Actor Attributes Success To St. Jude

DANNY THOMAS

Danny Thomas is a comedian who can make you cry and, at the same time, is a serious man who can make you laugh, Pete Martin observes in the current (Jan. 17) issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

Martin's article, "I Call on Danny Thomas," tells how these diverse talents have paid off for Danny, whose "clean and wholesome" C.B.S. family-type TV show went to the top of the Trendex ratings in November, topping some rugged competitors.

It also tells that the 45-year-old comedian, a deeply-religious man, was "scared" about telling his story because he would have to describe his "special feeling" for St. Jude.

"I'll have to tell you what St. Jude has done for me and what I'm trying to do for him," Thomas said. "An interview geared to faith might bug some people, so if anybody thinks faith is nonsense they'd better stop right here. I'm not a pious man who is always on his knees. I'm not trying to convert anybody. I pray the only way I know how; strictly informal."

The Post article tells that Thomas is of Lebanese descent and was born in Deerfield, Michigan. He was christened Muzyad, an Arabic name meaning "A Little Better." The Americanized versions of the names of his baby brother and his oldest brother were Danny and Thomas. That's where he got his professional name.

Martin relates that Thomas is a Maronite Catholic, an Eastern Rite Roman Catholic. He was 11 when he got his first job in the theater as a pop vendor.

IT IS REPORTED that Thomas wasn't making much progress in show business back in 1940 and he heard about Saint Jude Thaddaeus, the patron saint of the forgotten and the hopeless. He prayed for guidance as to whether he should seek other employment and promised to build a shrine for the poor and hopeless.

When success did come, he spoke to Cardinal Stritch about the form of that shrine and the clergyman suggested a hospital for underprivileged children at Memphis.

Martin says the ground-breaking for St. Jude Hospital took place Nov. 2, 1958, with a shovel assembled in three parts by Catholic, Jewish and Protestan clergymen. Thomas estimated the total cost at two million dollars and said they were still half a million short.

Dance Auditions Set In Buffalo

Melody Fair, the Wurlitzer Park music tent, will audition dancers for its coming summer season on Sunday, Feb. 1.

Dancers versed in all phases of ballet, modern dance and jazz interpretation will be screened on that date from 2 to 4 p.m. in the YWCA Building, 190 Franklin St., Buffalo.

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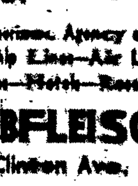

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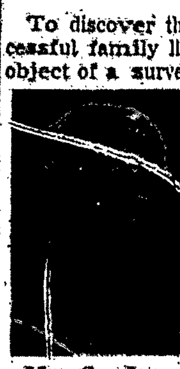
AMONG WOMEN

Sucessful Family Life

By Mary Lennon Snyder



Mrs. Snyder

To discover the secret of successful family life has been the object of a survey by two American sociologists, the Rev. Lucius F. Cervantes, S.J., director of the department of sociology at Regis College, Denver, Colorado, and Carle C. Zimmerman, professor of sociology at Harvard University.

This study has continued for several years and has been subsidized in part by the Ford Foundation. From a preliminary report published by Father Cervantes the following information is taken.

The study was carried on in six large cities and two smaller communities: Los Angeles, Denver, Omaha, St. Louis, New Orleans, Boston, Stillwater, Okla. and Morgantown, W. Va. The investigation involved over 60,000 families and a quarter of a million individuals.

Facts, in part, were garnered from questionnaires handed out to senior high school students who were asked about their parental family and about the five closest family friends.

"**THE RESULTS** of our study overwhelmingly substantiate our hypothesis," states Dr. Cervantes. "Successful American families do protect themselves and their children by carefully surrounding their domestic life with persons who have backgrounds, interest, and ideals similar to their own. They have a certain few family friends who are permitted to visit their homes over periods of years.

"The more careful couples are about the type of friends they invite into their homes, the more successful they are in their marital and parental relationships.

"In every city we found that families who have friends that are not like themselves (as measured by religion, kindred or intermarriage, region of origin, and income) have the most trouble with their children and the most trouble between parents as well.

"We arranged the families in each city according to whether their primary friends who visited with them have one or more things in common. We found that the best and most successful families and the happiest ones, had most in common with their friends, and the least successful and least happy ones had little or nothing in common with their friends.

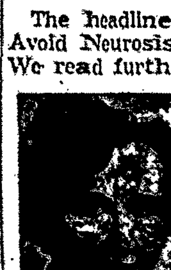
HAPPINESS and success were measured by indices of divorce, desertion, juvenile arrest, in having a reproductive number of children and continuance of children in the educational process.

"In Denver, for instance, families of the high school seniors (and our study included both public and Catholic schools) who had friends with whom they had nothing in common had a juvenile arrest rate which was more than twelve times higher than those families who had friends with whom they had four characteristics in common. The Denver families with nothing in common with their most intimate friends had a divorce or desertion rate four times as high as those with very similar friends."

At a later date I shall give more of the findings which brought Father Cervantes to this statement: "For those who have not yet married: Marry your own—whether of the same religion, region ethnic group, or education and economic status. For those who have already married, Protect your own by gathering about you family friends of similar backgrounds, interests, and ideals."

DOINGS AT THE DALY'S — Dodging The Blues

By Mary Tinley Daly



Mary Daly

The headline, "Be a Joiner to Avoid Neurosis" struck our eye. We read further. It was an account of a paper prepared by Profs. T. C. Barnes and J. C. Munch of Hahnemann Medical College, Phila. and presented before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The professors gave findings of the behavior of white mice and rats rendered neurotic by solitary confinement — being placed in solid walled cages, having no contact with their own kind and a minimum of contact with the experimenters.

Upshot was, that after such isolation — for periods of a few days to a year — both mice and rats went "stir crazy." Mice developed the shakes, epilepsy and some even committed suicide. Rats became violently angry, attacking everything put within the cages.

WE READ ON: "The speaker drew the conclusion that since man is a social animal, he should avoid isolation, and that to join all sorts of organizations is the best way to keep psychologically stable."

Well . . .

We thought of some of the people we know who normally would be in the equivalent of "solid walled cages" or at least semi-solid walled ones: the retired, those without families or close personal ties.

Some try to "draw the days out" by arising late, making a big thing of daily small chores, afternoon excursion to the grocery store — often pathetically engaging fellow-customers in talk over the quality of the string beans.

Others, with a bit more cash, develop ephemeral symptoms that drive them from one doctor to another, giving rise to the saying between two such patients meeting in a doctor's office: "If he ever cures me, I don't know what I'm going to do with my Wednesday afternoons!"

Loneliness — it's a frightening thing . . .

And we thought of others we know — also who could live in "walled-in cages."

ONE IS A widower, a middle aged, retired bookkeeper who has always wanted to write. Instead of continuing to send out manuscripts that bounce back with depressing "We regret" slips, he has joined amateur writing clubs. There he, and many others, read thir efforts to one another, discuss them frankly. None have any real ambitions to be "published" professionally — but they celebrate when anything is printed, even in a neighborhood sheet.

Another is a widow of past 60 who engages in volunteer work in hospitals. One week with the book-cart, she gets to visit with patients, spread her own good-will to the sick; the next week in the shop, advising gifts for patients. The ever incoming, outgoing patients are her personal concern and both she and they benefit . . .

Still another — that's our Frances! Unmarried, of "uncertain" age, Frances draws a tiny retirement check. By law, she can engage in only a small way in paid employment, but she has a job! Five afternoons each week she types and files.

Frances appears at 1:45 p.m. each day, dressed to adorn any office. Her suit is pressed and brushed, a scarf of flower picks up a dominant color, blouse is freshly washed and ironed, shoes shined, nails manicured, white hair shining and curled. Lipstick wreathes a mouth that has an ever-ready smile, with teeth that are as bright as the day the dentist made them.

"The days are so full," Frances tells us happily. There's Mass, and club work, my job — and school at night."

Mice and rats can't get out of their "stir crazy" position—but human beings can.

'Once Over Lightly' Set By 3 Groups

"Once Over Lightly," a musical revue will be presented Jan. 23, 24 and 25 at Holy Redeemer Auditorium, Hudson at Clifford avenues at 8:30 p.m.

Combining representative talents of Music Theatre, Ballet Workshop and Catholic Theatre, the large cast includes: Lloyd Hubbard, Julie Frances, Harold Norbut, Pat Sumberg, Lucy Hope Lyon, Donald O'Neill, Mary Williams, Bud Driggs, Mrs. Raymond Vorndran, Stephen Tuttle, Earl Kage and many others.

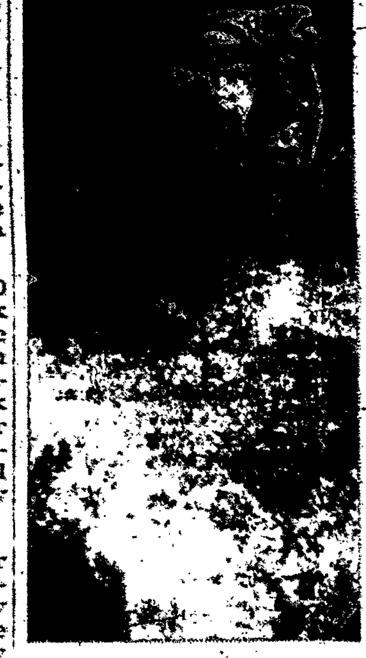
Unit directors are Sue Wigg, Robert Smett, Frank Riesenberger, Arloha McVinnie, Eugene Eckert, Thelma Biracree and William Andia.

Frank Risenberger is producing and Carl Zollo has designed the settings.

Patrons of Catholic Theatre are reminded that admission to "Once Over Lightly" is not included in the Season Subscriptions. Their remaining subscriber's ticket is good for admision to "Othello" and "The Madwoman of Chaillot."

Suburban Night At Eastman

The music of Gershwin and Tchaikovsky will be played at the Eastman Theatre on Saturday evening, January 17 in a program honoring suburban members of the Civic Music Association.



MRS. FRANK M. QUINLAN, JR.

Quinlan - Sheehan Wedding Held

Maureen A. Sheehan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Sheehan of Lima, and Frank M. Quinlan Jr., son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Frank M. Quinlan of Geneseo were married in St. Rose Church, Lima, Dec. 27 by Monsignor John M. Ball.

Mary Joyce Sheehan was maid of honor for her sister and Mrs. John R. Mangan was bridesmaid.

Thomas A. Quinlan was best man and ushering guests were John M. Mangan and Donald A. Merritt.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, Jan. 16 — Joseph Critelli, St. Francis of Assisi.

Saturday, Jan. 17 — Louis Nau, Holy Family.

Sunday, Jan. 18 — Martin Bayer, St. Boniface.

Monday, Jan. 19 — Nicholas Tosti, St. Michael.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 — Francis Ross Attinasi, Our Lady of Mercy.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 — Frank Riedman, Holy Ghost, accompanied by Holy Cross Alumni Club of Rochester.

Thursday, Jan. 23 — Leo Beatty, Sacred Heart Cathedral accompanied by a group of employes of Rochester Products Division, General Motors.

Sale Of WHAM, WHFM Announced

Riggs and Greene Broadcasting Corporation, owners of WHAM and WHFM broadcasting station at 201 Humboldt St., Rochester, have announced the signing of a contract for the sale of the station to the Genesee Broadcasting Corporation, subject to the approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

Century Theatres Inc. and Henry I. Christal Inc. form the Genesee Broadcasting Corp. The station operates over 1180 Kilocycles with the power of 50,000 watts and is an affiliate of NBC.

Leprechaun On Marian Theater

Hollywood, Calif.—(NC)—"The Big One," a story about a leprechaun, will be presented on the Marian Theater radio program of Jan. 18.

Cecil Kellaway will star in the broadcast, which will be heard over the Mutual Network at 10 p.m. It is heard on WMBO, 1340 on the dial in Auburn.

Marian Theater is produced by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., founder of the Family Rosary Crusade.

AEC Grant

Milwaukee — (NC) — The college of engineering at Marquette University here has been awarded a $15,500 grant by the Atomic Energy Commission for nuclear science study.

Eastman House Features Exhibit

George Eastman House of Photography will exhibit the works of four West Coast photographers, Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Pirkle Jones and Brett Weston from Jan. 16 until March 15 in the Museum's Masterpiece Room.

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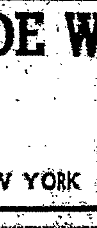

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