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WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALYS

Grandma

By Mary Tinley Daly

Mary Daly

"When Grandma comes . . ." "Next time we go to Grandma's . . ."

These phrases have been part of life at our house for as long as any of the children can remember, visits to and from Grandma having happily punctuated the years.

Grandma's welcome to each new Miss or Master Daly began long before birth — her knitting needles clicking a joyful welcome. And whenever possible she took the 1500-mile to "take care of the others" while the new baby was getting used to our house.

GRANDMA would catch up on the mending, do over cupboards and closets, bake pies as only she could, make stacks of sun suits in summer, mittens in winter, pajamas, dresses and underwear.

A line-up of Grandma's sewing and knitting would stock a small shop.

Visits to Grandma's house were even more fun. Disregarding the beautifully kept lawn, Grandma and Grandpa put out the croquet set and had a carpenter make a sandbox, even though the visit lasted only a week and she was the rest of the summer getting grass to grow again.

CRIBS AND high chairs, dolls and toys were brought down from the attic, the milk order was trebled, small grandchildren of friends brought in for parties.

There were sight-seeing trips, swimming parties, picnics, shopping — wholesale spoiling in fact. And always the town photographer to take a family picture the day before we'd leave.

"But, Mom," I'd protest, "You can't let us disrupt your whole program. Go on with your friends."

"My friends understand," she would smile. "Families come first."

FAMILY ALWAYS did come first — the spiritual, physical and emotional welfare of her own family and of those whom her life touched and nothing was too much bother to keep those family ties strong and firm.

* * *

It seems like yesterday — though I was about ten at the time — that her favorite brother died suddenly and Dad was notified at the bank and asked to break the news to Mom.

"Bad news, Mary," he said, coming home in mid-morning.

Mom was drying her hands on the roller towel on the back of the kitchen door.

"Tom?" she asked, still holding the towel.

"Yes, Tom," Dad answered.

"LORD HAVE mercy on his soul!" Mom exclaimed, wiping her eyes on the roller towel. That first reaction was not How? When? Where? What happened? It was a prayer.

That same prayer for her family prevailed throughout her life — and for her extended family.

It was only at the time of her death that we realized how far that "family" had reached. She was not a typical "club woman." She belonged to the Christ Child Society so that she could make layettes and thus welcome otherwise unwelcomed babies; she organized a sewing class for teen-agers whose mothers were too busy to show them the skill; she was a Gray Lady during the war so that she could take care of boys whose families were far away; she was active in the Red Cross by making literally acres of sweaters, socks and blankets.

IT WAS an eye-opener to us, her children, when teen-agers came in on their way to school to say a rosary; when their predecessors by a few years stole away from their own families to stop by and pay their respects; when veterans we'd never met dropped in of an evening . . .

* * *

There was a shocked reaction [illegible] when word came of Grandma's death.

"But I prayed so hard," Mary sobbed. "Here's my spiritual bouquet I made for her birthday." Mary brought out a smudged piece of paper — each Mass, Communion, rosary and aspiration carefully marked.

"IT'S THE only birthday gift Grandma can use," we told Mary.

(That well-worn spiritual bouquet was put into Grandma's hands and she was buried with it.)

"But I prayed she'd be all right," Mary sighed.

She is all right, and Mary's prayer has been answered, though not the way she intended.

For, after all, that prayer fits in with the gospel of the Epiphany: "And they returned by another way."

DANCE DECORATIONS

DECORATIONS for the Nazareth College Alumni Dance at the Rochester Club Friday, Dec. 26, concern this trio. They are: (from left) Cynthia Smith, ticket chairman; Mary Esther Danehy, decorations, and Marianne McGuire, publicity. (Courier Staff Photo)

Nazareth College Graduates To Dance At Rochester Club

Plans have been completed by Nazareth College Alumnae Association for the Christmas Dance, Friday, Dec. 26, at the Rochester Club.

Johnny Hertzog's orchestra will play from 10 to 2.

CHAIRMEN ARE Mrs. Donald Albert and Miss Elaine Ringelstein.

Other committees are: Tickets, Miss June Dispenza, Miss Joan Leicht and Miss Mary Jane McGuire; Promotion, Misses Jean Schantz, Audrey Baglin and Cynthia Smith.

Publicity, Mrs. E. V. Doland and Mrs. James Lane; Host and Hostesses, Miss Helen Kammer, Mrs. Richard Crowley and Miss Mary E. Danehy; Arrangements, Misses Nancy Yogg, Nancy Bickad and Patricia Creedon.

o

Examine Writings

Vatican City—(NC)—The writings of Mother Mary of the Apostles, co-foundress of the Salvatorian nuns active in U. S., were examined by the Sacred Congregation of Rites here with a view to the nun's beatification.

Christmas Prayer

I spend my advent days
Preparing for my King.
My gift for HIM must be
Of every Sacred Thing.
I've gifts for Mom and Dad
Each gift is dearly priced.
I've gifts for all my friends
But, dearer gifts for Christ.
For it's HIS celebration
And I may have a part
By GIVING TO THE SAVIOR
The love that's in my heart.
May I feel as I GIVE—
'Tis HIS Feast—I but share.
May ALL find CHRIST in CHRISTmas
This is MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

—Marilyn T. Gizzie

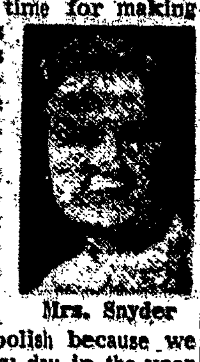
Smart Moth

Watch this next spring: It is humiliating for a golfer to examine his suits and find that a moth has made a hole in one.

AMONG WOMEN

New Year's Resolutions

By Mary L. Snyder


Mrs. Snyder

Traditionally, and rather foolishly, this time of the year is taken as the time for making New Year's Resolutions. As has been remarked before in this column, the chief benefit of such a course of action is that it provides cartoonists with material.

I say such a procedure is foolish because we should try every day in the year to love and serve God to the best of our abilities and that postulates an everyday resolve to do better.

ONE LITTLE way in which most of us could improve ourselves would be to plan our lives so that we allow ourselves time for any particular project on our schedule.

This applies particularly in the home. I believe that most of the friction between parents and children occurs when the parents become exasperated with the children who are slowing down some project by "being in the way" or when they do not keep pace with the rate of work set by the parents.

THE BABY wakes up from her nap all set for some play. Mother who wants to get back to some task (let's say it is sewing) tries to hurry of the business of getting baby dressed.

Baby senses this and so, in a teasing way is all the more deliberate—toes curl under so that little feet will not slip into shoes, etc.—every mother recalls such an instance. Mother remonstrates, sometimes scolds, baby cries, everyone is upset.

WHY NOT plan to sew only while baby is asleep? Make a mental promise that as soon as the baby wakes up you will spend some time with her.

When, after baby has had her play time and attention from mother and is ready to play for a while in the play pen, you may have a chance to return to the sewing—perhaps only to pick up and put away, but at least you will return to it with the satisfied feeling that you are the mother of a happy baby.

Incidentally, psychologists now tell us that much of the so-called naughtiness of children in school as well as at home is a teasing of teacher or mother.

In most instances, it is playful teasing—an attention getting device; but, if the attention is not given, a resentment on the part of the child can turn the playfulness into mean teasing which is quite another thing.

Mean teasing is a child's way of attempting mastery over another individual. Obviously, it is not a good character building habit so the circumstances which lead up to it should be avoided.

Many of these circumstances stem from mother being "so busy" or being "pushed for time."

IF WE must make one, a New Year's Resolution, to plan every day so as to allow ourselves time for the important things in our lives—our God, first of course, and then our home and our children might pay dividends not only in our own happiness but in that of our families as well.

China Exodus

Hong Kong—(RNS)—Only 29 Catholic missionaries arrived here from Communist China in November compared with a monthly average of 80 for the previous nine months.

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