

Missioner First to Find Oil In Western New York State

St. Bonaventure, N. Y.—(Special)—Three hundred and twenty two years ago, a French Franciscan missionary and explorer named Father Joseph De La Roche D'Aillon wrote about a wondrous, golden black liquid he had seen at what is now Cuba, N. Y. His words have come down through the centuries as the first mention of petroleum in America.

On April 24, fraternal descendants of Father de la Roche, the Franciscans at St. Bonaventure College, will score another first in oil when Petroleum Sunday is celebrated for the first time in this area.

THE EVENT will attract hundreds of workers in the now fabulously rich oil industry—men and women of all occupations from service station attendants to executives. Persons of various faiths in New York and Pennsylvania will attend the affair which will include a field mass, a dinner at which a prominent oil man will speak, and many other activities.

It was in October, 1626, that the intrepid Father de la Roche to what is now western New York journeyed down from Canada in state. Accompanied by Indian guides and French traders, he went from village to village, preaching the faith and promoting trade. The friar spent several months in the general vicinity of here St. Bonaventure College stands today.

BEFORE LONG, he heard of a spring that bubbled a black fluid which the Indians called "Atourontion." It was a kindly Indian chief of chiefs, Soubatis,

Courier-Journal Bookshelf

A Baroness in the Slums

By MARIE WEIDMAN

Although exiled members of the Russian nobility have pretty generally starved and suffered in cosmopolitan centers, fashionable spas and salons the world over, some few of them have successfully met the demands of our harsh age.

Such a one is the Baroness Catherine de Hueck who arose phoenix-like from the black ruins of the Holy Russia in which she had prestige and wealth, to far greater heights in New York's Harlem and Chicago's South State Street.

The story of how Baroness Catherine of noble heart and spirit became one of the most vital workers in the American lay Apostolate—how she fled the terrors of the Russian proletarian debate and finally married an Irishman named Eddie Doherty, is told with ease, grace and skill by Mr. Doherty himself in *Tumbleweed*.

THIS IS A short book, laconic, to the point, like Catherine herself. It is the product of a good newspaperman who has also had experience writing Hollywood scripts. There is a clever, rather compelling sustaining interest which blends the work into a cohesive, biographical whole.

There is no question of the author's ability to write a good story, and when the material concerns a starving Russian nobleman's love of God and simple, oppressed peoples, the combination is bound to produce a first rate, short biography.

Daughter of one of the Czar's ablest diplomats, Theodore Kolchikine, Catherine's family had been in Russia for nine centuries. Her mother was English, from a long line of English physicians the first of whom had been invited to Russia by Czar Nicholas I in the eighteenth century.

As a girl Catherine has the fascinating, full childhood which only world travel can give. An Egyptian villa, a Finnish estate, easy days all over Europe and Asia accounted for Catherine's knowing nine languages when she was still a mere schoolgirl.

There was also constant rigid home discipline and training in her religion which was Roman Catholic rather than Russian Orthodox due to an unexpected paternal Polish ancestor some distance back along the ancient aristocratic line.

REV. DR. PAUL Hanley Furley has referred to Catherine as "God's own tumbleweed, blowing thru the world, wherever the breath of the Holy Ghost may send her." And it seemed as if the Holy Ghost must have done a great deal of breathing at battle fronts and other focal points of suffering, since Catherine seemed to be always close to physical and mental anguish, somehow.

At the age of sixteen, the new wife of Baron Boris de Hueck was a Red Cross nurse at the Russian front in World War I. She saw all the horrors of war, slept in fields and contracted tuberculosis from the rigors of retreat in the marshes of White Russia. For her brav-

ery under fire she was awarded the Cross of St. George, the highest decoration a Russian woman could receive.

As the Russian chaos deepened with the murder of Rasputin and the routing of the Kerensky forces by the Communists, the Baron and the Baroness fled Russia and attempted to enter Finland. En route they suffered intensely, were starved and hounded.

IN 1919 CATHERINE and her ailing husband left Russia for Scotland, and ultimately Canada. Here her only child, George, was born in 1921. Later she determined to go to New York to "earn a great deal of money."

There were bitter days of working in restaurants, laundries and dance halls where she was referred to as "Katie the Polish." She saw all the world's weariest reflected in the Bowery and in selling perfumes at Macy's.

Through an influential customer she became a lecturer on the Chautauque circuit, telling of her colorful, sad tale of starvation and escape from the Communists. Later she became a talent scout abroad for the Leigh-Emmerich Lecture Bureau.

This was the time of Catherine's greatest eminence and affluence. It was the period of Parma violets out of season, of apartments on Fifth Avenue and fashionable clothes. She had ambitions, loved luxury, was successful.

YET, WITH IT ALL, she felt she was destined for the poor, to be with them, to suffer in their midst. The idea of having a vocation to the lay apostolate occurred to her, and remained until, in 1931 the first Friendship House was opened in the slums of Toronto.

This settlement, which was followed by others in Chicago, Harlem and Ottawa, administered to the needs of the poor in slum areas. The staff, imbued with the fire of the Holy Ghost, fed the poor, clothed them, held discussions, forums, worked toward race understand-

ing. Throughout this hectic period in Catherine's life, Eddie Doherty was but an observer who merely wanted to marry Catherine. She, however, ever refused him many times, as *Tumbleweed* testifies; in fact she gave him such a bad time the reader might become slightly irritated with her.

Catherine felt that her vocation to the lay apostolate left little room for other ways of life. After taking spiritual counsel she at last married Mr. Doherty in 1943.

ONE HOPES that this tale will confound all those Catholics who look on the lay apostolate as one long soup-feeding sortie into regions where life is greyest and most wretched. The tendency to ridicule what one does not understand is human, but after *Tumbleweed* not to understand some of the aims of the Catholic apostles of the slums would be completely unchristian.

"Tumbleweed, A Biography," by Eddie Doherty (221 pp., \$2.75, Bruce Publ. Co.)

Makes Good



George Suboczowski, 26-year-old Pole, who came to the United States as Displaced Person from Germany, last October, in a few months has become independent. He has a \$50-a-week job in a Peoria, Ill. factory and is attending Bradley University, working for a bachelor of social science degree. He says he is just one of hundreds of new arrivals who are trying to prove to Americans that they make no mistake in admitting DP's.

Chesterton Not Bright, School Report Said

London—(NC)—Gilbert Keith Chesterton, the great Catholic writer, was well-behaved but not very bright, according to his school-term report of September, 1891, which has been exhibited in London. Chesterton was then 18 and a pupil at St. Paul's school, London.

"Not on the same plane with the rest," his teacher's report reads. "Composition mostly futile. But will translate well and appreciates what he reads. Not a quick brain but possessed of a slow moving, tortuous imagination. Conduct always admirable."

The report is among others of famous men now being shown by the National Book League in an exhibition of "class room relics."

Protest Cancels Sex Lectures In Schools

Tarrytown—(RNS)—Following protests from Roman Catholic priests assigned here and in North Tarrytown, Herbert F. Johnson, superintendent of schools, indefinitely postponed three lectures on sex education scheduled to have been given before high school seniors.

The lectures were to have been delivered by physicians to boys and girls whose parents gave permission.

Jesuit Weekly, 'America' Recalls Social Progress

New York—(NC)—"The great war for social justice and charity lies ahead still to be won. America will be in the thick of it," writes the Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., of the national Jesuit weekly magazine he formerly edited, in a special 40th anniversary issue published here.

The review of the politics and character of America over its 40-year history by Father Parsons was replete "almost without anybody noticing" this was when Pope Pius XI began to issue "that series of powerful documents which we call the encyclicals, and which literally transformed the face of Catholic thought."

The Great Depression, to use Father Parsons' term, hurt the circulation of the weekly, but he says, "It also gave us incentive and an insight into the real state of Western civilization. Pius had diagnosed that malady and furnished the remedy. We were no longer fighting regarding nations, grudgingly yielding lost fields and battles. We had only to advance along the Pope's line to win a final victory."

Franciscan Vocations Topic of Picture-Book

A unique photo presentation of the life of the Franciscan Teaching Brother is being distributed by the Vocation Department of St. Francis Monastery, Brooklyn.

The booklet has a large number of pictures dealing with the Franciscan Novitiate and the professed Brother. A text accompanying the photos explains the place of the Novice in religious life, while the second part, "Franciscans in Action," illustrates the various aspects in the active life of a professed Brother-teacher.

This includes not only religious exercises and their work, but also coaching, song work, Confraternity instruction, and community recreation. Copies can be obtained by writing to the Vocation Department of the Monastery at 41 Butler Street, Brooklyn 2, New York.

IN THE POSTWAR years, the Jesuit weekly was cold to the League of Nations, embarrassed by the civil war in Ireland, and privately warring with Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes for his support of the

United States. Francis Mann, Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, will fly to Puerto Rico April 19 to dedicate a new seminary at San Juan erected through a gift of \$100,000 from Catholics of the United States.

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Booklets for Parents and Newlyweds Stress Spiritual Values for Family

Excellent study material and practical advice for parents, newlyweds, and engaged couples is provided in recent publications of the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

EMPHASIZING THE spiritual side of the marriage contract and the need for Christianizing every phase of family life, these booklets are worth buying and studying.

They may be obtained by writing "Family Life Bureau, NCWC, Ave. N. W., Washington 5, D. C." and inclosing price marked after each pamphlet.

- Training in Chastity—Recommends on sex education. 15 p. 10c.
- They're Growing Up! For parents and youth—Dangers to be avoided. 24 p. 10c.
- The Church, Bulwark of the Family—Shows ways and means, natural and supernatural, in which the Church protects and helps the family. 22 p. 8c.
- Parent Education Through Home and School—Aspects of child care, and training presented by nine authorities. 69 p. 20c.
- Prayers for the Family—A compilation. 15 p. 5c.
- ABC of the Marriage Encyclical—An illustrated digest. 15c.
- A Holy War Against the Enemies of the Home and the Nation—Modern errors regarding marriage explained and factual material suggesting the extent of their growth. 45 p. 10c.
- Home Economics—Many practical hints on caring for the home and the family. Useful for home economics courses in high school as well as for study clubs. 100 p. 20c.
- Parents Look at the Family—A compilation of the views of 15 pastors on the situation of the family and what can be done about it. 57 p. 20c.
- Towards a Better Family Life—Symposium by 10 authorities who participated in the 1946 Family Life Conference. 102 p. 40c.
- Childhood Religion—What can the child know about his religion in his early years? What means

parents best make use of in teaching their children religious truths? Questions relating to religious training are answered in clear, simple language. 32 p. 10c.

Parenthood—Treats of child discipline, the use of rewards and punishments in child training. 32 p. 10c.

Guiding Christ's Little Ones—An address on child training by Pope Pius XII. 16 p. 10c.

Concerning Parents—Some guiding thoughts for parents in their tasks of child discipline and religious training. 32 p. 5c.

Parent and Child—Introducing the subject of parent education or child care and training in the home. The first of its kind for Catholic parents, and still valuable. 32 p. 5c.

ABC Religion—Helps for parents in the task of teaching religious truths to their children in the home. 109 p. 25c.

The Adolescent—The development and major problems of the adolescent boy and girl are treated by a child specialist. 88 p. 25c.

Looking Toward Marriage—Explains the ideal of Christian marriage and home life and the marriage ceremony. Gives guidance regarding the economics in family life and adjustment in marriage. Prepared especially for Catholic young folks looking towards marriage. 103 p. 25c.

Concerning the Family—A popular exposition of family ties, of factors that make for family failure, and of ways and means of building vital families. 32 p. 5c.

The Encyclical on Christian Marriage—Given to the world in 1930 by Pope Pius XI in view of the current conditions, errors and vices that affect the family and society. 47 p. 15c.

Christian Marriage—This is a popular commentary on, and analysis of, the Marriage Encyclical. It has been used extensively by study clubs, and in high school and college courses on marriage and the family. 88 p. 25c.

The Family Holy Hour—A proposed order of devotions for a Family Holy Hour. 2c per copy.

The Holy Father Speaks to Newly Weds—Selected addresses of Pope Pius XII. 56 p. 25c.

An Answer—This booklet is a brief criticism of a brochure issued by the Planned Parenthood Federation in America. It answers the latter's arguments put forth to interest social workers in birth control clinics. 16 p. 10c.

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