



Day of Renewal

Columban Father John Fearon, spiritual director at St. Bernard's Seminary will conduct a "Day of Renewal" for men and women of St. Thomas the Apostle parish from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 24. Making plans for the program are Mrs. John F. Heveron, president of the Rosary Society, Father Fearon, Leo P. Saeum, co-chairman and Father Walter Wainwright, assistant pastor of St. Thomas.

'Big Brother' Really A Sister

(NC News Service)

Elizabeth, N.J.—Big Brother is really a Sister.

The Big Brothers of Elizabeth, who annually make Big Brothers awards to men who have made a special impact on young people in Elizabeth, this year presented a special award to a Benedictine Sister.

She is Sister Scholastica, a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament School here.

Sister Scholastica's interest in young people has taken her beyond the confines of her classroom and she has been working with boys in trouble with the police, dope addicts, Negro youths and children who can't quite make the grade in school.

Boys come to Sister Scholastica from all over the city. They are young people from grammar school age up to the early 20s.

"Sometimes," Sister Scholastica told an interviewer, "they're sent by priests. But word spreads quickly among the junkies and when they've found a friend they let others know."

She recalls that "one boy who came left saying, 'Sister,

I'm going out and bring my friend.' He comes all the time now and each time brings a different boy with him."

Sister embarked on her special apostolate three years ago as a volunteer in Elizabeth's clergy-organized Summer of Service, a program to cool things down in the city after rioting had broken out.

She believes in the boys who come to her and figures it's because she grew up in a family of 12 children living in a small house.

"There was never a time when we were alone," she said. "Besides my family, there were always other children in our home — Negro, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Cuban."

Sister spends a lot of her time helping the boys who come to her to find jobs and housing. She keeps in touch with them and with their employers.

One 23-year-old "has been off the stuff for three months and is holding a full-time job," Sister beams proudly.

Last year Sister Scholastica began a tutoring service for grammar school students in the basement of one of Elizabeth's housing projects. Some 40 high school volunteers help-

ed her with that program. "We had to get out, though," she added sadly, "because of the roaches and the sewage problems."

This year the city is trying to secure a center for her. Meanwhile the program is being carried out at several nearby parochial schools, with the Sisters there helping with organizational details. There are now some 200 volunteers in the program, with children being tutored on a one-to-one basis.

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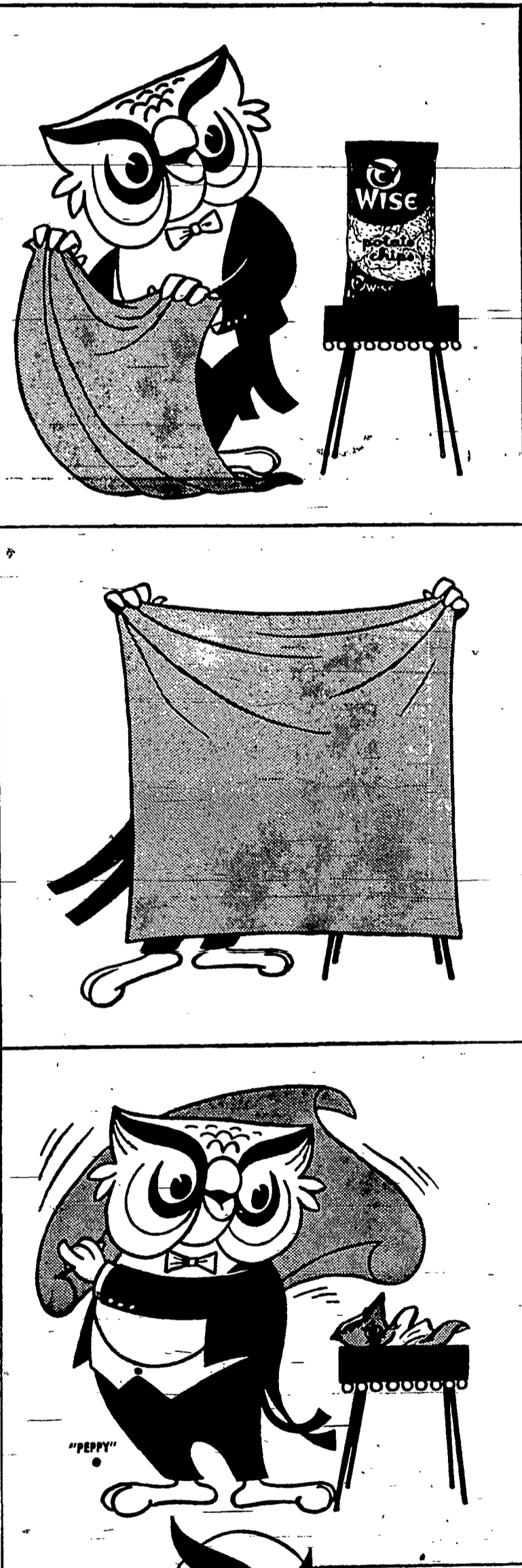
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