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**The Oasis**

(Guest column by a young Dallas County, Iowa, farmer and member of a Catholic Action Farmer club.)

Bill had been in the big city for over a year, working at first one job and then another. Tonight he was sitting in a small cafe waiting for the waiter to bring the meal he had ordered. This time it was pork chops; yesterday it had been roast beef; tomorrow it might be chicken. But a year of restaurant eating had done something to Bill's appetite, just as the laundry had done something to his shirt. No matter what he ordered, it would taste just about the same.

As he waited passively (his palate not anticipating any pleasant surprise) he glanced at the sign that hung over the cafe door. "The Oasis." Below the name was a picture of a beautiful spot, deeply shaded by green-leaved trees, carpeted with green grass, and watered by a small stream where wild animals stopped for a drink. As Bill gazed over this sign, he thought of stories he had heard and read of beautiful places seen by people half dead from thirst and hunger in the middle of a desert, which when reached turned out to be desert sand such as that over which they had been traveling. They were only a mirage.

Bill said to himself: "That's what happened to me when I left the farm for the city."

At that Bill turned his thoughts to another "oasis." He thought of the little plot of a farm he had left a year ago when he came to live in town. That plot began to look mighty real to him now with its trees and grass and grains, with its animals and birds, with its good human company.

Work and life in the city, as dreamed of by a country boy, seem to be the real "McCoy" when he is standing off and looking on. There appears to be a life of fun and excitement awaiting him. But when the country boy goes to the city for good and really catches up with city life, it isn't at all what he thought it would be. It is a life where many things are an imitation.

Out on the farm things are real. Life is real, living is real; horses, cows, soil, neighbors are real; everything a man sees and hears and feels is real. Things are there as God put them there; there man cares for what God has made, but never does he shape it into something grotesque and unnatural. There are no "paper moons" and "cardboard skies"; there are no make-believe trees and painted grass. There are truth and beauty and goodness, but there is no mirage or imitation.

Bill's meat of pork chops finally came, but it might as well have been hash for all the attention he paid to it. For the second time within the hour he was talking to himself: "I'm thirsty and hungry, but I see an oasis." — Kenneth Michels.

**Legion Chaplain**

Alexandria, La.—The Rev. F. J. Plutz, Rector of the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier here, has been named Department Chaplain of the American Legion, Department of Louisiana.

**Altar On Cartridge Boxes Used For Mass In War Plant**

HARTFORD, Conn. — Cartridge boxes are used as the base of an altar on which Sunday Masses are celebrated for defense workers in the plant of the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company here.

Two Masses are celebrated each Sunday. The first Mass in the plant was celebrated by the Rev. Jeremiah J. Broderick, of St. Peter's Church.

**Catholic Near East Welfare Association**

**New Parishes**

You can begin a new mission parish by building a chapel in the Near East. A suitable chapel can be built for Five Hundred Dollars. Make this gift as a family memorial. You may select the name of the chapel. The Holy Father will have it built where it will do the most good.

**MISSION PRIEST MUST BE DOCTOR AND TEACHER**

The Sacred Congregation has sent a very interesting account of apostolic work done by the Fathers of the Missionary Congregation of St. Paul. In part, it reads:

"Their most important labor of late was the visitation of principal villages in southern Syria. The Fathers spent months preaching retreats and missions in villages miles and miles apart."

"One who is acquainted with the primitive character of this region and the poverty of its people, can imagine the hardships these noble priests must endure. Even the meager comfort of a priest's house in which they might pass the night in privacy, and receive people seeking instructions, advice and help is denied them for want of \$300."

"What they ask is the means to supply the people with combination Catechism-Prayer books which cost 10 cents each and medical kits costing \$50 each. A Missionary must be a doctor and teacher as well as a priest."

"We pray at least twenty readers will send \$50 each to purchase medicine kits."

"We need thousands of Catechism-Prayer books. One dollar will buy ten."

"Please help these priests to carry the social teachings and the mercy of Christ to unfortunate people. Do answer this appeal generously and as soon as possible."

**STATUE OF OUR LADY**

Did you give something to the missions in honor of Our Blessed Mother's Assumption into heaven. If not, will you send Fifteen Dollars to place her statue in one of our mission chapels. Surely Our Lady is interested in the Near East Missions. In the Near East she was born, lived and died.

**A CATHOLIC WILL**

Make a will to dispose of your possessions as you wish them to be disposed. Make a Catholic Will and forget not Almighty God. Put in the name of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Our missionaries will never forget you.

**PRESSING NEED**

For a thriving mission, mission schools are needed. Children educated in our mission schools bring the faith to their homes and influence their neighbors.

When a missionary priest has a mission school he has real worries. It costs much money to pay the teachers, keep the building in repair, buy books, etc.

Help our mission schools keep open and increase their registration. It costs Ten Dollars a year for each child in a mission day school. Will you sponsor a child for a year?

**SELECT ONE OR ALL**

You can donate to a mission chapel:

- A chalice, or
  - A missal, or
  - A ciborium, or
  - Tabernacle Safe
- for a donation of Ten Dollars. All four for Forty Dollars.

**SISTERS IN INDIA**

Ten years ago, on the Southwest Coast of India, three Bishops, 23 priests and some 6,000 lay people belonging to the Jacobite Church became Catholics of the Malankara Rite. Since then over 50,000 have been received into the Church. A religious community, the Daughters of Mary, has been founded to teach and to care for the poor. Its chief problem is to care for the young women who wish to enter it. Yet, it takes only sixty Dollars a year—Five Dollars a month—to care for a novice. Surely you will help one of these native girls to become a Sister.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

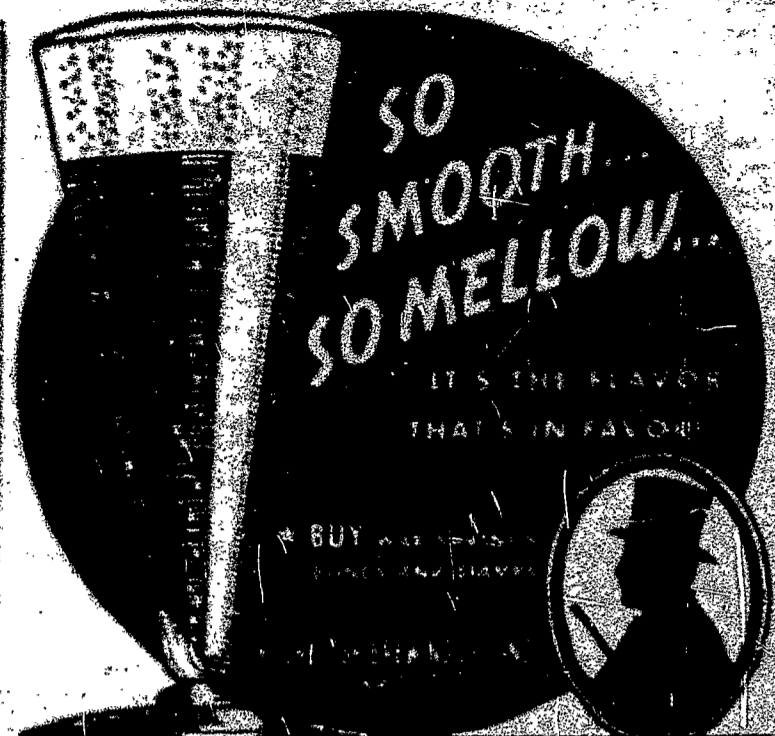
If you should be asked what are Gregorian Masses, could you answer the inquiry? Write for our booklet explaining the origin and the custom of offering the Gregorian Masses. We shall mail it to you. There is no charge.

**ARE YOU?**

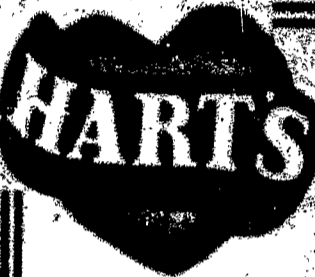
If you are not a member of our missionary association please join. Dues are but One Dollar a year. We are in need of new members.

Send all communications to

**Catholic Near East Welfare Association**  
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