

CATHOLIC BOOK AWARD



New York—Marie Killias of Larchmont, N. Y., is presented with the 1952 Golden Book Award of the Catholic Writers Guild of America by William Fay, president of the guild, at a ceremony here. Miss Killias was honored for her book, "Karen," the story of the rearing of her daughter, a victim of cerebral palsy. A Golden Scroll was presented to Prentice-Hall, Inc., publishers of "Karen." (Religious News Service Photo).

I Owe A Debt . . .

Run-Away Orphan Returns; Success After 63 Years

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — The orphan who ran away 63 years ago has come home.

Andrew Kopp — who, as a boy of 13, fled St. Vincent's Home one snowy night, hopped a freight and found a four-cents-an-hour job in a lumber mill — returned on recent summer evening as president of a railroad and a dean of American lumber executives.

With him he brought a check toward a big new orphanage.

Andrew Kopp had heard at his home in Huntington, W. Va., that the orphanage needed a new building. "God has been good to me," he said. "It's my turn now . . ."

At St. Vincent's he signed his name in the old vermillion-bound Report Book — as if he'd returned from an extra-long stay in a trial foster home. Then the father of three children and grandfather of eight, sat down to a lunch of hamburger and mashed potatoes with 38 kids who gazed wide-eyed at his gleaming shoes and black and gold tie.

For the Sisters of St. Francis the ancient clock at St. Vincent's seemed to be telling time backwards.

AFTER LUNCH Andrew Kopp said: "I owe everything I have achieved to the training I got here." And he told the story of his climb.

"I owe a debt of gratitude," he said. "The moral lessons and the practical training I learned as a kid here helped me find my way in the world outside."

"I was not bitterly unhappy as child here but I was homesick for my first home. . . . I used to look past the orphanage windows and see beautiful carriages and handsome horses going down Main Street. The people in the carriages seemed rich and happy and beautiful . . ."

"One cold, blustery night in February of 1895 I hid myself after dinner in a lunch room on a ground level floor. When everyone was gone, I raised a window and climbed out into the snow. I recall that the moon was shining brightly and that the earth was very white but the night was quiet except for the small voices of children singing hymns in the chapel . . ."

I TRUDGED THROUGH the snow and past the brick wall at Main Street . . . I saw the bright lights of the real homes—the real homes for children with

out on a night like this" he boomed.

"I told him my story. . . . Finally he said, 'All right, son. I had a hard life, too, when I was a kid. Climb on board the caboose.'"

"SOON THE TRAIN was moving. I crawled up into the cupulo where the conductor sat . . . Sitting in the dark, jogging past unfamiliar landscape, I became lonesome and really felt like crying. My conscience was bothering me and I knew the Sisters would be alarmed because of my disappearance. Even though I reminded myself that all I wanted was a chance to earn my keep, I was ashamed . . ."

"I made my way to Petersburg . . . broke and hungry, I inquired about work and was told that practically everybody in the town was employed at a lumber mill. I learned that the boss always walked to work down a certain street at a certain time. I got a good description of him and waited behind a bush. When he came along . . . I popped up from the bush saying, 'My name's Andrew Kopp. I'm 13 years old, strong and healthy, and I want to go to work for you.'"

"This made the boss laugh. He asked questions and said finally, 'All right, kid. Report to the mill.'"

"Hey kid, What're you doin'?"

"I WAS PAID four cents an hour. . . . But the lessons I learned at the orphanage helped me along in life and I was promoted to bill clerk before my fifteenth birthday. By then I was boarding with a fine, wholesome family, paying my own way and making plans for the future."

"One of my plans was more like a dream: someday I would return to the orphanage and help needy children with a gift. I have remained a staunch Catholic and today I still believe God bid me to help motherless children . . ."

"I know that God wishes all of us who have received His help to return the blessings . . ."

Out at St. Vincent's Home that night you could hear the Sisters weeping softly. Their prayers for one of their boys had been answered.

Jesuit Teacher Dead

New York — (NC) — Father Domhnall A. Suple, S. J., professor of mathematics at Fordham University, died here Tuesday. The 59-year-old priest was a native of Nantwich, Cheshire, England, and came to Fordham in 1948 after a period of writing at the Jesuit house in Edinburgh, Scotland.

100 Excommunicated Catholics Return

Puebla, Mexico — (NC) — More than 100 Catholics excommunicated for their violent interference with a scheduled pilgrimage of a Marian statue have returned repentantly to the Church.

The excommunication was pronounced by Archbishop Ocasio on about 120 Catholics of the Tlaxcala area, Tlaxcala is the larger city situated near the village of Ocotlan where the centuries-old statue of Our Lady of Ocotlan is enshrined.

Some press reports had stated erroneously that the archbishop's excommunication extended not only to the Catholics involved but also "to their children and their children's children."

Trouble over the scheduled pilgrimage of the statue developed when some Catholics of the city objected to the statue being taken to St. Joseph's parish in the city for a 14-day religious festival. When they tried to stop the pilgrimage with violence the Archbishop intervened.

Nurse Group To Meet Quebec — (NC) — The theme "The Mission of Our Profession in the World Today" has been selected for the fifth congress of the International Committee of Catholic Nurses, which will be held Sept. 7 to 12, 1954, here in Quebec.

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His Wish To Be Kept

Paderewski's Heart To Stay Here Until Poland's Free

Washington — (NC) — The heart of Ignace Jan Paderewski, famous composer, pianist and former President of Poland, will remain in the United States until his homeland once again is free, Rep. Louis B. Heller of New York has emphasized.

The legislator under an extension of remarks in the Congressional Record, disclosed that when Mr. Paderewski died in 1941, he specified that his heart should be preserved and kept in this country until his native land had thrown off the yoke of communism and was free again.

Heller related that composer Paderewski's body was buried temporarily in Arlington National Cemetery, but his heart was entrusted to an old friend, John Smolenski, a New York State Assemblyman, who placed it in a crypt in Cypress Hill Abbey, New York, awaiting the day when Poland was free.

The Congressman related that Smolenski died last month and his son-in-law, Edward F. G. Imperatore, had taken over custody of the Paderewski heart. Imperatore, a Brooklyn attorney, has confirmed that the Paderewski wish will be kept. Heller said there were rumors that the Paderewski request might have died with Smolenski.

"I hope and trust that the people of Poland and all the friends of Poland in this country will not have to wait too long for that to happen," Representative Heller said.

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