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Women's Viewpoint

Oust the Aunts

MARIE WEIDMAN

Increasing numbers of maiden aunts are being disinherited and dusted off, via the best seller lists, for inspection by the reading public. Events in the dear, but very dead days around nineteen ought eleven have been treated in every possible fashion by every type of writer on the premise that what Clarence Day did in print with his father could also be done, in print, too, of course, with just about anyone's Uncle Louis.



Marie Weidman

We have, therefore, been visited by a plague of authors recalling how great-aunt Amelia got herself named "Miss Bloomer Girl of 1908" and how mother, dauntless and intrepid, by twenty years of sweeping out the Safety Theater raised her three strapping sons to be Arctic explorers. In gratitude the dear boys brought her back a genuine seal-skin broom!

LAMENTATIONS ARE LOUD for old time lager. Lillian Russell, bustling, hitching posts and other assorted nostalgic minutia which are supposed to carry you "way back whether you want to go or not."

Side by side with these loving memory books is the family album effort. "I Remember Mama" and such — there seems to be just no end to what a mother can do, Philip Wylie notwithstanding. There comes a time in the life of every person who has attained a modicum of fame when he be-

comes convinced that the public must be told his life story. The results are frequently unfunny because so many people manage to have quite ordinary antecedents. If your parents weren't at least scrobbels, actors or apostles, don't attempt your life story, since these delightful delineations always begin with the author in a home setting resembling three rings of the greatest show/on earth.

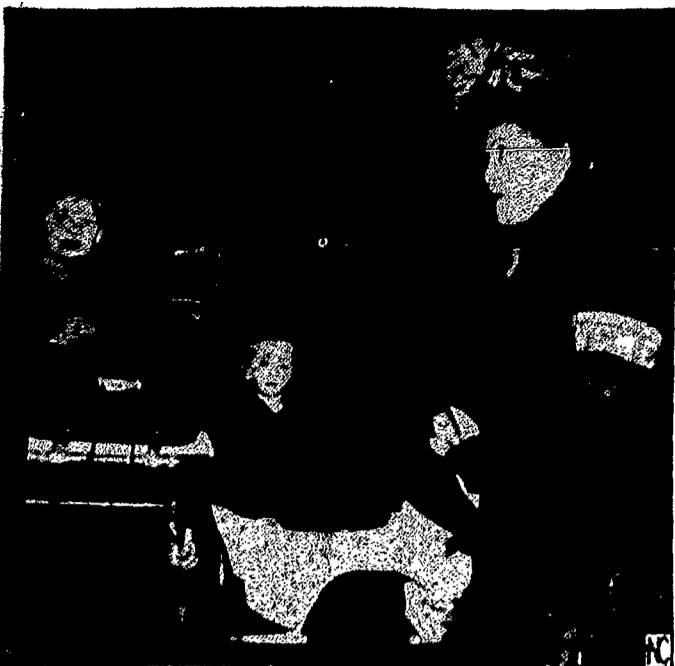
If you come from a household where father has the Morse Code painted on the ceilings and mother raises great dunes and rare orchids or believes children should not wear shoes until the age of ten, your story is bound to make any best-seller list. One wonders just how much more of this personal drive we of the stupid, inarticulate masses are going to be asked to accept as "bright, sparkling family chronicles." Just how dumb can your family be, Joe? Only silly enough to be a book-of-the-month and get sold to Hollywood for a sum which would buy Mom a great many rare orchids indeed.

THIS TYPE OF effort is harmless though, since no one suffers except the family and they're too busy swinging by their collective teeth to care. Our current novels, however, in which Americans are depicted as generally neurotic, overstimulated and puerile individuals who indulge in all kinds of excesses is a serious problem. Our novelists seem immersed in pessimism, gloom and are burdened by the sense of sin.

Reflections of this nature take form each year at this time as Catholic Press Month opens. There are few able Catholic novelists, but there are many novelists who are Catholics. The difference is vast, since some of the latter seem to have sought inspiration from their religion. The rich and teeming body of Catholic thought, her skills and talents of all eras need badly to be portrayed in fiction, since that is the most important form of our time. The Church needs sympathetic understanding and handling, through fiction, by young writers willing to forgo the dubious fame of a literary hit parade.

The Catholic spirit has fared better in non-fiction thanks to a few brilliant converts who have set down their stories for us and some priests who periodically come forth with fresh interpretations of the Eternal Truths. But all the fiction efforts through the years have brought forth a sour harvest of shallow, anemic tales with their obvious moral dripping from them. Should we keep trying for a truly Catholic novel or should we continue to be mired down in literary gloom and kept there by tales of somebody's Aunt Amelia?

FUTURE CITIZENS ARRIVE



The first two to get a motor ride from Boston's Commonwealth Pier, even though it was an ambulance, were Hamis Jaunackis, four years old, and Baby Aija Lagzels. It months old, who came down with measles during their trip to America with a shipload of Displaced Persons. Confined to the sick bay, they were immediately transferred to City Hospital, accompanied by a volunteer War Relief Services — N.C.W.C. worker. The boy is a Lithuanian son of Ferdinand and Vanda Jaunackis. Aija is a little Latvian, daughter of Wilhelm and Gerda Lazzels. (NC Photos)

Sister Hildegard Blows Out 100 Birthday Candles

Indianapolis — To all the suggestions of longevity experts add one that being born on the 13th helps. In any case, Sister Hildegard of the Sisters of St. Francis at Oldenburg has found it a blessing. On January 13 she celebrated her 100th birthday.

SISTER HILDEGARDE was born in Germany on January 13, 1849, of devout Lutheran parents, who had her baptized as Theresa. The family name being Schert. A neighboring servant girl, finding Theresa a lonely immigrant at the age of 18, took her to the church where she was going to confession in St. Louis.

Theresa wondered why people went into the little house and emerged only after a few minutes. The servant girl friend must have answered wisely because a few months later Theresa was received into the Catholic Church by the Rev. Joseph Wipperfurth, then pastor of St. Joseph parish in St. Louis.

Theresa was received as a postulant at Oldenburg on October 4, 1869. On July 26, 1870 she took the religious habit and the name of Sister Hildegard. She retired from domestic work in the convent and mission homes after 60 years in religious life. She lives now in the infirmary, but makes a daily visit to the chapel in a wheelchair. She is still able to read and enjoys being outdoors.

She was also strong enough to blow out 100 candles on her birthday cake.

Two Catholic Girls' Colleges Deny Charges of Color Bar

Washington — (NC) — Presidents of two Washington Catholic women's colleges have challenged a recent report which declared that "white" colleges in the national capital, with the single exception of the Catholic University of America, discriminate against Negro applicants.

IN A LETTER to Dr. George Shuster, chairman of the national committee which sponsored the report, Sister Mary Frederick of Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross wrote: "For the past two years at least we have been leaders in accepting students of all races. . . . As a matter of fact we would have received them before that if in the short history of the college, we had ever before had an application."

Sister Catherine Dorothea of Trinity College, in a public statement, declared that her institution "excludes no race or creed." She said that there are colored students currently enrolled at Trinity.

DUNBARTON AND Trinity were not mentioned in any way in the report, which was issued by the National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital in mid-December. The report referred specifically only to George Washington, Georgetown, American and Catholic universi-

Cardinal Tien Greets SVD Head

Shanghai — (NC) — His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, Archbishop of Peking, headed a group of Bishops and mission superiors in Shanghai to meet the Very Rev. Aloystus Kappenberg, S.V.D., Superior General of the Society of the Divine Word, on his arrival here from Rome.

The arrival of Father Kappenberg meant a reunion with his brother, the Rev. Henry Kappenberg, S.V.D., who has been a missionary in China for 28 years. The two brothers had not seen one another for three decades. Father Henry Kappenberg formerly edited a Chinese Catholic paper in Yenchow.

Pope Thanks Canada For Relief Shipments

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in special audience the rector, faculty and students of the Canadian College in Rome and conveyed through them his thanks to the Bishops, priests and people of Canada for the aid sent to victims of the war here. The Pontiff made special mention of the large quantities of cod liver oil which he said had been most helpful in the treatment of undernourished and sick children.

Teen Talks Change the World

By NORMA DE PREZ

You can change the world. Who, me? Yes, you, Susy. But wait. Before you start telling me about the 'you' in the U. N. or burdening me with the post war situation in Albania, remember that I've just grown into those terrifying teens. Coke clutches and world revolutions just won't mix. Afraid of a challenge?



Did you ever know a teen-ager that was? That is the reason I'm offering you this one. Now that exams are all a part of the d. l. m. past, you've broken ranks with the black coffee brigade, and the burners of the midnight oil have settled down to a semester of normal living and (ahem) nightly studying. I think you may be interested in a plan now current.

Don't stop. Tell me more. Well Susy, this is something big — as the radio comedians phrase it — bigger than both of us. Hmmm. I'm curious. Is it something that concerns teenagers? But definitely.

"Good. You know I'm afraid too many adults have been judging all of teendom on the magazine and radio version of the fluffy-headed adolescent. There is no denying that our generation is unique; that we love be-hop as well as hobby socks and disc dogs are not our only concern."

Right, Susy. If you will provide the enthusiasm, we will give you the opportunity to spend it. The challenge on hand has to do with a book and a movement. The book is *You Can Change the World* by Father James Keller. The movement is the Christophers. Their aim is to bring

British Launch Prison Apostolate

London — (RNS) — Prison visitations will be part of a nationwide mission program planned this year by the Roman Catholic Church in England. The campaign is described as the biggest "spiritual regeneration" effort ever undertaken by English Catholics.

Home Secretary James Chuter Ede has granted permission for Catholics to visit jail inmates in connection with the program.

Bishop Is 13th Child

London — (NC) — Bishop Thomas Leo Parker of Northampton has announced that in gratitude to God for being the 13th child in his own family he would personally be willing to baptize the 13th child of any Catholic family in his diocese.

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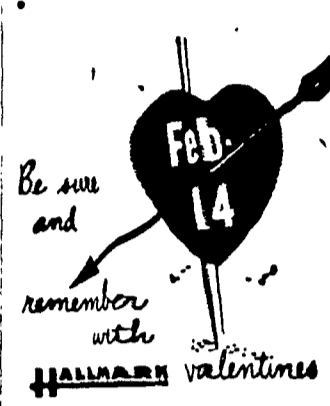
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Near East Missions

How Does She Do It?  
Sister Cornet, the Superior of the Sisters of Charity, begs for her orphanage at Zouk-Mikael in Lebanon. "We have 500 orphans of every creed and class. TEN DOLLARS IN AMERICAN MONEY WILL TAKE CARE OF ONE OF THESE CHILDREN FOR ONE MONTH! We have three orphanages, four hospitals and forty village schools conducted by our sisters." Monsignor McMahon says, "These good sisters are the admiration of all who see them—true daughters of charity." For ten dollars a month, you can care for one of Christ's little ones. Please help! You may never again be able to do so much for so little.

OUR LADY ASKS  
The Holy Mother of God smiles on those who are depositors in MARY'S BANK. From this fund we distribute alms to Our Lady's daughters, the sisters who are so dear to Mary's heart. For a hundred different causes—to support a novitiate, to train nursing sisters, to care for an old blind nun, to buy beds and mattresses, books, clothes and medical supplies for novices, nuns and nurses we turn to MARY'S BANK. Won't you open an account? The deposit is only one dollar a month! The dividends? Our Lady pays the best return on earth.

THE BISHOP'S SCHOOL  
The new Bishop of Amida has given up his own house to establish a preparatory seminary in Iraq. Bishop Rabban says it is the only way he can obtain students and future priests for his diocese. To convert and rebuild the old house he will need seven hundred and fifty dollars. Here is an opportunity to become co-founder in an apostolic work that must be dear to the Heart of Christ. God wants and the Church needs priests. The Bishop promises his undying gratitude and the unending prayers of his students for the benefactor who will help him establish the Bishop's School. Will it be you?

INK AND TEARS  
In every food package that we send to the Holy Land, to refugee priests in Germany and in Palestine, and throughout the Near East there is a return post card of acknowledgment. The messages of thanks that come back are often blurred and blotched. They are written in tears and ink. We cannot stop sending food packages. Won't you help us? Every food package costs ten dollars. Give one or many!

PHILIP JOSEPH AND PIUS  
These are three students for the priesthood in the Carmelite Seminary at Tripoli. They have finished one year of Philosophy, but five years of study remain before they can reach their priestly goal on ordination day. They cannot go on without help! One hundred dollars a year for five years, which their families cannot supply, is their only barrier. Will you become father or mother, brother or sister to a student in far off Tripoli? You will share daily in all his prayers and priestly works. The yearly stipend may be paid in installments.

POWER HOUSE OF PRAYER  
A saintly old missionary Bishop once said that his diocese never flourished till he established there a "power house of prayer." He meant a Cloistered Convent, where Holy women never cease to pray and ask God's help and prayers both for priests and people. Monsignor McMahon speaks in every letter of the needs of our cloistered nuns in the Holy Land—the Poor Clares and the Carmelites. They are actually starving, for they cannot go out and beg. Fifty dollars will keep one of these "power houses" going for a week. Can you give it — will you?

NO MISSAL — NO MASS  
No priest can offer Holy Mass from memory! He must have a Missal — besides vestments, altar cloths, wine, water, etc. — five dollars of the Near East we need Missals. They cost twenty-five dollars, and if you give one we will inscribe it as your gift — or in memory of one you love.

CATCHING FIRE  
Our club project of collecting clothes for refugees is catching fire. In Boston, Brooklyn and New York, Catholic clubs, sodalities and women's groups have pledged support. Won't you organize your friends and collect clothes (Men's, women's and especially children's). Ship or mail them to our C.N.E.W.A. Warehouse, 52-15 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, L.I., N.Y. They are desperately needed now! Start talking and collecting today.

Send all communications to  
Catholic Near East Welfare Association  
480 Lexington Ave. at 48th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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