

## Woman Driver Missioner To Redmen

Cleveland — (RNS) — On Decoration Day weekend, a Cleveland Catholic will hook a trailer to her car and start on an annual three-month mission to help 25,000 impoverished Indians on 16 reservations in the West.

The story of Miss Rosemary Bridget Macklem and her unflagging devotion to American Redmen is an amazing story of brotherhood. Each summer she drives alone more than 8,000 miles, personally delivering some 12 tons of clothing to Indians of eight tribes — the Sioux, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Navajo, Ute, Hopi, Pima and Apache.

All the clothes are carefully moth-proofed, patched and sewn together in a store which Miss Macklem rents for \$25 a month. On this, her sixth auto trip to the West, she expects to spend about \$2,000 of her personal funds.

"I never know whether I will get my office worker job back in September," she says, "but so far God has always provided for me, and I intend to keep providing for the Indians."

Miss Macklem has had four different jobs since beginning her mission six years ago. "I can't expect an employer to hold my job if I take a three-month vacation every year," she observes.

What compels this woman to brave the boredom and dangers of driving alone back and forth across the country, often on back roads hardly fit for mule teams?

The story began in 1953 when Miss Macklem, who sews vestments for monks in Trappist monasteries all over the country, was in poor health and decided to visit several monasteries in the west for a rest. On the way home from Our Lady of Holy Trinity monastery in Huntsville, Utah, her car broke down.

Coyotes were howling, it was growing dark, and she was frightened. Finally an Indian youth with a truck passed by and towed her to the town of Kadoka, S.D. That night, as she slept in her locked car to save money, a drunken cowboy tried to break in and molest her. The same Indian youth drove him away.

Somehow, she got back to Cleveland but her health gave way and she was ordered into bed for a three-month rest. During this time, she read everything she could about the Indians. She decided they were being neglected and de-

termined to pay back the kindness of her Indian benefactor by laboring for the entire race.

She works entirely through Catholic missions and each year becomes more amazed at the plight of the American Indian. She has eaten dog meat in their mud huts; helped nurse them in illness; and is now trying to find an outlet for their paintings and silk screen works.

How does she stand the silence of driving alone and talking to no one except gasoline station attendants in between her missions?

"I make a retreat out of my trip," she says with quiet enthusiasm. "Every morning I try to make Mass. If I can't, I hold my fast and try to receive Holy Communion at least."

Miss Macklem has personally adopted some 40 families in the states of South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico and Montana and sends them canned foods and dried fruits all year, and special gifts at Easter and Christmas. With the help of some friends who give her a dollar a month, she also ships clothes during the year as they accumulate.

This year it looked as though Miss Macklem would have to postpone her summer trip. For a couple of dark months she had no car. Her reliable 1950 model had finally been junked over the winter and money that Miss Macklem had saved for a used station wagon had gone for necessary surgery instead. She wouldn't give up, kept working and paying for a break.

It came. A Cleveland used car dealer heard of her troubles and looked over his stock. He picked out a low-mileage, 1953 Plymouth, overhauled it from top to bottom, and presented Miss Macklem with the keys.

She was back in business.

## Pope's Delegate:

# Church Press, Indispensable

By BURKE WALSH

Omaha — (NC) — The Catholic press was called "an indispensable instrument of the Church" here.

The evaluation was made by Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi who, within days of his arrival as the new Apostolic Delegate to the United States, addressed the 49th annual Catholic Press Association convention.

"It is only fitting," he told more than 400 delegates, "that the representative of the Holy Father give public recognition of the tremendous work and importance to the Church of the apostolate in which you are engaged."

At the Municipal banquet in the Municipal Auditorium, 10 archbishops and bishops, including Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of Omaha, convention host, were at the head table.

In addition, an estimated 1,500 persons from this area augmented the CPA convention registrants to form what was described as the largest attendance ever at an annual CPA dinner.

In his address, Archbishop Vagnozzi reminded Catholic editors that "every Sovereign Pontiff of this century has emphasized the challenge which confronts you."

Archbishop Vagnozzi said it was his purpose, in accepting the invitation to address the convention so soon after his arrival in the United States, "to encourage you in your efforts to become an ever more effective instrument in the service of the truth, and to remind you of the deep interest and admiration of the Holy Father, Pope John, in your work."

The Apostolic Delegate remarked upon the "phenomenal" growth the Catholic press has enjoyed in the United States, and said "few countries, even some we label 'Catholic' countries, are able to match such numbers."



Washington — (RNS) — In his first visit to the Catholic University of America, Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, new Apostolic Delegate to the United States, is welcomed by his nephew, Mario Jossa. A fourth year student in the university's school of engineering and department of architecture, Jossa was chosen to speak on behalf of the student body at an official reception for the prelate.

He said that in general one could list three main functions of the Catholic press:

- 1) "Give the news of particular interest to Catholics."
- 2) "To interpret and comment on the more important secular news of the day."
- 3) "To promote the works of the Church."

The Archbishop said events about which the Catholic press concerns itself may happen on the international, national or local scene, and often will have been touched upon by the secular press, but in a cursory manner and with an understandable lack of attention to the importance or relation of the event to the total Catholic picture.

## Reds Force School Close In India

Changanacherry — (NC) — All Catholic schools in communist-ruled Kerala state will remain closed until the "destructive clauses" of the education law recently put into effect are withdrawn, it was announced here.

THE DECISION to keep the schools closed was made at a meeting of representatives of all dioceses in the state, with Archbishop Matthew Ernakulam of Changanacherry presiding. As Catholic schools constitute more than half of the educational in-

stitutions in Kerala, the closure threatens a major disruption in the school life of the state.

At the four-hour meeting which resulted in the decision to keep the Catholic schools closed, a 17-member working committee representing all Kerala Sees was set up. Another body, an action committee, was established to implement the decision.

Meanwhile, it was understood that the Catholic Hierarchy of Kerala has scheduled a meeting to discuss the school situation early in May.

Mexico City — (RNS) — Father Jose Maria De Guadalupe Mojca, former Mexican movie star and opera singer, who is now Secretary for Vocations of the Order of Friars Minor, announced that two new houses for adult vocations will be opened soon by his order.

## Doctors Report

# Lourdes Cures 'Unexplainable'

Paris — (NC) — The International Medical Committee of Lourdes has declared "medically unexplainable" two Lourdes cures — one of a young woman injured in a factory accident, the other of a Swiss monk suffering from multiple sclerosis.

The declaration on the cures was made after the documents relating to the cases were submitted to a recent international conference of physicians here in which doctors from Belgium, Germany, England, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland and France participated.

One person whose cure was held "unexplainable" is Yvonne Fournier, who had a crippling accident in 1940 while she was working in a factory in Montlucon, industrial town in the middle of France.

MISS FOURNIER sought her left arm in a transmission belt, and the arm was violently wrenching toward the floor. The nerve-racking injury left the arm completely useless. The hand and forearm were swollen as far as the elbow. But with this severe swelling the hand was by.

Miss Fournier's pain was so intolerable that she begged the doctor amputate her arm. The doctor refused her request.

But in 1941, the crippled factory worker was taken to the shrine at Lourdes. She bathed in the waters near the spot where the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Bernadette, and was instantly and totally cured.

Following the usual procedure, the medical committee's findings in the two cases will now be submitted to a canonical commission for further study to determine whether they might be called miraculous.



Faith - Beauty

Airman Theodora S. Smith of St. Mary's parish, Dumont, N.J., receives Miss Armed Forces crown from Lt. Gen. B. M. Bryan, commanding general of the U.S. 1st Army. Competing for the crown as representatives of the other military branches were four attractive contestants each, coincidentally, also a Catholic. (RNS Photo)

## French Parents Seek Fund Aid

Caen — (NC) — Some 80,000 parents of children attending private schools, the great majority of them Catholic, met here to demand greater government aid for Christian education.

The 80,000, who included a number of Protestants, were delegates of all the nation's local associations of parents of private school pupils.

At present Catholic schools in France receive no direct government aid. State subsidies, however, are paid to parents of Catholic school students. Recently Premier Michel Debre announced that the government recognizes the need to liberalize the present school laws.

## Moscow Fair

# Russia To See U.S. Religion

Washington — (NC) — A section dealing with religious life in the United States will be included in the U.S. exhibit at the Moscow Fair this summer.

THE ASSURANCE was given by George V. Allen, director of the U.S. Information Agency.

Mr. Allen said, "Since religion is woven into the very fabric of American life, the American National Exhibition in Moscow this summer will attempt to convey our nation's religious heritage in its content. The exhibition will demonstrate the pervasive influence of religion in American life in a variety of ways: the role of church and church-affiliated groups in community affairs; the pride we take in our traditional and modern ecclesiastical architecture; typical American families exercising their rights to worship as they please in accordance with our constitutional provisions for freedom of worship and the separation of church and state."

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