

# Former City Preacher Feels Heat Of Publicity In West

By CAROLYN PICKERING  
(First Of A Series)

At Redwood Valley, Calif., a hamlet 150 miles north of San Francisco, the People's Temple, founded by a self-styled "Prophet of God" who launched his career in Indianapolis selling monkey keys claims more than 4,000 followers.

His loyal worshippers insist the Rev. James W. Jones ("just call me Jim Jones") has raised "more than 40 from the dead."



Rev. Jones

THE handsome smooth 41-year-old preacher who recites his Gospel attired in turtle-neck sweaters and dark glasses, claims also to have cured cancer, made the blind see and the crippled walk.

Last fall, when he returned to Indianapolis briefly, several hundred people showed up at 975 North Delaware Street, the former People's Temple here, to watch The Rev. Mr. Jones "cure" a woman of cancer.

His congregation, mostly Negro, believes the Prophet capable of performing feats no less miraculous than the parting of the Red Sea.

SINCE 1965, when he and 145 faithful temple-ites from Indianapolis settled in the Mendocino County seat town of Ukiah, Calif., People's Temple has mushroomed into a virtually unmolested kingdom.

The temple's legal counsel, Timothy O. Stoen, is an "assistant pastor," although he holds no divinity degree and, admittedly, is not an ordained minister.

The same "assistant pastor" is the assistant district attorney for the county.

IN RECENT DAYS "Prophet" Jones has found himself and his temple in the glare of the public eye — the result of a joint investigation by The Indianapolis Star and the San Francisco Examiner.

An Indianapolis woman, Georgia A. Johnson, has alleged, in a notarized affidavit about the temple, that her two daughters, aged 17 and 21, were "programmed and are too frightened to say anything much about Jones and his operation."

The same woman declares the older daughter was inveigled into an interracial marriage and placed on welfare rolls "when there was no need for her to be on welfare."

A BISHOP in the South Coastal Baptist Church Association, the Rev. Richard Taylor of Oakland, Calif., has disclosed requests for a complete investigation of People's Temple, made last March to Mendocino County Sheriff Reno Bartolome and County District Attorney Duncan Jones, went unanswered.

A former Indianapolis couple, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Freestone of Ukiah,



(AP Wirephoto)

PEOPLE'S TEMPLE FAITHFUL PICKET SAN FRANCISCO PAPER  
Protest Articles On Church And Its Leader, The Rev. James Jones



PISTOL-PACKIN' GUARD ONE OF MANY 'PROTECTING' PASTOR  
Temple Buses Part Of Fleet Used To Transport Flock To Church

Sept. 21, 1972  
The Indianapolis Star

