COMPLETE IN THIS ISSUE

A NERO WOLFE MYSTERY NOVEL

J. EDGAR HOOVER • TOM GILL

SCATTERGOOD
Peddlers of

Here's the inside story of a zealous band of crusaders—Jehovah's witnesses—hooted and stoned by American mobs. An experienced reporter tells why they refuse to salute the flag, attack established religions, build a $75,000 home for ancient prophets, and sell millions of books and pamphlets
MILLIONS of Americans these days are hearing for the first time about that hardy band of religious zealots known as "Jehovah's witnesses" (with a small w). In various sections of the country recently, they have been attacked by mobs, thrown into jail, hooted and stoned out of town for spreading their propaganda against patriotism and against established religions.

Led by 70-year-old Judge Joseph F. Rutherford, their militant and mysterious leader, the witnesses have been denounced as fifth columnists, fascists, saboteurs. They have been ridiculed as bigoted fanatics. They stolidly refuse to salute the American or any other flag. They campaign against recruiting and military training, despite any national emergency. Shouting, "Religion is a racket," they attack bitterly the beliefs of Protestants, Jews, and Catholics.

Such bellicose tactics arouse violent opposition and have brought the witnesses into the limelight throughout the world. In Germany, Hitler's dread Gestapo interned 6,000 witnesses who wouldn't "hell," and the first conscientious objector executed by the Nazis was a witness. In Canada, where the organization has been outlawed, a magistrate recently sentenced two witnesses to serve six months in prison, and added he would recommend they be interned afterward for the duration of the war. Great Britain, however, exempts them from war duty.

In the United States a mob of 300 men besieged a meeting of 50 witnesses in Mooresville, Ind., shouting, "Salute the flag or you won't leave the hall." The mob blocked the exit until morning, when police rescued the terrified witnesses.

More than 2,000 men set fire to the witnesses' Kingdom Hall in Kennebunk, Maine, dragged members from their beds, and beat them in an effort to teach them patriotism. In Litchfield, Ill., one recent Sunday, 100 witnesses appeared in 21 automobiles, preaching their propaganda against flag-saluting. A mob wrecked 12 of the automobiles and beat up a number of witnesses, while police and other citizens herded 62 men and women to prison for protection.

Witnesses who descended on Monroe, La., with automobiles that broadcast such messages as "Religions are the instruments of Satan," were chased out of the state. In Rockville, Md., a handful of men carrying an American flag broke into a Jehovah's witnesses meeting. When 25 witnesses refused to salute the flag, the place was promptly wrecked and the witnesses ordered to leave town.

So great is the storm of indignation against them that Francis Biddle, United States Solicitor General, warning the public against the spread of hysteria are its purposes, and why is it arousing such resentment? Some weeks ago I set out to find the answers. Since then I have attended numerous meetings of Jehovah's witnesses; I have studied their books, pamphlets, magazines, and talked with dozens of witnesses.

I have found no justification for the accusation that the witnesses are Nazi propagandists. They deny it emphatically, and out a word in any of Judge Rutherford's writings can comfort Hitler. The witnesses abhor all earthly governments and respect only the "Theocratic Government of Jehovah."

The rank-and-file members, I am convinced, sincerely believe that Judge
Rutherford is leading them toward a delightful, and exclusive, heaven-on-earth. The practices which have stirred public demonstrations against them spring from a blind faith in their leader rather than from any subversive conspiracy.

Their refusal to salute the flag is an example. To the judge, a flag is a graven image, and a salute distinctively violates the Biblical command, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto any graven images." The judge trumpets forth his individual interpretations of the Bible, and none of his followers even questions them.

As far as I could find out, there are about 45,000 active witnesses throughout the United States. They have about 200,000 followers, including children, in this country, and probably 1,000,000 more throughout the world. Among these are thousands of natives in South Africa.

In San Diego, Calif., the organization has built a magnificent $75,000 Spanish home which King David, Isaac, Samuel, and the other prophets are expected to occupy when, according to Judge Rutherford's oracular prophecy, they return to earth most any day now. The judge, thoughtfully, has landscaped the grounds with date and palm trees, "So," he says, "these princes of the universe will feel at home." Meanwhile, the judge and his wife are occupying the mansion.

DISCOVERED that Jehovah's witnesses have succumbed in developing one of America's biggest and strangest businesses. In Brooklyn, N.Y., they own a 7-story apartment house and an 8-story modern printing plant that turns out tons of pamphlets every year. Together the two enterprises are worth more than $1,000,000.

They have baptismal ceremonies but, they say, no membership role. One becomes a witness simply by agreeing to do the will of God, as interpreted by Judge Rutherford.

Alluring to some may be the belief that witnesses, as conscientious objectors, will not have to fight in any war. But they might go to jail. In 1918 Judge Rutherford and six associates were sentenced to 20 years each in Atlanta Penitentiary for obstructing recruiting. After the judge had served nearly a year, a court of appeals ordered a new trial, the war ended, and the case was dropped.

The judge insists that Jehovah's witnesses have existed on earth as an organization for 5,000 years and cites Biblical mention of them. More conservative accounts, however, record that the society was founded by Pastor Charles T. Russell, of Pittsburgh, Pa., about 1876 as the International Bible Students Association. He inherited a chain of clothing stores from his father, but, after giving several hundred thousand dollars to the cause, he was said to have only $200 when he died in 1916. In 1910 he predicted that Christ would return in 1914 and end the rule of imperfect men. Witnesses have twisted his prophecy and say he foresaw the World War.

Taking charge of the organization, Judge Rutherford declared that Christ had come as predicted, but that he was invisible and that Russell meant that in 1914 the Kingdom of God would begin to assume control. In 1920 Rutherford predicted that Abraham, Isaac, and other prophets would return in 1923. Now he gives no dates but says that Judgment Day is coming "very soon."

Judge Rutherford avoids personal publicity and appears publicly only when trying a case before the Supreme Court or addressing conventions of witnesses. He is 6 feet tall, paunchy, devoted to wing collars and black bow ties. He is not in Who's Who in America. His organization gives out no facts except his age, that he is married and has a son in California who helps him in his work. His health is not good and recently he spent much time in a private sanitarium, the location of which was a closely guarded secret. This mystery with which he surrounds his private life helps to make his followers think of him as a ghostly spirit, not quite of this world. And keeps away hecklers.

IS parents were farmers, near Versailles, Mo. Rutherford read law in an office in Jefferson City, Mo., and practiced there. Some of his opponents say he adopted the title "Judge" after serving as a temporary judge for four days in the Cooper County, Mo., Circuit Court. Converted by Pastor Russell's sermons, he joined Russell's legal staff in 1909, at the age of forty. If he wasn't a good lawyer then, his successful appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court indicate that he has developed into one. Undoubtedly he is a first-class organizer and an appealing orator. Even his opponents do not believe the charges that he has made a fortune out of the sale of his Publications; they are convinced that he is not out for personal profit.

Upon Russell's death many members deserted the society, some because they didn't like Rutherford, others who lost faith because Russell's millennium had not arrived. Rutherford (Continued on page 69)
managed to keep the concern going even through the dark and disappointing days of 1925, when Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob failed to return to set up their kingdom.

About 1927 the society began to show real strength and to collect substantial contributions. Meanwhile, Rutherford had stopped selling Russell's books and had dropped from the publications any mention of the founder, whom he once described as "The greatest man that has lived since the Apostle Paul." All the literature was Judge Rutherford's, and he changed the name from "International Bible Students" to "Jehovah's witnesses."

THE 150 persons who work in the Brooklyn publishing house for $10 a month and "sound," are witnesses and live in the apartment building, where they rise at 6:30 A.M. and retire at 10:30 P.M. There, too, lives Judge Rutherford, when he is in Brooklyn, and his office aides. They eat silently in a common dining-room. A man who dined there not long ago told me that a microphone was placed in front of Judge Rutherford, so the witnesses could hear every word he uttered even "Please pass the salt."

In the printing plant a tall, starry-eyed elevator man took me to the top floor to see Nathan H. Knorr, the small, earnest business manager, who showed me the linotypes, 5 huge rotary presses, and a book-binding plant that can turn out daily 20,000 bound books and 150,000 booklets. An assembly plant turns out portable phonographs and sound-car equipment; immense storerooms are piled high with books, magazines, phonograph records. A busy shipping-room sends out publications in about 80 languages.

The door-to-door distributors of the literature are called "publishers" and all over the world they "exchange for a contribution" about 11,000,000 booklets and about 1,500,000 books a year—five 50-cent pamphlets, 25 cents for a book, and $1 for a yearly subscription to The Watchtower. They also sell Bibles and calendars. The witnesses claim they have printed and distributed to date at least 300,000,000 books and pamphlets.

The portable phonographs are $10 each, including 3 records, and loud-speaker equipment for cars, with a turntable inside the car and horns on the roof, is $140. Brother Knorr said they had 1,000 sound cars and

2. He sleepy like anything. He stumble out to blind. I leave him in boat. Pretty soon plenty duck come, fly around, sit on water beside blind. By gar, this feller no shoot! I wait one hour, two hour... still he no shoot!

3. I go see what wrong. This feller sound asleep! Duck all gone... no more chance for shoot that day. "Too bad," say rich feller. "I cannot stay awake!" Then he tell me how he drink the coffee on train last night.

4. Caffein in coffee keep rich feller tossin' an' turnin' all night. By gar, he get no rest at all! "I fix!" I announce. "Today you try rest. Tonight I make go good Sanka Coffee. She 97% caffein-free, an' no can keep you awake!"

5. I show words on tin: "Council on Foods of American Medical Association says: 'Sanka Coffee is free from caffein effect and can be used when other coffee has been forbidden.'" (I no read this good, but rich feller can.)

6. He drink the Sanka Coffee. One cup, two cup. He smack lips. He sleep like bear in winter time. Next mornin' he bag limit ver' soon. "Baptiste," he say, "you smart feller! I buy this lodge, an' make you manager at good salary!"

SANKA COFFEE
REAL COFFEE... 97% CAFFEIN-FREE 
PRICE REDUCED!
The price of Sanka Coffee goes down again! Both "regular" and the popular, new "drip" grind are now selling at the lowest price in history!
PIES STOPPED UP? USE DRĀNO

1. "I'm sorry, dear, you'll have to hold your kitchen party at Nancy's tonight. The pies are stopped up again!"

2. "Oh, mother, I can fix that in a sec. I'll get some Drāno. That's what we use in the lab sink at school. Be right back."

3. Look! Drāno's specially made to put the heat on down where the drain's stopped. Its churning, chemical boiling action melts, frees grease, dirt, grounds.

Drāno

CLOTHES BRUSH


HOMESTUDY BRINGS BIGGER PAY

Don't be caught snapping when Opportunity knocks. Prepare for advancement and more money by training now for the job ahead. Free 48-page Books Tell How. Write for the book on the business field you like—mail us this ad with your name and address in the margin. Now, pl. 0.

Higher Accountancy  Business Management
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Law—Degree of LL.B.  Credit and Collection
Commercial Law  Modern Foremanship
Industrial Management  Expert Bookkeeping
Shop Typy  Effective Speaking

LASALLE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY
A Correspondence Institution
Dept. 1133-R  Chicago

4. "Am I good or am I good? Now mom's going to use a teaspoonful of Drāno every night after the dishes are done to keep the pipes from stopping up."

P. S. A teaspoonful after the dishes guards against stopped-up drains. Won't harm pipes—no objectionable fumes. Never over 25c at grocery, drug, hardware stores.

Cort, 1930, The Drāno Co.

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

40,000 portable phonographs in operation, so they have sold to mention $1,400,000 worth of sound-car equipment and $400,000 worth of phonographs. They sell about 150,000 records of Judge Rutherford's lectures a year, for 70 cents each.

The "publishers" probably collect nearly $1,000,000 a year for the books and pamphlets. At least one fifth of that, printers say, must be clear profit. I also heard of one elderly man who married a witness, became converted, and left several thousand dollars to the organization. There probably are many similar bequests.

Judge Rutherford makes public no financial report. He says that all the money goes back into the work of expanding the word. Skeptics have never been able to discover where spare dollars, if there are any, are invested. The society's legal expenses for defense of adherence charges, legal fees, say, and activities abroad do not pay their own way. Publications in foreign languages, printed in comparatively small quantities, probably are distributed at a loss.

The society owns radio station WBBR in Brooklyn, where its own orchestra and singers entertain between recorded lectures by Judge Rutherford. Once Judge Rutherford had a nation-wide hookup of 53 stations at a reputed cost of $50,000 per week, but his attacks on religions brought so many complaints that the stations cut him off.

With an organization that any publisher would envy, Judge Rutherford has built himself up into the biggest book publisher of the word. Some of his books have passed the 2,500,000 mark, and most booklets, according to the title pages, have a first printing of 10,000,000 copies. He has published 35 books and 26 bulky booklets, most of them crowded with Biblical quotations.

In Port Chester, N. Y., I attended a salesmen's weekly pep meeting, on the second floor of a shabby building. About 25 persons were present, men, women, and children. I was welcomed by the "advertising servat," who has charge of the literature. In his secular life he is a postman.

Charts on the walls showed how far behind were the Port Chester publishers on their quotas. The lesson sheet was Informant, Judge Rutherford's monthly house organ for his publishers. It urged witnesses to "Make this the biggest booklet month yet."

The leader insisted they'd all have to work harder. Most of them looked as if they were working too hard, now, all day long. "We must," he declared, "clear the decks and put aside all obstacles that are in the way of complete devotion to Jehovah."

The witnesses nodded, and the sales meeting ended with a prayer.

AT THEIR regular Sunday-night meetings the services are devoted to a study of Judge Rutherford's writings. The leader reads a question, witnesses who have studied The Watchtower recite the answer. It runs like this:

"What do the demons do?" the servant (leader) asks.

An old lady in a shapeless dress raises her hand: "They use religion to debauch the human race."

"Very good."

Gaining life by such praise, the old lady sits up, bright-eyed and proud, and lifts her chin a little. She has become a personage.

"What will become of the haughty, righteous know-it-all?"
Feel the zest of brisk October

Morning or night, or in between, there can be quick refreshment in the simple act of brushing your teeth.

Brushing your teeth needn’t be a dull routine. It can be one of the day’s most stimulating experiences. Simply brush teeth and gums with cool, zesty Squibb Dental Cream* and feel the difference. Your drowsy mouth awakens. And you feel immediately fresher, cleaner.

Squibb Dental Cream contains Squibb Milk of Magnesia—concentrated. And that Milk of Magnesia helps form a clean, tangy bath, neither soapy nor sweet, that gets right down around your teeth and gums... cleaning, freshening... as you brush away stale deposits.

The more regularly you use this Dental Cream the better it is for you... and the better your mouth feels. Squibb Dental Cream was developed by the Squibb Laboratories to provide the best possible home aid to your regular professional dental care. Yet it costs no more than most ordinary tooth pastes. Why not try it... today!


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