

Among Women Writers Welcome Comment

By MARY LENNON SWYDER

President, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

One of the interesting by-products of writing for print—and to me one of the most unexpected—has been the number of communications which I have received in the past few months as a result of this weekly column.

If ever I have sufficient leisure, I should like to classify and tabulate the comments to see which subject has evoked the most vociferous reactions.

First of all, I have been impressed by the surprise with which most Catholic women view a word of commendation. Wasn't it Johnson who said, "Praise, like gold and silver, owes its value to its scarcity?"

Whenever in these pages I have spoken of some work being done somewhere in the diocese as being especially worthy of praise and commendation, the women have said or written, "We really are not worthy of such praise."

CONSIDERED in one light this might show a refreshing humility in the women doing pioneer work in many fields of Catholic Action or it might indicate that long years of service have more injured them to adverse criticism.

AT THE request of readers I have written to various organizations and individuals, not with the intention of changing their policies or opinions but simply to state the Catholic viewpoint on the subject in hand or to point out that their procedure was not in keeping with the teachings of Christ and His Church. Conversely, there have been letters of commendation suggested and written.

A retrospection such as this would not be complete without a thought or two about the remarks of well meaning, but ineptly honest friends. Comes Friday morning and an acquaintance calls me to say, "My, that was a wonderful column you had in yesterday's Courier. You must have had help in writing that one."

Through all this runs a thought—I sincerely hope that our Catholic women express themselves as freely to writers—as such as local editorial writers—whose words reach more readers and carry more weight than my own; because those writing for the public welcome public reaction.

Wrap slender stalks of cooked asparagus with broiled ham slices, fasten and heat in a frying-pan until the ham is lightly browned. Serve with cream or cheese sauce.

I believe that the largest volume of mail has come to me in regard to articles I have written concerning Catholic marriage and the necessity for us Catholics to maintain God's own standards of married life which the rest of the world seems to have forgotten, to bring our children up in a spiritual way in spite of material distractions, to make our homes little doorways to heaven.

Friends, who more than any others of us see the damage done to souls when God's ways are abandoned in marriage, have been most encouraging in their remarks about articles on Cane and pro-Cane conferences and similar means of storing up the defenses of the home.

I have even attained a sort of negative distinction, in being so far ahead of me as to be remembered by someone who deluges me with the most rabid and ignorant anti-Catholic "literature."

If my anonymous correspondent realized that an open fireplace is only a few feet from my desk, she—or he—would be a bit discouraged about the possibility of my "conversion."

When God fashioned us He gave each of us a human nature, basically the same as the next fellow's, by which He intends us to live. Sincerity is simply doing just that living and acting and being the person you are by nature. It's honesty to one's own self.

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For Easy Summer Eating



You can perk up faded summer appetites with this Club Sandwich. It's a satisfying, but not too heavy, dish for those days when you want to avoid cooking a heavy meal.

Youth Parade Letting Your Hair Down

By MARY SULLIVAN

It surely would be a hey-day for the barbers if all the folks around us ever let down their hair and were truly sincere.

We live very often in a world of "make-a-believe." One example is the increasing popularity of Summer Theaters. To many teenagers, show business has become as enjoyable as eating, and the ability to pretend as admirable as its counterpart, truth.

But we want no stage-manerisms in our friends. Traits we appreciate most in them are not their falsities but their naturalness. We aren't looking for persons who act like friends—but for friends who act like sincere, honest-to-goodness people, natural and unpretentious in every way.

WHAT IS sincerity, and how can we be sincere? Well, it's like this: When God fashioned us He gave each of us a human nature, basically the same as the next fellow's, by which He intends us to live. Sincerity is simply doing just that living and acting and being the person you are by nature. It's honesty to one's own self.

ANY WAY you look at it, insincerity just doesn't go over. If on occasion it does, it's with the subtlety of a ton of bricks. Let's face it, kids, there's no beating around the bush on this question of sincerity.

Sooner or later we've got to admit that this spears, for all his double-talk, was pretty right when he advised, "Be thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night, day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Here's an appealing combination for glazing a smoked picnic or a handsome ham. Combine 1/2 cup flour, 1/2 cup brown sugar and just enough vinegar to make a paste. Spread this mixture over the picnic or ham, then stick with cloves and return to the oven for glazing.

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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

By MARY TETLEY DALY

"Little Peep" joined our family circle after a storm had blown down branches and strewn the lawn with debris. Among the debris was Little Peep, newly hatched: head the size of a pea, eyes tightly shut, scrawny, siffling body with a faint fuzz of down.

The storm had made the night cool so the girls made him a nest in a low cardboard box, matted with rags, and rigged up an incubator arrangement, the big preserving kettle filled with warm water, over it a cookie sheet on which they set the box—high out of temptation for Mike.

NEXT MORNING David Wolpert, a neighboring Boy Scout, identified him as a peewee flycatcher, giving us something to work on when we sought professional advice.

The man at the Zoo was kind but not encouraging. "They're hard to raise, those flycatchers, because they ought to have insects."

"Oh, we'll catch insects," Markie promised willingly. "What kind?"

"Well," the man hesitated, "I'm afraid you girls would be catching bugs all day long and half the night to feed him. Better try to find his nest and put him back in it."

While Little Peep was installed in their bedroom the girls made an exhausting but futile search for the nest, though they did find an adult flycatcher that seemed to be more than ordinarily upset—flying around frantically, particularly around the apple tree outside Markie's and Mary's window, and giving forth a double-syllable plaintive call.

"I GOT AN idea," Markie said as she took the screen out of her bedroom window, while Mary set Little Peep's box on the windowill. For an hour Markie and Mary waited, with the patience of childhood, far back from the window, not saying a word or making a move.

Mama flycatcher swooped down on the box with a soft murmuring sound, fluttered. Then it happened!

Bacon, Potatoes
Bacon curls with potato patties! For the curls, cut strips in half, loosely roll, fasten with toothpicks and slowly panbroil. When cooked, remove the toothpicks and arrange the curls on the platter with the patties.

"Timing" Gets Little Peep Off On His Own

By MARY TETLEY DALY

Next time the girls put Little Peep on the windowill two adult birds came—Mama had brought Papa along. Papa gave Little Peep a fluttering kiss, caught one insect for him, then sat on a branch to watch Mama do the real feeding.

LITTLE PEEP'S infancy was very short. In a few days his eyes were open and feathers had replaced the down. He had tiny talons and would sit on a finger while Mike snuffed at him—no hard feelings on either side. He was growing a little ruddier, too—real fall feathers that gave him balance. So the girls put him out doors on the clothesline for his daily feedings which Mama kept up.

As the days went on, flying was the problem the girls worried about. Little Peep's wings were becoming usable and he would lift them and try to fly off the clothesline, drifting like a glider into the shrubbery where he would sit trustfully until Markie or Mary picked him up and put him back.

"He's got to have a few more lessons in flying—and timing," Markie said. She and Mary exchanged knowing glances.

THAT NIGHT the "timing" business was made clear. Birds go to bed early—in the well-known expression—and get up early. So Little Peep was put to bed at six and the girls were so quiet at eight that we went up to investigate. Nothing but darkness and slumber.

"Wish Little Peep would make his home with us permanently," the Head of the House sighed. Next morning was a different story. activity at 5 A.M. "Let's take him out and try

flyings lessons outdoors," Markie said in a stage whisper. Evidently it worked, for at breakfast both girls were satisfied: Little Peep had followed his mother from the clothesline to tree branch, on to another tree—and off into his own world.

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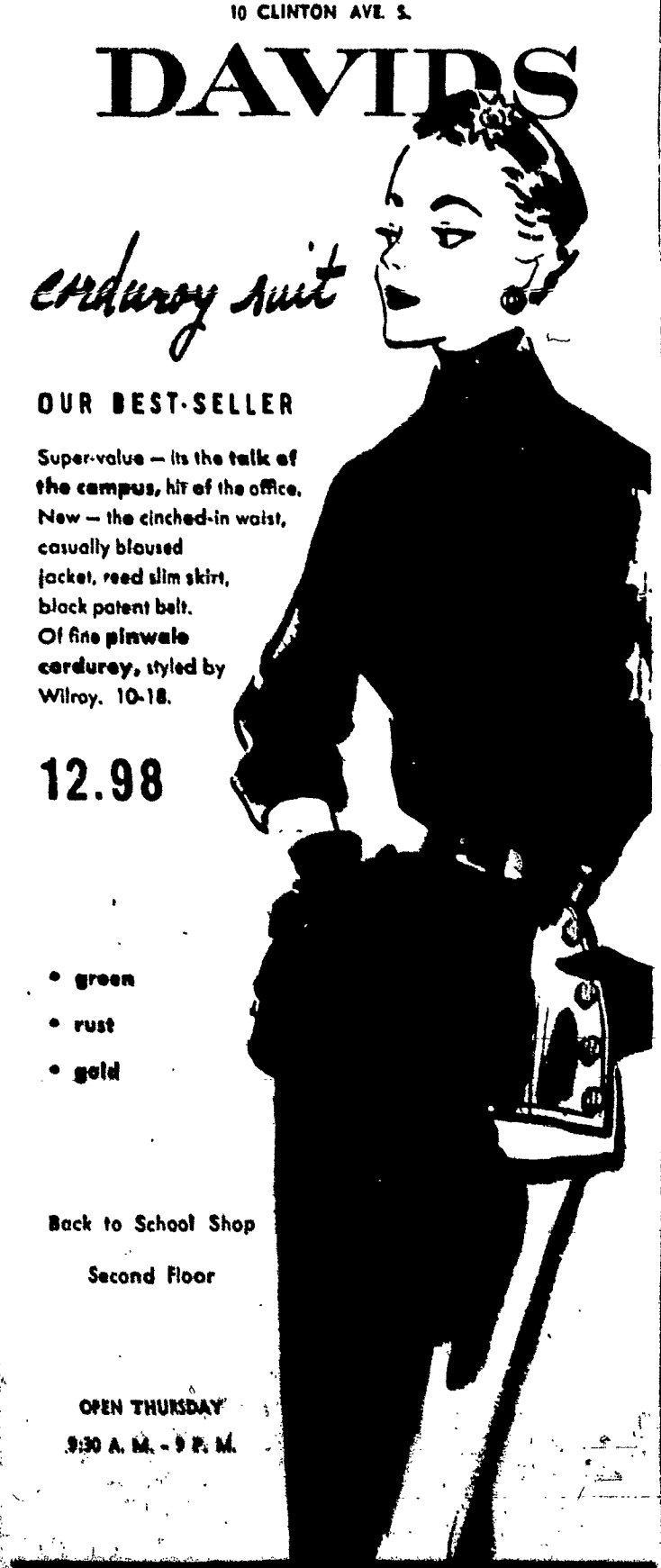
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