

Ruth White Shows Them The Great White Way

New York — It may be a bit too cute to say that passion plays gave actress Ruth White a passion for playing, but that's what happened.

While a student at St. Mary's High School in Perth Amboy, N.J., several decades ago, she would stand in the wings and watch as her older brother's amateur touring company staged passion plays for parish schools and Church societies.



RUTH WHITE

"I was just kind of an onlooker then," Miss White recently recalled, but right after college she organized a parish theatre guild and then went on to become one of the best supporting actresses in her profession.

She's won a TV Emmy for playing Julie Harris' mother in the 1964 "Little Moon of Alban," an "Obie," of Broadway's highest honor (for a performance in Samuel Beckett's "Happy Days") and in her latest film, "Up the Down Staircase," could be in line for a best-supporting-actress Oscar.

In the film, she plays an experienced teacher who is sympathetic to the frustration encountered by a new teacher (Sandy Dennis) but who pleads with her not to quit her job.

Miss Dennis, underlining one of the film's main themes.

It is one of the few roles she has had recently that are "closer to me as I am, mild-mannered and easily recognizable," for her career has been marked by some unusual casting — particularly her award-winning "Happy Days" role, which she played buried in dirt.

"It was quite an experience," she said. "I was buried up to my waist in a nice Ivy League school where they'll let you love them without risk." However, of all the plays she has done it has had the profoundest effect on her, she said, referring to the apparent hopelessness in Beckett's theme.

"It made me terribly compassionate," Miss White explained, "particularly to realize that so many people live this way, without help of God. What do you depend on?"

But what had an even deeper effect on Miss White's career was the Blackfriars Theatre, the off-Broadway Catholic group in New York City that has helped to launch many careers.

"I got my first professional job from being seen in a Blackfriars play," said Miss White. That first professional job came during the mid-1940's in "a serious musical" in which she portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln. The show folded in Boston during its tryout, but then came to the "Ivy Green," based on the life of Charles Dickens, and Broadway. Catholicgoers have been entertained by the great bite-very since.

Off-stage and off-camera, Miss White works with other members of the Catholic Actors Guild to make it a little bit of a haven, a support, a stimulus to young Catholics coming into the theatre. She is one of the few performers to be personally honored by the C.A.G., having received a scroll of honor for "her outstanding achievements as an actress in all areas of the living theatre."

"I have a feeling that we, as Catholics, have changed our attitude toward the theatre," she said, thinking back. "There was a time when the theatre had an anti-religious aura about it, and I remember that I had to go through a lot of traumas when I was younger. But so much of what you hear is myth. Actually, there is great discipline in the theatre, and I would like it to a vocation to live in a religious community."

"The best shows are those in which everyone is working together very closely. If you hate one another up there on the stage, believe me, it will come across the footlights."

Besides, she said, she owes it to religious communities to say something good in their behalf. In "Little Moon of Alban" she won her Emmy trying to dissuade Julie Harris from entering the convent. And in "The Nun's Story" she tried to persuade a novice to leave.

"I played Mother Marcella, and I was the one who told Audrey Hepburn to flunk her big exam!" — (Catholic Press Features)



Mrs. Edward Kelly — Miss Anna W. Cayia, daughter of Mr. Amos Cayia and the late Mrs. Cayia, Lilac Dr., and Edward Dolan Kelly, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Kelly, Newark, N.Y., were married June 17 in Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester.

Mrs. Thomas Van De Water — Miss Carol Ann Nothiger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor R. Nothiger, 1515 E. 10th St., and Thomas James Van De Water, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Van De Water, Scottsville, were married June 17 in Holy Family Church, Rochester.

Mrs. James Oliver — Miss Francine Joan Malvaso, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rocco D. Malvaso, Auburn, and James Brian Oliver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Oliver, Marcellus, were married June 17 in St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn. (Mugleton Photo)

Mrs. Victor Carson — Miss Patricia Ann Dunne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Dunne, Brighton, and Victor Thomas Carson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laverne P. Carson, Buffalo, were married June 17 in Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester.

16 Nazareth Students Plan to Study Abroad

Sixteen Nazareth College students will spend the summer studying abroad. Nine Spanish majors are studying at the University of Madrid in a program arranged by Dr. Virginia Otto, chairman of the Foreign Language Department and Mrs. Morama Kase, instructor of Spanish.

Carleen Gladowski, Bristol, Conn.; Joan Harsche, Wantagh, N.Y.; Mary Thomas, Verona, Elizabeth Garry, 189 Barrington St., Gail Kelleit, 140 Walnut Road, Kathleen Wilkinson, 517 University Avenue, and Janice Guglielmino, 101 Petrossi Drive, Rochester, will spend some time in European travel prior to the opening of the summer session at the University.

Two French majors, Mary Elizabeth Juel, North Merrick and Kathleen Walsh, Williston Park, who have spent the past year studying in France, will return to Nazareth College in the fall for their senior year.

These nine young women will be joined in their studies by George Thorsen, Spanish major from St. John Fisher College, who has taken several courses in Spanish literature at Nazareth under the cooperative program of the two Catholic colleges.

Three Spanish majors, Diane Nehas, Solon, Ohio; Jean Pettigrew, Utica, and Alice Lamphron, 180 Rockingham Street, Rochester, will spend the summer in Mexico City, studying at the Jesuit University, Ibero Americana. Helene Wilkie, a native of Trinidad, who received her degree from Nazareth in June, will also study in Mexico City this summer at the University of Puerto Rico under a scholarship grant. On her return to Rochester in the fall, she will teach Spanish at St. Jerome's School, East Rochester.

Peter's Pence This Sunday

Catholics of the United States will contribute this Sunday to the annual "Peter's Pence" fund for the Pope.

The fund enables the Pope to provide relief aid to the poor around the world — such as victims of war and natural disasters.

A letter from Bishop Sheen will be read prior to the collection in parish churches of the Rochester Diocese.

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The New Graduates

By Mary Tinley Daly

June tune throughout the land is once more a melody of the National Anthem. Familiar professional "Pop and Circumstance," happy interchange of "Congratulations" amongst dressed-in-best relatives and somewhat fatigued teachers, combined with a relieved sigh. "We made it from the graduates. Each of the newly graduated is wearing the most expensive hat in the world" — a mortarboard.

At our house, mortarboard wearer '67 was Ginny, completing for the Head of the House and me our 18th personally concerned graduation.

"See how straight she stands, how high she holds her head," proudly whispered the Head of the House, giving me a nudge in the ribs.

College of St. Elizabeth

Scene was procession into chapel at the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J.

"Shsh." I nudged back. "It's busted, the hat. That's why she has to walk that way. Elope it stays on her head."

Luckily, family mortarboard, kept for sentimental as well as economic reasons, lasted the distance until Ginny finally took her sheepskin.

This graduation, we had thought, would be "just another." It wasn't. Surprise No. 1 came when the teaching sisters entered for Baccalaureate Mass wearing academic robes of their various universities with their higher degree designations.

The "Hum Night" following parents' banquet we had anticipated might be but a series of nostalgic songs from one class to another — a "Hum" for parents. Not so at St. E's: a few songs, a few talks, all zingy, all meaningful.

Commencement Day: also meaningful, succinct, as courteous with the spirit of the day, temper of the graduates. How different, we thought, from graduations of even older brother and sisters, just as these young people themselves are a generation set apart.

War Babies

This is the post World War II generations, the "War Babies" their elders use to worry about. "There are so many of them" economists and sociologists of the early '50's had noted as business took them into account in a forward plunge in children's clothing, furnishings, toys.

Then in 1957 at the launching of Sputnik I, leaders in the field of higher education panicked at the prospect of providing enough classrooms, teachers, educational facilities, exclaiming as though it were a surprise. "Why, these children are here; they are 10, 11 and 12 years old!"

They're here, all right. They are launched, educated, seeking even greater education, questioning old and accepted standards, and accounting largely for the fact that more than half of the people in the United States are under 30 years of age.

Geared to a world of instantaneous communication; technological advancement; swift and easy travel; music, art and literature often far beyond horizons of their elders, they have learned to develop a "we" consciousness that makes

communication with other college-age young people easy and natural. They are tolerant of one another but disdainful of the banal, cliches and sham. Acceptance of changes in the Church, sometimes difficult for their elders, presents no problems, indeed they find many of these changes exciting.

Though born after World War II, when the country has been technically at peace, they have lived their whole lives in a peace-threatened atmosphere. They are now deeply and understandably concerned about Vietnam and the Middle East. They know that their lives will be directly affected by what happens in these areas as well as by what is happening in the country's domestic affairs.

Never having known a crush monetary depression, they take as their right a booming economy. They are willing and eager to work but they want that work to be meaningful. They will accept guidance from their elders but no stale platitudes.

These War Babies have grown up. Let's watch them!

Wed Sixty Years



Mr. and Mrs. William J. Woerner

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Woerner of Barry Road will celebrate one son's home from Los Angeles and another from Spokane, Washington, both with Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Margaret Mary's Church.

Married 60 years ago at St. Francis Xavier Church by the Father Michael Kirschel, the couple had one daughter and five sons, fourteen grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Following the Mass a reception will be held for the immediate family at Brooklea Country Club. To help them celebrate one son's home from Los Angeles and another from Spokane, Washington, both with Mass at 9 a.m. at St. Margaret Mary's Church.

Later an informal Open House will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Woerner of the Rugby Avenue.

Mr. Woerner is still active in the business he founded, Rochester Novelty Works. He is a long time member of the Knights of Columbus and Rochester General Assembly 4th Degree.

Perpetual Help Class of '17

The Class of 1917 of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Grammar School, Joseph Ave. will observe its Golden Jubilee Anniversary on Saturday, June 24.

The group will assemble at 5 p.m. on the church grounds for a picture, occupying the same positions as taken on the class picture of fifty years ago. A Mass will be celebrated in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 5:30 p.m. at which all parishioners are invited to attend. After Mass there will be a dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Knights and Ladies of St. John Club on Andrews St.

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INDIA: A MISSION GROWS

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

26 The area, called Orissa, is twice the size of Massachusetts. It has 28-million people, only a handful of whom are Christians. This week the temperature is 114 degrees... Still, Carmelite superior Father Januarius reports from central India that his 26 priests are bringing the Faith for the first time to low-caste people who never heard of Christ. He writes: "Pray for us, please. I wish you could be here to share our joy!"

Some of the priests were helped as seminarians (\$8.50 a month) by readers of this column. Now they need bicycles (\$47 each), motorcycles (\$738 each, in India), a 4-wheel-drive Jeep (\$2,450), to quadruple their time and save their strength. Adds Father Januarius: "Can you imagine how grateful the sick will be if our Sisters can drive to the villages regularly in a mobile clinic ('hospital-on-wheels')? We can get one, fully-equipped, for only \$4,900..." Our priests in Chanda (the mission was started by Pope John) need everyone's gifts (\$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$1) this week to help the hungry and diseased. Walk to the corner mailbox. Monsignor Nolan will thank you in Father Januarius' name.

CHANDA: "The long-term prospects are excellent," says Father Januarius, "but how can we work if we have no place to live, to instruct children, to offer daily Mass?" In 15 villages, where new converts are being made, he needs a church (\$1,785), a school (\$2,150), a rectory (\$675), and a convent (\$1,225). (The costs are low for the labor is free-of-charge.) And you may name the church or school for your favorite saint, in your loved ones' memory... \$160 will support a parish for a month... Mass stipends are the only income Father Januarius and his priests receive. They are free to offer Masses promptly.

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'Up the Chalkin

Moscow — The last time a U.S. film about school problems was entered in an international film festival, so much concern was voiced about it that it would do to America's image that the sensational "Blackboard Jungle" was quickly withdrawn.

Next month, the official entry in Moscow's International Film Festival will be a motion picture about American school problems, but no one expects it to be expelled. "Up the Down Staircase," which opens in late June, has already received excellent marks from both educational and religious groups.

Based on the best-sell novel by Bel Kaufman, the film has been cited by the national Catholic film office as a "reticent drama about the problem

Miriam Makeba At Auditorium

Miriam Makeba, the South African songstress to gain international recognition will combine the songs of her own heritage with those of Harry Belafonte when she performs him on a three-night stand at the Auditorium, 27, 28 and 29, under Civic Music Association auspices.

Her repertoire, ranging from African songs in Zulu, Swazi, Xosa and other languages, often features one of the most spectacular vocal feats in contemporary music: her famous Xosa click song.

The curtain will rise at 7 p.m. on all three nights of performances with Harry Belafonte. Tickets are now available to the general public at Eastman Theatre box office.

The Comedy of Errors

If I meanly wrote for my play "The Comedy of Errors" it is cause the Rodgers-Hart music in 1938 introduced me to Shakespearean farce just Shakespeare had revived Latin comedy of Plautus for the Elizabethans and Peter himself had made a version of an ancient Greek comedy the Romans.

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