

AMONG WOMEN Sonny Goes To College

By Mary Louisa Snyder
Most of us grew up in an atmosphere very different from that in which our children find themselves; so different in fact that one might say that in some areas the conditions have been completely reversed.

Many of today's parents spent their formative years during the depression-ridden years of the thirties. Perhaps scarcely of money in their own youth has made parents anxious to spare their children their own hardships, unduly prodigal.

These parents may have struggled to finance their own college education, so we hear them punctuating their remarks almost from their child's birth with "Where Sonny goes to College."

Along these lines I had an interesting remembrance. A young man who had had a brilliant career all through school and college was talking to his mother of his future plans.

He remarked: "If I ever have children, I'll never tell them from the day they enter school that they are going to college. I think the knowledge that I was going to college kept me from entering fully into my high school life. I felt somehow that high school was quite unimportant, that it was a mere stepping stone to something beyond, and I think I missed a lot by that sort of reasoning."

Apparently he felt that each educational level would have meant more to him, had he had with it a sense of accomplishment, of something he had won by personal endeavor, rather than by an indulgent parent's striving to give him every advantage.

The whole picture of advanced education has changed radically in a generation, and many parents should remember that the colleges which welcomed them in days of dwindling enrollment are now much more highly selective than they were a generation ago.

Of course, at no time did a school of higher learning take in everyone who applied, but, because of financial reasons, and excellent job opportunities then available without college training, many superior students did not go on to college. All this has now changed. Parents should remember this.

Then our whole system of living has become so much more complicated. A contemporary of mine was recalling the other day how her older brothers had taught her to drive a car when she was very young, but that her father had insisted that she could not drive until after her thirteenth birthday.

CARS WERE slower, fewer in number and traffic in some localities at certain times of the day was practically non-existent, so that the lures and thrills which driving holds for youth did not present the problems we face today.

As we watch our children growing up, then, we should remember our children are facing problems we barely dreamed of. A kind and patient attempt to bridge the gap of the generations can do much to ease some of the frictions which the adolescent quite naturally sets up as he pursues his head long course into maturity.

Religious Orders Of Women In Our Diocese



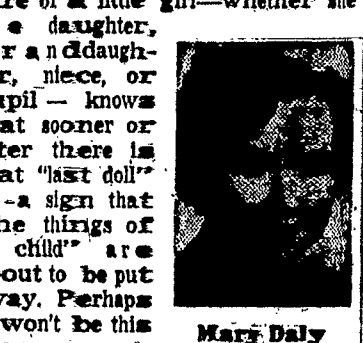
Sister M. Annandale.

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DOINGS AT THE DALY'S

Anyone who has been entrusted by Divine Providence with the care of a little girl—whether she be a daughter, grand-daughter, niece, or pupil—knows that sooner or later there is that "last doll" — a sign that "the things of a child" are about to be put away. Perhaps it won't be this year, or next, but nights are on growing-up.



Mary Daly

First trinket at our house that 12 year old Ginny had any idea of ever abandoning dolls came as a surprise, at the end of her Christmas list, compiled for the guidance of distant relatives, and ourselves. That list held some strangely paradoxical items:

- 1. Charcoal freckle-removal skit (How will she hold up?). 2. Basketball—official 3-New tire for my bike. 4. Nylon stockings. 5. Majorette baton. 6. Lipstick—pinkish bluish. 7. Rosary that won't break. 8. The Young Catholic Messenger. 9. A doll—maybe my last.

Needless to say, the new doll is in the works: ten age model with high beeled shoes, sun glasses, plaid Bermuda shorts, fluffy blue ballet costume, like Ginny's own, shorty pajamas, red velvet evening cloak, made from Ginny's outgrown velvet skirt.

THROUGH THE years at our house there have been countless baby dolls, boy dolls, little girl dolls, bride dolls... Probably, we have as complete a doll pattern department as could be found, for untold pre-Christmas evenings, have been spent at the old sewing machine. You don't dare do them in the daytime, and even-

"Last Doll"

By Mary Flaley Daly

scraps on the dining room floor are suspect.

Even this late, just the week before Christmas, were at it. It's fun and the older girls enter into the spirit.

"Let's make her a cashmere sweater," Marjie suggests, and starts the knitting needles flying. "And maybe monogram it?"

"But we don't know her name!"

No monogramming. Each of the girls has had that "last doll" and wouldn't presume to name Ginny's "maybe" last one.

Tonight there was a somewhat nostalgic conclave as we worked on this part of Ginny's Christmas.

"All I ever wanted," Mary smiled, "was to have new clothes and new arms and legs—for my Evelyn. I still love Evelyn and visit her in the attic, every now and then."

"MY LAST DOLL," nurse Marjie, remembered, "was little Ketchie. Got her head bashed in a cerebral fracture—when I took her for a ride on the bike I got when I was 12. Almost got my own noodly bashed in too. Remember Ketchie's funeral?" Out back in the goldfish and rabbit cemetery?

We all remembered Eileen's last doll, Bertha-Marie, and how she had had her hair combed and restyled so often that she was nearly bald by the time Eileen regretfully stopped playing with her. And we wondered, semi-seriously, if Eileen had tucked Bertha-Marie into the hope chest shipped after the wedding to the new home in Bristol.

Tongues and sewing machine needles were wired.

Christmas Movies

Motion pictures in full color telling the story of Christmas will be shown at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. The public is invited. No tickets are required, it is announced by Director W. Stephen Thomas.

"Look, isn't this cute? Won't Ginny love it?"

Who, we wondered, was having the most fun over Ginny's doll?

"For three years I had my 'last doll,'" Pat reminisced. "There was Katie and Stovie and Alice. I've got 'em all. And I was kind of ashamed to still want a doll when I was 15! Bet Ginny'll pull the same deal."

We rather hope that she will! Merry Christmas, all you readers!

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