

# 'HOLY GHOSTERS' WIN WHITES AND NEGROES

## New Sect with Quarters in Forty-first Street Speaks a Strange Tongue.

### SAY WORLD WILL END SOON

#### "Chief Saint" Sturtevant, One Time Longshoreman, Aided in His Meetings by White and Colored Deaconesses.

For more than a year whites and negroes have been conducting what is described on the board outside as "The Full Gospel of Hollness Mission" at 325 West Forty-first Street and holding daily meetings. Because of their strong faith in the power of the Holy Ghost to save the sinners in the neighborhood and the frequent use of that name in their teaching the mission has become known as the "Holy Ghosters."

The services begin each night with an open-air address at Thirty-seventh Street and Eighth Avenue at 7:30 o'clock. Prayers are read by a tall, surpliced negro called "Chief Saint Sturtevant" and a white woman called Sister Williams. These are followed by hymns, sung to the accompaniment of a harmonium, in which black and white deaconesses take part, all wearing short white jackets and black bonnets with flowing veils. In the course of the service a prayer is delivered by a white boy, said to be 6 years old, but who looks older, in which he exhorts all the sinners standing by to repent while there is yet time, as the end of all things is at hand. After a collection has been taken up the Holy Ghosters march to their meeting place in Forty-first Street, which consists of two rooms on the ground floor opening on the street.

Last night, when the mission service began at 8:30 o'clock, the room was thronged with men and women of all ages, white and black, all sitting together. Some had come out of curiosity, while others were members of the mission. Chief Saint G. C. Deekon, a white man, formerly a longshoreman, who has renounced that calling, opened the meeting by giving out the hymn, "There is Peace in My Soul." This was sung by the congregation, accompanied by Sister Williams on an organ.

The most peculiar part of the service was the "language of the unknown tongues," which Sister Williams, Saint Deekon, and others of the Holy Ghosters appeared to be able to speak and understand. To the stranger within the gates it seemed a mixture of Italian, Syrian, Arabic, modern Greek, and the gibberish of the Coney Island barkers.

The belief of the missionaries is that the world is at the end of its career under the present sinful conditions, that the Messiah is coming soon, and those who wish to understand his preachings must learn the new religion and language.

At the end of the singing Saint Deekon offered a prayer for the reporters who were present, that they might see the true light, and many of the members groaned aloud, while others trembled with religious fervor, shouting out, "Ha-Le, Ha-Ki" and hallelujahs. Then the boy said a prayer requesting all present to humble themselves and come to the Lord, who was ready to forgive the worst sinners, including the newspaper reporters.

Following this, Sister Williams rose up from the organ where she had been sitting and said: "Woe unto ye, scribes and Pharisees, woe unto ye, read the twenty-third chapter of St. Matthew, and learn what is the fate of the scoffer." Then, closing her eyes, she went into a trance, and said: "Toomaloo kila makoli soola markoosh karino sahina keala Betwappa kutima kanniadingalingadinga kaouli karino," and words to that effect, which caused the people to moan and cry out, "She is speaking the unknown tongue, the Lord is speaking through the sister." Many of the women rocked to and fro in their seats as the sister spoke.

When she stopped chanting a tall, colored deaconess arose and interpreted the message to mean that those who persecuted them would receive the award of evildoers, while the slanders would only bring blessings on the righteous. Other women spoke, and a colored man, a deacon, who walked the floor to keep order among the young men and women who had collected at the door out of curiosity, shouted, "'Tis He, the work of the Lord, He comes," at intervals.

Saint Deekon told the brethren and sisters that two hardened sinners had fallen down on their knees in Thirty-seventh Street that night and been converted, which caused rejoicing on all sides. After the nightly service is concluded with prayers and hymns those who desire to have any undesirable devils driven out of them go into the back room, where the saints and sisters lay hands on the sinners and "wrestle" with the devil by prayer and laying on hands until the evil spirit has been cast out, leaving his victim in an exhausted condition.

In talking to a TIMES reporter yesterday Saint Deekon said that it was not true that they thumped the converts to get the devils out. Hands were laid on gently and it was the prayer of the blessed that did the work, he declared. The mission, he said, was kept going by the Lord and not by millionaires. The whole of their tenets were to be found in Corinthians I., Chapter 12. The saint said that he had been a sinner when he was a longshoreman, went to the race tracks, drank, and smoked cigarettes, but now he had found the Lord and reformed

from those evil ways, and was going to devote his life to saving others. The Full Gospel Hollness Mission attracts numbers of people of all kinds, who come out of curiosity and listen to the service, which strongly resembles an old-fashioned camp meeting in the country.

## TOWER FOR WIRELESS 'PHONE

### Lee De Forest to Build One on Top of Terminal Building in Park Avenue.

Plans for a wireless telephone tower on the roof of the Terminal Building at Park Avenue and Forty-first Street, which have been filed with Building Superintendent Murphy by Mulliken & Moeller, architects for the Radio Telephone Company, provide for a steel structure rising eighty-five feet above the top of the Terminal Building, with poles extending above the tower itself for an additional forty feet. The tips of the poles will thus be 800 feet above the pavement, it is said, as the Terminal Building is twelve stories in height.

The device, planned by Lee De Forest, will enable its owners, so they assert, to transmit messages to any point within a radius of 250 miles. They further declare that, without the tower, but working from their laboratory on the roof of the Terminal Building, they have been able to send messages a distance of 125 miles.

Regarding these experiments with the wireless telephone, E. E. Burlingame, one of the officers of the Radio Company, said yesterday:

"The tests which have been conducted from the roof of the Terminal Building for some time have not been interfered with by the height of the Belmont Hotel, as reported, for the currents by which wireless telephone messages are sent pass through material obstructions, just as they do in wireless telegraphy, the principle being the same; but we need the higher tower to give command over a wider territory.

"With the proposed tower in operation we do not doubt that we will be able to send messages 250 miles, Mr. De Forest already having transmitted messages 400 miles from the Eiffel Tower in Paris, which is approximately 1,000 feet high. Until we can erect a chain of similar towers elsewhere, which we purpose doing, both in this State and in the New England States, we cannot hope to do more with the home tower than to send messages, but with a completed system we hope to make it a commercial success."

## FALL LEADS TO HIS ARREST.

### Speeding Motorcyclist Caught a Month After He Eluded Policeman.

William H. Wray of 53 West Sixty-third Street, was arraigned in the West Side Court yesterday before Magistrate Corrigan, charged with running his motorcycle at the rate of thirty-six miles an hour on Riverside Drive, at 108th Street, on May 8. He was arrested Saturday at the hill-climbing contest of the New York Motorcycle Club at Fort George by Bicycle Policeman William Martin.

Wray got away from Martin on May 8, when he was caught overspeeding, but Martin obtained a warrant for "John Doe" and had been on the lookout for him since then.

Saturday Martin went to the motorcycle contest at Fort George with the "John Doe" warrant in his pocket. Along in the afternoon Wray's motorcycle, while going up the steepest part of the incline on Dyckman Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, struck a stone and Wray rolled some 200 feet down the hill. Martin, with others, ran to his assistance, and identified Wray as the cyclist of May 8 and arrested him.

In court Wray admitted he was the man who had run away from the policeman. Magistrate Corrigan fined him \$5 which he paid.

## HER ESCORT HELD AS THIEF.

### Stole Young Woman's Purse at Baseball Game, a Witness Says.

While Miss Harriet Brett of Paterson, N. J., was watching the baseball game from a grandstand at Macomb's Dam Park on Saturday afternoon her purse containing \$8 and a monthly railroad ticket was taken from her. Half an hour later William H. Post, who accompanied her to the grounds and is employed in the same office with her, was arrested and locked up overnight at the Bronx Detective Bureau. He lives at 151 West Ninetieth Street.

Despite the protests of Miss Brett and Post's mother that he had not taken the purse, Magistrate Harris, in the Morrisania Police Court, yesterday held him in \$1,000 bail for trial because Detective Clark produced a witness who swore he saw Post take the young woman's purse from her lap.

Albert Bartz of 447 St. Ann's Avenue told the Magistrate that he saw Post take a big, red rose from a bunch pinned to Miss Brett's waist, and while he held it under her nose with one hand take her pocketbook with the other. Post left her a few moments later and did not return.