

# Patsi Li, Waif Marines Saved During World War II, Enters Nuns' Academy

New York — (NC) — Fifteen-year-old Patsi Li, darling of the U. S. Marine Corps, whose members rescued the Chinese waif from the Japanese on Guadalcanal in 1943, flew into New York after a journey from distant Singapore to find words inadequate to describe her impressions of the Wonder City and "the tall, tall buildings."

Accompanied by the Rev. Frederic P. Gehring, C.M., who helped nurse her back to health on Guadalcanal where he was a Navy chaplain, and Miss Eleanor Bumgardner of Washington, who met her plane at Los Angeles, the brown-eyed Patsi said she experienced one thrill after another.



Latest chapter in the astounding life of Patsi Li was opened. The 15-year-old Chinese girl is shown in Washington upon her arrival from Singapore. One of the most fabulous personalities of World War II, saved from death by the U. S. Marines and their chaplain, Father Frederic P. Gehring, C.M., of Germantown, Pa., she will attend the Walsingham Academy, conducted by the Mercy nuns at Williamsburg, Va. She is shown with Father Gehring, Miss Eleanor M. Bumgardner, her guardian while she is in the United States, and Mother Mary Patricia, of Mercy Convent, Merion, Pa., and Mother Mary Bernard of Walsingham Academy. (NC Photos)

SEEKING WAS DEEPLY impressed by the kindness of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who received her at his home. She thought she had never seen anything more beautiful than the interior of St. Patrick's Cathedral, nor had she seen anything resembling the Christmas tree in the Lady Chapel, with its life-size figures.

Through the good offices of Father Gehring and Mother Mary Bernard, of the Sisters of Mercy in Merion, Pa., Patsi has received a scholarship at Our Lady of Walsingham School, Williamsburg, Va. The little Chinese girl looks forward to her educational career which, she confidently hopes, will eventually take her to medical school. She wants to be a physician, like her aunt, Dr. Katherine Li, and "do good for people."

SO A NEW chapter is opening in Patsi Li's life which already represents one of the most amazing stories of World War II. And it is fitting that in its newer phase Father Gehring should have a leading role. For the director of the Vincentian Fathers' China Mission has played an essential role in Patsi's little drama since that day in Guadalcanal in January, 1943, when she was brought to him by two Marines with a deep wound on her head, her arms and legs slashed by sabres and her body burning with malarial fever.

The Navy chaplain put her on his cot in a tent and Navy corpsmen dressed her wounds. Nobody could guess her origins and there was for a while slim hope of the little waif's survival. Father Gehring can tell how battle-hardened "leathernecks" would drop by the tent to ask "How is she, Padre?"

AFTER DAYS of suffering, life won over death. And the Marines wondered what they would name her. Father Gehring chose "Patsi Li," an extraordinary and what afterwards seemed a providential choice. She came back to health and became a pet of the Marines as Paopai ("Precious Pet") to the Corps. They made toys for her and brought her gifts of flowers and fruit from the jungle.

Father Gehring finally decided she should leave hectic Guadalcanal and he arranged to send her to Pere Jean, a French missionary on the island of Espiritu Santo, 600 miles away. Later she was transferred to a Catholic orphanage in the New Hebrides.

The puzzle of the little girl slowly unfolded. It appears that early in 1942 a steamship bearing refugees from Singapore to Australia was sunk by Japanese planes of the Netherlands East Indies. A Mrs. Ruth Li, holding in her arms Patsi, 6, and Lottie, 2, jumped overboard. She put Patsi on a bit of flotsam but Lot-

tie disappeared. Mrs. Li was rescued by the Japanese and sent back to Singapore.

DR. KATHERINE LI, Ruth's sister, was doing cancer research in New York at the time and read of a Chinese waif at Guadalcanal who bore the name of her sister's child. Patsi Li. Of course she could not have known that the name had been picked at random by an American Navy chaplain, but hope will grasp at even a straw. She got in touch with her sister.

Mrs. Ruth Li wrote to the New York newspaper correspondent who had cabled the story. The reporter, in turn, wrote to Father Gehring. Both men were impressed by the coincidence and told the mother that Patsi could hardly be hers, and they suggested she adopt the girl. But the mother took her courage and went to the New Hebrides. And she found that Patsi was really her own child who had disappeared in the watery wastes of the Pacific.

# Change Cited In Non-Catholics Toward Virgin

Worcester, Mass. — (RNS) — Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester hailed here what he called "a refreshing change" in the non-Catholic English-speaking world "to restore the Blessed Virgin Mary to her proper place in Christian faith."

The Bishop spoke at the second annual convention of the American Mariological Society, a group founded in 1949 to promote study and research on the part of Catholic theology dealing with the Mother of God.

"THE ENGLISH speaking world has largely broken with the Orthodox faith of Catholic Christendom," Bishop Wright declared. "The break on doctrine and devotion concerning the Blessed Mother, however, has been seemingly contradictory charges. Together with an almost moribund regard for devotion to Mary, a refreshing desire to restore Mary to her proper place in the Christian faith concerning Jesus frequently reveals itself in the English-speaking world."

Bishop Wright held up John Cardinal Newman, distinguished 19th century convert to Catholicism from the Anglican Church, as "the guide for anyone seeking to establish the Blessed Virgin's place in Christian faith."

DESCRIBING Cardinal Newman, who died in 1890, as "the prince of English-speaking theologians and, I venture, of our Mariologists, in particular," he said that the English churchman himself had come to reunion with Rome "partly, at least, through understanding love for Mary."

"He came to Mary," Bishop Wright added, "as to all the Catholic creed, through his desire to see the firm basis of dogma concerning Christ restored to the crumbling walls of Christendom. Dogma was the fundamental interest of his mind."

# Paris Approves Catholic Subsidy

Paris — (RNS) — A precedent was established here when the Paris municipal council voted a subsidy of eight million francs (\$25,000) toward the upkeep of the Catholic University in Paris and other Catholic higher educational institutions.

# Former Swimming Star Now Nun Among Lepers In Pacific

Sydney — (NC) — When Marie Starkey visited Australia in 1948 as a member of the Canadian Olympic team for the London Games, she made up her mind to come this way again.

Marie has fulfilled her ambition. But this time she is not making international fame at a swimming event but at a North Solomon Island as a member of the Missionary Sisters of Mary in some leper hospital in Tahiti.

She has exchanged her swimwear for the habit of a nun and has taken the religious name of Sister Mary Ambrose. Interviewed at the offices of the Provincial Mission Aid Society, Sister Ambrose revealed that her desire to become a missionary Sister was strongly reinforced while she was traveling to Australia on the Aorangi with the Canadian Olympic team. Among the passengers were two Marxist Sisters bound for the Solomon Islands.

"I was too shy to approach them and talk them about their work," she said, "so I wrote for information about the order. I received an illustrated booklet and to my surprise the two nuns pictured in it were my fellow passengers on the Aorangi."

Sister Ambrose joined the Marxist community shortly after her return to Canada from the games, and after her novitiate began her training as a nurse.

She was sent to a leper hospital in the West Indies, and remained there for three years. Sister Ambrose spoke enthusiastically of the routine obtained by use of certain sulphur drugs for leprosy. In the last 12 months, she said, more than 60 patients had been discharged from the hospital and returned to their families.

Sister Ambrose is one of a group of seven Marxist Sisters who have just been assigned to the Solomon Islands. One of them is a doctor; another a pathologist.

The Marxist mission in the Solomon Islands was begun in the early part of this century. Although heavy losses were incurred during the war years, substantial progress has been

made in the last five years. The new improvement of Tahiti will reduce the pressure on the leper hospital at Raiatea, Tahiti, which is now crowded with leprosy.

headed by the Provincial Superior, Sr. Mary Joseph, who will visit the leper hospital at Raiatea, Tahiti, which is now crowded with leprosy.

# A SOUTHWAY ARTIST



Upon a recent visit to St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Washington, Archbishop Amelio Christman, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, and Archbishop Patrick A. O'Shea (right), of Washington, made their approval of a statue in commemoration of the late Rev. Fr. ...

# Seoul Carmelites Moved To Tokyo

Tokyo — (NC) — Twenty-nine Sisters of the Carmelite Order in Seoul have been invited to take up their residence here with the Carmelite community for an indefinite period. Permission for the move was granted by Archbishop Peter Dol M. the Tokyo Archbishop.

These Sisters had been ordered to return to their homes when the North Korean communists first invaded Korea, but they remained in Seoul when the city was liberated by the United Nations forces. The fate of the foreign members of their com-

# Moved To Tokyo

community, who were captured and taken away by the North Koreans, is not known.

The Carmelite community was reconstituted in Seoul last year by a group of nuns from the French Province whose Motherhouse is in France.

Negroes ...

# Enrollment In Catholic College

Washington ...

Sibley's closed all day Mondays  
open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 to 9  
Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 9:30 to 5:45



Sibley's

# annual January sale of lingerie

look! regularly 7.95  
pure woven nylon slips  
richly trimmed with  
embroidered nylon net  
only 5.89

- made by famous Radelle!
- double-stitched, pinked seams!
- adjustable shoulder straps!
- well cut for good fit!

Dry-in-a-breath nylon that keeps its snowy whiteness with just nightly nippings in the basin... here, for you to scoop up at a tiny 5.89! Sweetly fashioned with dainty embroidered nylon net top and bottom in white only; sizes 32 to 40. Lingerie, Second Floor.

Write or Phone Hamilton 4000 ... Order Department Open at 9 A.M. ...

SIBLEY, LINDSAY & CURRIE CO.  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Please send me the following at \$5.89

Quantity	Price

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY .....

CHARGE  CASH