



Workers In Sonora

The Rev. Grady Gwinn with missionary Macario Martinez and his family at their Sonora mission station, near the time of Gwinn's retirement in 1970.

Missionary To Area's Indians Looks Back On Long Service

The Rev. Grady Gwinn decided in 1970, at the age of 80, that it was time to leave active missionary work.

Today, he and his wife will recall years of work among Indians and migrant workers while sitting in their home on N. Margaret Ave.

Gwinn married Maryann Ludy in Tucson in 1929 and started his missionary career at Sells that year. Much of the money for the non-denominational work was raised by the late A.W. Hockenbush, governor of New Mexico from 1933 to 1935.

From Sells, the Gwinns went to the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico, then back to Sells in 1935 for 10 years, followed by a time among migrant workers.

Gwinn spent the last years before his retirement working

in Mexico. He counts 12 to 15 active missionaries in Mexico who started preaching because of his efforts.

Through all the years of his preaching, Gwinn says he would take any opportunity to help someone or witness to him.

"On one of my trips," he recalled, "I found a Yaqui Indian mother with some young children. After greeting them and telling them who I was, I was surprised to find that they all spoke English.

"I gave the children some fruit and the mother a Gospel of John.

"After telling them what was in it, I left it with the mother and asked her to read it and said I would return and see them. When I returned, I explained more fully the plan of salvation and asked the

other if she would accept Christ as her Saviour. She readily did and in time her large family became believers. They were among the first believers in Pascua Yaqui village."

Gwinn said that he always maintained friendly relations with the Roman Catholic missionaries among the Indians and knew many of the missionaries early in this century.

In later years, his pattern had been to load a truck with food, clothing, toys and anything else that might be useful and make monthly trips into Mexico, visiting native missionaries at stations which he had established.

Gwinn's work also took him onto the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache reservations.

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