

LA IGLESIA DE
JESUCRISTO
DE LOS SANTOS
DE LOS ULTIMOS
DIAS

CENTRO DE ENTRENAMIENTO MISIONAL

Pocuro 1980
Santiago, Chile

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The Nerve-rendering News

There's always something! Things keep happening!

Biblioteca

Wendell H. Hall

That is what we saw, straight ahead, when we opened the front door of the Institute and entered the foyer. We had meant to surprise Hernán Cortés, but this was quite an overwhelming surprise for us. Hernán said that the board of directors had so named the library way back in 1966, just after we left Chile. If we once knew this, we had forgotten. Later, the Viña branch of the Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano de Cultura de Valparaíso y Viña del Mar was relocated, and the plaque too. In the former building, known as "El Castillo" (The Castle), the library was larger and much more impressive. So what? Would you rather have your name on a box of cough drops, on a BYU dorm (like Merrill Hall, John Hall, and Alan Hall), or on a library?*

The Viña Institute is now on the Calle Viana (Viana Street) side of Cerro Castillo (Castle Hill), a historic landmark of Viña del Mar which rises up a few feet from the coast of the Pacific. Perched on the side of a cliff, with windows looking out over the streets below, the Institute looks quite Italian to me. In no way as monumental and spacious as "El Castillo," it nonetheless has a special antique character that we like. Our older kids will remember Cerro Castillo as the site of "el reloj flor" (the flower clock), which is at the base of the hill, south side. Viña del Mar is a beautiful city, known in Chile as "la ciudad jardín" (the garden city).

I initiated purchase of "El Castillo" in 1964 and at the rate the Institute was growing, in terms of English classes and other income-producing activities, we expected to have it paid for in about 5 years--with no help from the embassy or any other source. Eighteen years later it had to be sold, without recovering a peso of the original down payment and all that had subsequently been invested. Now it houses the Departamento de Historia y Geografía de la Universidad Católica de Valparaíso. The building on Cerro Castillo is rented month by month. Makes me sad. In four years, 1962-66, we had tripled enrollment in English classes (Valparaíso and Viña combined) from about 800 to 2400 and the only way to go appeared to be up--arriba y arriba. Major difficulties arose a few years later under Salvador Allende's socialist-communist regime, from official harassment and the ruination of Chile's economy. While acquiring "El Castillo" in Viña del Mar, I had also succeeded in nearly doubling the size of the Valparaíso facilities, leasing two floors of space next door to us on Calle Esmeralda. Now the additional space is about the same but located below, where the Forrestier photo store formerly had its business on the street-level and basement floors. The language lab which I had installed in a large room next door is now located where my office and my secretary's adjoining office used to be. In the States, this outmoded equipment would long since have been discarded, but this is a developing country where antique automobiles chug down the streets instead of standing stationary in museums.

Hernán, my former Director of Courses (in charge of instruction in both Valpo and Viña) and now in charge of the Viña Institute, was not surprised to see us because the day before he had received a call from **El Mercurio de Valparaíso** requesting assistance in locating us. Until then he had no idea that we were in Chile. So when we opened the door he came running to meet us and we had a great reunion yacking with him and Norma Lazcano, one of the few remaining English teachers from olden times. Earlier that morning, in Valparaíso, we had had a happy get-together with our former receptionist, Ingrid Koch, who now works in one of her brother's optometry stores, and with Astrid Nielsen, who is still assistant librarian at the Valpo Institute. Ingrid is the one I always practiced German with and it didn't occur to me to say a word to her "auf Deutsch"! We spoke Spanish and English, at which she is very good. Astrid is even better. All of the new employees whom we didn't know treated us as if we were special. (At the Santiago Institute, near the embassy, when Merrill and I were browsing in the library one P-day, the head librarian came up to me and said, "Aren't you Mr. Wendell Hall, former director of the Valparaíso Institute?" I'd only been there a couple of times back in 1962-66, so I was amazed

that she remembered me. I haven't changed a bit, she claimed. Come on, you mean I was as wrinkled as Pruneface way back then?) I expressed to Hernán our sorrow at not being able to greet María Elia Ramírez again, our Valpo head librarian, who was such a special friend. Just before our departure in 1966 we had gone to a tuberculosis sanitarium to say goodbye to her and shortly thereafter we heard that she had died. Turns out that she recovered and had only recently retired, with maximum benefits, from the Institute. The next time we have a chance to go to Valpo-Viña (in December), we'll get to see our dear "resurrected" friend again. (For you who don't know, Valparaíso and Viña del Mar are both along the coast, twin cities sort of like Minneapolis and St. Paul.) Her life has been rather tragic. She wanted a baby so bad that she finally had one out of wedlock--in advanced stages of her tuberculosis. The little boy had Down's syndrome and died a few days after birth. How can we condemn her when there are so many who avoid and renounce the joys and burdens of maternal love? Why didn't she marry? Good question. She apparently was too brilliant, intelligent, and uncompromising for your ordinary male slob. (How harsh this sounds coming from one who preaches love!) The words to that favorite old song may seem trite and overly romantic now but they nevertheless express God's truth: "For 'tis love and love alone the world is seeking, And 'tis love and love alone that can repay; 'Tis the answer, 'tis the end of all that's living, For it is love alone that lives for aye." (*Aye*, poetically, = *ever*, *always*, you younger grandchildren--if you ever read these letters.) Would that María Elia had found that love! Would that all those yearning, longing, seeking for it might strive, dream, awake, adapt, learn, teach, help, motivate, change, abstain, refrain, desist, lift, push, drag, reconcile, patch, repair, accept, be beholden, not be dumb, get over it, talk, pray, listen, stumble, laugh, cry, smile, sing, understand, acknowledge, walk, run, play, dance, work, give, give a dang, take, hope, keep hoping, and find. It is possible, on a two-way street, for two to meet, converge, and make each other more radiantly, profoundly, complete.

The Santiago office of **El Mercurio** had been trying to contact me with regard to my wrathful letter to the editor about the two poisoned grapes that had cost Chile around U.S.\$800,000,000. I hadn't given a return address, wanting my symbolic donation of U.S.\$100. to be viewed as "desinteresado" (no strings attached, strictly altruistic). I did identify myself, however, as a former director of the Instituto Chileno-Norteamericano de Valparaíso y Viña del Mar, which eventually enabled them to locate me. Unfortunately, they knew of no benefic society with ties to agricultural workers to which they could pass on my donation, so they wanted to return it to me. Well, you can guess where the \$100. will go. To **La Biblioteca Wendell H. Hall!** If Merrill will let me, I'll donate at least \$100. more. Too bad W. H. Hall ain't a millionaire! When we get back home, I intend to send them all my good books in Spanish (that our children haven't asked for) plus other useful ones in English. Once, back in 1963, I got Valparaíso's sister city, Long Beach, California, to send us hundreds of books. Unfortunately, I had to spend weeks getting them out of the *aduanas* (customs) and they turned out to be worthless junk. Naturally, I know exactly what kind of books my library needs. I once made an extensive survey of readers' preferences and sent it to the embassy, hoping that they would contribute more useful titles (for the majority of our patrons, not for just a small elite who are very proficient in English and specialized subjects) but detected no improvement thereafter.

It's the Fourth of July. When I got up, I recited the pledge of allegiance in Spanish: "Juro fidelidad a la bandera de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica....." For lunch we had leftovers from a great dinner that the Espíns prepared for us yesterday in our kitchen. They are the temple workers from Argentina who have lived in the States for 33 years. It was a huge pot of *paella*, Spanish style, with chicken, chorizos (hot sausages), mushrooms, rice, etc. Delicious! They speak very little English so we jabbered away in Spanish while we ate. Still unable to find an apartment, they continue to live in our small CEM dorm #3--in use only with larger groups. Our next group, arriving Thursday-Friday, is small, with only one from Bolivia and 17 from Chile, so there is no problem. Tonight we are having freshly made ravioli from the Almac super market. The ravioli (that's plural in Italian) are white and we're feeling blue, so far from you, so if I squirt a lot of ketchup on them (Yecchh, choke, gasp!!!), we'll have an all-American meal.

Ever-loving, truly, Mom and Dad / Merrill and Wendell

M + W



*The BYU dorms are called "halls" and named after prominent people surnamed Merrill, John, Alan, etc. They should name one after uncle Aaron Tracy, one-time president of Weber College.

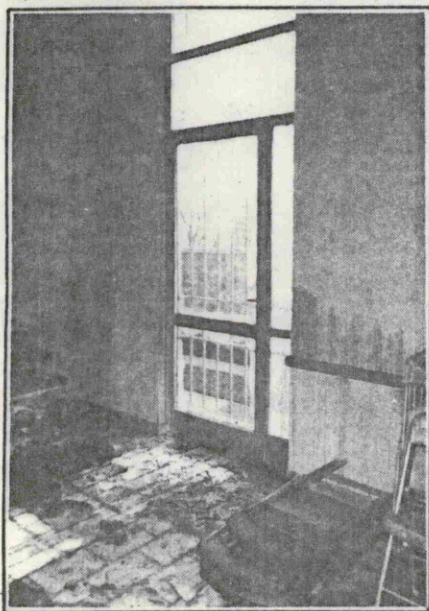
Atacado Misionero: Atentado Extremista A Templo Mormón

● Acción fue perpetrada por siete hombres y una mujer armados que gritaban consignas antinorteamericanas.

Un grupo armado del Movimiento Juvenil Lautaro, MJL, irrumpió en la iglesia mormona de calle Santa Raquel N° 9531, en La Florida, amenazando con armas de fuego a una treintena de personas que participaba en el culto religioso, para hacerlos salir de las dependencias, prendiendo fuego al inmueble.

El hecho ocurrió antenoche y dejó cuantiosos daños en el aula principal del moderno edificio de un piso, enclavado en la población obrera de Santa Raquel, al poniente del paradero 21 de avenida Vicuña Mackenna. Los empleados del templo utilizaron extintores de

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DAÑOS.— Una de las dependencias del templo mormón de La Florida que resultó con diversos daños a raíz del incendio provocado por un grupo de extremistas armados.

Damages. One of the rooms of a Mormon chapel in La Florida (Santiago) which suffered damage as a result of a fire started by a group of extremists.

polvo químico para sofocar las llamas, antes que concurriera Bomberos.

Los asaltantes, siete hombres y una mujer, algunos de los cuales ocultaron sus rostros con pañuelos de color verde con una estrella roja en el centro, gritaron estribillos antinorteamericanos y obligaron a desnudarse al misionero Elder Ballard, el único estadounidense que había en ese momento en el recinto.

"Estaba solo en una dependencia leyendo mis libros cuando entró una pareja, un muchacho y una chica, quienes me insultaron. No me hicieron ningún daño, pero me apuntaron con un revólver en la cabeza, diciéndome que ellos no querían ningún yanqui acá", recordó Ballard.

Estimó el afectado que la acción de obligarlo a quitarse la ropa frente a sus fieles estuvo destinada a causarle vergüenza, pero estimó que "esas personas creo que no lo consiguieron".

El misionero está destacado en esa iglesia desde hace algún tiempo, desde que fuera trasladado del templo de La Cisterna. "Allá también nos quemaron una capilla. Creo que son más de 200 los ataques incendiarios y explosivos que hemos recibido en los últimos años aquí en Chile", dijo.

Al momento del atentado los miembros de la iglesia —hombres y mujeres de distintas edades— realizaban actividades propias del culto religioso bajo la supervigilancia del obispo chileno Patricio Latorre, y fueron agrupados en un pasillo interior, donde los subversivos les arengaron en contra de los intereses estadounidenses en nuestro país, antes de lanzar combustible al piso y mobiliario, originando el incendio.

El obispo Latorre, a pesar de su vestidura, recibió el mismo tratamiento que el resto de los mormones.

Por su parte, el conserje del edificio, Pedro Aguillón, víctima también del ataque, informó que el grupo de atacantes ingresó en forma desordenada y profiriendo gritos, apuntando amenazantes su armas de fuego —revólveres y metralletas—, dando órdenes diferentes unos y otros, sin tener muy definido qué hacer.

"No nos hicieron daño, pero nos amenazaron e intentaron quemar la capilla entera. Pero teníamos extintores grandes y pudimos apagar el fuego, aunque el salón cultural quedó destruido", dijo Aguillón.

Los asaltantes, antes de huir a pie por las estrechas calles cercanas, instalaron un artefacto explosivo en el entretecho de una de las salas, alertando a los presentes para que no se acercaran. La bomba, con aproximadamente

dos kilos de explosivo, fue desactivada más tarde por personal especializado del Grupo de Operaciones Especiales de Carabineros, GOPE.

Carabineros de la 36.a Comisaría de La Florida, que concurrió en los minutos siguientes, determinó que no hubo lesionados en el incidente vandálico. También comprobó cierta reticencia de los testigos para cooperar en la individualización de los autores del delito, al parecer por temor a represalias.

En las afueras de la iglesia la policía encontró panfletos firmados por el MJL, grupo de ultraizquierda escindido del partido Mapu hace algunos años.

El ataque extremista coincidió con la celebración del 4 de julio, Día de la Independencia de Estados Unidos.

El Mercurio - July 6, 1989

Missionary Attacked: Extremist Attack Against Mormon Chapel. The act was perpetrated by 7 armed men & a woman who shouted anti-U.S. slogans. - An armed group of the MJL (Lautaro Youth Group) burst into the Mormon church at 9531 Santa Raquel St. in La Florida threatening with their weapons a group of some 30 persons who were participating in a religious service & forcing them to leave the precincts, setting the property on fire. The deed happened night before last, causing considerable damage to the chapel of the modern building located in a working-class section of Santa Raquel, west of bus stop #21 on Ave. Vicuña Mackenna. Employees of the church used dry chemicals to put out the flames, before the arrival of the firemen. - The attackers, 7 men and a woman, some of which had their faces hid by green kerchiefs with a red star in the center, shouted anti-U.S. chants and forced the missionary Elder Ballard, the only U.S. citizen there at the moment, to strip naked. - "I was alone in a room reading my scriptures when a couple entered, a young man and woman, who started insulting me. They didn't harm me but pointed a revolver at my head, telling me that they didn't want any Yankees here," recalled Ballard. - He assumed that the act of forcing him to take off his clothes in front of the members was intended to embarrass him, but he stated, "I believe they didn't succeed." The missionary has been assigned to that chapel for some time, since he was transferred from La Cisterna (Santiago). "There they also set one of our chapels on fire. I think there have been over 200 arson and bomb attacks against us in the past few years here in Chile," he said. - At the moment of the attack the members of the church—males & females of different ages—were holding religious services under the supervision of Chilean bishop Patricio Latorre and were forced into a hallway where the subversives harangued them about U.S. interests in our country before pouring inflammable liquid on the floor and furnishings and igniting it. - Bishop Latorre, in spite of his position, received the same treatment as the rest of the Mormons.

For his part, the custodian of the building, Pedro Aguillón, also a victim of the attack, stated that the attackers entered in a disorderly way, shouting and pointing their weapons in a threatening manner—revolvers and sub-machineguns—giving different orders to each other, not being clear as to what to do. - They didn't harm us, but they threatened us and tried to burn down the whole chapel. But we had large extinguishers and were able to put out the fire, although the cultural hall was destroyed," he said. The attackers, before fleeing on foot through the narrow streets nearby, installed an explosive device in the attic of a classroom, warning those present not to go near. The bomb, with approx. 5 lbs. of explosive, was deactivated by the Special Operations Group of the police. - Police of the 36th precinct of La Florida, who arrived a few minutes later, verified that no one was injured in the incident of vandalism. Also, they noted a certain reticence on the part of witnesses to cooperate in the identification of the authors of the crime, apparently for fear of reprisals. - Outside the church the police found flyers signed by the MJL, an ultra left-wing group split off from the Mapu Party a few yrs. ago. - The extremist attack coincided with the celebration of July 4, U.S. Independence Day.