

# Church Section

DESERET NEWS, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1951



and success  
teaching profes

Sci  
and  
DIRE  
of  
Bennion  
course d  
of the C  
cial

clu  
gra  
Directed by J. Spencer  
Cornwall the choir will  
e to the  
University will be the  
featured speaker at the annual  
April luncheon meeting of the  
Association to be  
1951.

## Edgehill Five Wins Sportsmanship Trophy Most Coveted Award of All-Church Joust

See Story  
on  
Page Five



**CHAMPS**

# Logan 5th Wins '51 Hoop Title

AT 10:35 Saturday night, and exactly 15 seconds before the end of the championship game between Logan Fifth Ward and Salt Lake City Thirty-third Ward and with the score tied at 41-41 for the first time since early Wednesday afternoon a deep solid silence fell over the University of Utah Fieldhouse.

Anxiously team members lined up on the keyhole, the referee announced "One shot," and then handed the ball to Jack Clark. The crowd held its breath while the charity shot sailed through the air, for the 1951 M Men Tournament championship title went with this toss.

Clark made it!

And Logan Fifth's fans went wild. How many thousands more witnessed the thrilling finish in the comfort of their own homes via television can only be estimated.

SIXTEEN TEAMS, the best out of 800, representing the 14 MIA athletic divisions of the Church stakes, for four days raced up and down the huge floor of the Fieldhouse playing their hearts out trying to win the championship of the biggest basketball league in the world in which 10,000 young men had entered six months ago last October.

When it was all over and the handsome trophies were being awarded to the winners in the colorful after-the-game ceremonies, it was discovered that the six top teams were all from Utah, an unusual circumstance considering that in past years



**1951 M MEN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS**—Receiving their handsome trophy from YMMIA General Superintendent Elbert R. Curtis, left, are members of the Logan Fifth Ward team from East Cache Stake. Left to right, kneeling: Norris Johansen, Grant Neilson, Ray Otte.

Standing: Superintendent Curtis, David Frenau, Bennie Mangus, Frank C. Snow, Jack Clark, pretty Alexa Drexler, Gleaner Girl sponsor; Arlend Hansen, Bryan McKendrick, Coach Cal Watts, Bob Adamson.

the championship has frequently gone to Arizona, California, Idaho and Wyoming aggregations.

A fast team from Pleasant Grove First Ward, Timpanogos Stake, won third place.

**MORE IMPORTANT** than fourth place honors which Edgehill Ward, Hillside Stake, won, was the coveted "Sportsmanship Trophy" which they received at the close of the tournament.

Fifth place was taken by Minersville Ward, Beaver Stake, and Brigham City Fourth Ward,

North Box Elder Stake, finished sixth.

Seventh and eighth places were won by teams out of Utah; Iona Ward from Idaho Falls Stake, and Tucson Ward, Southern Arizona Stake.

This 1951 tournament's youngest player was 17-year-old Bennie Price from Tucson First Ward. There were 12 other 17-year-olds, but they were days and weeks older than Bennie. Senior contestant was Spencer Toone from Paul Ward, Idaho Falls Stake. He with three others are in their 27th year.

Four lightweight players each tipped the scale at 135 pounds;

Darrell Johnson, Brigham City Fourth; Merrell Petty, Fielding Ward; Rex Thomas, Spanish Fork Second Ward, and Marvel Ahlstrom, Redondo Ward.

**HEAVIEST PLAYER** was Boyd Jensen of East Midvale First Ward at 230 pounds, 95 pounds heavier than the lightest four.

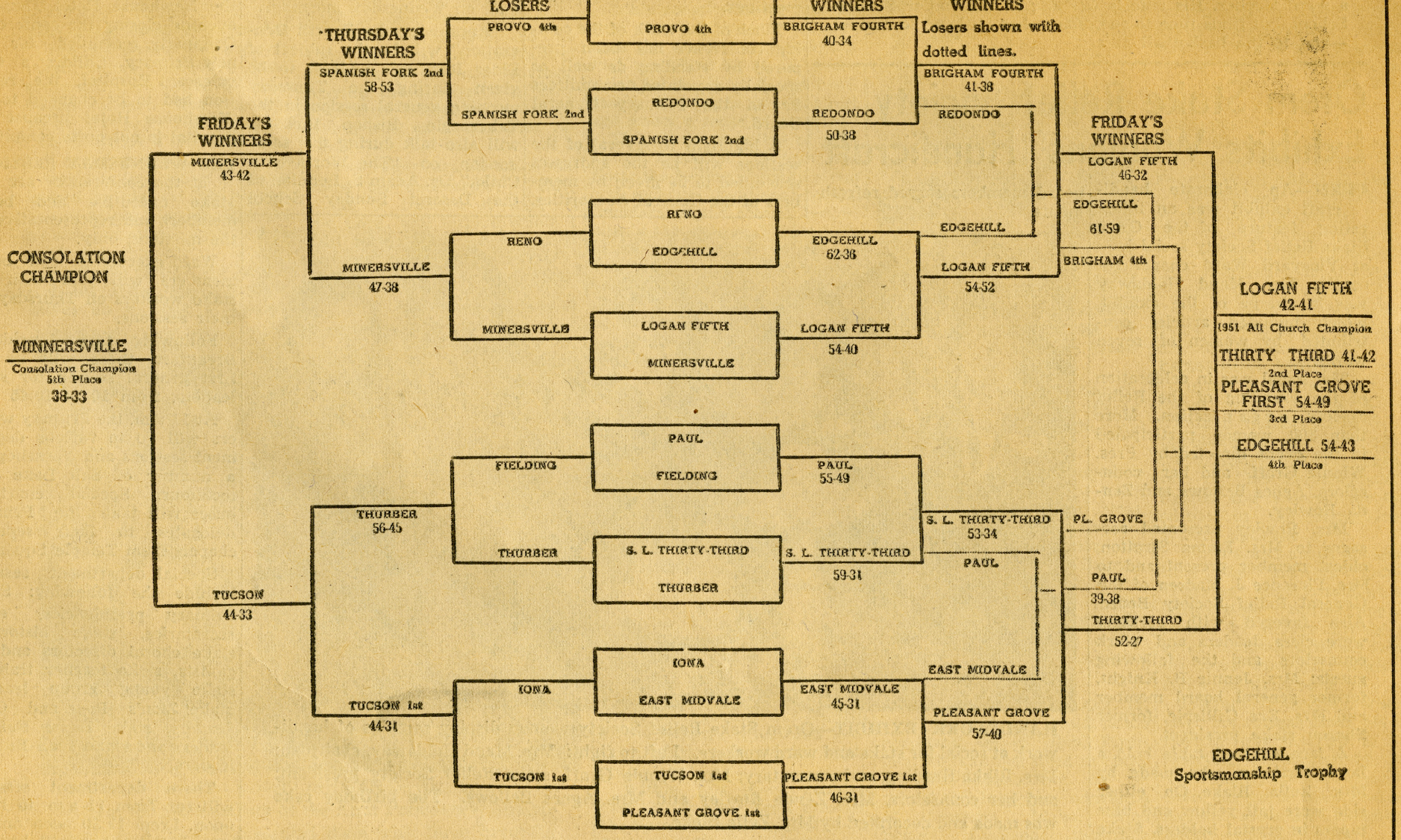
Dale C. Goodwin of Reno Ward was the tallest player in the tournament at 6' 5 1/2", and the shortest man was Harold Eyre of Minesville Ward, exactly 12 inches shorter, at 5' 5 1/2".

On hand around the clock to see that the physical condition

of every player was tip-top was Dr. David E. Smith who has served as the attending physician at every M Men Basketball Tournament since 1924.

Homer (Pug) Warner, literally the father of the M Men Basketball League who started it going back in 1923 when he was athletic director of the Deseret Gym and then encouraged it for years as a member of the Young Men's MIA general board, was there to do his share of rooting for his favorite teams. He was honored during several game intermissions when he was interviewed on the television programs.

## THE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE



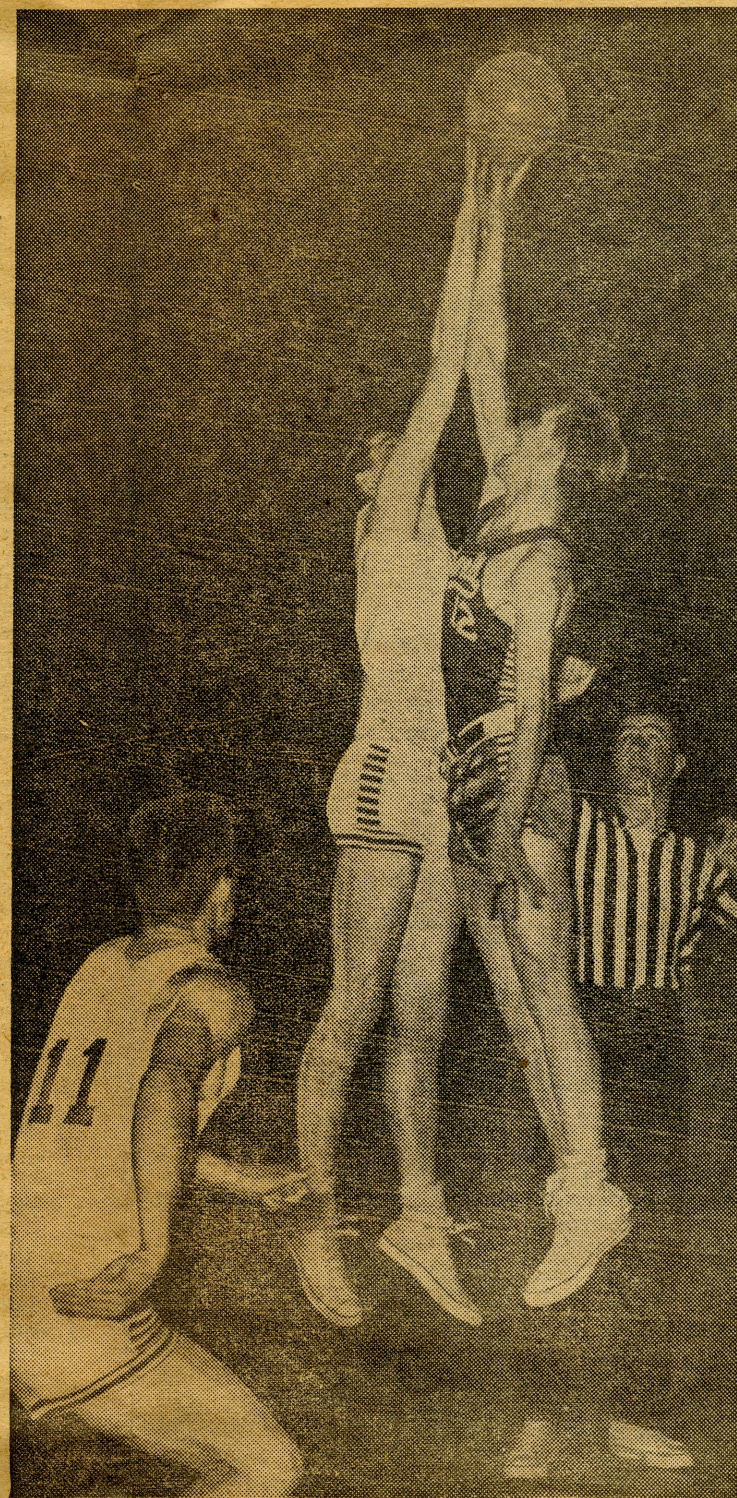


# Church Picture Page

# M Men



**SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR**—By a single point, the Thirty-third Ward team, Bonneville Stake, lost the championship and won second place. The beautiful trophy was presented to them by David S. King, second assistant in the YMMIA general superintendency. Team members from left to right, front: Willard E. Knibbe, William B. Green, Stanford Bohne, Joseph H. Jeppson. Standing: Elder King, Kenneth Lavin, Richard Nuttall, Boyd F. Petersen, Gleaner Girl sponsor pretty Karma Holmes, Don L. Peterson, and Coach Fred K. Weidner.



**TIP-OFF**—The 1951 classic was under way when Referee Harold Short tossed up the ball to Boyd Petersen of Thirty-third Ward, left, and Riley Newton of Thurber Ward.

## Many Colorful Facets To All-Church Tourney

**THE ALL - CHURCH M Men** Basketball tournament held each March has come to mean to thousands of Church members something more than just a series of thrilling games. It's a colorful extravaganza of good fellowship and fine sportsmanship with many facets of memorable experiences for both players and spectators.

Before the teams earn their way to the finals, they have played many other stake and division winners and many new friendships have been made.

And even before that, to be eligible to play in the first place, they have conducted themselves as good Latter-day Saints.

**THIS YEAR**, of the 146 players, all but the five non-Church members and three members not yet ordained are active priesthood quorum members. There were three seventies, 66 elders, 49 priests, 16 teachers, and four deacons.

A new page was added to the history of the tournament this year, the 29th, when for the first time, many of the games were televised. And to accommodate comfortably the large crowds, the games this year were played at the University of Utah Fieldhouse.

Travel is always an important concern of the tournament players and this year the aggregate miles traveled to the Fieldhouse was in excess of 32-

500 miles with the Tucson team traveling 900 miles.

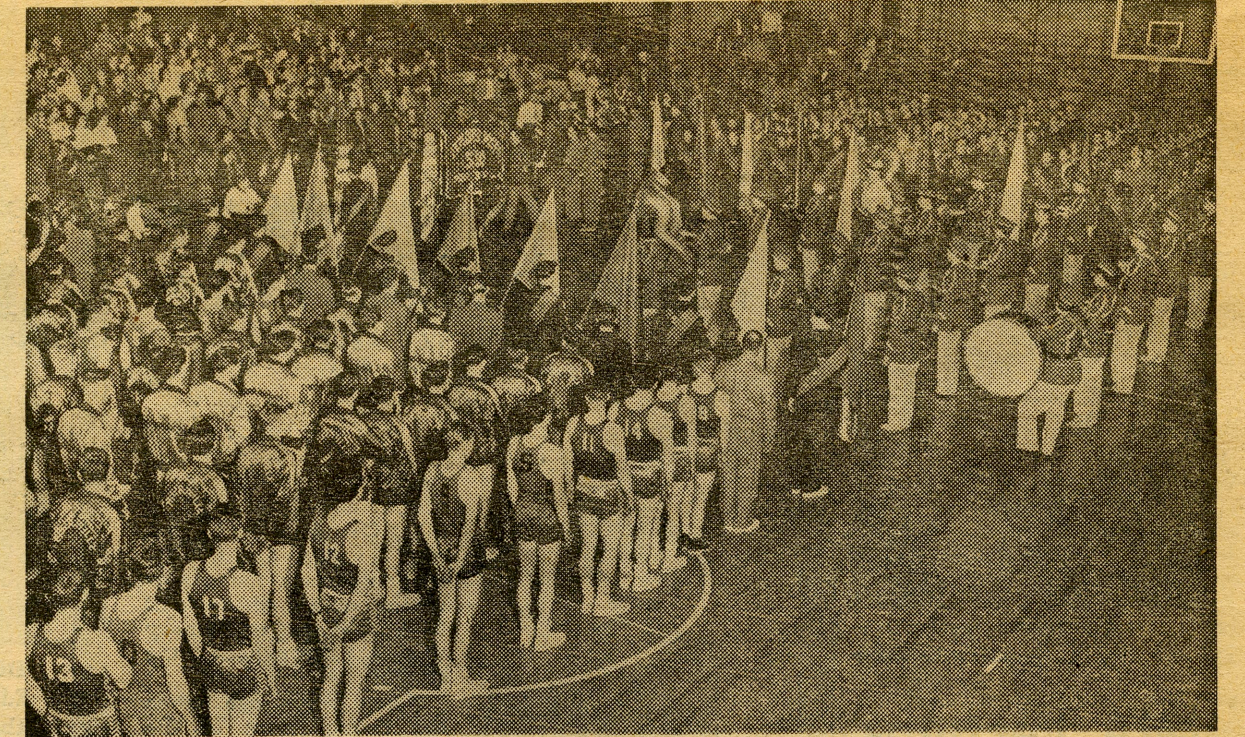
**PRETTY GLEANER GIRL** sponsors, the players' annual luncheon in the Lion House, Marvin Ashton, the tournament director, the ref-

### COVER PICTURE

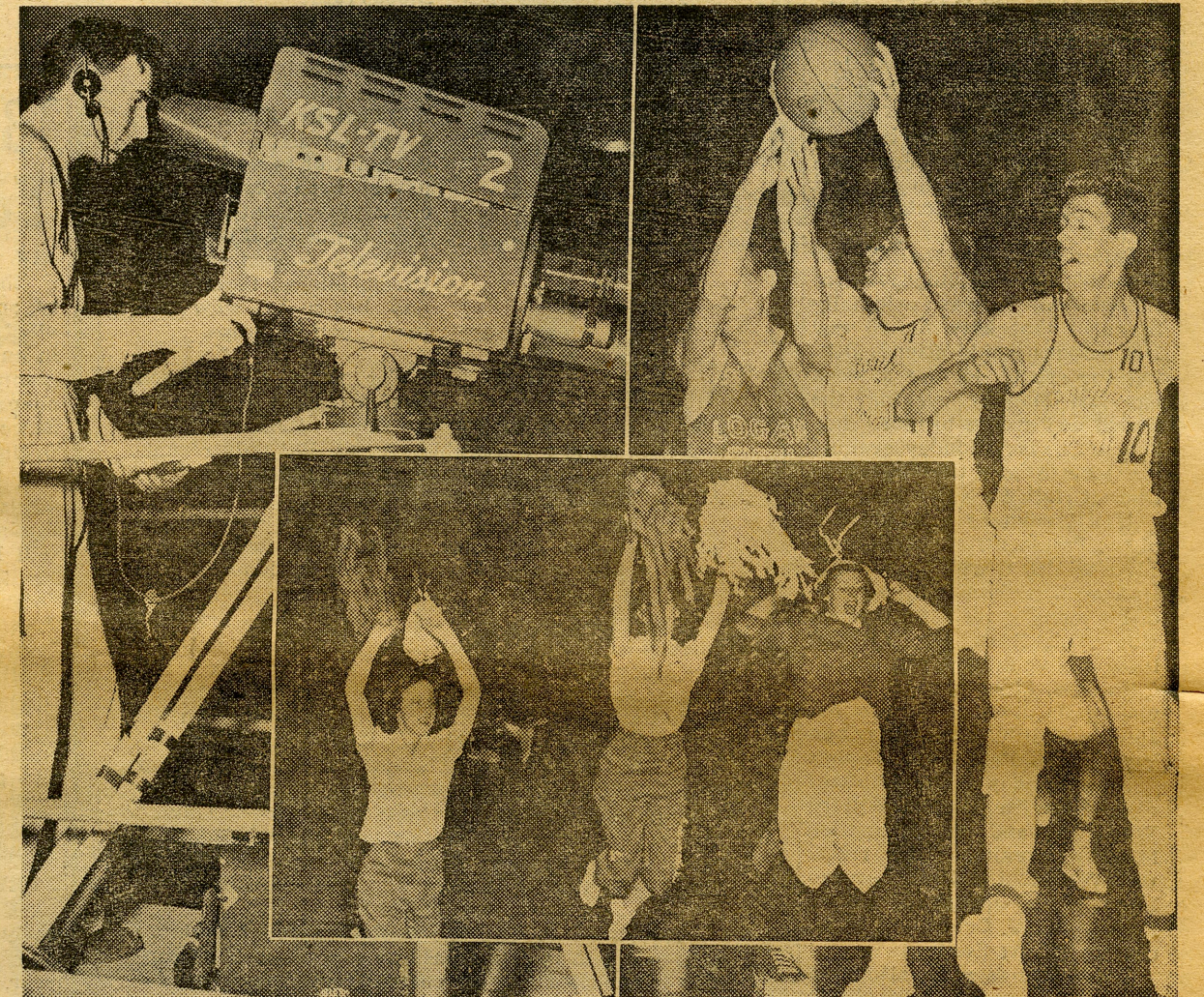
For exemplifying the best in the game, Edgell Ward, Hillside Stake, was awarded the handsome and coveted "Sportsmanship Trophy." Making the presentation was A. Walter Stevenson, first assistant in the YMMIA superintendency.

The team includes, from left to right, kneeling: Victor Van Oostendorp, Royce Rosendahl, Arlo Bailey. Standing: Elder Stevenson, Brent Eager, Gleaner Girl sponsor, Lois Pixton, Allen Brown, Coach W. J. Paul, W. J. Paul Jr., and their bishop, Spencer C. Robinson. Team members not shown are Boyd Brown, Keith Brown, and Howard Smith.

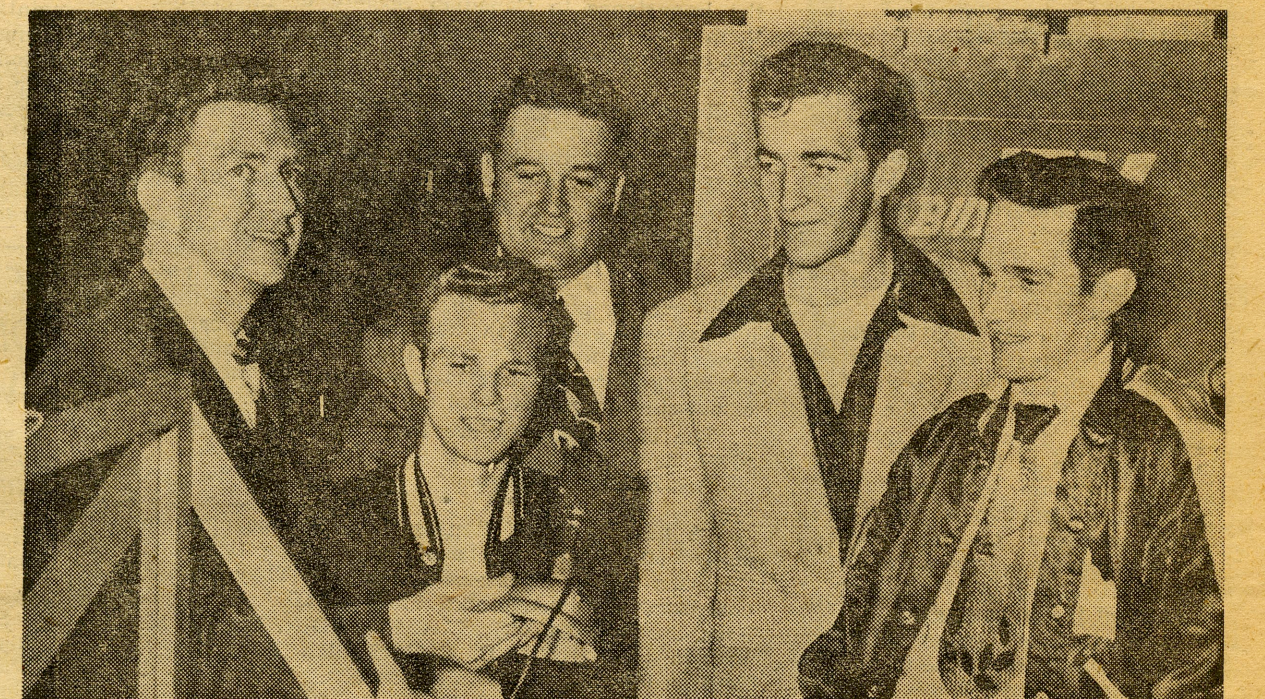
erees and umpires, faithful Dr. David E. Smith, boys selling their programs, candy, ice cream; scorekeepers, and a hundred other unheralded workers and committees, all these and more were again part of the great athletic festival, the M Men Basketball Tournament.



**COLORFUL EXTRAVAGANZA**—The first evening of the 29th All-Church M Men Tournament all the 16 teams with their coaches and sponsors paraded before the thousands of loyal fans.



**PART OF THE SHOW**—Left: For the first time some of the games were televised. Right: A bit of fast action in the Friday game between Logan Fifth Ward and Brigham City Fourth Ward teams. Insert: Supporting their team every minute of every game were these three energetic cheer leaders from Logan Fifth Ward, Connie Mathews, Joan Kenner and Helen Blood.



**FOR THOSE AT HOME**—During the half-time rest periods, interviews were conducted of interesting tournament personalities. At this telecast with Marion Duff Hanks, announcer, left, are Roy Olsen and Coach William Longhurst of Iona Ward, Idaho Falls Stake; and Marvel Ahlstrom and LeRoy Cobabe of Redondo Ward, Inglewood Stake.