

Dr. William Rittenhouse

Astronauts' Pastor Was Former Revivalist At Pisgah Forest

Baptist James Irwin Left A Banner On Moon

When Southern Baptist, Col. James B. Irwin blasted off from the lunar surface last month, he left a testimony for his church. It was a photographic copy of a banner from the Nassau Bay Baptist Church of Houston, Texas. The first such on the moon, it was a witness for the Southern Baptist Church unique in church history.

Astronaut Irwin took two

copies of the photo with him to the moon. One was left there as the unusual testimony and the other was returned to earth to be copied and given to church members.

James Irwin Day

The banner included a picture of the church and the slogan, "Things Happen at Nassau Bay Baptist Church;" the inscription, "Our prayers go with the crew of Apollo 16;" the crew members' names; and the signatures of all those present at the church on an earlier Sunday designated

James Irwin Day."

Prominent in this unique testimony was Dr. William Rittenhouse, pastor of the Nassau Bay Baptist Church and former wartime pilot himself.

At the invitation of another astronaut in his congregation, Lt. Col. Bill Pogue, the Reverend Rittenhouse was present in the V. I. P. viewing stand at Cape Kennedy when Irwin and the crew of Apollo 15 left the earth for the moon mission.

Former Local Revivalist

A copy of the now famous

banner has been received here by Mr. and Mrs. Parker Pace of Rt. 3, Brevard, Mr. and Mrs. Pace became acquainted with Dr. Rittenhouse several years ago when he conducted a revival at their church, the Pisgah Forest Baptist. They have since stayed in contact with the former flyer - minister by correspondence.

Rev. Rittenhouse's modern church is near the Manned Spacecraft Center at Houston, Texas, and is the home church of Astronauts Irwin and Bill Pogue as well as many other people active in the space

program.

Daughter To Be Baptized

On the James Irwin Day," at the church, the astronaut gave his testimony four times — three times to Sunday School assemblies and once before the entire church, according to a story in the "Biblical Record."

Dr. Rittenhouse is scheduled to baptize Col. Irwin's 10-year-old daughter, Jill, on October 24th. The youngster made her profession of faith on "James Irwin Day" honoring her father.

Pisgah Forest Lions Club Has Annual Family Outing

The Pisgah Forest Lions Club held their annual Family Night on Aug. 24.

The Lions and their families toured the Eye Screening van which screened approximately 300 preschool children's eyes in Transylvania County in the past two weeks.

After the meal, a musical pro-

gram, called "Moments to Remember", was given by Mrs. Ronnie Daniels, Mrs. Charles Hudgins and Miss Barbara Poole.

Lions Ray Burgin and J. I. Ayers were visitors from the Brevard Lions Club. Lion Ayers reviewed the work of the Eye Screening Van in Transylvania County.

DR. RITTENHOUSE

These Days

Or - Behind The News
From Washington
By -
John Chamberlain

Does the fate of the ecology movement depend on the Right or the Left? The popular superstition is that the big, bad corporations which supposedly claim a right to dump their industrial poisons into the sea and air, will be the ones to throw the worst roadblocks in the way of progress toward a clean environment. But the popular superstition could be wrong.

As a matter of fact, it is now the Left that contends the ecologists may be overdoing things. Nobody would ever call the Fabian Society of Great Britain a conservative organization. It was the Fabian Society that gave such radical luminaries as George Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells their first important political platform in the early years of the century. Sidney and Beatrice Webb, who were Fabian socialists, handed England its marching orders toward collectivist Welfareism by popularizing the slogan, "the inevitability of gradualism." And when Jack London and other U. S. radicals formed the first Intercollegiate Socialist Society in America, it was under Fabian influence and with Fabian blessings.

With this history in mind, I was astounded to come across something called "Fabian Tract 404 for a social democratic Britain." The tract is polite toward the ecologists. It says that "in the long run, we can produce quieter aircraft engines, pollution-free cars, clean rivers, safe pesticides, effective waste disposal." Then the tract goes on to make the case for growth. In the name of such things as full employment for the working man and good fun for the masses, the tract points to certain gang-bro ecologists and remarks, "We must beware of some of our friends" who "wholly neglect the economic case . . . parts of the conservationist lobby would do precisely this."

The tract charges those whom Senator Jackson in America calls the "ecological extremists" with being "hostile to growth in principle and indifferent to the needs of ordinary people." And then comes the real class - angled thrust. The tract accuses the all-out section of the conservationist lobby of having "a manifest class bias." It reflects "a set of middle-class and upper-class value judgments. Its champions

are often kindly and dedicated people. But they are affluent and fundamentally, though of course not consciously, they want to kick the ladder down behind them. They are highly selective in their concern, being militant mainly about threats to rural peace and wildlife and well-loved beauty spots; they are little concerned with the far more desperate problem of the urban environment in which 80 per cent of our fellow citizens live."

The tract is particularly bitter about some "revered pundits of the day" such as Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, and it hits out at the "doomwatch journalists" who have "had the run of their lives in the last twelve months." It scorns one particular roomwater for proposing towns in which only horse-drawn vehicles would be admitted. The doomwatcher in question, a certain Professor Michan, who is unknown to me, would welcome "an enormous reduction in the demand for foreign travel." "Yes, indeed," so the tract remarks, "the rich would proceed in leisurely fashion across Europe to the Mediterranean beauty spots they could park their Rolls-Royces and take to a boat or a horse-drawn vehicle. As for my constituents, who have only a fortnight's holiday, let them eat cake and go back to Blackpool."

The writer of Fabian Tract 404 makes the good point that only a growing Gross National Product will yield the tax money to clean up our rivers and our air. And he wonders why it is so terrible for his constituents to enjoy eating fish and chips on previously secluded beaches. He cannot accept a view of the environment that is essentially elitist, protectionist, and anti-growth.

Nor can Senator Henry (Scoop) Jackson, who thinks ecology must not be permitted to stop economic expansion. Jackson happens to be labor leader George Meany's candidate for President. American labor already has a Fabian attitude toward ecology. We can expect a more vigorous defense of the environment from the industrialists, who are already allotting research and development funds for improving the water and freshening up the air.



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