

Churches Mark Nation's Course

America, its destiny always linked closely to the faith of its people, stands today more than ever a nation of churches, old and new.

Religious shrines mark off the broad course of its history—from Old Virginia's rustic parish churches and New England's venerable meeting-houses to San Miguel in Santa Fe, N. M., still lifting its scarred walls despite more than three centuries of fire, strife, earthquake and the slow wear of time.

The United States also looks to the future through its churches and synagogues, says the National Geographic Society. Church construction is booming. Last year religious edifices valued at \$472,000,000 were started. This year churches are going up at a record \$500,000,000 rate.

Most in Virginia
Most churches antedating 1709 and still standing, at least in part, are found in Virginia. Some also survive in Pennsylvania, Maryland, a few other eastern states and at least two in New Mexico.

The oldest is probably San Miguel. Its history reaches back to the early 17th century possibly further. Time has altered its countenance. Five foot thick walls remain, but its roof has been replaced and its storm-wrecked tower remodeled.

Truer to original design is the mission church at Acama, N. M., one of the best examples of two-towered adobe architecture. Its beginning also is lost in the past but some historians think it second only to San Miguel in antiquity.

In Virginia, St. Luke's near Smithfield (1632) appears the oldest building of English style in the country. Hardly less ancient is the ivy-mantled tower at Jamestown, a monument to the first permanent British settlement.

Only one New England church now stands as a 17th century relic—Ship Meeting House at Hingham, Mass. (1681), a wooden building surmounted by a truncated pyramid roof. It lays claim to being the "oldest building in the United States used continuously for public worship."

Old Friends' Meeting House
Friends' Meeting House near Easton (1684) goes back further than any other Maryland church. Some edifices that have also seen 250 years pass are St. George's Accomac County, Va.; Merchant's Hope, Prince George County, Va.; Gloria Dei, Philadelphia; Norriton Presbyterian, Montgomery County, Pa.; and Sleepy Hollow Dutch Reformed, Tarrytown, N. Y.

History has bestowed fame on several early buildings, not, however, among the very oldest. The signal lanterns for Paul Revere were displayed on Old North Church, Boston, (erected 1723). Touro Synagogue, Newport, R. I., (1759), the oldest Jewish house of worship in the United States, cherishes an intimate letter from George Washington ("happily the Government of the United States . . . gives to bigotry no sanction").

St. John's in Richmond, Va., (1741) provides a living link with the Nation's Founding Fathers. There Patrick Henry proclaimed "Give me liberty or give me death" and there Washington, George Mason, Thomas Jefferson, and Richard Henry Lee joined in public meetings.

The founding of the Franciscan missions, partly restored today, paralleled much of the early development of California. The last—San Francisco de Solano—was established just north of San Francisco Bay in 1823. But even when Father Junipero Serra built the first—San Diego de Alcalá—in 1769, San Miguel in the Southwest's "City of the Holy Faith" had already entered its second century.

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Speeding Leads In Highway Violations

Speeding convictions were secured against 4,118 Tar Heel drivers in May the Motor Vehicles Department reports in a regular monthly summary of moving violations.

Simple speeding (over 55 mph) does not require revocation of driving privileges for the first offense nor does reckless driving which held second place in the report with 1,020 convictions.

Driving without an operator's permit was in third place with 906 convictions.

Failing to yield the right of way resulted in 198 convictions, failing to stop for a stop sign 327, faulty equipment 268, improper passing 159, following too closely 139, and driving on the wrong side of the road 107.

Miscellaneous offenses brought the May total to 7,573 convictions, all North Carolinians.

Out of state violators added another 1,823 to the guilty list.

710 Lose Right To Drive By Drinking

More than 700 Tar Heels aren't doing any legal driving today because of drunken driving convictions secured against them last month according to the Motor Vehicles Department's regular monthly statement.

For May the vehicles agency reported 710 drunken driving convictions which, as usual, led the monthly report of traffic violations requiring the surrender of driving privileges.

Second offense drunken drivers totaled 122 for the month and all other additional liquor-motor vehicle violations came to 26.

Speeding offenses cost 541 licenses, broken down like this: over 75 mph 154; two offenses over 55 mph 138; over 70 mph in an auto 252; and over 60 in a truck 2.

Other violations like reckless driving, driving after license revoked, manslaughter, unsatisfied judgment, and incompetency brought the month's total of revocations to 970. Suspensions totaled 833.

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Very Few Weevils Found In Cotton

According to R. M. Thompson, very few boll weevils have appeared in Per-

quimans County to date. The first cotton insect survey was made last week and boll weevil was found in only one field and in one spot near a woods.

A few aphids (lice) were found but

only a scattered few and lady bugs were active in taking care of them. It appears that there is no need to start dusting yet.

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Fortitude I take to be the quiet possession of a man's self, and an undisturbed doing his duty whatever evils beset, or dangers lie in the way.
—John Locke.

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