

AMONG WOMEN 'The Presley Plague'

By Mary Lannon Snyder

Over in Syracuse the diocesan director of music, radio and television is a priest who, I am told, was in the radio industry before being called to the priesthood. It is interesting to consider the opinion of that director in the current Ed Sullivan controversy.



Father William J. Shannon in a double column statement on the front page of the Syracuse Diocesan paper of last week, speaks out clearly in a column entitled "The Presley Plague."

"All automobile manufacturers operate alike there may be at least a partial explanation for the low trade-in value of your present car; one manufacturer is spending fifty thousand dollars for three television appearances of Elvis Presley.

"This is without a doubt the highest fee ever expended for the outright seduction of youth, because that is the nucleus of this man's performance. It is not talent by any standard, it is, on the contrary, a concerted effort by every convulsion of the torso and facial grimace to appeal to the lower nature."

THEN AFTER discussing the baneful effects of the Presley influence which Father Shannon characterizes as a "threat to tomorrow's youth," he continues: "We do not wonder that he (Ed Sullivan) chose not to answer our letter after Presley's first appearance. Ours would undoubtedly be the faintest protest in a deluge of complimentary fan-letters. Neither should we wonder why there may not have been many thousands of like protests. The people have always underestimated the power of mass-media. We only wonder how anyone of Mr. Sullivan's acumen would succumb to a ballyhoo which has sent Presley's stock soaring. When a drafted audience of screaming bobby-soxers signals the success of a performer, we have come upon mean standards.

"It is universally disheartening to the priests, sisters, brothers and good parents who train our fine children in the solid principles of morality, to have this training thwarted by the loud contortions and base appeal of this invincible brawler.

"DO WE HAVE a defense? We certainly do. It is first of all to refuse to view a program on which Presley appeared. We have, in fact, a moral responsibility there. On the militant side we should dispatch a barrage of protest-mail to Ed Sullivan who has had the affrontery to repeat this performance."

"In a final consideration the product should be made to answer. It is only good advertising horse-sense that the quality of the entertainment should match the quality of the product. Here your pocketbook is your power. Four Catholic viewers, Sullivan, are angry; and you cannot compensate for a moral injury, not even by booking "The Little Gals, Singers of County Derry" on the same bill with Elvis Presley.

"Please, Ed, we're not that naive!"

MY COLUMN this week was to have been on a staunch friend, Blessed Martin de Porres whose feast day is observed November 5th. However, I felt that Father Shannon's article would interest many readers, particularly those who admitted privately to me



Prayers Answered — The Kubanka children of St. Thomas parochial school, Irondequoit, led Monsignor Charles V. Boyle, diocesan school superintendent, their prayers were answered in the release of Cardinal Mindszenty. The Kubanka's grandparents were born in Hungary where rebels against Soviet control this week liberated the imprisoned Cardinal. Monsignor Boyle led children of the Irondequoit school in prayers climaxing a triduum for peace held there earlier this week. Looking at a picture of the Cardinal are (from left) Marilyn, Janet, Stephen, Victoria and Julie Ann.

Story By Nazareth Alumna Included In New Anthology

A short story, "A Sunday Morning Drive" by Maria Berl Lee, Nazareth College Alumna, was one of 42 selections chosen out of 4,000 entries submitted for inclusion in "Beginnings: An Anthology of Prose and Verse by New Catholic Writers" just published by Sheed and Ward.

It is a story in which a runaway match is quickly righted by an awakening of conscience at Sunday Mass and the gentle Hand of Providence on the ride home.



MARIA BERL LEE
an awakening of conscience at Sunday Mass and the gentle Hand of Providence on the ride home.

AUSTRIAN BORN, Mrs. Lee attended secondary schools in Germany, Switzerland, France, and was graduated from Jefferson High School in Rochester. Her father, a lawyer, was a prominent public figure in Vienna and the family barely escaped from the country at the time of the Anschluss.

Mrs. Berl received her B.A. from Nazareth College in 1946 with a major in English and attended Fordham University Graduate School as a scholarship student.

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NEW UNIFORMS AT St. GEORGE SCHOOL. MODELLING THE NEW uniforms adapted for St. George School, Rochester are these pupils with Sister M. Rachel of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God. In photo are: (from left) Anna Semal, Diane Sedlickas, Sister Rachel, Gina Andriunas, first three pupils in sixth grade and Virginia Krivickas, fourth grade.

Annual Amateur Show Set By St. Stanislaus HN Men

St. Stanislaus Holy Name national anthem, sung by Edwin Jaworski, baritone. Added to the annual Amateur Show on Sunday, Nov. 4 in the parish auditorium will be an exhibition by students of the Alton, Hudson Ave. and Norton St. An afternoon show for children will be held at 2 p.m. at reduced prices. Evening performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. when the amateurs will be in competition for the grand prizes and trophies.

Over 20 acts are expected to compete and will be judged by Paul Allen, Alfreida Moco and Robert Sheehy.

FRANK TOMKOWIAK will act as master of ceremonies and Lillian Seidel will be accompanist. Program will open with the

Second Program Of Series Listed. Second of a weekly series of transcribed programs, "Safe-guards for America", will be presented Sunday over radio station WSAW from 10:15 to 10:30 p.m. sponsored by Our Lady of the Cenacle Council 3882, Knights of Columbus.

Theatre Guide

FARAMOUNT
The Mounties A-1
LOEW'S
You Can't Run Away From It B
REGENT
War and Peace A-1
LITTLE
Madame Butterfly A-1

Legion of Decency Listings
CLASS A-1 - Unobjectionable for General Patronage
CLASS A-2 - Unobjectionable for Adults
CLASS B - Objectionable for Part

Bishop Sheen On WVET-Radio

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen brings a new series of talks over Rochester's WVET radio, 1250 on the dial, each Tuesday night from 8:30 to 9. He will not be seen on television in the Rochester area this year under present schedules.

The series will present a new format of dramatic narratives and little known, but extremely interesting people, many of whom Bishop Sheen has met in his world travels.

In discussing the change in format, Bishop Sheen said, "We are now going to leave the abstract. In the past four years we have covered what you might call the intellectual topics and I feel this series is complete. In view of the great popularity of dramatic programs, I believe the public would like to hear real stories that in many cases have more drama than any fictional stories."

'Prelude To Worship' Radio Program Set By KC On WHEC

The Radio Workshop of Our Lady of the Cenacle Council #3892, Greece Knights of Columbus, will present "Prelude To Worship" every five weeks over Rochester station WHEC beginning Nov. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Egan, professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Bernard Seminary, will speak on "The Divinity of Christ, this St. Bernard Seminary Choir will supply music for the first program. Music for succeeding programs will be presented by the various Catholic high schools in the Rochester area.

An Objective in Life. Be an enemy of sin, pity the sinner, and let thy life be for all the brethren a mirror of perfection. — St. Augustine.

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