" classes.

BIRTH CONTROL

Does the Presbyterian Church forbid birth control? The Presbyterian Church does not legislate for its people on personal moral issues. Nothing in the Church's teaching, however, can be construed as forbidding an intelligent, conservative and unselfish employment of birth control.

The commandment of God to our first parents, "Be fruitful and multiply," was given at a time when the world was underpopulated. Presbyterians do not believe this precept is relevant today, when overpopulation in many areas produces hunger and famine.

Do Presbyterians employ the condom? Not in the same sense as Roman Catholics or High Church Episcopalians. Believing in the priesthood of all believers, Presbyterians make their confession directly to God—without a human intermediary.

The great increase of spiritual counseling has taught Presbyterians that confession is sometimes more searching and thoroughgoing when it is made to God in the presence of a pastor. Our confession is voluntary, never compulsory, and the confession is made to God, not the pastor.

SALVATION

What do Presbyterians believe about salvation? They believe that salvation is not earned by good works but is

the gift of God. Good works are the fruits of salvation, evidence that we are growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN?

Presbyterians believe that salvation is found only through a complete commitment and surrender to God as He is revealed in Christ. God pardons our sins and accepts us—not for any merit of our own, but because of our faith in the perfect obedience of Christ and His sacrificial death.

DIRECT RELATIONSHIP

Forgiveness, grace and salvation are obtained, through a direct personal relationship to God—without the mediation of ministers or priests. Presbyterians accept the New Testament witness: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Do Presbyterians believe in predestination? Presbyterians believe that God alone determines man's salvation. Salvation is not a human achievement. The wording of the Westminster Confession is a classic statement of this belief: "Predestination deprived man of all freedom of choice—that his fate was determined at birth."

"NONE HINDERED"

But the Declaratory Statement, adopted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States in 1903, states: "Men are fully responsible for their treatment of God's gracious offer of salvation and—no man is hindered from accepting it and—no man is condemned, except on the ground of his sin."

Do Presbyterians believe in the Resurrection? With a few exceptions Presbyterians do not interpret the phrase in the Apostles' Creed, "the resurrection of the body," as meaning the physical body. St. Paul writes: "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." They understand "the resurrection of the body" as a reference to the spiritual body, which is a medium of growth and self-expression appropriate to the spiritual world.

IN RESURRECTION

Presbyterians believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Lord's sinless body did not see corruption. It was transformed into a spiritual body. St. John in his gospel suggests that the resurrected body of Jesus for evidential purposes retained certain physical attributes.

According to the New Testament and especially St. Paul, man's body, unlike that of Jesus, will experience corruption. But the body of believers will be transformed into a spiritual body which will be the body of the resurrection. Paul writes: "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and it is a spiritual body." (I Corinthians 15:44)

Who was the founder of Presbyterianism? CALVIN FOUNDER

John Calvin, who broke with the Church of Rome at the age of 24, did more than any man to set forth the principles upon which modern Presbyterianism is built. But it is questionable whether the term "founder" is appropriate. Calvin summoned Christians to return to a form of government which was prevalent in the first century A.D. John Knox, during his exile from Britain, lived in Geneva, where he studied Calvin's teaching. Knox was the most powerful single force in establishing Presbyterianism in Scotland where it is the dominant creed.

How is the Presbyterian Church governed? **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

The Presbyterian system of church government is itself a representative democracy. The people govern the Church through elected representatives. The layman has a prominent role in the Presbyterian Church. All property is vested in laymen—not in pastors or bishops. In the larger courts of the Church, the vote of every minister is balanced by the vote of a layman. Laymen are eligible for the highest office (moderator) in each court.

What role did Presbyterians play in the establishment of American democracy? So great was the participation of Presbyterians in the Revolutionary War that it was described in the British House of Commons as this "Presbyterian rebellion." A famous saying in the Encyclopaedia Britannica says: "The Presbyterians exerted a great influence in the construction of the Constitution of the United States and the government of the Church was assimilated in no slight degree to the civil government of the country."

PROUD OF FACT

Presbyterians are proud of the fact that the Rev. John Witherspoon was the only clergyman who signed the Declaration of Independence. At least 13 other members of this historic document can be identified as Presbyterians.

Having suffered greatly from persecution in the Old World, Presbyterians had an immense fear of political and religious oppression in the New. The words of John Knox to Mary, Queen of Scots, the Roman Catholic sovereign of Scotland, were frequently quoted during the war in America: "If princes exceed their bounds, Madam, they may be resisted and even deposed."



CAUGHT OFF GUARD by early arrival, Tucson, Ariz., health officials had to put their supply of precious Salk antipolio in a refrigerated meat locker. Butcher Wade Bunting wasn't bothered by the vaccine. (AP Wirephoto)

Doctors' Aid Asked In Giving Vaccine

members to charge only for the vaccine itself when it is requested for pre-school children and those in the third grade through eighth grade.

Children in first and second grades will be given vaccine donated by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

There are eight kinds of blind fish in America, some of which carry only traces of eyes.

Actress Found To Be Insane

CHICAGO — A criminal court jury yesterday found insane an actress who was accused of killing her 3-year-old daughter with sleeping pills. A psychiatrist testified she had a "five year history of drug addiction."

The actress, Mrs. Lola Kathryn DeWitt, 26, was accused of causing the death of the child, Fanny Stewart, by giving her an overdose of sleeping pills last February.

Mrs. DeWitt played in "Pajama Tops" in its recent Chicago run. Costa Rica, with a population of 850,000 boasts it has more teachers than soldiers.

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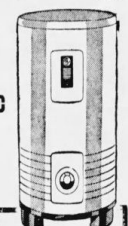
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IRS To Close 19 N. C. Offices

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service said today it will close 19 branch offices in North Carolina.

Sen. Ervin (D-NC) said the offices will be closed at Albemarle, Asheboro, Brevard, Bryson City, Concord, Dunn, Kinston, Laurinburg, Lexington, Lincolnton, Lenoir, Mount Airy, Mount Airy, Sanford, Southern Pines, Statesville, Washington, Waynesville and Wilson.

North Carolina has approximately 49 such offices now.

F. Sanders, district director of the service, wrote Rep. Shuford (D-NC) that the service has conducted a complete study to improve supervision, attain a more realistic balance between enforcement and taxpayer services, and to regroup personnel in the interest of more realistic work.

Refusal Is Called Divorce Grounds

LONDON — A divorce court judge ruled yesterday that a husband's refusal to have sex with his wife is a ground for divorce.

Donald N. Forbes, 36, won a decree from his artist wife, Naida, also 36. He said she put off his paternity pleas with such retorts as "You only want to prove your manhood."

Forbes said his wife also teased him with such banalities as "I don't want to be a father."

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