

THE BALTIMORE EXPERIENCE

James M. Dial - The Man Before Transformation

By Herbert H. Locklear

People who know James M. Dial before and after transformation don't really mind describing their experience with him "before"; but always hasten to add how different that experience has been in the "after."

In gathering information for this "feature," I inquired specifically of people who have known him the longest, about Mr. Dial. Many responses related about James' past

has always been a "free-hearted" man. He would do one a favor, if asked. He told how Mr. Dial had loaned him five dollars in spite of fact they barely knew each other at that time.

One only needs to ask a few questions to get people talking about James Dial. Almost everyone has their own story to tell about "the man" before transformation. I keep getting clear indications that while most of the stories were true, some were fabrications while others were exaggerations. Nevertheless, all such stories woven together form the fabric that tells the history of James Dial, the man before the transformation.

"I can remember the time when if I saw James Dial coming, I'd cross the street to avoid meeting him." I've heard this comment made so often that it is now hard to know who first said it. I remember when Vivian Locklear said if I asked her if it was because she was afraid of him, or what? Her summary response was that it was not so much fear as it was that James was so "unpredictable" and that he was so "worrisome" when he was drinking. Elizabeth Locklear shared also how, in the early years of knowing James Dial,

she found him to be a person to avoid when possible.

From what I determined, James M. Dial has never been "ordinary," says one person who has known James Dial for many years. "...I'd say that he was one of the world's most ordinary people."

"I've always liked James," says another source, "but he made me nervous when he was around." The source explained that "...when James Dial was in your presence and drinking, anything could happen, and usually did."

"Quick tempered, easily agitated, short response time, didn't pick fights, but wouldn't run from one"; these are some of the short descriptive terms used to explain Dial's behavior before October 1964 the time of his dynamic change through salvation. When these people continue to relate their current description of Mr. Dial, they call him, "A man of love," "a man of compassion," "a man who tries hard to discipline himself while serving the needs of other."

"As Paul was called into the ministry because of his own particular characteristics, so maybe was James M. Dial called and placed in his particular assignment," said

a long time friend of James Dial. That person continued that it's hard to imagine a passive or placid type person surviving for long in a Baltimore ministry. "Maybe," he said, those characteristics, disciplined and governed, are just what God needed in Baltimore." In which case, the characteristics thought to be negative, could actually be "attributes."

James Dial himself says in summary that his life had become "a physical wreck, seems hope had run out; it seemed there was no hope." Moments in which he felt proud of himself were few and far between. He has shared that he even contemplated suicide.

Dial relates he remembered how, as a young man he had accepted Christ, but failed to persevere as he should. He remembers the guidance of his mother Mrs. Maggie Dial, and of his grandparents "Papa Lisha and Momma Ester" Dial, all of the Red Springs area.

Mr. Dial recounts how his reputation had become so gross that upon hearing he had become a minister, his grandmother exclaimed, "What's that boy going to try next?" Others openly admit, however, because of Dial's past,

they had little or no confidence that he would be able to make it first as a Christian, second as a minister. Still there are those, found in doing this material, who can't quite believe James Dial, as a transformed man.

In a very personal kind of way, a member of Dial's church admitted that one of the major things which constrained him to recommit his life to Christ was when he went to Church and saw James M. Dial in "the pulpit" as a minister. He recalled thinking, "My God, if you saved James Dial, the rest of the world has a chance."

Next Week "...A Silk Purse from a Sow's Ear." James M. Dial: The Man-After Transformation.



Rev. James M. Dial shown with his mother, Mrs. Maggie Dial in his earlier ministry.



In a year's time 30 tons of barnacles can attach themselves to the bottom of an ocean-going ship.



Cranberries will keep for 4 to 8 weeks in your refrigerator. Or you can freeze them with no preparation.



Lindsay Locklear, foreground, Johnny Thompson, center, Rev. Dial hold a planning session.



The Romans named the Mediterranean Sea. The name means middle of the earth.



The first radio broadcast in the U.S. was made on Christmas Eve, 1906 by R. A. Fessenden.

Blue Jays

Win Regular Season



Kneeling, left to right, Managers and bat-boys, Tracy Hunt, Denny Ray Hunt, James Earl Jones, Jr., and Chris Hunt. Second Row Kneeling, left to right, Kenny Mitchell, Hezlie Freeman, Standing, back row; Coach Telford Hunt, Aundra Hunt, Don Hunt, Ray Lewis, Kenneth Hunt, Eugene Blue, Robert Lewis, Larry Hunt, Phillip Hunt, Andy Hunt, Terry Allen, and Jimmy Allen. Not pictured are Percell Scott and William Hunt.

The Blue Jays sponsored by the Goldrush of Lumberton were champions of the split regular season at Green Grove Community Softball Field. They were also regular season tournament champions.

The Blue Jays traveled to Mayodon, N.C. for the state ASA softball tournament during the Labor Day week-end.

Bells Observe 50th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Daughtry Bell of Route 3, Maxton were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday with a dinner given by their nine children who were all present for the affair. The children are: Ms. Dorothy Chavis of Pembroke; Raeford Bell of Aberdeen; Ms. Jeanette Faulk of Greensboro; Paul Bell of Maxton; Ms. Mary F. Locklear of Pembroke; Tommie Bell of Asheville; Daughtry Bell, Jr. of Maxton; Edward Bell of Greensboro; Ms. Fay Locklear of Maxton. Also present were 21 grand children and two great-grand children.

The honorees received many lovely gifts. There were approximately 125 relatives and friends present.

The Bells were married September 4, 1932 in Dillon, SC. (Text and photo by Elmer Hunt)



The first panel quiz show on radio was Information Please, aired May 17, 1938.

IN THE ARMED FORCES

RONNIE D. EVANS

Marine Pvt. Ronnie D. Evans, son of Robert L. Evans, of Lumberton, NC has reported for duty at Marine Barracks, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

SANDY J. CHAVIS

Pvt. Sandy J. Chavis, son of Army 1st Sgt. Randall W. & Stella W. Chavis of Rt. 1, Pembroke, N.C. has completed a unit and organization supply specialist course at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Va.

Students were trained in the Army supply system, unit and organization supply, fitting of clothing, packaging and storing of supplies, and organizational maintenance of small arms.

CHRISTOPHER E. ROBERTS

Coast Guard Cadet Christopher E. Roberts, son of Charles E. and Dorothy L. Roberts of Rt. 6, Lumberton, N.C. recently participated in a cadet Summer Training Patrol aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Bibb, homeported in New Bedford, Mass.

The purpose of the cruise was to train future Coast Guard officers in the various aspects of shipboard life. During the cruise, the cutter conducted a routine law enforcement patrol.

The Bibb is 327 feet long and carries a crew of 144. It is armed with guns and mortars.



The okapi, a relative of the giraffe, looks almost the same today as it did 30 million years ago.



The slide rule was invented by English mathematician William Outred in the 1600s.

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10-GALLON CO-OP PORTABLE AIR TANK A heavy-duty tank for a convenient source of compressed air anywhere on your farm. #10. Carry in your vehicle for emergency use. Reg. \$39.82	DOOR BUSTER MOTTO BARB WIRE 15 1/2 gauge, 4 point with 5-inch spacing. 80 rod spool. Reg. \$25.79	MORSEY ALUMINUM ROOF COATING Renews your roof as it insulates, waterproofs and seals. Properly applied, it can lower inside temperature 15 to 20 degrees. 5-gallon can. Reg. \$34.43	REYNOLDS ALUMINUM ROOFING Sturdy Thrifty Rib roofing keeps your buildings cooler in summer, warmer in winter. The lightweight, 4-foot wide sheets go up fast, never rust. 8 ft. Reg. \$13.87 SALE \$12.48 10 ft. Reg. \$17.34 SALE \$15.60 12 ft. Reg. \$20.81 SALE \$18.69 14 ft. Reg. \$24.28 SALE \$21.84 16 ft. Reg. \$27.73 SALE \$24.96 18 ft. Reg. \$31.22 SALE \$28.08 20 ft. Reg. \$34.68 SALE \$31.20 22 ft. Reg. \$38.15 SALE \$34.32 24 ft. Reg. \$41.62 SALE \$37.44
WELLS LAMONT MEN'S GLOVES Grain leather driver's style gloves in Sm., Med., Lg. #1178 Reg. \$9.18	RED BRAND FENCE American-made 39 inch field fence, of sturdy galvanized zinc-coated 12 1/2 gauge wire. 20 rod roll. #939. Reg. \$75.27	8 VOLT RAY-O-VAC FENCE BATTERY For battery powered fences. #641 Reg. \$13.37	UNIVERSAL 2000 FENCE CONTROLLER Welder type, charges 3 miles of fence. 115V AC. Reg. \$49.10
STEEL PANEL GATES Five heavy-duty galvanized panels. 48" x 72" high. 14 ft. Reg. \$53.51 12 ft. Reg. \$43.60	SILVER STIRRUP HORSE FEED Our finest feed for adult horses. Coarse texture, with 11% protein for healthy horses and shining coats. 50-lb. bag. Reg. \$5.35	CRESCENT FENCE TOOL Drives or removes staples, stretches wire tight before fastening. Two wire cutters, cushion-grip handles. #1936-10CV Reg. \$12.77	TBZ CATTLE WORMER PASTE Given orally. Safe, convenient, effective. Reg. \$13.47

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