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AMONG WOMEN

Reading Aloud

By Mary Lennon Snyder

Two weeks ago today, in a column entitled "Homer or Hopalong" I wrote of the need of encouraging good reading habits in children. This line of thought had as its immediate inspiration an article in "The Catholic World" from which I drew some introductory thoughts. I can not recall when a column has drawn more reader response.

Mrs. Snyder

Since I discussed only one means of making reading attractive to young people, I should like to continue today and to discuss a means recommended most enthusiastically by so many readers.

Of course, the very best way to introduce most young people to the joys of reading is to read aloud to them. This was the theme of the Jesuit writer in the "World"; however, since I was not writing a review or a precis of his article, but merely using it as a point of departure in a discussion, I did not develop this thought.

Today I should like to quote at greater length from the article previously mentioned because I believe he says very well what so many of those who have written to me or have spoken with me in the past two weeks believe.

RECALLING THAT Plato, centuries ago, had argued that literature can have a tremendous influence on the formation of a child's character, the writer declared, "The principle that lay behind it (Plato's conclusion) is as valid for us as for Plato; the influences that are brought to bear upon the child are dies that shape his whole character and personality, and among these influences none is more powerful than that of the arts.

The article continues, after further explanatory remarks on the reference to Plato: "If the child, Plato said, is presented with what is good and fine and noble, with what is beautiful and comely and ordered, he will come in a very natural way to love such things. In later life when his powers are matured and he again comes in contact with order or beauty or truth in the real life activities about him, he will recognize them and welcome them, in Plato's own words, 'as old friends'."

FATHER JOHN Peyton has worked long and diligently to impress upon the minds of the American people the dictum, 'The family that prays together, stays together.' I do not believe that I would be in any way contradicting him, if I were to say that the family that reads together, stays together. At a time when the divisive forces upon family life are too numerous to catalogue, a powerfully unifying, and at the same time humanizing force such as literature should not be neglected."

In a final plea for reading aloud, the author states: "Reading aloud to the children brings the family together, provides entertainment for the family as a family and gives to all the family a share in the pleasure afforded by fine reading.

A ROCHESTER woman in a very interesting letter wrote to me that she had been read to as a child, and as a parent, had read to her own children with the result: "I can truly say that we never had any problems of 'smuggling' illicit comics, confessions, etc., and that my family have a real taste for good reading, a knack of self-expression and a vocabulary which can only result from interest in good literature."

With all this testimony in favor of the practice, why not give reading aloud a tryout in your own home, if you are not doing so already?

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Court Action Looms For Newstands

Houston, Tex.—(RNS)—Court action against "indecent" comics and pocket-books was threatened by the Houston Holy Name Union if such material is not removed from newsstands within 30 days.

Joseph I. Maurer, chairman of the union's literature committee, handed the ultimatum to the city council. He said if action was not taken dealers would be hauled into court.

Mr. Maurer told the council the Holy Name Union lists some 500 such publications as "indecent and licentious."

"Unless these objectionable publications are removed, certain individuals will purchase the books and then file suits against the dealers," he said.

The Holy Name official said the suits would be filed under a city ordinance prohibiting the sale of "lewd and licentious" matter.

6 Fremin Mission Unit Delegates At CSMC Meet

The Fremin Mission Unit of Nazareth College was represented at the 16th National Convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade held at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind. from Aug. 26 to 29.

Delegates attending were: Miss Virginia Keegan, prefect, Rochester; Miss Pauline Monsour, vice prefect, Syracuse; Miss Ann Daly, treasurer, Winthrop, N. Y.; Miss Margaret Frisch, Mission paper staff; Miss Barbara Belmont and Miss Patricia Wurtz, Boston, N. Y.

Miss Monsour represented the women's college on the Resolutions Committee which planned courses of action for all C.S.M.C. units for the coming year. Miss Keegan was voting delegate.

The young women attended joint sessions with Far-Eastern students who were attending a seminar on the campus, giving opportunity to confer on joint plans of action.

CHAIRMAN OF the convention was the Rt. Rev. Edward A. Frekling, National Secretary of the C.S.M.C. Keynote address was given by the Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati and president of the Crusade.

Foremost on the speakers' list was His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, whom the Communists have exiled from his native China.

The Most Rev. Raymond A. Lane, superior general of the Maryknoll Missioners also spoke. The Rev. Fernando Mempin, presently working with the N.C.W.C. in the Philippines, spoke on the lack of vocations in the Islands and opportunities for college students to help.

Over 30 different religious orders were represented at the convention with exhibits showing their work.

OBJECTIVE that brought the 6,000 delegates to South Bend was the promotion of the Christian apostolate. The Fremin Mission unit has been affiliated with C.S.M.C. since 1927 and every year gives large contributions towards missionary activity. It is the largest extra-curricular organization at Nazareth College.

Moderator of the group is Sister M. Paulette, S.S.J., chairman of the Sociology Department at the women's college.

Shown above (right) is Miss Virginia Keegan, prefect of the Nazareth College Fremin Mission Unit, who with other Nazareth delegates, attended the 16th National Convention of the C.S.M.C. at the University of Notre Dame, last week. With Miss Keegan is the Rev. Patrick Costelloe of the Society of St. Patrick, Ireland. The Fremin Mission Unit donated $500.00 to Fr. Costelloe to help build a seminary in Ireland for the training of missionaries to Africa.

Mission Guild Sets Meeting; Schedules Rummage Sale

Catholic Mission Guild will resume its meetings on Monday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Columbus Civic Center with Mrs. Alfred Croft, president, presiding.

Following the meeting, Mrs. George Zeller, activities chairman, will have charge of the social hour.

Several benefit activities are being planned by the guild which will lend aid to both foreign and domestic missions.

There will be a rummage sale Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 29 and 30 at 178 Main St. W., starting each day at 10 a.m. Contributions from members and friends may be brought to the store Tuesday evening, Sept. 28 or members of the committee may be contacted.

Mrs. Alfred Croft is honorary chairman, GEnesee 3356-R, and Mrs. Frank Brown, MOnroe 7956-J, is general chairman.

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Saturday, Sept. 4 — Lawrence V. Palumbos, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel;

Sunday, Sept. 5—John Barker Jr., Good Shepherd, Henrietta;

Monday, Sept. 6—Leo Hurley, St. Francis Xavier;

Tuesday, Sept. 7—George McGrath, St. Cecilia;

Wednesday, Sept. 8—Leonard Berna, SS. Peter and Paul;

Thursday, Sept. 9 — Frank O'Grady, St. Monica, accompanied by members of the Retreat League of St. Monica, St. Joseph, Penfield, Assumption, Fairport, and Holy Angels, Nunda;

Friday, Sept. 10 — Edward Moreland, St. James.

St. Agnes Readies New School For Opening Classes

St. Agnes High School, Rochester's newest and most modern secondary school, will open its doors for the first time on Wednesday, Sept. 8. The East River Road structure, built to accommodate 800 girls, will admit only students of the three upper classes, sophomore, junior and senior, for the first two sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 8 and Thursday Sept. 9. Girls entering the 9th year classes will not appear for instruction until Friday, Sept. 10.

EVERY MEMBER of the student body, whether entering for the first time or continuing studies begun in the East Main St. building, will find superior facilities for all types of activities involved in the educative process.

Following the century-old tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the diocese of Rochester, the faculty will emphasize academic subjects, while—offering ample opportunities for the attainment of skills in business training, home economics and speech.

A PROGRAM of physical education will be carried on in a large and well-appointed gymnasium, and an attractively furnished cafeteria will encourage the continuance of the hot lunch program which has for so long been a feature of St. Agnes' school life.

By Special arrangement with the Rochester Transit Company, the school will be served by buses of the Clifford-Plymouth line which may be boarded along the route or reached by transfer on Main St. at stops from North to Plymouth.

Although the school is opening for instruction, it is not yet open for public inspection and will not be until after the blessing and formal dedication by His Excellency Bishop Kearney at a date to be announced shortly.

WHAT'S DOING AT THE DALY'S

'All Togetherness'

By Mary Tinley Daly

There's something about a summer band concert . . . Out in the open, with dusk falling, families gathered together . . .

This last of the season concert had its own peculiar flavor.

Maybe it's nostalgia on the part of us oldsters, for the Head of the House remembers going to band concerts as a boy, in a small town down south, getting the notion of "blowing wind into a cornet" — a desire that afterwards materialized when he was part of a college band.

Mary Daly

As for me, I never aspired to be anything in a band—just liked the atmosphere thereof.

In our little mid-western town, everybody turned out on band concert night. The performers sat in the "bandstand," that ginger-bready hold-over from the gay nineties with frou-frou woodwork complete with dew-drop pendants, painted green and white.

Aesthetically, it wasn't much. And musically ours may not have been a very good band — I wouldn't know—but we thought it wonderful. It was loud and lively in spots, with drums rat-tat-a-tatting away, making you pat your foot on the ground until Dad sneezed and said, "Quit kicking the dust."

Then there'd be a soft number with horns wailing a bit, and you'd nestle closer to Dad and he'd reach over and rub the hair at the back of your neck. The little kids would almost fall asleep as they'd cuddle close to Mom.

STARS FORMED a halo around that mid-Victorian bandstand against a dark blue sky. (Come to think of it, the whole thing was over by 9.) And when the final number came, a lump would arise in your throat and you'd swallow hard.

"Want to go to Morgan's?" Dad would ask.

There aren't drugstores like Morgan's any more — the marble topped tables, the wire-legged chairs (now these ice cream chairs are collectors' items.) And Morgan's smelled "real drug store" — a blend of the oil-finished wood floor, assorted medicines, tobacco, strawberry - vanilla - and - chocolate. It took long deliberation on the part of us youngsters to decide which flavor.

"Splendid concert," the gentleman at the table next to ours would say, and Dad would agree. "First rate. First rate indeed!"

Then the walk home with the stirring sounds of that band concert in our ears and the relaxing, delicious sense of "all togetherness."

HERE'S THE SAME joyous reaction to a band concert — a generation removed, and with children supposedly so sophisticated, used to the stimulation of TV, 3-D movies, comics, audio-visual aids in education.

The setting, in our metropolitan area, isn't much different from the little mid-western town years ago. One must drive to the park, to be sure, and there's no gingerbready bandstand. The music isn't as brassy —a lot of woodwinds, strings and even a harp giving it a symphonic quality in keeping with a more cultivated taste.

But the audience is very much the same: families; couples, young and old; toddlers, restless at first, then calming down.

A stirring march and Ginny's feet couldn't keep still, responding with every crash of the cymbals. "Hey," the Head of the House whispered, "Quit kicking the dust." Then a softer number and Ginny snuggled close. A quiet sense of enjoyment settled over the assembly.

The stars made a halo against the blackness of the sky (things start later, this generation.)

As the last strains faded away, the crowd broke up, sauntering leisurely to their cars. On the homeward trek, people turned off here and there to the equivalent of "Morgan's," and so did we . . .

MR. MORGAN would never recognized this neon-lighted, asphalt - tiled, air - conditioned, chlorophyl-perfumed stop-in as resembling his drug store on the corner of Broadway and Eighth.

Yet there is a resemblance. The people in the booth next to ours stopped by to say, "Swell show, wasn't it?"; the children pondered over the 37 varieties of ice cream not quite as long as we used to consider strawberry - vanilla - chocolate . . .

At home, from the various bedrooms, we would hear the kids whistling tunes that the band had played.

Ginny came down to have her pigtails unbraided. "It's fun to be all together having fun," she whispered as she kissed us goodnight.

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