

A NEW EVANGELIST ARISES



BILLY GRAHAM HOLDS A REVIVAL IN LOS ANGELES AND CONVERTS 6,000 OF HIS 300,000 LISTENERS

In Los Angeles last week an energetic young evangelist named Billy Graham wound up the biggest religious revival the city had seen since the death of Aimee Semple McPherson. In seven weeks more than 300,000 people had come to hear Graham, and 6,000 of them had stayed after the services to be converted.

A Baptist and president of Minneapolis' Northwestern Schools (theology and liberal arts), Graham was invited to Los Angeles by a group of ministers and businessmen which calls itself "Christ for Greater Los Angeles, Inc." Its motto: "Don't let the 'City of the Angels' go to the devil." At first the going was slow. Though loud-voiced and powerfully persuasive, Graham frowned on flashy, crowd-drawing showmanship. But Jane Russell sent a message: "It looks like Billy Graham has started a worldwide revival. Praise the Lord!" And when the news got out that a henchman of Gangster Micky Cohen, a cowboy singer and Track Champion Louis Zamperini (*p. 100*) had been converted, Graham's 6,000-seat tent was filled to overflowing.

For half an hour before each service the crowds sang revival hymns. Then Graham fastened on his lapel microphone and stalked vigorously about the stage for an hour of fervent, Scripture-spiced preaching: "Sure there is pleasure in sin. But way down deep there is dissatisfaction. The soul will find no rest outside of God. The Lord Jesus Christ doesn't want you to spend your life in Hell. The lost souls in Hell don't want you there either (Luke 16:28: Won't you let Lazarus go and tell them not to come to this place?). . . . One person wants you to be lost. You know who it is—the devil. Shall we pray?"

WIRED FOR SOUND, Billy Graham has electric line running beneath his coat to a microphone attached to his lapel. This enables him to move and gesture at will.



CANVAS TENT, seating over 6,000, was erected when Graham was unable to hire a suitable auditorium. At night a searchlight formed a "steeple of light."



CONVERTS KNEEL after the service, while Graham's workers guide their conversion and arrange for them to meet the ministers nearest their homes.



COWBOY SINGER Stuart Hamblen performs for revival crowd after being converted by Graham. Once a race horse owner and a singer of songs with lyrics like "I won't go huntin' with yuh, Jake, but I'll go chasin' women," Hamblen is selling all but one of his horses now, changing his repertoire and giving up drinking. Concerning the latter he says, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a flashlight battery compared to the dynamo I'm hooked up with. It's Boulder Dam."



TRACK STAR Louis Zamperini (*left*) and his wife greet Graham after Zamperini's conversion. A Catholic who assumes he is in line for excommunication, Zamperini holds two collegiate records for the mile run and is famous for seizing a Nazi flag at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Shot down during the war, he spent 47 days on a raft, two years in a Japanese prison. "It's difficult for anyone who came through the things I did to forget God," he says, "but I did."