

# LIFE

## FLIGHT OF THE DALAI LAMA

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OVER THE HIMALAYAS TO ESCAPE REDS



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20 CENTS

APRIL 23, 1951

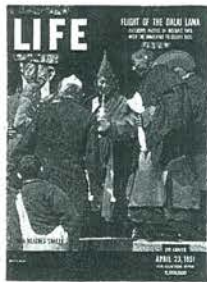
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### LIFE'S COVER

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The subscription name plate shown above is just like that of LIFE's other subscribers. This one belongs to one of the most remote of them all, the Dalai Lama, the god-king of Tibet, who appears on this week's cover wearing a gold peaked cap as he receives a gold casket containing a relic of the original Buddha. This relic was brought to him for veneration at Yatung near the Indian border, where he found sanctuary after his flight from Lhasa. How that historic flight began and ended is told on pages 130-142. Up to now, LIFE's circulation department has had no request from the Dalai Lama to change his subscription address from Lhasa to Yatung.

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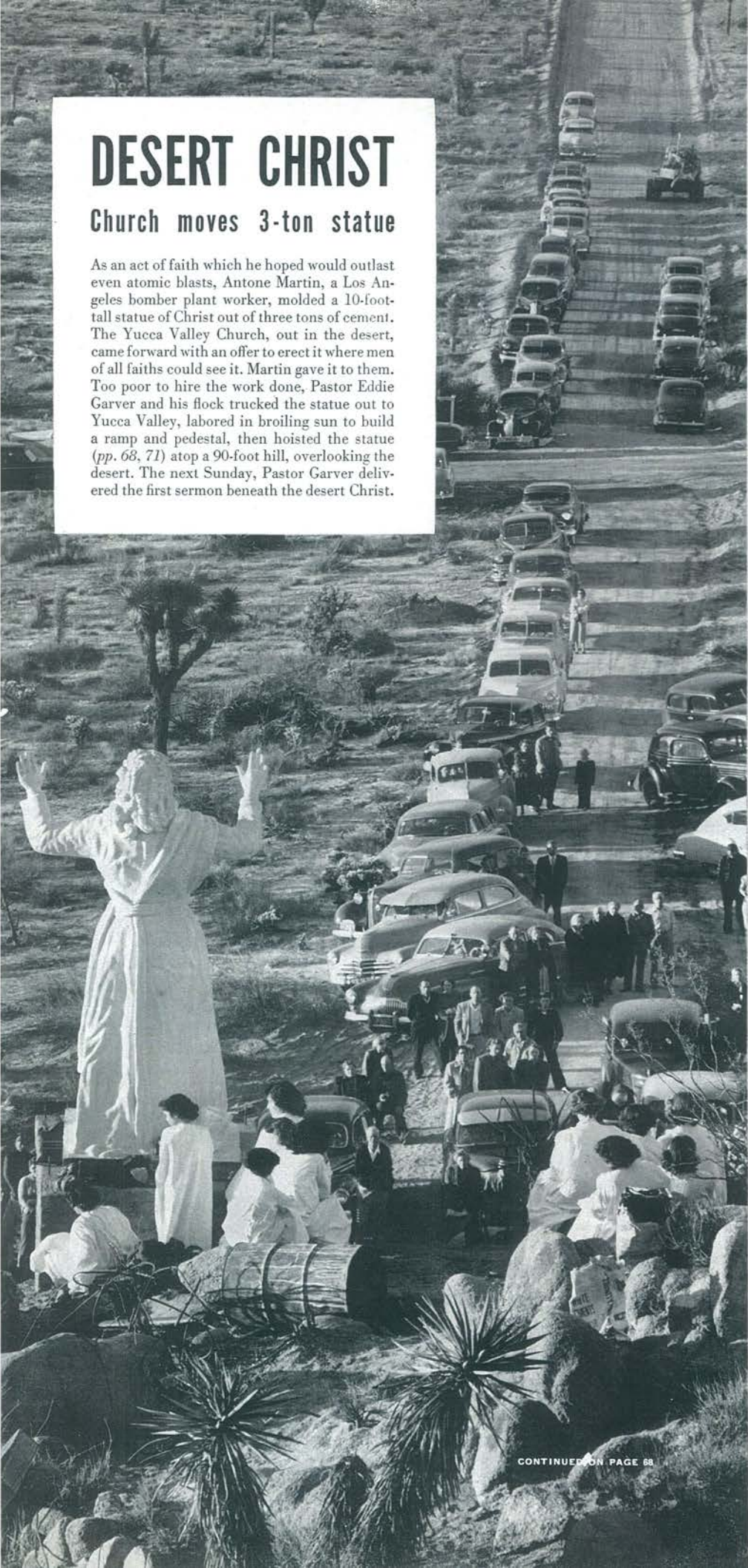
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# DESERT CHRIST

## Church moves 3-ton statue

As an act of faith which he hoped would outlast even atomic blasts, Antone Martin, a Los Angeles bomber plant worker, molded a 10-foot-tall statue of Christ out of three tons of cement. The Yucca Valley Church, out in the desert, came forward with an offer to erect it where men of all faiths could see it. Martin gave it to them. Too poor to hire the work done, Pastor Eddie Garver and his flock trucked the statue out to Yucca Valley, labored in broiling sun to build a ramp and pedestal, then hoisted the statue (pp. 68, 71) atop a 90-foot hill, overlooking the desert. The next Sunday, Pastor Garver delivered the first sermon beneath the desert Christ.




  
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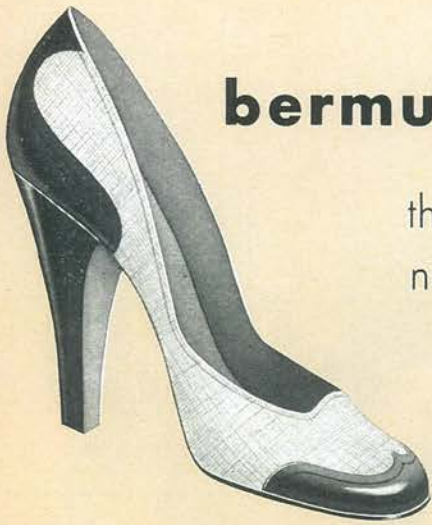
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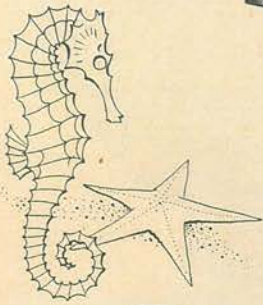
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 68



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## Desert Christ CONTINUED



ON DESERT HIGHWAY, statue towers above Pastor Garver's patched-up truck during 135-mile trip from Martin's Los Angeles home to Yucca Valley.



AT GAS STATION local residents get close-up of statue. Later, in moonlight, one youth, not seeing the truck, thought he "saw Christ come walking back."



PASTOR GARVER tightens a tow chain used to help hoist statue up hill.



SCULPTOR MARTIN repairs finger of statue broken during rough ascent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 71



**AT BOTTOM OF HILL**, statue stands waiting as volunteers from church finish clearing rocks and building skidway to pedestal atop the 90-foot slope.



**HALF WAY UP**, statue inches along under combined efforts of men (above) and truck using pulley and cable. Wooden cradle was used to protect concrete.



**SAFELY ON TOP**, the concrete Christ—damaged right hand patched and wrapped—is guided onto the pedestal as Garver (right) signals to stop heaving.

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