

BOOK SHELF

Irish Story

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

The Irish Story: A Survey of Irish History and Culture, by Alice Curtayne. Kennedy '68. 218 pp.; bibliography, index, illustrations, \$5.95.

This is the best news in Irish literature in a long time, this volume that fulfills its title and really tells Ireland's story from beginning to now — Alice Curtayne's The Irish Story.

We've had the history in spots from great poets, we've had good novels of particular periods, even novels in verse like Robert Farren's. We have listened with patience to Sean Maichy (The Irish, The Great O'Neill), grateful for the detail and the brilliance, we have hailed paperback Readers and anthologies, lives of Patrick and Columkille, tributes to the beauty of the land.

But we always wonder — what happened in between? How far back may one honestly look? What traces are there of people and events in the centuries before Christ? Who are these Tuatha de Danann who became the faeries, and there-

after could not be ousted from Irish life? Why did the land come to have a monastic rather than a hierarchical church after so great a churchman as Patrick and why, after being Europe's teacher for two centuries, did her scholars suffer an eclipse? Why did the High Kings die out? Who is this beloved St. Patrick, and who is this usurper-king Brian Boru, who righted the sinking polity of both church and country, after the disastrous onslaught of the Vikings?

The Vikings—and the round towers of safety along the coast—and the "Drowning of the Books"—and the cities of the Ostmen, Dublin and Waterford and Limerick—what tales (of realities) these furnish!

THE NORMAN invasion, the tricks that move an English Pope, Adrian, to "donate" Erin to the Normans, the pitiful pretense thereafter that the real high King was the Pope, the long, slowly closing iron hand of the Henrys, the murderous efforts of Elizabeth, the unspeakable bloodiness of the Cromwellian years, the coming of the Penal Night of seveneenth and eighteenth centuries—no house, no horse, no property, no inheritance, no food, no rights, no education, no safety of life or limb, no church—this story needed to be told in a book continually, as the Four Masters told it for an earlier day.

But if no church, then priests of glacial caliber and faithful people, ignorant and ill though they were through loss of home and culture, yet sanctified by hunger for God and maintained as a nation by utter fidelity to Him!

A story so heavy, so bitter, that finally those blood-kin to the oppressor, the Anglo-Irish, must sink and begin the resurrection and determine what had become their country, the relieving of a stubborn, lost, God-loving people. All the heroes are here — Sanfield and O'Connell, Davitt and Farrell, and all the events down to today, to help us understand the Constitution of this new State that fearlessly aids all schools of whatever religious faith, and supports every needy mother in her home.

This is the book at an historical framework for our reading. Yet the most delightful and reassuring aspect of this survey is the prominence and understanding given to the poets, the folk, the bards, who have been from time immemorial the conscience and the responsive soul, the whiplash of the inspiration of the people. The author's brilliance shows most in this, in the story and illuminating detail accorded the literary folk, who are the men- surs of both pagan and Christian Irish.

Alice Curtayne is a modest person — she spins the tale of the land on the edge of the world with finesse and without pretense, and I hope she knows what a crown this volume is to her faithful service of Ireland in lecture and story and article.

Sister Elaine Theresa of St. Agnes confers with Frank J. Moles.

Conclaves Draw Local Nuns

Four Sisters of the faculties of diocesan college and high schools are attending conventions of national educational groups during the summer. Sister Pauline, chairman of the Sociology Department at Nazareth College, will leave today for New York City, to attend the annual convention of the American Sociological Association, to be held at the Statler Hotel from August 28 to 31.

From September 1 to 3, the American Catholic Sociological Society will hold its convention at Fordham University, Bronx, New York.

Sister Edwina of the Saint Agnes High School faculty will accompany Sister Pauline, and attend both of these conventions also.

Sister EDWARDINE also will be a panelist at the High School Workshop of the American Catholic Sociological Society Convention to be held at Fordham.

Sister will discuss the topic "Population Movements and Trends," and contribute to the second area of "Labor and the Movement of Labor Force."

Sister Elaine Theresa, a member of the Social Studies Department at St. Agnes High School, was briefed by Frank J. Moles (photo) on the function of a low temperature flask in General Electronics cryogenics laboratory at Schenectady, N. Y.

Thief Captured By Nuns, Superior Hurt In Fracas

Rose — (NC) — The 30-year-old Superior General of the Irish Dominican Sisters in Rome was taken to the hospital and a 18-year-old thief to jail after an unsuccessful attempt to rob the Dominican convent.

Mother Gregory Coffey, a native of Cork, woke up to find Enzo Lauri, 19, trying to escape after some of the Sisters discovered he had broken into the convent.

The intruder tried to climb out a bedroom window, but found it barred. Mother Gregory challenged the teenager and he struck her. Falling, the Superior General hit her head on the floor and suffered a brain concussion.

OTHER NUNS, however, managed to hold the house breaker until police arrived. "He got more than he bargained for," according to one of the Superior General's assistants.

Mother Coffey was hospitalized, and doctors later described her condition as good. There was no report from police on the condition of the captive.

Nun Superiors Attend Meeting

Religious superiors from three Councilors and Officials, Miscellaneous Offices are attending the 1966 Session of The Institute for Religious at College, Maryland, Dallas, Pa.

The Sisters of St. Joseph are represented by Sister M. Florentine, Assistant Superior General, and Sister M. Evangelina, Mistress of Novices.

THE INSTITUTE for Religious is a three-year summer course of twelve days in canon law and Accretal Theology for Sisters.

The courses are planned for General and Provincial Superiors, General and Provincial

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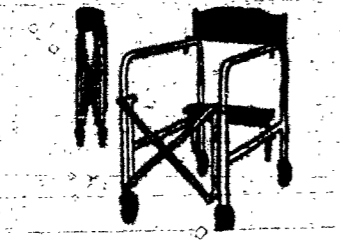
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Indian Dance Team To Promote Faith

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — A Benedictine priest is taking a dozen young Indians on a dancing tour of the eastern half of the United States for two reasons:

First, the Rev. Edward Rock, O.S.B., needs to raise money for his Andarko, Okla., mission of 7,200 square miles. He hopes to obtain \$75,000 to \$100,000 in the next five years.

Second, he is trying to spur the rebirth of genuine Indian culture.

ON STAGE, the Indian girls, dressed in long, bright silk dresses, move slowly, swinging their arms in time to the drumbeat and singing of Vincent Martinez, a member of the Comanche tribe who also serves as director, costume maker and choreographer.

The boys, decked out in red, turquoise, pink and white feather headdresses, impersonate huge birds of prey as they swoop and stamp through war dances, maddly jingling the bells tied around their calves.

FATHER EDWARD'S eventual goal is to wean the Indians from "black magic" to Catholicism while "preserving the good and beautiful parts of their culture."

First he had to win their trust and friendship — adoption into the Kiowa tribe indicates his success so far.

He is studying five Indian languages into which he plans to translate several Catholic prayers and also is learning the universal Indian sign language.

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